

NOVEMBER 2018

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

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**End of the Great War—
100th Anniversary**

**34th ACMC
Gen Glenn M. Walters:
Retaining Talented Marines
Is Key to Corps' Success**

**Bravery and Sacrifice
75 Years Ago
In Battle of Tarawa**

A Publication of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation

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COVER: Marines assigned to Co B, BLT 3/1, 13th MEU, drive an LAV during Theater Amphibious Combat Rehearsal (TACR) 18. U.S. 5th Fleet and coalition assets participated in numerous simultaneous exercises as part of the greater Theater Counter Mine and Maritime Security Exercise. See page 30 for more about TACR 18. Photo by 1stLt Mallory Martinez, USMC. 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.)

I am a retired Marine who served with the 9th Marines, also known as the Walking Dead, in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. I saw many battles and was in many operations, the biggest being Dewey Canyon.

On Feb. 22, 1969, we were ambushed by a North Vietnamese Army division and lost 13 to 15 and more than 35 wounded of which I was one. Over the years many of my fellow 9th Marines have gone to a greater place, one of those being my very good friend Chuck "Doc" Hudson who not only saved my life that day but the lives of many other Marines as well. Because of this I have written a tribute to him and all the Marines that died that day. We had a reunion Aug. 15-19 in Washington, D.C., to honor all Marines who have served with the Walking Dead.

Tears of War

Dedicated to the Fallen Men of 1/9

Listen—can you hear the sounds
of war?
Can you smell the death of war?
Can you see the tears of war?
Tears of sadness, tears of loneliness.

Tears of death of your friends in war.
Tears that never stop coming.
Tears that never go away.
I have seen these tears of war.

The cost that it demands.
It's a price that we all have had to pay,
But pay we must to have the freedom,
That we love so much.

Sad to say these tears of war
will never be paid,
Because the reward is freedom and
love of country.
So I say hate these tears of war,
But love of warrior who you
shed them for.
But never forget the cost of these
tears of war.

Joseph T. Decker
York, S.C.



According to Maj Geiser, Cpl John J. Pruitt's grave marker at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., has been updated reflecting that he did not die on his birthday.

Did Cpl Pruitt's Headstone Have a Mistake?

We have been researching Corporal John H. Pruitt because he was from Arizona. I believe that the photo on page 6 of the August *Leatherneck* for Cpl Pruitt shows a headstone that has since been replaced. I don't believe that John died on his birthday.

Maj Jim Geiser
USMC, 1968-1997
Phoenix, Ariz.

More MOH Facts

Regarding the "Sound Off" letter headed, "Two MOH for Same Action," [August issue] in addition to your reply, you might add one point, which you probably already know, but others may not. In World War I the Marines who received both Army and Navy/Marine Corps Medals of Honor served in the 2nd Division, later termed 2nd Infantry Division, which was officially a part of the U.S. Army. During WW I, that division was commanded by Marine generals

and by Army generals at various points of the war. Because of that situation it is understandable that those recipients received the Army medal, as they served under the Army, while at the same time they were Marines and so received the Navy/Marine Corps award.

Leon Basile
Woburn, Mass.

Through the Khyber Pass

What a surprise when I saw a picture of Master Gunnery Sergeant Len Maffioli welcoming Mrs. Robert Neumann, the wife of Ambassador Robert Neumann, at the Marine Corps Birthday Ball in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1969, in the July edition of the *Leatherneck*.

I was a Marine Security Guard at the embassy in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, at the time and had the pleasure of meeting MGySgt Maffioli and spend some time with him on a drive from Rawalpindi to Kabul in June 1969. I just happened to have a visa for Afghanistan at that time for a planned trip coming up to travel to Kabul with a friend. Our drive took us through the Khyber Pass; what an experience! And doing so with MGySgt Maffioli made it so much better. I just wish I could have spent more time with him, a very interesting Marine's Marine. He made the trip unforgettable.

Sgt Robert Gruenert
Phoenix, Ariz.

Military ID Dilemma

Last month I stopped at Parris Island while visiting Beaufort, in hopes of watching a few recruit platoons negotiate the grinder, in order to evaluate the skills of the current drill instructors in comparison with my own. Since I went through in May-August 1960, a lot of water has gone over the dam, so I expected to see a lot of change.

The main gate guard asked for my blue card as ID. Since I was simply mustered out with an honorable discharge in 1965, I do not have a retirement blue card. I'm not qualified as a veteran either since I was a reservist and never called up. I do not carry around my DD-214 and my lifetime Marine Corps League card was not acceptable either, so I was, at first, refused entrance.

After a brief conversation with the duty officer at the gate, I was allowed to go on board after first reporting in at the base visitor's center. Despite having spent 14

sweaty, sand flea-covered weeks of my life here, I was beginning to feel like maybe I was in the wrong place.

Since it was near midday, there were zero recruits on the parade ground, but we found a few platoons going to and from chow. While this entertained me, my wife needed the kind of fun she likes best, so we stopped at the PX. Again, since I had no acceptable ID, we had to leave our intended purchases on the counter.

I have subsequently checked with the local Veterans Affairs and have been informed that there are no known ID cards for people such as myself. I imagine there must be thousands of us and it seems to me that some form of acceptable identification can be provided us that satisfies the security needs of bases like Parris Island and allows people who merit consideration to have access.

LCpl Howard G. Hudson
North Palm Beach, Fla.

Thank You, *Leatherneck*!

I would like to thank *Leatherneck* magazine. In your April issue I happened to notice, under Reunions, that there was to be a gathering of Seagoing Marines in September in Colorado Springs, Colo. I can't remember ever seeing that before. I called right away and signed up. What

a good time I had there. I didn't know anyone when I arrived, but left looking forward to our gathering next year and renew friendships made in Colorado.

We are a small group, and therefore are always looking for former Seagoing Marines. If anyone reading this is interested they can contact me at jaytpulis@aol.com and I'll give you the info you need to join us. If not for *Leatherneck*, I would never have found this brotherhood of Marines. Thank you.

Jay Pulis
Massapequa Park, N.Y.

A Family Tradition Continues

I was wondering if anyone has heard any stories of an immediate family graduating from all four battalions at Parris Island. My youngest son is set to graduate in December with 2nd Battalion, his brother graduated April 20 with 1st Bn, and my wife and I graduated in 1966 from 3rd and 4th Bns respectively.

Rex Johnson
Huntsville, Ala.

What's the Command?

I was unsuccessful asking a number of active-duty Marines the following question: What salute do you use with "No Hands?" Therefore, I felt it fruitless

to ask them the command "To Resume."

I am having a slight memory loss of approximately 18,980 days since I was given one.

Sgt Donald Nisius
Madison, Wis.

National Defense Medal Response

Mr. Jerry Ennis, you responded to a statement I made three years ago concerning the National Defense Medal in the August 2018 issue of *Leatherneck*. You called my statement complaining. I was not complaining about the medal, I was complaining about what the medal allowed you to do as a Marine. I stated if you did not have the medal you had no right to wear your dress blue uniform to any function such as the Marine Corps Ball. This separates the saying "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." All Marines should have the privilege of showing their pride for the Corps, not just based on a medal.

You said the master gunny's answer, and yours, were right on. If that was the case, I wonder why the master gunny contacted me personally when I said his remarks were sarcastic. Seems to me after three years you are the only one not allowing the issue of this medal to be resolved and left alone. I do not see



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it is discussed or mentioned anywhere except by you.

I could care less about the medal. I do care about my pride in the Corps. I was issued the China Service Medal which qualified me for the VFW but not the Defense Medal. And it's not just me, it's thousands of Marines that feel the same.

And, which I find hard to believe, you listed a slew of movies to watch. That was amazing. As far as books, yes, I read a number of books on the Corps. In fact, I'm reading one now called "Marine Rifleman" written by Colonel Wesley L. Fox, USMC (Ret), Medal of Honor recipient.

By the way, I have been to many places where the war was fought, such as Luzon Island, Okinawa, Iwo Jima and Nagasaki, a few years after the bomb was dropped. So I really don't need to see your Hollywood movies.

Frank Rinchich
Loris, S.C.

Marine Corps Basic Badge

In response to Stephen F. Grady's inquiry about the Basic Badge in the July issue, I was issued mine in 1942 and still have it.

SSgt Stephen A. Anderson, USAF (Ret)
Burlington, N.J.

Readers Weigh in on Changes To the Rifle Squad Organization

In regards to the article "Changes to the Marine Corps Rifle Squad Organization—One Marine's Opinion," by Kyle Stubbeman [September issue], I am in complete agreement with his opinion of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert B. Neller's reorganization of the Marine rifle squad. I think this is a major mistake and will, in my opinion, negatively impact rifle team, squad, platoon and company efficiency.

What are my credentials for putting forth my agreement with Mr. Stubbeman? I was a combat Marine in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 as a 0331 machine gunner. I performed in combat the duties of ammo humper, M-60 machine gunner, M-60 gun team leader and as the company's gun section leader. It was the norm to have only three men in a gun team as the company was always short of personnel. The gun team leader also assumed the duties of the assistant machine gunner. Having at least one man short meant that less ammo could be carried by the gun team and extra ammo had to be distributed to the squads as an extra weight burden on them. In the event of a prolonged battle, the gun team's ammo humper had to take his rifle out of the fight to gather more M-60 ammo which put him at even greater peril.

The company's fire teams were also short-handed and, again, there were only three men in each fire team which was the norm. We had no assistant squad leaders. Usually the senior fire team leader would take over the duties of squad leader should the squad leader become incapacitated for any reason.

Tactical efficiency would be reduced with only a three-man team; i.e., flanking movements with only three men, building clearance with only three men. Both of these tactical situations would increase their personal peril and possibly decrease mission accomplishment. Even standing perimeter watch will impact efficiency with longer watches and increased lack of sleep in order to perform the next day's duties.

With essentially a 25 percent reduction of rifle team personnel, fewer boots on the ground will most assuredly decrease combat efficiency. This means that 75 percent of the rifle squad's available manpower will have to increase their non-personal loadout by 8 percent. Using Vietnam War materiel they would have to carry their own personal loadout but also increase the weight carried by carrying more grenades, trip flares, pop flares, claymores, etc.

One thing I don't think Mr. Stubbeman mentioned were casualties. No Marine unit goes in the field with 100 percent of their personnel. Sickness, temporary duty, and R&R take at least 5 percent out of the mission. And what about combat casualties? A fierce firefight can easily take 5 percent out of the battle. These casualties will usually come from the fire team level. Your three-man fire teams are now down to two or even one man. Where is the efficiency in that?

Sgt Kenneth L. Fields
Columbia, Mo.

Coming from someone who is where the rubber meets the road—there are other variables and dynamics that the author points out that don't make their way into a report, including initial concepts, further development of untested TTP and subsequent bastardization of proven doctrine. [The Corps is] too quick to implement and trust untested technologies and formations in the field. Slow down Marine Corps. Make sure it works.

Shawn Collins
Augusta, Ga.

From our Facebook page

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one had to shrink. Congress controls our numbers and he is working with what he can. I don't think the Commandant would butcher a community he grew up in unless he had to. The UAS system is a phenomenal tool and the infantry battalions are experimenting with these every chance they can get. They are user-friendly and we have enough video gamers that want to get their hands on it. The point he made about the rivalry between patrol leader and assistant patrol leader wasn't a very good one. We have always had those billets. The difference is we used to have to pull a team leader to be the APL so instead of conducting PCCs/PCIs like he was supposed to, he was making the manifest and making sure the map overlays were good. Furthermore, any patrol leader/squad leader that allows anyone to talk back or get an attitude is a weak leader and shouldn't be in charge in the first place.

GySgt Benjamin Wooden
Orange County, Calif.
From our Facebook page

Presley O'Bannon's Grave

On page 67 of the August issue there is a picture of Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon's birthplace plaque, taken by Brigadier General James O'Meara, USMC (Ret),



Presley O'Bannon, famous for his exploits in the First Barbary War, in 1805, is buried in Frankfort Cemetery. Daniel Boone is also buried there.

while riding his Harley. Well, not to one-up the general (I would never do that), while driving to Myrtle Beach, S.C., last month, we stopped overnight in Frankfort,

Ky. Reading a flyer about Daniel Boone's grave at the Frankfort Cemetery, we decided to visit it. Low and behold, we stumbled upon Presley O'Bannon's grave. Curious, I decided to explore it further and found a plaque on the walkway leading to a gravesite.

BGen O'Meara stumbled onto his birthplace in Virginia and I stumbled onto his burial site far away in Frankfort, Ky. I thought *Leatherneck* and the general would be interested.

MSgt Thomas Martin, USMC (Ret)
St. Charles, Mo.

Leatherneck Provides a Great Mix

I would like to throw my hat in the ring, as they say, and respond to Richard Stier's comments in the September *Leatherneck*. Mr. Stier did not feel there was an adequate mix of stories in *Leatherneck*, and that not enough coverage was given to recent years. I disagree. I believe *Leatherneck* does an outstanding job in providing interesting stories about all ages, eras and conflicts.

I know from personal experience how difficult it is to try and be all things to all people. No matter how hard you try, somebody, somewhere, will either be offended or disappointed. With that said, I would like to go on record to say that, at

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least in my opinion, you do an outstanding job, and I always enjoy every issue.

Tom Lawton
Green Bay, Wis.

Many kudos to the Editor for her response to Richard Stier's article. I don't know what *Leatherneck* magazines he reads, but it obviously is not the same ones I read. I doubt your subscriptions will go down and would be willing to place a bet with him.

Maj Earl W. Hacker, USMC (Ret)
Blacksburg, Va.

Your response to my letter was "right on." After stating the purpose of my letter I should have stopped. I look forward to reading *Leatherneck* every month. It is an excellent publication. I was wrong to criticize. Please accept my apology.

Richard J. Stier
Sanford, Fla.

• *Your point was a good one, and although we're working to ensure that our mix of articles reflects Marines of all eras, we can always use reminders when we fall short. One of my favorite messages I've received since I've been the Editor was from a Korean War veteran who called to let me know that we were*

remiss in publishing articles about his war, and he was right. He finished his voicemail with a resounding "Ah, to hell with youse!" We redoubled our efforts to include more articles on Korea and while I haven't heard back from him, I'm hoping he's been pleased.—Editor

Henry I. Shaw

As I read the July issue, I found the story, "Bless 'em All": July 20, 1943: Raider Attack on Bairoko Harbor, New Georgia," interesting in that it spoke of Henry I. Shaw as one of the authors of the book "Isolation of Rabaul." I worked with Shaw at the Marine Corps Museum, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., under Brigadier General Edwin Simmons. When we had a special event, Shaw, whose nickname was "Bud," as is mine, and I would stand on either side of the general and he would say, "I feel like a thorn between two Buds."

MSgt C.M. "Bud" DeVere, Sr.
USMC (Ret)
Longmont, Colo.

Was a Marine or Is a Marine?

First and foremost, thank you for publishing my letter concerning how Marines are mentioned in the "In Memoriam" section each month. In response to your

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answer, I think it's pretty clear to any reader that if you are listed in that section, you have passed away. But continuing to use the phrase "was a Marine" still seems inappropriate. A Marine is a Marine while on this earth and beyond.

I have been to many Marine funerals over the years and can never recall a time when the deceased was ever addressed as he/she was a Marine. Please reconsider your answer and the fact that by stating, "A Marine" versus "was a Marine" is in keeping with the "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" motto that has been part of our legacy for years. I know that when my tour of duty ends on this earth I will leave it as a Marine, not as was a Marine.

Sgt Jack J. Maiz
USMC, 1964-1968
The Villages, Fla.

For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today

In a beautifully written letter in the August *Leatherneck*, Corporal Jim Jones quoted the following epitaph: "When You Go Home Tell Them of Us and Say: For Your Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today," by John Maxwell Edmonds. I think your readers might like to know more about it.

Edmonds was an English classicist who was famous for his poetry and his



FILE PHOTO

This monument is located in the Kohima War Cemetery, Kohima, Nagaland, in northeast India. The monument commemorates the fallen of the Battle of Kohima in April 1944 and features the epitaph that appears on a great many monuments and tombstones.

epitaphs. In February 1918, the English paper, *The Times*, printed four of his epitaphs, including this one. It was quoted regularly on *The Times* obituary page in both World War I and WW II. It also has appeared on a great many tombstones and war memorials all over the world, including the most widely known in the Kohima War Cemetery in northeast India where the Brits and Indians fought to keep the Japanese out of India in June 1944. Another surprise: Edmonds got the idea from a Greek writer at the battle for Thermopylae.

J. Birney Dibble
Eau Claire, Wis.

Sea Stories Stopped Me Dead in My Tracks

When my new *Leatherneck* magazine arrives, I always take a quick "look-through" before I settle into my recliner for some serious reading of what I consider the best there is.

My July issue was no different until my eyes made a sudden stop on page 14, "Sea Stories." The Sea Story of the month immediately caught my eye because in an instant I saw F-2-6 which was my home from 1956 to 1959. As I read the tale by Dave Yates, my mind (what little I have

[continued on page 66]

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

As we celebrate our 243rd birthday, Marines remain in combat, forward-deployed throughout the world confronting every challenge with courage, loyalty, and faithfulness. Each year on this day, we renew our resolve to be the most ready when the Nation is least ready; we pay tribute to all who forged our proud legacy; we recommit ourselves to defending freedom anytime and anywhere; we stand ready to aid those devastated by natural disasters; and we honor the families and loved ones who faithfully stand beside us.

This year marks a number of significant milestones. One hundred years ago this June, a determined brigade of Marines fought ferociously over the hallowed grounds of Belleau Wood. Those Marines solidified our Corps' global reputation for being a tenacious and highly skilled fighting force that forever etched the phrase "Teufelshunde" into our lexicon. The same year Marines secured control of Belleau Wood, more than 300 women answered our Nation's call, becoming the first females to enlist in our Corps. The legacy of the first Women Marine Reservists, and all trailblazing Marines, serves as a reminder that the title Marine is not restricted by gender, color, or creed—it is a warrior spirit and distinguished role earned by an elite group.



This year also marks 50 years since Marines fought ferocious battles against a worthy foe in some of the most austere locations of Vietnam. The indomitable spirit and unyielding resourcefulness of Marines cutting through the mountainous triple canopy jungles and overcoming the challenges of urban combat during the Tet Offensive honed the warfighting prowess of our Corps. Hard lessons learned at Khe Sanh and Hue proved crucial to our successes during Operations *Enduring Freedom* and *Iraqi Freedom*—allowing us to secure victory in the fields of Sangin and on the urban battlefields of Fallujah. It was also at Hue that now retired Sergeant Major John Canley charged enemy machine gun positions and put his own life on the line to ensure no Marine was left behind, epitomizing the true meaning of *Semper Fidelis*. Today, we proudly honor his faithfulness with our Nation's highest award for valor.

For 243 years, Marines have fought and won whenever and wherever the Nation calls. In the harshest conditions, over the most brutal terrain, and against the most formidable enemies, Marines defend the ideals of freedom with grit and tenacity. Though battlefields change and capabilities evolve, history proves that true victory comes from the individual Marine with steeled resolve, the drive to overcome any obstacle, and the warrior spirit to fight on against all odds. It takes that steadfast faithfulness—*Semper Fidelis*—to Corps, country, and each other that abounds throughout our storied legacy.

Happy Birthday, Marines!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert B. Neller".

Robert B. Neller
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



HURRICANE FLORENCE

II MEF Supports Relief Efforts While Maintaining Operational Focus

Above: Cpl Cameron D. Touchstone, a combat engineer with Mobility Assault Co, 2nd Combat Engineer Bn, 2ndMarDiv, directs traffic across an armored vehicle launch bridge at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 16, after Hurricane Florence impacted the area.

As Hurricane Florence bore down on the Carolinas, Brigadier General Julian D. “Dale” Alford, Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations East-Camp Lejeune made the decision to not issue a mandatory evacuation from one of the Corps’ largest bases. “We have hardened infrastructure and the support system necessary to deal with Florence’s potential impacts; we have our own first responders to provide security and emergency response; there is the Naval Medical Center/Hospital for medical care; we produce and distribute our own water, and have the power generation capability to ensure we can continue to produce and distribute water; we

have emergency shelters for those desiring to seek shelter; we have emergency supplies; we have our own wastewater treatment facility; we have our own trash collection and associated dump; we have our own public works department for roads, buildings, and infrastructure issues; we have large military vehicles and equipment staged and ready to assist if/when needed; and finally, we have Marines who will be ready to assist and take care of each other during this stressful time.”

He continued in a post on the Camp Lejeune social media platforms: “Marines take care of each other, and I will expend every available resource to make sure that happens,” Alford’s message



LCPL ISAIAH GOMEZ, USMC



LCPL DAMARIS ARIAS, USMC

Above: In preparation for Hurricane Florence, Marines set up cots for individuals seeking shelter at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., Sept. 12.



COURTESY OF MCCSSS

said. “Further, if our neighbors in Jacksonville and Onslow County need our help, we will be ready to render assistance.”

His words proved prophetic—after the hurricane made landfall in Eastern North Carolina on Sept. 14, Camp Lejeune-based Marines of II Marine Expeditionary Force stepped up to conduct relief efforts in Jacksonville, N.C., and surrounding areas in Onslow County where many suffered the effects of devastating wind damage and flooding.

During the storm, II MEF provided a Destructive Weather Task Force to assist in immediate relief and recovery operations and worked around the clock with their Destructive Weather Operations Center to coordinate efforts with Marine Corps Installations-East and the Onslow County Emergency Operations Center in conducting emergency evacuations.

“We have an excellent relationship with our military friends,” said Glenn Hargett, the assistant

city manager of Jacksonville. “It’s only right as they [the military] live among us as neighbors, and we want to treat each other as neighbors.”

Throughout the community, Marines assisted with 40 relief missions and supported the evacuation of 137 people using tactical military trucks. In addition, the II MEF Destructive Weather Task Force provided capabilities beyond MCIEAST’s capability and capacity for power generation, communications, mobility, lighting, material handling and debris-clearing teams.

“The suite of assets and personnel II MEF brought to the table in advance of Hurricane Florence allowed the base to act quickly and get down to the business of bringing the base back online,” said Nat Fahy, Director of Communications Strategy and Operations, MCIEAST. “From its power generators, to water, to flood lights, to heavy utility vehicles, to Marines, everything was critical

Marines and Sailors with Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools carry a fallen tree while cleaning up debris at the Lejeune Memorial Gardens in Jacksonville, N.C., Sept. 17.

At the base emergency operations center at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Marines and civilian employees meet to discuss recovery and repair efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, Sept. 16. Cleanup began on Sept. 15, with the majority of efforts focused on clearing roadways and restoring power to critical areas of the base.



SGT BETHANIE C. SAHMS, USMC

Marines help push a car out of a flooded area of MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., during Hurricane Florence, Sept. 15. The storm heavily impacted Marine Corps installations in Eastern North Carolina and the surrounding communities.



LCPL ISAAH GOMEZ, USMC

in those initial days following the hurricane.”

II MEF previously had conducted a series of planning efforts and exercises with Navy partners in preparation for hurricane season. Procedures for hurricane response, destructive weather and working to support civil authorities were rehearsed.

“Hurricane Florence relief efforts provided a real-world opportunity to exercise the II MEF staff’s capabilities to respond to our own crisis and immediate response to local authorities,” said Sergeant Major Richard D. Thresher of II MEF.

While hurricane recovery and relief actions were a top priority for II MEF through the end

of September, planners continued to look ahead and conduct assessments of the potential impacts the storm may have had on current and upcoming operations. Throughout the storm and its aftermath, II MEF continued planning for Trident Juncture, a large-scale NATO exercise with approximately 40,000 participants from nearly 30 countries, as well as multiple other deployments and operations to remain operationally ready.

“Despite the change to the operational environment with the impacts of weather in the face of a hurricane, we are still committed to deploying, employing and redeploying Marines,” said Lieu-



Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Robert B. Neller, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Ronald L. Green, visit with Marine families and maintenance workers at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., during a tour of storm damage and recovery efforts, Sept. 17.

PFC NELLO MIELE, USMC



SGT GREGORY D. BOYD, USMC



PFC NELLO MIELE, USMC

Left: Marines with CLB-8 assist with transporting an elderly member of the community to a shelter in Jacksonville, N.C., during Hurricane Florence, Sept. 15. With its heavy rain and strong winds, the hurricane was the biggest storm to hit the Carolinas since Hurricane Floyd in 1999.

Above: Marines assigned to Combat Logistics Group 8 and first responders with the Richlands Volunteer Fire Department assist a resident of the community at a local shelter in Jacksonville, N.C., Sept. 15. CLB-8 was responsible for providing logistical support in evacuation efforts for the area surrounding Camp Lejeune.

tenant Colonel Benjamin Davenport, an operations planner for II MEF's current operations section. "We stay committed in our support of conducting Exercise Trident Juncture 18 and multiple other operations as planned."

According to Davenport, some of these operations may have had shifts in timelines, but nothing significant enough that would degrade II MEF's ability to support operational tasks and requirements. After nearly two weeks of dealing with the effects of Hurricane Florence, Marines and Sailors of II MEF returned back to normal work schedules on Sept. 24.

Compiled from reporting by
SSgt Melissa Karnath, USMC,
and social media reports



Argonne—

End of the War to End All Wars

November 1918

By J. Michael Miller

On Oct. 16, 1918, Major General John A. Lejeune welcomed Vice Admiral Henry T. Mayo, commander of the United States Fleet in the Atlantic Ocean and European waters, to inspect the battered 2nd Division at their camp at Ferme de Vadenay. The Marines and soldiers rested in French brick barracks after their recent battle at Blanc Mont, awaiting the inevitable call to return to the front. A call for replacements for the men lost at Blanc Mont had been partially answered by the arrival of Marines from the 3rd, 4th and 5th Separate Battalions and the 1st Separate Machine Gun Battalion, but replacements for the two Army infantry regiments were much harder to come by due to the heavy losses already suffered by the American 1st Army in the Argonne offensive.

On Oct. 19, Lejeune and Mayo reviewed the 6th Marine Regiment, and the admiral “could scarce restrain his tears as he pondered on the terrible experiences the men had had, the heroism they had displayed, and the heavy losses they had sustained.” Lejeune then took the admiral to the battlefield itself, visiting the town of Somme-Py, Blanc Mont Ridge, St. Etienne and ending at the German cemetery holding more than 2,000 German soldiers. The Marines who fought there were less than enthusiastic about the day. “We had to hike out of camp some 7 or 8 miles for a review,” recalled Private Thomas B. McQuain of the 80th (G) Company. “It was dark before we got back.”

VADM Mayo returned to Paris for a meeting of the Allied Supreme War Council, which began to draft the terms of an armistice or cease-fire agreement. The crushing effect of the

American 1st Army offensive in the Argonne was now approaching the vaunted German Hindenburg Line, the final and strongest enemy position facing the Americans. With this line broken, the French 4th Army would make a corresponding advance on the American left now that the 2nd Division had broken the enemy defense of Blanc Mont. At the same time, the British 4th Army offensive to the north also forced the Germans back.

The time had come for the Allies to drive Germany out of France and carry the conflict into the enemy’s homeland, ending the war after four long years of battle; however, Pershing faced serious manpower shortages due to combat losses and an outbreak of the Spanish Flu. At least 16,000 new influenza casualties were reported during the week of Oct. 5 and pushed the total number of sick to 70,000 men. The death rate among those sick rose from 32 percent of those infected to 80 percent where the flu was most intense. At the same time, American combat losses totaled almost 75,000 men since Sept. 26.

Pershing refused to permit any obstacle to slow the American attack, allowing no time for the Germans to prepare for further defense. He broke apart two of his combat divisions to fill the ranks of the depleted front line units. Rotation from the front line was also forbidden. In addition, five of the American front line divisions needed rest after 24 days of fighting, but Pershing kept them in the attack. Pershing said in his memoirs, “The offensive is to be continued without cessation.”

While Pershing continued his attack in later October, the Allied Supreme War Council met to formulate the set of terms to be offered to the Germans for a truce to end the fighting until a proper settlement could be reached for an Allied victory.

On Oct. 24, Lejeune visited the American 1st Army headquarters to learn more about his next assignment and to reunite the 2nd Division. Although his infantry brigades were intact, all of the division’s artillery and engineers and some of the supply trains still supported the 36th Division after Blanc Mont. He walked into the office of the American Expeditionary Force Chief of Staff, General Hugh A. Drum, who welcomed the Marine and then informed him the 2nd Division was returning to American command.

Before he could even advance his cause, Lejeune learned the 2nd Division was “to be the wedge in the attack for which preparations were then being made.” Drum went on to say Lejeune was “assigned the post of honor, and that the whole Army relied on it to bring the stalemate to an end by breaking through the center of the German army and thereby forcing it to retreat to the east bank of the Meuse [River].”



USMC

Marines used a shell crater to offer some protection as they fired on the Germans with a heavy machine gun in the Meuse-Argonne area of France.



Marines attack through the woods in the Meuse-Argonne area. MajGen Lejeune used the cover of night to move his troops through the forests in the area. (USMC photo)

Lejeune was hardly taken aback. He fired back that if the entire Division was reunited, he was confident of success, but without his supporting arms, the end result was “doubtful.” The Marine commander then boldly added more fire to his request, requiring the “unavailable” replacements needed to bring his depleted Army brigade back to full strength. Drum countered the Marine’s demands by offering units from the 1st Army Division as substitute units, and at the same time repeating there were simply no replacements available. Lejeune would not back down, insisting it was “the esprit of the Division which made it such a formidable antagonist.” The confidence between the infantry and artillery formed during the battles of Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Mihiel and Blanc Mont was critical to the success of the attack. Exasperated, Drum sent Lejeune to see Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett, commander of the First Army, whose office was just across the hall. Lejeune entered and was warmly greeted by Liggett who charged right in to describing Lejeune’s role in the coming attack. After a Liggett flurry of maps and details “painted in glowing colors the results he expected to obtain by the steamroller attack which he planned,” Lejeune fired back his insistence of a reunited 2nd Division. Liggett listened attentively to the Marine and then simply replied, “I will go at once to see General Gouraud.” The absent units rejoined the Division in time for the attack on Nov. 1.

Lejeune was not yet finished with his work at Army headquarters. He then visited the staff officer in charge of replacements who firmly held the position that no soldiers were available for the 2nd Division. After continuing the discussion for some time, the

Lejeune was hardly taken aback. He fired back that if the entire Division was reunited, he was confident of success, but without his supporting arms, the end result was “doubtful.”

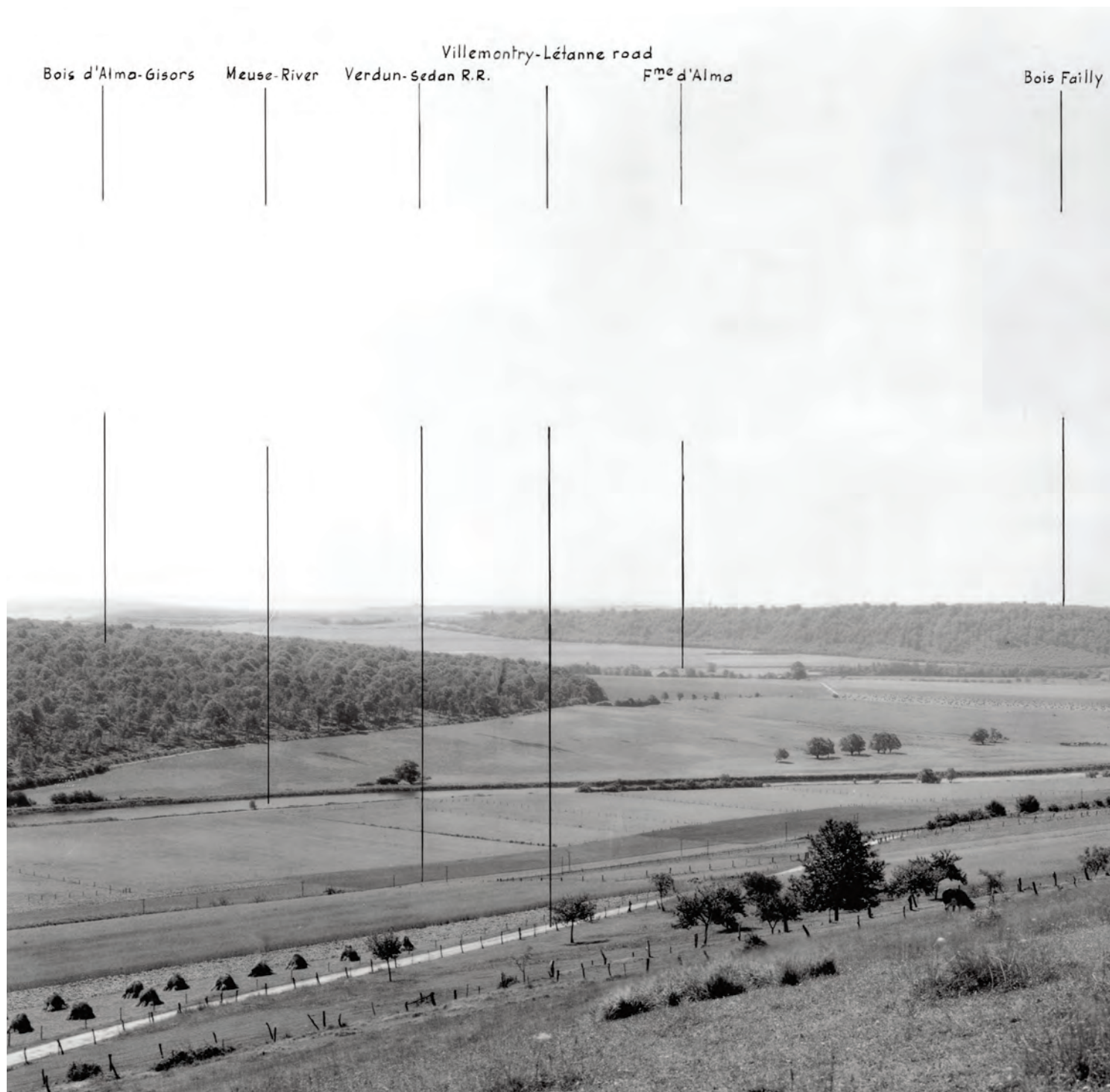
officer “mentioned in the most casual way that 2,500 replacements were then on their way by rail to join the 3rd Division” which was just coming off the line. Lejeune then noticed the officer gave him “a significant look which [they] clearly understood.” Lejeune made a quick trip back to Drum’s office but found the general gone. His deputy quickly ordered the 3rd Division replacements attached to the 2nd Division.

On the following morning, the 4th Marine Brigade boarded their familiar camions for transport to the staging area at Les Islettes for the coming assault set for Nov. 1, 1918.

The Marine convoy moved slowly over the roads crowded with vehicles passing to and from the front. The Marines loaded into the open back of the trucks noticed two command limousines

traveling at high speed headed for the rear. The Marines caught a quick glimpse of General Pershing in the front car as he scattered traffic in his usual pace. In the blink of an eye, their commander was gone—disappearing in a cloud of dust, drifting over the line of camions.

The Marines then saw another car approaching, this time headed toward the front. The limousine carried Major General Lejeune, moving so slowly that each Marine could see their Division commander and he could see them. The faces of the brigade brought a solemn frame of mind over Lejeune, bringing a “determination to do all in [his] power so to direct the operations of the Division as to achieve a victory with a minimum loss of life.” The evening turned dreary, cold and drizzling rain, as is common in France in late fall. The Marines left their camions for French reserve camps for the night.



With the 2nd Division reunited, Lejeune began intense planning for the coming attack, only a week away. The Marines and soldiers moved at night on Oct. 24 and 25, using back roads without notice of the Corps military police to reach a reserve position near Exermont. After the dark march at Soissons, Lejeune's men were expert in night movement, which confounded Major General Charles P. Summerall's American 5th Corps staff when Lejeune reported to headquarters. "None of the staff appeared able to understand," Lejeune noted, "how sixteen thousand men could march by the MPs without being seen or heard. It was one of the soluble war mysteries."

Summerall summoned all of the senior officers to his headquarters and briefed them on his plan of attack. The objective was to break the German line at Landres-et-St. Georges, the key to the Brunhilde and Freya defensive lines which had bloodily

repulsed every attack made by the 5th Corps so far. At a second conference, Summerall laid out his objectives for the Nov. 1 assault, with three phase lines penetrating more than 5 miles into the German lines. He turned to Lejeune and asked him, "You have no doubt noted that the 2nd Division is to be the point of the wedge. What, in your opinion, is the probability that you will succeed in taking each of the three objectives?" Lejeune replied with confidence that he would reach the first objective as he refused to "believe any force could withstand the vigor, power and speed of the initial attack."

Lejeune also expressed confidence that he would take the second and third objectives as long as the rest of the attacking Divisions kept up with the 2nd Division to protect their flanks. Major General William M. Wright, commanding the 89th Division, spoke up, promising his Division would stay with Lejeune's men despite



This photo of the bridge crossing site, looking toward the German side of the Meuse River, was taken shortly after the war. The footbridge sections were carried down the slope, and across the railroad embankment to the river bank and then assembled.

losses already suffered in the offensive. The 2nd and the 89th Divisions fought side by side at St. Mihiel in September and felt confident in once again fighting together in the coming attack.

Lejeune held his own conferences within the 2nd Division, ensuring every officer down to platoon level knew the plan of battle and had a chance to go to the front line to get a look at the terrain ahead. Summerall also gathered each of Lejeune's infantry battalions individually and both generals briefed the Marines and soldiers about their role in the coming battle. Lejeune introduced Summerall to the assembled companies and expressed

Lejeune replied with confidence that he would reach the first objective as he refused to "believe any force could withstand the vigor, power and speed of the initial attack."

his belief that "no enemy, however tenacious or courageous he might be, could stop their advance."

Summerall then began to outline his battle plan using a large map tacked to the wall of a barn. The capture of the Barricourt heights would force the Germans to withdraw behind the Meuse River, he explained, allowing Allied artillery to destroy the vital railroad between Sedan and Metz. This break would divide the German forces in northern France and those units to the south of the Argonne, forcing a further enemy withdrawal from France. The Marines and soldiers were enthusiastic about the Summerall's words until he told them that "heads would roll" if the objectives were not reached. "We considered that an insult to our outfit," remembered James McB. Sellers of the 78th (E) Company, 6th Marines.

Summerall had been forced to relieve several of his commanders during the previous month for failure to meet their objectives. After the 2nd Division briefings, Lejeune spoke with Summerall as they returned to headquarters. The Marine assured his commander that his men would obey his orders because of their "pride in and love for their Division and their devotion to the cause for which they are fighting."

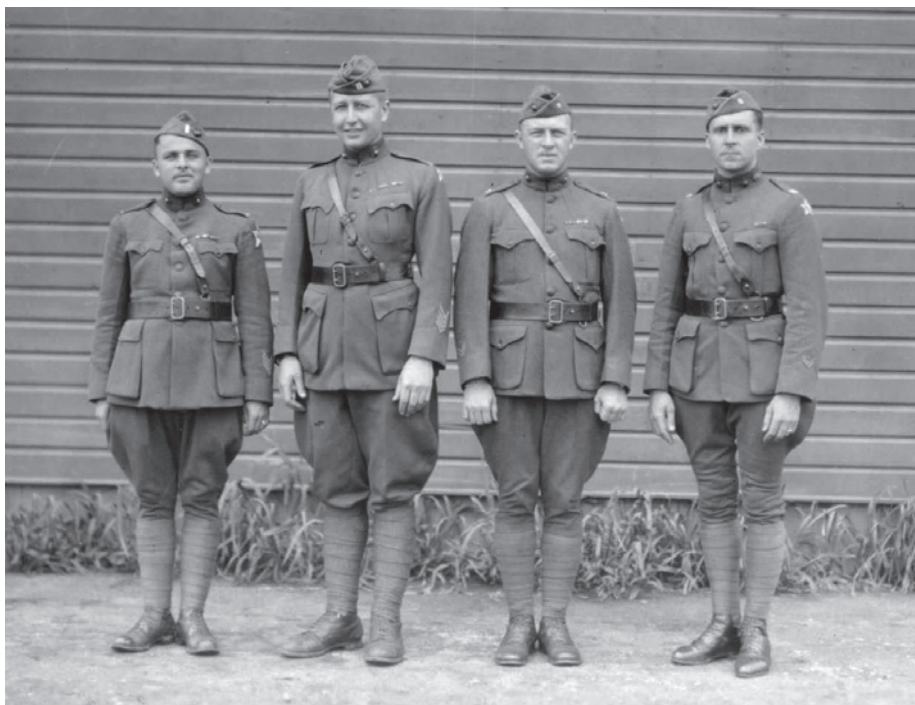
On the night of Oct. 30, the 23rd Infantry took the forward trench line on the right linking in with the 89th Division. The 5th Marines moved into the center and the 6th Marines moved to the left, establishing communication with the 80th Division on the left. The 42nd Division withdrew to reserve positions, except for the battalions still holding the advance trenches that remained in place until 3 a.m. on Nov. 1. The Germans would receive no advance warning of the arrival of the 2nd Division.

At 3 a.m., the combined Allied artillery unleashed the barrage designed to destroy the enemy defenses and isolate the battlefield. Lejeune watched the bombardment from a ridge near his headquarters at Exermont. The sky was lit up with an "elemental cataclysm closely approximating the simultaneous eruption of many volcanoes," he later wrote, "combined with the continuous lightning and the innumerable reverberations which characterize a thunderstorm in mountain country." The cannoneers rained gas shells mixed with shrapnel on the Germans for two hours joined by 255 machine guns raking the German front lines.

At 5:20 a.m., a standing barrage raked the ground 200 yards in front of the German positions, where the enemy machine-gun crews normally took position to avoid the usual shelling and made ready to mow down any attacking force. Precisely at 5:30 a.m., the three attack regiments jumped through low-lying fog across No Man's Land into the enemy trenches with fixed bayonets. Each Marine regiment was formed in column of battalions, with the 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiments taking the front line, side by side. The 23rd Infantry attacked in a wider two-battalion formation, with the 1st Bn on the left and 3rd Battalion on the right. All of the battalions were supported by machine gun companies fresh from the barrage.

The German 111th Regiment held the ground in front of the 23rd Infantry while the 148th Regiment and 169th Regiment

COURTESY OF A AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENT COMMISSION



Marines from 2nd Bn, 5th Marine Regiment, from left: Lt G.F. Stockes, Capt C. Dunbeck, Capt G.D. Jackson and Capt H.V. Sims.

defended the positions attacked by the two Marine battalions. The Germans had no chance against the Marines and soldiers who followed a rolling barrage over the enemy positions. Scattered elements held but were defeated in detail. Soon the entire German front collapsed with units withdrawing north.

After the initial combat ended, the Marines advanced into the twin towns of St. Georges and Landres-et-St. Georges which held for a short time, but the relentless American advance went house to house, driving the Germans back toward the Barricourt heights to the north. At 8 a.m., the Marines and soldiers reached the base of the high ground near the town of Landreville—their first objective taken in only 2 ½ hours.

The next battalions in line now moved forward, leapfrogging the battalions engaged in the early morning assault. The pause gave the German defenders some hope of stopping the 2nd Division attack, but the rolling barrage began again, moving up into the high ground of the German defense. Major Shuler's 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment and Captain Dunbeck's 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment now took the lead, pressing up the high ground to overrun the German positions. The German Freya position crumbled and then was swept away despite the commanding terrain occupied by the Germans. The Marines soon overran the enemy artillery positions, capturing the 55th and 104th Artillery Regiments, as well as 15th Field Artillery Battalion even as the guns were being attached to their limber in an attempt to escape. The town of Bayonville was taken after a house-to-house fight and the entire second objective line was reached at 11 a.m.

The last line of the Marine attack then moved forward, with Major Williams' 2nd Battalion taking the lead for the 6th Marines, while the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment under Captain Larson moved up on the right. Problems immediately arose for Williams as the 80th Division was advancing too slowly to cover the 2nd Division flank. Williams moved across the Division

Assigned a frontal assault across the Meuse River, Lejeune also faced a general breakdown in the health of his command. Concern over the fitness of the Marines and soldiers to make another attack became apparent.

boundary to secure the town of Sivry but the Germans were retreating too quickly to take advantage of the open flank. The final drive reached the final objective of the day, Bois de la Folie, at 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 1 proved a disaster for the German army, which now had little choice but to withdraw beyond the Meuse River. The 2nd Division assault did function as Summerall ordered, driving a wedge deep into the German defenses. The German 115th Division moved past the broken units in retreat to hold the Americans until a full withdrawal could occur. Lejeune's 2nd Division was forced to remain in place on Nov. 2, until the divisions on both flanks fought their way up to the Bois de la Folie. Summerall was less than happy over the delay and began urging his commanders to attack more forcefully to break the German line once again. Lejeune received orders to attack to the heights of Vaux-aux-Dieulet, reaching that point on Nov. 3.

Instead of waiting for a dawn attack, Lejeune ordered his 3rd Army Brigade to pass through the Marine lines in col-

umns of twos, with an advance party and protected flanks. The cover of night allowed such a novel tactic, but totally confused the Germans and allowed the soldiers to capture many German soldiers in their sleep. The 3rd Brigade reached the heights early on Nov. 3, allowing Summerall's Corps headquarters to celebrate the victory. Summerall sent Lejeune a letter of commendation the following day, stating the 2nd Division accomplished "one of the most remarkable achievements made by any troops in this war" in the attack on Nov. 1, and "in a single day the Division had captured more artillery and machine guns than usually falls to the lot of a command in several days of hard fighting."

Lejeune repeated his novel night attack order for the evening of Nov. 3—this time with the town of Beaumont as the objective.

The 9th and 23rd Regiments moved forward in pouring rain on a single road through the Bois Belval, surrounding enemy pockets of resistance. The column was led by German-speaking soldiers of the 9th Infantry who navigated the column for several miles until emerging on the open just short of Beaumont. The 9th Infantry halted to set up a defensive position while the 23rd arrived in support, along with Capt Dunbeck's 2nd Bn, 5th Marines.

Lejeune's refusal to be bound by threats to his flanks confused and confounded his enemy and hastened their retreat across the Meuse River, which then pulled the

American units on his right and left toward his forward position. The advance by the 9th Infantry on the night of Nov. 3 brought the Americans dangerously close to cutting the escape route of the German army. Lejeune's men were now miles behind the German front line. Lejeune brought the rest of the 4th Marine Brigade forward to connect his right flank with the 89th Division and waited for the 80th Division to come up on his left.

Orders came to advance to the Meuse River on Nov. 5, but Lejeune again took advantage of the night to capture the woods ahead. By morning, Beaumont was taken and the 2nd Division took the heights overlooking the river. The Marine brigade

assisted the 89th Division in clearing the woods to their right but little resistance was made. They searched for crossings and were ordered to leave all bridges encountered intact. The Germans, however, destroyed all bridges within the 2nd Division sector. No further advance could be made until the 2nd Engineers could move up pontoons or bridging materials.

The 5th Corps advance ground to a halt at the Meuse River, with the 1st Army Division coming up on Lejeune's left and Wright's 89th Division on the right. Word was passed from the 5th Corps for the 2nd Division to capture the city of Sedan but those orders were revoked. The Marines and soldiers went into camps on the high ground overlooking the river.

On the evening of Nov. 7, new orders arrived to search for the most feasible crossing points on the Meuse River for pontoon bridges or even makeshift bridges. The date for a crossing was dependent on the arrival of pontoons. Lejeune ordered the 4th Marine Brigade to prepare to make the crossing and take the high ground on the far side of the river. At the same time, he learned that the 89th Division would receive all pontoons available so Lejeune ordered the 2nd Engineer to construct enough floating bridge sections to support two crossings—the 5th Marines at Letanne and the 6th Marines near Le Faubourg.

The 2nd Engineers built the bridge sections with wood found in a German barracks and timber from Letanne. Each section was 12 feet in length but only 6 feet wide. The planks were fastened to cross-sections of logs that held Marines as they crossed to the east bank of the river.

On Nov. 9, Lejeune and his chief of staff were called to Summerall's headquarters, where a discussion was made of the proposed bridge crossings with Major General Wright and the chief of staff of the 89th Division. Lejeune opposed the idea of a bridge crossing into the heavily defended high ground on the

far back of the river. Instead, he proposed for the 90th Division that was already across the river to push north and first clear the far bank for the 89th Division to cross unopposed. The 89th Division could then clear the far bank for the 2nd Division to cross without casualties. Summerall ended the conference and took this plan "under advisement."

Once Lejeune reached his headquarters, he received word that his plan was disapproved and that Summerall ordered a crossing to be made on the night of Nov. 10 with the 89th Division. The main attack consisted of two battalions of the 6th Marines crossing at Mouzon, supported by 3rd Bn, 5th Marines. The new plan also ordered two battalions of the 5th Marines to cross the river near Letanne, accompanied by a battalion of the 89th Division. This secondary attack was intended to connect the 2nd Division crossing at Mouzon with the 89th Division crossing further south.

Assigned a frontal assault across the Meuse River, Lejeune also faced a general breakdown in the health of his command. Concern over the fitness of the Marines and soldiers to make another attack became apparent at the regimental briefings at 6 p.m. on Nov. 10, only hours before the attack was to be made. "It was obvious to all that the last bitter drop of energy—all that remained of the depleted reserve of effort and spirit—was to be drawn from the men of the brigade in order to complete the final thrust," the medical history of the 4th Marine Brigade related. "It was almost too much to ask of the men."

Battle in the continuous rain, cold, and mud combined with inadequate food caused 90 percent of the Marines to be sick with colds and diarrhea in addition to the Marines ill with the deadly Spanish Flu. Men who were physically fit at the start of the offensive had lost 15 to 30 pounds and now scarcely resembled their former selves. "Their eyes were sunken," noted the medical

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USMC

Crossing the Meuse River, shown here, came at a high price as many Marines were lost due to the heavy fire from German artillery.

history, “and their faces haggard from loss of sleep and lack of nutrition.” Physical exhaustion became a real threat for the first time in all of the battles of the 4th Marine Brigade of 1918.

The darkness of the night of Nov. 10 offered concealment for the assaulting columns, but the supporting artillery barrage awakened the German defenders in Mouzon and on the high ground on the opposite side of the river. The advance of the 6th Marines to Meuse River and a canal juncture was halted by intense enemy artillery fire and interlocking machine guns hidden in the houses of the town. Despite the cover of darkness and a heavy fog, the engineers could not reach the river to deploy their bridge sections and all pulled back to defilade at daybreak. The Germans used the halt of the American advance on Nov. 7 to consolidate their position and were no longer disorganized in retreat.

The lower crossing at Letanne now became the main effort by the 2nd Division but the troops proceeded with difficulty. Major George Hamilton, one of the ablest combat officers in the Marine Brigade, commanded the crossing and was determined to get his men across the river as quickly as possible. Companies A and B of the 2nd Engineers succeeded in carrying the sections for two planned bridges to the river, joined them together and then released the far end of each bridge. A rope tethered to the last section of each bridge allowed the engineers to guide the bridge into place before the river carried the bridge too far downstream.

The engineers watched carefully as river currents unfolded each bridge, extending the sections until the far end of each was close enough for the engineers to leap into the water and secure the bridge to the German side of the river. The bridge guided by Co A was completed in a lucky seven minutes while that of Co B took second best at 13 minutes.

The two battalions of the 5th Marines then moved down the river guided by a human chain of 2nd Engineers to the crossing point. Capt Dunbeck’s 1st Bn, 5th Marines crossed first, directly in the face of German artillery and machine-gun fire. Before

the crossing, Dunbeck assembled his companies around him in a ravine and told them, “Men, I am going across the river and I expect you to go with me.” The Marines responded by following their commander to the river, determined to cross with him. “What could we do but go across too,” one Marine sergeant remembered. “Surely we couldn’t let him go by himself; we love him too much for that.”

As with the crossing at Mouzon, the Germans established their defense on the river but held their reserves on the ridges dominating the low ground of the crossing. The fog and darkness of night would not prevent accurate fire on the bridge site that was already registered by forward observers, waiting for the first sign of the Marine advance. The Germans bracketed the riverbanks with airbursts of shrapnel and machine gun fire, making the crossing a nightmare for the men of the 5th Marines.

The fog was too dense to even find the bridge crossing. The Army engineers yelled through the fog, “The bridge! The bridge! This way! Come on, Marines.”

The floating bridges proved unstable, breaking up each company into single files of Marines. The 67th (D) Company reached the bridge first, halting to close up ranks before going across. Maj Hamilton arrived, blew a short blast from his whistle, and then stepped onto the first bridge section. The first ranks of the 67th Company leaped ahead of Hamilton, pushing him aside. The first dozen Marines charged across the bridge, causing the bridge to descend into the icy river up to the knees of the Marines. The engineers swiftly ordered fewer men to cross at a time, taking wider intervals to avoid sinking the bridge under their weight.

With no handrails to support them and only a knee-high stretch of rope to guide them, each man had to walk across the flimsy planks in the dense fog, unable to even see the Marine to his front. The explosion of shells lit the fog for a split second, and then the night returned to darkness before it was shattered by the sound of Maxim machine guns. “You walked with little

feeling steps toward oblivion,” one Marine recalled, “The bullets ripped a seam along the water, then swung back. They changed their tone abruptly to the *sock, sock, sock*, sound of bullets when they hit flesh.”

German artillery fire cut the Co B bridge twice, rendering it useless. The entire Marine advance now depended on one unstable bridge, which was described as walking over a “railway track turned upside down.”

The lead battalion started across at 9:30 p.m. and the last squad finished the crossing an hour later. The German artillery fire was accurate despite the dense fog on the river, hurling several Marines into the river to drown.

Once across, Dunbeck’s Marines immediately ran into a German machine-gun nest. “He met us there,” recalled a 67th (D) Co Marine, “rising from the ground in quick surprise and greeting us with guttural questioning before they died.” The night battle fragmented the advance into small groups of Marines making their way forward into the fog and darkness, losing communication with the men crossing before and after them. Dunbeck assembled a unit of about 100 Marines to hold the ground he occupied and waited for dawn to resume his advance.

Dunbeck assembled his companies around him in a ravine and told them, “Men, I am going across the river and I expect you to go with me.”

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Captain Leroy P. Hunt's 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment crossed the bridge next and ran into the same fire as the initial advance. Hunt's men moved north along the river bank to Dunbeck's left and dispatched patrols upstream to the Bellefontaine Farm to link up the northern crossing at Mouzon, not knowing of their repulse. There was no sign of the promised battalion of the 89th Division. Hunt and Dunbeck were reinforced with the 8th and 23rd Machine Gun Companies but still had too few men to securely defend their position on the east bank. In the darkness and fog, further advance was halted, leaving the two Marine battalions on the east bank of the Meuse by themselves. Any reinforcements would have to come across the bridge in almost single file, forming a choke point vulnerable to German fire. Maj Hamilton expected a German counterattack to attempt to drive the Marines back into the river, but the night brought no new German threat.

Among the many acts of bravery that night was the actions of Pharmacist's Mate First Class Charles H. Patterson, who made several trips back over the flimsy bridge carrying wounded Marines on his back. The most seriously wounded Marines needed more medical attention than could be provided on the east bank of the river.

Patterson saw no option except to carry each Marine over his shoulders across the deadly bridge sections. The weight of one man caused a section to sink to a depth that covered his shoes, but the combined weight of two men brought the icy water to the knees.

Patterson ignored the danger, making the trip several times before a German machine gun "disemboweled him and he fell among his miserable collection, more gravely wounded than they." He died of his wounds on Dec. 11, 1918. His body was returned to his hometown of Houston, Texas, in 1921 where he was buried with honors. The local newspaper headlines read "Marine Hero Returns Home But Not Alive."

Among the many acts of bravery that night was the actions of Pharmacist's Mate First Class Charles H. Patterson, who made several trips back over the flimsy bridge carrying wounded Marines on his back.

The promised 2nd Battalion, 356th Infantry from the 89th Division arrived at 8:50 p.m., just as the shelling of the German positions began. Initially composed of men from Kansas City and northeast Missouri, the soldiers were unsure of their role in the crossing of the Meuse River. "No one knew where he was going, whether in assault or reserve, how far he was going to have to hike, and few worried about it. It was just a matter to hitch the belt over, cuss the Army, the Boche, the weather, and this Godforsaken land of rain and ruin and plod along until some kind heart ordered a halt." They gained little more information from Maj Hamilton who met with Major Mark Hanna and his company commanders at La Sartelle Farm. Hamilton declared he had no time to give detailed orders but instructed them "to follow the Marines" across the river.

The soldiers moved down a ravine toward the fog-shrouded bridges when German counter battery fire struck the column. "No one who was there will ever forget it," the historians of Co E wrote after the war. "Shells were seen to drop into a group of men throwing men into the air. The noise was terrific, our own artillery and the bursting of enemy shells. Men could be heard singing, praying and calling for help from first aid, the more seriously injured pleading for anyone to help them." Others vomited along the trail from the gas shells that pummeled the column.

Despite the deadly shelling and accompanying machine-gun fire, MAJ Hanna guided his battalion across the bridge, calling through the fog directions for his scattered companies. The soldiers crossed the bridge one by one as a heavy column would have swamped the already weak bridge sections. Hanna moved through the barrage to get his men into position—miraculously unhurt—but on the third run to the bridge, he was killed by a shellfire. Captain Harry Carlson of Company G took over command of the battalion, continuing the consolidation begun by Hanna.



One of two bridges used to cross the Meuse River on the night of Nov. 10, 1918. Note the rough section and the narrow planks for the Marines to walk across.

By 2 a.m., Captain Harry Carlson formed the remnants of the battalion under the cover of trees, taking position holding the right of Hamilton's line. Only 23 soldiers remained in Co G, with the other three companies taking similar casualties. The 1st Bn, 9th Infantry made the crossing as well, making two battalions of Marines and two battalions of soldiers in position across the river. Maj Hamilton ordered his command to hold in place and await daylight for a morning assault.

By daylight, the American position remained somewhat precarious in the low ground along the river but was stable. Promptly at 6:30 a.m., the attack began with Dunbeck's Marines on the left driving on the Senegal Farm ridge and the 2nd Bn, 356th Infantry on the right. Hunt's 2nd Bn, 5th Marines extended the attack along the river toward the Bellefontaine Farm. The 55th (H) Company and 43rd (F) Co swept along the river bank in a skirmish formation and in a rush drove the Germans from the Bellefontaine Farm, taking several trench mortars and machine guns.

The Germans held the high ground, dominating the Marines and soldiers below along the river. Fragments of three German divisions held the line, desperate to hold the Americans to the river. Any withdrawal would expose their artillery to capture in the ravines behind the German lines. The veteran German soldiers were ready to fight to the last minute to keep the Americans bottled up along the river.

The Marines attacked up the steep slopes of the Bois des Flaviers, protected somewhat by the forest while the soldiers did the same in the Bois d'Alma-Gisors. The Americans felt more confident in the daylight, repaying the German machine gunners for their losses during the night crossing. By 10 a.m., the soldiers cleared their wood of the deadly machine guns and dug in, with orders to prepare for a second assault at noon.

A "thunderbolt" in the form of a message from 4th Brigade headquarters arrived at 8:35 a.m., informing Hamilton that an armistice had been signed by the Allies and Germans to take effect at 11 a.m.—that very day. The news reached the Germans at about the same time. Both sides now recognized only hours remained before fighting would stop. The Marines understood they had to improve their position before 11 a.m. or be forced to remain in a vulnerable place commanded by German high ground.

Maj Hamilton readied his men to make the second assault at noon, when a message arrived from 5th Marines commander, Logan Feland, stating, "All firing will cease at 11 a.m. today. Hold every inch of ground you have gained including that of patrols."

Hamilton quickly informed his battalion commanders along his line and then moved to warn the Army battalions.

Capt Dunbeck's battalion had already advanced patrols toward the town of Moulins in preparation for the attack of the entire battalion. As the time for ending the fighting neared, Dunbeck sent out runners to recall the Marines, but the patrols found the Germans in the town in actual celebration of the armistice. The Marines returned to the Senegal Farm, satisfied with the end of fighting.

At 11:55 a.m., almost an hour past the time the armistice was to begin, the Kansas City soldiers of the 2nd Bn, 356th Regiment sent out a contact patrol in preparation of their attack. All movement stopped when Maj Hamilton arrived at their position, announcing the Armistice was signed and hostilities were at



From woods and rivers to fields as seen above, the Marines fought across a variety of terrain in the Meuse-Argonne area of France.

an end. The men were skeptical and took the news "with little comment. Some did not believe it was true." The Missourians had "little celebration as the men were so tired all they cared for was to get to fire and rest."

Far out on the Bellefontaine Farm, the men of the Hunt's 2nd Bn, 5th Marines ceased fire as well. They could hear the Germans on the slope above them make "something of a joyous celebration, our men for the most part slept." Each company in the battalion was down to 70 to 80 Marines out of a 250-man company, except the 43rd (F) Co, always known as the "lucky company," ending the war with 150 men still in its ranks.

The fighting continued on the east bank of the Meuse after 11 p.m. on Nov. 11, causing the German High Command to issue a complaint the Americans were violating the terms of the Armistice to the Allied Supreme Commander, whose staff placed a telephone call to 2nd Division headquarters demanding an explanation while ordering all combat to cease immediately. Aides rushed across the river and found all was quiet, so the matter was forgotten. Maj Hamilton later admitted he did not revive the order to halt his attack until 11:30 a.m. so that the attack could not be stopped until noon.

Lejeune took time on Nov. 11 to write a letter to his wife. "Last night we fought our last battle. It was the most trying of all battles. Our poor men had to cross the Meuse River ... They dashed across and defeated the enemy but at the cost of many lives. To me, it was pitiful for men to go to their death on the evening of peace."

Lejeune's words reflected the attitude of the Marines and soldiers who fought the last battle of the war across the Meuse River, men who never forgot their sacrifice on Nov. 10-11, 1918. The Teufelshunde of the 4th Marine Brigade were justly proud of their accomplishments during the battle, but many believed to their dying days that the final attack across the Meuse River was unjustified.

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 was published in the summer of 2018 and covers the battles of Belleau Wood and Soissons.

Returning Home from the Great War



Some of the Marines who fought at Chateau-Thierry returned to the United States on the troop transport ship *Mount Vernon*, March 11, 1919.

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman • Photos courtesy of National Archives

World War I, the Great War, came to an end on Nov. 11, 1918, and soon after, U.S. Marines and soldiers began boarding ships to make the voyage home.

People gathered in Manhattan's Battery Park throughout the day Dec. 2, 1918, hoping to catch a glimpse of the passenger ship *Mauretania*, carrying the first large load of returning troops. *The Boston Globe* reported that the mayor of New York City, John F. Hylan, sent a telegraph to the U.S. Secretary of War, Newton D. Baker, requesting that the men aboard the ship parade along 5th Avenue the following day. "The people of the city of New York are most anxious to

welcome the troops," Hylan's message said. Unfortunately, NYC's later parade was delayed so the men could be "cleaned up and deloused."

Nationwide, Americans celebrated victory by turning out to cheer at later parades and ceremonies. *The Philadelphia Inquirer's* Feb. 9, 1919, edition dedicated the front-page to a story about a Philadelphia, Pa., parade, featuring "the Marine heroes of Chateau-Thierry."

"When the bronzed stalwarts of Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood, many of them wearing the very uniform in which they fought so gallantly on foreign soil, came into view the acclaim knew no bounds," reported the *Inquirer*.



The Statue of Liberty was a wonderful sight to the men of the 2nd Division as they arrived in New York, N.Y., Aug. 8, 1919.



Left: Members of the 5th and 6th Marines, who distinguished themselves in the fighting at Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood, were presented with the Croix de Guerre. They arrived back in the United States on the ship *Mauretania* in early December 1918. Front row: Pvt R.L. Duncan; C.B. Huse; L.F. Long; Eugene W. Brinkerhoff; and Harry Goode. Back row: D.M. Douglas; Cpl H.B. Woodruff; Pvt C.S. Priest; Pvt A.J. Lorenzen; Pvt J.H. Kastner; and Pvt W.E. West.



Above: Marines who returned home after being wounded in the Battle of Chateau-Thierry were honored at a dinner in New York City, Nov. 12, 1918.



Above: Some of the wounded men who were unable to march were driven along the parade route in Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 8, 1919. According to published reports, when the wounded Marines approached the reviewing stand, the Commandant, MajGen George Barnett, saluted them and held his salute until all the wounded men had passed by.



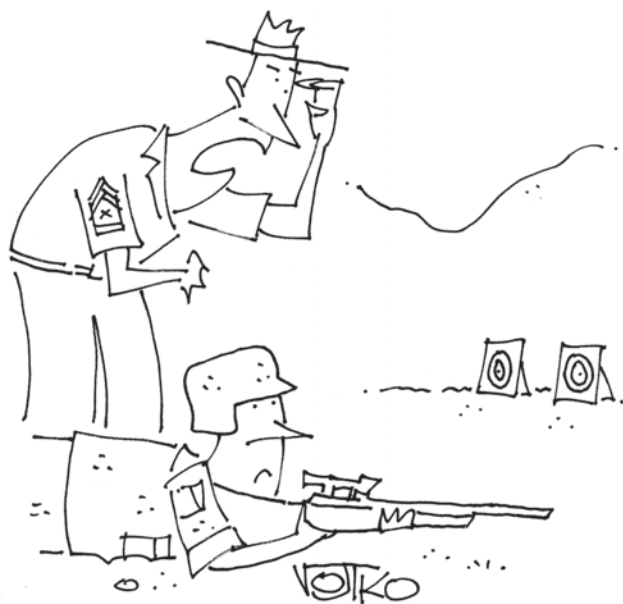


Above: Rain that turned to snow didn't dampen the enthusiasm of citizens of Philadelphia, Pa., who turned out in the cold and rain on Feb. 8, 1919, to cheer for the Devil Dogs who bravely defeated the Germans during the war.

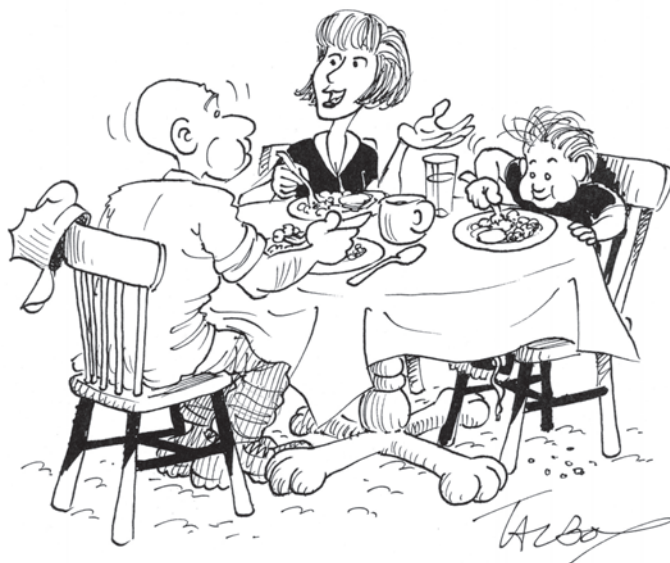
Left: A group of 500 Marines who stopped the Germans at Chateau-Thierry prepare to march up Broad Street during a parade in Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 8, 1919.



Leatherneck Laffs



"Are you sure that you're keeping one eye open?"



"I tell him supper is MREs and he chows down on these left overs."



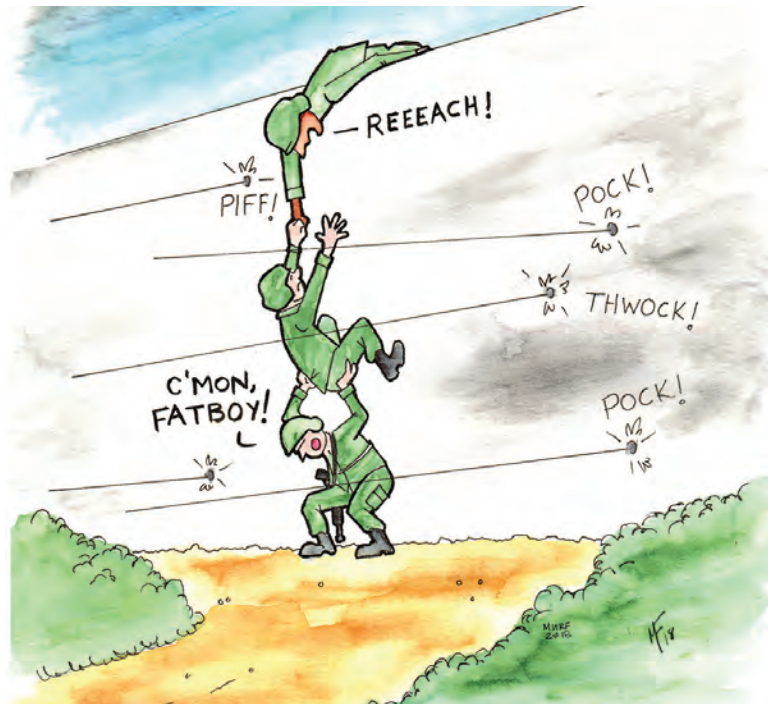
"There's your safe space!"



"They've replaced dog tags with Facebook pages."



"The gunny doesn't have all the answers, but fortunately, he has Google to go to."



"Teamwork is essential. It gives the enemy someone else to shoot at."



"Did the junior Marines pick out the ball gifts this year?"

In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

DJIBOUTI 13th MEU Relies on Naval Assets During Combat Rehearsal

The guided-missile destroyer USS *Jason Dunham* (DDG-109) participated in the Theater Amphibious Combat Rehearsal (TACR) 18 with U.S. Navy and Marine Corps forces in the Gulf of Aden, Sept. 14.

TACR 18 integrated Navy and Marine Corps assets, including the *Essex* Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) with embarked Marines of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, to practice a range of critical combat-related capabilities including securing littoral environments and de-mining critical waterways.

“Our goals for the exercise were to flex Navy and Marine Corps integration afloat, ensuring tactical proficiency while operating off the coast of Djibouti in the Gulf of Aden, working within a real-time, high stress environment,” said Captain Peter Mirisola, USN, deputy commodore of U.S. 5th Fleet Task Force (CTF) 55.

With more than 4,000 Sailors and Marines participating in the rehearsal,

Dunham conducted surface and air surveillance, providing a layered defense and maintaining the overall maritime picture for U.S. forces operating in areas of potential threat.

“Incorporating an Aegis-class destroyer into an established ARG helped facilitate a more robust air defense posture,” said Commander John Hamilton, USN, the commanding officer of *Dunham*. “TACR is similar to the up-gunned expeditionary strike group concept, which adds multiple sensors to enhance fidelity for decision makers—this was another opportunity to showcase distributed lethality with amphibious forces.”

Hamilton said having the CTF 55 staff element embarked expanded upon the traditional composite-warfare-commander construct and extended the battle space for the amphibious expeditionary exercise.

Effective communication was a critical component to the rehearsal’s success.

“A challenge often encountered when working with multiple forces in a large-scale operation is establishing effective communication between the individual

units,” said Lieutenant Jack Curran, USN, *Dunham* operations officer. “Unilateral exercises are important to improving our Navy-Marine Corps interoperability by pressing units to improve upon methods of relaying information as the exercise unfolds.”

The rehearsal demonstrates U.S. forces’ resolve to be capable and ready to rapidly respond to any threat, ensuring the freedom of navigation and free flow of commerce wherever international law allows.

“All units did exceptionally well preparing, getting to the rehearsal areas, and performing these operations,” said Mirisola. “This is the inherent capability of the Navy and Marine Corps team and a mission in which we take great pride.”

During September, U.S. 5th Fleet and coalition assets were participating in numerous simultaneous exercises as part of the greater Theater Counter Mine and Maritime Security Exercise to ensure maritime stability and security in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

PO3 Jonathan Clay, USN



LCpl Quenton Timmerman, an assault Marine with Kilo Co, BLT 3/1, 13th MEU, throws a hook during an obstacle clearing drill during in Djibouti, Sept. 17.

CPL DANNY GONZALEZ, USMC

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF.

New Controlled Firing Area Allows for Enhanced Training

A decision by the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a controlled firing area over the Johnson Valley Exclusive Military Use Area paved the way for Marines of “India” Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 7th Marine Regiment, known as “Darkside,” to make history when they conducted a live-fire training exercise in the area, Aug. 24.

Utilizing 60 mm mortars, rockets, the Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System (APOBS) and small arms, “Darkside” Marines, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Birchfield, took three objectives near Bessemer Mine in the Galway Lake Training Area. The new training area is part of 107,000 acres added to the combat center for exclusive military use when the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 was signed into law, expanding the base from 935 square miles to 1,107 square miles.

Brigadier General Roger B. Turner Jr., the commanding general of MAGTF Training Command, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., observed the 40-minute exercise, which was the unit’s final training event before deploying to the Middle East. Joining him were California State Senator Jean Fuller, California State Assemblyman Chad Mayes and representatives from the city of Twentynine Palms; the town of Yucca Valley and Yucca Valley Airport Commission. Also observing were personnel from Government and External Affairs and Range Safety.

“It’s a really important day for all of us,” Turner said. “We couldn’t have done it without the cooperation of the communities [surrounding the combat center].”

The Marine Corps began working in 2006 to expand the combat center’s training lands to support scalable Marine Air-Ground Task Force training required to allow units to train as they fight—utilizing air, ground, command and logistics elements in realistic scenarios. The combat center is the only Marine Corps installation in the world that is large enough to conduct this type of comprehensive training.

“This is an amazing day for the combat center and the surrounding communities,” BGen Turner said as he cut a ceremonial red ribbon to begin the exercise. “The Johnson Valley training area is open for business.”

Seconds after the general spoke, a barrage of live fire erupted as the Marines used mortars and rockets to clear the way for a platoon of riflemen who shouted to one another and fired toward the objectives during their advance.

Forty minutes after the first mortar



KELLY O'SULLIVAN

Above: BGen Roger B. Turner Jr., the commanding general of MAGTF Training Command, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., cuts the ribbon prior to the start of a live-fire training exercise in the new controlled firing area over the Johnson Valley Exclusive Military Use Area at the combat center, Aug. 24.

Below: Impact from an Anti-Personnel Obstacle Breaching System throws up a large plume near an objective during live-fire training conducted by India Co, 3/4, 7th Marine Regiment in the Johnson Valley Exclusive Military Use Area, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 24. (Photo by Kelly O'Sullivan)



round made impact, the Marines had secured the three trenches in the area and the call of “white flags, white flags” came over the radio, signaling the end of the exercise.

LtCol Birchfield said the opportunity to train on new terrain was invaluable as 3/4 made its final preparations to deploy.

“The training areas we have at Twentynine Palms are the best in the Marine Corps,” said Birchfield. “Complex terrain

forces unit leaders to make complex decisions and terrain they haven’t utilized before adds a new element of complexity.”

Colonel Kyle B. Ellison, 7th Marine Regiment Commander, observed the Marines in action from the desert floor before walking up the hill to join the group.

“The fact that we can expand outside mainside ... gives us flexibility in our training,” Ellison said. “Marines that are



SSGT COREY HOOK, USAF

LIGHT UP THE NIGHT—Marines fire an 81 mm mortar during training in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Hajin, Syria, Aug. 4. The training was a portion of the building partner capacity mission, which aims to enhance the capabilities of coalition partner forces fighting ISIS in northeast Syria.

home-stationed fight on a lot of the same terrain and that's not always good for their decision-making. This is an opportunity to mix it all up on them."

More space means more realistic training, and it gets Marines out of their comfort zone, said Ellison.

Permanent special use airspace establishment is still pending FAA approval, and is needed to support live fires from both ground- and aviation-based weapons systems during large-scale exercises and other combined arms training exercises conducted in the exclusive military use area and shared use area. In the interim, the new controlled firing area will remain in effect through August 2020 and will be activated up to 16,000 feet, when needed to support specific ground-based live fires in the exclusive military use area and will be deactivated at the completion of each training day.

While the general public is prohibited from accessing the exclusive military use

area by ground, non-military aircraft can continue to fly over the area until permanent special use airspace is established. Controlled firing area activation allows units to conduct certain ground-based live-fire training without impact to general aviation. Units involved in the training will post air sentries at strategic locations in the training area while the controlled firing area is active. Air sentries will notify combat center range control when non-participating aircraft approach the airspace and training will be suspended until non-participating aircraft depart the area.

Kelly O'Sullivan

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL **Multinational Task Force** **Trains for Disaster Relief**

A country on the coast of South America has been struck by a devastating hurricane, leaving a large number of people without water, food or shelter. Fortunately, the maritime services from several countries

in the region were conducting training nearby, and are able to respond to an inter-national request for help.

That's the scenario U.S. Marines and Sailors, along with military planners from nine other countries, recently worked through in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as part of UNITAS Amphibious 2018, Aug. 20-24.

The country of "Amarelo" used in the exercise scenario doesn't exist, but it can represent any of the countries in the Western Hemisphere regularly threatened by natural disasters. In a time when resources are finite, few countries have the means to tackle a large-scale natural disaster on its own. It can take multiple nations working together to save lives and prevent further suffering.

Creating the interoperability necessary for those countries to successfully work together to establish common processes, command and control methods, as well as avenues for exchanging information, was the goal of this year's UNITAS Amphibious,

according to Brazilian Naval Infantry Rear Admiral Nelio de Almeida, the commander of Brazil's Marine Doctrine Training Command.

The knowledge gained and the processes put into place set the stage for next year's iteration of UNITAS Amphibious, when the participating countries actually will take to the sea to conduct a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief field training exercise.

Over the course of the last year, the Marines of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South have worked with partner nations to create a multinational maritime task force, bringing together personnel and equipment from multiple nations to respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises in the region. This year's UNITAS Amphibious acted as a building block for that task force, driving military planners from across the Western Hemisphere to plan through how an actual multinational task force would operate while responding to a natural disaster.

"I think a critical first step is working the details of the concept against a detailed scenario," said Major General David G. Bellon, USMC, the acting military deputy commander for U.S. Southern Command. "By working in this way, the professionals from each country are able to form an objective opinion about how such a multinational capability may contribute to the overall security and stability of our region and also provide relief to those who are suffering."

MajGen Bellon, who recently left his post as the commander of MARFORSOUTH, has spent the last year spearheading the effort to take the multinational maritime task force from concept to reality. This year's deployment of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Southern Command includes a Colombian Naval Infantry officer as its deputy commander—a historic first for the command. The Marines and Sailors with SPMAGTF–SC also conducted combined joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training with USS *Gunston Hall* (LSD-44) and Guatemalan servicemembers.

Now, with UNITAS Amphibious, partner nations have taken the lead on bringing the multinational maritime task force together, ensuring the task force is not simply a U.S.-led effort, but also a cooperative undertaking.

"The Brazilian Navy really took the primary leadership role in putting this concept to the test," said Bellon. "Their professionalism and energy set the conditions for success not only for this year, but going into next year as well."

GySgt Zachary Dyer, USMC



PFC KINDO GO, USMC

Sgt Jason Smith, a criminal investigator with CID, 3rd LE Bn, III MEF Information Group takes a photo of simulated documents during TSE training at Camp Hansen's "Combat Town" in Okinawa, Japan, Sept. 12.

OKINAWA, JAPAN

Tactical Site Exploitation Can Yield Valuable Information

Marines with Criminal Investigation Division (CID), 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force performed tactical site exploitation (TSE) during training at "Combat Town," Camp Hansen, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Sept. 13.

TSE is an investigative task in which Marines go into a possible enemy location,

search for and gather as much forensic material as possible in a constrained amount of time due to the potential hostility of the environment. If conducted correctly, it can yield information such as enemy plans, the location of high-value targets, or whether improvised explosive devices (IEDs) have been manufactured on site.

Staff Sergeant Gustavo Pesquera, a criminal investigator with CID, 3rd Law Enforcement Bn, II MEF Information Group, set up the TSE training in order



CID Marines with 3rd LE Bn, II MEF Information Group secure forensic material they gathered during TSE training, Sept. 12. The training provided them an opportunity to practice gathering as much forensic material as possible in a limited amount of time. (Photo by PFC Kindo Go, USMC)

to evaluate his Marines. He planted and concealed several props within a building and gave them a scenario and a set amount of time to collect as much evidence and possible.

“You never know how much time you have at a site,” said Pesquera. “You don’t know if the enemy will come attack or if there’s another mission that needs to be accomplished. Due to our background as criminal investigators, we know what the bad guys think and we know exactly what to look for that would give us the most intelligence.”

TSE training is essential for CID Marines because this type of scenario is often highly unpredictable. To ensure the search and collection of forensic material goes as smoothly as possible, they take several steps in preparation.

Prior to the investigation, a team is formed and a leader and assistant leader are designated. The team leader receives a brief on what needs to be obtained, and then passes the information to his team. The team then prepares their equipment, which usually includes cameras, chalk, tape, sample vials, latex gloves and paper bags.

Sergeant Michael Rauch, a criminal investigator with the unit, and his team were told the building they were searching was a possible IED manufacturing house. They were given eight minutes, due to possible nearby “hostile forces,” to gather evidence that explosives were being made on site.

The two-story concrete building had many rooms and even more inconspicuous places to hide things. Each scenario is different, but the basic approach remains the same.

“Repetition is what makes you better,” said Rauch. “It builds muscle memory. So when it’s time to actually execute, you know what to do. When your mind shuts down and your body freaks out, you just go with what you know and what you trained for.”

Pesquera observed Rauch’s team as they took photos of the area, marked rooms that possibly contained important materials, and then gathered the evidence. The team finished with a few seconds to spare, grabbed all of their equipment, secured the evidence, and sprinted a quarter-mile down the road to their designated rendezvous point.

After they consolidated, Rauch and his team met up with Pesquera, who gave them several tips to improve their skills. Pesquera is confident that the unit will be a great asset when the time comes to implement their skills in a real-life scenario.

“Tactical site exploitation is extremely

important for everybody to know,” said Pesquera. “I believe everybody should know at least a basic form of TSE, because anything could lead to intelligence. If everybody is able to do their part, the intelligence and everything we could get [from] doing TSEs could lead to us becoming a better warfighting organization than we already are.”

PFC Kindo Go, USMC

CAMP GRAYLING, MICH.

Northern Strike

Integrates Reserve Assets

The hot Michigan sun was high in the sky as a Marine lay flat against the dry sand, looking through his rifle optic at the battle space spread out in front of him. Beside him, his fellow Marine filled sand bags and placed them around their fighting positions. For the Marines of “Kilo” Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, it was the beginning of their final event during the two-week Exercise Northern Strike 18 at Camp Grayling, Mich., held Aug. 5-15.

Northern Strike is a military readiness event hosted annually by the Michigan National Guard and is one of the largest reserve component exercises, attended by approximately 5,000 U.S. Marines, Sailors, soldiers and airmen as well as servicemembers from other NATO countries.

This year, Marines from 3/25 participated and received additional augmentation and support from 4th Assault Amphibious Battalion; 4th Tank Battalion; 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Bat-

talion; 4th Combat Engineer Battalion; 4th Dental Battalion and Combat Logistics Battalion 451.

Camp Grayling, which spans 147,000 acres, is one of the largest National Guard training centers in the country. It offers a variety of live-fire range and training opportunities. The Marines of 3/25, made up of three line companies—“Kilo,” “India,” “Lima,” and one weapons company—were divided by company and spread between the ranges, rotating after every event. The major ranges included land navigation, platoon attack, company attack and company defense.

During the platoon attack and company attack, each company integrated with amphibious assault vehicles from 4th AA Bn, practicing off-loading and on-loading during live fire drills. During the company attack, companies also integrated with 4th Tanks and 4th LAR, which provided fire and reconnaissance support.

Aside from integrating with other Marine Corps Reserve assets, the Marines of Kilo Co showcased their interoperability by training with four British Royal Marines from the Royal Marine Reserves, where they shadowed their U.S. counterparts and filled key billets of platoon commanders and platoon sergeants.

Northern Strike played an important role in ensuring the Marines of 3/25 are prepared for Integrated Training Exercise 2019 at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Cpl Niles Lee, USMCR



CPL NILES LEE, USMCR

Reserve Marines with Weapons Co, 3/25, load an FGM-148 Javelin missile onto a command launch unit during Exercise Northern Strike at Camp Grayling, Mich., Aug. 14. Camp Grayling, the largest National Guard center in the country, offers many large artillery, mortar, tank ranges and maneuver courses.

The Battle of Wake Island: The Unsung Sequel to Pearl Harbor



SGT OLIVIA G. ORITZ, USMC

Gen Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, reads a plaque on the Prisoner of War rock on Wake Island, Aug. 7, during his tour of the island.

By SSgt Mathew D. Springer, USMC

Editor's note: The following article is the second-place winning entry of the Leatherneck Writing Contest. Major Richard A. "Rick" Stewart, USMC (Ret) sponsored the contest, which is open to enlisted Marines, through the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. Upcoming issues of Leatherneck will feature the third-place essay and honorable mention entrants.

Objectively speaking, the Battle of Wake Island was nothing more than the struggle of a small group of Marines who fought a losing battle against the Empire of Japan in World War II. It is a story of defeat, compounded by

the notoriety of being the first surrender following direct combat by any Marine unit in Corps history. It is a battle preceded by miscalculations, hubris and unpreparedness. It is a story of abandonment, suffering and loss at the hands of Japanese captors. It's little wonder that Wake Island is not often held to the flame of historical lore of the Corps in the same manner as Okinawa, Tarawa, Peleliu or Iwo Jima.

Upon close study, however, Wake Island is more than a simple pessimistic account of an insignificant battle. On the contrary, Wake Island was a declarative statement to the Japanese military that highlighted the fighting spirit of the Marine Corps. In defeat, the Marines of Wake Island delivered Japan a pyrrhic victory, ignited the morale of American warfighters,

touched the hearts of the American people and set the tone for the rest of Japan's war with the United States.

On Aug. 19, 1941, the 517 Marines and Sailors of 1st Defense Landing Battalion arrived as the first American forces fortifying the island of Wake. Under the command of Major James Devereux and Navy Commander Winfield S. Cunningham, the Marines reluctantly worked 10 to 12 hours a day clearing fields of fire, emplacing sandbags, conducting reactionary drills and completing other defensive measures.

Hailing from a lineage of military scholars, Maj Devereux was one of the only men with the foresight to sense the impending danger. Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, most Marines believed that

This photo shows the Pan American Airways compound on Wake Island on March 5, 1940. The base included a pier for seaplanes and was the site of heavy fighting in December 1941.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

the Japanese would never dare to incite a war with the United States. To them, Wake Island represented nothing more than an unfortunate rotation to an unimportant strip of land.

Wake Island was never fully equipped for defense against a full-scale invasion. Following the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the Marines found themselves in a race against time to prepare for the now-evident incursion by enemy forces. The island defenders' arsenal included 12 M3 anti-air cannons, several Browning .50-caliber machine guns, and a handful of lightweight artillery guns. The riflemen were armed with the reliable M1903 Springfield bolt-action rifle. The fighter squadron boasted only 12 functional F4F-3 Wildcat fighters; not ideal numbers to deter the forces that crippled Pearl Harbor, but enough to give the Marines and Sailors an even battlefield for a short amount of time. With no subsequent reinforcements, however, the Marines found themselves lacking fundamental defensive components such as radar, mines and illumination rounds.

The 1st Defense Landing Bn was not arbitrarily neglected by their naval leadership. Admiral Husband Kimmel,

commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, wanted to reinforce Wake prior to Pearl Harbor's disaster. Believing that any act of aggression from the Japanese would initially target Wake, he proactively dispatched a battle group led by the carrier USS *Saratoga* (CV-3). Carrying additional troops, radar and



ADM Husband Kimmel

civilian evacuation plans, *Saratoga* was meant to be Kimmel's counterattack. The United States desperately needed to regain hegemony after having her nose bloodied by an enemy for which many Americans previously held little to no respect.

Tragically, ADM Kimmel's plan would never come to fruition. Ten days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Kimmel and his Army garrison counterpart were relieved of their commands for allowing such an event to transpire. Arguably sacrificed as scapegoats to satisfy American anger and humiliation, the loss of ADM Kimmel meant the loss of the foremost naval leader committed to Wake Island's defense in the most crucial of times.

As the opposing navies raced to Wake, the defending Marines and Sailors continued fortifying the island. Lacking early warning radar, aviation Marines took their Wildcats to the skies in an attempt to stave off any aerial incursions. Unfortunately, it was not enough. On Dec. 9, Japanese bombers descended on Wake in such great numbers that the pilots could do nothing but watch as the bombardment began. In the initial bombings, the Japanese destroyed eight of the Marines' 12 grounded fighter planes, as well as any

Embarking Marines at Pearl Harbor, prior to sailing for Wake in an attempt to relieve the island on Dec. 15, 1941. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)



major exposed structures. To the ground troops, the damage was of little strategic value. The aviation Marines, however, lost 23 personnel, as well as the ability to mount any significant contention for air superiority if a carrier arrived.

Empowered by overwhelming success at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese became overzealous. The Imperial Navy soon found itself spread thin attempting to take the islands of Guam, Midway, Marshall, Malaya and Wake in one rapid motion. Acting on intelligence that island defenses had been reduced to entrenched small arms, appointed leader ADM Sadamichi Kajioka ordered nine ships—cruisers and destroyers—to seize the island.

In actuality, the weakness displayed by the island defenders was a ploy to lure the Japanese into a miscalculated initial invasion. Maj Devereux planned to repel the initial attack by erecting fake gun positions in the open, leaving the real batteries concealed for an ambush. As

the imperial fleet drew close to release transport vessels carrying 450 landing troops, the artillerymen opened fire from hidden positions lining the coast. Catching the hapless fleet completely by surprise, they instantly sunk a destroyer while simultaneously damaging the other eight ships. The panicked ships individually retreated, condemning the invading troops to suffer 100 percent casualties with no naval support. Capitalizing on the gained advantage, Marine aviators incessantly strafed the fleeing ships until expending all available ordnance. Captain Henry Elrod earned the title “Hammering Hank” by singlehandedly sinking a second fleeing destroyer due to his persistent efforts in attacking the fleet as they fled. The explosion of ignited torpedoes from the second sank destroyer over the night horizon was an emphatic coda to the first engagement of the battle.

Wake Island’s defenders earned the ire of the entire Imperial Navy. ADM



Capt Henry Elrod

COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Above: Col Walter L.J. Bayler, “the last man off Wake Island” in December 1941, was the first American servicemember to set foot on Wake Island in January 1945 after the surrender documents were signed. (USMC photo)



VADM William S. Pye

Kajioka rapidly responded to the empire’s first loss with intentions of regaining the momentum. His decision to send a fleet lacking carriers was professionally embarrassing and resulted in unnecessary loss of lives—a mistake he would not repeat. Japanese bombers attacked the island day after day until, on Dec. 23, a 42-ship armada appeared on Wake’s horizon. Out of range of Marine artillery and backed by two carriers full of fighters, the island defenders knew the second invasion would not go as well as the first.

The Japanese attempted to begin the second invasion with a low-light beach landing. Upon indication that enemy forces came ashore, the Marines utilized their four industrial-strength spotlights from the airfield. Despite being immediately targeted and destroyed by enemy fire,

the spotlights illuminated enemy landing zones while they were most vulnerable. Cannons and machine-gun fire ripped into the invading forces’ ranks and once again inflicted heavy Japanese casualties. Try as they might, the Marines could not inflict 100 percent casualties a second time on such a massive force. Weathering their casualties, the Japanese slowly gained footholds throughout the island. By morning, both forces were engaged in a vicious land battle on even footing.

In the skies above, Marine aviators showed unshakable courage against their foes. Despite being outnumbered four to one, they took to the skies one last time to defend against the otherwise unchallenged aerial attack. Captain Herbert Freuler, the senior pilot flying, was the last airborne American after all his wingmen were

shot down in ensuing dogfights. Despite wounds suffered from repeated grazings, he continued to fire upon enemies and famously downed the bombardier credited with sinking USS *Arizona* (BB-39) at Pearl Harbor.

As the battle continued late into the second day, CDR Cunningham ominously reported to his superiors “enemy on island—issue in doubt.” If Cunningham hoped the severity of his message would encourage the relief force to arrive sooner, his plan backfired. Upon hearing this simple yet telling message, Vice Admiral William S. Pye (ADM Kimmel’s successor) ordered the *Saratoga* battlegroup to return to Pearl Harbor, citing unnecessary loss as his chief motivation for no longer reinforcing the ill-fated troops.

The Wake defenders continued resisting the ever-growing invasion force as fighting intensified. The Marines found themselves constantly relying upon final protective fire to survive each subsequent wave of Japanese forces, each time engaging larger forces with fewer resources. Casualties, ammo depletion and fatigue began to compound, but this inspired Marine leaders in the trenches to become bolder.

“Hammering Hank” Elrod, who previously sunk a destroyer and downed multiple enemy aircraft, proved that if every Marine is a rifleman, then every Marine officer can be a rifle platoon commander. He and other Marine leaders began employing aggressive counter-offenses to keep Japanese off-balanced and seize ammunition. During one of his many counter-offenses, he was struck by enemy crossfire while lobbing a grenade and was mortally wounded. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. As Marines scrambled to prepare for a third day of fighting, many believed victory was still feasible, and the relief effort would assuredly arrive.

Inside the command center, Maj Devereux lost communications with his Marines, severing his ability to provide command and control during the desperate situation. Almost simultaneously, CDR Cunningham was informed by Pearl Harbor that the relief force would not be coming. Stepping outside the bunker, the commander saw that every fighting position within visual range had Japanese battle standards flying where his Marines were previously stationed. Believing every position within sight overrun and lacking communication with distant units, Cunningham concluded that further resistance was futile and surrendered the island to the Japanese.

To their dismay, CDR Cunningham and Maj Devereux found that although the Marines sustained significant casualties,



LtCol James P. Devereux, arriving in Honolulu, Sept. 20, 1945, on his way home following his release from a Japanese prisoner of war camp.

the island was far from lost. Of the original 517 servicemen, 476 were still alive, as were the majority of the civilian contractors. The Japanese standards that the leadership had seen were actually yosegaki flags; standards flown from a bayonet or rifle carried by unit leaders for command and signal procedures. These flags dated back to the Samurai heritage. In a twist of irony, the flags that convinced CDR Cunningham of his troops’ defeat were likely proof of dead Japanese troops surrounding triumphant Marine emplacements.

Despite the negative connotation that surrender carries in Marine Corps culture, CDR Cunningham’s decision likely led to the safe return of his Marines, his Sailors, and hundreds of civilian contractors under his charge following the war. Furthermore, war bonds skyrocketed outside movie theaters where the Hollywood depiction took creative liberty with the truth of what happened—to include the idea that all Americans on the island fought to the death, never to surrender.

The Marines and Sailors who fought in the defense of the island demonstrated tenacity that set the standard for all Marines to follow. Wake Island is neither a story of dishonor nor a blemish on the history of our Corps. It is an account of Marines fighting tooth and nail against insurmountable odds for a tiny American island, refusing to go quietly into the night. For that, it deserves to be remembered in the annals of Marine history.

Author’s bio: SSgt Mathew Springer enlisted in 2010 as an infantry Marine and later completed a lateral move to become a Chinese Cryptologic Linguist. He earned an associate’s degree in Mandarin Chinese language and culture from the Defense Language Institute. He recently deployed to Iraq with SPMAGTF-Crisis Response-CENTCOM 17.2. He currently serves as the Platoon Sergeant of Collections Platoon, “Bravo” Company, 1st Radio Bn, I MEF aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. 🇺🇸

Leaving His Mark on the Corps

General Glenn M. Walters Led Efforts to Develop and Retain Marines



CPL HAILEY D. CLAY, USMC

After almost 40 years of service, the 34th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Glenn M. Walters, recently retired from active duty and assumed the duties of President of The Citadel.

By Col Mary H. Reinwald
USMC (Ret)

Marines leave their mark on the Corps in a variety of ways, sometimes in ways they would never have imagined. General Glenn M. Walters, the recently retired 34th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (ACMC), understands this better than most. A Cobra pilot who later was instrumental in establishing the MV-22 program, Gen Walters' career has taken him far beyond the cockpit and has been marked by numerous challenges and successes.

"If you look at my career path, I've been in places where things were not going right," the ACMC said during a recent

interview. In addition to his assignment in the Deputy Commandant for Aviation's office as the head of its Requirements Branch during a time of decreasing funding, Gen Walters also served as the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources during the sequestration of 2013. "That was a challenge," he said with a slight laugh.

His impressive career includes two tours in the infantry as a platoon commander in 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines and as the Air Officer and Operations Officer for 1st Reconnaissance Battalion. The future ACMC also commanded HMT-303 and later served as the first commander of VMX-22. He gained valuable experience in the acquisition field while serving in the office of the Undersecretary of De-

fense, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics, Defense System, Land Warfare and supported Operation Enduring Freedom as the commanding general of 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing in Afghanistan in 2011.

The Task Force

It was his efforts as the head of the Marine Corps task force created in the wake of the "Marines United" scandal, however, that may have the most lasting and significant impact on the Marine Corps of today. The scandal broke in early 2017 and revealed a significant social media presence of active-duty and veteran male Marines who denigrated their female counterparts through the unauthorized sharing of photos and the posting of demeaning and degrading comments about the presence of women in the Corps. General Robert B. Neller, Commandant of the Marine Corps, created the task force to address the cultural issues in the Marine Corps which led to not only the misconduct but the acceptance and tolerance for behavior clearly not in keeping with the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage and commitment.

The ACMC has headed the task force since its establishment and has worked with Marines of all ranks to update training and regulations in order to send a clear message to all Marines as to what is appropriate and acceptable in the realm of social media. "While those changes address the immediate behavioral issue, we also remain committed to addressing and evolving our culture by changing the way we educate, train, and lead our Marines—we will not tolerate a lack of respect for any member of our team," said Walters.

The initial meetings of the task force were especially enlightening for the four-star general. "We unpacked it all in those first couple of meetings." Meetings that were supposed to last an hour ended up surpassing the four and a half hour mark as the ACMC ensured that everyone, from the most junior Marine present to the sergeants major and generals, had an opportunity to provide input. "We had to get it all on the table. And then once it was all on the table and all of us were exhausted, we had to sort through it. Make



CPL HAILEY D. CLAY, USMC

Gen Walters greets a Marine undergoing predeployment training at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 18, 2017.

It was his efforts as the head of the Marine Corps task force created in the wake of the “Marines United” scandal, however, that may have the most lasting and significant impact on the Marine Corps of today.

sense of it. Organize it. And decide what we’re going to do with it.”

In its first six months of existence, the task force was instrumental in publishing guidance on social media misconduct including a “Leaders’ Handbook and Discussion Guide” and ALMARs and other messages providing guidance to all Marines to ensure they have a clear understanding of the issue, are able to identify what constitutes misconduct, and understand what actions, both punitive and administrative, are available for the

Marines who continue to engage in such behavior. Of note, 160 persons of interest (22 civilians and 138 Marines) who have engaged in the egregious conduct on social media have been identified, and numerous courts martial, nonjudicial punishments and administrative separations have been conducted through mid-2018.

“I think it’s important to recognize that our understanding of the issue has evolved over time,” said Gen Walters. “How we handle cases today is much different and more effective as a result of what occurred with “Marines United.” Moving forward, we are planning to establish a permanent structure that can address all of the factors that contribute to the negative subculture that has allowed this behavior to exist.”

Talent Management

Recognizing that the challenge is much broader than social media postings, Gen Walters has also overseen the establishment of the Personnel Studies and Oversight Office (PSO) whose mission is to “oversee, assess, and recommend changes to policy to optimize the ability to attract, properly assign and retain the



COURTESY OF GEN GLENN M. WALTERS, USMC (RET)

Gen Walters is a test pilot whose contributions to the Corps’ aviation community ranged from flying the AH-1W and MV-22 to serving as an aviation staff specialist on the staff of the Undersecretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology & Logistics.

Below: The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Walters, visits with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 166 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif., Dec. 7, 2016.



LCPL NADIA J. STARK, USMC

talent necessary to achieve institutional and strategic objectives in the Marine Corps.” A key element of the PSO is listening to input from Marines throughout the Corps in order to “create an environment that emulates our Corps values” while also ensuring “all Marines and civilians are valued based on their individual excellence and commitment to war-fighting.”

According to Melissa Cohen, the director of the PSO, Gen Walters “has worked tirelessly over the last 18 months to enact positive changes and initiatives within the Marine Corps, always ensuring that Marines, Sailors, and civilians are treated with dignity and respect. He stood up the Personnel Studies and Oversight office in June 2017 to demonstrate the Marine Corps’ long-term commitment to strengthening our culture. Since that date, he has been actively engaged in paving the way for future leaders to follow suit. Gen Walters has continually emphasized the clear connection between mission readiness and recognizing the value of each team member, knowing that we are a more lethal force when we do and that

After serving as an infantry platoon commander, the future general completed flight training and was designated a naval aviator in 1981. In addition to flying both the AH-1J and AH-1W, he later served as the first commanding officer of VMX-22.



COURTESY OF GEN GLENN M. WALTERS, USMC (RET)



CPL HAILEY D. CLAY, USMC

Above: Gen Walters was the guest speaker at the 2018 Joint Women's Leadership Symposium, San Diego, Calif., in June.

it will be key to the Marine Corps' success in the future."

In addition, the ACMC heads the newly established Talent Management Executive Council (TMEC). The TMEC, a senior leader decision forum, "serves as the catalyst for ensuring we attract, develop and retain talented men and women." According to Gen Walters, the TMEC is a "way to get these issues up to the senior leadership of the Marine Corps once a month. You have all the interested parties, everyone who can have a stake in the success or be an impediment, all at the table looking each other in the eye. Are we going to change this policy? How are we going to change this policy? What do we need? You can plow through a lot of these [issues] quickly." He continued, noting

TMEC "serves as the catalyst for ensuring we attract, develop and retain talented men and women." [It] is a "way to get these issues up to the senior leadership of the Marine Corps once a month."

that the Corps had "professionalized our talent management leadership. It will ensure the success and staying power of the initiatives and gives a venue to always do the right thing for the Marines and our institution."

Discussions within the TMEC have ranged from officer and enlisted assignments and Defense Language Aptitude Battery testing to addressing such concerns as hiring and retaining Marines for the ever-growing cyber workforce. In addition, the TMEC has identified funds for Marines throughout the Corps to attend conferences focused on their professional development including the recent Joint Women's Leadership Symposium held in June in San Diego with more than 200 female Marines in attendance. The ACMC served as a guest speaker for the second year in a row and personally engaged with many of the Marines as he listened to their concerns and updated them on the Corps' efforts to combat disrespect toward female Marines and the



A 1979 graduate of The Citadel, Gen Walters returned to Charleston, S.C., to assume the duties as the college's 20th president.

integration of women in the combat arms military occupational specialties. "Integration is not only the right thing to do, integration is essential to winning our nation's battles to maintain our freedom. All in an environment where only 29 percent of our population is qualified to serve," said Gen Walters. The ACMC recognizes the changes the Corps has faced in recent years. "Diversity is an output of a culture that is inclusive so inclusion is what we should be going for," he said. "If you are inclusive in your organization or in your society, diversity will be the natural outcome and it'll be diverse to a level that the talent can produce," he added. His last few years on active duty have been an education, and Gen Walters has been an eager student.

"There's this idea of unconscious bias. Not just for gender race relations but also I think it has applicability to how we teach leadership ... We all have an unconscious bias of some kind. It was baked into you as a human because of where you grew up, how you grew up." He has reached the conclusion that unconscious bias "doesn't mean you're crippled. Doesn't mean you're even an immoral person. It's just a factor of how we all grew up differently." He believes that good leaders are aware of others' biases. "Understanding your own unconscious bias ... If we can understand it, we will be more ethical decision

"My favorite assignments were any time I could lead Marines," he said, emphatically noting that he didn't say commanding Marines.

makers. We will make better decisions because we know ourselves," said Gen Walters. "When you're the commander, if you've thought about this, then before you put someone's life on the line or before you expend resources or before you move people around or manage your talent and your organization, if you understand this concept, and you apply it to your decision making, we'll be a better Corps," he added.

The Citadel

The Marine Corps' second most senior Marine will continue to provide his leadership and the benefits of the lessons he has learned to a new generation of future Marines and other servicemembers. After his retirement ceremony in early October, Gen Walters and his wife, Gail, headed south to his alma mater, The Citadel, where he assumed the duties as the 20th president of the venerable Southern institution. "You know I'm looking forward to ending where I started ... It will keep me young."

Having spent his high school years in northern Virginia, The Citadel seemed an unexpected choice for Walters, who knew that he wanted to serve in the military. Selected as an alternate for the U.S. Naval Academy, Walters said, "If you would have asked me back then, I wouldn't have said I was undisciplined, but I knew I needed some structure." He continued to explore his options beginning with Virginia Military Institute, a natural choice as he spent the last few years of his childhood in Oakton, Va., followed by a visit to The Citadel where he had a wonderful first impression and his decision was made.

His father, a veteran CIA station chief, had plans for his son. "My dad wanted me to go in the Navy. I wanted to major in history and join the Marine Corps and he wanted me ... to go in the Navy and be a submariner." They compromised—Gen Walters majored



COURTESY OF GEN GLENN M. WALTERS, USMC (RET)

COURTESY OF GEN GLENN M. WALTERS, USMC (RET)



CPL ALINA THACKRAY, USMC

Above: Gen Walters speaks to the Marines of U.S. Southern Command during a town hall in Florida, June 7.

in electrical engineering and joined the Marine Corps.

Like so many others, Walters was influenced by the Marines around him. “There were three people there [at the Citadel] who convinced me and they didn’t do it overtly but just by their example. One was a guy named Gunnery Sergeant Lee, who retired as Sergeant Major Lee, 13th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.” The two others were LtCol Spivey and Col Moss [who later retired as a brigadier general] who were the senior Marines in the NROTC unit. “Those individuals just impressed me so much. I said that’s who I want to be so even before my junior year I switched over to become a Marine officer student.”

As his days on active duty dwindled, the ACMC reflected on his time in the Corps. When asked what his favorite assignment was, he didn’t hesitate. “My favorite assignments were anytime I could lead Marines,” he said, emphatically noting that he didn’t say commanding Marines. “You can do other jobs where you can lead Marines.”

He went on to describe his best days. “When you accomplish a mission and get



CPL HAILEY D. CLAY, USMC

President Donald J. Trump greets Gen Walters and his wife, Gail, during the graduation and commissioning ceremony of the U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2018, Annapolis, Md., May 25.

to be around Marines. That’s really why people stay around as long as they do because every day is a good day.”

After meeting thousands of Marines during his tenure as ACMC and seeing the future Marines and other servicemembers as the new president of The Citadel, the

general has few worries about the future and was quick to point out that nothing keeps him up at night. “I don’t go to bed at night worrying about how we will do as a Marine Corps. I know we will succeed; we’ve always succeeded and we always will succeed.” 🦖

Marines Make History Creating First 3D-Printed Concrete Barracks

In August, the Additive Manufacturing (AM) team at Marine Corps Systems Command teamed up with Marines from I Marine Expeditionary Force to operate the world's largest concrete 3D printer at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Champaign, Ill. As a joint effort between the Marine Corps, Army and Navy Seabees, an expeditionary concrete 3D printer was used to print a 500 square-foot barracks hut in 40 hours.

The Marine Corps is currently staffing a deliberate urgent needs statement and concept of employment for this technology. The results of the field user evaluation will inform future requirements to give the Corps a concrete construction additive manufacturing program of record.

"This exercise has never been done before," said Captain Matthew Friedell, AM project officer in MCSC's Operations

and Programs/G-3. "People have printed buildings and large structures, but they haven't done it onsite and all at once. This is the first-in-the-world, onsite continuous concrete print."

The team started with a computer-aided design model, concrete and a 3D printer. Once they hit "print," the concrete was pushed through the print head and layered repeatedly to build the walls. In total, the job took 40 hours because Marines had to monitor progress and continually fill the printer with concrete. However, if there was a robot to do the mixing and pumping, the building could easily be created in one day, Friedell said.

"In 2016, the Commandant said robots should be doing everything that is dull, dangerous and dirty, and a construction site on the battlefield is all of those things," Friedell said, adding that the ability to build structures and bases while putting fewer Marines in danger would be a significant accomplishment. "In active

or simulated combat environments, we don't want Marines out there swinging hammers and holding plywood up. Having a concrete printer that can make buildings on demand is a huge advantage for Marines operating downrange."

It normally takes 10 Marines five days to construct a barracks hut out of wood. With this field user evaluation, the Marine Corps proved that four Marines with a concrete printer could build a strong structure in less than two days. Ideally, the Corps' use of concrete printers will span the full range of military operations, from combat environments to humanitarian aid and disaster relief missions.

As the first military responders on site in most natural disasters, the Navy and Marine Corps are great at providing food and water, but struggle to provide shelter, Friedell said. In many locations, cement is easier to acquire than wood. During humanitarian or disaster relief missions, Marines could safely and quickly print



Marines with I MEF learn how to operate the world's largest 3D printer as it constructs a 500-square-foot barracks hut at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Champaign, Ill., Aug. 23. MCSC conducted the field user evaluation to inform future requirements for cutting-edge technology and autonomous systems.

houses, schools and community buildings to replace those destroyed.

“This capability would enable a great partnership with the local community because it is low-cost, easy to use and robotics could print the buildings,” Friedell said. “We can bring forward better structures, houses and forward operating bases with less manpower and fewer Marines in harm’s way.”

The AM team plans to conduct further testing and wants to get the capability into the hands of more Marines to inform future requirements for cutting-edge technology and autonomous systems.

“Our future operating environment is going to be very kinetic and dangerous because we don’t necessarily know what we’re going into,” said Friedell. “The more we can pull Marines out of those potentially dangerous situations—whether it’s active combat or natural disaster—and place robotics there instead, it helps us accomplish the mission more efficiently.”

Kaitlin Kelly

Tour of Hacksaw Ridge Brings History to Life

On April 14, 1945, the Battle of Okinawa began as U.S. Marines and soldiers made their way to the Ryukyu Islands, including Okinawa. Faced with attacks from Japanese kamikaze pilots, Japanese soldiers positioned in underground tunnels, and on board *Yamato*, a powerfully armed battleship, the Americans fought a grueling 83-day battle and ultimately suffered more than 82,000 casualties.

The Battle of Okinawa was the last battle of World War II. One of the most historic events during the Battle of Okinawa took place at Maeda Escarpment, also known as Hacksaw Ridge. The battle on Hacksaw Ridge took place on a 400-foot cliff and lasted 11 days. The Japanese soldiers used underground tunnels and bunkers across the ridge, forcing American troops to scale the cliff-like terrain to get to the enemy. Both sides bore heavy losses, but on May 6, 1945, the Americans gained control of Hacksaw Ridge.

More than 73 years later, U.S. Marines and Sailors with Headquarters Company, Headquarters Regiment, 3rd Marine Logistics Group hiked through the hallowed battleground to pay their respects to those who perished there and to learn firsthand the history of Hacksaw Ridge. While ascending the ridge, a tour guide helped them discover what transpired at each historic location.

“When you come to Okinawa and come to these battle sites, you get a chance to stand in their footsteps on these fields and understand more about what happened,” said Chris Majewski, a tour guide with



PFC PERRY WONG, USMC

As Marines and Sailors observe, Chris Majewski, a tour guide with MCCS, points to a Japanese offensive position at Hacksaw Ridge, Okinawa, Japan, during a Sept. 7 battle site tour.

Marine Corps Community Services Tours.

Majewski led the group atop Hacksaw Ridge and explained details of the battle. He told the group about Corporal Desmond Doss, a U.S. Army Medal of Honor recipient who as a private first class singlehandedly saved the lives of more than 75 people during the Battle of Okinawa.

Majewski said Doss was one of the many soldiers whose work during the battle led to the ultimate success of U.S. forces and explained that the battle site represents more than just the efforts of those brave troops.

“It’s important to take the tours because this is our history, our background, this is why we’re here,” he said. “If you don’t learn your history, you’re doomed to repeat it.”

According to Lance Corporal James C. Craghead, a data systems administrator with HQ, 3rd MLG, the tour of Hacksaw Ridge helped him learn more about the men who shed blood for their country. He added that the tour reminded him that the troops who fought there during World War II were servicemembers just like him.

“It takes going there and seeing it, for most people, to imagine what we could potentially go through ourselves,” Craghead said, adding that the tour was a reality check that made him realize that it wasn’t too long ago that troops sacrificed everything in the very place he stood.

Majewski said he has dedicated the past 20 years of his life to telling people about the brave actions of the Americans who fought on Hacksaw Ridge. He conducts tours of the battle site twice a month, as

well as upon unit request, because it is important to him that those troops are never forgotten.

LCpl Isabella Ortega, USMC

Marines Interact With Community During Los Angeles Fleet Week

This year’s Los Angeles Fleet Week marked the third iteration of the annual event, and kicked off as the Marines and Sailors of I Marine Expeditionary Force and local responders hosted a Humani-



CPL JOSEPH PRADO, USMC

2ndLt Timothy Cottell, a platoon commander with 1st LAR, 1stMarDiv, assists a young child into an LAV during Los Angeles Fleet Week, Aug. 31.

tarian Assistance and Disaster Relief “village” in downtown Los Angeles, Calif., Aug. 28-29.

The village showcased the capabilities of the Navy and Marine Corps in the event that all emergency response resources are exhausted. Following the village, Marine Corps assets on display were transported to the Port of San Pedro for the remainder of LA Fleet Week, which continued through Labor Day.

“I didn’t know much about the military, but now I do just because all the different demonstrations here gives us an insight of what you guys do,” said Sarin Keshishian, an LA Fleet Week attendee.

The Marine Corps displayed assets used by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, which included a 310 Small Unmanned Ground Vehicle and bomb suits. Other assets included showcasing the capabilities of a Shock Trauma Platoon as well as military equipment such as the M777 Howitzer, a Light Armored Vehicle, humvee, Lightweight Water Purification System, various weapon systems, military working dogs and an AH-1Z Viper.

When Marines were not at the static displays, they were participating in many community events, including volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity and the “Swing Peedro” Downtown Dance Party.

Lance Corporal Raymond Guerra, a

native of Los Angeles, is currently serving as a motor transportation operator with Combat Logistics Battalion 15 and was one of the Marines who participated in Fleet Week.

“People don’t necessarily go on their day-to-day basis understanding what we do in the military, let alone in the Marine Corps,” said Guerra, adding that it was a unique opportunity to interact with the public in his hometown.

Above all, Los Angeles Fleet Week was an opportunity for the Marine Corps and Navy to demonstrate the quality of its personnel to the citizens of the greater Los Angeles area.

“A part of joining the Marine Corps and any other branch of service is giving back to our communities and being a citizen of the nation,” said First Lieutenant Kurt Payne, a logistics officer with 1st Transportation Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “To us, service isn’t just a job that we do while we are at work—it is also important for us to be engaged with the community on our off time.”

I MEF provides the Marine Corps a globally responsive, expeditionary and fully scalable Marine Air-Ground Task Force capable of generating, deploying and employing ready forces and formations for crisis response, forward presence, major combat operations and campaigns.

I MEF

MCMAP Prepares Marines For Physical and Mental Challenges

Marines from Marine Corps Installations-East, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., participated in a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) course led by Corporal Bryant Hudson, a Marine Corps martial arts instructor, Aug. 27.

“MCMAP is important for Marines for multiple reasons,” said Hudson. “As a Marine, you never know when you’re going to be thrown into a combat situation and having even the basic fighting skills that MCMAP provides will help them.”

There are five MCMAP belt levels that can be earned—tan, gray, green, brown and black. The belts are achieved by learning the fundamentals of ground fighting, hand-to-hand combat and self-defense techniques. Leadership traits, warrior ethos and Marine Corps history are also incorporated with each belt level.

“Participating in MCMAP has given me the ability and the confidence and to pursue goals I thought were out of my reach,” said Lance Corporal Nicholas Lubchenko, a mass communicator with MCIEAST.

According to Hudson, the discipline taught in MCMAP is what makes it a great program, and helps make Marines well rounded and physically and mentally fit.

“I try my best to incorporate a warrior



CPL JOSEPH PRADO, USMC

During Los Angeles Fleet Week, Marines with I MEF showcase their equipment to members of the local community, Sept. 1.

ethos into my class every single day and I not only harp on the Marines' physical ability, but their thought process in why they are doing something," said Hudson.

MCMAP instructors hold discussions about integrating values, ethics, integrity and leadership, and the program encourages character discipline, which stresses the importance of the Marine's place both as an ethical warrior on the battlefield and as a functional member of society.

"I want Marines to know that regardless of whether or not you think you can learn anything from the fighting side of MCMAP, there is always room for growth in mental and character disciplines that MCMAP provides," said Hudson. "The battles we encounter may not always be physical; however, as Marines we face mental and character challenges every day. If you can strengthen yourself in those ways through MCMAP, then the program has benefitted you."

LCpl Ashley Gomez, USMC



LCPL ASHLEY GOMEZ, USMC

Cpl Bryant Hudson, a martial arts instructor with MCIEAST, supervises Marines practicing ground fighting techniques during a MCMAP course at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 27.

Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



LCPL JACOB FARBO, USMC

"Dang, Sarge, get your foot off the brake!"

Submitted by:
Don Lewis
Pekin, Ill.

This Month's Photo



CPL JOSEPH ABREGO, USMC

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TARAWA: THE THIRD DAY ON RED-3

November 22, 1943

By Eric Hammel

The situation on Beach Red-3, the 2nd Marine Division's left flank on Betio Island's northern shore, had remained unaltered for a day and a half. Major Henry "Jim" Crowe's 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (2/8), had been pulverized in the initial landing and subsequent stalemate. Company F, which was holding a 10-yard perimeter along the coconut log seawall, on the battalion's (and division's) left flank, could barely muster enough able bodies to man a platoon. Every one of its officers had been wounded. Co G, 2/8, had been largely broken up to fill gaps and plug holes in the thin battle line. Co E, on the battalion right flank, had fared best. It had advanced on D-day, Nov. 20, to a limit of 75 yards inland. Casualties had been heavy, but Co E was still an organization.

Major Robert Ruud's 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment (3/8), had also landed on D-day to reinforce Crowe's mauled battalion, but it had been blasted apart even before reaching

the beach. Scores of Ruud's Marines had been killed or wounded wading to Red-3 through the fire-swept lagoon, and the remainder of the battalion was still sorting itself out, still forming and reforming into pick-up squads and platoons wherever a lieutenant or sergeant or private with command presence could persuade enough Marines to sit still long enough to get together.

No gains had been made on Red-3 throughout Nov. 21, the second day on Betio. Crowe's Marines had plugged away at the incredible defenses in depth on Red-3 and had probably killed scores or even hundreds of Japanese. But the major uncommitted Japanese combat units were to Crowe's left, safely out of the battle and therefore intact—they provided a reservoir from which fresh troops could be fed into the battle at will against the Marines struggling to expand the tenuous perimeter on Red-3. No matter how many Japanese they killed, the Marines on Red-3 had to constantly face relatively fresh reinforcements. It was all the Marines could do to hold their meager gains.

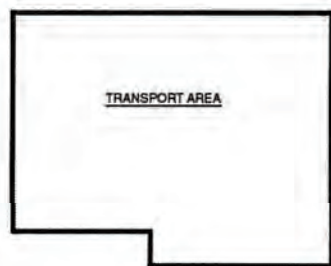


A pair of U.S. Navy Hellcat fighters comes in low to strafe targets south of the Burns-Philp Wharf.

TARAWA ATOLL

SHOWING TRANSPORT AREA, LINE OF DEPARTURE
AND LANDING BEACHES
20 NOV 43

1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6



FIRE SUPPORT
AREA 1

FIRE SUPPORT
AREA 2

FIRE SUPPORT
AREA 3

FIRE SUPPORT
AREA 4

USMC

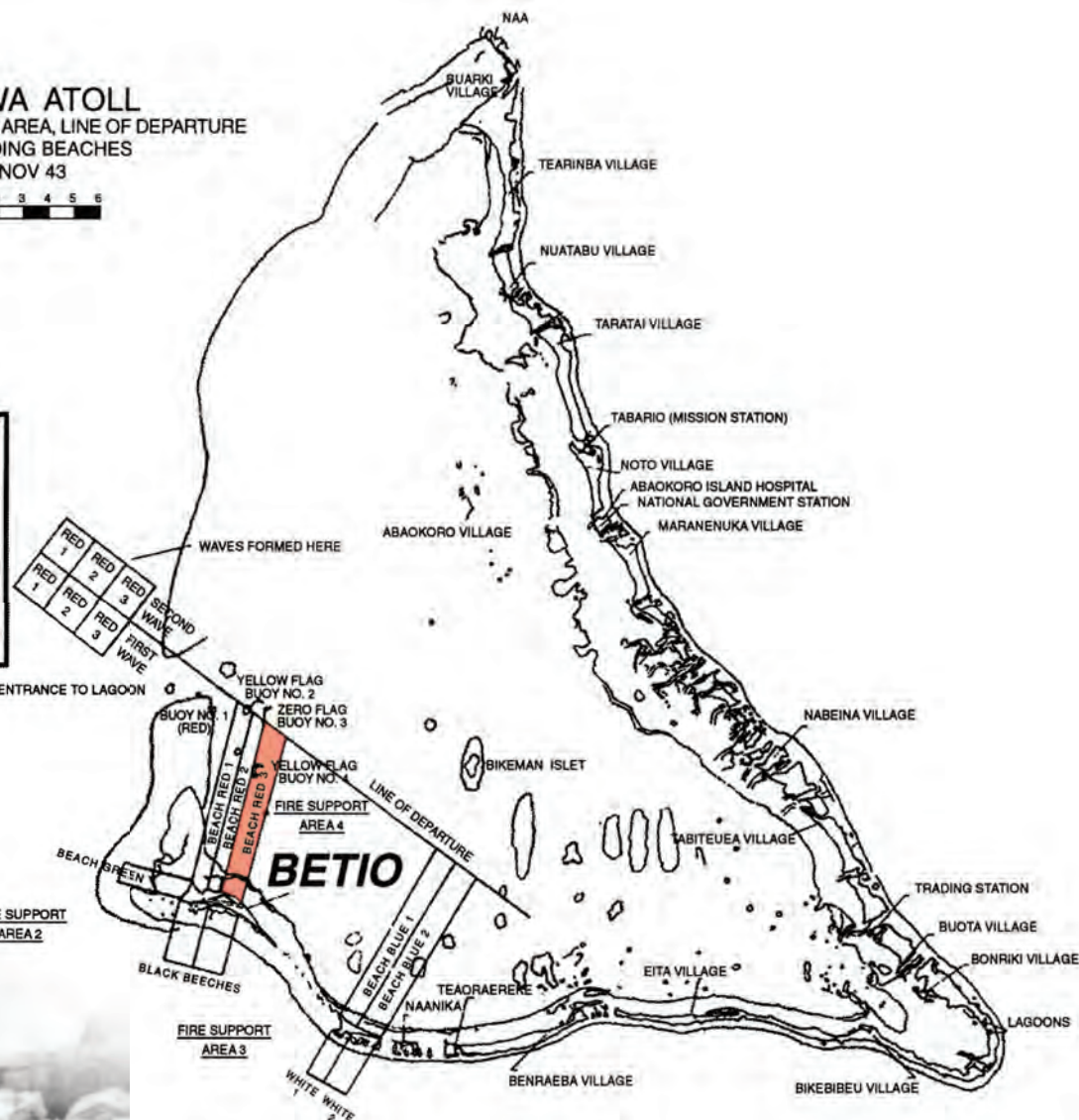
Between 7 a.m. and 7:20 a.m. on D+3, U.S. Navy battleships standing well off Betio fired their 14- and 16-inch guns at targets ranging from the eastern end of the island to within 500 yards of Crowe's lines on Red-3. Next, U.S. Navy carrier aircraft pummeled the area for 30 minutes. Between 8:30 a.m. and 8:50 a.m., the battleships fired again. Then there was another air strike. The battleships fired again from 9:30 a.m. to 9:50 a.m., and then there was yet another air strike. Then the battleships fired one last time between 10:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. The goal was to destroy, or at least disorganize, the Japanese reserve manpower pool and resources in the eastern half of Betio.

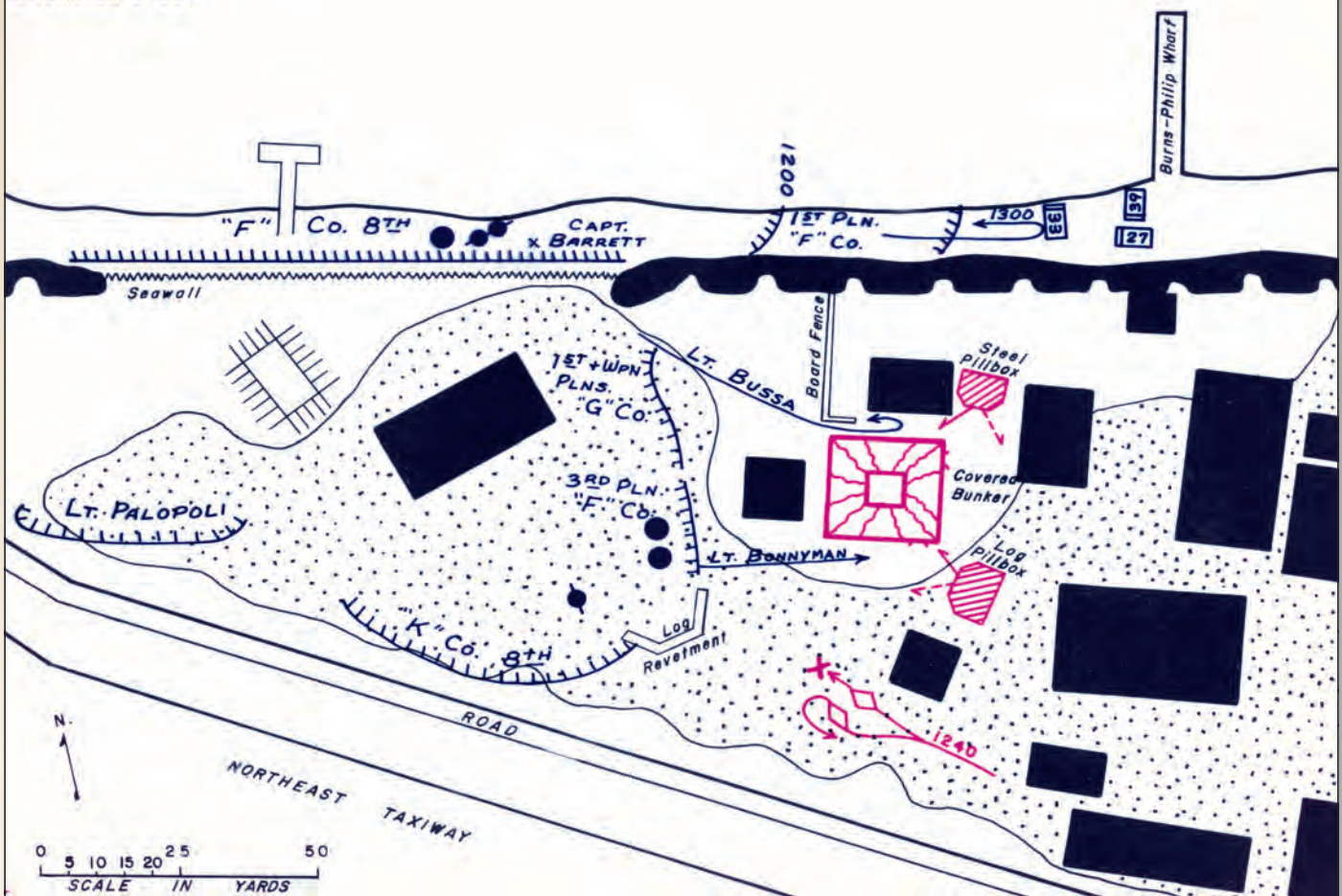
Earlier on D+2, Major Jim Crowe had issued general orders calling for an all out assault against a particularly well-built and stubbornly held defensive complex on his force's left flank, just below an old copra-loading wharf that had been built before the war by the Burns-Philp company. The defensive complex, which consisted primarily of a very large covered bombproof bunker and two supporting

pillboxes, had stymied Co F, 2/8, and Co K, 3/8, for nearly 48 hours and had barred the way to the Burns-Philp wharf and the entire eastern end of Betio. Having spent nearly all of D+1 preparing the way, the two badly understrength infantry companies and assorted mixed units under Crowe's executive officer, Major William Chamberlin, were ready to go.

The remnants of Co F drew a steel pillbox covering the wharf and the northeast corner of the bombproof bunker. Co G, 2/8, was in support. A short distance to the south, Co K, supported by two 37 mm antitank guns and its own 60 mm mortars, was to attack the coconut log pillbox guarding the south and southeast portions of the bunker. The most successful of these assault elements would take on the bunker itself after first reducing the initial objectives. There were no plans for further advances by any of the units on Red-3; orders would be issued when the bunker fell—if it fell.

Preparations for the assault began at about 9:30 a.m., when most of the machine guns along the front, particularly those





supporting Co F, were shifted to what was hoped would be a better advantage. At the same time, Marines stood down in relays to clean their rifles and automatic weapons, for the accumulated crud of the two days of battle had fouled many weapons to the point of unreliability.

Also at 9:30 a.m., the 60 mm mortars supporting Co K were unleashed against the coconut log emplacement and the area around it. No fire was directed against the covered bunker, as that would have been a waste of precious ammunition. One round from a Co K mortar struck an uncharted ammunition dump, which blew up with a resounding bang. The dump, to the amazement of all, had been in the very emplacement that had held up the advance for two full days. Machine-gun fire from this quarter ceased to be a problem.

While the infantry's preparations continued, *Colorado*, the lone surviving Sherman M4 medium tank of First Lieutenant Louis Largey's platoon—and the only medium tank left on Red-3—slowly advanced through the riflemen huddled along the beach to a position behind the easternmost extremity of Co F's seawall line. As 1stLt Largey directed *Colorado's* 75 mm main gun against the steel pillbox, a quick succession

of direct hits flattened the position, giving Co F free reign over the area.

At 10 a.m., moments after *Colorado* destroyed the steel pillbox, the assault on the bunker was canceled. Instead, Co F was ordered to assault eastward along the beach in order to outflank the defensive keypoint. Then, the main event would commence.

The haggard remnants of Co F had only 30 yards of ground to take—the same 30 yards the company had conceded the day before in order to consolidate its position on the beach. A lot had happened to weaken and demoralize Co F in two days of battle, so it took the company commander, Captain Martin Barrett, several hours just to maneuver his Marines into position.

Co F struck at 1 p.m. and immediately met with ferocious defensive fire from Japanese infantry positions along the beach and just across the seawall. Although small gains were achieved, it was decided that the assault on the bombproof bunker would have to be made without the added benefit of flank control.

As the covered bunker—the Japanese communications center—was the main objective in his sector of Red-3, Maj Bill Chamberlin, Crowe's executive officer, was more or less given the task to organize the

proceedings. With Co F bogged down at the seawall and Co K engaged on the bombproof bunker's western flank, it was impossible to draw upon any formally organized infantry units to mount the assault. So, Maj Chamberlin began scrounging.

One of the first men nabbed in the major's roundup was Technical Sergeant Norman Hatch, the only combat movie cameraman on Red-3, the only one on Betio through D-day and D+1. Using his rank to bolster his innate talent for organization, Hatch helped Maj Chamberlin gather a mixed group of stray riflemen and specialists. Once organized, the group huddled below the seawall for a quick briefing. Chamberlin pointed to the crest of the bombproof and told the men, "When I yell, 'Follow me!' you follow me up that bombproof."

Hunched up against the wall with TSgt Hatch, Chamberlin watched and waited for a few moments. The fire did not slacken and the scene did not change. The major shrugged and, without looking back, rose to his feet and yelled, "Follow me!" Norm Hatch raced him to the top.

At the crest of the mound, the major and the cameraman—who was carrying his movie camera—stared in amazement as a squad of Japanese naval infantrymen

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The final assault on the Red-3 covered bunker begins as 1stLt Sandy Bonnyman's assault team moves into position. (Photo by Cpl Obie Newcomb, USMC)

(rikusentai), broke into the open and turned toward the two Marines, who were silhouetted at the highest point—10 feet—of Betio's smoky skyline. Chamberlin instantly reacted as if to fire, but it was then that he remembered he had given his weapons away.

Hatch wordlessly looked on. The major looked at him, snapping him into action. Hatch placed his precious movie camera under his arm and furiously sifted through his film-filled bandoleers in search of his .45-caliber pistol, which had long since been twisted out of reach behind his back. He looked at Chamberlin in helpless dismay, and Chamberlin muttered one curt suggestion, "Let's get the hell out of here!"

The two turned and barreled off the mound, unhurt but furious.

Over the course of two days, on his own initiative, First Lieutenant Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman of Co F, 2nd Battalion, 18th Marines—a pioneer (shore-party) unit assigned to Red-3 to unload sup-

plies—had scrounged together a mixed group of engineers, pioneers and stray riflemen to mount an assault on the bombproof. Bonnyman's group worked through the Co F seawall line and sought the protection of a 6-foot wooden fence running at right angles to the seawall, just off the bombproof bunker's northwest corner.

The bunker was the closest thing to a hill on Betio. Since it had proved impossible to breach either of the entryways, the only tactic left to 1stLt Bonnyman was a direct uphill assault. The Japanese engineers who had designed the bombproof bunker had left a number of large black ventilators protruding from the well-camouflaged roof. Those ventilators would be Sandy Bonnyman's key objectives. A bit of flamethrower fuel fired into them would almost certainly force the defenders into the open. The alternative was air too hot to breathe and rapid asphyxiation.

So, supported by the 37 mm antitank guns, 60 mm mortars, and an assortment of



USMC

1stLt Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman

automatic infantry weapons, Bonnyman's group lined up single-file below the seawall and stepped off.

Each of Bonnyman's men individually vaulted over the seawall to the higher ground behind an L-shaped fence that screened the approach to the bombproof bunker's northwest corner. From there, guided by hand signals from observers who could clearly see the objective, the

As the final assault on the bunker grinds forward, a fearless TSgt Norm Hatch stands tall to record the moment with his movie camera.

Marines in the assault group worked along the fence to the foot of the slope, where they were stopped by heavy gunfire.

Corporal Harry Niehoff's demolitions team was intercepted by Maj Chamberlin as it returned from a minor foray farther along the beach. Chamberlin asked Niehoff if there were any explosives available. After Niehoff replied that he still had several charges, he added, "Where do you want them used, sir?" Chamberlin motioned to the covered bombproof and explained that the Japanese were reinforcing the position from the southeast but that their avenue of approach was well camouflaged and had not yet been found.

Harry Niehoff hurled several charges over the bunker and ducked behind the seawall as a flurry of fire sought him out. When the firing subsided, he led his engineers around to the L-shaped fence and prepared to move on the summit.

Private First Class John Borich, who was operating one of two flamethrowers on Red-3, was Cpl Niehoff's pointman. He lightly doused the top of the bunker with flaming fuel while Niehoff tossed a big explosive charge he hoped would kill or stun the defenders. Next, Borich moved forward to spray a burst of flame. As Niehoff prepared to throw another charge, Borich screamed, "Grenade!" and everyone hit the dirt.

The instant the dust settled, Cpl Niehoff threw another big charge. When it blew up, every man behind the L-shaped fence piled into the open and legged uphill to the bunker's summit.

All over Red-3, Marines curious about the commotion stopped what they were doing to look on as Bonnyman and a half dozen Marines made it to the top. TSgt Hatch captured the breakthrough with his movie camera, standing tall and exposed to sheets of gunfire.

The first key had been turned by the engineers, PFC Borich and Cpl Harry Niehoff. The combination of flame and TNT had killed the crew manning a machine gun at the top of the bunker and had set the palm frond camouflage afire to cover the breakthrough.

The next key was turned by another engineer, Private First Class Earl Coleman. As Bonnyman sparked his pick-up assault team and issued a steady stream of orders, Coleman yelled for TNT. He tossed fused charges as fast as he could light them. In moments, Coleman had blown the cover off a camouflaged entry-



way at the southeast corner of the huge structure. As soon as he did, as hundreds of Marines looked on, a large knot of Japanese burst from the exposed entryway and formed to counterattack Bonnyman's pick-up assault team.

There were only a half dozen men atop the bunker at that moment. PFC Borich was firing burning fuel into the ventilators, forcing the Japanese to evacuate, while PFC Coleman, Cpl Niehoff, and Sergeant Elmo Ferretti were furiously heaving blocks of TNT. So Bonnyman faced the Japanese alone with his .30-caliber M1 carbine.

Bonnyman leaped to the forward edge of the toehold beside Niehoff, rammed home a full 15-round clip and rapidly fired

into the oncoming rikusentai. Several of the Japanese fell, but most of them kept coming. With the Japanese only yards away, Bonnyman rammed home another fresh clip and killed three—just as Marine reinforcements attacking up the back side of the bunker blunted and turned the Japanese drive. But the help arrived too late for Sandy Bonnyman. He had been shot dead in the final moments of his one-man defense of the bunker summit.

As soon as Niehoff heard the killing shot thud into Bonnyman's body, he flattened himself against the ground. It was just in time, for one of Coleman's potent TNT charges arched back over the knot of the defending attackers, bowling men from their feet. Elmo Ferretti was



Cpl Harry Niehoff



PFC John Borich operated one of two flamethrowers on Red-3. (Photo courtesy of John Borich)

Niehoff decided to call it a day. He sat down to rest and following a few nearsighted reveries, discovered a pile of glass at his feet. The glass was of a sort known to all Marines—the kind they make beer bottles with. Niehoff idly poked through the shattered debris and found the best reward he could ever have hoped for. He pulled one tantalizing, if warm, full and unopened bottle of Kirin beer from the wreckage of what had once been a goodly supply. As his tongue madly quivered, Harry Niehoff prepared to open his prize. But a voice from behind shattered his solitude. Commenting on the corporal's ideal luck, Maj Bill Chamberlin stared at the lone bottle of beer through eyes that had become a gateway to his soul. The major looked as bad as the corporal felt. Succumbing to one of the hardest decisions of his life, Niehoff silently handed the major the prize of a lifetime.

Following the annihilation of the bombproof bunker defenders, the Marine infantry companies on Red-3 got set to move. Maj Crowe ordered his mixed command to attack eastward along Betio's northern shore until stopped by the onset of darkness or an order from on high.

While Co F occupied a holding position, Co E and Co G moved around the north side of the bombproof. To the south, Co K stood down to cover a demolitions team as it moved to seal the southeastern entryway of the bombproof. No one was about to enter the building, and no one wanted any more Japanese vacating it after dark, by which time it would be well behind Marine lines. Next, Co K and *Colorado* attacked

badly dazed and had to be led back down to the seawall.

Moments later, as Cpl Niehoff was firing his carbine into the midst of another Japanese sally, he heard something drop next to his head. He saw a grenade from the corner of his eye. Without thinking, he leaped across the dead lieutenant's body and wedged himself between it and a dead Japanese machine gunner. But nothing happened. Long moments later, Niehoff ventured a peek and saw an unarmed American grenade, thoughtfully provided by one of the men at the foot of the bunker.

Tension, smoke and the stench of burning flesh finally got to Niehoff. Since he was out of TNT and ammunition for his carbine, the engineer corporal lurched to the rear for a break. He had not suffered a scratch, even though 13 of the first 21 Marines to reach the top of the bombproof had been killed or wounded.

On losing their bid for the summit, the Japanese sought to abandon the position; they cascaded from the two entryways and legged off to the east. Most of them were cut down by Marines from Co F. Many defenders who turned south to escape the fire from Co F were felled by the pair of Marine 37 mm antitank guns, which fired canister rounds as fast as the gunners could reload.

After leaving the bunker, Cpl Niehoff wandered down the beach to his engineer platoon's impromptu command post. There he found a large cache of TNT. Rising above his exhaustion, Niehoff loaded an ammunition cart with explosives and solicited help from nearby Marines to haul it to the beach by the bombproof. By the time Niehoff got there, however, dozens upon dozens of Marines were swarming over the area, rooting out Japanese survivors and snipers.

CPL OBIE NEWCOMB, USMC



USMC

The 3rd Special Konkyochitai command bunker was struck by many naval rounds from 5-inchers up to 14-inchers but none penetrated the structure.

parallel to Co E along the southern side of the bunker.

A team of riflemen that had been left to guard the southern side of the bunker whiled away the afternoon by chucking grenades into any openings that could be found. In time, a bulldozer with an improvised armor-plate cab arrived to seal the entire structure with sand. Doubtless, any Japanese still cowering within were asphyxiated.

Companies E, G, and K had a field day. Everything fell before them. Trenches, buildings, and pillboxes were blown up wherever they were encountered. Although a number of Marines were wounded, no one was killed. First Lieutenant Robert Rogers, the Co E commander, had a close call when he noticed a Japanese officer bearing down on him, sword held high for a killing blow. Fortunately, the attacker was shot dead by a nearby rifleman.

The last major objective of the advance from Red-3 was the massive concrete bunker that housed the headquarters of Rear Admiral Keichi Shibasaki's 3rd Special Base Force (konkyochitai). For nearly three days, Japanese machine gunners on the flat roof of the headquarters bunker had had an unobstructed view of the Marine positions

on Red-3. Their machine guns had taken the lives of many Marines.

While a line of Marine machine guns was positioned to keep the Japanese from manning the bunker's numerous firing embrasures, a large group of engineers tactfully approached the bunker in short hops. Their objective was the massive steel door, which had been banged shut by seven fleeing rikusentai only minutes earlier.

The engineers set and ignited a powerful charge beside the door, then ducked around the corner. The door was buckled and thrown open, and then PFC Borich stepped through the billowing dust and smoke to douse the bunker's innards with a stiff dose of flaming flamethrower fuel. When Borich turned to let waiting riflemen pass into the bunker's interior, he was greeted by a tremendous cheer from scores of Marines who had watched his calm actions.


Marines streamed by. The advance was so swift and steady that *Colorado*, which was backing Co K, was never called on to help.

Later estimates concluded that nearly 100 Japanese throughout the area committed suicide in the face of the successful Marine attacks. This, more than anything, accounted for the low casualties among

the assault units. Only three Marines were wounded after the leading files passed the Burns-Philp wharf.

In the end, Maj Crowe's two mixed battalion landing teams covered nearly 400 yards of ground straight out. Late in the afternoon, however, orders from the 2nd Marine Division headquarters pulled Crowe's forward elements back nearly 150 yards, to the airport turning circle. It was feared that Crowe's fields of fire might endanger a Marine unit that was rapidly taking ground in its attack through the area south of the turning circle.

For playing his vital role in turning the key that unlocked the gate that had been blocking the Marine advance on Red-3—for defeating the large covered bombproof bunker—1stLt Alexander Bonnyman, Jr., was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor. Maj Bill Chamberlin was awarded a Navy Cross for his part in the attack, and Harry Niehoff, John Borich, and Earl Coleman each were awarded a Silver Star.

Author's bio: Eric Hammel, who has been contributing to Leatherneck since the 1970s, is co-author with the late John E. Lane of "76 Hours: The Invasion of Tarawa" and its pictorial edition, "Bloody Tarawa." 

Finding the Haystack:

History Flight Locates Lost Cemetery on Betio Island, Tarawa

By Clay Bonnyman Evans

Over the span of five years, I'd had dozens of conversations with Mark Noah, founder and president of History Flight, Inc., a non-governmental organization dedicated to repatriating the remains of U.S. servicemembers killed in World War II. Since 2007, History Flight had been searching for the remains of some 500 Marines and Navy personnel who didn't make it home from Tarawa.

Each time, we discussed the case of my grandfather, First Lieutenant Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr., killed Nov. 22, 1943, on Tarawa and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, whose final resting place in a sandy sepulcher on the tiny islet of Betio had been lost to history. As Mark was always careful to remind me, even with modern technology—ground-penetrating radar, GPS data, remote aerial vehicles, even Buster, a Labrador retriever whose nose could detect deeply buried human remains—the chances of finding my grandfather called to mind needles and haystacks.

But then, in late winter 2015, Mark called me and said, "We found the haystack."

More than a decade earlier, local workers had unearthed human remains while installing a lamppost in a shipping yard on the north side of Betio. Mark was convinced that the area might conceal long-lost Cemetery 27, where my grandfather and 39 other Tarawa MIAs were recorded as having been buried. In late 2014, History Flight archaeologist Kristen N. Baker noticed that the owner had removed two Quonset huts, and Mark began negotiating permission to excavate the site. The team started digging on March 15, 2015. Six weeks and a dozen

More than a decade earlier, local workers had unearthed human remains while installing a lamppost in a shipping yard on the north side of Betio. Mark was convinced that the area might conceal long-lost Cemetery 27.



CLAY BONNYMAN EVANS



COURTESY OF CLAY BONNYMAN EVANS

Above: History Flight archaeologist Kristen Baker works on exposing the remains of 1stLt Alexander "Sandy" Bonnyman Jr., on May 29, 2015.

Below: Clay Bonnyman Evans holds a U.S. Marine helmet that was recovered while volunteering with History Flight at the site of Cemetery 25 on Betio in April 2013.



CLAY BONNYMAN EVANS

Below: History Flight archaeologist Kristen Baker revealed the outlines of the skull and jaw belonging to 1stLt Bonnyman, on May 28, 2015.



CLAY BONNYMAN EVANS

sets of skeletal remains later, it was clear they'd located the "lost ark" of Cemetery 27.

Three days later, I was on a plane to Tarawa.

My grandfather's official casualty card indicated that he should be found in "Grave #17" of the 4-foot-deep trench Kristen had discovered. But over the next few weeks, butterflies took up permanent residence in my belly. Who knew if the records were correct, or whether the burial row had remained undisturbed for more than 70 years? I worked hard

Above: History Flight archaeologist Kristen Baker, left, volunteer Paul Schwimmer (center) and technician John Frye, right, work on the excavation of Cemetery 27.

Right: 1stLt Bonnyman, second from right, facing camera, during the Battle of Tarawa in November 1943. Bonnyman was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the battle.



CPL OBIE NEWCOMB, USMC

**I climbed down in the trench,
eyes stinging with tears, trying to
hold the camera steady as Kristen
slowly revealed the outlines of a
burnished skull and jaw.**

every day—shooting photos and video, cleaning bones in the lab—while surging between dream-like hope and a haunting ache at the thought of failure.

But Kristen Baker never doubted as she worked steadily to the east, uncovering each new set of remains. Most were wrapped in ponchos, the bones of their feet still cradled by the rubber soles of boondockers; many wore helmets or were found with ammunition, canteens, rings, even a pack of Camels. The team carefully removed every last item and flake of bone and sent it to our local lab for processing.

On May 28, the team exposed the edge of a helmet and Kristen confirmed the presence of human remains—Grave #16. Continuing to brush away sand, she said, “There’s something else.” I climbed down in the trench, eyes stinging with tears, trying to hold the camera steady as Kristen slowly revealed the outlines of a burnished skull and jaw. Having long ago memorized my grandfather’s dental chart and its unusual, expensive restorations, she suddenly said, “Gold.”

It was 10:49 in the morning, May 28, 2015—71 years, six months, five days and perhaps 20 hours since 1stLt Alexander Bonnyman Jr. had fallen in battle.

Author’s note: When the team first exposed the remains in Grave #16, the remains in Grave #17 were simultaneously exposed. Per very important protocol, it’s critical that the team work just one set of remains at a time. So we covered up 1stLt Bonnyman and continued with the exhumation of #16 completing the removal on May 28. On May 29, the following day, the team exhumed #17, Alexander Bonnyman Jr.

Four months later, on a clear autumn day, our family laid him to rest with full military honors next to his parents and siblings on a high hill in Knoxville, Tenn., and his daughter, my 81-year-old mother, received a folded flag. For that, we are most grateful to Mark Noah who was named an Honorary Marine in 2015.

Author’s bio: Clay Bonnyman Evans is a journalist who has written for the Los Angeles Times and the Orange County Register. He is now a freelance writer and his book, “Bones of My Grandfather: Reclaiming a Lost Hero of WW II,” about his grandfather’s life and the recovery of his remains from Tarawa, published by Skyhorse Publishing, was released in July. To learn more or make a donation to History Flight, go to historyflight.org. 🇺🇸



COURTESY OF CLAY BONNYMAN EVANS

The Bonnyman family commissioned artist Arturo Noci to create this portrait of 1stLt Alexander “Sandy” Bonnyman Jr. in 1944.



CPL SARA GRAHAM, USMC

MajGen Burke Whitman presents the American flag to Frances Bonnyman Evans at her father’s funeral in Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 27, 2015. To Evans’ left are her sister, Alexandra Bonnyman Prejean; her son, Clay Bonnyman Evans; and her niece, Margot McAllister.

Books Reviewed

EAT THE APPLE: A MEMOIR. By Matt Young. Published by Bloomsbury USA. 272 pages. \$23.40 MCA Member. \$26 Regular Price.

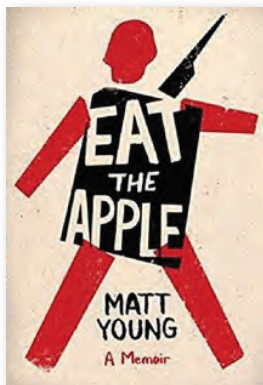
"Eat the Apple," a memoir by former Marine infantryman and Iraq war veteran Matt Young, delivers a raw, introspective account of war, masculinity, inner struggle and becoming a Marine. In beautiful prose that borders on the poetic, Young's coming-of-age story takes the reader through a brutally honest self-examination and into the world of the Marine infantryman. Many of the scenes will find immediate resonance with those who have served in similar circumstances. Readers of all backgrounds will appreciate this narrative of a young man's search for meaning, trial and redemption through extraordinary circumstances.

Masculinity serves as a central theme of the book both as a primary motivating factor for the author and the defining characteristic of the infantry units in which he serves. Throughout the story the author seeks to achieve manhood, an evolving and elusive state that seems just out of reach.

In early 2005, 19-year-old Young finds himself at a recruiting office in the middle of a strip mall. Once in the Corps, Young looks for father figures among the men who train him and finds many. His feelings toward them reflect his own tortured relationship with his father. Addressing his former self, Young explains that "you will not be able to sleep at night as you replay the ways in which you let them down or might have let them down in your head." Young believes that he feels this anxiety because he is "a son to those men and shame is what sons feel in the presence of their fathers." As the narrative progresses, Young becomes a paternal role model to new Marines who feel the same way toward him.

Reverent toward his new father figures, the Marines in their early twenties who had been with the unit on their previous deployment to Fallujah in 2004, Young expects to pass the same test of fire in his Iraq deployment. During the deployment, Young is shot at, blown up, and loses friends, but leaves feeling inadequate because he never "got in a real firefight"

or killed anybody. Returning stateside, Young's insecurities lead him to fabricate a combat story "where he doesn't feel as though he has to explain his actions. A story where he gets to feel, for once, like a hero." He lies and gets stuck in the lie. No longer the most junior Marine, Young assumes the mantle of father figure to new Marines in his unit by both mentoring and hazing the young Marines.



Fueled by a deepening alcohol problem, Young breaks his knuckles in bar fights, drives drunk, and cheats on his fiancée. Partly trying to avoid facing the problems in his personal life, partly chasing after a "real" combat experience that he feels he has been cheated of thus far, he volunteers for a third deployment to Iraq. Posted on a large air base in 2009, he is disappointed to realize that the war that he had tried so hard to get back to, the one of the lore and legends of his world, had already ended.

Young utilizes a variety of literary forms and voices, illustrations, and even comic strips to tell his story. These unorthodox forms blur the line between reality and imagination, helping the reader to suspend disbelief and enter into the absurdity of many of Young's experiences as an infantryman. Delving deeply and hilariously into the profane one moment, reaching the sublime the next, he inhabits the full spectrum of the infantry experience. Young captures the creativity, ingenuity and heroism of Marines and the beautiful familial bonds that develop between them. Young unabashedly depicts an unvarnished portrait of himself and the tight-knit group of Marines that surround him, fully exploring their virtue, foibles and contradictions. "The infantrymen are called grunts and crunchies. They are stupid and intelligent and cruel and beautiful and black and white and brown and yellow and fat and lazy and lithe and God-like and frightening in their dedication to death."

"Eat the Apple" represents perhaps the most important contribution to date in the growing corpus of literature by vet-

erans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Eschewing cliché, embracing both the sacred and profane of the infantry, Young goes well beyond the uniform into the conflicted reality of the young men America sends to fight her wars.

Capt Ian Cameron, USMC

Author's bio: Capt Ian Cameron is a Marine infantry officer currently serving with Task Force-Southwest in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

MARINE CORPS TANKS & ONTOS IN THE VIETNAM WAR. By LtCol Ray Stewart, USMC (Ret). Published by Xlibris. 662 pages. \$22.50 MCA Members. \$24.99 Regular Price.

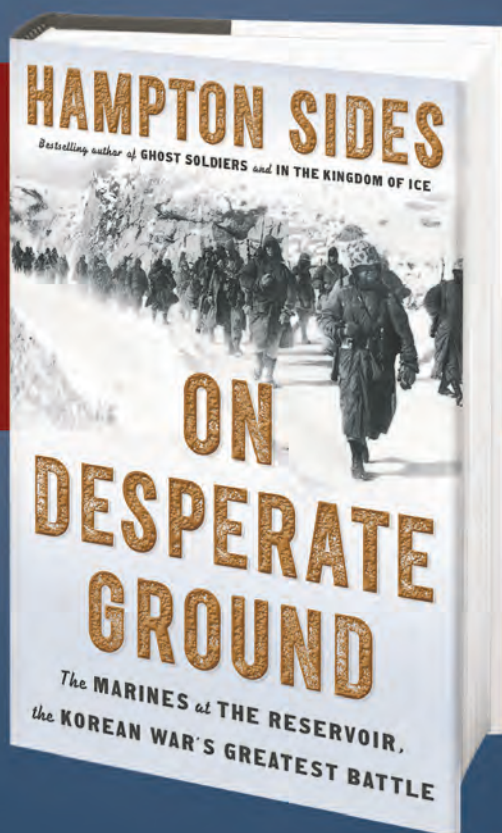
Lieutenant Colonel Ray Stewart's new book, "Marine Corps Tanks & Ontos in Vietnam," is a fact-packed labor of love. For armored vehicle personnel who served in Vietnam it is particularly worthwhile and will bring back many memories.

Operations are described in the straightforward language of the tankers and Ontos crewmen; reinforcing their narratives are unit reports, award citations, occasional photos, and good maps that lay out the TAOR.

LtCol Stewart has included many personal accounts including that of Lance Corporal Milo Plank, the driver of A-32, one of my platoon's tanks. Plank, while seated in his driver's seat, took out his .45-caliber pistol, and resting it on the hatch ring, killed two brave but foolish VC who charged the tank from the brush in front of the vehicle. A large number of VC were in a trench so close to the front of A-32 that the tank was unable to depress the 90 mm far enough to engage them with the .30-cal. coax. The platoon maintenance chief, Sergeant Dan McQueary, was in A-32 when a round from a burst of VC automatic weapons fire hit the blast deflector of the 90 mm and ricocheted up the gun barrel,



striking Sgt McQueary in the arm. It was during this action, as the Marine tanks and infantry fought it out with the VC at grenade range, that Corporal Robert O'Malley (1/3/3), assigned with his squad to provide infantry protection for the tanks, earned the Medal of Honor. Both sides showed courage and élan, but the



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Marines were better trained and had vastly superior firepower.

LtCol Stewart has been astute enough to include the lessons learned and recommendations made by the tankers as derived from the analysis of Starlite including in terrain encountered in this operation infantry precede tank elements until the absence of anti-tank positions is assured;

%An future operations of this nature tank units be placed in direct support under central control and coordination of the regimental tank officer;

%An the absence of knowledge of friendly troops disposition, the main gun of a tank cannot be fired without danger to friendly troops;

%When an infantry unit with attached tanks continues to advance through terrain thought to be impassible to tanks, the tank unit loses contact and becomes an easy target for anti-tank weapons.

These lessons are as au courant and valuable today as they were 53 years ago.

LtCol Ky L. Thompson, USMC (Ret)

Author's bio: LtCol Ky L. Thompson is a retired tanker. He served two tours in Vietnam, including during Operation Starlite. 🇺🇸

2/11 CENTENNIAL BATTLE COLORS CEREMONY

Who: Alumni and families of 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines

When: Thursday, 15 November 2018 at 1000 with reception immediately to follow at Fiddler's Green

Where: 11th Marine Parade Deck,
Camp Las Pulgas (43 Area),
Camp Pendleton, CA

RSVP By

8 Nov 2018

POC of 1stLt Dotson

211centennial@gmail.com



2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (2/11)

Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock



The Honorable Mark Esper, Secretary of the Army, left, and Kathryn Condon, former executive director of Army National Military Cemeteries, right, unveil the newest street names in Arlington National Cemetery's newly completed 27-acre expansion, Sept. 6. Gifford Drive is named for GySgt Jonathan W. Gifford, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2012.

Road Named for Marine Unveiled at Arlington

Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia honored Marine Gunnery Sergeant Jonathan W. Gifford with the dedication of Gifford Drive during the opening ceremony for the Millennium Project, the cemetery's latest extension, Sept. 6.

During the event, veterans of all services, city officials and honored guests gathered for the unveiling of the two new roads connecting the extension to the main cemetery—one in honor of Gifford, a U.S. Marine Raider, and the other for Ida Lewis, a U.S. Lighthouse Service keeper. Gifford is the first Marine to be honored with a namesake street at the cemetery. He was a founding instructor

at U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command's Marine Raider Training Center and posthumously was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions in Afghanistan in 2012. Gifford led a counterattack against enemy forces, killing multiple enemy combatants, before being mortally wounded.

Distinguished guests at the ceremony, including the Honorable Mark Esper, Secretary of the Army, gave a standing ovation in recognition of Lisa Gifford, Jonathan's wife, as well as her sons and other members of the Gifford family who attended the ceremony.

"It is my honor, and that of all those present here who have made this day possible, to acknowledge the contribution

of these American heroes today," said Karen Durham-Aguilera, executive director of the Army National Military Cemeteries. "GySgt Jonathan W. Gifford gave his life when he led a counterattack and rerouted that enemy in Afghanistan, saving many lives. The heroes commemorated here today have irrevocably changed American history."

The street name dedications were followed by the burial of two Union soldiers discovered at the Manassas National Battlefield.

Under construction since 2014, the \$84 million Millennium Project expansion at Arlington adds nearly 30,000 burial and niche spaces to the cemetery, which has begun to run out of room to inter American veterans.

Sgt Janessa Pon, USMC

Military OneSource Benefits Extended to Veterans for Full Year After Separation

Eligibility for Military OneSource benefits has been extended from 180 days to 365 days after separation or retirement from military service in an effort to ensure all servicemembers and their families have access to comprehensive support as they transition to civilian life, the Department of Defense announced Aug. 13.

The change went into effect immediately in accordance with the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.

Military OneSource provides information, resources and support at no cost for active-duty, National Guard and reserve servicemembers, their families and survivors, and gives them exclusive access to programs, tools and benefits designed to help ensure servicemembers and their families are mission-ready and able to thrive both during and after their time in service.

"Each person is unique, and so is each military-to-civilian transition," said A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy. "We want all of Military OneSource's resources to be there when someone needs them—whether it is a day, a week or many months after their transition to civilian life."

As a DOD program, Military OneSource offers a wide range of services, including relocation assistance, tax support, financial planning and health and wellness coaching, as well as confidential non-

SGT JANESSA PON, USMC

medical counseling and specialty consultations for spouse employment, education, adoption, elder care, special needs and much more.

“Military OneSource is powered by people with extensive knowledge and training in meeting the needs of our military community, many of whom have also served or lived in military families,” explained Lee Kelley, program director of the Nonmedical Counseling Program Office within military community and family policy. “We’re dedicated to providing expert, proven and practical support and information to our servicemembers and their families to help them achieve their goals and live their best military life.”

Military OneSource services are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Servicemembers and their dependents can call (800) 342-9647 or visit www.militaryonesource.mil.

DOD

During Open Enrollment Period, New Vision and Dental Plans For TRICARE Beneficiaries

During the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season, Nov. 12 to Dec. 10, beneficiaries enrolled in a TRICARE health plan will be eligible to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Pro-



PO2 JASON POPLIN, USN

Between Nov. 12 to Dec. 10, most TRICARE beneficiaries will be eligible to enroll in a FEDVIP vision plan, which provides supplemental coverage to help offset the cost of eyeglasses and contacts. Retirees and their dependents also are eligible to enroll in FEDVIP dental coverage.

gram (FEDVIP), for coverage that will start on Jan. 1, 2019.

The dental and vision insurance will be offered to TRICARE-eligible retirees and their dependents, while active-duty family members will be eligible to enroll in FEDVIP vision insurance only.

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program ends on Dec. 31, 2018, and those currently

enrolled in the program must choose a dental plan through FEDVIP in order to have coverage in 2019. Enrollment is not automatic.

Most beneficiaries in a TRICARE health plan may enroll in a FEDVIP vision plan. This comprehensive vision coverage, which includes eyeglasses or contacts, is a supplement to the routine eye examination benefit that many beneficiaries have under TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select.

FEDVIP currently serves more than 3 million federal employees, retirees and their families. Enrollees give the program high marks for quality and value as it provides comprehensive dental and vision insurance at competitive group rates with 10 dental and four vision carriers for enrollees to choose from.

“OPM [the U.S. Office of Personnel Management] is thrilled to offer a variety of quality vision and dental plans to our military retirees and their families, and for the first time, an option for vision insurance to active-duty family members,” said OPM Director Jeff Pon. “We look forward to providing FEDVIP to the military, their families and retirees.”

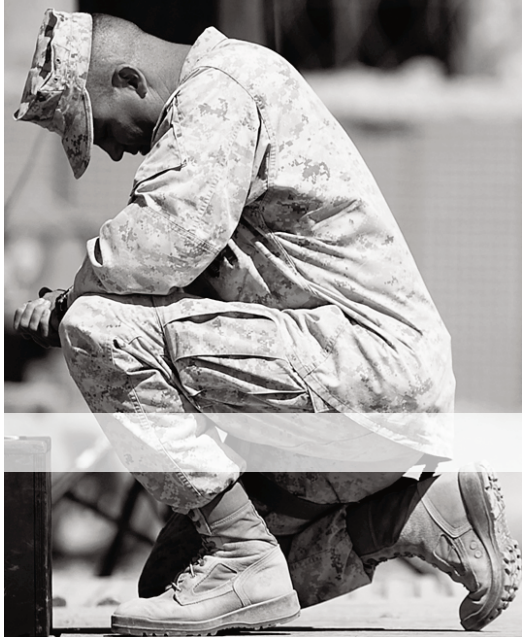
For more information or to enroll in FEDVIP, visit www.tricare.benefeds.com.

DOD



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#GIVINGTUESDAY

DPAA Identifies Remains Of USS *Oklahoma* Marines

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced recently that the remains of two U.S. Marines have been accounted for from World War II.

On Dec. 7, 1941, **Private First Class Alva J. Cremean**, 21, of Pueblo, Colo., and **PFC Robert K. Holmes**, 19, of Wichita, Kan., were assigned to the battleship USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37), which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. *Oklahoma* sustained multiple torpedo hits, and it quickly capsized. Cremean and Holmes were among the 429 crewmen who died as a result of the attack.

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in cemeteries in Hawaii.

In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying the fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service disinterred the remains and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from *Oklahoma* at that time. The other remains were buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

In April 2015, the Deputy Secretary of Defense issued a policy memorandum directing the disinterment of unknowns associated with USS *Oklahoma*. On June 15, 2015, DPAA personnel began exhuming the remains for identification.

To identify Holmes' remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial and Y-chromosome DNA analysis, anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence.

DPAA

Funeral Held for Marine Who Was Killed in the Fighting on Okinawa

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced recently that the remains of a U.S. Marine, who died fighting in World War II, have been returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

The remains of **Private First Class Herman W. Mulligan Jr.**, 21, of West Greenville, S.C., were buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., on Aug. 21.

On May 30, 1945, PFC Mulligan was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division, which was engaged in heavy fighting against Japanese forces on Hill 27, on the northern bank of the Kokuba Estuary, Okinawa, Japan. A large crypt loaded with ammunition exploded, wounding dozens of Marines and killing Mulligan.

The remains of most Americans killed during the fighting on Okinawa were transported to six cemeteries that had been established shortly after American forces landed on the island. The American Graves Registration Service attempted to bury fallen servicemembers in the cemeteries of their divisions, but due to the large number of casualties, deceased often were sent to other unit cemeteries. The location of PFC Mulligan's remains was initially unknown.

Following the war, the AGRS searched for and disinterred the remains of U.S. servicemen in the Pacific theater as part of an effort to identify and return fallen servicemen. Investigators at the time could not associate Mulligan's medical or dental records with any unidentified remains found on Okinawa. Additionally, there was no record of his burial.

In May 2017, following thorough historical research and analysis of unit records and AGRS recovery reports, a set of remains labeled as "X-35" was disinterred for possible identification.

To identify Mulligan's remains, DPAA and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA, as well as anthropological analysis and circumstantial evidence.

DPAA is grateful to the American Battle Monuments Commission for their partnership in this mission.

DPAA

Alfred A. Ackerman, 97, of Green Valley, Ariz. During WW II he was assigned to the MarDet on board USS *Brooklyn* (CL-40). After the war, he used the GI Bill to attend college. He had a 35-year career with American Airlines and was an active volunteer in his community.

Bernard S. Bell, 79, of Philadelphia, Pa. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1956 after his graduation from high school. He later worked 25 years for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority.

MGySgt Marion D. Branch, 99, in

Prescott, Ariz. He was in the Civilian Conservation Corps from 1936-1941. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in August 1941 and later deployed to the Pacific. During his 30-year career, he also served three tours in Vietnam.

Matthew P. Brinker, 36, of Hawthorn, Pa. He was a scout sniper who deployed once to Afghanistan and twice to Iraq. He then transferred to the Navy and completed training as a SEAL.

Ron Dabney, 70, of Twin Falls, Iowa. He was a Marine who saw action during the Battle of Hue City in 1968. He also fought at Khe Sanh.

William R. Dunham, 70, of Belton, Texas. His 22-year Marine Corps career included tours in Vietnam. After his retirement, he worked for the FAA for 20 years.

GySgt John Edward Hutchinson, 96, of Greensburg, Pa. He enlisted in the Marine Corps on Dec. 8, 1941. During WW II, he served in the Pacific and was assigned to the 5th Defense Bn and the 11th Defense Bn on Guadalcanal, Guam, New Georgia and Okinawa.

Cpl Helena "Dunc" Nickerson, 93, of Manchester, Conn. She was stationed at MCB Quantico during WW II.

William T. Pierce, 93, of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. He was assigned to the 6thMarDiv during WW II. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Kevin P. Quinn, 32, of Mashpee, Mass. He was assigned to CLB 7 and served two tours in Afghanistan.

After his retirement, he worked as a paralegal for a number of attorneys and was an adjunct faculty member at Coastal Carolina Community College as an instructor in paralegal technology. He was a member of the MCA&F.

PFC Walter "Lud" Yaworski, 91, of Mt. Lebanon, Pa. During WW II, he was a machine gunner in the Pacific, seeing action on Okinawa.

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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The interior is completely lined using the Dress Blue Uniform Fabric, Trim, Cover Emblems, Coat and Pocket Buttons of which the uniform is made. The mattress is covered with the trouser fabric, and the blood stripe sewn down the middle. The Casket is painted the same color as the Dress Blue Coat.

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SOUND OFF
[continued from page 8]

left) drifted back to that barracks at Camp Lejeune.

Although I did not recall the exact incident Dave shared, I certainly did remember the “descriptive remarks” game he talked about after lights out. Some of those little games would sometimes last for what seemed like hours.

As soon as I finished reading Dave’s story I found my old Med cruise book from 1958 to 1959 and there was his picture with 3rd Rifle Platoon. My picture was below his with Weapons Platoon. I tried to call him but found no listing so I can only hope he reads this letter and calls me. I am in the book.

Once again, thank you, *Leatherneck* for great memories of an 80-year-old Marine.

Samuel “Sam” Davis
Laurens, S.C.

Remember the Fallen
This Veterans Day

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is where the names of more than 58,000 Americans are carved into black granite. I still remember seeing that wall for the first time with my family. We had taken a train from Wilmington, Del., to Washington, D.C., in 1984. When I saw “The Wall”

I was very sad. Some visitors were in mourning, some were weeping and others were talking to other veterans. It seems like it was only yesterday that I was there.

In the more than three decades since it was built, “The Wall” has been a grieving, consoling, healing, remembering place for Vietnam veterans. Today’s visitors are likely to be the children or grandchildren of Vietnam veterans coming to remember and understand.

Some people think the Vietnam War was a waste of time or a failure. Looking back, I can say it was not a mistake, not a waste, not a failure. We were sent there to stop Communism. We did that and we certainly need to get over the idea that we lost the war.

This year marks the 36th anniversary of “The Wall” which still remains the most visited of the parks’ war memorials. Every name on that black granite leaves behind mourners. Some nights when I am alone, I can still hear quiet crying. People from all over come to etch a name or leave meaningful mementos from letters to notes to flowers. My knees were very weak and many tears fell the first time I was at “The Wall” with my three girls.

I still have not picked the time to tell my kids or grandkids about the Vietnam War. I have put a few words on paper but they still have not read or seen my writings.

Can you imagine being so far away from home and seeing so many killed while the survivors were hearing news about how their fellow Marines were being treated when they returned home? Many carry burdens of the war that began more than 60 years ago. I was very fortunate when I came home. I returned to the States before 1968 and a lot of the anti-war protests were not as bad as they were in the early 1970s. We never did wear our uniforms off base or when we were home. I find it peaceful now just being in our garden or just walking in our field remembering a few things that happened so far from home many years ago.

Edward L. Layne
Dayton, Tenn.

Color Guard Question

Why is it that the American military does not allow the commissioned officers to carry the colors in a color guard? Nor are they allowed to raise or lower the flag on any base or vessel. No other military does that as the officers always carry their nation’s flag with noncommissioned officer escorts. How come we don’t? Does this have something to do with the saga of General Benedict Arnold and his treasonable conduct during the Revolutionary War?

Robert Hughes
Santa Ana, Calif.

Ethos or Apathy?

This is my very first submission to this periodical. At some point we need to speak up about topics that make a serious impression.

While it’s true that General Gray had his official portrait done in cammies, he was an early supporter of developing the warrior ethos in his Marines. The general was also seen in his various service uniforms appropriate for the occasion. I read *Leatherneck*, the *Marine Corps Gazette* and the *Camp Lejeune Globe* faithfully. One thing I see is that we now feel that the use of a field working uniform is appropriate for almost every occasion.

Parades, changes of command, promotion ceremonies and retirement ceremonies have all been relegated to just another work function. I served for more than 21 years and quite honestly I whined loudly with everyone else about having to dress in the designated uniform of the day and participated in these same activities. I look back now and realize that it may have been a minor inconvenience but it also lent an air of dignity to the proceedings and emphasized that this was not just another work detail.

Our heavy commitment to active combat has been significantly reduced and it’s time for us to return to the “spit and



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APR 27- MAY 10

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MAY 18- 27

WWI Battlefield France
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MAY 27- JUN 9

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JUN 1- 9

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Normandy

JUN 12- 19

75th Anniversary WWII
Liberation of Saipan

JUL 4- 14

Russia "Eastern Front"
Moscow-Kursk-Stalingrad

JUL 18- 25

75th Anniversary WWII
Liberation of Guam & Tinian

JUL 28- AUG 9

Rise & Fall of the Third
Reich
Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg

AUG 1- 11

Imperial China
Beijing - Xian - Shanghai

AUG 3- 12

Guadalcanal & Tarawa

AUG 12- 20

75th Anniversary of Op
Draagoon
Southern France

AUG 17- 29

75th Anniversary of the
Liberation of Peleliu

SEP 11- 20

75th Anniversary of the
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SEP 11- 25

75th Anniversary of the
Liberation of Peleliu

SEP 11- 25

Ireland All of the Emerald
Isle
WWII U.S. "Irish Marines"
Dublin-Belfast-Derry

SEP 29- OCT 7 OCT

Korean War Tour
Seoul, Pusan & Battlefields

SEP 29- OCT 11

WWII Concentration Camps
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Prague, Berlin, Krakow &
Nuremberg

OCT 13- 25

Rise & Fall of the Third
Reich
Munich-Berlin-Nuremberg

NOV 2- 13

WWI 1918 France - End of
the War to End All Wars

NOV 10- 17

Burma 75th Anniversary
of the Chindits - 1943

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polish” activities that separate us from the other services. Considering the changes in our uniforms and its accessories, not a very time consuming task for today’s Marines.

MSgt James W. Truman Jr., USMC (Ret)
Holly Ridge, N.C.

Memories of MCAS Cherry Point

Thanks for the article about MCAS Cherry Point in the August issue. I was an air traffic controller there from 1966 to 1970. I’ve visited a few times since I left. There have been changes: the old barracks are gone, a new tower has been built, but much remains the same on base and in Havelock—still has a small town feel to it. Hopefully I’ll be around to see some of the upcoming changes. Can’t believe they are getting a new tower. Seems like they just built the one that is there now.

Thanks for the article and bringing back some great memories.

Terry Terrell
Middletown, Ohio

Saluting Uncovered?

I just watched the arrival ceremony for the funeral of Senator John McCain at Andrews Air Force Base. There were a number of military personnel in uniform in the crowd at the ceremony. Some were

covered and many were uncovered. Some of the uncovered personnel were from the Air Force, Navy and Army, including Senator McCain’s two sons, a Navy officer and an Army sergeant. Additionally, the uncovered military members also rendered a hand salute. I always thought a military person in full uniform and outdoors, was to always be covered. Am I missing some sort of protocol regarding memorial services? By the way, I did not see any Marine Corps personnel uncovered.

Sgt Larry Richey
USMC, 1960-1964
Prescott, Ariz.



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Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Reunions

• **East Coast Drill Instructors Assn.**, April 11-14, 2019, Parris Island, S.C. Contact SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller, USMC (Ret), (828) 757-0968, usmcpidi@charter.net, www.parrisislanddi.org.

• **Marine Corps Aviation Assn. Donald E. Davis Squadron**, March 21-24, 2019, Pensacola, Fla. Contact Wayne Miller, (973) 441-3636, millerwayne559@gmail.com.

• **Iwo Jima Survivors (Marines, Navy and all other WW II veterans)**, March 20-24, 2019, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Contact Dan Zepeda, (951) 201-6251, zepeda012@msn.com.

• **Black Marines Heritage Group**, June 20-23, 2019, Alexandria, Va. Contact Bernard Colebrook, (540) 720-2633, Bobby Wallace, (352) 259-2435, or Patricia Mims, (760) 717-2949, www.blackmarinereunion.com.

• **2/9 (all eras)**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, (978) 302-4126, ditson35@verizon.net, www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org.

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

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-1970)**, June 20-24, 2019, San Diego, Calif. Contact Dan Steiner, (618) 567-4077, dsteiner49@yahoo.com.

• **Mortar Btry, W/2/12**, Jan. 28-Feb. 1, 2019, N. Clearwater/Dunedin, Fla. Contact Mike "Doc" Mallach, 16 Torie Jordan Ct., Ocean View, DE 19970, (302) 339-7479, mallachmj@yahoo.com.

• **2nd Topographic Co**, Nov. 4-8, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact Jim Martin, (781) 572-7924, topotrooper@aol.com.

• **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.

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

• **38th/39th OCC, TBS 3-66/4-66**, Oct. 7-11, 2019, Newport, R.I. Contact Jack Sheehan, (401) 255-0387, jacksheehan.jtown@me.com, www.usmc-thebasic-school-1966.com,

• **TBS Class 3-67/41st OCC**, Nov. 15-18,

New Orleans, La. Contact Fred Lash, (703) 644-5132, fredanddonnalash@verizon.net.

• **TBS, Co C, 3-69 and TBS, Co E, 5-69**, May 8-12, 2019, Quantico, Va. Contact Joe Howard, jlheach1@cs.com, or George Schuh, gwschuh@yahoo.com.

• **TBS, Co H, 8-69 (50th Anniversary)**, June 6-9, 2019, Arlington, Va. Contact Dennis Mroczkowski, m4ski@comcast.net, or Thomas Molon, ncmolons@suddenlink.net, www.facebook.com/basicsschoolhotelcompany69.

• **"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 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@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 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 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 1098, Parris Island, 1970**, is planning a reunion. Contact Michael Shea, (786) 280-8202, miked2709@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, 1965-1966**, 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, sgtmajedretired@gmail.com.

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

• **Plt 3042, San Diego, 1968**, is planning a reunion. Contact Gary Berry, (614) 679-1499, gnberry21@gmail.com.

• **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.

• **Distinguished Flying Cross Society**, Sept. 15-19, 2019, Dayton, Ohio. Contact Warren Eastman, (760) 985-2810, weastman@dfcsociety.org.

• **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.

Ships and Others

• **USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12)**, May 4-9, 2019, Nashville, Tenn. Contact David Fix, ussinchon@gmail.com.

Mail Call

• Chris Miles, (616) 262-6051, chris.miles@airgas.com, to hear from Marines who served with his uncle, **Patrick Charles MILES**, who was KIA outside of **Quang Tri, Vietnam, Aug. 19, 1968**, while serving with **HMM-262, MAG-39**.

• John Sanchez, 777 E. Palm Dr., Hanford, CA 93230, to hear from crew members on **USS Galveston (CLG-3)** who were involved in **Operation Starlite** in **August 1965**. He would also like to hear from any Marines or Sailors who manned turrets 1 or 2; MT51, MT52 or MT53; or other air rescues or fire support.

• Mike West, 421 E Tamarack Rd. Apt. A04, Altus, OK 73521, westmich68@gmail.com, to hear from or about **Don MOORE**, a Marine who was stationed



COURTESY OF CHUCK ROBERTSON

Chuck Robertson would like to hear from or about Pvt Stephen J. Simpson, pictured here at his boot camp graduation at MCRD San Diego, Aug. 15, 1966.

near Oceanside, Calif., in the early 1980s.

- Chuck Robertson, ca.robertson48@gmail.com, to hear from or about Pvt Stephen J. "Steve" SIMPSON of Connersville, Ind., pictured above, who was a member of Plt 2038, San Diego, 1966.

- MGySgt Bob Teal, USMC (Ret), P.O. Box 2258, Paradise, CA 95967,

mgysgte9@yahoo.com, to hear from Eugene "Gene" AUCHENBACH from Illinois and Samuel "Sam" TITTNICH from Pennsylvania, who served with him in Okinawa and at Camp Lejeune in the 1960s.

Wanted

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

- Thomas J. Burke, (314) 703-3767, stoney-b@swbell.net, wants photos of Norman Roger HOCKER, a Marine who served with "Echo" Co, 2/4 and was KIA on May 15, 1967, in Thua Thien, Vietnam.

- Solicia Smith, soliciaplhc@sbcglobal.net, wants a recruit graduation book for Plt 3069, San Diego, 1988.

Sales, Trades and Giveaways

- Carl Withey, (315) 689-3653, crwithey@twcny.rr.com, has recruit graduation books for Plt 386, Parris Island, 1957; Plt 289, Parris Island, 1970; and Plt 3313, Parris Island, 1977, to give away.

- Steve Leonardi, (781) 929-4550, attysal@comcast.net, has a plaque from First U.S. Marine Brigade, Iceland, 1941-1942, pictured above, for sale.



COURTESY OF STEVE LEONARDI

Steve Leonardi is looking for a buyer for this First U.S. Marine Brigade, Iceland, plaque, dated 1941 and 1942.

Entries for "Reader Assistance," which include "Reunions," "Mail Call," "Wanted" and "Sales, Trades and Giveaways," are free and printed on a space-available basis. *Leatherneck* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Allow two to three months for publication. Send your email to s.bock@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134. 🇺🇸



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Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



PFC E.F. FATJO, USMC

A BIRTHDAY TRADITION—Private First Class Vincent N. DiRenzo, 20, of Shenandoah, Pa., is shown beside a 400-pound birthday cake at the Marine Corps' 173rd birthday celebration at the Camp Catlin Enlisted Club, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, Nov. 10, 1948. PFC DiRenzo was the youngest Marine of the 800 Marines and guests who attended the event. In keeping with tradition, he and the oldest Marine present enjoyed the first slices of the cake.

PFC DiRenzo enlisted in 1948, after graduating from high school, and served for four years before attending college using the GI bill. After earning a degree in geography and chemistry, he went to work for the CIA as a photo interpreter examining the images taken by U-2 aircraft. In 1962, he was the leader of the photo interpreter team that discovered and correctly identified Soviet missile systems in Cuba. He died last year at age 88.

According to his daughter, Jane DiRenzo Pigott,

his service in the Marine Corps gave him "the determination, self-confidence and sense of patriotic duty that guided him when his team discovered the missiles on Cuba.

"He always credited his time in the Corps with getting him out of the coal town in which he grew up, in giving him a bigger view of the world and in providing the only basis upon which he could have gotten an education past high school," she added.

This month, as they do every November, U.S. Marines in every clime and place will celebrate the birthday of the Corps. There will be grand parties that fill hotel ballrooms and small gatherings of friends at local watering holes—the common thread will be the commemoration of those Marines like PFC DiRenzo, who came before them, and forged the illustrious history of the Marine Corps. Semper Fidelis and Happy Birthday, Marines! 🇺🇸

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