

JUNE 2017

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

# Leatherneck

[www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck](http://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck)

## Afghanistan— LCpls Excelled As Squad Leaders

Advice From Monitors:  
Get Involved To  
Impact Your Career



A Publication of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation



# IF YOU DON'T HAVE ARMOR EVERYWHERE YOU GO ...

YOU MIGHT WANT TO HELP PROTECT YOURSELF  
WITH MCA&F ENDORSED

## ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE

Photo By: Master Sgt. Chad McMeen

### WHY INSURE AGAINST ACCIDENTS?

Every 4 minutes, an injury-related death occurs.\* While you can't control what happens in life —  
*you can be better prepared for the things that catch you by surprise.*

The Accident Insurance Plan pays cash benefits to your family if you die or suffer a serious injury as a result of a covered accident. Please act now and enroll to have your very own Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance Plan!

The MCA&F Group Insurance Program can help you to be better prepared for life's surprises. You can learn more about this plan at [www.mcainsurance.com/jun17](http://www.mcainsurance.com/jun17).

- ✓ Your acceptance to this plan is *guaranteed*
- ✓ Protection is available up to \$200,000
- ✓ *No health questions to answer*



FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ON TO [WWW.MCAINSURANCE.COM/JUN17](http://WWW.MCAINSURANCE.COM/JUN17)

## Marine Corps Association & Foundation

All benefits are subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. Policies underwritten by Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company, Hartford, CT 06155, detail exclusions, limitations, reduction of benefits and terms under which the policies may be continued in force or discontinued.

\*National Safety Council's *Injury Facts*, 2016 Edition.

War and acts of war are excluded from this coverage.

For advertising purposes only, MCA&F is the Marine Corps Association

Accident Form Series includes  
GBD-1000, GBD-1300, or state equivalent.

©2017 AGIA 43198





# Save a bundle.

USAA members can save when they  
bundle USAA home and auto insurance.<sup>1</sup>  
**Find out how to get your savings.**

Get a quote.

➤ [USAA.COM/MCA](https://usaa.com/mca) • 877-651-6272



**Marine Corps  
Association & Foundation**  
*Advancing Leadership and Recognizing Excellence Since 1913*



USAA is proud to be the  
**Semper Fidelis Sponsor**  
of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation

<sup>1</sup> Multiple product savings do not apply in all states or to all situations. Savings subject to change. Restrictions apply.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO QUOTE ANY INDIVIDUAL A PREMIUM RATE FOR THE INSURANCE ADVERTISED HEREIN. Use of the term "member" or "membership" refers to membership in USAA Membership Services and does not convey any legal or ownership rights in USAA. Restrictions apply and are subject to change. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, and Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and USAA Ltd. (Europe), and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Marine Corps Association & Foundation receives financial support for their sponsorship. © 2017 USAA. 235708-0617





**ALWAYS FAITHFUL. ALWAYS READY.**



**MARINE RESERVE**

1-800-MARINES, code RESERVE | [MARINES.COM/RESERVE](https://marines.com/reserve)





# Contents

LEATHERNECK—MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

JUNE 2017  
VOL. 100, No. 6

## Features

**16 Squad Leaders in Afghanistan: The Lance Corporals Who Brought Their Marines Home** *By Aaron Ferencik*  
LCpls Davila, Lemont and Miller led their Marines at remote bases and in villages in Afghanistan in 2011 and made life-or-death decisions in harsh conditions. They proved that leadership is found at all grades among Marines.

**24 The Forgotten Marine: The Legacy of James Roosevelt, Marine Corps Innovator and Navy Cross Recipient** *By LCpl Evan F. Weiss, USMC*  
This first-place winning article in *Leatherneck's* Writing Contest describes how James Roosevelt, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's oldest son, was right alongside his fellow Marines during the development of the Marine Raiders. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic actions during the Makin Island Raid in August 1942.

**30 Monitors: "Engage Early and Often"**  
*By Sara W. Bock*  
The veil of mystery shrouding the monitors' office at MCB Quantico, Va., where the Corps makes its personnel assignments, is lifted through an open and honest discussion with 11 of today's finest enlisted and officer monitors. Their best advice? Engage with them early and often.

**36 Robert Hanson and the "Fighting Corsairs"**  
*By MSgt Jeff Dacus, USMC (Ret)*  
As a Corsair pilot in the South Pacific, 1stLt Hanson was known for his daring tactics and total disregard for death. He is credited with bringing down 25 Japanese aircraft and posthumously received the Medal of Honor for his courage.

**46 A Veteran's Return** *By P.L. Thompson*  
On April 24, 1966, south of Da Nang, Vietnam, PFC Omer Hadsall stepped on a mine which ended his time with 1st Plt, Echo Co, 2d Bn, 9th Marines. 50 years later, he returned to the place where he was wounded.

**50 Finale at Peleliu**  
*By Sgt Harry Polete, USMC and Sgt Edward J. Evans, USMC*  
In this story from the *Leatherneck* archives, the 1st Marine Division secured Peleliu after the battle on Bloody Nose Ridge, Sept. 29, 1944. Nearly two years later, and more than a year after the end of World War II, Marines were still fighting a determined Japanese foe.

## Departments

- 2 Sound Off
- 8 In Every Clime and Place
- 14 Sea Stories
- 22 Leatherneck Laffs
- 42 We—the Marines
- 45 Crazy Caption
- 56 Passing the Word
- 58 Reader Assistance
- 62 Books Reviewed
- 70 In Memoriam
- 72 Saved Round



**COVER:** U.S. Marines and Afghan border police offload a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter during Operation Shahem Tofan Eagle Storm in the Garmsir District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Feb. 10, 2012. The Marines were assigned to Wpns Co, 3d Bn, 3d Marines. Photo by SSgt Reece Lodder, 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.)

A recent article in the September 2016 issue of *Leatherneck* entitled "Force in Not-So-Readiness: The Mobilization of the Marine Reserve During the Korean War," posed a valid question.

In response, consider the story of the First Special Basic Class—a contingent of young and mostly inexperienced Reserve second lieutenants who trained at Quantico in the fall of 1950 and went on to serve with outstanding valor in Korea.

After the Inchon landing, the liberation of Seoul and the Chosin Reservoir campaign, the First Marine Division badly needed replacement second lieutenants. President Truman activated the Marine Corps Reserve, and on Oct. 3, 1950, some 350 lieutenants ordered to active duty were sent to Quantico where they trained for 10 weeks in the newly created First Special Basic Class (1st SBC). Most had acquired commissions through Platoon Leaders Class or the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps.

In January 1951, 40 lieutenants from the 1st SBC were flown straight to Korea. A second group followed by troop ship from San Diego. (A number of other classmates served in the U.S. during the war, including some who were sent to the Second Marine Division.) In Korea, we were assigned to rifle companies in the First, Fifth and Seventh Marines. We began taking casualties almost immediately and took many more during combat in 1951. There were major offensives and counteroffensives at that time, with much

of the fighting taking place on the East Central front, a mountainous area of extremely rugged terrain. Marines from the 1st SBC met the challenge including Second Lieutenant Bob Buchmann, age 21, fresh out of Columbia University. As a rifle platoon leader in Seventh Marines, he earned the first of his two Silver Stars scarcely a week after arriving in Korea. Weeks later he received a second Silver Star and second Purple Heart for inspiring his men by his bravery during a dangerous assault in which he was shot and killed while hurling grenades at the enemy. A lieutenant from 5th Marines, Harvey Nolan, received the Navy Cross for his actions during the Chinese spring offensive. Though wounded, he picked up a BAR from a fallen Marine and led a night battle that prevented the enemy from breaking through and overrunning his battalion CP. Lieutenant Joe Reisler, (Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart), 1st Marines fought off seven Chinese attacks in one night at Horseshoe Ridge. All told, 1st SBC lieutenants accounted for three Navy Crosses, 20 Silver Stars, many Bronze Stars and Purple Hearts. Those honors came at a price: 10 classmates were killed in action in just a few months. An 11th classmate was killed 16 years later in Vietnam as a battalion commander. A memorial to our 11 classmates who gave their lives for Corps and country stands at Camp Barrett. We solemnly honor them at our annual reunions.

In civilian life, 1st SBC veterans had distinguished careers in business, the judiciary, government and other fields. John Warner went on to serve for 30 years as a U.S. Senator from Virginia and was chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He also had a submarine named after him, and his name graces

Warner Hall at the Marine Corps University in Quantico. Pete McCloskey (Navy Cross, Silver Star, two Purple Hearts) served as a six-term congressman from California. Chuck Daly (Silver Star, Purple Heart) became an advisor to President John F. Kennedy. Bob Rust became a district attorney in Miami-Dade County and foiled an assassination plot targeting JFK [*Leatherneck*, December 2014 issue]. Two "went regular" and retired with the rank of major general.

Were we "ready to fight" in Korea? We may not have been fully prepared. But fight we did.

Capt Angus Deming, USMCR (Ret)  
Co E, 2d Bn, 5th Marines  
New York, N.Y.

## Vietnam: Operation Buffalo And the Marines Who Were There

I was honored to read Corporal James L. Stuckey's letter in the February issue of *Leatherneck* and I'd like to thank the editor for elaborating on his actions in Vietnam in July 1967.

For more information on Cpl Stuckey's story and the story of 9th Marines during that bloody July in 1967, I highly recommend Keith William Nolan's outstanding book entitled "Operation Buffalo: USMC Fight for the DMZ."

Another young Marine who fought and was wounded in Operation Buffalo was Second Lieutenant Frank Libutti, who would later become a major general and the CG of the First Marine Division, in which I proudly served. (*Editor's note: Lieutenant General Libutti was later promoted and served as CG, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and later, Commander, Marine Forces Pacific.*) I believe it was in 1995 that Major General Libutti was the guest of honor at our 1st Combat Engineer Battalion Marine Corps Birthday Ball, where he told the story of Cpl Stuckey and the men who fought in Operation Buffalo.

I read the book in high school before I even joined the Marine Corps and twice more while serving. It was an honor to hear the story from MajGen Libutti after reading about it and is an honor to hear it from Cpl Stuckey. If Cpl Stuckey reads this letter, I want him to know that he was honored by the general that night and our battalion was honored to hear his story.

Cpl Jayson Tveit  
USMC, 1994-98  
Roseau, Minn.

## Letters Home

Do you have a letter that you treasure written by your special Marine? One you received from boot camp, OCS, or a faraway land? Is it something informative, heartfelt, or funny? If you would like to share it with our readers, we might feature it in an upcoming issue of *Leatherneck*.

Send your letter to:

Patricia Everett at: *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134,  
or email them to [p.everett@mca-marines.org](mailto:p.everett@mca-marines.org).

Please do not send originals as we are unable to ensure their safe return. —*Leatherneck* Ed.





USAA is proud to be the  
**Semper Fidelis Sponsor**  
of the Marine Corps Association & Foundation

# USE THE CREDIT CARD THAT SUPPORTS MCA&F.



USAA Bank is proud to offer members ways to support organizations like the Marine Corps Association & Foundation. You can also benefit from great rewards, competitive rates, and USAA's legendary customer service. Plus, now you can extend your support by redeeming your rewards points for a donation to the Marine Corps Association & Foundation.



**APPLY TODAY.**

**[usaa.com/mcavisa](https://usaa.com/mcavisa) or 877-651-6272**

**USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.**

Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. The Marine Corps Association & Foundation receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.

This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2016 USAA. 232406-0916



# Leatherneck

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

**President/CEO,**  
Marine Corps Association & Foundation  
LtGen W. Mark Faulkner, USMC (Ret)

**Vice President/COO,**  
Marine Corps Association & Foundation  
Col Daniel P. O'Brien, USMC (Ret)

**Publisher**  
Col Christopher Woodbridge, USMC (Ret)

**Editor**  
Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

**Senior Editor**  
Nancy S. Lichtman

**Staff Writer**  
Sara W. Bock

**Editorial/Production Coordinator**  
Patricia Everett

**Art Director**  
Jason Monroe

**Publisher's Advertising Representatives**  
James G. Elliott Co. Inc.  
New York: (212) 588-9200  
Chicago: (312) 236-4900  
Los Angeles: (213) 624-0900

**EDITORIAL OFFICES**  
Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134  
**Phone:** (703) 640-6161, Ext. 115  
**Toll-Free:** (800) 336-0291  
**Fax:** (703) 640-0823  
**E-mail:** leatherneck@mca-marines.org  
**Web page:** www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck

**TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS**  
Editorial Offices: 115 • Business Office: 121

**Circulation/Member Services**  
**Phone:** toll-free (866) 622-1775  
**E-mail:** mca@mca-marines.org

## LEATHERNECK AND MCA&F MEMBERSHIP PRICES

1 year \$35; 2 years \$64; 3 years \$89

Leatherneck also is available in digital format at [www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck](http://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck).

All overseas and foreign addresses add \$16 postage for each year's membership except APO and FPO military addresses. Periodicals postage paid at Quantico, Va., USPS #308-080, and additional mailing offices.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** Please send your new address six weeks before the date of issue with which it is to take effect, if possible. Include old address with new, enclosing your address label if convenient. Mail to: *Leatherneck Magazine*, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to:  
*Leatherneck Magazine*, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

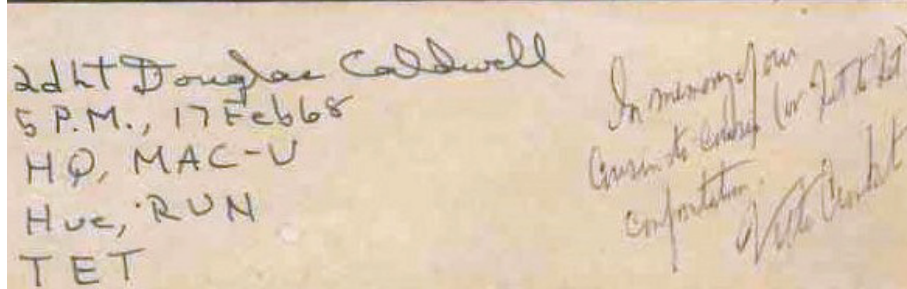


*Leatherneck* (ISSN 0023-981X) is published monthly by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation, Bldg. #715, MCB, Quantico, VA 22134. Copyright 2017 by MCA&F.

All rights reserved. Stories, features, pictures and other material from *Leatherneck* may be reproduced if they are not restricted by law or military regulations, provided proper credit is given and specific prior permission has been granted for each item to be reproduced.

Opinions of authors whose articles appear in *Leatherneck* do not necessarily express the attitude of the Navy Department or Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. "Marines" and the Eagle, Globe and Anchor are trademarks of the U.S. Marine Corps, used with permission. When mailed, manuscripts, art or photographs should be accompanied by self-addressed envelopes and return postage. Query first on all submissions. The publisher assumes no responsibility for return of unsolicited manuscripts, drawings or photographs.

Publication of advertisements does not constitute endorsement by MCA&F except for such products or services clearly offered under MCA&F's name. The publisher reserves the right to accept or reject any advertising order at his absolute discretion.



2dLt Caldwell, left, was summoned by Walter Cronkite, a family member on his mother's side, to meet him in Hue for a visit.

## "Do You Know Walter Cronkite?"

Your March article, "Hue City: The Tet Offensive," brought that question back to me after almost 50 years. At the start of the Tet Offensive in January 1968, I was serving as a platoon leader with Company E, Second Battalion, 5th Marines, and acting as "palace guard" for Lieutenant Colonel Ernest C. Cheatham, the battalion commanding officer, and the battalion command post. I heard the "Old Man" getting radio and staff reports about the start of the attacks. Over the next few days the battalion, less Co E, left the area and headed for Hue City.

In the absence of the rest of the battalion, Co E was tasked with guarding key bridges and intersections along Route 1, a main supply route along the coast.

After several weeks of fighting in the city, the battalion had suffered many casualties in all ranks. Another officer and I from Co E were reassigned to join the battalion in Hue City. Upon arrival, I was assigned to Co F skippered by Captain Michael P. Downs and joined the ongoing battle in the western area of the city south of the Perfume River.

On Feb. 17, 1968, I was called to the company CP where Capt Downs asked, "Do you know Walter Cronkite?" Answering in the affirmative, I added that he was a relative on my mother's side of the family and that while growing up, our families had gathered for holidays and other occasions. Capt Downs told me to get a ride in the company jeep and meet Cronkite at the Military Advisor Compound-Vietnam (MAC-V) headquarters in Hue.

Cronkite was the celebrated "CBS Evening News" anchor at the time and touring Vietnam to report on the Tet Offensive. He traveled to Hue City and sought me out to say hello.

We met at the compound late in the day, exchanged some small talk and took a photo. Then it was back to the war for me. Eventually I returned to Co E and later to an assignment to 1stMarDiv Headquarters. Upon rotation back to CONUS, I visited again with Mr. Cronkite under less hostile conditions.

Capt Doug Caldwell  
USMC, 1965-79  
Plano, Texas

## Flash Suppressor on Rifle

A detachable/optional flash hider for the M1 rifle, called the T37, was issued to U.S. troops starting in the 1950s. It was a combined gas cylinder and flash hider and replaced the gas cylinder lock. I do not know if or when it was used at either recruit depot, but it did exist as an option in the 1960s.

Sgt Thomas Ring  
USMC, 1975-80  
Great Falls, Va.

## Billet 10, Shanghai, China

The photo on page 53 [March issue] in the article about Captain Vitka is the General Lu house, one of the buildings used by the 3d Bn, 4th Marines as Billet 10 from 1927-34. The house is at the northwest corner of Maoming and Yan'an Roads. The other part of Billet 10, the former Jeanne d'Arc compound across the

COURTESY OF CAPT DOUG CALDWELL, USMC



# PROUD USMC FAMILY

## Musical Glitter Globe



Plays the traditional  
Marines' Hymn

Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem is  
hand sculpted and plated in shining  
silver with golden accents



Silver-plated base features raised  
bas-relief stars and the Semper Fidelis  
motto in golden lettering



Sentiment expresses the special honor  
and pride of being a USMC Family



Shown  
actual size  
of about  
6" H

## A TRIBUTE THAT GLEAMS WITH PRIDE

The United States Marines are the heroes of our nation and the pride of your family. Now, a hand-crafted treasure salutes the Semper Fi motto that your Marine and family are honored to live by. Presenting the *Proud USMC Family Musical Glitter Globe*. This musical exclusive shines with a sculptural Eagle, Globe and Anchor emblem plated in bright silver with golden accents, and surrounded by glitter and silvery stars. The silver-plated base features a banner with Semper Fidelis in golden lettering, raised bas-relief stars, and a sentiment expressing your family's USMC pride. It plays the melody of the Marines' Hymn, and includes a poem card.

*Strictly Limited... Order Today!*

It's perfect for yourself, your Marine, and any special military family. Strong demand is expected, so order now at \$69.99\*, payable in two installments of just \$34.99 each. Your purchase is backed by our 365-day guarantee. Send no money now. Simply complete and return the coupon today.

Proud supporter of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum Historical Society  
Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps.  
www.marines.com 1.800.marines

[www.bradfordexchange.com/23858](http://www.bradfordexchange.com/23858)

©2017 BGE  
01-23858-001-BD

PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE  
BRADFORD EXCHANGE  
-COLLECTIBLES-

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please accept my order for the *Proud USMC Family Musical Glitter Globe(s)*. Would you like more than one?  
Please check quantity desired.

☐ 1 Globe ☐ 2 Globes

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

01-23858-001-E50291

\*Plus a total of \$10.99 shipping and service per globe. Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 crafting days. Please allow 4-8 weeks for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.





COURTESY OF DAMIEN CREQUEAU



COURTESY OF FRED GREGURAS

**These then and now photos show a mansion in Shanghai, China, identified as the Gen Lu Compound used by 3d Bn, 4th Marines as Billet 10 from 1927-1934.**

street at the northeast corner of Maoming and Yan'an Roads, is still being used as a public school.

Fred Greguras  
Los Altos, Calif.

I noticed a couple of mentions in the March issue on MCAS Iwakuni that brought back some memories. In the fall of

1954, MWSG-17 was moved from Itami to Iwakuni Japan. When we arrived, we were billeted in the original two-story barracks buildings. They were in the shape of a square and the center, which was open, was almost like a formal Japanese garden.

The heads were on the lower level, the showers were in a separate building and the original big Japanese baths were

located in the center of the room and still functional. We thought we had died and gone to heaven. Alas, the powers that be decided the Marines did not need showers and the bath, so they had a crew start breaking them up and removing them.

Our group CO was rather tall and he hit his head on the door in the headquarters building so a crew came in and started

## Officer Professional Military Education

## Distance Education Program

Expeditionary Warfare School  
&  
Command and Staff College  
Enroll this summer for AY 2018  
Seminars start September 2017

Contact Your Regional Director [www.usmcu.edu/cdet](http://www.usmcu.edu/cdet) 1.888.4DL.USMC





increasing the headroom. At that time we were the only Marines on the base but there were also Navy personnel and a squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force. Each morning during colors, they would alternate between our national anthem and the Australian national anthem being played. The Aussies were a wild and crazy bunch. The U.N. flag was also raised.

We witnessed the turnover of some ancient/obsolete aircraft to the Japanese Defense Force. It might make an interesting article showing the transition from the facility at that time to the current facility. I always look forward to receiving my *Leatherneck* and have since 1953.

Sgt Daniel N. Colbert  
Fort Madison, Iowa

### Boondockers and Leggings

I much enjoyed the article by CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), "Marine Corps Combat Boots Have Come a Long Way Since 1775," [March issue]. I wore many of those boondockers during my 20 years of service.

On page 38 there is a photo of what Marines wore at the Chosin Reservoir, boondockers and leggings. That was a long time ago and my memory might be faulty, but I believe by the time we were at the Chosin Reservoir, the leggings had long since been discarded. My memory says that when the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landed in the Pusan Perimeter and gave the North Korean Army its first sound thrashing of the war, the Marines were quickly dubbed by the NKA as the "yellow legs," and their troops were advised to avoid them in a fight.

Shortly after the Inchon landing, we took off the leggings and turned them in. That's how I remember it, but as I say, that was a long time ago. Perhaps, we lost the leggings once we pulled on cold weather gear. No one at the Chosin Reservoir could have survived without getting frostbite wearing boondockers and leggings in that freezing cold.

I do know that after that, the leggings were gone for good for us. Perhaps someone else has a better memory and I don't mean to impugn CWO-4 Gaddo's research.

GySgt John Boring, USMC (Ret)  
Phoenix, Ariz.

In his great story about combat boots, Randy Gaddo completely ignored the most important boot I ever wore—"Mickey Mouse."

I went to Korea in December 1951, wearing shoe packs—leather uppers, rubber lowers. For the first few months my feet never froze, but they were never

[continued on page 64]

**STRION LED HL®**  
#74752  
500 LUMENS  
COMPACT,  
RECHARGEABLE  
HL®

**TLR-1 HL®**  
#69260  
800 LUMENS  
RAIL MOUNTED  
WEAPON LIGHT  
HL®

**SCORPION® HL**  
#85400  
725 LUMENS  
ENGINEERED  
RUBBER GRIP  
HL®

**POWER,  
PERFORMANCE  
and INCREDIBLE  
VALUE**

When the success of your mission depends on the intelligence you can gather or the room you're about to clear, you're not thinking about your flashlight's engineer. The one who's dedicated to technology innovations, whose field experience contributes to industry-specific product design and functionality, and whose keen ingenuity allows us to offer a premium product for the GREATEST VALUE.

In fact, you don't have to think about your flashlight at all. Because it's a STREAMLIGHT.

© 2017 Streamlight Inc.

 **STREAMLIGHT®**



# In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## **CAMP SOUMAGAHARA, JAPAN** **VMM-265 Brings Marines** **To the Fight During Forest Light**

Marines and Sailors from III Marine Expeditionary Force joined the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) for Exercise Forest Light 17-1 at Camp Soumagahara, Gunma, Japan, March 5-17. MV-22B Ospreys from Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 265, Marine Aircraft Group 36, First Marine Aircraft Wing supported the JGSDF and 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment during the exercise.

The ground combat element and air combat element regularly work together as part of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force, said Lieutenant Colonel Bryan Swenson, the VMM-265 commanding officer.

“Exercises like this are a great opportunity for us to not only support our ground combat element but also to work with our

allies in support of the JGSDF,” said Swenson.

VMM-265 was able to move a combined, battalion-size force in and out of the objective area and support fast rope and casualty evacuation drills during the exercise.

“The powerhouse of the Marine Corps is the MAGTF,” said Sergeant Matthew Bennett, a squad leader with 3d Platoon, Company G, 2/3. “The way the Marine Corps is able to project their power is through the Marine air-ground team.”

The primary role of VMM-265 was to provide logistical support for Forest Light by moving troops.

“Training with the aviation community greatly enhances our abilities,” said Bennett. “It gets us ready for the next war, next conflict or next humanitarian crisis that we may be called to.”

Exercise Forest Light allowed the

MAGTF to train and adapt to different weather conditions and terrain. The Marines who participated in the exercise are stationed at Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, and are accustomed to training in a warm and humid climate. The first things they encountered when they arrived in the Gunma Prefecture were snow and icing conditions, which created acclimation challenges for both the air and ground combat elements.

“The true power of the Marine Corps is its ability to use our air platforms, Marine organic close air support and Marine platforms to get them where they need to be,” said Bennett.

Forest Light is a routine, semiannual exercise conducted by U.S. and Japanese forces, designed to strengthen interoperability and combined capabilities in defense of the U.S.-Japanese alliance.

Cpl Kelsey Dornfeld, USMC



CPL KELSEY DORNFELD, USMC

**Supported by MV-22B Ospreys from VMM-265, U.S. Marines and Sailors work with JGSDF soldiers during casualty evacuation drills as part of Exercise Forest Light 17-1 at Camp Soumagahara, Gunma, Japan, March 9.**

## **CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.**

### **Active, Reserve Marines** **Train Together for SPMAGTF-SC**

Leathernecks with Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Southern Command began training at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 8, to prepare for their upcoming deployment to Central America.

The task force, made up of approximately 300 Marines from both active and reserve components, will deploy to Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras this summer to build upon security co-operation efforts and strengthen relationships in the region.

“The mission has to do with helping our allies and partners in Central America keep the peace within their borders,” said Colonel Michael V. Samarov, commander of SPMAGTF-SC 17.

To accomplish the mission, the Marines will participate in shoulder-to-shoulder training with partner militaries and conduct infrastructure improvement projects.

“The ground combat element is going to be the primary interface with the partner militaries,” Samarov said. “The secondary interface is the logistics combat element, who will develop relationships with governments and local communities through their improvement projects.”

The unit also has an expeditionary capability for crisis response or contingency operations in the area. Last year,





CPL MELISSA MARTENS, USMC

Cpl Steven Dejong, a field radio operator with SPMAGTF-SC, guides Sgt Travis Nichols, a cyber network operator with SPMAGTF-SC, in a movement to contact drill on a Table 5 short distance range during predeployment training at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., March 16.



CPL MELISSA MARTENS, USMC

Marines with SPMAGTF-SC assume brace positions as the Modular Amphibious Egress Trainer begins to submerge during underwater egress training at the Water Survival Training Facility, MCB Camp Lejeune, March 8. The training was conducted in preparation for an upcoming deployment to Central America.

SPMAGTF-SC 16 provided humanitarian assistance to Haiti in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew at the request of the Haitian government.

"Nobody hopes for a crisis response situation, but should it happen, the Marines will be the first on the ground," Samarov said. "I can't be more grateful to the Marines and Sailors who did this last year. They set a high standard for us. ... We are going to take the lessons they

learned to improve how we assemble the unit, how we prepare our equipment and how we train," he added.

With a force consisting primarily of reserve Marines who regularly train in different locations around the country, it was critical that they learned to train as a team at Camp Lejeune.

"We are from all across the United States and now we need to come together as one," said Sergeant Daniel Grant, a

motorman with SPMAGTF-SC 17. "We need to make sure our tactics are the same so that when we are training foreign militaries, we are all on the same page."

To build the necessary technical cohesion, the Marines conducted a variety of different training evolutions at Camp Lejeune, including rifle ranges, underwater egress and counter-improvised explosive device training. They also were slated to attend advanced schools designed to sharpen the skills they will need to accomplish the mission in Central America.

"Next month, we are going up to Fort Story, Va., to train with the Marine Corps Security Cooperation Group to learn how to be foreign advisors," said Grant during the March training. "Then we will come back to Camp Lejeune and train as a whole SPMAGTF."

The ultimate goal was to get every SPMAGTF-SC 17 Marine and Sailor, active or reserve, to the same level of proficiency.

"I want to train ourselves to the point where no one can tell the difference between the active and reserve Marines," Samarov said. "This is an opportunity for us to show the entire Marine Corps that we have a tremendous amount of capability within the [reserve]."

Sgt Ian Leones, USMC

## TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF.

### 1st Tanks Conducts Long-Range Movement

The Marines of 1st Tank Battalion conducted Exercise Desert March, moving approximately 400 kilometers between Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., and the U.S. Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., March 23-27.

"The purpose of the exercise was to test our ability to logistically support a long-range movement through two different installations," said Captain Adam Link, the assistant operations officer for 1st Tank Bn. "We conduct movements through the Combat Center and keep our skills sharp—the exercise also provides Marines an opportunity to navigate through unfamiliar terrain."

Two tank companies with approximately 90 vehicles participated in the exercise. While at Fort Irwin, Marines also conducted counter-improvised explosive device training and breaching and bridging operations.

"Moving to a new location gives us the opportunity to conduct training in a new environment," Link said.

The battalion used the five-day exercise as an opportunity to demonstrate how to best handle new situations and display their





CPL THOMAS MUDD, USMC

**An Assault Breacher Vehicle returns to MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., on the final day of Exercise Desert March, March 27. The exercise was designed to test the capabilities of 1st Tank Bn in handling a long-distance movement with logistical support.**

ability to overcome any problems they may encounter during long-range movements.

“This was a good test for the new Marines who don’t usually get to go on any long-range movements,” said Staff Sergeant Justin Waitman, a platoon sergeant with 1st Tank Bn. “The ability to just go somewhere different and add some unknowns to the equation for the Marines is a good way to see how well they would be able to adapt to their situation. They have done well in tackling the challenges that have been presented to them.”

Cpl Thomas Mudd, USMC

## OKINAWA, JAPAN

### Land and Sea: 31st MEU Conducts Amphibious Assault, Raid

Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted an amphibious assault during Amphibious Integration Training in the Central Training Area, Camp Hansen, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, March 15.

The purpose of the exercise was to hone the MEU’s amphibious assault capabilities.

**An AAV maneuvers across a beach during an amphibious assault exercise at Kushi Crossing, Camp Hansen, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, March 15. Waves of AAVs loaded with 31st MEU Marines disembarked USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD-6) and stormed Kushi Crossing.** (Photo by Cpl Jessica Collins, USMC)

“Amphibious integration training allows us to integrate with our Navy counterparts, practice our Rapid Response Planning Process and exercise our core crisis response capabilities,” said Colonel Tye R. Wallace, Commanding Officer, 31st MEU.

Waves of assault amphibious vehicles (AAVs) loaded with 31st MEU Marines disembarked USS *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD-6) and stormed Kushi Crossing

Beach. Once on land, the AAVs made their way to Combat Town, a village made of concrete and cinder blocks in the Central Training Area, where Marines train for urban operations. The Marines conducted a raid on the town, engaging enemies and seizing various intelligence and supplies.

According to Wallace, the island of Okinawa allows the MEU to conduct critical training that few other places can provide.

“Okinawa offers the MEU a unique training venue where we can practice all of our required missions—from combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief,” said Wallace.

Amphibious operations were one of the many scenarios the Marines of the 31st MEU performed during their spring deployment.

The spring deployment is a regularly scheduled deployment designed to support U.S. Pacific Command’s theater security cooperation initiatives to promote goodwill and strengthen allied relationships. The Marines and Sailors of the MEU embarked the amphibious ships of Expeditionary Strike Group 7 to conduct a routine patrol of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. They frequently conduct exercises with partner nations and provide stability to the Pacific region.

“Whether embarked on naval shipping or stationed ashore in Okinawa, the 31st MEU has long provided the U.S. with a balanced air-ground team capable of responding to crisis on extremely short notice,” said Wallace. “This capability brings stability to the region and sends signals to aggressors that the U.S. is willing and ready to defend its partners and national interests at a moment’s notice.”

Cpl Daniel Jean-Paul, USMC





During WTI 2-17, Marines with VMFA-211 prepare to conduct a hot load on a turning F-35B Lightning II at MCAS Yuma, Ariz., April 4.



CPL HARLEY ROBINSON, USMC

## YUMA, ARIZ.

### WTI Marines Conduct First GBU-32 "Hot Load" on F-35B

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211 with Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron (MAWTS) 1 conducted "hot loads" with the F-35B Lightning II during the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course (WTI) 2-17 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., April 4.

"A hot load is when the Marines are performing the loading evolution while the aircraft is turning," said Master Sergeant Jason Daniel, an ordnance chief with MAWTS-1. "This poses more challenges as far as communicating and just creating some chaos as far as noise and a lot of moving parts."

The hot load consisted of loading a Guided Bomb Unit (GBU) 12, an aerial laser-guided bomb, and the GBU-32, a GPS-guided bomb, which has never been hot loaded onto the F-35B before.

It ultimately takes five Marines during the loading process: two Marines to give direction, two Marines to manually move and insert the bomb, and a quality assurance safety observer Marine to ensure everything runs smoothly.

"We've loaded the GBU-12 before, but

this will be the first time doing it while the aircraft is turning," said Daniel. "This is the first time loading the GBU-32. There are hazards; the Marines are in close proximity to the intake. There is potential of someone getting hurt, but we've put a lot of time and effort into looking at those hazards and trying to minimize them."

The ability to hot load the F-35B, as opposed to shutting down the aircraft completely to load, helps minimize wear and tear on the aircraft. In a combat situation, performing a hot load would save time and reduce the chance of any aircraft failure opportunities, said Daniel.

"Hot loading is going to give us the advantage of minimizing maintenance hours, time on deck, and maximizing the capability of the F-35B," said Daniel. "Whenever the jet is turned off and back on, it puts more stress on a lot of parts in the aircraft and it increases the opportunity to fail. In a combat scenario this evolution would benefit us because the jet is already turning, the Marines can get in and get out, leaving no trace of them being there, making it harder for the enemy to locate them."

The hot load evolution is slowly being perfected, reducing safety risks, and is

on its way to being validated so it can be published and distributed throughout the Marine Corps to be taught at the squadron level at command discretion.

"VMFA-211 is stepping up to the plate to perform the tasks and getting their pilots trained and implementing the ideas and tactics that WTI has created," said Daniel. "With WTI, we have all the resources available to us. This is the one opportunity when all the aircraft are here dedicated to supporting WTI. We're able to execute and fully implement the hot load. Hot loading will most definitely enhance what we get out of the F-35B."

Hosted by MAWTS-1, WTI is a seven-week training evolution that provides standardized advanced and tactical training and certification of unit instructor qualifications to support Marine aviation training and readiness.

Cpl Harley Robinson, USMC

## PENSACOLA, FLA.

### Force Recon Marines Dive, Refine Tactics

Reserve Marines with 3d Force Reconnaissance Company, Fourth Marine Division, executed a day and night dive and ship-to-shore advancement operation



in Pensacola, Fla., March 22-23.

Diving operations are one of the methods used by recon Marines to infiltrate and access a coastline in order to provide forward observation and reconnaissance.

Over the course of a two-day training period, the Marines executed a series of training exercises in order to sustain and enhance their readiness and proficiency, review standard operating procedures and refine techniques and tactics for ship-to-shore operations.

The training days began with a detailed dive brief, which covered administrative procedures, schemes of maneuver for each training evolution, safety considerations and emergency procedures. The Marines began the training by preparing and equipping their gear and conducting equipment inspections before heading to the open water site.

Throughout the exercise, Marines focused on transitioning from small crafts to shore and completing the mission objective. They entered the water, linked up as a team, sub-surfaced and began navigating to the beach landing site. Upon reaching the shore, they exited the water together, maintained security and moved clandestinely, established an objective rally point, removed their diving gear and began moving toward their objective.

In preparation for the night training evolution, they conducted the same exercise multiple times during the day.

“Day dives are not something we generally do; they are usually not a real-world scenario,” said Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Lanier, a platoon sergeant with 3d Force Recon Co. “We mostly only use day dives for training in order to prepare for the nighttime.”

When planning and executing missions during a dive operations exercise, Marines strive to create missions in a scenario as realistic as possible. The difficulty of a mission increases drastically during the night due to limited visibility both above and under the water.

“When executing a mission in an open water environment, the divers must deal with several different challenging elements such as tides, currents, weather, unknown terrain and water temperature,” said Staff Sergeant Hunter Stafford, a dive chief with 3d Force Recon Co. “It really benefits the Marines to get somewhere that simulates what they may experience in a real-world scenario, should they ever have to execute these skills in a mission.”

With a very limited amount of time to execute operations and exercise, reserve Reconnaissance Marines must overcome the challenge of balancing their rigorous training with their life outside the Marine Corps as a civilian, explained Lanier.



SGT IAN FERRO, USMC

**Marines with 3d Force Recon Co enter the water during a ship-to-shore diving operation exercise in Pensacola, Fla., March 23. The training was designed to enhance the company's capability to conduct specialized insertion and extraction tasks.**



SGT IAN FERRO, USMC

**From the left, SSgt Daniel Franklin, SSgt Jamie Gill and Sgt George Williams exit the water during the ship-to-shore portion of their two-day dive training in Pensacola, Fla., March 23.**

Realistic scenarios help them meet the same standards that their active component counterparts are held to.

“All it takes to be a reconnaissance Marine is all you got,” said Lanier. “It takes a great deal of discipline, work ethic, will and pride.”

By the end of the day, the Marines accomplished all their missions. They left

the exercise with all the sustainment and skill sets required to perform up to the highest standards in the event they are called to augment an active-duty unit on deployment.

Sgt Ian Ferro, USMCR





**FREE**  
personalization!

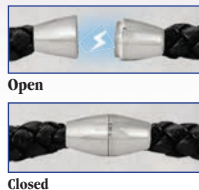
## DECLARE YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO THE MARINE CODE OF HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT



AVAILABLE IN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S!



Reverse side personalized with  
initials of your choice...  
**FREE!**  
along with USMC core values



Unique stainless steel  
**MAGNETIC** clasp makes  
it easy to open and close  
the bracelet

# USMC SEMPER FI

LEATHER ID BRACELET

IN GENUINE LEATHER  
AND SOLID STAINLESS STEEL

A FINE JEWELRY EXCLUSIVE FROM THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

### FOR THE DISTINGUISHED FEW

The few, the proud, the Marines. Whether active duty, retired, or one of the many that support them here at home, our proud U.S. Marines and the families and friends that support them remain always faithful—*Semper Fidelis*—to the noble principles of honor, courage and commitment. Now, you can show your pride in the Marine Corps and all it stands for with a new jewelry exclusive that makes a very personal statement—the “USMC Semper Fi” Leather ID Bracelet.

### A DISTINCTIVE STATEMENT

This bold design features a braided genuine leather bracelet, with a gleaming cylinder at the center in durable solid stainless steel showcasing a sculpted Marine Corps emblem of eagle, globe and anchor, and the Marine motto SEMPER FI. The reverse side of the cylinder is personalized with the 3 etched initials of your choice... at no extra cost, along with the

Marine corps values of HONOR COURAGE COMMITMENT. Two stainless steel and black enamel beads emblazoned with USMC frame the cylinder on each side, and ion-plated 24K-gold accents add to the dramatic effect. The Men's bracelet is sized at 8½" and the Women's is sized at 7". Both bracelets close with a stainless steel magnetic clasp, making it easy to put on or take off.

### SUPERB CRAFTSMANSHIP... EXCEPTIONAL VALUE

This custom-crafted bracelet is a remarkable value at \$89\*, payable in 4 convenient installments of just \$22.25 and is backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. It arrives in a jewelry pouch and gift box along with a Certificate of Authenticity. To reserve yours, send no money now; just mail the Priority Reservation. This limited-time offer is only available from The Bradford Exchange. So don't delay... Order today!

™ Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps.  
©2016 The Bradford Exchange 01-20544-001-BIR2

[www.bradfordexchange.com/20544](http://www.bradfordexchange.com/20544)



#### LIMITED-TIME OFFER

*Reservations will be accepted on a  
first-come, first-served basis.  
Respond as soon as possible to  
reserve your bracelet.*

\*Plus \$9.98 shipping and  
service. Please allow 4-6 weeks  
after initial payment for shipment  
of your jewelry. Sales subject  
to product availability and order  
acceptance.

#### PRIORITY RESERVATION

#### SEND NO MONEY NOW

**THE  
BRADFORD EXCHANGE  
JEWELRY**

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the “USMC Semper Fi” Leather ID  
Bracelet for me, as described in this announcement,  
with the initials indicated in the boxes below.

☐ Men's 01-20544-001

☐ Women's 01-24509-001

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Mr. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**01-20544-001-E50203**



## SEA STORY OF THE MONTH

### The Best Part Of the Evening

In 1974 I was transferred from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., to Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps for duty. During the Sunset Parade season a very good friend of mine, Master Gunnery Sergeant Don Caldwell, asked if I had Dress Whites. I told him that I did and asked him why he wanted to know. He told me he was just curious, but knowing Don, it made me nervous.

I received a formal invitation to the Sunset Parade a few days later which included drinks and hors d'oeuvres at the Home of the Commandants. Now I understood Don's question about Dress Whites, the uniform of the day for guests.

Knowing ahead of time that parking would be available at the Navy Yard with bus transportation to "8th and I," my wife and I drove to the Navy Yard and parked. After reviewing the parade, we were standing on the corner waiting for the bus back to the Navy Yard. We were there approximately 20 minutes and still no bus.

The colonel standing next to me turned to his wife and explained that the buses were busy down the street and asked if she wanted to walk back to their car at the Navy Yard. She indicated that it would be fine with her. Then the colonel turned to us and asked if we would like to walk with them. We agreed, and when we reached the other side of the street, the colonel turned to us, stuck out his hand to shake my hand and identified himself as John

Glenn and introduced his wife. We continued walking and talked the whole way.

I was totally amazed, although I cannot remember what we talked about. I was very impressed with the evening at the Home of the Commandants and the parade, but the best part of that evening was when my wife and I met this great man and his wife, Colonel and Mrs. John Glenn.

Capt Lloyd L. Loy  
USMC (Ret)  
Alexandria, Va.

### The Bugler

*Marine Barracks,  
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba,  
1949, 0715.*

Colonel Burger, the commanding officer, called the sergeant of the guard and told him to have the bugler report to him at his office. The bugler put on the uniform of the day, grabbed his bugle and took off for the headquarters building.

Ten minutes later the bugler returned to the guard barracks, and although he was told not to mention it to anyone, he passed the word around that the colonel had asked him if he knew "Fire Call."

The platoon on guard duty that day was notified by the commander of the guard with instructions that when "Fire" was called, we were to stay in the barracks for about one minute so that it would appear that we had not been informed as to what was about to happen.

At the guard barracks two trucks were always on the ready for emergencies and used to post and relieve the watch throughout the base.

The bugler entered the headquarters building and reported to the CO. Everyone was ready, looking out the windows. Out came the bugler, marched up to

the flag pole and blew his bugle. We were all ready to jump on the truck and do whatever was required at the fire drill.

The commander of the guard kept saying, "Not yet, not yet." After one very long minute, he said "Go!" and we ran to the truck, with rifles, belts and canteens.

The colonel marched out to the bugler and told him to tell the commander of the guard that he had just bugled "Church Call" instead of "Fire Call," but since everyone was so anxious to get on the truck, the truck could take them down to the chapel.

All went except for the bugler and the color guard detail that had to be there for the raising of the colors at 0800.

Manuel Statini  
USMC (Ret)  
Scottsdale, Ariz.

### I Thought My Buddies Were Up to No Good

In 1966 I finished Field Radio School and was ordered to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., to join a battalion preparing for a November Med cruise.

After reporting into the comm section, I was the recipient of the typical warm welcome reserved for us boots; a first week spent requisitioning supply companies all over the base for, among other nonsensical things, variations on the infamous "coaxial cable stretcher."

For my first job and chance to escape being everyone's favorite entertainment, I was sent out early to man one of two towers bracketing the Inland Waterway where Cherry Point pilots did strafing runs. I was to notify the proper authority if any vessel sailed into the danger

zone. A successful outing was when nothing went up in flames on our watch.

Late in the afternoon, the other tower and I were notified by radio that runs had shut down for the day and that someone would arrive to pick us up soon. I replied, "10-4, I copy, soon."

Daylight faded to dense black, with me still in the tower awaiting the arrival of "soon." I saw a light, if only momentarily, over by some trees. Then I saw another and then three more. Just flashes, mind you, but enough for me to suspect that my comm buddies were up to no good. It was beginning to look like scaring the new guy was on the night's training agenda.

Quickly, I jacked myself up to repel anyone sneaking up the ladder to my perch.

Then I realized I was being formally introduced to other, even stealthier inhabitants. I laughed out loud when it was clear these were just fireflies. You can rest assured this story wasn't shared with any of those characters.

Michael P. Walsh  
Chicago, Ill.

### Improvise, Adapt and Overcome

While serving in Company B, 3d Amtrac Bn, in 1958, four of us were drinking beer on the second deck in the passageway of our barracks. Unbeknownst to us, a new second lieutenant who was sleeping in a nearby room had been awoken by the talking we were doing.

I went to make a head call and threw my beer can in the trash in the head. When I returned, the lieutenant was writing up my buddies for drinking in the barracks.

I observed the situation, stopped where the lieutenant



was standing, and said, "By your leave, sir." He answered, "Carry on."

My buddies lost a stripe at office hours. My drill instructor, Staff Sergeant Enos Garcia, had taught me to improvise, adapt and overcome two years earlier at MCRD San Diego!

Cpl Harlan Miller  
USMC, 1956-59  
Mansfield, Ohio

### What's in the Kool-Aid?

In February 1967 I arrived in Da Nang, Vietnam and was in transit to my unit, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines. I was pulled out of transit in Chu Lai and given temporary duty with the 2d Service Bn to work in the officers' mess.

There were three of us, two Marines and a Sailor. Duty really wasn't that bad as we had plenty of time for ourselves. Perhaps, too much time.

I had arrived a couple of weeks before the milk reconstitution plant was up and running so the only

on pins and needles waiting for some officer to dress us down because of the horrible drink. But, to our amazement, we had several officers compliment our concoction saying it was the best Kool-Aid they ever had. Go figure. We never divulged our recipe; in fact, we probably could not have duplicated it.

For those wondering, there were only four differences between what was served the officers and what was served to the enlisted: presentation, choice of how their eggs were cooked, choice of how their steaks were cooked, and of course, the "special" Kool-Aid.

Sgt Kenneth L. Fields  
Columbia, Mo.

### College Education?

I was a crew chief assigned to one of the helicopter squadrons stationed on Okinawa, Japan during the early 2000s. Before arriving on the island I purchased a hand-held GPS (Global Positioning System) for my own use. Whenever I went anywhere I would mark my position for no reason other than my amusement.

One day the squadron had to fly one of our helicopters up to the mainland of Japan for maintenance. It would take a few days to fly there, and we would have to refuel numerous times and stay overnight at another base on the mainland while on the trip. We set out from Okinawa with an aerial observer, two pilots and me.

One of the pilots had plenty of experience but the other was a brand new pilot straight out of flight school. The new pilot couldn't have been on the island for more than a month.

As we flew along our route, I marked items of interest on my GPS. I made a mark at every fuel stop and cool-looking building or temple. I would make a mark on anything that I wanted to look up later.

The new pilot came up to me at one of the fuel stops while I had out the GPS. He watched me use it and asked me where I got it and how much it cost—the usual small-talk questions.

The last thing he said was what got me. He said, "I didn't know those GPS things worked over here." I asked him what he meant. He said that he didn't know that the GPS would work in Japan since I had bought it in the U.S.

I said to him, "Well it is a Global Positioning System." His reply, "Well I didn't think it could translate it to English."

And that is what you get with a college education.

GySgt Joseph Fijalkowski  
USMC (Ret)  
Fredericksburg, Va.

### Who in the World Has a Name Like That?

I served with the Marine Security Detachment at EXPO '67 in Montreal, Canada. Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps ordered a reduction in staff in early October as the World's Fair was ending so five of us returned to Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., for reprocessing back to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. When we arrived on Wednesday we were told, "You people aren't supposed to be here until Monday."

Frantic planning began of how each of us could get home for the weekend. While others contemplated the cost of travel, I put forth my best "adapt and overcome" effort.

I knew a Marine stationed at "8th and I," Corporal Schanapy, who happened to be on duty. I asked him to call Andrews Air Force Base to see if there was a flight headed to Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio, where I needed to get to. A flight was leaving in two hours so it was going to be a challenge to get there in time. Relaying that dilemma to the corporal, he called

motor pool requesting a car to take me to Andrews. When the driver arrived, he wanted authorization, and the corporal said he would take care of it.

I realized I would need an out-of-bounds pass to board the flight, and the good corporal said, "No problem." Soon, he came out of an office with a pass signed by Captain R. Christmas. I told him a forged document would land me in the brig—who in the world has a last name of Christmas?

Inviting me to follow him into the office, which was empty, there on the desk was the nameplate: Captain Ron Christmas. I boarded the flight with no problems.

In 2009, I took my 17-year-old grandson, Zach, to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. I was telling him this story as we got onto the elevator. When the door opened, there stood none other than Lieutenant General Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret). I exited with, "Good morning, general." He rendered a polite response. I could not help but think the general was asking himself, "Who the hell was that?"

Jon Johnson  
Sidney, Ohio

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



**During the meal  
we were on pins and  
needles waiting for  
some officer to dress  
us down because of  
the horrible drink.**

things we could serve to drink was either powdered milk or Kool-Aid, the drink of choice.

We decided to "spice" things up. While we were mixing that day's lunch Kool-Aid in a 20-gallon vat, we started adding our own ingredients: salt, pepper, vinegar, ketchup, pickle juice, hot sauce and several other items we had around.

There was nothing added that wasn't edible; you just didn't want to have it in your Kool-Aid.

During the meal we were



Marines from LCpl Robert “Trey” Lemont’s squad search villagers in Garmsir District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan.



CPL COBY BROWN, USMC

# Squad Leaders in Afghanistan

## The Lance Corporals Who Brought Their Marines Home

By Aaron Ferencik

The day he became an infantry squad leader, Lance Corporal Felix Davila had already been blown up once.

He'd been driving a John Deere Gator on a resupply mission for the tiny, squad-size patrol base the grunts of the first squad from Third Platoon, First Battalion, 3d Marine Regiment called home. The day's mission: acquire fuel for the dust-covered generator at Patrol Base (PB) Styx. Unfortunately, they had been given wrong information; the fuel did not exist. They were forced to return on the same road, empty-handed. For Marines who always patrolled on foot and never took the same route twice, this was exceptionally dangerous—but unavoidable.

On the way home, the Gator triggered an improvised explosive device (IED) that was buried in an embankment on the side of the road. The blast threw Davila from the vehicle and rendered him unconscious.

Hasty emplacement meant the bomb only exploded partially which saved Davila's life. When he regained consciousness, he ran quickly away from the Gator, then back to the vehicle to grab his M16A4 rifle, then back off of the road. Despite a bruised arm and an awful headache, he counted himself combat-effective—and lucky—and refused medical evacuation. And when the squad realized the Gator could still run, he volunteered to drive it back despite the danger.

Corporal Nick Ott, the squad leader, overruled Davila and took the driver's seat. Ott, from Manchester, N.J., had joined the unit after Davila's first deployment to Afghanistan. Fresh from Marine Corps Security Forces Regiment, he lacked specialized experience patrolling in Helmand Province but had quickly proven himself a capable and competent leader and earned Davila's respect—something the Chicago native did not hand out freely.

As the squad proceeded along the side of

the road, they tried their best to find IEDs. They scraped for wires. They sent out the counter-IED dog. They were protected by man-carried electronic countermeasure (ECM) packs that blocked all radio signals except their own.

But despite their best efforts, Cpl Ott still drove over a pressure plate, which completed a circuit from a battery pack to an electric blasting cap and detonated a massive explosive device directly underneath the vehicle. The engine block flew into the air, landing far from the road. The gas tank shot out of the side and struck a Marine, injuring him badly. In the explosion, Ott was thrown in the air and disappeared from view. Davila found him a good distance from the blast site. The squad's corpsman worked to save his life, but in this case, nothing could be done.

When the medevacs were completed, Davila took the quiet, subdued squad back to base. And from that point forward, although he was less than three years into



**LCpl Felix Davila, top, and a member of his squad from Charlie Co, 1/3 aboard a John Deere Gator during one of the many patrols they conducted while deployed to Afghanistan in 2011.**

his enlistment and had only achieved the grade of lance corporal, he fell into a role of immense responsibility: the infantry squad leader.

### **The Right Marines for the Job**

In the Marine Corps, the billet of squad leader usually is filled by an infantry Marine with the grade of E-5—sergeant.

The squad leader oversees three fire teams consisting of four Marines each: a fire team leader, a Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW) gunner, an assistant SAW gunner and a point man. Attachments to the squad might be permanent, like mortarmen, assaultmen and machine gunners, or temporary, such as snipers, partnered forces and female engagement teams.

In Helmand Province, Afghanistan, squads could be tasked to bring along unarmed reporters, diplomats, interpreters, Afghan government officials, and even archaeologists, meaning there could be 20 lives in a squad leader's care on patrols.

In April of 2011, "Charlie" Company, 1st Bn, 3d Marines, deployed to Garmsir District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan with five lance corporal squad leaders, who were paid the E-3 salary of \$1,886 dollars a month and still treated like junior enlisted by some NCOs.

At the time, Second Lieutenant Nathan Fukuwa was very surprised and uneasy about the "huge shortage" of noncommissioned officers throughout 1/3. His own platoon contained very few corporals and one sergeant, who later became the platoon sergeant. He determined that the corporals he did have were not suited to lead Marines in combat. He found himself relying on the experience of lance corporals, whom he considered the "backbone" of the battalion.

Because of sky-high cutting scores and a lack of meritorious promotion boards, the bulk of Charlie Co's workforce consisted of E-3s and below, each with between two and three years of experience in the Marine Corps.

A uniquely qualified group, the "Lava Dogs" of 1/3 had endured back-to-back-to-back deployments since 2004, and the lance corporals who led squads in Garmsir in 2011 already had at least one deployment to Afghanistan under their belts. This experience would prove invaluable in the months to come.



RICARDO VENCES



RICARDO VENCES

**LCpl Davila plays with local Afghan children in the Garmsir District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Despite their junior grades, the lance corporal squad leaders of 1/3 personified the "strategic corporal" concept and successfully engaged both enemy forces and the local populace during their deployment.**





CPL COBY BROWN, USMC

## LCpl Lemont

LCpl Robert “Trey” Lemont always knew he wanted to be a Marine. He was raised primarily by his father in the small, rural town of Mansfield, Ind. He played football only until his freshman year of high school, then lifted weights religiously.

His father taught him one simple, valuable lesson: always do the right thing. He would live by this mantra during his time in the Marine Corps, and the idea of doing the right thing—not the easy thing—became a core tenet of his leadership philosophy.

Lemont was short, but among the most athletic and muscular Marines in the company. Known for his bodybuilder’s physique and no-nonsense attitude, he was soft-spoken for a Marine and rarely yelled at his subordinates.

During his first deployment, he became

**LCpl Lemont, right, was one of several lance corporal squad leaders in Charlie Company, 1/3 during its 2011 deployment to Afghanistan.**



CPL COBY BROWN, USMC

a fire team leader when a senior Marine experienced a family emergency. With an eye to the next deployment, his leadership gave him an early slot to Infantry Squad Leader’s Course (ISLC). Upon graduating, he led a fire team and then a squad in training.

In April 2011, he and other squad leaders traveled in advance to Garmsir District, Helmand Province, to shadow 2d Bn, 1st Marines, the unit they would be relieving. He learned that his squad would have the responsibility of securing the massive, bustling Safaar Bazaar.

For better or for worse, he would be based at Charlie Co’s headquarters: Command Outpost Rankel (COP).

His location came both with benefits and inconveniences. On the one hand, he was bunked next to the company staff, including the first sergeant, and as such, all of his actions were subject to scrutiny and possible micromanagement.

On the other hand, he and his squad would have access to comforts he had not enjoyed on his previous deployment:



**Left: LCpl Lemont and his squad were responsible for patrolling the large Safaar Bazaar in the Garmsir District.**

**Below: Lemont and his fellow lance corporal squad leaders had at least one previous deployment to Afghanistan and their experience and knowledge of the Afghan people was especially beneficial when dealing with local elders and merchants.**



CPL COBY BROWN, USMC

a gym with real barbells, a freezer full of cold water and energy drinks, hot meals, and access to the internet.

Even with these amenities, Lemont strove to avoid complacency. COP Rankel was nice, but he knew that outside of its dirt-filled HESCO walls lay the same canal-ridden countryside where the previous battalion had found 400 IEDs.

### LCpl Miller

While some squads operated out of larger company or platoon-sized bases, others patrolled from squad-sized positions that were often little more than a wall of dirt-filled HESCO barriers surrounding a tent. LCpl Doug Miller of upstate New York ran one such remote outpost: PB Amboy, located south of COP Rankel.

There, the 21-year-old planned patrols, coordinated resupplies and mentored Afghan National Army forces. In the sweltering heat, he wrote orders for two-a-day patrols. On these long, hot walks through blooming red-white poppy fields, LCpl Miller met with Pashtun elders two or three times his age. To them, he was the face of the American government, its sole representative to men who had fought Soviets as mujahedeen in the 1980s and now looked at the American forces skeptically.

It was perhaps a mixture of talent, leadership ability and lineage that set Miller apart as a lance corporal squad leader. He could trace his family tree back to the pilgrims of the *Mayflower*, and a member of his family had fought in every

major American war since the Revolutionary War.

He ran track and boxed in high school specifically to prepare himself for the Marine Corps, and more so, for the ultimate proving ground for young men of all eras: war.

These three Marines came from different backgrounds but shared similar intrinsic qualities essential to an infantry leader. They were some of the most

physically fit Marines in the company, the kind that would take a lagging grunt's rucksack and carry it while he recovered. They were outspoken, often calling out their peers for poor performance. And they were motivated by the very real threat of being under a poor leader in combat—or getting someone killed for their mistakes.

Though they operated from outposts miles apart, they faced similar dangers from IEDs. They walked single-file with the point man sweeping the path ahead with a metal detector in a practiced rhythm. The next man was usually a fire team leader with a “Holley Stick” or “sickle,” a 6-foot-long bamboo pole tipped with a dulled farmer's sickle blade. The tool, which was used to scrape the ground for wires and other components, was named after the late explosive ordnance disposal team leader Gunnery Sergeant Floyd Holley, who invented it during his deployment to Garmsir with 3/1. The squad would bring along Thor or Guardian man-carried electronic countermeasure packs to block radio-controlled IEDs, and, as a final confirmation measure, an IED-defeat dog.

These lance corporals, leading squads of other lance corporals, were entrusted with the immense responsibility of fighting complacency; they ensured men never slept on post and that the squad took the most difficult route on patrol. Yet even going off the beaten path was no guarantee of safety. On one moonless night, LCpl Miller's point man's metal detector pinged in the middle of a poppy field far from any goat path or road. When an EOD Marine pulled up the bomb, he realized that the



COURTESY OF LCPL DOUG MILLER, USMC

**LCpl Doug Miller, left, and his squad, operated from PB Amboy, a remote outpost south of COP Rankel, named for Sgt John K. Rankel, a Marine who was killed in action June 7, 2010.**



**LCpl Doug Miller's deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011 continued his family's legacy of service; a member of his family has served in every war in American history.**

point man had been mere inches from detonating it.

The center of gravity in counterinsurgency warfare is the populace. For the Marines of Garmsir, it meant being warfighters and diplomats alike. It also meant that lance corporals were forced to make tactical decisions with strategic consequences.

When Felix Davila's squad found a pressure-plate IED on a road near the base, they did so on a walk-in tip from an Afghan villager, who had felt comfortable enough with the Marines to come straight to the patrol base. Then, after EOD prepped the bomb for a controlled detonation, the squad spotted a car driving straight toward the IED—and stopped it just in time to avoid being blown to pieces.

Not every major accomplishment involved bombs, however. LCpl Lemont fell into the role of “little mayor” of the Safaar Bazaar, a title he earned by building relationships with shopkeepers in the busiest market in Garmsir. Thousands of merchants and buyers flocked to the



COURTESY OF LCPL DOUG MILLER, USMC

bazaar on Tuesdays. Lemont and his squad would meander among the peddlers of pirated DVDs and the rice vendors and converse through a translator. They might talk about the Taliban, but more often the weather or the Afghan's family.

His day-to-day duties far eclipsed the warfighter title of infantryman and bridged

into civil affairs. He organized the distribution of soccer balls to Afghan children and when he realized they had nowhere to play, he proposed to his leadership the idea of building a soccer field near the bazaar. Children and adults flocked to the field after it was completed. The lance corporal's idea was a resounding success.

### **Meritorious Corporals**

Davila, Lemont and Miller were each promoted to corporal meritoriously during the latter half of the deployment, although none of them reenlisted. Because of their upbringings, personalities and the leadership-from-day-one culture of the Marine Corps, they were able to take control of remote bases and make life-or-death decisions in austere conditions.

These lance corporals proved that merit and capability were more valuable than grade—and, most importantly, they brought their Marines home alive.

*Author's bio: Aaron Ferencik is a former Marine Corps infantry assaultman who deployed twice to Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He is a graduate of the University of Colorado, where he studied international relations and Arabic. He lives in Maryland.*



COURTESY OF LCPL DOUG MILLER, USMC

**Patrol Base Amboy was located in a remote area of Helmand Province, Afghanistan. LCpl Miller and his Marines conducted patrols in the sweltering summer heat throughout their 2011 deployment.**



# DEVIL DOGS

## USMC Men's Jacket

A CUSTOM CRAFTED EXCLUSIVE  
FROM THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE



AVAILABLE IN  
5 MEN'S SIZES M TO XXXL

## UNLEASH THE SPIRIT OF THE USMC!

A common nickname for Marines of any age, "Devil Dogs," is a noble title of honor among The Few and The Proud. Now you can continue the rugged strength of Bulldog greatness, and the always faithful spirit of the Marine Corps, in bold style that will endure with our "Devil Dogs" USMC Men's Jacket, available only from The Bradford Exchange.

Our exclusive navy blue nylon jacket commands attention with an appliqué patch of the famous USMC Bulldog mascot on the back. A patriotic themed banner is embroidered with "UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS," and further accented with stars. USMC proudly stands out in red letters on the back of the collar. The front displays an appliqué patch of the Marine Corps emblem of eagle, globe and anchor that's embroidered with the USMC motto, "SEMPER PARATI" (Always Faithful). To complete the look of Marine pride, an American flag patch adorns the left sleeve.

The custom styling includes a front-zip closure, adjustable snap cuffs, two side slip pockets, knit hem, and comfortable mesh lining in red with interior pockets.

### EXCEPTIONAL VALUE... SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

With its custom design and quality craftsmanship, this stylish jacket is a remarkable value at \$149.95\*, payable in four easy installments of \$37.49 each. Your purchase is backed by our unconditional, 30-day guarantee. To order yours in 5 men's sizes, M-XXXL, send no money now; just return the Priority Reservation. Don't delay... order today!

[www.bradfordexchange.com/devildogsjacket](http://www.bradfordexchange.com/devildogsjacket)

©Officially Licensed Product of the United States Marine Corps  
©2017 The Bradford Exchange 01-26700-001-BIB

#### PRIORITY RESERVATION

#### SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE  
BRADFORD EXCHANGE  
- APPAREL & ACCESSORIES -

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the "Devil Dogs" USMC Men's Jacket for me as described in this announcement in the size indicated.

- ☐ Medium (38-40) 01-26700-011 ☐ XXL (50-52) 01-26700-014  
☐ Large (42-44) 01-26700-012 ☐ XXXL (54-56) 01-26700-015  
☐ XL (46-48) 01-26700-013

\*Plus a total of \$15.99 shipping and service. Please allow 6-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. All sales are subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Mr. Ms. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

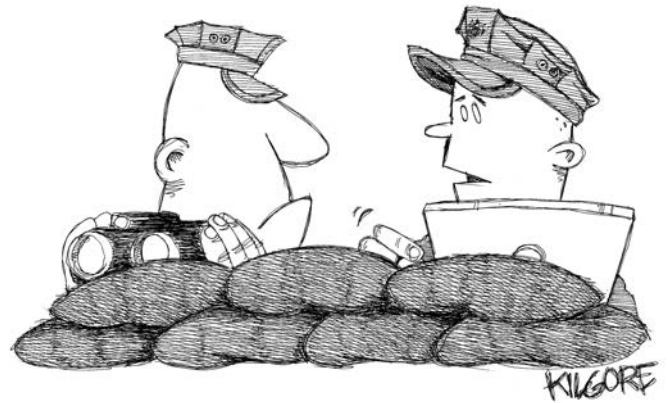
E50201



# Leatherneck Laffs



"My family gave me a Kevlar vest to go with the tie they got me for Father's Day."

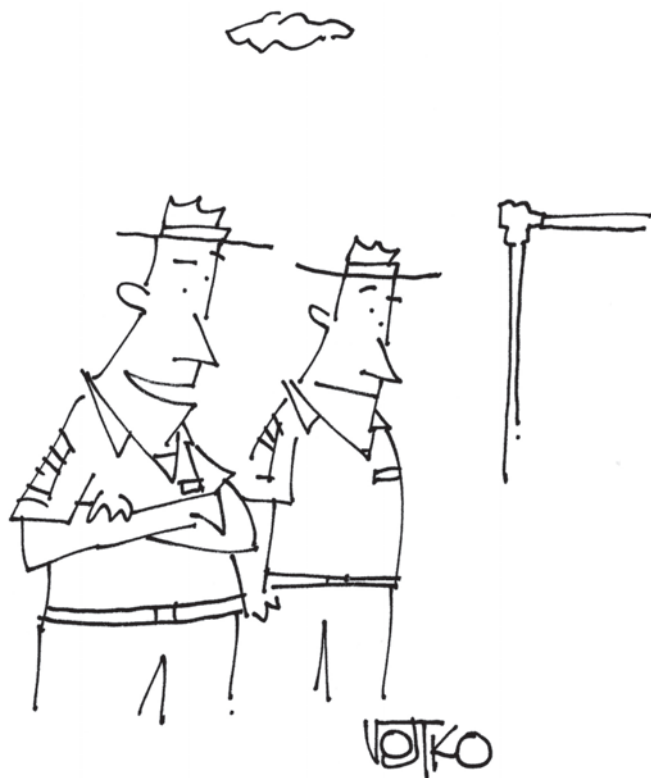


"Hey, Gunny, want to friend me on Facebook?"

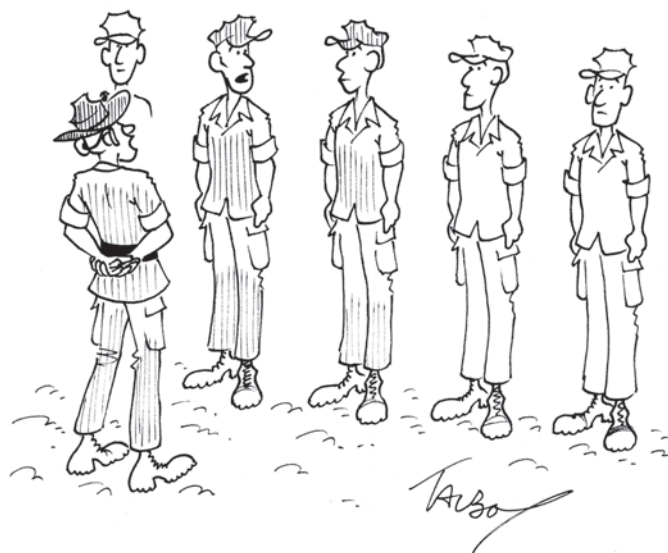


"We're really lost. I haven't seen a Starbucks in over an hour."





"Notice how fast they go through the obstacle course when it's near the chow line?"



"I've discovered I have less anxiety if I just do what he tells me."



"We passed inspection and Gunny even gave us his version of the Good Housekeeping seal."

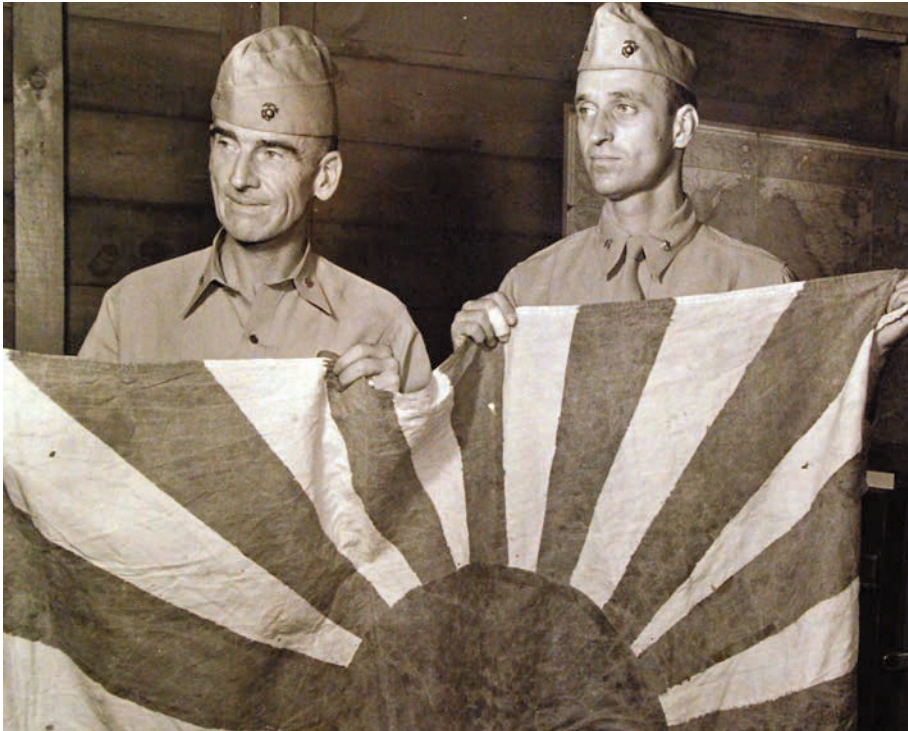


"They're Osprey student pilots."



# The Forgotten Marine

## The Legacy of James Roosevelt, Marine Corps Innovator And Navy Cross Recipient



**LtCol Evans F. Carlson, left, and Maj James Roosevelt hold a Japanese flag taken from the Japanese headquarters after the raid on Makin.**

By LCpl Evan F. Weiss, USMC

*Editor's note: The following article is the first-place winner of the Leatherneck Writing Contest. Maj Richard A. "Rick" Stewart, USMC (Ret) sponsored the contest, which is open to enlisted Marines, through the Marine Corps Association and Foundation. Upcoming issues of Leatherneck will feature the second- and third-place winners as well as other submissions.*

**B**espectacled, lanky, balding and flat-footed, he certainly did not convey the image of a fighting man, let alone that of a United States Marine. Then again, he was no average Marine. He was the son of the President of the United States.

James Roosevelt, the oldest of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's four boys, joined the Marine Corps in 1936 under rather ignominious circumstances. Having been

given a lieutenant colonel's commission—no doubt arranged by his father—Roosevelt at first avoided the rigorous training and indoctrination that officer candidates were required to undergo, much to the quiet outrage of his fellow Marines.

Roosevelt felt overwhelmed as an untested lieutenant colonel in the world's most elite fighting force, later reflecting, "I was totally out of my depth. I didn't know what I was doing." So out of his depth was he that three years later, Roosevelt resigned his "honorary" commission and joined the Marine Corps Reserve at the lower and more fitting grade of captain. Given his inauspicious beginnings, it is no surprise that his command viewed Roosevelt as a Marine "in name only."

History must forgive these critics as nobody could have imagined that the awkward and oft-underachieving Roosevelt would go on to play a central role in the development of one of the nation's

first special forces battalion—the Marine Raiders—while being awarded a Navy Cross for valor during the famed raid on the Makin Atoll.

Like so many other Americans, the turning point in Roosevelt's life and career came when the Japanese empire attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Anticipating a large-scale war, Roosevelt immediately sought the influence of his father. Only he was not looking to avoid the impending conflict; on the contrary, Roosevelt demanded his father's assistance in order to obtain a combat billet.

No doubt reminded of his son's lackluster academic performance and unremarkable foray into the business world—despite amassing moderate wealth in the insurance industry, James became mired in controversy when accusations arose that he used his official White House position to acquire clients for his private firm—President Roosevelt likely questioned James' judgment and abilities. He admired his son's desire to fight but understandably wanted to do all that he could to protect him from harm.

The President reasoned that James would be an ideal counterpart to Major Evans F. Carlson, who was tasked with forming small, specialized units of Marines to gather intelligence on the Japanese army and execute small offensive operations aimed at disrupting the enemy and boosting American morale. In his role as Maj Carlson's executive officer, James would lend political credibility to Carlson's attempt to advance a style of warfare that was, at the time, unfamiliar and off-putting to many of the Marine Corps senior leaders.

Meanwhile, Carlson—who had become a close and trusted friend of President Roosevelt while leading a detachment of Marines assigned to the White House—would keep a watchful eye on the President's oldest son.

If history has downplayed the role that Evans Carlson played in essentially designing the military's modern-day special forces model, it has all but omitted Roosevelt's involvement in the process. Perhaps no document was more important



to the creation of the first Marine Raider battalion, originally referred to as “Carlson’s Raiders,” than a January 1942 memo penned by James Roosevelt to the leadership of the Marine Corps entitled “Development within the Marine Corps of a Unit for Purposes Similar to the British Commandos and the Chinese Guerillas.”

In his influential treatise, Roosevelt advocated “an outfit based on Carlson’s observations of the Communist Eighth Route Army’s notion of ethical indoctrination, which called for a policy of close relationships between officers and men, elimination of class distinctions, and full sharing of information to all ranks,” according to Carlson biographer Duane P. Schultz. “It also proposed to do away with military titles; the only distinction being that between leaders and fighters.”

Unquestionably the ideas conveyed in the memo were Carlson’s, but Roosevelt’s enthusiasm for the mission and his understanding of Carlson’s methods and influences enabled him to persuade the reluctant Marine Corps leadership to authorize the controversial plan. To be sure, it helped their efforts that the pro-



USAF

**Above: LtCol Roosevelt, center, stops off at Funafuti, Ellice Islands, on his trip back from Makin Atoll.**

**Below: Col James Roosevelt (in white uniform), his father, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Governor-General Murchison review the constabulary at the Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 11, 1936, as part of President Roosevelt’s “Good Neighbor” cruise to South America. (Photo courtesy of Naval History and Heritage Command)**





posals were written by the President's son, but absent such a cogent synthesis of Carlson's experiences with the Chinese Communist Army and British Special Forces, the inception of the Marine Raiders might have been stalled, or even worse, thwarted, by the conservative Marine Corps command.

As a testament to James Roosevelt's growing competence as a military leader, Carlson trusted him with more than just the "politics" of their mission. In fact, Roosevelt was intimately involved in selecting the 1,000 Marines who would comprise Carlson's Raiders. Moreover, in Schultz's words, the physically unimposing Roosevelt surprisingly "kept up the pace" with the other Raiders during their grueling training activities, which included a 35-mile hike two times per week and a 70-mile nighttime trek once per week, all on a near-starvation diet of raisins and rice. Among those who knew him best, Roosevelt dispelled the perception that he

was a Marine "in name only," having earned the respect, even the admiration, of many of the Corps' most elite warriors.

Surely then, James Roosevelt was justified in his outrage when he learned that the military brass planned to exclude him from the Raiders' first combat mission for fear of a propaganda nightmare if he were to be killed or captured. Upon receiving this news, Roosevelt again petitioned the help of his father, who agreed that his son deserved to fight with Carlson and the newly formed Raider battalion, no matter the risk. According to Schultz, one very stern call by President Roosevelt to Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, was enough to ensure that Roosevelt would be included in the now-legendary raid on the strategically significant Makin Atoll.

The initial assault on Makin was designed primarily to gather intelligence on Japanese forces while distracting the enemy

from the planned invasion of Guadalcanal. It would represent many firsts for the United States military: the first American offensive of the Pacific war; the first official use of an American Special Forces unit; the first employment of motorized rubber boats for amphibious insertion; and, without question, the first time the son of a sitting U.S. President would enter a combat zone as an infantry officer.

In an intimate exchange with his mother shortly before the mission, Roosevelt revealed his motivation for participating in the raid even though he could have honorably avoided combat. He lamented his deteriorating physical condition—including a lifelong gastrointestinal problem that required a portion of his stomach be removed which would have precluded anyone else from service—but avoided characterizing his ailments as a disadvantage. To Roosevelt, his failing health was a measure of his worthiness as a Marine. He explained, "When this next job is done, at least inside I'll feel I have stood the test of making it no matter what the odds."

Indeed, efforts were made to ensure that the President's son was insulated from the extremely close combat and guerrilla-style warfare that took place during the nearly two-day raid. While most of Carlson's Raiders directly assaulted the enemy force of around 200 Japanese soldiers, Roosevelt was tasked with managing the combat center, including maintaining communication with the submarines from which they had disembarked a few miles off the coast of the island and providing Carlson with regular battlefield updates.

Still, as Schultz puts it, "Nowhere on Makin was safe." In fact, so exposed was the shack from which Roosevelt directed operations that several times it was fired upon by snipers and machine gunners. Roosevelt himself recalled having a radio shot out of his hand only to grab another and continue working. Carlson was so concerned by Roosevelt's constant eagerness to survey the battlefield that on at least one occasion, he angrily ordered his second-in-command to take cover in a sump hole.

Despite the obvious measures taken to protect Roosevelt, he is credited with risking his life to rescue three Marines who nearly drowned while evacuating the island amidst a relentless current. Though details of the incident are uncertain, James likely aided the Marines when their small boat capsized or when they became detached from the vessel while trying to return to one of the awaiting submarines. Several other Marines were not as fortunate, helplessly drifting off course and succumbing to the forceful surf. It was for this heroic action, and for his proficiency



COURTESY OF NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

**LtCol Roosevelt, commanding officer of 4th Marine Raider Battalion, with two Korean scout-interpreters in the Pacific theater, April 4, 1943.**





LtCol Carlson (left) and Maj Roosevelt (right) consult a map as they prepare to return to Pearl Harbor after the successful Makin Island raid in August 1942. (USMC photo)



in managing battlefield operations while under the constant threat of attack, that Roosevelt received the Navy Cross.

Some of the Raiders mocked how liberally the Navy Cross was awarded to officers involved in the raid. Their disapproval was probably directed in part at Roosevelt, who undoubtedly had a different experience on Makin than the Marines who fought the enemy head on. He likely faced similar backlash after receiving a Silver Star from the Army during the larger-scale invasion of the atoll in November of the same year. No doubt many viewed his decorations as politically earned and motivated. Indeed, such criticism has only helped to obscure Roosevelt's remarkable service record and ultimately diminish his significant legacy as a military leader and Marine Corps innovator.

Certainly the lore of the Corps favors much more dramatic examples of heroism—Chesty Puller, John Basilone and Dan Daly, to name a few. These men all were fearless warriors who skirmished on the front lines of some of the bloodiest conflicts in modern history. They were defined by their audacious courage in the face of certain death; and in both attitude

and physical appearance, they projected the image of strength and seemingly innate cunning that has become synonymous with Marines.

Roosevelt was different. On the surface he appeared meek, at times even sickly. He seemed more the timid and unsure product of a sheltered upbringing than a man prepared to lead Marines in combat. But in the case of James Roosevelt, his contradictions actually define his importance.

Roosevelt should be appreciated because of, not in spite of, his obvious physical inadequacies. Any one of his maladies would have prevented the average military-aged man from enlisting during World War II, and they definitely would have precluded most men from enduring the rigorous training that Roosevelt underwent as a Raider. In the same way, he should be admired for the persistence he displayed early in his Marine Corps career, not simply discredited for the embarrassing political promotion he received in the very beginning.

That he respected the fraternal order of the Marine Corps enough to accept a lower rank and continue his service is not a blotch; rather it perfectly exemplifies

his humble demeanor and resilience in the face of harsh criticism.

And perhaps most significantly, that he was the President's son should not be held against him. Rather this fact should be held up as an example of his personal honor, courage and selflessness. Roosevelt could have very easily procured political expediency—if that's what he desired—in a much safer role within the Marine Corps. He did not have to be anywhere near the carnage that came to define the Pacific theater during WW II, but he insisted on being in the fight, alongside those who had to be there.

*That is the true legacy of James Roosevelt.*

*Author's bio: LCpl Evan Weiss is from Edison, N.J. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in April 2016 and serves with 3d Battalion, 3d Marines as a field radio operator. Prior to enlisting in the Marine Corps, Weiss worked in the addiction treatment field, first as a case manager and administrator in a nonprofit substance abuse rehabilitation center and later as the coordinator of an adult drug court in New Jersey.*



**Col Roosevelt, center, looks on as Gen Thomas Holcomb, 17th Commandant of the Marine Corps is congratulated on receiving the Distinguished Service Medal by Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox as LtGen Alexander A. Vandegrift, right, 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, observes, April 12, 1944.**



# TO OUR HERO

OUR SLAYER OF MONSTERS, OUR TELLER OF SEA STORIES, & THE ONE WHO ALWAYS GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND.

## Happy Father's Day

GIVE AN MCA&F MEMBERSHIP TO THE EXPERT  
BUILDER OF CAMPFIRE.

MCA&F Membership not only comes with iconic magazines and  
valuable member benefits, but it also provides support for today's  
Marines.

<http://bit.ly/mcافgift>







**MGySgt Eduardo Espinal, the MMEA 3043 monitor, sits behind his desk in the Marsh Center at MCB Quantico, Va., April 19. Much of a monitor's day is spent fielding calls and e-mails from Marines in their population as well as from individual unit commands.**

# Monitors: “Engage Early and Often”

By Sara W. Bock

*“Heads or tails?”*

*“Wherever the dart lands?”*

*It may be easy for Marines in the fleet to conjure a caricature-like image of how their monitor makes assignments and issues orders, but the truth is that there's no coin flip or dartboard that's driving decisions in the Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department of Headquarters Marine Corps. In fact, it's quite the opposite. In an organization as complex as the Marine Corps, the process of assigning individuals to new billets every few years could be more accurately equated to solving a giant puzzle or a*

*game of strategy, one that requires careful consideration of numerous factors and attempts to strike a balance among the needs of the Corps, the individual units and the individual Marine.*

*Leatherneck recently sat down with 11 monitors from Manpower Management Enlisted Assignments (MMEA) and Manpower Management Officer Assignments (MMOA) to learn about common misconceptions Marines have about monitors, get an inside look at how assignments are made and share with our active-duty readers how they can best utilize a relationship with the monitor to find the best assignment.*





LCPL BENJAMIN CRILLY, USMC

**MGySgt Kevin A. Calhoun tells Cpl Christopher N. Depellegrin about the career possibilities he has as part of the first term alignment program at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, July 8, 2010. The monitors visit to Afghanistan gave the Marines of Regimental Combat Team 7 and other tenant units aboard Camp Dwyer the opportunity to reenlist or obtain orders while deployed.**

### Clearing Up Misconceptions

Master Gunnery Sergeant Eduardo Espinal, the MMEA 3043 monitor, views his job as an opportunity to positively impact the lives and careers of the Marines in his “population”—the manpower term for the occupational field he’s responsible for staffing. But in order to make that positive impact, he needs his Marines to make an effort to communicate with him. It sounds simple and fairly instinctive, but, according to Espinal and his enlisted and officer counterparts, lack of quality communication with the monitors is a Corps-wide problem that may impede Marines from reaching their full career potential.

Many may wonder if it’s worth the time and effort to talk with their monitor on a regular basis. Will it make any difference, or will they assign the same orders regardless?

“At the end of the day, Marines need to learn to take control and ownership of their own career—their own futures in the Marine Corps, and not be afraid,” said Espinal, emphasizing the important role that monitor interaction plays in a Marine’s career success. He and his fellow monitors believe that there are a few widespread misconceptions about how a monitor’s job works—misconceptions that may be holding Marines back from communicating openly with them.

First, contrary to popular belief, the buck doesn’t stop with the monitor in terms of orders and assignments. The reality is that any issues with orders that arise from either the Marine or from a command are filtered through the chain of command. In MMEA, this means a unit head, typically

a captain, takes a look at the issue and either makes a recommendation on it or continues to pass it up the chain to their section head—a lieutenant colonel, and then on to the branch head, who is a colonel. This typically occurs when a set of orders conflicts with what a particular command has advised.

“A lot of people think, ‘A monitor just told me no.’ Well, no, that got filtered and there’s different levels that screened [it] and made sure that it was the right decision for the Marine Corps as a whole,” said Espinal.

Another common misconception is that monitors have a lot of time on their hands—that they have a “slow season” and that they’re always available at the drop of a hat.

“There is no ‘slow season.’ It’s constant. It’s ‘on’ 24/7,” said Master Sergeant Jimmie Cuevas,

**Below: Drill instructors from “Mike” Co, 3d Recruit Training Bn test a recruit’s knowledge during the senior drill instructor inspection at MCRD San Diego, Jan. 27. Special duty assignments (SDA) like drill instructor duty are important to career progression, and monitors fill SDA billets ahead of assignments to the operating forces.**



LCPL ANTHONY LEITE, USMC





CPL JESSICA ETHERIDGE, USMC

**During their annual roadshow to Okinawa, Japan, MMEA monitors visit with Marines at Camp Kinser, Oct. 25, 2016. Making an appointment with your monitor during the roadshow gives you the important face-to-face interaction that makes you memorable, and attending the roadshow briefs gives you direct access to the most up-to-date information regarding assignments in your occupational field.**

the MMEA Special Duty Assignments Monitor. “Before you come in [to] this billet you’ve got to prepare yourself and ensure that your mind’s clear, [and that] you’re mentally and physically ready to make those quick ... decisions ... it’s constant communication on ‘the floor’ and to the fleet every single week.”

Monitors work long hours, often seven days a week, to keep up with the seemingly endless influx of e-mails they receive daily, and to stay on top of data management for their population.

Prior to becoming a monitor, MSgt Christopher Wine, the MMEA 64XX/66XX Monitor, had no concept of how much time monitors actually do spend taking care of the Marines in their population.

“I think a common misconception among the fleet is they can pick up the phone and call and say, ‘Hey, where’s the monitor at?’ ” said Wine. While Wine and his colleagues strive to be accessible as much as possible, when they can’t be reached, they’re busy doing the often “unseen” tasks of their job.

For example, MMEA monitors spend their time frequently checking the WebMASS orders system, Total Force Retention System (TFRS) and the Separation and Retirement System (SARS), dealing with various additional tasks they’re assigned, and traveling throughout the Corps giving briefs designed to help Marines make better career decisions, according to MGySgt Eric Ingram, the MMEA 353X Monitor.

“A good portion of our day is covered with the communication with the OPFOR [operating forces] as well, whether it’s via phone calls or e-mails or RFIs [requests for information] that come down through the officer level down to us ... it’s a tough

balance and it’s almost impossible to get a battle rhythm, per se, because every day is a unique challenge,” added Espinal.

And despite efforts to encourage Marines to communicate with their monitors at the annual roadshows—both MMEA and MMOA visit bases and stations worldwide—there are always those Marines who seem to think that avoiding contact with their monitor will keep them off the radar for billets they don’t want. There are multiple problems with this reasoning; the primary one being the monitor doesn’t know what they don’t want unless they communicate that to him or her, said Cuevas.

There are also those who mistakenly think that they’re supposed to wait to attend roadshow briefs and one-on-one meetings with their monitors until the year they are due for orders. The roadshow briefs are the monitors’ way of bridging what they call the “information gap” between the “ground level” Marines in the operating forces and the “50,000-foot level” Marines in MMOA and MMEA, who have to consider the greater, Corps-wide picture and who are tasked with ensuring the Corps’ retains the right number of Marines with the right mix of Military Occupational Specialties (MOSs). The briefs provide a venue in which the monitors can pass along pertinent information to a specific population of Marines regarding career advancement. Waiting until the last minute means that Marines often miss out on the opportunity to take action on the information that’s communicated at the roadshow; action that could have a significant impact on their career progression.

“By that point, it’s probably too late for the information that’s given out in that brief. You need people two, three, even four years prior to when



they're getting ready for that next move to see that information and really have an effect, long term in their career—a beneficial effect,” said Captain Joel Croskey, the Rotary Wing Company Grade Monitor, MMOA.

Some Marines, said Croskey, have a tendency to view monitors as “cold, heartless machines,” but they really do try to get their Marines what they want and to match the needs of the Corps with the desires of the individual whenever possible, he added.

“The number one [factor] is the needs of the Marine Corps,” said MGySgt Ingram. “Institutional needs always outweigh our personal desires; however, we try to take into consideration your personal desires as long as they line up with the institutional needs.”

All monitors are selected from their own occupational field based on career timing, MOS credibility and knowledge. After they complete their tours, monitors return to the fleet and work with the same Marines they were responsible for issuing orders to.

“We have no interest in making everybody hate us ... they're people we know and people we're going to go to work with again,” said Capt Croskey. The officer monitors in MMOA issue orders for their peer group—a captain's population is made up of company grade officers in his or her field, a major's population is composed of all the majors in his or her field, and so forth. On the MMEA side, the monitors are senior staff noncommissioned officers with years of experience in their MOS. For both MMEA and MMOA monitors, their experience and knowledge in their specialty is key to making well-informed decisions that will help a Marine's career progression—and an ideal career progression can look entirely different from one MOS or occupational field to another.



LCPL ANTONIA MERCADO, USMC

### Making Assignments: The Factors

The monitors have the difficult task of being fair, impartial and equitable, while simultaneously taking “human factors” into consideration—things like separation and divorce, medical and family issues, or simply trying to co-locate dual active-duty households. If those factors aren't properly communicated with the monitors, they may not understand how certain assignments might impact the well-being of the individual or the family.

“We make our decision based on what we can see in the system at that time. We have a Marine who is a mover, who is assignable. We issue that Marine orders and then that's when ... you start to get communication of how life impacts that,” said MSgt Wine.

Being proactive about making sure your monitor is aware of any human factors in your life is key. And even if none of those human factors are applicable to you, the monitors still want to hear about your goals and your desires for future assignments. They spend a lot of their time on the phone and in e-mail conversation working to build

**Supporting a daytime external lift operation, Marines with HMH-465 walk toward the beach on W-174 range, Okinawa, Japan, March 15. According to the monitors, it is often difficult to find Marines who request orders to Okinawa, home of III MEF.**

## Some Dos and Don'ts, As Told By Monitors

### DO

- Understand that the “buck” doesn't stop with your monitor. Manpower decisions are screened and filtered all the way up the chain of command.
- Many Marines don't want to go to Okinawa, Japan, and many Marines don't want to leave the West Coast. Manage your expectations and understand that while monitors take your personal desires into consideration, the needs of the Marine Corps always come first.
- Take ownership of your career and future by being proactive and honest in your interactions with your monitor.
- Talk to your monitor as early as possible. If you're currently in a 36-month tour, you should be contacting your monitor 20-22 months into the tour.
- Take advantage of the Marine Corps' “blueprints to success.” Talk to more experienced Marines in your MOS to understand the steps they took to get where they are today.

### DON'T

- Wait until you're up for orders to attend the roadshow brief(s) at your base or station.
- Assume that the content in the roadshow brief is something you already know.
- Be afraid to tell your monitor about specific billets or locations you're interested in in the future, even if they are “long shots.”
- Play games with your monitor including putting your first choice as your third choice thinking you're more likely to get it if you don't put it first.
- Think your monitor makes “willy-nilly” decisions or takes their job lightly. Monitors appreciate the opportunity to positively impact a Marine's life and career, and they carefully consider each assignment.



**Sgt Daniel Cabrera, an MSG watchstander, patrols the U.S. Embassy in Bamako, Mali, Aug. 29, 2016. The MSG program, run by the Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, has 175 Marine Corps detachments worldwide and is one of the five SDAs for enlisted Marines.**

a relationship of trust with their populations, said Major Eric Scherrer, MMOA Fixed Wing Majors Monitor. By scheduling a time to meet one-on-one with their monitor during the roadshow and/or communicating from a distance, Marines can help their monitor keep their information up to date in their database along with notes about what jobs they might be interested in or what their ideal duty stations are.

That face-to-face interaction, said Capt Croskey, makes Marines more memorable, and when certain billets pop up that they've expressed an interest in, the monitor might distinctly remember them. When he has 10 people volunteering for a billet, he's going to remember the ones he's actually met, according to the captain.

For enlisted Marines, completing a special duty assignment (SDA)—whether as a recruiter, drill instructor, Marine Security Guard, Marine Security Forces or instructor at School of Infantry—is often an important stepping stone for career progression. It also adds an interesting element for the monitors, who have to assign highly qualified Marines from their population to fill those slots. It's another area that's important for Marines to discuss with the monitor, as it will increase the likelihood that the Marine will get the SDA they want.

"When we don't speak to Marines, they may not get the opportunity to pick an SDA; they may be told they're going on this specific SDA," said Espinal.

While it's a monitor's goal to help the Marine get the SDA they desire, it doesn't always happen. SDAs will always be filled first, even if it means leaving the operating forces with fewer Marines than desired.

An idea of what the best career path might be for a particular Marine can vary depending on who you talk to, said Colonel Blake M. Wilson, MMOA Branch Head. It's a challenge for the monitor, he said, to dissect the opinions of the individual Marine, their mentors, their command, and even the senior leadership throughout the Marine Corps, and then make the best decision based on what's available and what he or she thinks is a good choice for the Marine.

Affecting all of these factors is retention, and encouraging Marines and their unit leaders and commanders to start thinking about and beginning the reenlistment process sooner rather than later is something the MMEA monitors focus on. This helps ensure that there are as few shortages as possible in the various occupational fields.

### **Equipping Marines for Success**

"Engage early and engage often" is the approach that Wilson advises all Marines to take in dealing with their monitor. "Make sure the monitor knows any concerns the individual may have or things they want to do," he added.

It's important that Marines be completely honest



SSGT SARAH HICKORY, USMC



**MSgt Daniel G. Peterson, left, discusses career options with a Marine at the community center on Camp Foster, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Sept. 16, 2013. Monitors from both MMEA and MMOA emphasize the importance of being proactive and communicating honestly in your interactions with them.**

with themselves and with their monitor. They should figure out what their professional goals are and not try to “play the game” by withholding the truth about their future plans.

“If you tell me from the get-go you’re planning on getting out, I will help you do what you need to do to get out ... we are here to help,” Croskey said.

Managing expectations is also vital, because the reality is that not everyone gets what they want.

“For us, it’s difficult to get Marines to go to Okinawa, Japan, and it’s also difficult to get Marines to leave the West Coast. So that’s our two toughest assignments—getting Marines to go to III MEF and getting Marines to leave I MEF. It’s tough, and a lot of different scenarios come into play ... ‘My wife has a great job,’ ‘I have a house, we’re dug in, we don’t want to move,’ ‘Kid’s got a great school,’ and for most of us it’s difficult because we’ve lived that life,” said MGySgt Ingram.

Keeping an open dialogue with the monitors has never been easier than it is today thanks to technology, said Col Wilson. “I think in terms of how it used to be 30, 40, 50 years ago where a set of orders might just show up with a list of names on there ... there’s a lot more interaction, not just with the individual but with the commands,” he added.

Many monitors have websites with valuable information, and it can be helpful to consult those for answers before inquiring directly with the monitor. They also appreciate e-mail communication because all correspondence is recorded and documented, allowing for easy access to previous conversations.

All Marines, enlisted and officer, should be sure to attend the roadshow briefs if possible. If unable to attend, Marines can send RFIs with another Marine who is attending, said Captain Oryan Lopes, MMOA Graduate Education Monitor.

“If we don’t get feedback and they don’t raise questions, we don’t know what to address on future ones ... the more conversation, even if they pull us aside after the brief, helps us shape it for the future,” Lopes said.

Not only do the briefs provide an opportunity to give feedback, but also to gain valuable information.



LCPL NICHOLAS RANUM, USMC



CPL JESSICA ETHERIDGE, USMC

“Honestly, the roadshow briefs, they have a lot of good information and it’s truthful information. It’s not rumors, it’s not what you hear from your peers, but if you go and you sit down, you’re going to get a lot of good information, the most up-to-date information,” said Maj Patrick Haines, the Aviation-Ground Majors Monitor, MMOA.

Marines should schedule an appointment with the monitors when they are in town for the roadshow, even if they have a few years left at their current duty station. They interpret a Marine’s presence as a willingness to invest in his or her career.

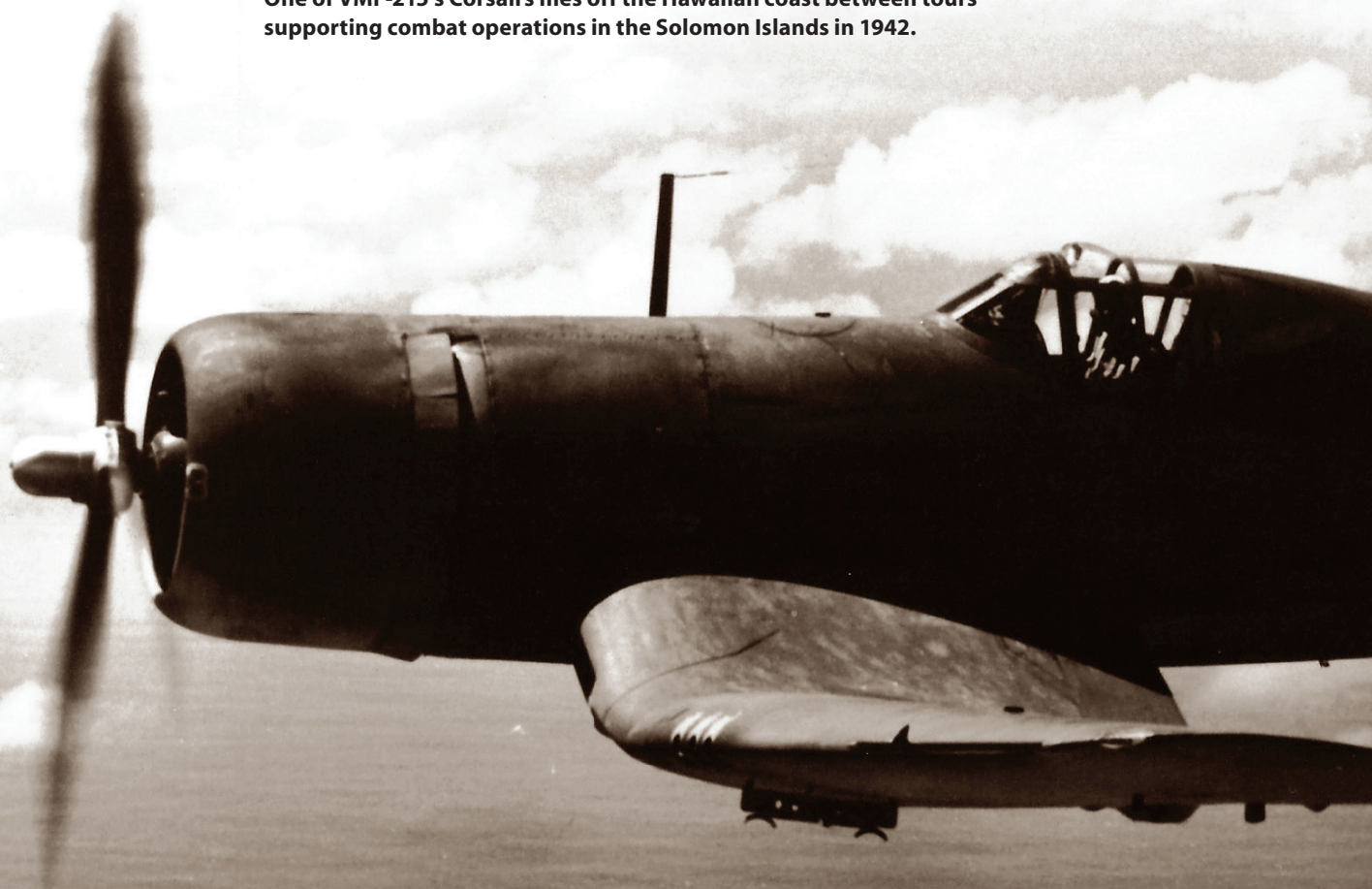
“The monitor can be a career enhancer if you utilize him or her properly, meaning understanding what it takes to be successful in your particular MOS, and assuring you get out of your comfort zone and take on those billets, those more challenging billets that will make you successful as long as you’re performing,” said Espinal.



**LCpl Ryan W. Lincoln, a technical controller for 3dMarDiv, meets with MSgt Douglas M. Dickover, the MMEA 28XX monitor, during the annual roadshow at Camp Kinser, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, Oct. 25, 2016. The monitors urge the Marines in their populations to take advantage of every opportunity to discuss their future plans and career goals.**



One of VMF-215's Corsairs flies off the Hawaiian coast between tours supporting combat operations in the Solomon Islands in 1942.



# Robert Hanson And the “Fighting Corsairs”

By MSgt Jeff Dacus, USMC (Ret)  
Photos courtesy of the author

**N**ov. 1, 1943: United States Marines and Sailors were engaged in an amphibious landing near Cape Torokina on Bougainville Island with dozens of ships disgorging troops into the surf and along the beach. Above the invasion, Allied aircraft flew combat air patrols, fighting Japanese bombers intent on disrupting the landing.

Captain Arthur “Thrifty” Warner, leading his division of four F4U Corsairs from

Marine Fighting Squadron 215 in the early afternoon patrol, spotted a formation of Japanese planes led by a group of six A6M “Zeke” fighters (also known as a Zero).

Mouthing “down we go” to his fellow Marines, Warner waved toward the enemy and led them in a shallow, turning dive toward the dark green enemy fighters. Warner shot down one of the enemy aircraft almost immediately and his wingman, Lloyd Cox, nailed another. Samuel Sampler was temporarily split from the division, but he soon rejoined them as they returned to their base. Lieutenant Robert

Murray Hanson, the fourth member of the division, was nowhere to be seen.

Like the other pilots, Hanson had picked out a target and attacked, leaving a Zeke badly damaged and headed for the sea. In a defiant gesture, the Japanese pilot lifted the nose of the doomed plane and sprayed a final burst as Hanson’s faded-blue Corsair flew by. The farewell volley was wide, and the Zeke burned all the way to the sea. Hanson found another Zeke and it blew up under the fire of his Corsair’s six .50-caliber machine guns.

Turning to rejoin his division, Hanson





The son of Methodist missionaries, Robert Hanson was the Marine Corps' highest scoring Corsair ace with 25 aerial victories.



The Fighting Corsairs of VMF-215 aboard USS *Pocomoke* (AV-9) en route to Hawaii.





**VMF-215's pilots gather in front of one of the squadron's Corsairs on Midway Island. The squadron spent nearly two months training and flying patrols around the atoll.**

was interrupted by the sight of Nakajima B5N "Kate" torpedo bombers moving in low on the transports below. The Marine struck quickly, forcing one of the bombers to break away, streaming smoke. Making a high-side run on another of the big wing bombers, his attack forced the Japanese to scatter, jettisoning their torpedoes far from the Allied ships. Turning to go after

them, he downed one before his engine began to balk, hit by bullets from one of the enemy planes' rear gunners. Despite turning for home, Hanson found his options limited; losing power, he was forced to make a water landing.

Releasing his harness, Hanson threw out his life raft and exited the aircraft, attempting to inflate his life jacket as he

entered the water. He was alarmed when he noticed that his life vest wouldn't hold air. Pulling himself into the raft, he began paddling for the fleet as his Corsair sank in less than 30 seconds.

The destroyer USS *Sigourney* (DD-643) was preparing to leave the invasion area when lookouts spotted a lone man in a raft vigorously paddling toward them. Moving



**Maj James Neefus**



**Capt Don Aldrich**



**Capt Harold Spears**



in closer, Sailors aboard heard a strong baritone voice belting out the Cole Porter tune, "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To!" Hanson enjoyed his time aboard the ship, writing home, "The destroyer that picked me up was a brand new one. And, boy, what swell chow!"

Robert Hanson grew up in northern India as part of a Methodist missionary family. Hanson was a wrestling champion of the Northern Provinces who spent most of his time in Lucknow, India.

He was attending Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minn., when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Leaving college in 1942, a term short of graduation, he joined the Marine Corps and became a naval aviator.

Once in the Pacific theater, Marine fighter pilots flew three six-week tours before rotating back to their home base. Hanson, no exception to this rule, started flying with VMF-214—when they were called the "Swash-bucklers."

He scored two early victories over Japanese planes during an escort mission, shooting one off the tail of his wingman and another that was trying sneak up on the squadron.

Hanson was transferred to the newly minted VMF-215, a close-knit and well-trained unit organized first as a dive-bombing squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Santa Barbara, in Goleta, Calif., before being reorganized under the leadership of Major James Neefus on Sept. 15, 1942.

The squadron had finished its first tour and was in the process of returning to action for its next tour from Barakoma Airfield on Vella LaVella Island, a coral runway so bright it hurt one's eyes in the glaring sunshine.

During its first tour, the squadron was credited with shooting down 26 Japanese planes: two of their pilots, Capt Don Aldrich and Capt Harold Spears, downed five and four respectively.

At first 23-year-old Hanson had a hard time fitting in with the others in his new squadron, being somewhat worldlier than they were—he had traveled throughout several continents, and fluently spoke four foreign languages. He enjoyed playing tricks on some of his fellow Marines and wrestling with others, whether they wanted to or not. Hanson's boisterous antics put off many of the squadron's old hands, especially those who had been with the unit since the days in Goleta, but gradually his day-to-day flying and interaction on

the ground won them over. His enjoyment of bridge, the favorite card game of many of the Marines, allowed the pilots a chance to get to know him.

Dubbed the "Fighting Corsairs," VMF-215 participated in a variety of operations during their second tour. During this six-week period, there were only rare opportunities for air combat for both Hanson and VMF-215. Prowling above the Solomons in support of the landings on the



**From left, Hanson, Aldrich and Spears were the leading aces of VMF-215, with a combined total of 58 victories while flying with the squadron.**

various islands provided only occasional chances for air-to-air combat. Everything changed on the third tour, however, when the Fighting Corsairs and Robert Hanson began flying north to the Japanese fortress of Rabaul on the northeast end of New Britain Island.

**T**he Allies attacked New Britain overland from the west at Cape Gloucester while simultaneously aircraft from the Solomon Islands pummeled the fortress' five airfields and Simpson Harbor. Fighter squadrons like VMF-215 escorted Navy, Army and Marine bombers as they conducted daily attacks to reduce the main Japanese fleet base in the South Pacific. VMF-215 would start the tour at Barakoma before moving to the jungle-shrouded Piva airfields at Torokina on the contested island of Bougainville.

The third tour started slowly, with the squadron going into action at the beginning of 1944. Escorts over the Rabaul area

resulted in a few kills, but things heated up on Jan. 14 when 24 Corsairs, escorting TBF Avenger and SBD Dauntless bombers, hit aggressively defended Japanese ships in Simpson Harbor. To counter the American attack, Japan sent more than 70 enemy fighters from the five airfields in the area to defend the key Japanese port.

An occasional smoker on the ground, Hanson chain-smoked in the cockpit. Arriving over the target, he put his cigarette out and looked around for potential targets.

Business on this day started briskly as Hanson and his wingman, Richard Bowman, attacked two Zekes. Hanson's target immediately sprouted flames while Bowman's Zeke retreated into a cloud. They found the Zeke as it came out of the cloud, aflame from Bowman's guns. Bounced by two more Zekes, Hanson blew one up before driving off another pair of Japanese fighters stalking a couple of Corsairs.

Separated from Bowman, Hanson used the clouds for cover and bounced another pair of Zekes, downing one before returning to the clouds. Coming out of the clouds, he fired from a position below and behind a darkly painted Zeke, destroying it. Heading for the rally point and home, he turned to follow another Japanese aircraft that was heading back toward Rabaul, sending it down in flames. Jumped by two more enemy aircraft, Hanson pushed full throttle away from them toward Rabaul but in the op-

posite direction of home at Torokina. Beating them to a cloud, he reversed course, heading at his best cruising speed toward Bougainville.

Hanson landed 20 minutes after everyone else in the squadron, with seven bullet holes in his aircraft and less than 20 gallons of fuel. His five kills and Aldrich's three were just part of the 19 that the squadron scored that day. VMF-215 was hitting its stride, and Bob Hanson was demonstrating superb air-to-air combat skills.

Some observers called him the "Butcher of Rabaul" after the engagement on Jan. 14. Hanson was eager to get into the air, on several occasions telling others, "I came out here to kill [Japanese]!"

He had seen the results of authoritarian dictatorships up close as he traveled from India through Europe on his way back to the United States for college and he understood the threat posed by the Japanese and their Nazi allies. But



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT M. HANSON UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE for service as set forth in the following CITATION:



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a fighter pilot attached to Marine Fighting Squadron Two Fifteen in action against Japanese forces at Bougainville Islands, November 1, 1943, and New Britain Island, January 24, 1944. Undeterred by fierce opposition and fearless in the face of overwhelming odds, First Lieutenant Hanson fought the Japanese boldly and with daring aggressiveness. On November 1, while flying cover for our landing operations at Empress Augusta Bay, he dauntlessly attacked six enemy torpedo bombers, forcing them to jettison their bombs and destroying one Japanese plane during the action. Cut off from his division while deep in enemy territory during a high cover flight over Simpson Harbor on January 24, First Lieutenant Hanson waged a lone and gallant battle against hostile interceptors as they were orbiting to attack our bombers and, striking with devastating fury, brought down four Zeros and probably a fifth. Handling his plane superbly in both pursuit and attack measures, he was a master of individual air combat, accounting for a total of 25 Japanese aircraft in this theater of war. His great personal valor and invincible fighting spirit were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

there was more to it than a bloodthirsty willingness to get at the Japanese. Hanson wanted to do well to help with his post-war plans. He wanted to finish school, return to India and become the private pilot to a rich maharajah. This earned him another nickname: "The Maharajah of Rabaul."

**S**haring Corsairs with VMF-212, the VMF-215 pilots didn't fly every day. On Jan. 18, the squadron did exceptionally well downing 10 enemy aircraft. Hanson didn't fly again until Jan. 20, downing a single Zeke as the squadron gleaned six kills. At this point, he became a killing machine, downing three enemy fighters on Jan. 22, followed by another four Zekes on Jan. 24. The other pilots in the squadron also showed their skills during these same flights, credited with 20 confirmed kills.

Hanson became something of a celebrity—the topic of a comic in the Pacific edition of *Stars and Stripes*—but also a symbol of caution. Major Robert Owens, now the commander of VMF-215, told new men that "Zero chasing" wasn't a good idea. "For every Hanson, there are at least 10 dead Marine pilots who tried to do once what Hanson does every day." Sam Sampler, Hanson's wingman on more than one occasion, called him a "demon" and explained, "No man on earth can stick with him. He flies at top speed every moment, executing every known maneuver and then some."

The Fighting Corsairs scored big on Jan. 26, shooting down 14 Japanese air-

craft and probably getting eight others. Spears and Aldrich each claimed two. Hanson nailed three Zekes and possibly another. There was more talk of Hanson's increasing personal score, comparing him to Joe Foss, who had knocked down 26 Japanese, and Gregory M. "Pappy" Boyington who had downed 19 planes before being shot down.

Reporters hounded Hanson when he returned from flights. Pushing aside the conversations comparing high scoring



**Maj Robert G. Owens served as commander of VMF-215 during its last tour and shot down seven Japanese aircraft. He was a major general when he retired in 1972.**

aces, the squadron intelligence officer, Jim Tyler, said, "Hanson is the least changed ace I've ever seen. No matter how many planes he gets, he's the same old Hanson." Tyler would know about high-scoring pilots, as VMF-215 would eventually be home to 10 aces, including Hanson.

Not everyone was excited by the talk of aerial kills and competition. Fellow pilot Lloyd Cox warned, "It's not right to go Zero chasing when there's guys that can't defend themselves," referring to the bomber pilots. Major Owens, no stranger to aerial success with seven victims by the end of the war, again warned his young subordinate about individual attacks, to which Hanson replied, "They've had plenty of chances. If they were going to get me, I'd be dead now."

The Japanese were using every airplane available to defend their important base, even bringing in carrier air groups and Army fighters to assist the Navy airplanes based around Rabaul. Taking advantage of the abundance of targets, Hanson continued to wreak havoc on the Japanese, shooting down three Japanese fighters on Jan. 26, followed by two Nakajima Ki-44 Tojos and two Zekes on Jan. 30. Hanson's score stood at 25 aerial victories.

He had an amazing 20 kills in six flights over a period of two weeks.

On Feb. 3, the squadron was again assigned to escort TBFs to Tobera Airfield near Rabaul. Hanson began the day with his usual light breakfast; he preferred a salad if available, feeling a substantial breakfast made it uncomfortable to fly.

The long flight to New Britain was uneventful and the aerial opposition over the target was muted, with many Japanese aircraft but little combat as the defenders flew around just outside the action and only a few attempted to get the bombers before the escorts shooed them off. In VMF-215, Creighton Chandler got a single Zeke for his sixth kill while Harold Spears claimed his 13th and 14th victories. The rest of the squadron, however, was blanked. Unable to get close to any enemy planes, Hanson decided to let off steam by strafing the anti-aircraft positions at an old lighthouse at Cape St. George on New Ireland. After checking with Spears, the flight leader, Hanson pushed his Corsair into a dive and went in for his run. Spears told the rest of the story:

"He strafed all right. Some 'ack ack' shot at him and tore off part of one wing. He pulled up low over the water and skimmed along to make a water landing. Then one wing hit the water and he cartwheeled over and over in a big splash of water. Nothing but debris and an oil slick remained." Other pilots confirmed that Hanson could not have





On Feb. 13, 1944, 10 days after Hanson's death, the other aces of VMF-215 were photographed. Front row from left to right: Ed Hernan, Don Aldrich, Bob Owens, Hal Spears and G.M.H. Williams. Back row from left to right: Arthur "Thrifty" Warner, Roger Conant, Creighton Chandler, and Dick Braun.

survived the crash. He died a day short of his 24th birthday.

The squadron continued to score big, gunning down 19 enemy planes after the Hanson's death. The last aerial combat for VMF-215 occurred on Feb. 12 when Thrifty Warner and Alan Snyder each downed a Japanese plane off Cape Gazelle near Rabaul. It was Warner's eighth victory.

The squadron left the area of battle on Feb. 14. The VMF-215 Fighting Corsairs was one of the highest scoring Marine squadrons of the war, downing 135 and a half enemy aircraft. Ten pilots were credited with at least five kills, with Don Aldrich and Hal Spears scoring 20 and 15, respectively.

Despite its stellar record, VMF-215 never fought again, finishing the war as a carrier training unit at El Toro, Calif., before disbanding at the end of the war. The squadron was briefly resurrected as a reserve unit in Kansas, but it was permanently disestablished in 1970.

The Fighting Corsairs received a Navy



1stLt  
Robert Hanson

Unit Commendation for their accomplishments, shooting down 106 airplanes on their final tour and 87 in the month of January 1944. Of the nine aces that returned from the war, Don Aldrich and Harold Spears both died in flying accidents. Owens retired as a major general.

Robert Hanson's mother received his Medal of Honor on Aug. 19, 1944. It was awarded primarily for his action in breaking up the torpedo attack on Nov. 1, 1943. He was the highest scoring Corsair pilot of the war, and in 1945, a destroyer was named in his honor. His exploits are remembered by the Marine Corps Aviation Association in the form of the annual Robert M. Hanson Award given to a fighter/attack squadron.

*Author's bio: MSgt Jeff Dacus, USMC (Ret), served in Operation Desert Storm as a tanker. He lives in Vancouver, Wash. where he teaches U.S. history to 8th-grade students.*





**SGT GRIT**  
MARINE SPECIALTIES



**BROWSE AND SHOP ALL OF  
SGT GRIT'S NEW ITEMS!**  
SEARCH T-SHIRTS ON [GRUNT.COM](http://GRUNT.COM)  
**GET \$10 OFF A \$50 ORDER!**  
USE CODE: LNM 17 WHEN CHECKING OUT.  
OFFER EXPIRES 7/31/17

SHOP OUR MARINE T-SHIRTS, APPAREL, HAT & CAPS,  
KA-BARS, KNIVES, AUTO ACCESSORIES, COINS,  
HOME DECOR, AND MORE!

**Request a FREE Sgt Grit Catalog  
TODAY at GRUNT.COM**





SGT CLEMENTE GARCIA, USMC



SGT CLEMENTE GARCIA, USMC

During scout sniper screening at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., on April 3, LCpl Matthew J. Long, (above left) a rifleman with 2/8 conducts a max set of pull-ups, while LCpl Kevin P. Chapman, (above right) a machine gunner with 2/8, plots points on his map.

## Scout Sniper Screener: Do You Have What it Takes?

Marines with 2d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division conducted a scout sniper “screener” at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 3-7.

The battalion was searching for highly qualified candidates to train and send to the Scout Sniper Basic Course. Once Marines completed all the required training, they would become part of the unit’s scout sniper platoon.

“We’re running this so we can select the appropriate guys to join the platoon and get them ready for school,” said First Lieutenant William A. Anderson, a platoon commander with 2/8. “We have Marines who meet the same standards required to go to the Scout Sniper Basic Course, so we try to replicate those conditions here to set them up for success.”

Besides being tested on their ability to complete basic rifleman skills, the character of the candidates was evaluated.

“We are trying to evaluate some of the more intangible things such as maturity and aptitude,” Anderson said.

Marines conducted activities such as foot patrols and land navigation while working on little food and sleep. All the Marines who tried out did so of their own volition.

“I wanted to move into something more elite,” said Corporal Matthew A. Cassar, a squad leader with 2/8. “I worked with snipers on deployment and saw how they operated. They were very professional and good at what they did, and that made me want to join them.”

The Marines were tested physically and mentally each day, and their will to persevere was challenged.

“If you’re not here for the right reason, then you will eventually break mentally when you’re already broken physically,” Cassar said. “If you don’t really want it, then you’re not going to make it.”

Initially, 41 Marines came to try out for the platoon, but by the end of the screener, only 11 remained. Of those 11, the scout snipers selected six and submitted their names for approval to become part of the platoon.

“It’s a very sacred process,” said Corporal Joseph R. Roland, the 2/8 chief scout. “This is a very tight-knit community, so to uphold the standards means everything to everybody in this community.”

Sgt Clemente Garcia, USMC

## Auxiliary Fuel Tanks Allow for Record Flight

Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 267 used new auxiliary fuel tanks to fly the Corps’ H-1 platform

helicopters, the AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom, farther than ever, during flights based from Okinawa, Japan, March 10-14.

Using the new tanks, the helicopters demonstrated a 25 percent range increase, according to Captain Christopher Millar, a UH-1Y Venom pilot with HMLA-267. The squadron, based at Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., was deployed to Okinawa at the time.

“This allows us to support the Marines of III MEF as we project our power further and increase our capability with the fuel tanks,” said Millar, who was supporting Marine Air Group 36, First Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, through the unit deployment program (UDP).

Millar flew one of the helicopters that broke the record for the longest recorded operational Venom flight, logging 314 nautical miles during a flight from MCAS Futenma on Okinawa to New Tanegashima Airport, Japan, March 10.

During the four-day mission, the squadron also visited other locations in Japan—



LCPL ANDY MARTINEZ, USMC

**Auxiliary fuel tanks, like the one pictured here, allow the Corps’ H-1 platform helicopters to increase their range by more than 25 percent. Marines with HMLA-267 validated the long-range capability of the fuel tanks by flying more than 300 nautical miles during one leg of a four-day mission in Okinawa, Japan, March 14.**





LCPL ANDY MARTINEZ, USMC

**AH-1Z Vipers with HMLA-267 take to the skies over Osaka, Japan, March 12. Equipped with auxiliary fuel tanks, the extended range of the aircraft is crucial to maintaining a stronger, more capable forward-deployed force in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.**

Osaka, MCAS Iwakuni and Camp Fuji.

“The auxiliary fuel capability gives the Marine Air-Ground Task Force commander the ability to respond to crises and deploy our forces from the most northern reaches to southern reaches of the area of operations,” said Millar.

Once the helicopters arrive at their destinations, they can easily drop their fuel tanks and reconfigure for ordnance operations. The fuel tanks, which resemble torpedoes, attach below both sides of the helicopter bays.

“The auxiliary fuel systems provide the MAGTF commander scalable options to be able to move his assets around the area of operations without relying on strategic lift,” Millar said.

The increased range of the H-1 helicopters supports Marine Corps operations in responding to crises, maintaining a forward presence, carrying out combat operations and providing humanitarian assistance.

“With these auxiliary fuel tanks, I believe it gives H-1s a greater ability to self-

deploy and to help the Marines on the ground,” Millar said. “[The H-1s] also help III MEF fulfill the ‘Fight Tonight’ motto and project our power further ashore.”

LCpl Andy Martinez, USMC

### **METOC Weather Forecasters Enhance Corps’ Readiness**

After suffering a long, intense drought, residents of Southern California have been reminded recently about the challenges that come with heavy rains. A substantial amount of rain brought difficulties that hadn’t been experienced since the drought began in April 2011.

Marines conducting training and operations in the region also faced challenges incurred by the increase in precipitation. A routine patrol could become mired with heavy equipment getting stuck in the mud and visibility becoming greatly diminished because of clouds, wind and precipitation.

Meteorological and oceanographic analysts—known as METOC Marines—of Battle Space and Surveillance Com-

pany, 1st Intelligence Battalion, I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., assist Marine commanders by preparing them for challenges presented by weather patterns, lunar cycles and tides during planning for military operations and training. The recent increase in precipitation around Camp Pendleton is just one of the many examples in which METOC Marines have the opportunity to use their skills and training to enhance readiness.

“METOC forecasters provide weather forecasts and operational impact analysis whenever I MEF requires it,” said Lance Corporal George Fong, a METOC forecaster with the company. “Our job is to provide early warning for any inclement weather that can adversely affect operations, which can be anything from thunderstorms, fog, elevated sea state or low illumination. We create products ranging from weather forecasts, climatology briefs, impact analysis and surf forecasts to brief the commanders on a daily basis about



weather in the area of operations.”

METOC Marines gather all this weather information data and then brief commanders, influencing their decisions while tasking Marines in air, sea or ground operations.

“There is nothing better than when a MEF commander, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force commander or Marine Expeditionary Unit commander compliments you on your brief,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dante Rakestraw, meteorological and oceanographic officer with the company. “When they say, ‘Hey, that was a great forecast you gave yesterday, we were able to get those planes up in the air,’ that is when people in the room begin to realize, ‘Oh wow, that’s what METOC provides to the mission.’”

Marines are certified as METOC forecasters and assigned the military occupational specialty (MOS) 6842 upon finishing their yearlong coursework at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., and are then able to perform weather forecasting duties in garrison.

“We go through a rigorous course with 10 hours a day in classroom and additional training alongside our Air Force and Navy counterparts,” said LCpl Fong. “We are taught the basics of weather forecasting, satellite and upper-air interpretation, atmospheric dynamics and model analysis, among other things. After graduating [from] the Air Force portion of the curriculum then we go through a secondary

course for Marines where we learn Marine-specific capabilities.”

Once a week, METOC Marines with the company perform a 24-hour exercise where the Marines practice using an automated weather observation system (AWOS)—a portable weather station the Marines use on deployment to observe cloud conditions, temperature, visibility, dew points, wind speed and lightning detection. They must complete 30 of these 24-hour exercises to become certified as METOC observers.

“We split the training into two 12-hour shifts where we do hourly weather observations to earn the qualification we need that will allow us to deploy in support of I MEF,” said Corporal Timothy Brooks, a METOC forecaster with the company.

After completing the AWOS training hours needed, Marines become METOC observers and earn the MOS 6821, which qualifies them to perform their forecasting duties while forward deployed.

Qualification for deployable Marines is divided into two parts: METOC Surface Observer (MSO) and Apprentice Meteorological Analysis Forecaster (AMAF), said Fong, who added that between online courses and practical application, MSO takes a total of 180 hours while AMAF takes 375 hours. After completing all the required courses, Marines must conduct a board where they are required to demonstrate total job proficiency. After passing the board, those

Marines are qualified for deployment.

The training is extensive due to the level of responsibility METOC Marines have, primarily when it comes to distributing weather information to commanders.

“The Marines need to understand how important they are to the mission,” said Rakestraw. “The Marines need to take every observation seriously because their readings are viewed from the commanders all the way up the chain of command to determine how to execute operations.”

As I MEF continues to stay ready to fight globally, the METOC Marines stay prepared to use their weather forecasting skills to aid commanders in their strategy to win the battle.

LCpl Justin Bowles, USMC

### WW II Raider to Marines: “We Kept Pushing Forward”

James “Horse” Smith, a 97-year-old World War II veteran who served as a member of Edson’s Raiders, 1st Marine Raider Battalion, was welcomed to the Raider Hall Martial Arts Center of Excellence at The Basic School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to speak to Marines from Embassy Security Group about his experience on Guadalcanal.

At a professional military education event on March 6, Smith recounted his experiences to the Marines in attendance and told a story about the Raiders overcoming the odds against a Japanese enemy that outnumbered and outgunned his unit.

During WW II, Lieutenant Colonel Merritt Edson commanded thousands of Raiders, the Corps’ elite special mission force organized in 1942, across the South Pacific. The unit disbanded in 1944.

“Some of the toughest men I knew had experienced the pressures of war, but we could not fall apart—we couldn’t afford it,” Smith said. “We bit our tongues, kept our heads down low and kept pushing forward.”

He described his time on Guadalcanal as a firefight filled with casualties. He told stories of men climbing a steep narrow ridge alongside a river as bullets flew past him and his fellow Raiders.

Describing the course of the four-day fight, he said he was lucky to make it through the first day. He said that the Raiders lost 85 men that first day, but he believed that number paled in comparison to the hundreds of Japanese lost that day.

“The Japanese were very courageous—some of the most courageous men I had ever had the opportunity to go against—they never gave up,” said Smith. “For them there was no losing that war.”

The fight was nonstop. Smith recalled thinking he would be able to rest his eyes the first night, but a second wave of



LCPL JUSTIN BOWLES, USMC

Cpl Timothy Brooks, left, and LCpl Christopher Ruaboro, METOC forecasters with Battle Space and Surveillance Co, 1st Intel Bn, I MEF, use the automated weather operating system to record weather observations at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 14.



**James "Horse" Smith, a WW II Marine Raider, speaks to Marines from Embassy Security Group about his experiences on Guadalcanal during a PME event at Raider Hall, MCB Quantico, Va., March 6.**

Japanese soldiers came slinging bullets at the Raiders. He told many stories of fellow Marines who lost their lives, and described the atmosphere surrounding the aid station. Painting pictures of the chaos with his words, he said there were so many casualties that they were unable to identify the wounded by name.

However, according to Smith, the Marines claimed victory at Guadalcanal because they were flexible and willing to adjust to their surroundings, whereas the Japanese had a dictated plan they would not deviate from. It took four days for the Raiders to take control of the small imperial supply island. They took all the food and ammunition they could carry and destroyed the rest.

After listening to Smith's inspiring story, the Marines had many questions about all he was able to accomplish. The questions ranged from his experience with Central Intelligence to his nickname and



JAMES ANDREWS

general advice on making the best of your time in the Corps.

Smith left the Marines with a final thought: "You will have many opportunities in life to do some good. So study and learn whenever you can, ask questions,

be helpful, be useful and live a way of life where you can make a real difference."

Jeremy Beale, *Quantico Sentry*



## Crazy Caption Contest

### Winner



CPL BRITTNEY VITO, USMC

"Hurry! Her father is reloading!"

Submitted by  
Irene Knecht  
Tucson, Ariz.

### This Month's Photo



CPL DEMETRIUS MORGAN, USMC

(Caption) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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





MAJ TROY HADSALL, USMC (RET)

Omer Hadsall nears the spot where an enemy mine almost took his life 51 years ago. A recent tour of Vietnam made it possible for Omer and his son Troy to visit the place where Omer had been severely wounded so long ago. The path looked the same, the trees looked the same, and the longitude and latitude marked the area as very close.

# A VETERAN'S RETURN

By P.L. Thompson

**P**riate First Class Omer Hadsall's time with First Platoon, Echo Company, Second Battalion, Ninth Marines ended abruptly one morning when he stepped on a land mine.

"It happened south of Da Nang, about 8:30 in the morning, April 24, 1966. We were patrolling in this area where enemy action had taken place again ... and again," said Hadsall, who later was retired as a lance corporal. Hadsall said he still feels a strong link to his platoon. "After boot camp, it was the only Marine unit I ever served with," he said.

"I had only been in Vietnam for three months. My platoon sergeant's name was Garcia and he really took good care of me and the other new Marines. He was a good sergeant, a good teacher and I was really beginning to feel that I was part of our platoon."

Hadsall explained what happened that day to his oldest son, Major Troy Hadsall, USMC (Ret). The two were part of a tour group in Vietnam. Leaving the tour for a few hours made it possible for Hadsall to return to the area where he had been wounded on that March day so long ago.

"We started taking rifle fire immediately after I stepped on the mine. It was a bit of an ambush. A corpsman started working on me while the rest of the platoon returned fire. I remember the helicopter that took me out was taking fire as we pulled out of the area. I remember I was terribly thirsty. The gunner in the helicopter pulled his canteen out and poured water in my mouth."

The helicopter took him to the U.S. Navy medical facility near Marble Mountain which served as the first stop for almost all wounded Marines in Vietnam. Records show that quick helicopter evacuation to advanced medical treatment saved

countless lives during the Vietnam War. This was true for PFC Omer Hadsall.

A few days later, Gunnery Sergeant Lawrence Hadsall arrived at the medical facility to visit his younger brother. Gunny Hadsall had joined the Corps in 1956 and had been stationed in Chu Lai, Vietnam, for only two months when his brother was wounded.

## Recovery and Rehabilitation

It was not an easy time for the younger Hadsall. When he was well enough to be moved, he was evacuated to Clark Air Base in the Philippines and a day or two later, he was moved again to Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii.

His condition was monitored throughout the trip to make sure he could safely be moved again.

The last evacuation flight took him from Hawaii to Travis AFB, near Sacramento, Calif. He was then taken by ambulance



to Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland. Over the next 10 months, he would undergo six operations to remove shrapnel and repair the tendons and muscles in his legs. When he was able, he began many painful weeks of physical therapy.

Hadsall recalled, "From the very beginning, they gave me a lot of drugs for the pain, and it really helped, but I also worried about becoming addicted to it. You have to leave the drugs alone as soon as you can."

Marines have always had a special relationship with the Navy corpsmen who provide lifesaving medical help and assistance. It is difficult to explain to someone who has not experienced this unique bond. Those wounded in combat, however, can explain this relationship better than most. Hadsall reminisced, "The doctors did the best they possibly could for me, but I still feel an emotional attachment to the Navy corpsmen who took care of me in that hospital. There was so little I could do for myself. For many weeks I was flat on my stomach. I depended on them for everything. They took the time and effort to do the best they could for me. The care they provided for me I could not possibly repay. I truly feel I owe them my life."

Omer Hadsall was promoted to lance corporal and awarded a Purple Heart prior to facing a Medical Discharge Board in January 1967. The Discharge Board determined that he had a severe disability due to wounds received in combat; he received a medical retirement from the Marine Corps.

### After the Corps

While he was in the hospital, Hadsall met a beautiful young lady and their relationship continued as he went back to finish and graduate from high school. Married soon after, Hadsall and his new wife, Judy, returned to his home state of Missouri where he started working in the cattle business. He helped farmers and veterinarians when they had large cattle herds that needed work. He opened and ran numerous businesses and currently owns several rental homes. He still helps farmers with their animals when they need assistance.

Like most Marines from the era, Hadsall is retired now ... mostly. He still likes to hunt and fish, and he will travel almost anywhere if the destination sounds fun. Returning to Vietnam, however, was an adventure that took planning and a little time.

### Returning to Vietnam

Over the past 10 years, Omer Hadsall met several Marines who had served in

Vietnam and had made the trip back to the country that had made such an impact on their lives. One veteran told Hadsall that he really loved his trip to Vietnam; it had been a good experience. Hadsall and his son decided it was something they should do together. Having heard of Military Historical Tours from a fellow veteran, Hadsall and his son called the company to sign up for a trip. And they decided to try to find the area where Omer had been wounded.

"We used every modern convenience to get us as close as possible to where Dad stepped on that mine," said Troy. "I began serious research in an effort to find the place. I found my first clues at the General Alfred Gray Marine Corps Research Center at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va." Troy asked if the Gray Center had 2/9's operation reports from February to April 1966.

"They had the reports and gladly printed me a copy. The reports had the location of 'Echo' Company and I was able to see the log entry on April 24 when Dad was wounded. That information included the grid coordinates where the action took place."

Troy then used several websites to convert the grid coordinates into longitude and latitude and then fed the information into Google Earth. "It got me to within a thousand yards, which I consider close in this situation," he said.

The two made their break from their tour group during a stopover near Da Nang. They hired a car and driver and an interpreter to search for the site where Omer had been wounded. Part of their research led them to a bridge across a small river where 2/9 had been working. The companies of 2/9 had used the river to cool off and swim during Hadsall's time with the battalion. Back then, the bridge had been blown, and its center sections were in the water. A small pontoon bridge was placed across the river to permit patrols to easily cross to the other side. Omer Hadsall remembered standing guard at the bridge.

"It was a little confusing when Troy and I arrived at the bridge," said Hadsall. "Now there are homes along the road, and our interpreter discovered that the bridge is new. Two other bridges had replaced older ones." He added, "It still felt a little

**They hired a car and driver and an interpreter to search for the site where Omer had been wounded. Part of their research led them to a bridge across a small river where 2/9 had been working.**



MAJ TROY HADSALL, USMC (RET)

**Above: Hadsall points somewhere to the left of the Ha Dong Bridge—the direction from which the enemy fired on the day he was wounded. He stood guard near that bridge as a member of the 2/9 in early 1966.**

**Below: PFC Omer Hadsall, a new member of Echo Co, 9th Marines, poses for a photograph only a few days before he was wounded.**



COURTESY OF OMER HADSALL

strange to be here again after all these years." He smiled, pointed to an area near the bridge and said, "About right there ... I stood watch one night when we heard shooting not far away. We called back to the company and they said, 'Just take it easy, you are not involved.' Still ... it kept us very watchful."



**“Well, I suspect this is about  
as close as we can get to  
where it happened. I’d bet we  
are within a few hundred  
yards of where it took place  
... maybe a little farther ...  
but close enough.”  
—Omer Hadsall**

Hadsall and his son continued to the area indicated by Troy’s research. One tree line looked a little familiar—perhaps it was the same tree line where enemy fire began after he stepped on the mine. Walking along a dirt path, Hadsall turned and smiled. “Well, I suspect this is about as close as we can get to where it happened. I’d bet we are within a few hundred yards of where it took place ... maybe a little farther ... but close enough,” he said.

Hadsall found one other member of the tour group who had been attached to 2d Bn, 9th Marines at the same time as he had. The two talked at great length about the companies they served with, the bridge and a convoy in which they rode across Hai Van Pass. The convoy was one of the first to travel from Da Nang to Phu Bai, near Hue City. They both agreed the convoy over that pass was slow, and everyone was on full alert. They had been told enemy action could be expected on the steep and sharp turns on that highway. Thankfully the enemy did not choose to fight that day. The two agreed they had never met when they served with 2/9—they laughed about how often they must have passed each other in the battalion area.

### A Family of Marines

According to Troy Hadsall, he had no hesitation joining the Corps even knowing his father’s story. “Well ... let me tell you about our family. Marines in the family go back to the 1950s.” GySgt Lawrence Hadsall, who visited his wounded brother in Vietnam prior to his evacuation, retired from the Corps in 1975. Another brother, Gary Hadsall, served in the Marine Corps from 1959 until 1963. Gary’s son Loren served in the Corps from 1984 to 1988, and Russell, another nephew, served from 1990 to 1996. Omer’s son, Troy, enlisted in the Corps in October 1988 and achieved the grade of staff sergeant as an enlisted Marine. After finishing an associate degree program at the University of South Carolina, he was selected for a meritorious commissioning program and graduated



**Troy and Omer Hadsall recently visited Vietnam with the help of Military Historical Tours. Troy’s research of official Marine Corps records made it possible to find the immediate area where his father had stepped on an enemy mine in 1966.**

from Officer Candidates School in 1999.

Troy served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as an aviation command and control officer. A lung problem forced Troy to be medically retired from the Marine Corps after 24 years.

Hadsall’s younger son, Captain Christopher Hadsall, also served in the Marine

Corps. “He had been in Hit, Iraq, for only one week when a suicide vehicle driver discharged a bomb on March 7, 2005. Like Dad, Chris was severely wounded,” said Troy. In July of 2007, Christopher, like both his father and brother before him, was medically retired from the Corps.

During their recent tour of Vietnam, the members of the Military Historical Tours group learned of the Hadsall family history. Several in the group agreed that perhaps the next generation of Hadsall men should stay away from the Marine Corps. Both Hadsalls laughed. “Well, the advice comes a little late,” replied Troy. “First Lieutenant Phillip Wears, Omer’s great nephew, graduated from the Naval Academy in 2014. He is currently finishing flight school and will soon head to Marine Corps Air Station, New River, North Carolina to become an MV-22 Osprey pilot. Our family likes the Corps.”



**Omer Hadsall goes “native” on the Military Historical Tour in the Mekong Delta. It was one stop on an exciting return trip to Vietnam.**

*Author’s bio: P.L. Thompson was one of the last active-duty Marines who did a tour with Leatherneck. He made four trips to Vietnam for the magazine to cover stories, including almost a month in Hue City during the Tet Offensive. He left the magazine after three years and returned to Vietnam with the Marine Corps Combat Motion Picture team. He retired from the Marine Corps as the NCOIC of public affairs, MCB Quantico, Va., when he was again offered a job with Leatherneck. Two years later, he moved to Voice of America, the government’s international broadcast facility in Washington, D.C., as a writer/producer/director. He retired from VOA after 21 years.*





SPONSORED BY  
MAJOR RICK STEWART, USMC (RET)

MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

# Leatherneck

## WRITING CONTEST WINNERS

### FIRST PRIZE

**LCpl Evan Weiss**  
3d Battalion, 3d Marines

"The Forgotten Marine: The Legacy of James Roosevelt, Marine Corps Innovator and Navy Cross Recipient"  
\$1000 and a plaque

### SECOND PRIZE

**SSgt Michael C. Woodall**  
Detachment Commander, American Embassy

Beirut, Lebanon  
"Marines Return to Beirut"  
\$750 and a plaque

### THIRD PRIZE

**SSgt Linda A. Scott**  
VMM 164, 3d MAW

"The Battle of Belleau Wood"  
\$500 and a plaque





# Finale at Peleliu

By Sgt Harry Polete, USMC  
and Sgt Edward J. Evans, USMC  
Photos by  
Cpl William Mellerup, USMC

For reasons which have never been clear to anyone, Peleliu, although one of the most fiercely defended islands on the Marines' long road across the Pacific, never received much notice in the press, while accounts of Tarawa, which preceded it, and Iwo Jima, which immediately followed, were splashed across the front pages worldwide and described and redescribed in periodicals and books until their names became household words.

After a terrible fight involving a particularly sanguinary bit of terrain known as Bloody Nose Ridge, the First Marine Division secured Peleliu on Sept. 29, 1944, and the accelerating war rolled on toward Japan and *finis*. But the flame of battle still smoldered on Peleliu. Not all the Japanese defenders had been killed or captured and well-organized resistance continued through the first part of October. The bitter struggle died down, but only slowly, and it continued to center about Bloody Nose Ridge, honeycombed as it was with caves, some of them large enough to hold nearly a company of men.

Then a few years later, as if it would

not be ignored, Peleliu returned spectacularly to the public view. The Marines were fighting the Japanese there again, nearly two years after V-J Day.

At first, after the island was secured, the Americans maintained a large garrison on the island, which made it impossible for the Japanese to avoid all the patrols sent out to search for them. Many were caught, away from the safety of their hiding places, and killed. Others managed to escape to outlying islands where the Americans disregarded their activities. Peleliu appeared to be gradually assuming a peaceful atmosphere. For the first time since 1914, it seemed to be free of Japanese.

When the war ended, most Americans went home, leaving the island in the hands of a very small garrison force. It became increasingly hard to keep patrols out and still guard all installations and equipment left on the base. Consequently, the remaining Japanese became bolder, roamed farther and farther from their hideouts and raided supply dumps for food and equipment, while others returned from outlying islands to reinforce the Peleliu group.

The small Marine force under First Lieutenant Earl Cheal, commanding officer of the Marine barracks, and Chief Warrant Officer Jack Goodall, island

provost marshal, began doubling their efforts to capture or kill the renegades. Small patrols went out daily to search the myriad caves and ravines along Bloody Nose Ridge. They waded waist-deep in stinking swamps and struggled up and down steep ridges looking in vain for the renegades' hideout. Night posts were doubled and cossack posts established in all areas suspected of harboring Japanese. Still, there were no tangible results.

The first break came when a native reported finding a shack in the middle of a swamp. CWO Goodall and Sergeant L.C. Barineau hurried to the location, wading through the swamp for 500 yards in an attempt to take its occupants by surprise, but the shack was deserted. An examination revealed a large quantity of American canned food, clothing and hundreds of rounds of Japanese .30-caliber ammunition. The latter had recently been cleaned and polished. In order that the ammunition might be destroyed and the Japanese denied any further use of the hideout, the two Marines blasted it with explosives.

An incident two days later made the Marines apprehensive about the future intentions of the renegades. During the night, an old warehouse in which the Americans had stored all weapons captured from the Japanese on Peleliu had been broken into and two light machine guns taken. It was evident that the Japanese were arming themselves for an attack against the tiny American garrison.

Instead of resentment at the heavy demands made on them, the Marines seemed to find some pleasure in the daily patrols—most of them were made up of volunteers. Technical Sergeant Fred C. Wilburn and Staff Sergeant G. Nastoi asserted they had never seen anything to match the enthusiasm shown by the men beating through the jungled ridges and swamps. Corporal W.D. Baird explained his continued voluntary duty, even after a day's guard, as "just something with a little excitement to do." Chiefly, the men were interested in wiping out the cause of all the extra duty they had been catching since the Japanese started acting up.

The break came when the Japanese attacked two citizens of the island en route to their homes in the village. In the scuffle, one of the attackers was slashed across the stomach by a resident, and the Japanese withdrew. Later, two Marines



Patrolling through the swamps of Peleliu was an everyday affair for Marines who were tasked with searching for the cleverly concealed Japanese holdouts.





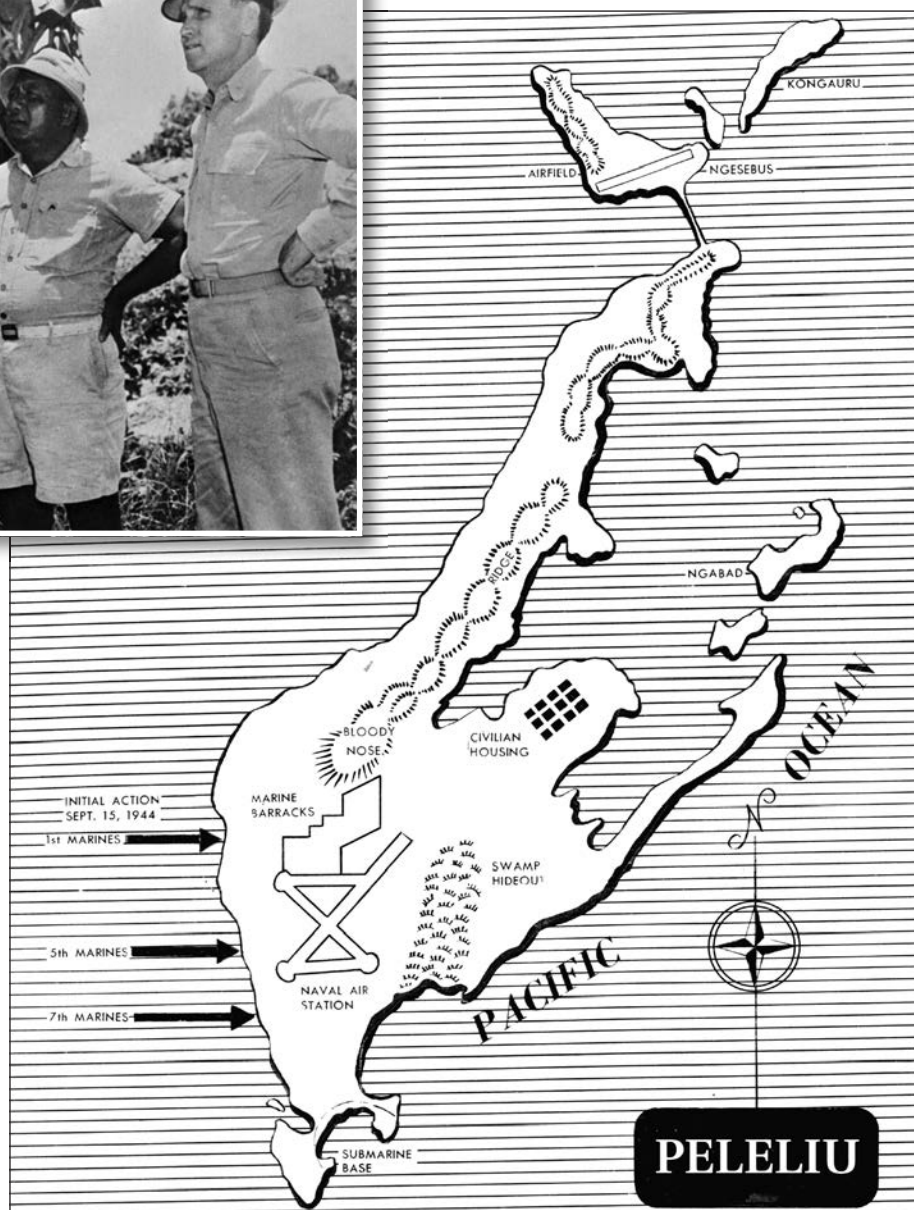
**RADM Michio Sumikawa, Japanese Navy, was brought to Peleliu from Guam to assist the Marines in getting the Japanese defenders to lay down their arms.**

became the target of a poorly thrown grenade while investigating reports that Japanese had been seen in one particular cave. These two actions prompted Captain L.O. Fox, USN, the island commander, to cable Guam and Pearl Harbor for reinforcements. It was apparent that the small number of Marines on Peleliu could no longer perform their regular duties and still patrol the caves and ridges in the thorough manner required to flush out the Japanese.

On March 20, one officer and 40 enlisted men arrived from the Marine barracks at Guam. They brought portable flame throwers, rifle grenades and mortars, with plenty of ammunition for all weapons. A few days later, two more groups were flown in, bringing the Marines' strength up to 120 enlisted and three officers. Operation Capitulation was about to begin.

The Marines immediately set up a highly mobile defense, capable of striking quickly at any point on the island. Naval personnel were ordered to be armed after dark and when they were in remote sections of the island. None of the women dependents on the island could leave their quarters unless accompanied by at least two armed men in the party. A few of the Japanese were spotted on different occasions, but observers were apparently keeping them well-informed of Marine movements and they would disappear each time without a trace. Dependents were finally moved from the Base 20 housing area to the submarine base area where machine guns were emplaced to protect them from any attack.

When the Marines resumed their patrols



**But the flame of battle still smoldered on Peleliu. Not all the Japanese defenders had been killed or captured and well-organized resistance continued through the first part of October.**

through the ravines and up the sides of Bloody Nose Ridge, they were accompanied by two Japanese who had been flown from Guam with the replacements. Rear Admiral Sumikawa, former naval commandant of the Caroline Islands, had been a witness at war crimes trials in Guam and readily agreed to make an attempt to get the Japanese on Peleliu to surrender peacefully. He was accompanied

by George Kumi, a former second class petty officer under his command and now his interpreter. To aid in encouraging the voluntary surrender, they brought pictures of the surrender in Tokyo Bay and at Truk.

Accompanied by a well-armed patrol of Marines, Sumikawa and Kumi proceeded to an area where recent signs of occupancy indicated the proximity of the Japanese. Through the medium of a portable address system, the admiral broadcast the news of the end of the war and the American victory. He called upon the guerrillas to lay down their arms and surrender peacefully. When there was no reply, the patrol left statements signed by the admiral and pictures of the surrender. Hoping that the Japanese would take the bait, they went back to their barracks to await developments.

This stratagem brought gratifying re-



sults. Privates First Class Salvador Grijalva and George T. Monk, riding jeep patrol in the early morning of April 2, noticed a figure standing at the side of the road. It was one of the Japanese with his arms above his head in a gesture of surrender. At his feet lay his weapons, a sawed-off carbine with a homemade stock that gave it the appearance of an old-fashioned horse pistol, three clips of ammunition, a three-second fuzed grenade and a knife.

The two Marines loaded the man, Seaman Tsuchida, into the front seat of their jeep and hurried him to the island brig. The island commander and provost marshal were notified immediately and Commander M.E. Currie, a Marianas staff officer, came to question the prisoner. With him came the Japanese admiral and his interpreter.

After polite introductions, Tsuchida told

a grim story. The leader of the renegades was a Japanese army officer, Lieutenant Yamaguchi. He was a hard and cruel officer who caused internal strife among the Japanese holdouts on Bloody Nose Ridge. He shot those who wanted to surrender and suggested suicide for those wounded in several affrays with Marine patrols. The Japanese who was slashed by the local man blew himself up with a grenade and one of their medical corpsmen had drowned while trying to cross over to the little island of Ngesebus.

Tsuchida told interrogators that he had been trying to get away from the band since the Japanese admiral had made his visit to Bloody Nose Ridge the week before, but other members of the group threatened to kill him when they suspected his intentions. According to his story he had intended to come into the Marine

barracks via the jungle trail and give himself up, but when he found the path leading into the Marine area guarded by four other Japanese, he decided to try his luck along the main highway.

The photos and documents of the surrender had stunned him. He claimed all the Japanese on Peleliu believed the Americans held only the Palau Islands and that Japan was still fighting. The mention of atomic bombs and the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought a baffled look to his face. In their two years of isolation, the Japanese on Peleliu had heard no news.

The captive talked freely and answered many questions. He said that their greatest fear was the frequent Marine patrols, although they always outnumbered the Americans three to one. The Marines had caused them great suffering and hardship



**Reinforcements came from Guam and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to augment the small garrison on Peleliu.**



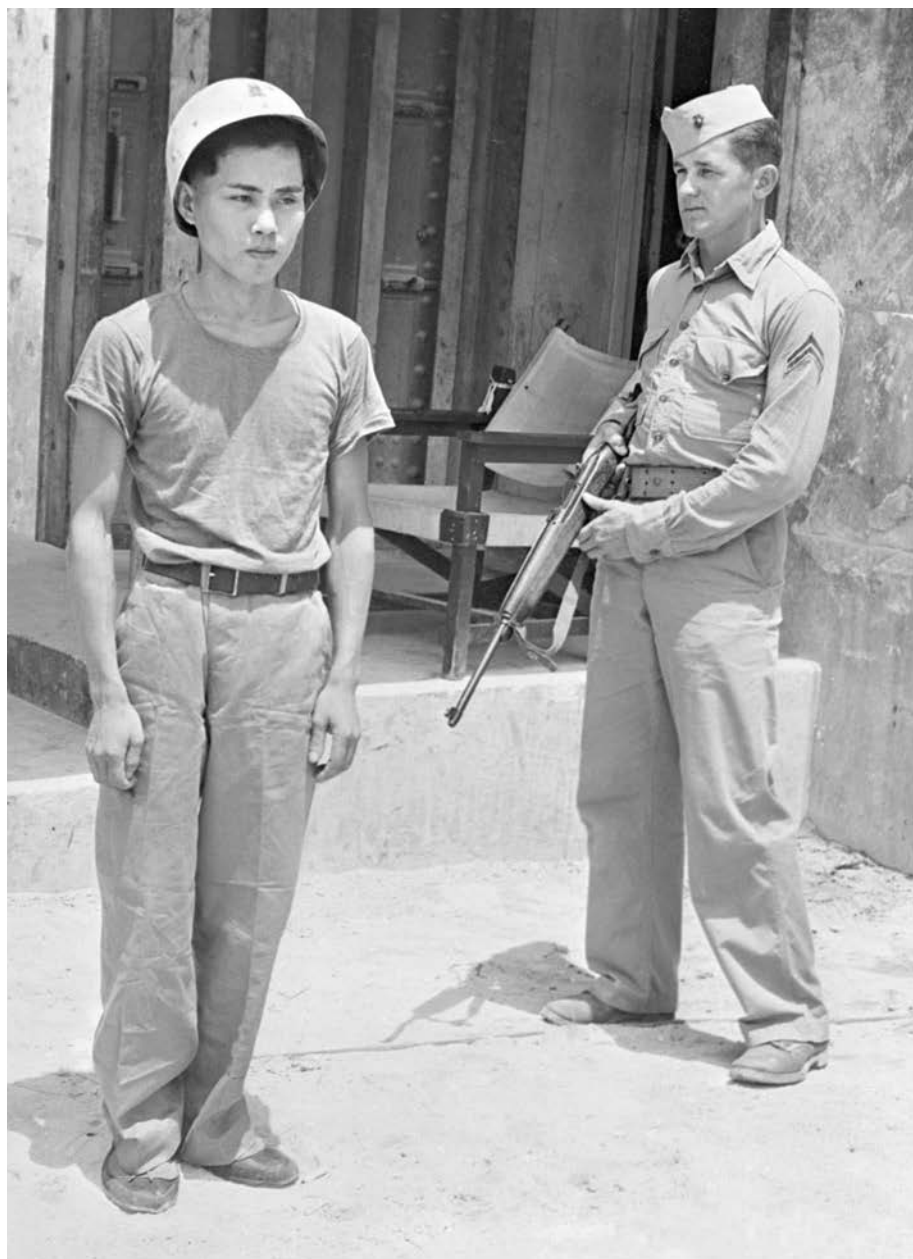
**Privates First Class Salvador Grijalva and George T. Monk, riding jeep patrol in the early morning of April 2, noticed a figure standing at the side of the road. It was one of the Japanese with his arms above his head in a gesture of surrender.**

when they burned their supplies and sealed the entrances of caves used as hideouts. The islanders had come to hate them, he went on, and refused to help in any way. Four Okinawan Gunzokus, or laborers, were being held to prevent them from revealing the renegades' hiding places. To make it more difficult for these Okinawans to escape, they were separated from each other and kept in different caves.

The prisoner laughingly told RADM Sumikawa that several of the Japanese were only 15 or 20 yards away when he made his broadcast. He went on to say that many of them had contemplated shooting the admiral and his interpreter as traitors. The admiral grinned when he heard this and said he hoped he wouldn't have to make any more broadcasts. Tsuchida did not expect any of the other Japanese to give themselves up. Since his disappearance Yamaguchi would be more watchful and the others would not attempt to escape for fear of being killed by their officer.

Tsuchida warned that his former colleagues had discussed one last desperate banzai attack on the Marine camp and naval installations surrounding the airstrip. It was at this point that CAPT Fox ordered all civilians out of the area to the adjacent submarine base for safety. Armed guards were posted around the field and machine guns were set up on rooftops. Night patrols were equipped with flares, and mortars and flame throwers were readied.

Tsuchida gave full details as to the number of military and naval personnel in the group. Aside from the commander, LT Yamaguchi, there were 23 soldiers. Sergeant Major Tachi was second in command. Next in rank were Corporal Fukunaga and Leading Private Kataoka. There were nine superior privates, six first class privates and two second class privates, all from the Second Regiment of Tokyo. The eight navy men from the Yokosuka naval base were under the supervision of Second Class Petty Officer Aikawa. There were two leading seamen,



**Cpl William Hall guards Tsuchida, who was found standing by the road with his arms above his head and his weapon at his feet as a signal of surrender. Tsuchida would give Marine interrogators information about a planned banzai attack on the Marine camp and naval installations surrounding the airstrip.**

three superior seamen, and one first class seaman. Tsuchida, the renegade who had surrendered, was a superior seaman.

The threat of a banzai attack by the Japanese still hung over the heads of the Marine garrison on April 5 when an attempt was made to contact the renegades through Tsuchida as well as RADM Sumikawa and his interpreter. The three Japanese were given an armed escort, consisting of Sgt L.C. Barineau and Cpl William Hall under the command of CWO Goodall. Barineau and Hall carried loaded submachine guns.

This was not to be an easy assignment for the Japanese Tsuchida. He knew that LT Yamaguchi, who refused to believe what he thought to be American propa-

ganda about the war's end, would be watching his every move and might welcome a chance to kill Tsuchida when that emissary approached the Japanese bailiwick. Tsuchida was to return to the cave from which he escaped and try to talk the other Japanese into surrendering.

The small party traveled in two jeeps to a point about a quarter of a mile from the cave site. The jeeps were driven into the brush and the three Marines, with their charges, took to the trail. Tsuchida, from long habit, led the way quickly and noiselessly to the cave. The entrance turned out to be a well-concealed opening in a wall of rock, impossible to detect behind a curtain of vines.

Tsuchida picked up a rock about the



size of an orange, tapped carefully on the side of the entrance, and called. There was no reply. Tsuchida waited a couple of minutes, and then, parting the vines, crawled carefully into the cave mouth and disappeared from the sight of the Marines with their protecting Thompsons. They could hear his light scuffling for a moment, and then there was silence. When he reappeared it was to announce that the cave, which had been occupied 24 hours earlier, was now completely empty. Tsuchida's relief at having come out alive was very evident, and he grinned as the party turned around and returned to base and, for Tsuchida, the naval brig.

It was becoming easier to understand the refusal of the hiding Japanese to believe that the war had been ended by an atomic bomb. Even for Tsuchida, who was willing to cooperate in every way, it was hard to realize that Japan had been defeated by the United States. He and the rest of the surviving Peleliu Japanese had been, for the two years of their guerrilla resistance, convinced that the Marines had only overrun the Palau islands and that Japan, temporarily pushed back in that sector, would return and liberate them.

Tsuchida now believed the rest of his group was hiding in a big cave carved out by nature 100 feet below the surface of

the island, but he convinced the Americans that he did not know enough of its location to lead them to it. Meanwhile, patrols continued to comb the territory in the vicinity of Bloody Nose Ridge. They probed up and down ravines and pushed through shoulder-deep swamps infested with moray eels, poisonous snakes, giant crabs and malarial mosquitos.

**Deep inside Bloody Nose Ridge  
they had a five-story cave  
rigged with kerosene bottles  
for lamps, running water in the  
form of a small stream  
and storerooms well-stocked  
with American supplies  
and medicines.**

An elaborately camouflaged hideout, built on a wooden platform in the middle of a particularly difficult piece of swampland, was found. It was complete with cooking facilities and sleeping accommodations. This was surprising since not 10 days before, the Marines had burned the place down. It had been rebuilt and restocked

and was so cleverly concealed that the Japanese had hoped the same patrol would not come by again. It couldn't be spotted from 20 yards away.

Three weeks of patient search finally brought results. The holdouts were located and Tsuchida, taking his life into his hands once more, was sent in to talk to the fierce LT Yamaguchi. With him he took letters from families of the hiding men and a message from Colonel Tada, once the Japanese army chief in the Palaus. RADM Sumikawa continued to talk to them through a loudspeaker as Tsuchida conferred. While Tsuchida faced them with the proof of his mission, the admiral outlined the benefits of surrender, promising repatriation to Japan as soon as possible.

On April 21, the Japanese lieutenant and 26 of his guerrillas, by prearrangement, marched past 80 Marines who were lined up in full battle dress as a reception committee. The procession halted in front of Marine headquarters, and there Yamaguchi, for whom World War II was just ending, surrendered his sword and battle flag to CAPT Fox.

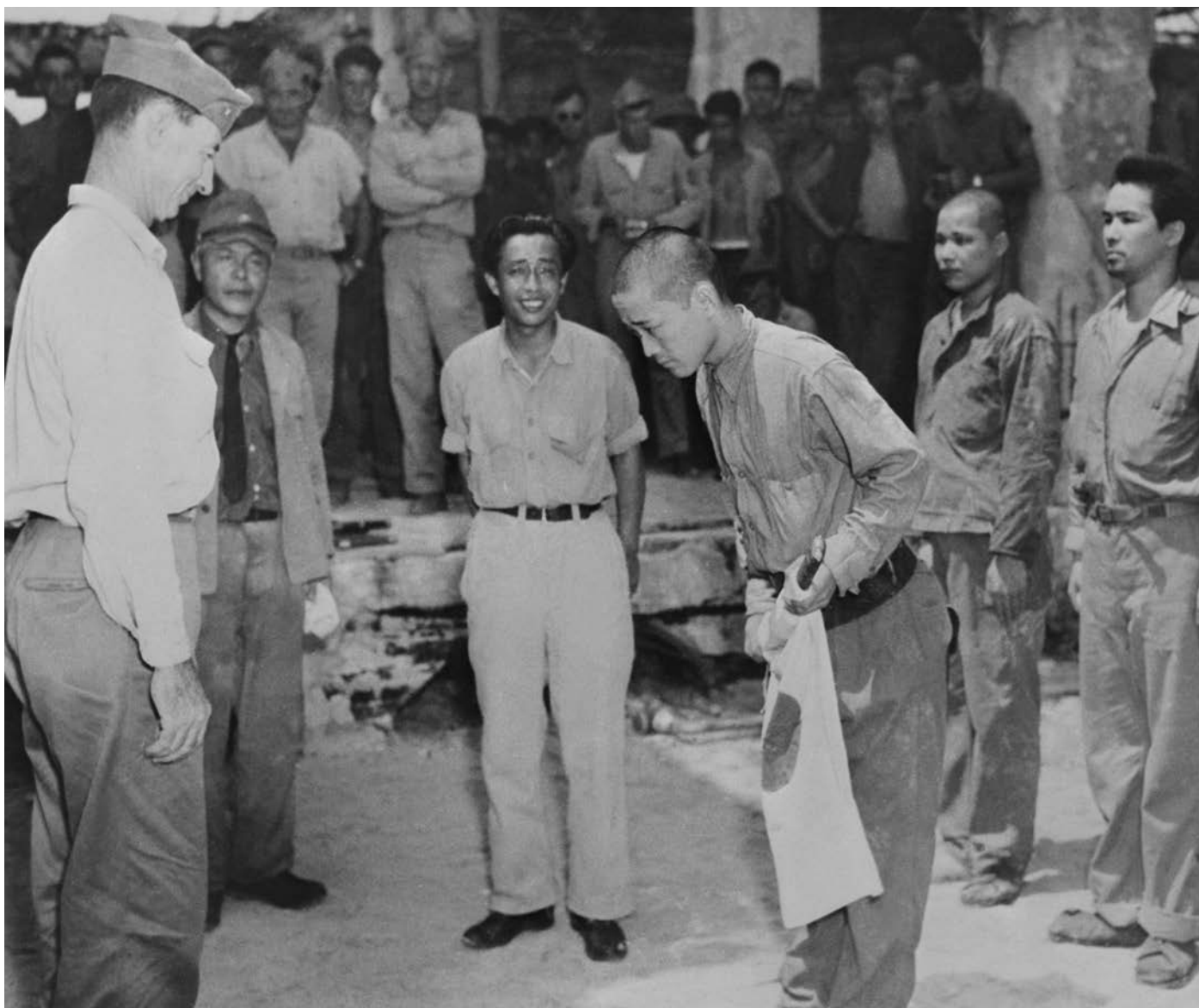
"I wish," said Fox to Yamaguchi, "that you had come in sooner."

The Japanese were assured that they would be treated as disarmed military personnel rather than as prisoners of



**Japanese soldiers followed LT Yamaguchi, wearing cap, out of their well-concealed hideout. They were finally convinced that Japan had lost the war.**





**LT Yamaguchi, the leader of the Japanese who surrendered to the Americans on Peleliu, bows to CAPT Fox before giving up his sword and battle flag.**

war, since it was understood they had not known hostilities between Japan and the U.S. had ended. The Japanese were issued clean clothing, soap, towels and toilet articles, and they were permitted to take showers—the first they had taken in years.

“They never had it so good in the [Japanese] army,” said SSgt E.V. Sturgeon, who was a former POW, captured on Wake. “We weren’t treated that well when the tables were turned and we were the prisoners.”

Seven more dubious Japanese turned themselves in on April 22, and the long siege ended.

On April 24, the Japanese were inspected by Brigadier General Henry D. Linscott, commander of the Marine Garrison Forces, Pacific, who flew out from Pearl Harbor to attend the ceremonies.

Despite the fact that these Japanese soldiers and Sailors had been in hiding for

more than two years, they had managed to live fairly well by foraging at night. Deep inside Bloody Nose Ridge they had a five-story cave rigged with kerosene bottles for lamps, running water in the form of a small stream and storerooms well-stocked with American supplies and medicines. “They even had Kleenex,” said one of the inspecting Marines. Their drinking water was obtained in the best Seabee fashion with oil drums to catch rainwater and rubber hoses to carry it into the caves.

When the second group of seven Japanese surrendered, Yamaguchi assured the Americans these were the last holdouts on the island. Peleliu could relax and return to its postwar business. Marine training resumed and simulated problems of capturing Bloody Nose Ridge occupied their usual place on the schedule. The rapid growth of lush vegetation had already covered the scars of war. The limbless tree stumps standing out against the

sky on “Five Sisters” were covered with vines and gave little indication that they were the blasted and seared ridges visible shortly after D-day. The bones of thousands of forgotten Japanese defenders were covered and only the shattered remains of several concrete buildings stood as reminders of the epic struggle for this rock. The cemetery, in which 1,609 Marines, Sailors and soldiers lie buried, was the best-kept area on the island.

The Marine barracks settled down again to routine duties, which no longer included chasing Japanese all over Bloody Nose Ridge. The men limited their gripes to such items as the chow and lack of liberty instead of fighting off the mosquitoes while trying to concentrate on a Japanese trail in the dark. Everyone was now assured that he would spend at least every other night in the sack. Peace had come to Peleliu.





# Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

## New PFT Standards: Hawaii Marines Put to the Test

Marines with Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, conducted a physical fitness test (PFT) on March 14 using the new scoring system that was implemented Jan. 1.

The new PFT standards raise the bar for physical fitness. Pull-ups, crunches and the 3-mile run remain in the core test, but now all Marines will have the option of doing either pull-ups or push-ups. A maximum score, however, can only be reached by doing pull-ups.

A major change to the PFT is that Marines will be able to run it as many times as they want and the last score they receive will be submitted for that reporting period.

Corporal Richard Flores, a training non-commissioned officer with Headquarters Bn, was responsible for scoring the Marines during the PFT.

"The PFT has been adjusted to reflect the changes for the 2017 fiscal year," he said. "Some of the changes include more pull-ups for males, and females are required to do pull-ups versus the flexed-arm hang. In addition, push-ups have been added as a replacement for doing pull-ups for less points. At age 46, Marines can opt out of the run and instead utilize a rowing machine."

Flores said the new PFT has raised the Corps' physical fitness standards, and Marines are now expected to train even harder than before.

Cpl Taylor Fallaw, an administrative specialist with Headquarters Bn, ran his PFT for practice to assess the new standards.

"It's a lot harder, but I like that because it gives us something to strive for," Fallaw said.

Staff Sergeant Alexander Imlah, the maintenance chief for the MCB Hawaii communications office, ran the new PFT alongside his Marines.

"I was out there motivating our Marines during the PFT because I wanted to support them in keeping their pace to get the best score possible," he said. "The new physical fitness test is something to give us an edge and improve the standards already set by the Marine Corps."

Imlah said that the updated standards require more effort and preparation. He said that in his opinion, unprepared Marines will notice their scores drop because of the new scoring chart.

For more information on the PFT updates, refer to Marine Corps Bulletin 6100 which can be found at [www.marines.mil](http://www.marines.mil).

Cpl Jesus Sepulveda Torres, USMC

## SGLI Modernizes With Online Enrollment System

The Veterans Affairs and Defense departments are introducing an online enrollment system for servicemembers who have life insurance policies through Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI). The new system enables active-duty and eligible reserve and National Guard members to manage their group and family coverage online.

SGLI automatically provides \$400,000 in life insurance coverage to servicemembers upon enlistment or commission. SGLI members get automatic coverage for dependent children and spouses under the Family SGLI program.

The SGLI Online Enrollment System (SOES) availability began for the U.S. Navy in April and will extend to the rest of the uniformed services later this year—the Air Force in July, the Army in August, the Marine Corps in October and the Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in December.

SOES is the online replacement for the paper form SGLV 8286, entitled SGLI Election and Certificate.

The new system eliminates unclear designations and missing or incomplete forms—problems that were identified with the paper-based system—and ensures all insurance holders receive the latest information about changes affecting their coverage.

"Now the Navy, and soon all of our nation's servicemembers, will be able to manage their coverage and beneficiaries online—just like their private-sector counterparts," Thomas Murphy, the VA's acting undersecretary for benefits said in a statement. "Moving from a cumbersome paper-based process to an online self-service system brings the SGLI program in line with insurance industry best practices ... SOES will allow our troops to make fast and easy changes to their life insurance coverage and beneficiary information at any time."

The VA has collaborated with the Defense Department, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) and the uniformed services to develop the SOES.

The system will be available through DMDC's milConnect web application. There, servicemembers can review personal, healthcare and personnel information from one source, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).



LCPL JESUS SEPULVEDA TORRES, USMC

**Marines with Headquarters Bn compete against the clock during the crunches portion of the PFT at MCB Hawaii, March 14. It was the unit's first time conducting a PFT using the new scoring system that was implemented Jan. 1.**



**A visitor uses a 3-D pen during the grand opening of the Innovation Lab at the Camp Foster Library, MCB Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan, March 27. The lab, which is open to Marines and family members, features a variety of new technologies to inspire creativity and problem solving.**

To ensure that servicemembers have support while using the new system, the VA is working with DOD and the individual uniformed services to train key service personnel as SOES becomes available to each branch.

For more information about SOES, servicemembers should visit [www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect) using Internet Explorer and use a DS-logon or common access card (CAC). Click on Life Insurance, SOES under the "Benefits" tab.

Cheryl Pellerin, DOD News

### **Innovation Lab: Tech Access For Marines, Families**

The library at Camp Foster, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Okinawa, Japan, officially opened their Innovation Lab to children and adults on March 27.

"The goal of the Innovation Lab is to get everyone into the next big thing," said Devin Farmer, the supervisory librarian at the Camp Foster library. "We're trying to give everyone access to the latest and greatest technology like 3-D printing, modeling and virtual reality."

The Innovation Lab features two Oculus Rift virtual reality systems, Microsoft HoloLens holographic computers and an interactive robot.

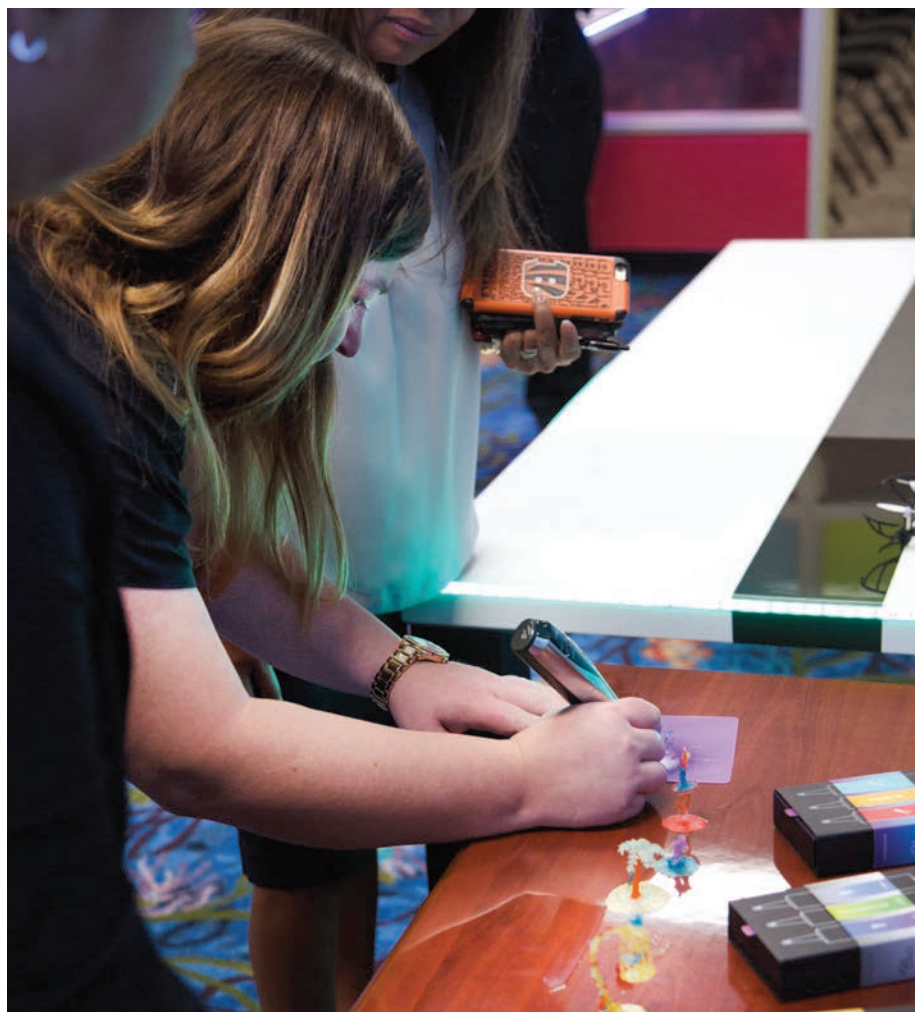
"We have touch controllers with the Oculus Rift," said Farmer. "We can use them to basically sculpt in thin air. We don't even need to have the materials. We can virtually sculpt something and take it over to our 3-D printers and print it."

The Innovation Lab is open to everyone, regardless of age or skill level.

"These devices are entry level," said Farmer. "If you have no experience you can jump right in and get your feet wet with whatever you're interested in. We have programs going next month that will teach people how to use all the devices and things in a classroom-type setting."

With these user-friendly devices now available, Marines are encouraged to foster their creativity and discover new ways to solve problems.

"Our Marine Corps Installations Pacific Innovation Lab is just the beginning," said Major General Joaquin F. Malavet, Commanding General, MCIPAC. "Fundamentally, this is about strengthening our future national security and our current combat readiness. Our Marines must be encour-



CPL JESSICA COLLINS, USMC



**Devin Farmer, left, the supervisory librarian at the Camp Foster Library, and Col William L. DePue, the commanding officer of H&S Bn, MCB Camp Butler, cut the ribbon to officially open the Innovation Lab in Okinawa, Japan, March 27.**

CPL JESSICA COLLINS, USMC

aged to think big and do. This Innovation Lab sets those conditions. Our young, creative, technologically savvy and highly intellectual warriors are the absolute catalysts for innovative discovers and they will most certain drive our Marine Corps in the right direction to achieve the right victories."

The Innovation Lab staff strives to create an environment where visitors have creative freedom and out-of-the-box tools

to meet their goals, whatever they may be.

"We don't want to prescribe something for you to do in the Innovation Lab," said Farmer. "We want you to be able to think of the next big thing. There are a lot of possibilities, but we can't figure out all of them on our own. We need your help."

Cpl Jessica Collins, USMC





## Reunions

• **1stMarDiv Assn. (all eras, 70th Annual Reunion)**, July 31-Aug. 6, Norfolk, Va. Contact June Cormier, P.O. Box 9000 Box #902, Oceanside, CA 92051, (760) 763-3267, [june.oldbreed@fmda.us](mailto:june.oldbreed@fmda.us).

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 1-8, Savannah, Ga. Contact Don Gee, P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, [gygee@aol.com](mailto:gygee@aol.com), [www.caltrap.com](http://www.caltrap.com).

• **26th Marines Assn. (all eras)**, Aug. 11-13, Las Vegas. Contact G.H. "Sonny" Hollub Jr., (512) 825-4730, [sonnyusmc@gmail.com](mailto:sonnyusmc@gmail.com), [www.26thMarines.com](http://www.26thMarines.com).

• **National Montford Point Marine Assn.**, July 19-23, Las Vegas. Contact MGySgt Ron Johnson, USMC (Ret), (504) 202-8552.

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Aug. 21-24, San Diego. Contact Jack Paxton, (352) 748-4698, [usmccca@cfl.rr.com](mailto:usmccca@cfl.rr.com), [www.usmccca.org](http://www.usmccca.org).

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Oct. 16-18, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, [www.marcorengasn.org](http://www.marcorengasn.org).

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn. (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)**, Sept. 14-17, San Diego. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, [greggstoner22@aol.com](mailto:greggstoner22@aol.com), or CWO-3 Chip Dykes, USMC (Ret), (760) 908-2322, [www.westcoastdi.org](http://www.westcoastdi.org).

• **1st MAW Assn. (RVN)**, Sept. 14-16, San Diego. Contact Al Frater, (201) 906-1197, [teanal@optonline.net](mailto:teanal@optonline.net).

• **USMC Hawk Assn.**, June 20-23, Harrisburg, Pa. Contact Stan Buliszyn, 1 Cherry Drive Ln., Ocala, FL 34472, (352) 509-2043, [sb353@usmchawkassociation.com](mailto:sb353@usmchawkassociation.com).

• **Seagoing Marines Assn.**, Aug. 22-27, Arlington, Va. Contact Bob Sollom, (540) 840-9310, [sol136@msn.com](mailto:sol136@msn.com).

• **USMC Food Service Assn.**, Oct. 17-21, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Mike Fishbaugh, (606) 789-5010, [smfishbaugh@mikrotec.com](mailto:smfishbaugh@mikrotec.com).

• **USMC Vietnam Tankers Assn.**, Sept. 21-25, St. Louis. Contact John Wear, (215) 794-9052, [johnwear2@verizon.net](mailto:johnwear2@verizon.net).

• **7th Engineer Bn Vietnam Veterans' Assn.**, Sept. 21-24, Orlando, Fla. Contact Doug McMackin, (623) 419-2135, [gunnymac@hotmail.com](mailto:gunnymac@hotmail.com), or Jim Taranto, (518) 567-4267, [tarantoj@gmail.com](mailto:tarantoj@gmail.com).

• **Khe Sanh Veterans Inc.**, Aug. 27-Sept. 3, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact President Tom Eichler, (773) 625-2101, [teicl448@aol.com](mailto:teicl448@aol.com), [www.khesanh.org](http://www.khesanh.org).

• **"Forgotten Heroes," Eastern Recruiting Region Recruiters**, Aug. 17-19, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Larry Risvold, (803) 760-4575, [larryrisvold@att.net](mailto:larryrisvold@att.net).

• **Men of Chosin**, June 18-20, Reno, Nev. Contact Stan Galewick, (530) 221-1496.

• **FLC, FLSG A/B (RVN)**, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, Monterey, Calif. Contact Frank Miller, [familier56@yahoo.com](mailto:familier56@yahoo.com), or Vern Snodderly, [vasnodderly@comcast.com](mailto:vasnodderly@comcast.com).

• **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Oct. 1-6, Albuquerque, N.M. Contact Harold Wilson, (740) 385-6204, [handk.lucerne06@gmail.com](mailto:handk.lucerne06@gmail.com).

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Aug. 1-6, Savannah, Ga. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, [dbumcl3usmc@verizon.net](mailto:dbumcl3usmc@verizon.net).

• **2/9**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, (978) 667-4762, [ditson35@verizon.net](mailto:ditson35@verizon.net), [www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org](http://www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org).

• **"Stormy's" 3/3 (1960-62)**, Sept. 18-22, Gettysburg, Pa. Contact Burrell Landes, 2610 West Long Circle, Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 734-1458, [bhanon@comcast.net](mailto:bhanon@comcast.net).

• **3/4**, Aug. 16-20, Naperville, Ill. Contact Travis Fryzowicz, (732) 251-5518, [maddogandgrace@verizon.net](mailto:maddogandgrace@verizon.net).

• **3/9, F/2/12 and Support Units (all eras)**, Sept. 5-8, San Antonio. Contact Robert W. Stewart, (727) 581-5454, [threeninemarines@aol.com](mailto:threeninemarines@aol.com).

• **Support Co, 3d Engineer Bn (RVN, 1967-68)**, Sept. 12-14, Rehoboth Beach, Del. Contact A.J. Folk, 215 Sweetwater Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073, (610) 589-1362, [ajfpa@comcast.net](mailto:ajfpa@comcast.net).

• **Battery Adjust, 3/11 (all eras)**, Sept. 20-24, Las Vegas. Contact Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, [dwmiller48@gmail.com](mailto:dwmiller48@gmail.com).

• **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, [bertojoto1@gmail.com](mailto:bertojoto1@gmail.com).

• **D/1/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, Sept. 21-23, Arlington, Va. Contact Zack Forester, (505) 514-8499, [ztfiii@hotmail.com](mailto:ztfiii@hotmail.com), [www.deltacompanyvietnammarines.com](http://www.deltacompanyvietnammarines.com).

• **F/2/7 (RVN)**, July 9-14, Savannah, Ga. Contact Ron Gryn, (352) 638-2872, [boatmanron@gmail.com](mailto:boatmanron@gmail.com).

• **G/2/7 (RVN)**, Aug. 3-6, Cape Girardeau, Mo. Contact Jim Stroman, (573) 545-3901 or (949) 510-7888.

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, June 22-25, Kenner, La. Contact Dr. David McCann, (504) 909-9972, [nopdret@gmail.com](mailto:nopdret@gmail.com).

• **H/2/26**, Sept. 10-16, Branson, Mo. Contact Bill Hancock, 2748 Moeller Dr., Hamilton, OH 45014, (513) 738-5446, [hancockw@roadrunner.com](mailto:hancockw@roadrunner.com).

• **M/4/12 and 3d 155 mm Howitzer Battery, 3dMarDiv**, Sept. 10-15, Detroit. Contact Alex Jablonowski, (248) 505-2183, [3rd155s.m4.12@gmail.com](mailto:3rd155s.m4.12@gmail.com).

• **3d 155 mm Gun Btry (SP) and 3d 175 mm Gun Btry (SP)**, Oct. 5-7, Branson, Mo. Contact Ed Kirby, (978) 987-1920, [ed-kirby@comcast.net](mailto:ed-kirby@comcast.net).

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

• **Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station Earle**, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, [dwright.schaefferoil@gmail.com](mailto:dwright.schaefferoil@gmail.com).

• **Parris Island Brig Guards (1976-79)**, Summer 2017, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Ken Haney, 26420 Highway 49, Chase City, VA 23924, [kenhaney79@gmail.com](mailto:kenhaney79@gmail.com).

• **TBS, Class 4-67**, Sept. 21-24, Washington, D.C. Contact Ken Pouch, (860) 881-6819, [kpouch5@gmail.com](mailto:kpouch5@gmail.com).

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

• **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Connors, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, [tconnors3@yahoo.com](mailto:tconnors3@yahoo.com).

• **TBS, Co G, 7-80**, July 8-10, Quantico, Va. Contact Pete Flerlage, (703) 498-2294, [petercent7@aol.com](mailto:petercent7@aol.com).

• **"Kilo" Co (Plts 277, 278, 279 and**

## Success Story?

Has your entry in *Leatherneck's* Reader Assistance allowed you to reunite with a boot camp buddy, reconnect with old friends or track down the recruit graduation book you lost years ago? We would love to hear your success stories. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or [s.bock@mca-marines.org](mailto:s.bock@mca-marines.org).



\$49.99/\$45.00\*

# MEN'S EGA ARMOR® WATCH

PERFECT FOR FATHER'S DAY

*Additional golf items available at*

[WWW.MARINESHOP.NET](http://WWW.MARINESHOP.NET)



**The MARINE Shop**

***Serving Marines Around the World***

***Operated by the Marine Corps Association***

*\* Member price only.*



**AMERICAN FLAG**

DISPLAY YOUR PATRIOTISM

PRICING VARIES BY SIZE & FEATURES

*Freshen up your yard with a new American flag  
—Made in the USA.*

WWW.MARINESHOP.NET

 **The MARINE Shop**  
Serving Marines Around the World  
Operated by the Marine Corps Association

\* Members receive a 10% discount

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

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

• **Plt 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 2023, San Diego, 1983**, is planning

a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.

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

• **Plt 2041, San Diego, 1967 (50th anniversary)**, Nov. 9-12, Las Vegas. Contact Daniel Palacios, (951) 541-8940, dphouse mouse@gmail.com, or Enrique Ortiz, (949) 874-3636.

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

• **Marine Air Control Squadrons (all squadrons)**, June 22-25, Quantico, Va. Contact Frank Walter, 3465 W. Loon Lake Rd., Angola, IN 46703, fwalter@frontier.com.

• **Marine Air Base Squadrons 43 and 49**, Sept. 9, Earlville, Md. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle, USMC (Ret), 23 Greenwood Dr., Bordentown, NJ 08505, (609) 291-9617, mabsreunion@comcast.net.

• **HMM-165/VMM-165 (all hands/all eras)**, June 8-11, Washington, D.C. Contact Al Dickerson, (317) 462-0733, www.hmm165whiteknights.com.

• **HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (all eras)**, Sept. 7-10, Arlington, Va. Contact John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, ruffinich53@gmail.com.

• **VMFA-531 Gray Ghosts**, June 15-17, Quantico, Va. Contact Roman Makuch, (347) 886-0962, or Ray Holmes, (732) 267-0518.

• **VMM/HMM-364 (all ranks/eras)**, Sept. 19-22, North Kansas City, Mo. Contact GySgt Joe Barlow Jr., USMC (Ret), (816) 813-1662, pf6468@hotmail.com, or MSgt Dave Magee, USMC (Ret), dave@hmm-364.org.

## Ships and Others

• **USS Bremerton (CA-130/SSN-698)**, Sept. 24-29, Portland, Ore. Contact N. Polanowski, 5996 County Rd. 16, Belfast, NY 14711, (585) 365-2316, rpolanowski@stny.rr.com.

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 11-15, Harrisburg, Pa. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Duluth (LPD-6)**, Sept. 6-10, Duluth, Minn. Contact John Adams, (484) 766-3715, john.adams@ussduluth.org, www.ussduluth.org.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8/CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 13-17, Kansas City, Mo. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS Inchon (LPH/MCS-12)**, Oct. 15-19, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact David F. Fix, P.O. Box 6361, Nalcrest, FL 33856, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com.

• **USS John R. Craig (DD-885)**, Sept. 6-10, Norfolk, Va. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48150, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net, www.ussjohnrcraig.com.

• **USS Providence (CL-82/CLG-6)**, Sept. 17-21, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact Jim Chryst, (717) 284-6996, jchryst@embarqmail.com.

• **USS Ranger (CVA/CV-61)**, Sept. 20-23, Warwick, R.I. Contact George Meoli, (203) 453-4279, uss.ranger@yahoo.com.

• **USS Saratoga Assn. (CV-60)**, Sept. 27-30, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Contact Ed McCready, 447 Land'Or Dr., Ruther Glen, VA 22546, (804) 589-1170, emc0853@yahoo.com.

## Mail Call

• Sgt James M. Johnson, jmiljohn@verizon.net, to hear from or about **GySgt Frank THOMAS**, who served with **H/2/5, RVN, 1968**.

• Janet Walker, (281) 384-9473, bentley rolls01@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who lost a **Marine Corps ring** in the barracks at **MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.**,





Thomas J. Gillitzer, Jr., Cpl.  
1st Mar. Div. MFC

COURTESY OF DAN GILLITZER

**Dan Gillitzer would like to hear from anyone who recognizes this award display artwork and can share any information with him about how his late father may have acquired it.**

between 2003 and 2006. In order to receive the ring, the owner must correctly identify the engravings on the inside of the band.

- Dan Gillitzer, (608) 445-6160, danginah@charter.net, to hear from anyone who has information about the origin of his late father's **1stMarDiv award display artwork**, pictured above. He served from 1951-59.

- Patricia Breeze Hegwood, 14901 Doheny Circle, Irvine, CA 92604, p hegwood1313@yahoo.com, to hear from anyone who served with or knew **Maj Robert Winton "Breezer" BREEZE**, who served with **VMA-121 and VMF-235** from the **mid 1940s to the mid 1950s**.

- Annecia Thomason, (817) 734-6147, awickersham@basiccomp.com, and Tina Thomason, livelovetooill@yahoo.com, to hear from or about former **PFC Don DINES**, who graduated from **boot camp in 1960** and from the **U.S. Naval Academy in 1966**.

- GySgt Paul Moore, USMC (Ret), HC-2 Box 9549, Keaau, HI 96749, (808) 982-5336, pm3777@aol.com, to hear from anyone who was stationed at **MCB Quantico in 1942**.

- Edmund G. Ostic, 605 Durazno St., Tularosa, NM 88352, eostic@att.net, to hear from or about **SSgt KIATKOWSKI**, who served as a **drill instructor** at **MCRD San Diego in 1967**.

- Donna K. Clark, 411 Annex Ave. E-5, Nashville, TN 37209, (615) 540-3311, to hear from anyone who served with or knew **Cpl Leo Alvin ENGELN III**, from **Nashville, Tenn.**, a **Vietnam** veteran who entered the Marine Corps in **January 1969**.

#### Wanted

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

- Jayne Shabangu, jayneshabangu@

gmail.com, wants an **October 1964 issue of Leatherneck**.

- Charles Mauch, (209) 747-3211, cmauch1@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 383, San Diego, 1962-63**.

- Bob Arnst, rarnst@tampabay.rr.com, wants a **recruit graduation book** for **Plt 376, Parris Island, 1960**.

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 e-mail to [s.bock@mca-marines.org](mailto:s.bock@mca-marines.org), or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.





# Books Reviewed

**LUCKY 666: The Impossible Mission.**  
By Bob Drury and Tom Clavin. Published by Simon & Schuster. 368 pages. \$27 MCA Members. \$30 Regular Price.

"Lucky 666" is the amazing, and until now, untold account of personal friendship, valor, and the determined will to survive. This thrilling story is set during the early, unforgiving days of World War II in the Pacific theater of operation.

Writers Bob Drury and Tom Clavin are bestselling authors of "The Heart of Everything That Is." Many of our readers might recall the authors' other hard-hitting collaboration, "The Last Stand of Fox Company," which won the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's General Wallace M. Greene Jr. Award for nonfiction. Once again, this writing team strikes gold with their engaging tale of "Old 666," a World War II B-17, and its indomitable flight crew.

In the early months of 1942 after their successful attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese rolled, seemingly unchecked, through the Pacific. However, after the Battle of the Coral Sea, and a dogged defense by the Australians, the Japanese were brought to a screeching halt in their efforts to capture Port Moresby in the southern part of New Guinea. By this time, General Douglas MacArthur had returned from the Philippines to plot his vengeful return. What the general needed most was an aggressive Army Air Force commander. That void was soon filled by a God-sent air-minded leader in the person of Lt Gen George C. Kenney. The 5th Air Force successfully took the lead and began to turn the tables on the Japanese. Their mission was complex: first to defend the Australian mainland; second, to blunt any Japanese moves south; third, to disrupt the enemy's elongated supply lines; fourth, to conduct effective photo reconnaissance; and finally, to bomb the enemy's northern strongholds. Skip bombing, front-mounted machineguns on medium bombers, and a host of divinely crafted tactics were tested to near perfection. Relegated as the war's "second front," Kennedy's fliers and ground crews performed miracles in the harsh and unforgiving tropical climate.

Into this toxic mix came two extraordinary airmen. Jay Zeamer, a B-26 Marauder

bomber pilot, was considered something of a maverick, and his friend, Joe Sarnoski, a gifted B-17 bombardier. The two men engraved their names into the storied history of combat aviation. In the tradition of good old "Yankee ingenuity," and something akin to "The Dirty Dozen" meets the "Black Sheep" squadron, they conspired to meet and defeat the oncoming enemy juggernaut.

Zeamer, born in Pennsylvania, grew up in New Jersey. Exhibiting a bent for mechanical issues, and a fascination with airplanes, the Eagle Scout attended Culver Military Academy in Indiana. He then attended MIT, enrolled in the ROTC, and became a student pilot. Failing an eye test for the Navy, he was then accepted into the Army Air Corps flight school. In March 1941, he graduated from the advanced Army flight school, at Maxwell Field, Ala.

Staff Sergeant Joe Sarnoski was Zeamer's senior by three years and was an expert bombardier. Zeamer was fascinated by Sarnoski's unique skills and spent hours learning the techniques of operational bombing from his new friend.

Zeamer wanted to fly B-17s and took every opportunity to fly copilot in the new heavy bombers famously christened "The Flying Fortress." Zeamer honed his skills by discovering new aggressive ways to pilot the large plane to counter the vaunted Japanese "Zero's" nimble attack runs. He determined that he could skid the big bomber back and forth and allow his gunners extra time to fire at the attacking enemy fighters. Many in other flight crews considered Zeamer's tactics unsound and even risky. They preferred the bomber pilots to fly in tight, mutually supporting, formations using the "bomber box" configuration.

Frustrated by not being assigned his own aircraft to command, Zeamer utilized his engineering skills to restore an old shot-up Fortress found in the scrapheap. Joined now by Sarnoski and some like-minded air crewmen, they called themselves the "Eager Beavers." Together they labored to re-tool and re-equip the battered B-17; they nicknamed their creation, "Old 666." The Eager Beavers customized the aircraft to Zeamer's unique

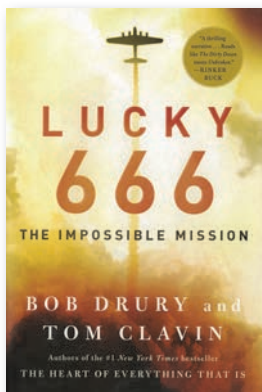
specifications. Old 666 was converted into an effective photo reconnaissance plane. And it now sported several new Zeamer inspired modifications. The crew cut holes in the fuselage to support extra machine-gun fighting positions and added a pilot-controlled front-firing machine gun. To improve range, speed and maneuverability, the bomber was stripped of all excess weight.

When all was set, Zeamer beseeched the squadron intelligence planners for a mission. He offered his plane and crew for any perilous assignment required: the riskier the better. With the impending invasion of Bougainville, the Marines wanted accurate photo maps of the island's hazardous reef formations.

Recognizing the critical importance of the mission, Zeamer's crew gamely signed on. June 16, 1943, Old 666 flew from Port Moresby over New Guinea's 7,000 feet high Owen Stanley mountains, then on to the Buka to photograph the island's Japanese air field. The bomber then proceeded down the long west coast of Bougainville to photograph the island's reef formation. Their flight plan placed Old 666 dangerously close to two enemy airfields bustling with battle-tested enemy pilots.

After getting the photos of the airfield, the photo mappings of the reef were obtained. To capture the photos Zeamer was required to fly at a steady and fixed altitude, and, for many miles, in a perfectly straight line. The Zeros pounced, and the highly unlikely dogfight was on. A Zero made a head-on pass and hit the B-17 hard in the bomber's nose and cockpit area. The Zero was quickly splashed by Sarnoski's effective gunnery. Though seriously wounded, Sarnoski kept firing until loss of blood caused him to pass out, draped over his still smoking guns. Zeamer was seriously wounded in both his arms and legs. He managed to continue flying until he accomplished the photo mapping mission.

A swarm of Zero's snap-rolled in for attack. It was estimated that the air battle lasted for an astonishing 40 minutes. The crew accounted for five enemy fighters destroyed with two more listed as probables. Besides Zeamer and Sarnoski, other members of the crew sustained grievous wounds. Despite lapsing in and out of semi-consciousness, Zeamer flew Old 666 to the nearest Allied airbase in New Guinea. More than 100 ragged pieces of steel and rubber were imbedded through-





out his body, but the critical photo maps were safely presented, undamaged, to the masterminds back in the intelligence section. Old 666 had 180 bullet holes and absorbed an additional five cannon blasts. The astonishing air battle stands as the longest dogfight in the annals of the United States Air Force.

Sadly, Joe Sarnoski succumbed to his wounds, but this mission helped to prove the durability of the B-17 against the vaunted Zero and paved the way for a successful invasion of Bougainville. Both Capt Jay Zeamer and SSgt Joe Sarnoski received the Medal of Honor.

Bob Drury and Tom Clavin concluded: “Jay Zeamer and Joe Sarnoski and the Eager Beavers had dared greatly. They had not failed.”

Bob Loring

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

**THIEVES OF BAGHDAD: One Marine's Passion to Recover the World's Greatest Stolen Treasures. By Matthew Bogdanos with William Patrick. Published by Bloomsbury USA. 352 pages. \$15.26 MCA Member. \$16.95 Regular Price.**

Never make assumptions.

That's one rule about criminal investigations Colonel Matthew Bogdanos spells out in his 2005 book, “Thieves of Baghdad.” The same rule should apply to every reader who discovers Bogdanos' nonfiction work—a detective story about the looting of the Iraq museum shortly after U.S. forces invaded the country in 2003.

It's not your typical war story.

Bogdanos, a Marine Corps Reserve officer and a New York City assistant district attorney, leads a team of investigators on a mission to retrieve items stolen from the Baghdad museum. These missing treasures—numbering in the thousands—include a limestone mask believed to be the world's oldest depiction of a human face as well as the gold head of a bull created around 2600 B.C.

The looting of the museum has become a footnote in the long history of fighting that has plagued Iraq since U.S. troops rolled into the country 14 years ago. Within that gloomy history, Bogdanos' story is an outlier—an optimistic tale that centers on a Marine's fight to find and preserve antiquities that were uncovered in the cradle of civilization.

The book has a Tarantino-style opening, throwing the reader into the middle of the

story: It's 2003, and Bogdanos is walking through the museum with journalists and colleagues, investigating which items have been taken and which remain. Here, we are gripped by an Indiana Jones-type scene in which Bogdanos and others follow footprints through hot, dusty rooms. Because of the extreme heat, the museum's director, a woman who follows sharia law and therefore covers herself from head to foot, faints during the search.

Bogdanos quickly works to help the Iraqi woman. Adhering to cultural practice, the Marine tells a colleague to request the aid of two women. The scene epitomizes Bogdanos' character. As a Marine, he's a warrior, but intellect and heart complement his battlefield skills.

“In my view, being efficient and ruthless on the battlefield is entirely consistent with being a loving, fully sensate human being,” Bogdanos writes in a later chapter.

The book is part memoir, and the Marine builds himself as the protagonist by first painting the reader a portrait of his childhood and adolescent years.

At age 12, his mom gave him a copy of “The Illiad.”

He states it was his identification with the ancient Greeks and their values that influenced his various pursuits—taking up boxing, joining the Marines and becoming a prosecutor.

“And it was my fascination with history and my appreciation of the Greek concepts of Themis (what's right) and arête (excellence for its own sake) that made me want to track down, reclaim, and protect some of the world's oldest and most precious antiquities.”

Like many military memoirs set against the backdrop of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, 9/11 played a central role in Bogdanos' story.

Bogdanos and his family witnessed the horrors of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack firsthand. They lived a block from the World Trade Center towers, and as an assistant district attorney, Bogdanos was close to many in law enforcement who died that day.

Shortly after the attacks, Bogdanos is recalled to active duty and becomes part of a counterterrorism investigative team. Bogdanos describes the group as the first of its kind—a team with personnel from the military, FBI, CIA, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Treasury and other agencies.

Bogdanos soon finds himself in Afghanistan, where, as part of the counterterrorism team, he is charged with main-

taining border security in the country. As America's focus shifts to Iraq in 2002, so does the focus of his team. By 2003, Bogdanos and his team are in the desert with U.S. forces.

It's the news media—in the form of an irate British journalist and a handful of headlines—that informs Bogdanos of the looting at the famed museum in Baghdad. The colonel makes a request to send in a team.

What begins as a three-to-five day mission to assess the looting situation turns into an investigation that continues for months.

When they arrive at the museum, the team must first assess what's been stolen and what remains. The museum's inventory system, however, is unreliable, and Bogdanos discovers the museum staff moved objects

to other locations prior to the U.S. invasion. Some missing items might not actually be “missing.”

The team eventually begins an amnesty program, allowing people to return antiquities, no questions asked.

Their efforts begin to pay off as Iraqis start coming forward with objects that were taken.

The colonel also uses the media to spread the word and to clear up misinformation.

Bogdanos, who co-wrote the book with author William Patrick, devotes several pages to explaining what journalists got right and what journalists got wrong about the museum looting story.

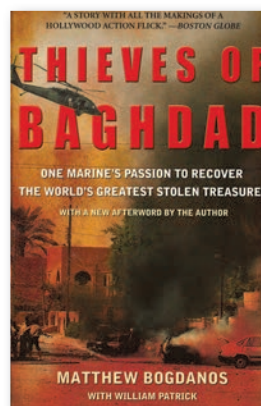
One could argue that “Thieves of Baghdad” was partly written to set the record straight.

“Thieves of Baghdad” isn't your typical shoot 'em up war story. There are no intense battle scenes or lengthy descriptions of pre-deployment training exercises. The book is a detective story, and Bogdanos is our Sherlock Holmes—always assessing the scene and never falling into the trap of assumptions.

Avid readers—whether you're a fan of war biographies, detective tales, or neither—should pick up a copy of Bogdanos' book. Enjoyment is certainly an avenue of possibility.

PFC Kyle Daly

*Author's bio: PFC Kyle Daly is a Southern California native who joined the Marine Corps after working as an editor and reporter for various publications, including the Pacific Daily News in Guam. He is currently an aircrew trainee residing in Pensacola, Fla.*





**SOUND OFF**  
[continued from page 7]

warm except when I was in a heated tent. Sometime in late winter of 1952 the First Marine Division was issued rubber boots. I heard a corpsman say, "Oh, good, galoshes for a winter in the mountains of North Korea." Neither he nor anyone else laughed very long. For the rest of the winter my feet were never cold.

The new boot was constructed of two layers of thick, tough, rubber, with a layer of densely packed wool in-between, allowing practically no movement of heat out nor cold in. The principle was the same as a thermos bottle except the vacuum was replaced by solid wool. In fact, we called them "thermal boots."

There were two problems, not very common, but miserable for the man who had either.

A few Marines were allergic to either the rubber itself or the coating on the rubber. After just a few days, their feet began to itch, then break out in swelling and blisters, then get unbearably painful. These men had to be evacuated for treatment, then returned to the MLR in shoe packs.

The other problem was that if the boot was torn open by shrapnel or other means, the boot was hardly more protective than



COURTESY OF J. BIRNEY DIBBLE

**The Mickey Mouse boot was introduced in Korea in the early 1950s replacing the inadequate shoe packs. They were ideal for wearing in sloppy mud.**

a galosh. This was not a problem if the Marine could promptly exchange the boot for another one, but anyone who has been in combat will recognize that this was not always possible.

J. Birney Dibble  
Eau Claire, Wis.

The article about Marine Corps combat boots prompted the following memory.

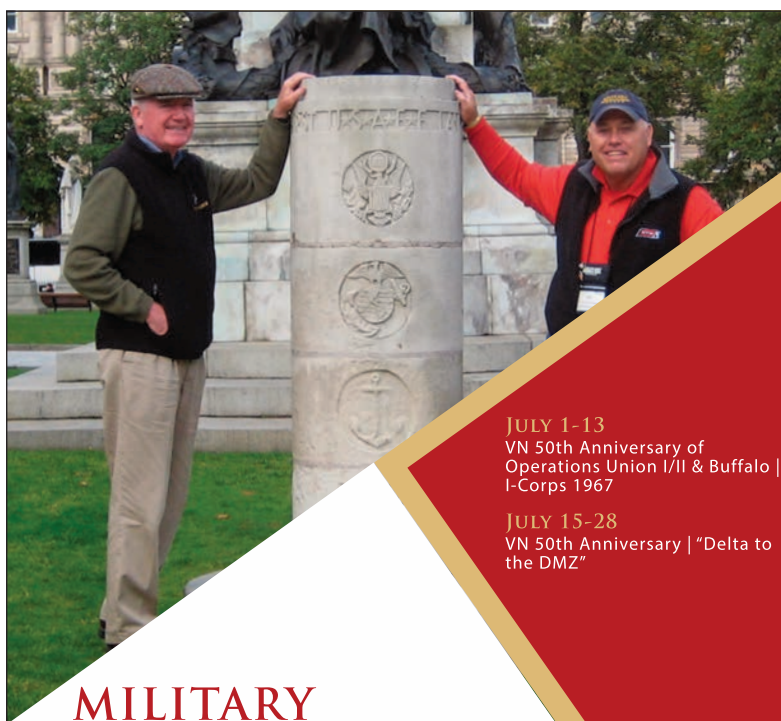
In late 1952 or early 1953, Colonel Robert B. Lucky, Chief of Staff, Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, issued an order for a forthcoming division-level parade, perhaps in honor of Major General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller.

The parade order included the requirement that all Marines wear the newly available high-top black boot. However, Headquarters Marine Corps required the boot be issued or purchased only if the individual Marine's boondockers were unserviceable. At that time I often worked with Col Lucky and took exception to the requirement for boots on the parade. I took my two pair of boondockers to his office to show him they were still very serviceable. He agreed, but said, "Sergeant Forgette, you will be in the parade, and you will wear boots." I went to clothing sales and bought a pair of boots. That exchange enhanced my deep respect for Col Lucky.

CMSgt John F. Forgette, USAF (Ret)  
USMC, 1951-57  
Fairhaven Village, Wash.

### M60 Was a Good Weapon

Let me say how much I enjoy the articles of past battles. As a Vietnam Marine veteran, I am especially interested in that



**MILITARY**  
HISTORICAL TOURS INC.



13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY,  
STE 202 WOODBRIDGE, VA 22193

703-590-1295

www.miltours.com

mhtours@miltours.com

**10% MCA&F MEMBER DISCOUNT**

## 2017 BATTLEFIELD TOURS

**JULY 29- AUG 3**  
"Bloody Tarawa"

**AUG 3-12**  
Guadalcanal 75th Anniversary |  
Pre-Tour: Tarawa

**AUG 19-SEPT 1**  
VN 50th Anniversary of Dak To  
I-II-III-IV Corps "Saigon to the DMZ"

**SEPT 2-14**  
VN 50th Anniversary of  
Operation Swift | I-Corps 1967

**SEPT 9-20**  
Spain Cultural & Military  
History

**SEPT 14-27**  
Ireland—All the Way Around  
the Emerald Isle | WWII U.S.  
Military Sites

**OCT 29-NOV 8**  
Israel Military & Cultural  
History

**DEC 2-8**  
Pearl Harbor | WWII U.S.  
Military Sites

**DEC 2-13**  
Vietnam Delta to DMZ  
Post Tour: 13-18 Dec Laos &  
Cambodia

**JAN 27-FEB 8, 2018**  
50th Anniversary of  
Tet Offensive | Battle of  
Hue City - 1968

**FEB 2- 12, 2018**  
Guadalcanal Campaign  
Completion

**MARCH 19- 26, 2018**  
Iwo Jima 73rd Reunion of  
Honor

**USMC VETERAN OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1987**

war. I also enjoy stories of the World Wars, Korea, Desert Storm, OIF and OEF, and all Marine conflicts and incursions. These stories tell me something about the Marines from the past and present that I have met and talked with. Keep up the good work.

I must make an observation about the Hue City article [March issue]. On page 26 the photo of the Marine machine gunner incorrectly identifies the weapon as an M48.

This is an M60, also known, somewhat affectionately, as "The Pig," mostly by those of us who never had to hump to the boonies with one. Those that did carry and fire it have other, not so affectionate, names for it. However, it was a good weapon and handy to have nearby.

Sgt W.R. Wright  
USMC, 1969-73  
Ehrenberg, Ariz.

On page 26 of the March issue the photo identifying the machine gun being used as an M48 should read M60. I had the privilege of using the M60 during my time in Vietnam as a helo gunner and crew chief with the UH-34D. Best and most reliable machine gun ever invented.

MSgt Dave Magee, USMC (Ret)  
Nebraska City, Neb.



COURTESY OF SSgt PARL GUTHRIE, USMC

**SSgt Parl Guthrie stands in front of an LVT-E1 in Vietnam. It has a large-toothed, V-shaped excavator blade mounted on the front that could clear a path through a minefield that was 16 inches deep and 12 feet wide.**

### Remembering the Landing On Chu Lai

My year in Vietnam from early 1965 to 1966 was a long time ago, but to me it was like yesterday. Today, at age 70, my memory is starting to fail, but I don't have any trouble remembering my time in country.

Two of my classmates and I graduated from high school in June of 1964 and knew

we were going to get drafted, so we joined the Marine Corps on the buddy system. Our boot camp experience during that time as well as the trip to Vietnam on a Navy LSD and LST would make an interesting story despite all of the things that have already been written.

My focus today is on the surprise we experienced being one of the first Marines



## ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

- MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS
- MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY
- VETERANS ADMINISTRATION / VOLUNTARY SERVICES
- RIFLE & PISTOL MATCHES
- TOYS FOR TOTS
- BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
- YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS
- FLAG RETIREMENT SERVICES
- HONOR & COLOR GUARDS
- HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS
- YOUNG MARINES OF THE MCL
- UNITED STATES MARINES YOUTH FOUNDATION
- HELPING MARINES IN NEED
- YOUTH PHYSICAL FITNESS, & MANY MORE!

## JOIN THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE TODAY!

**PHONE: (703) 207-9588**

**WEBSITE: WWW.MCLNATIONAL.ORG**



# MAGRAG

US MC

Vol. 6, No. 5 Yokosuka, Japan 11 June, 1946

## FREE BEER

There will be free beer at the Enlisted Men's Beer Hall beginning Wednesday night, 12 June. The beer has been purchased from the PX by the Social Services fund.

## COPIES OF OCCUPATION BOOKLET AVAILABLE

There are some copies of the occupation booklet available in the MAGRAG office. These will be available until Thursday. If you want an extra one to send to a friend, drop around.

## LAST ISSUE OF THE MAGRAG

This is the last issue of the mighty MAGRAG. Pages two and three of this issue are devoted to flashbacks from the files of the paper. The MAGRAG has been functioning since last December, covering everything from the birth of a new batch of pups to changes in the point system and changes in personnel.

## COUNTY FAIR NIGHTS IN THE BLUE ROOM

This coming Wednesday and Thursday evenings will be County Fair Nights in the Blue Room. There will be ten booths with games of chance and skill, farmer and farmerettes, and probably(?) an orchestra.

Everyone is welcome at the County Fair.

## WRAPPING PAPER STILL AVAILABLE

If anyone needs wrapping paper, heavy or light, there is plenty available in the MAGRAG cave.

## PX CLOSES TODAY

Today is the last day for the PX. The shelves are being emptied. Cigarette ration numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12 are good today. The PX personnel deserve praise for a job well done. The place started off slowly, but ended up a first rate PX.

BLUE ROOM NOW OPEN 1300 to 2200

1

## FLASHBACKS

The following are a few items from the MAGRAG files which may bring back memories of the occupation duty in Japan:

Dec. 7: The Station Library is now open with 10,000 volumes to choose from... Chaplain Radford is the librarian with four men on his staff.  
Dec. 11: By Christmas this base will have one of the best "rec" and recreation hall and lounges in the area.  
Dec. 21: Tuesday night at 1800 the Enlisted Men's Beer Hall opened in what was formerly the 4th Marines' Club.

Dec. 28: Opening of Enlisted Men's Lounge  
The enlisted men of this base had eight Red Cross girls in the lounge Christmas Day for the formal opening of the lounge.

VMF 311 was in first place at the end of the first half of the basketball league play-off.

Jan. 11: MAG BAND REHEARSING  
VMR 952 BASKETBALL TEAM IN FIRST PLACE  
BASEBALL EQUIPMENT HAS ARRIVED

Jan. 18: The men will not have to wear gloves to breakfast anymore. The mess hall is being enclosed, and stoves are being installed.  
Jan. 21: Mr. R.F. Leslie, the new Red Cross Field Director for this base arrived here Saturday. Ser. Sqd. will represent the

MAG in the coming Pacific Ocean Marine play-offs.

Jan. 23: Thursday night the MAG 31 Boxing Team will meet the visiting Mar 14 Team in nine bouts.

## OKINAWA BASKETBALL TEAM ARRIVES

Jan. 28: Enrollment in the MAG 31 educational program will begin Thursday, January 29.

Jan. 30: DOUGHNUTS BEING MADE IN THE BLUE ROOM

It snowed yesterday at the Marine Air Base, Yokosuka, Japan. VMF(n)543 won the right to represent the 2nd MA in China by a 32-24 win over Ser. Sqd.  
Feb. 4: CLASSES BEGIN TODAY

CHINA GOODS FOR PX  
Feb. 6: Lt. Col. J.P. Condon assumed the duties of Executive Officer of MAG 31 yesterday.

In the Special Services Office Major T.H. Mann has taken over the duties of Special Services officer.

Feb. 8: It was announced yesterday that arrangements have been completed for the assigning of Red Cross girls to this base.

The MAG basketball team was eliminated from the Northern Japan basketball tournament last Tuesday night by the 423 Communications five.

Feb. 13: Monday night three MAG 31 boxers munched their way to three easy victories in the first of the Northern Area Japan Olymp-

2

The MAGRAG was published in 1945-46 at MAB Yokosuka, Japan, by Col J.N. Hart every Tuesday and Saturday. This was the last issue published. (Courtesy of William Tuthill)

pic Boxing eliminations.

Feb. 15: CHAPLAIN FIRE & RIVES  
MAG 31 UNDER 4th MAW

Feb. 20: LIBERTY EXTENDED TO 2300

Feb. 22: VMR 952: JAPAN TO CHERRY POINT

VOLCANIC ISLAND RISES

OUT OF SEA

BASEBALL MEETING A SUCCESS

Feb. 25: Today is the day to turn in your yen.

The Marine Corps plans to discharge 150,000 men by next September.

The third bout of the Japan Boxing finals saw Corp Bob Sandberg win a decision over E. Kesterson.

Feb. 27: RED CROSS GIRLS ARRIVING  
BASEBALL PRACTICE SATURDAY

March 4: ALL DOGS MUST BE REGISTERED

March 6: GRUNTS AND GROANS TOMORROW NIGHT

March 11: 25 PTS.-30 MONTHS JULY 1st

Every paved street on the base will have street lights in the near future.

March 13: ART EXHIBIT TOMORROW NIGHT

March 20: You may enlist in the regular Marine Corps for a period of two, three, or four years now.

March 22: FORTY POINTERS GOING HOME

MAG GUARD COMPANY FORMING

3

March 25: 38 POINT MEN GOING HOME  
March 27: 33 POINTS - LEVAK

## THE FIRST

## ALL GIRL BAND FRIDAY NIGHT

March 29: The following is a list of the stops made on the Red Cross coffee run each morning:

April 4: COOL HART: NEW C.O.

Unless the MAG receives a shipment of carbon arcs by the end of the week we may be without movies.

April 13: Plans for improving the NCO Club have been approved and work has already begun.

April 15: MAG MEN CLIMB FUJI

The Enlisted Men's Club in Yokosuka will now be open daily from 1230 until 2200.

April 18: WAR TROPHIES MUST BE SENT BY MAY 1

April 23: MAG 31 TEAM DEPARTS NAVY NINE, 6-3

May 2: The American League of Japan opens the baseball season Saturday, 4 May.

TWENTY-FIVE REGULARS FLY HOME

May 4: FORMAL OPENING OF THE NCO CLUB LAST NIGHT

A fifty-six page book dealing with the occupation duty of MAG 31 in Japan is being planned.

May 7: MAG 31 BOWS TO FIRST CAVALRY, 4-0

May 14: 25 POINTERS OUT 15 JUNE

May 21: Marine Corps demobilization plans announced through 1 September.

May 28: OCCUPATION BOOKLET TO BE READY NEXT WEEK

4

## BEHIND THE NEWS

Chicago (CNS)- At a public candlelight ceremony, new members were initiated by the Woodlawn Boys Club. The candidates were 235 girls.

Chicago (CNS)- A game of catch played by a group of shouting youngsters behind his tavern was ended by John Suzuki because they were too noisy, so the boys tossed the ball into a garbage can and departed. When Suzuki retrieved it from the can, he discovered it was a loaded hand grenade.

Alton, Ill. (CNS)- After taking refuge in the city hall from the dog catcher, a white bulldog was "adopted" by sympathetic municipal workers. They passed the hat, bought the dog a license; and christened him "Taxes."

Atlanta (CNS)- "It's with great pleasure that I bid goodbye to my readers," wrote the departing sports editor. He gave up his job on the Atlantan, edited by and for inmates of the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary.

BOSTON (CNS)- William C. Tomkins, a cab driver, was fined \$25 for failing to stop his cab during a test blackout. It took the police three years to find him.



THE MAGRAG  
Marine Air Base, Yokosuka, Japan  
Col. J.N. Hart, Commanding Officer

Published in compliance with Letter of Instr. No. 1100. No appropriated funds used. CNS material used; republication of credited material prohibited without permission of CNS, 205 E 42 St., NYO, 17, USA

Editor Spt. R.T. Scott  
Assoc. Editor Spt. M.F. Reich

The MAGRAG is published Tuesday and Saturday; 200 copies.  
Office: Call "Snapper" 19, ring 2



to land on the beach of Chu Lai, Vietnam.

Shortly after boot camp, I was stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., with the Third Amtrac Battalion. We were billeted in a barracks just below a recon company. We received our orders to deploy, so we loaded our amtracs into a Navy LSD, which took us to Okinawa, Japan. We reorganized there for a month or so and then reloaded into a Navy LST for the final leg of the trip. As some of you may know, getting an amtrac on and off a Navy LST isn't the easiest thing to do. Getting them on and off a LSD flat bottomed ship was much easier. The loading dock of the LST was so steep, some of our amtracs actually went underwater exiting the ship, and we could only pray that they would pop back up. The amtracs were extremely heavy, especially fully loaded, and about 80 percent of the vehicle was always underwater.

The day we were scheduled to land in Chu Lai we were told not to mount our .30-caliber machine guns in our turrets. This was a shock to all of us. Here we are getting ready to be one of the first Marines to land in Chu Lai, and we weren't allowed to defend ourselves? There was a lot of bombing of the beach prior to the landing. As it turns out, we weren't the first wave to land on the beach. Other Marines had already secured it, and the Seabees were working there so they didn't want us mistaking any of them for the enemy. We were thankful that our first encounter wasn't as we expected, but the following year was full of activity.

I was fortunate to become a crew chief on an LVT-E1 for the last two years of my active duty. I will always be proud of what we accomplished, and the friends we made. For those of you who were in Chu Lai, you might be interested in watching this 40 minute video (<https://vimeo.com/10196438>) one of the Seabees made while landing in Chu Lai that very week.

SSgt Parl Guthrie  
USMC, 1964-68  
Bothell, Wash.

### MAG RAG Newspaper

I am sending you a copy of our base newspaper from Yokosuka, Japan, in 1946. We were one of the first occupation units in the area. We got along well with the locals. Our CO called a meeting of all senior NCOs and said, "These people did not start the war, and they know we did not start it. Do not start anything to upset things, and we will be OK."

I was a tech sergeant and flight line section chief in charge of four Corsairs. I got flight pay for four hours flight time.

William Tuthill  
USMC, 1941-47  
S. Plainfield, N.J.



### Three Dimensional Circle of Life Pendant & Chain

Made in the USA

Sterling Silver \$129.00  
14KT Yellow or White Gold \$799.00

FREE SHIPPING

888-266-5184

[www.marinesusa.com](http://www.marinesusa.com)



**ONLINE STORE FOR  
U.S.M.C.  
SPECIALTIES**

**FREE SHIPPING\***  
To APO/FPO Addresses & Orders Over \$25  
\*Standard Shipping only

**"NOT YOUR STANDARD ISSUE"**  
Visit [www.eMarinePX.com](http://www.eMarinePX.com) or Call 877-915-6772 to place your order.

**Hundreds of Products Made in the USA.**

**Apparel • Collectibles • Flags • Patches  
Home Decor • Accessories & Much more!**



This property is protected by a United States Marine who has a serious lack of negotiating skills, but is absolute here on a guarantee. If you do not believe here, please prove it.

Visit [www.eMarinePX.com](http://www.eMarinePX.com) or Call 877-915-6772 to place your order. | eMarinePX • P.O. Box 2329 • Grass Valley, CA 95945

### Gen Vandegrift's Look-Alike

I would like to thank *Leatherneck* for their help. I have been having a problem receiving my magazine. It isn't your problem, it is a problem with the post office, as this happens with two other publications to which I subscribe. When we called your office and explained the issue, the lady to whom we spoke said she would re-mail the missing magazines. I have received them and want to thank you.

On page 72, Saved Round of the March issue in the caption about the 1st Provisional Marine Battalion being inspected in Northern Ireland in 1943, the officer at the far left of the photo looks a lot like General A.A. Vandegrift. The profile in the photo sure as hell is a good look-alike.

Thanks again for your help.

Sgt M.J. Sowicz Jr., USMCR  
Philadelphia, Pa.

### Looking for Owner of WW I Bible

I was saddened to read in the March *Leatherneck* of the death of George B. Clark of Pike, N.H. He was a great Marine Corps historian and author. I had reason to reach out to Clark after reading the book, "His Time In Hell: A Texas Marine in France," by Warren R. Jackson, a memoir which Clark helped get published.

I enlisted in the Corps in March 1946, but before leaving for Parris Island, was

### Taking Care of Our Own



Michael L. Avery, Sr.  
Attorney at Law  
10382A Democracy Ln.  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
P: 703-462-5050  
F: 703-462-5053

[semperfilawyer.com](http://semperfilawyer.com)

### WAYS TO SOUND OFF



**FACEBOOK** | [www.facebook.com/MarineCorpsAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/MarineCorpsAssociation)



**TWITTER** | @MCA\_Marines



**INSTAGRAM** | @MCA\_Marines



**LINKEDIN** | [www.linkedin.com/company/marine-corps-association](http://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-corps-association)



**LETTERS** | *Leatherneck*, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134



**EMAIL** | [leatherneck@mca-marines.org](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org)





1944 | SAIPAN LANDING

# Archives

EVERY ISSUE OF LEATHERNECK & MARINE CORPS GAZETTE SINCE 1916

Membership gives you access online at  
[www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/archive](http://www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/archive)

given a small, leather-bound New Testament by a friend of my father. He had been a sergeant in the 5th Marines (AEF) and said he had found the small Bible in France and wanted me to have it. I gratefully accepted the gift and thanked him. I found the New Testament was inscribed by the name of its owner, Ralph Newton, and included a photo of a young woman, Pearl Skidmore, who had presented the book to Newton as a Christmas gift.

I put the book aside and went off to become a Marine. I remembered the artifact long after my period of service ended in 1952. College, marriage, family and career took my time and devotion, but I still had Newton's little black Bible. As time permitted, I made efforts to locate the heirs of Newton, hoping to return the book to them. But even the National Archives were of no help—they needed more data or clues than I had.

In 2001, I had just finished reading "His Time In Hell," and had recently read Clark's "Devil Dogs: Fighting Marines of World War I." Hoping that Clark could provide more clues to Newton, I wrote him, and, by our exchanges, learned that Ralph E. Newton had been seriously wounded. Since then, I have sporadically searched for Newton's kin and now know he enlisted in Seattle, Wash., went to basic

training at Mare Island and reached France with his unit on Aug. 20, 1917. He participated in the battles at Verdun, Belleau Wood, Chateau Thierry and Soissons. He was wounded by a shell splinter in the neck at Chateau Thierry on June 11, 1918, and was gassed (mustard and phosgene) at Soissons. Newton spent time at AEF hospitals, then at the Naval Hospital in Seattle, where he recovered.

I am still on the trail and will find his heirs to return the Bible before I join George B. Clark and find myself "In Memoriam" too.

SSgt Winfield O. Salter  
 USMC/USMCR, 1946-52  
 Springfield, Texas

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



# THANK YOU

GREEN BAY PACKERS FANS & ESPECIALLY  
 LTCOL THOMAS HOWLETT, USMC (RET)



The Marine Corps Association Foundation thanks the Green Bay Packers fans who so generously contributed to the MCA&F program for Wounded Warriors through the efforts of LtCol Thomas Howlett, USMC (Ret). More than \$120,000 has been collected at Packers games in recent years to help make our professional and educational programs accessible to all Marines.

## A Lifetime of Gratitude

*W. M. Faulkner*

LtGen William M. Faulkner, USMC (Ret)  
 President and CEO



**Marine Corps**  
 Association Foundation  
[www.mcafdn.org](http://www.mcafdn.org)

# The United States Marine Corps Wine Glass Collection



**SET ONE**  
"Semper Fi Spirit"

**SET TWO:**  
"Oohrah,  
Devil Dogs!"

® Officially  
Licensed  
Product of the  
United States  
Marine Corps

Shown smaller  
than actual size  
of about  
9 inches high.  
Hand washing  
recommended.

Wine glasses are elegantly hand-crafted,  
hand-polished and triple-fired for beauty

Silvery and golden metallic finishes  
reflect today's hottest stemware trends



## Salute the United States Marine Corps

Featuring original designs fully authorized by the United States Marine Corps, these triple-fired, superb quality stemmed glasses bring your love of the Corps to the table in high style. You can raise a toast to "Semper Fi" spirit every time you celebrate. This classic stemware features meaningful symbols and a hand-polished glass finish.

Peak demand is expected, so act now to acquire your set of two glasses in two installments of \$29.99, for a total issue price of only \$59.99\*. Your purchase enters you into the *United States Marine Corps* Wine Glass Collection and is backed by our 365-day money-back guarantee, so you risk nothing. You may cancel at any time by notifying us. Send no money now. Just complete and return the Reservation Application today!

**ORDER TODAY!** [www.bradfordexchange.com/wineusmc](http://www.bradfordexchange.com/wineusmc)

RESERVATION APPLICATION

SEND NO MONEY NOW

THE  
**BRADFORD EXCHANGE**  
—HOME DECOR—

9345 Milwaukee Avenue • Niles, IL 60714-1393

**YES.** Please reserve the **United States Marine Corps Wine Glass Collection** for me as described in this announcement.

Limit: one per order.

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City

State

Zip

Email (optional)

**904813-E50291**

©2017 BGE 01-26958-001-BI

\*Plus a total of \$9.99 shipping and service per set. Please allow 4-8 weeks for shipment. A limited-edition presentation restricted to 95 firing days. Subject to product availability and order acceptance.



# In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

## DPAA Identifies Remains of WW II Marines

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

The remains were recovered from Betio Island in the Tarawa Atoll of the Gilbert Islands. The Marines were killed during the Battle of Tarawa in November 1943.

The Marines whose remains were identified recently are:

**Pvt Harry K. Tye**, 21, of Orinoco, Ky. He was assigned to Company E, 2d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division.

**PFC James O. Whitehurst**, 20, of Ashford, Ala. He was assigned to Co E, 2d Bn, 8th Marines, 2dMarDiv.

Compiled from DPAA news releases

**Joseph J. Accardo Jr.**, 94, of Middletown Township, N.J. He was a member of the 1st Marine Raider Bn during WW II. He was a member of the Raider Assn.

**William "Bill" Ahearn**, 86, of Peabody, Mass. After his 1947 graduation from high school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was wounded while serving in the Korean War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Sgt Maj Ernest W. Arthur**, 87, of Birmingham, Ala. He was a Marine who served for 40 years as both an officer and enlisted Marine. He was a veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. During the Korean War, he saw action at the Chosin Reservoir. His awards include the Bronze Star.

**LtCol Merrill L. "Skip" Bartlett**, 77, of Vashon Island, Wash. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1963 and served for 20 years. He was a well-respected naval historian who wrote numerous books and articles. He was an active volunteer with Boy Scouts of America.

**William J. "Jim" Brandhorst**, 83, of Waterloo, Iowa. He was a Marine who served from 1952-55.

**Sgt Timothy W. Brosnan**, 70, of Holbrook, N.Y. He was a Marine who served from 1964-68. He was a member of the MarDet aboard USS *Iwo Jima* (LPH-2). He also served at Phu Bai and Dong Ha in Vietnam.

**Lewis "Buck" Buckner**, 93, of Harrisburg, N.C. He was an aviation Marine and served in WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. After retiring from active duty, he operated his own business repairing small engines.

**Milton D. Burton**, 69, of Mansfield, Ohio. He was a Marine who served during the Vietnam War. He later became an officer with the Mansfield Police Department and retired as a detective sergeant after 29 years.

**Cpl Richard D. Carney**, 73, of Holbrook, Mass. He was a Marine who served from 1962-66. His duty stations included Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Atsugi, Japan; and

the MarDet aboard USS *Mountrail* (APA-213).

**John Chatterton**, 71, of Pinckney, Mich. He was a Marine who served in combat in the Vietnam War. He was a member of the MCL.

**Helen (Smith) Cordes**, 93, in Crofton, Md. During WW II, she served in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve.

**Clarence R. Daniel**, 91, of Chapel Hill, N.C. He was a Marine who served during WW II. He was wounded in action on Okinawa. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Sgt Melvin DeFleur**, 93, of Baton Rouge, La. During WW II, he saw action on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima. After the war, he embarked on an academic career in the field of mass communication theory. His textbooks "Theories of Mass Communication" and "Understanding Mass Communication" have been translated into numerous languages.

**Raymond J. Devitt Jr.**, 86, of Warwick, R.I. After graduating from high school, he joined the Marine Corps in 1948. He was a combat veteran of the Korean War.

**Maj Gary M. Drake**, 72, of Lexington, N.C. He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War. He later served in the National Guard.

**Sgt David N. Farrimond**, 71, of Pocasset, Mass. He was an aviation Marine. During the Vietnam War he participated in medevac missions. He later earned a bachelor's degree in economics.

**MGySgt Herbert L. Fish**, 87, of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. He began his 30-career in the Marine Corps in 1946. He was an amtracker who served two tours in Vietnam. He later worked for NASA. His awards include a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V" and two Purple Hearts.

**Louis W. Gardner**, 94, of Baden, Pa. During WW II he was a Marine who served in the Pacific. He saw action on Tarawa.

**Sgt Miguel "Migs" Grijalva**, 31, of Lompoc, Calif. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his 2003 graduation from high school. His duty stations included Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton. During his 10 years in the Marine Corps, he deployed multiple times to Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

You served with honor.  
Now let VA serve you.

Learn about VA benefits and how to apply.

Visit [Explore.VA.gov](http://Explore.VA.gov) to learn more about VA benefits that may help you buy, retain, or modify a home; earn a degree; start a career; stay healthy; and do so much more in life after the military. ExploreVA makes it easy to learn about and apply for VA benefits.

Find out how you can benefit. Visit [Explore.VA.gov](http://Explore.VA.gov).

[Explore.VA.gov](http://Explore.VA.gov)



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**Vincent E. Heslin**, 83, in Okeechobee, Fla. He was a Marine who served with E/2/5 during the Korean War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Arthur C. Huffman Jr.**, 68, of Corsicana, Texas. He was a Marine who served two tours in Vietnam during the late 1960s.

**Glen J. Kessler**, 90, of Shumway, Ill. He was a Marine who served in the Pacific during WW II.

**William J. Kreinbuhl**, 95, of Mansfield, Ohio. He was a Marine Corps veteran of WW II. He served in combat in the Pacific. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Livio A. Lucca**, 92, of International Falls, Minn. During WW II, he was a Marine who fought in the Pacific on Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima.

**Clark A. Mayer**, 71, of Hagerstown, Md. After his graduation from high school, he joined the Marine Corps. He participated in Operation Shufly before being selected for MSG training. He was posted to the U.S. Embassy Paris, France.

**Von R. Milton**, 60, of Killeen, Texas. He was a Marine who served on active duty for 15 years.

**1stSgt Loren W. Moulton**, 98, of Ladysmith, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps just after the attack on Pearl Harbor. As a member of the 1stMarDiv, he fought on Guadalcanal, New Britain and Peleliu.

**James J. Nasto Jr.**, 85, of East Brunswick, N.J. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his graduation from high school. He was with the 1stMarDiv in Korea during the landing at Inchon and was wounded in the fighting at the Chosin Reservoir. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**James L. Penfold Jr.**, 93, of Greeley, Colo. He joined the Marine Corps during WW II. He served with the 4thMarDiv in the South Pacific. After the war, he worked in the insurance industry for 24 years and was a volunteer firefighter for 23 years.

**Cpl Thomas H. Price**, 71, of Kalamazoo, Mich. He was a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. On the evening of March 2, 1967, he was a squad leader with the 81 mm Mortar Plt, Co B, 1stBn, 9th Marines, 3dMarDiv.

According to his Silver Star citation, "... when his unit came under heavy mortar attack, Cpl Price immediately directed his squad to begin counter mortar fire. Subsequently, one of the mortar rounds malfunctioned when fired and fell back into the mortar pit. ... Cpl Price [w]ith complete disregard for his own safety, he courageously picked up the armed mortar round and fearlessly carried it a safe distance from his position and expeditiously disarmed it."

His other awards include the Purple Heart.

**Edward C. "Ed" Oechsli**, 94, of Louisville, Ky. He was a Marine Corps veteran of WW II. As a member of the 1stMarDiv, he saw action in the Pacific. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Harvey L. Ryno**, 85, of Houston, Texas. He was wounded in action during the Korean War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

**Phillip W. Salter**, 69, of Covington, Ky. He was an amtracker in Vietnam. His awards include two Purple Hearts.

**GySgt Eugene W. Schanbacher**, 101, in Oxford, N.J. During WW II, he fought on Guadalcanal and Cape Gloucester. He was with the 1stMarDiv during the invasion of Peleliu.

**George W. Smith**, 83, of Jacksonville, N.C. During his 20-year career in the Marine Corps, he served three tours in Vietnam. His awards include the Purple Heart. After his retirement, he and his wife opened a successful small business.

**Kenneth V. Strom**, 89, of Idaho Falls, Idaho. He was a Marine who served in the South Pacific during WW II. He saw action on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, Saipan and Iwo Jima, where he was wounded in action. After the war he was a rural mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 34 years.

**Salvo J. "Tony" Verucchi**, 82, of Hot Springs, Ark. He enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 17. He was a member of the Cold Weather Bn boxing team in Pickel Meadow, Calif.

**Cpl Melvin D. Woods**, 93, of Canton, Ill. He served in the Marine Corps from 1943-46. He fought in the Battle of Tarawa.

**Capt Ronald A. "Z" Zaleski**, 54, of Waunakee, Wis. After his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He later had a career in the food manufacturing industry.

**Paul W. Zimmerman Jr.**, 84, of Columbia, Pa. He was with the 1stMarDiv during the Korean War. He later was the owner of Paul W. Zimmerman Foundries.

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](mailto:leatherneck@mca-marines.org) or [n.lichtman@mca-marines.org](mailto:n.lichtman@mca-marines.org).



## Relive your past with the Original **Bulldog** Aftershave, SPF and Cobra65 Cologne



Same formula,  
new look!



Visit our website at  
[www.bulldogsd.com](http://www.bulldogsd.com)

Use Discount code: **LN17** for  
**20% off** your entire order





# Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



ARIF PATANI

**MAKIN M1**—This M1 Garand was found in the grave where 19 Marines of the Second Raider Battalion were buried together after being killed in action during a raid on Makin Atoll in 1942.

In 1999, personnel from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command traveled to Makin to recover the remains of the Marines. When the rifle was discovered, it was transferred to the Raiders Museum located at Raider Hall at The Basic School, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Recently, archaeological conservators at the Naval History and Heritage Command's Underwater Archeology Branch at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., began an assessment of

the rifle, which sustained significant corrosion and damage as a result of being buried on Makin for more than 50 years. Before it was transported from MCB Quantico to the Washington Navy Yard, an explosive ordnance disposal team inspected the rifle to ensure it did not contain live ammunition. Conservators are working on a plan for the long-term preservation of the Garand.

For more information about the operation on Makin by Carlson's Raiders, read "The Forgotten Marine: The Legacy of James Roosevelt, Marine Corps Innovator and Navy Cross Recipient" on page 24.

