

SEPTEMBER 2012

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COVER: The cover illustration depicting the Corps' new, but familiar, light attack and utility helicopters, the AH-1Z and UH-1Y, supporting the Marine on the ground is by the 2011 DOD Military Graphic Artist of the Year, Sgt Shawn P. Sales. Read more on the new helos beginning on page 36 and more on Sgt Sales on page 40. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.



Leatherneck—On the Web

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Sound Off

Edited by R. R. Keene

Have a question or feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or send an e-mail to: r.keene@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 Anonymous letters will not be published.—Sound Off Ed.

Letter of the Month

(*Leatherneck* will pay \$25 for the Sound Off Letter of the Month.)

In the July “Sound Off,” Paul Garrison asked about what it takes to earn a Good Conduct Medal. A valid question, but it opened an existing sore.

I joined in 1961. My military occupational specialty training was as a 6412 aviation communications system technician at Naval Air Technical Training Command Memphis, Tenn. I made private first class a few months later. Due to a good sunburn, I left the station a month or so later.

I was sent to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, Calif. My first outfit was Marine Attack Squadron 311. They were just coming back from overseas, and I ended up in VMA-211. I’ll admit I was sort of a goof-off. I was not a stellar Marine. I did get assorted details and temporary additional duties. In hindsight, I realize there were opportunities I missed and some “coulda and shouldas”—all history now.

At that time, Vietnam was a distant blip; promotions did come, but quite slowly. I had one chance at an earlier promotion, but missed it because of a negative attitude. (Crummy conduct, but not punishable.) Some months went by, another promotion time went by—nothing.

I ended up getting sent to Camp Pendleton, Calif., to drive the reservists around for their training. During that time, I received my Good Conduct Medal. I was still a PFC with a clean record, but nothing to be proud of.

I ended up back with VMA-211. After a few months, I went to the first sergeant to complain about my situation, and a month later I made lance corporal. I had only a few months left. No, they didn’t ask if I wanted to reenlist. (Another shoulda and coulda.) While I could have signed up again, things were just not right. I obviously had issues that would not be resolved until years later.

I was proud, and am proud, to be a Marine. I am not proud of what I did not accomplish, but it is history now.

Dr. Diane Murdock
Tacoma, Wash.

More on PFCs and Good Conduct Medals

I read the letter in the July “Sound Off” from Paul Garrison regarding earning a Good Conduct Medal as a private first class. I can tell you that I received my Good Conduct Medal while I was a PFC.

At 16, I joined the Marines, but had to wait until I was 17 to report to Parris Island, S.C. Seven days after my 17th birthday, I reported in.

I went through boot camp and [Infantry Training Regiment], then was transferred to First Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, Calif. I was trained as an 0351 infantryman and served in a 106 mm recoilless rifle unit. At some time I was promoted to PFC. After that, we were transferred to 3dMarDiv on Okinawa and to a floating battalion. After 30 months in the Fleet Marine Force, I transferred to Camp Lejeune, N.C., to be trained as a mechanic.

I received my Good Conduct Medal (first award) on April 17, 1963. I was a PFC.

In fact, I literally bumped into my captain and he said to me, “Did you get busted after you received your ribbon?” I said, “No, sir, I have been a PFC for 30 months.”

It was not much later that I was promoted to lance corporal.

I don’t remember the fact that I was a PFC so long being unusual. There were many privates and PFCs in the infantry, and we did not think much about it. Except for just a few people, we were all very happy just being Marines and not that worried about the petty stuff.

LCpl Paul W. Herman
Cleveland

In 1943, at the age of 17, I begged my mother to sign my enlistment papers. Because my two older brothers were serving in the Army and Army Air Corps, my father opted to use political influence, without my knowledge, to get me out of the Marine Corps. I was called into my drill instructor’s tent and was quizzed about why I wanted to get out of the Corps. I convinced my DI that I did not want out. I called home and told my dad to “call off the dogs.” However, this notation stayed in my personnel file under “Congressional

Inquiry” until my discharge.

I was a darn good Marine: fired high Expert, promoted to private first class, served as a radio operator on Okinawa, served in North China and stayed as a PFC about 20 months, until 1945. There was a Navy Letter of Instruction No. 1190 dated 4 Dec. 1945 that said, in essence, anyone who had served with good conduct for the previous 18 months would be promoted to the next highest rank, not to exceed sergeant. I had been a PFC for 20 months. My [accumulated discharge] points came up while at Chinwangtao, North China, and I was discharged in 1946 and never received a corporal’s paycheck.

This is not written with any bitterness or anger at the Marine Corps. I had wanted to be a Marine and I was—a damned good one. My discharge was “honorable” and states: “character of service, excellent.” It just doesn’t get much better than that.

Cpl James D. Broome
1943-46
Cumming, Ga.

I always have wondered why a Marine (myself included) who served for three years and received an honorable discharge is not entitled to have a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal. I realize that your three years are not up until the final day of enlistment, but it seems that your DD 214 could list the medal so it can be displayed proudly along with other ribbons and medals.

Sgt Jim Biegger
USMC, 1964-67
Maxwell, Iowa

• *Bill Noe of Knoxville, Tenn., and Gary Sypnicki of Loomis, Calif., also commented about this subject.—Sound Off Ed.*

Your response to the question in the July “Sound Off” regarding the time needed to earn a Good Conduct Medal was right, technically, and possibly exactly when you said, “[T]oday, there is very little chance that any Marine with a clean record will still be a PFC after three years of service.”

That hasn’t always been the case. I first stood on the grinder at Marine Corps Re-



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cruit Depot San Diego in 1959. Six months later, I did receive promotion to private first class. Times were different then. The Corps was smaller, and turnover was not all that rapid. I was assigned to a newly formed company and got there when the Table of Organization was nearly complete. I was the last in line to arrive in my military occupational specialty.

As time went by, many of us in the company formed a "24-month club," meaning 24 months in grade. That changed to a "30-month club," and I finally was promoted to lance corporal. The club continued to a "36-month club," all of us with clean records.

So, it all depends on when and where you are as to promotion. All that did not include an excellent recommendation for meritorious promotion either. I would not change a thing about my time on active duty nor my assignment. They form precious memories to me now as I wander through my 70s.

One final word to Major F. G. Balderson, USMC (Ret), who, in the same column, took you to task for your language: Sorry, Major, I have gone on in life to many things, including serving two terms as mayor, but my halo is not, and I hope never will be, as tight as yours. I don't regret or apologize for any part of my time in the Corps—only that it was too short.

Bill McManigal
Concord, Calif.

And Speaking of Major Balderson ...

I cannot keep from commenting how the retired major got his skivvies in a wad over the editor using "piss and punk" in the May issue.

I, along with the majority of subscribers, was in no way offended with the choice of words. Maybe the major's brain housing group caused him to temporarily forget the readers of the "Magazine of the Marines" who are used to and feel at home with a little "salty language." Although in this case, I wouldn't even classify the words in question to rate as even being salty, much less embarrassing.

Max Roark
USMC, 1983-87
Knoxville, Tenn.

Your magazine has gotten better and better. I read the letter where Maj Balderson didn't approve of the language. I was

wondering what his duties were in the Corps.

I was in the Corps from 1952 to 1982 and not much surprised me. I heard it all.

MGySgt Ray Cowley, USMC (Ret)
Charleston, S.C.

First Time in Memory We've Had the D&B on the Cover

Congratulations on the excellent cover of the July *Leatherneck* showing The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps. The mace going across the title at the top almost appears in 3-D—it is a great composition with all the angles of the mace, drum major hand pointing and background of the men. Is this the same mace for the D&B as with the U.S. Marine Band?

Also, "Corps Pageantry" is excellent—all the photos, and especially the one with Marines talking to the children.

Karl Glenn

Former Marine bandsman

Former president of the National Association for Music Education
Ann Arbor, Mich.

The "Corps Pageantry" article in the July issue brought back fond memories of my time on active duty in the Corps (1961-64). I was a soprano bugler with the 1st Marines Drum & Bugle Corps, and I was stationed at San Mateo in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Bill Ober
Huntington, N.Y.

Question: Why is the drum major of "The Commandant's Own" wearing a noncommissioned officer's sword?

GySgt Hilton Hill
Wausau, Wis.



GYSGT WILLIE CANTY

The D&B mace has its own particular etchings.



GYSGT WILLIE CANTY

• First, the two maces are different. According to the Drum & Bugle Corps' drum major, Master Gunnery Sergeant Kevin D. Buckles, "The mace for the U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps is made of oak, and the U.S. Marine Band's mace is made out of malacca wood. The top of their mace has the Capitol dome and is etched with major wars or campaigns beginning with the Revolutionary War. It also has an eagle, globe and anchor on it along with the White House seal.

"The U.S. Marine Drum & Bugle Corps mace is etched with some of the same major wars and campaigns beginning with the Revolutionary War as well as an eagle, globe and anchor. 'United States Marine

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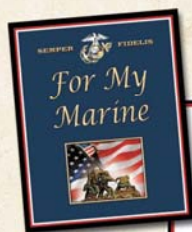
With our exclusive necklace, we’ve taken the look of a standard Marine-issue dog tag and added distinctive design elements to create an attractive and meaningful piece of jewelry. Crafted of tough-as-a-Marine stainless steel, the dog tag necklace features a genuine black onyx stone strategically positioned at the center of a symbolic cross. In sculpted raised-relief on the black onyx is the Corps emblem of eagle, globe and anchor, gleaming in golden and silver tones.

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Drum and Bugle Corps is etched around it, along with the unit's crest and the Iwo Jima flag raising."

Regarding the NCO sword, Staff Sergeant Joshua Miles, Marketing and Public Relations Staff Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, "The Commandant's Own," The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., added, "There is no special 8th and I reason why the sword is worn; wearing it is traditional enough in itself. The sword is authorized for use in ceremonies as a symbol of leadership. Drum & Bugle Corps members attend recruit training and work their way up the ranks to become NCOs and SNCOs, and the sword is worn in uniform with pride.

"In past times, the mace itself could be utilized as a weapon, thus the sword is the second weapon carried by the drum major."—Sound Off Ed.

"Shoehorned" at HQMC

In response to the July "Sound Off Editorial Irish Pennants," I was the drill instructor/recruiter monitor from 1972 to 1975 at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. It is correct; it would have been a shock to walk into the wing of the Navy Annex that housed enlisted assignments. There were more than 100, mostly staff

noncommissioned officers and officers, shoehorned into that wing.

It was back in the day when almost everybody smoked in the office. Talk about secondhand smoke. It was not as much of a shock to me because I had served in the 9th Marine Corps Reserve and Recruitment District, now known as the 9th Marine Corps District, in the early 1960s. The 9th District headquarters was on Hardesty Avenue in Kansas City, Mo., in a building that had been a multistory catalog center for a retail store long out of business.

Most of the building was vacant with the headquarters on one floor. It was a building that should have been torn down years before the Marine Corps occupied it. So when I walked into the Navy Annex, I figured it was the Marine Corps' way to make due with any building that was available as long as it was not actually falling down.

MSgt Jerry Van Hecke, USMC (Ret)
1959-79
Naples, Fla.

More on Voracious, Would-Be "Marine-Eating" Tigers

In reference to "The Tiger Who Almost Ate SSgt Goolden" in the July "Sound Off," I'd like to give a "shout out and



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kudos” to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161.

The CH-46 Sea Knight referenced belonged to HMM-161. The following is from “A History of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161” by Lieutenant Colonel Gary W. Parker, USMC, published by the History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C., 1978.

“Marines have always been known for adopting animals in a combat zone, but on the night of 23 December one Marine had to be medically evacuated because of a cat. When the HMM-161 helicopter landed to pick up the injured Marine, his entire reconnaissance patrol decided to leave also. With the injured Marine and his team, the helicopter brought back the cat, now dead, that had caused all the trouble—a 500-pound, 8-foot tiger which had mauled the surprised Marine.”

MSGt Arthur A. Bohn, USMC (Ret)
HMM-161, 1967-69
Manassas, Va.

My subject is the tiger photo that appeared in the July “Sound Off.” The Marine you identified as Shailine (kneeling left in the photo), I believe, is actually Thomas E. Shainline, who twice earned the Silver Star in Vietnam. The first came as a private first class in 1968 and the second as a corporal in 1969.

William L. Myers
Maurice, La.

SSgt Goolden was not the only Marine attacked by a tiger in Vietnam. Corporal David Schwirian’s squad from “Lima” Company, 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment was set in ambush on a cold, rainy night near Ca Lu in the spring of 1967. Without warning, a tiger leaped out of the brush and grabbed Cpl Schwirian’s right shoulder, tearing out chunks of flesh and sinew.


Schwirian threw the luckiest punch of his life with his left hand and smacked the tiger on the muzzle. The tiger dropped the young corporal and bounded off into the dark. The ragged scars and missing flesh that adorn “Tiger Dave” Schwirian’s shoulder and upper right arm are a testament to his confrontation with the big cat. The late Colonel John Ripley’s article “Tiger Tale” in the June 1977 *Marine Corps Gazette* is a complete account of the incident.

LtCol Otto Lehrack, USMC (Ret)
Asheville, N.C.

[In Vietnam,] especially with all the North Vietnamese bodies around, it was not uncommon for animals to hunt for humans once they got a taste of a human.


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MSgt John Kenes with his 250-pound big cat killed in September 1969.

When we had casualties, we would call in a medical evacuation for our wounded and KIAs.

All we Marines could do with the enemy

was to try to cover the dead bodies with dirt to keep the foul smell down.

MSGt John Kenes, USMC (Ret)
Uniontown, Pa.

Running on About Bull Run

The July story of the First Battle of Bull Run by Suzanne Pool-Camp and Dick Camp renewed my memories of my grandfather, Private Denver Fleming of the 6th West Virginia Cavalry.

I was born in Granddad’s home at Ogdin, W.Va., also on a small stream named Bull Run (near the Mason-Dixon Line markers).

In 1950, I was assigned to Marine Helicopter Squadron One, Quantico, Va., and lived in a rented home in the Manassas battlefield. I knew Granddad had fought there, but didn’t know the details. Later, I obtained his records from Charleston, W.Va., and discovered that at the Second Battle of Bull Run he had been captured



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by the Rebels on Sept. 5, 1862.

Granddad had enlisted at Clarksburg, Va., in June 1861. (It was still Virginia until 1863.) Granddad served until 1865, having been returned when there was a prisoner exchange. That only happened in the early days of the war. After the war, he had a blacksmith shop next to his home. I was 3 years old when he passed away. I always had a great interest in the Civil War and visited all the battlefields throughout Virginia and Tennessee. I have several cards where my granddad visited all the Civil War reunions much as we do currently. Last year, I took my son and grandson to the Manassas battleground.

I also had taken them to Okinawa the year before for the 65th anniversary of that battle. There, at Torii Station, I received the flag at the ceremony. Granddad's history started me on my Marine Corps voyage.

MSGT Paul Moore, USMC (Ret)
Keaau, Hawaii

David Douglas Duncan "Brave, Kind and Generous"

Janet Renshaw's article "David Douglas Duncan—Now!" in the July issue was thoroughly enjoyed.

During September 1967, Mr. Duncan spent a good deal of time with the 3d Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment at Con

Thien. During that time, we found him to be extremely brave, kind and very generous.

He went to Saigon to get his pictures to *Life* magazine the same day we were relieved and moved to another location. One of those pictures is on page 12 of your article. Shortly after our arrival at our new location, we received a letter from Mr. Duncan informing us his pictures had been delivered. Enclosed was his personal check for \$1,000 requesting that each Marine have a beer on him. Needless to say, we complied. What an honor to have been associated with Mr. Duncan.

LtCol B. W. Gardner, USMC (Ret)
Escondido, Calif.

I wish to add some information about another great David Douglas Duncan



The above 1985 stamp's design was based on a photo taken in 1950 by David Douglas Duncan. (Courtesy of Stephen Lacki)

photograph from his book "This is War."

On July 26, 1985, the U.S. Postal Service issued a 22-cent stamp honoring Korean War veterans. The design of the stamp was taken from one of Duncan's photographs in the "Retreat Hell" chapter of the book.

Former Cpl Stephen Lacki
F/2/1, 1stMarDiv, Korea
Lockport, N.Y.

While checking out the photo (page 17) of the Marine Detachment in USS *Misouri* (BB-63) in the feature about David Douglas Duncan, I noticed that the Marines were all wearing some sort of patch or insignia on the left shoulder of their khaki shirts, depicting what appears to be a seahorse on a diamond background.

It always has been my belief that the only thing allowed to be sewn on the shirt was the individual's rank insignia. Does anyone out there know anything about this?

By the way, I loved the seagoing "dips" in everyone's frame caps. Do Marines of today still do this?

Louis J. Tellish
USMC, 1962-66
Dearborn, Mich.



Marine Ships' Detachments Afloat

Unit patches on uniforms always have been important to the U.S. Army, which, because of its size, probably needs them. The Corps played with unit patches or "battle blazes" on uniforms only during World Wars I and II when the Corps expanded greatly in numbers and units. The Marine Ships' Detachments Afloat patch was worn by seagoing Marine detachments during WW II and the early post-war period. Uniform shoulder insignia were abolished effective Jan. 1, 1948.

Jim Thompson's "Complete Guide to United States Marine Corps Medals, Badges and Insignia: World War II to Present" states that the patches were abolished on the grounds that the Marine Corps is a unified body organized to fight as a whole, and individual shoulder patches did not reflect the spirit of the Corps.

As to the salty "sea dip," you don't see that too much anymore. Regulations do not permit it, and it has gone out of vogue as part of the liberty uniform.—Sound Off Ed.

SRB Photos and Dress Blues

Why are the pictures in dress blues not included in a Marine's records? I know my dad said that when it came down to ordering these items [photos], he and some of his friends ordered the package

and never got them. Of course, they were supposed to be sent to their families, as home addresses were the ones given.

I know my dad will probably pass without knowing whether his family received his dress blue picture. My dad was very proud to be a Marine; he always said no one else was trained better.

Thanks again for letting me vent.

Joseph Escobedo
Albuquerque, N.M.

• A photo of individual recruits, when they entered the Corps, used to be placed in the Marine's Service Record Book. This photo was taken shortly after arrival at the recruit depots and shortly after that first exciting haircut and while wearing a first-phase utility uniform.

The dress blue photos your father talked about are those taken later in recruit training by a commercial company for inclusion in the recruit platoon book, which could be purchased by the recruits. You may be able to run down a copy of your father's recruit graduation book through an entry in our "Reader Assistance" column by writing to Clare Guerrero, Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or via e-mail at c.guerrero@mca-marines.org. It is a

[continued on page 60]



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For Memorial Day 2012, the MCA&F asked members and visitors to our website to honor a veteran and share a memory. Notes came pouring in and were posted in the foyer of our office building on Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

By Robert L. Rubrecht · Photos by Ron Lunn

The Marine Corps Association & Foundation (MCA&F) tagline sums up what your association does for today's Marines, but around Memorial Day you helped us remember. You remembered many of the friends, shipmates and comrades with whom you served over the years. You remembered the honor, commitment and sacrifice that fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters made in such places as Guadalcanal, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, Chosin Reservoir, Khe Sanh, Fallujah and a host of other specks on the globe. Because of you, we all remembered that freedom is far from free.

Our recognition of excellence was on display at the Ammo Tech and Ground Awards dinners held in May and June,

respectively. Your presence also was felt at The Basic School (TBS) socials for "Charlie" and "Delta" companies. The MCA&F unveiled the new Baldomero Lopez Honor Graduate Award for the top second lieutenant in each TBS graduating class, one more way of upholding the great traditions of the Corps and acknowledging heroes of the past while recognizing the achievements of today's Marines.

To learn more about MCA&F mission execution, visit our website at www.mca-marines.org.

Editor's note: Rob Rubrecht, with more than 25 years in the publishing and marketing fields, is a U.S. Air Force veteran and the director of Marketing and Membership for the MCA&F.



SgtMaj Kevin S. Bennett, USMC (Ret), MCA&F Quantico/National Capital Area representative, presents a Marine NCO sword to Cpl Timothy-Jason M. Lee, honor graduate of the Marine Security Guard School, Class 4-12, June 29, 2012.



Col Peter B. Baumgarten, Commanding Officer, First Marine Regiment, presents the MCA&F-provided NCO sword and display box to the 2011 First Marine Division Marine of the Year, LCpl Daniel Godina, at the annual MCA&F Ground Awards Dinner, June 28, 2012. Battelle Corp. provided financial support for the award.



June 14, 2012—Dr. James T. Averhart Jr., left, representing the Montford Point Marine Association, accepts an MCA&F check from LeeAnn Mitchell, MCA Foundation, and MajGen Edward G. Usher, USMC (Ret), MCA&F president and CEO.



The first of the newly established Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez Honor Graduate Award, which is sponsored by the MCA&F and presented to the Marine of each TBS graduating company who demonstrates the highest potential for future leadership and responsibility in the Marine Corps, is presented for display to Col Julian "Dale" Alford, center, CO of TBS, by the sculptor, Marine veteran Mark Byrd, left, and MajGen Edward G. Usher, USMC (Ret), MCA&F president and CEO. The MCA&F sponsors the award.



MajGen John A. Toolan Jr., Commanding General, 2dMarDiv, left, presents the MCA&F-provided NCO sword and display box to the 2011 Second Marine Division Marine of the Year, Sgt Jeremy D. Butler, at the annual MCA&F Ground Awards Dinner, June 28, 2012. Steve Zeswitz, right, represented L-3 Communications, which provided financial support for the award.



LtGen Richard P. Mills, Deputy Commandant for Combat Development, is flanked by LtCpl Nicolas G. Salgado-Jimenez, left, winner of the 2011 GySgt Edwin W. Johnson Jr. Memorial Ammunition Technician Marine of the Year Award, and Cpl Michael A. Covey, winner of the 2011 GySgt Edwin W. Johnson Jr. Memorial Ammunition Technician NCO of the Year Award, at the May 23, 2012, MCA&F Ammo Tech Awards Dinner.



BGen Frederick M. Padilla, CG, 3dMarDiv, left, presents the MCA&F-provided NCO sword and display box to the 2011 Third Marine Division Marine of the Year, Sgt Jeffrey T. Majka, at the annual MCA&F Ground Awards Dinner, June 28, 2012. Retired Army LTG Robert E. Durbin, right, vice president of Government Relations, ITT Exelis, represented ITT Exelis, which provided financial support for the award.



BGen James M. Lariviere, CG, 4thMarDiv, left, presents the MCA&F-provided NCO sword and display box to the 2011 Fourth Marine Division Marine of the Year, Sgt Brian A. Phillips, at the annual MCA&F Ground Awards Dinner, June 28, 2012. Steve Elgin, right, VP and general manager of Armament Systems for General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products, represented General Dynamics, which provided financial support for the award.

THE WAR ON TERROR

Edited by R. R. Keene

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

■ Central Helmand River Valley

Shifting the Focus to Counternarcotics

What began as a window of opportunity, a simple chance to change the status quo in the central Helmand River Valley, turned into an ongoing counternarcotics operation that prevented the annual summer fighting season from getting off the ground.

Operation *Psarlay Taba*, conducted by 2d Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, and the Afghan National Interdiction Unit (NIU), targeted opium production facilities and narcotics trafficking in the Bari Desert, located northwest of Marjah District in Afghanistan.

When Lieutenant Colonel Michael Styskal, commanding officer of 2/9, arrived in Marjah in December 2011, the situation had changed dramatically since his last deployment a year earlier.

Styskal's predecessor had moved his battalion to the outskirts of Marjah. Afghan security forces, anchored by perhaps the strongest local police force in the country, were in control of the blocks, or main population centers, of the district.

"Marjah was a district in transition,"

said Styskal. "Marines and ANA [Afghan National Army] moved out to the periphery ... the police were set in and the district government was working."

With the blocks secured, Styskal and his Marines were able to shift their focus outward.

"We chose to fight the enemy on our footing," said Styskal. "We targeted where we knew they would be protecting their narcotics."

The sparsely populated Bari Desert caught the collective eye of the battalion's intelligence and operations officers. The high rates of poppy cultivation and narcotics trafficking in the desert made it a focus of planning efforts.

"The insurgency is involved in every level of the narcotics industry," said First Lieutenant Ben Leape, the 2/9 intelligence officer. "They supply [poppy] seeds, they tax land owners, they secure training sites, and they provide security for transportation to get these drugs out of the area."

The insurgency's ability to funnel narcotics in and out of southern Helmand province is critical to funding their operations in Marjah and neighboring districts.

When that ability is lost or diminished, logistical support to insurgent fighters is severely reduced.

The battalion designed an operation that included primarily heliborne raids on suspected opium production facilities and aerial interdictions on vehicles transporting narcotics. However, guaranteed mission success called for more capabilities than a Marine battalion alone could provide. A uniquely Afghan skill set was required.

The NIU is an elite counternarcotics police force that falls under the Afghan Ministry of the Interior. Closely resembling American SWAT teams in both tactics and organizational structure, the NIU operates in eight- to 16-man teams. Their unique capabilities made them ideal partners in an operation with a heavy emphasis on heliborne raids.

"The NIU was involved in all mission selection and would help us decide which targets to take action on," said Styskal. "They were the main effort, the assault force on all these raids."

Members of the NIU are trained and mentored by U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents and are widely held as experts in Afghan narcotics law.

"They are very talented in tactical site exploitation ... in getting the evidence they need to get convictions and funneling that evidence through the Afghan justice system," added Captain Brooks Boehlert, the 2/9 raid force commander.

"[In Afghanistan] you can put a guy in jail for 20 years for narcotics," said LtCol Styskal. "Catch him with an IED [improvised explosive device] and he might be on the street again in two weeks."

Yet, it is more than its tactical and investigative abilities that set the NIU apart from other branches of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

"They take great pride in their integrity as a unit," said 1stLt Leape. "Narcotics is at the root of a lot of the corruption issues we see in Afghanistan ... the NIU take extreme care to avoid any allegations or possible perceptions of corruption."

Potential members of the NIU are screened for intelligence and physical ability, and their background checks are



LCPL TYLER RENZI

Members of National Interdiction Unit Team 10 move to board a helicopter before a raid on a suspected opium production facility March 22. The raid partnered NIU with 2/9 in the Marjah District, where together they confiscated 26,000 pounds of assorted opium products during the four-month-long Operation *Psarlay Taba*.



COURTESY OF 1ST MAR DIV

Members of the Afghan NIU burn captured narcotics taken near Marjah during a March 7 raid with Marines of 2/9.

more stringent than for other security forces. Their unique understanding of Afghan law combined with the respectful treatment of people further elevates their status among the ANSF.

During the four-month period that 2/9 and the NIU conducted raid missions in support of Operation *Psarlay Taba*, the partnered force confiscated more than 26,000 pounds of opium products.

“By taking their [source] funding, we disrupted their ability to organize any spring or summer fighting season,” said Styskal.

Although these counternarcotics operations appear to have prevented the manifestation of the annual fighting season, LtCol Styskal cites other factors that have contributed to steady progress in Marjah. “We were able to get in front of the poppy harvest through our narcotics interdiction. But what we see now is also the result of three years of coalition presence and an aggressive eradication campaign led by the police in Marjah,” he said.

Gradual progress is a measure of success in the district. During the last seven months, Marines have seen a growth in the confidence of the Afghan forces in Marjah. Perhaps more important, they’ve noticed the people of Marjah grow more confident in their security forces as well.

“There is no threat that can defeat the

ANSF in Marjah today,” said Styskal. “They just have to be confident in themselves and their ability to secure the district.”

Although emphatic in his assessment of the ability of Afghan forces to maintain security in Marjah, the Marine commander understands the challenges the district will face in the future. “Continued support from the provincial [Helmand] government for the police and ANA is critical. As we transition from coalition to Afghan lead in security, there has to be

support from the international community.”

Ongoing counternarcotics operations will contribute to continued stability of Marjah, but the departure of 2/9 leaves a significantly reduced coalition presence. The battalion’s replacement force, Company I, 3/8, will carry on the work advising and mentoring an Afghan force that has clearly taken the lead in providing security in the district.

1stLt Chris Harper

Combat Correspondent, 1stMarDiv



JASON MONROE



CPL TIMOTHY LENZO

Leathernecks of 2/5 take a breather after a May 28 firefight. The Marines encountered small-arms fire, mortars and RPGs during their clearing operation through Zamindawar.

■ Kajaki District

Clearing the Town During Operation Jaws

Leathernecks of 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment trekked through Zamin-dawar, one of the few remaining insurgent strongholds in Afghanistan, May 26-June 9, to disrupt the insurgents' leadership and logistics chain.

For 15 days Marines engaged the insurgents in and around the town located within the Kajaki District, taking small-arms fire, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, as the enemy attempted to repel their attack.

The importance of the operation wasn't lost on the Marines. "If this is one of their strongholds, and we came in and cleared the area the way we did, especially with no [combat-related] casualties, that's a success in our book," said Staff Sergeant John Wildman, a platoon sergeant with Company G, 2/5.

"We definitely eliminated some of their key figures—high-value individuals as we like to call them," said First Lieutenant Benjamin Royal, a platoon commander with "Golf" Co.

Marines eliminated more than 50 enemy insurgents during the operation and destroyed numerous fighting positions, all without civilian casualties.

"You can definitely tell the [insurgents]

are worried and confused," said Royal. "They held numerous meetings trying to figure out what to do with the Americans."

The Marines kept the insurgents guessing by using their superior night vision to move under the cover of darkness and employing M1A1 main battle tanks.

"The tanks came in and completely changed the landscape of the battlefield," said Lance Corporal Geoffrey West, a machine-gunner with the battalion.

Alpha Co, 1st Tank Bn lent support throughout the operation, eliminating insurgents and destroying fighting positions.

West added at times it seemed the enemy didn't know how to react to the tank's superior armor and accurate firing.

In one example, a tank took a direct hit from a rocket-propelled grenade. It briefly stunned the crew, but otherwise the damage was minimal and they returned fire, eliminating the enemy.

The enemy force used bunkers and an intricate *karez* system in the attack on the Marines. A *karez* system is a complex collection of connecting, underground waterways, allowing the insurgents to move around unseen.

Insurgents also used children to relay messages, with children often walking between them and the Marines in an attempt to gain any advantage.

"We spotted children watching us as well as being used as distractions before attacks," said LCpl Jeremy Corea, an assaultman. "It's hard because we know they are being used against us, but what are you going to do? You can't shoot [civilians]."

The Marines also battled the elements, patrolling and maintaining security in temperatures rising above 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

"The heat is something that's new to us," said Royal. "The first couple days were like 95 [degrees Fahrenheit], and by the end, it [had] reached in excess of 120."

The heat, combined with anywhere from 70 to 100 pounds of gear, meant that staying hydrated was a priority. Daily resupply of water became a necessity.

The Marines' objective extended beyond clearing an area in Kajaki. They helped disrupt the insurgent leadership structure.

The area, which previously saw few coalition forces, will have Afghan forces conducting their own patrols, as the Marines begin to transition from combat operations to advising the Afghan National Security Forces.

"We accomplished a lot," said Royal. "This was one of the final, largest operations that was U.S. led. I think anyone who was in Afghanistan during this time period is going to know about Operation

Jaws, and they're going to know what happened in Zamindawar."

"For most of our guys this was their first combat deployment, and none of them knew what to expect, but they came here and did what they had to do," said Wildman.

Cpl Timothy Lenzo
Combat Correspondent, 1stMarDiv

■ Sangin District Explosive Ordnance Disposal Teams Provide Support to Infantry Company

The Sangin District of Helmand province is infamous for being an insurgent stronghold. Throughout the past several years, coalition forces have engaged and eliminated multiple enemy fighters.

Currently, Company B, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6 is responsible for maintaining security in the area. The primary threat in the congested district located near the Helmand River has been and continues to be the improvised explosive device. Supporting the infantry company against the explosive threats are two, two-man explosive ordnance disposal teams.

"Our job in Afghanistan is to identify, render safe and dispose of explosive hazards," said Staff Sergeant Edward Marini, EOD team leader, 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Co, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

The IEDs continue to be the insurgents' No. 1 tactic of engaging coalition forces, and the two EOD teams out of Forward Operating Base Shamsheer are prepared to travel at a moment's notice to investigate, remove or destroy explosives.

"We support the infantry company as they need us—basically we are on call throughout the day," said Sergeant Michael Smith, EOD technician and assistant team leader. "Additionally, if they feel it's

necessary, or if we feel it's necessary, we will embed with [a squad or platoon] and go on routine patrols or named operations."

Dealing with IEDs, unexploded ordnance and other explosives is not an easy task. Doing it in a combat zone makes it even more difficult.

"You don't have the chance for a do-over when it comes to explosives—you get one shot," said Sgt Brenden Burnham, an EOD technician and assistant team leader.

While the job of dealing with live ordnance and IEDs is complex and stressful, EOD technicians spend months learning their craft and preparing to deploy.

"It's not an eight-month course you go through, and then all of a sudden you are blessed with all these skills—it's an ever-changing, ever-adapting learning situation that you find yourself in," said Burnham.

Because of the enemy's varying devices and tactics, the EOD Marines constantly are learning new ways to deal with the threats.

"I think the big thing is training," Smith said. "I feel like we are very thorough in our training, and it better prepared me. I have heard all the horror stories about Sangin and about Afghanistan in general, so I wasn't quite sure what to expect. But throughout the training, my team leader and I became closer and better."

Since arriving in April, the EOD teams supporting Co B have done more than just eliminate explosive hazards on the battlefield. The four EOD technicians have played a vital role in training the infantry Marines about IEDs and other enemy tactics.

"Based on the threat in the area, we try to conduct our training toward that," said SSgt Robert Conlon, an EOD team leader. "We teach them things they can do to mitigate risk, as well as be able to better locate any possible hazards they might encounter in the battlespace.

"We do training with the [infantrymen] as needed, and we do reset training at least once a month. We will let them know what we have seen and what they should be looking out for."

Having EOD technicians spread throughout Helmand province supporting infantry companies is critical to successful operations and has saved lives.

"The infantrymen and engineers go out and find the IEDs, but it is EOD that removes them and exploits the device," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Stephen LaRose, the Regimental Combat Team 6 gunner. "Their expertise and dedicated study of enemy [tactics and techniques] directly correlates to defeating the device. EOD [technicians] are vital to the counter-IED team with the infantry."

The EOD technicians accomplish their mission and enjoy working alongside one another in a combat zone. "I get to serve with some of the finest Marines you will ever meet, [who] are in the EOD community," Burnham said.

Although the EOD technicians are supported by each other while forward deployed, the Marines think support from back home is just as important.

"I think the biggest thing in the military in general, especially in a higher risk job, is having family support," Smith said. "That's a big thing that I have. My family is 100 percent behind me, especially my wife. She is very supportive of everything I do. I think that's especially important in the EOD field."

"I am not concerned about my family back home worrying. They know what I do. They know that I am trained for it. They should feel safe knowing that it's not just me out here. Everyone is looking out for each other."

Sgt John Jackson
Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG (Fwd)



SGT JOHN JACKSON



SGT JOHN JACKSON

**EOD technician
Sgt Michael Smith
(far left) examines a
recovered IED June 15
in the Sangin District.
More than 25 IEDs
were destroyed in a
controlled detonation.**



Leathernecks of "Alpha" Co recover a damaged mine roller during a combat logistics patrol in Helmand province May 30. The mine roller was damaged north of Musa Qal'eh in support of Operation Branding Iron.

■ **North of Musa Qal'eh** **Logistical Support for** **Operation Branding Iron**

Leathernecks of 3d Platoon, Company A, Combat Logistics Battalion 4, First Marine Logistics Group (Forward) did the behind-the-scenes and rugged work of providing vital logistics to Regimental Combat Team 6, north of Musa Qal'eh, May 27-June 11, in support of Operation Branding Iron in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

The platoon transported supplies and equipment to and from a re-arming, refueling and resupply point (R3P), as well as provided troop transport and vehicle recovery capabilities to 2d Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment, RCT-6, according to Captain Donald L. Hotchkiss, company commander. "We provide a reach-back capability to transport critical classes of supply and essential equipment in order for the battalion

to continue sustained combat operations."

Marines with 2/5 used the R3P site to rest and refit during the operation.

"The R3P site serves as a forward supply point in immediate proximity to the forward lines of troops," said First Lieutenant Benjamin Gutek, 3d Plt Commander, "Alpha" Co, CLB-4. "We were able to transport supplies ... rapidly and accurately because we were in such close proximity."

This mission marks the first time during the deployment that CLB-4 dedicated an entire motor transportation platoon with internal command and control, security and recovery capability, directly to an infantry battalion in support of a named operation, according to Hotchkiss.

The CLB-4 Marines and sailors adjusted quickly to match operational changes and requirements.

"The needs of the infantry consistently

changed as the operation progressed, and it is important for us to be flexible to meet their needs," said Gutek.

The Alpha Co leathernecks ensured they met the logistical support requirements of the battalion, according to 1stLt Gutek; they overcame every obstacle to maintain a high tempo during the operation. "[The mission] was taxing physically, mentally, emotionally and psychologically. We were operating between 12 and 16 hours during the movement, and once we reached the objective, we had another three to four hours of offload before we could rest."

The high operational tempo was maintained despite an increase in the improvised explosive device threat and stiff enemy resistance during the CLB-4 movements, said Gutek. "This mission gave the Marines a reality check, a reminder that they still need to retain and rely on the skills they learned in boot camp and [Marine Combat Training].

"This taught [the Marines] that they still need to maintain their basic field craft skills ... such as finding creative ways to keep yourself clean, developing a reinforced fighting hole, familiarity with the crew-served weapons systems, and establishing and maintaining a heightened security posture."

The fighting holes, one of the examples of basic field craft skills that Marines utilized, were dug into the rocky ground of the R3P site and served to protect the Marines while they slept.

The temperature at the R3P site was another obstacle the Marines overcame.

"The hotter it is, the more of a challenge it is to maintain your hygiene ... and it is 120-plus degrees out here during the day, so people are sweating more and the dust starts coating everything," said Sergeant Daniel B. Baker, loadmaster, 3d Plt. "If you don't stay clean, you risk getting sick, and once one person gets sick, it spreads because everyone is living in such tight quarters. When we start losing operators to sickness, it degrades our ability to achieve mission accomplishment."

The direct support operation also marked the longest CLB-4 mission to date.

"Whether we plan for a three-day [combat logistics patrol] or a two-week support mission, the basics always apply," said Hotchkiss. "The most important factor is engaged leadership, from the [noncommissioned officers] to the platoon commander, to ensure our Marines and sailors remain focused, remain disciplined and represent the battalion in a positive manner."

Cpl Mark W. Stroud

Combat Correspondent, 1st MLG (Fwd)





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Photo by Marine Technical Sergeant V. Murdutt

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Montford Point Marines

Awarded the Congressional Gold Medal



MGySgt Norman D. Epkin, USMC (Ret), one of the last Montford Point Marines to retire from active duty, returned to Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., where he was stationed in 1946, to attend the parade and award ceremony June 29, 2012.



LtGen Willie J. Williams, senior active-duty African-American Marine, awards a replica Congressional Gold Medal to a Montford Point Marine. Some 430 Montford Point Marines were awarded medals that were provided by the Marine Corps Association & Foundation.



Story and photos by Clare A. Guerrero

I can remember when I first went to the train station to go to basic training, and when I got to Union Station, I went to board the train, and the conductor said, ‘All blacks have to sit behind the coal car,’ ” said former Corporal James E. Brooks. He had to pause; the silence told all. Tears streamed down the face of the earliest Montford Point Marine enlistee present at the parade and award ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., June 29. “So that was just the beginning. It was a great bunch of guys. And I fought for ‘em,” he said.

One day earlier, on June 28, the Montford Point Marines were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a special ceremony at Emancipation Hall in the United States Capitol Visitor Center. Marine veteran William McDowell was proud to accept the medal on behalf of all the Montford Point Marines.

The Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor awarded as an ex-

pression of national appreciation for distinguished service and contribution, brought this group of “giants” into the spotlight—heroes who had served their country unceremoniously, many without promotion, and during segregation.

“Today we gather to pay tribute, as the gold medal inscription says, to perseverance and courage of a small group of giants in American history, the Montford Point Marines,” said Rep. Nancy Pelosi at the Capitol ceremony.

“In an age of inequality, breaking the color barrier in the Marine Corps took nothing less than perseverance, patriotism and courage of extraordinary proportions. Fighting for a segregated America required that extra dose of patriotism. Yet for the men of Montford Point, the reason to join the Marines was about something more basic. There was a war raging abroad, and they saw it as their duty to fight for their country. As one of the early recruits said, ‘I joined the Marine Corps because I thought it to be the proper thing to do, to be patriotic to my country. I felt this was

history in the making.’ ”

“I don’t think we imagined that anything like this would happen in our lifetime,” said McDowell at the presentation. “It does sadden me that so many of our brothers are not with us here today. The upside of it all is that we do remember each and every one of them. They’re in our hearts and our minds. And they shall never be forgotten.”

The following morning, at Marine Barracks Washington, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James F. Amos, hosted a parade and ceremony to honor the special contributions of the Montford Point Marines and to award each with a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal, which were paid for by a donation from the Marine Corps Association & Foundation.

The event drew approximately 430 still tough-as-iron Montford Point Marines to the Barracks. Many were sporting wheelchairs parked in rows spanning the entire length of the parade ground. The Montford Point “giants” withstood the sweltering



Montford Point Marines make a presence at MB Washington—as rows of seats and wheelchairs stretch across the entire length of the parade ground.

heat that even got the best of some members of the Barracks marching units.

The ceremony opened with the reading of a statement by President Barack H. Obama attesting to the Montford Point Marines' service to Corps and country. Leading the parade, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band played "Riders for the Flag" and "The Stars and Stripes Forever," both composed by the legendary Marine "March King," John Philip Sousa. Following the Barracks traditional parade sequence, the marching companies filed from the inner crevices of the barracks to come on line and then execute the "manual of arms" and follow with the presentation of the colors.

During the formal presentation of the replica Congressional Gold Medals, senior Marine Corps leaders moved down the lines of Montford Point Marines, looping a ribbon holding a medal over the head of each Marine. Many Montford Point Marines rose from their seats and wheelchairs to accept the medals; the honor was met with both smiles and tears.

During his remarks, Gen Amos shared with the attendees some meaningful details that contributed to the organization and coordination of the event, singling out Lieutenant General Willie J. Williams, the senior active-duty African-American Marine, and Colonel Stephanie Smith, for

Many Montford Point Marines rose from their seats and wheelchairs to accept the medals; the honor was met with both smiles and tears.

their efforts in coordinating the event.

Smith volunteered for the arduous task of tracking down the Montford Point Marines. The Commandant said he learned the significance of Col Smith's dedication and perseverance to the project: her father, Ernie Smith, who was present in the crowd,

went through boot camp at Montford Point. Smith expressed immense pride that her father was a Montford Point Marine.

Special recognition also was given to Rep. Corrine Brown from the 3rd District in Florida, and North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan, for their contributions in getting the bill passed in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

Rep. Brown said during the ceremony held at the U.S. Capitol the day before that Gen Amos "led the fight," in what she said she thought was the most bipartisan-supported bill that would be passed in Congress this year. "[And] everybody worked together to honor [the] Montford Point Marines."

The Commandant expressed his pride in being part of the historical moment 70 years in the making, noting the significant timing of the event held in proximity to Executive Order No. 8802, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, June 25, 1941, that banned discrimination for color or race in branches of the government and the U.S. Armed Forces. A little more than

**"The main thing we wanted was to be treated fairly.
That was the key; the key to our existence."— Former Cpl James E. Brooks**

a year later, on Aug. 26, 1942, the first one of nearly 20,000 African-American volunteers, Howard Perry of Charlotte, N.C., arrived at the site that was then known as "Mumford Point."

"When [the first volunteers] showed up, they had to build their own camp, they had to clear off the land at Montford Point from the trees and the snakes and the bears, and they had to build their own tents. And then after they were all done doing that, they had to become recruits and then become Marines," the Commandant said. "And so it's long overdue. ... So today is a historical day in our Marine Corps—236½ years of history—and now this has been inserted into our history right where it should be. And I'm pretty proud of it."

In the tradition of the Corps, the Montford Point Marines created their own illustrious boot print in history. The attractive opportunity to serve in the Marine Corps drew African-Americans of diverse backgrounds. Whether university-educated or farm-raised, all were vetted in the tradition of Marine Corps Recruit Depots San Diego and Parris Island. Montford Point's all-black drill instructors had a reputation for being among some of the toughest—and trained some of the Corps' finest.

Assisting with numerous operations during World War II, the Montford Point Marines watched landmark events unfold as part of their own story.

"I served during the Pacific War," said Brooks. "I was part of the antiaircraft ... M7 director ... and I was in charge of a battery—and I took care of what happened in the air when the 'birds' came and I would direct them with little knobs onto the target. I was at Guam and at Eniwetok. I was at Eniwetok when they dropped the first atomic test bomb in the South Pacific, because we were getting ready for the invasion of Japan. So we were willing and ready."

Although they were Marines, African-Americans endured the stigma of inequality daily. "I could not sleep in the barracks because of the segregation; I had to sleep in the basement. And when we went to the chow hall to eat, we had to sit at a table that said 'colored only,'" said Norman D. Epkin, who served at Marine Barracks Washington, beginning in 1946. "But we got along good with the whites. We would go down to the pool hall and shoot pool and go down to the bowling alley and



Gen James F. Amos gives special recognition to Rep. Corrine Brown, left, from the 3rd District in Florida, and North Carolina Sen. Kay Hagan for their efforts in getting the bill passed for the Montford Point Marines' Congressional Gold Medal in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

bowl. But we couldn't sleep in the barracks with them, and we couldn't eat at the table with them."

Because the African-American Marines were limited to combat service support units, many Montford Point Marines were eager to take up arms and fight for their right to fight, volunteering for many hardships in an effort to prove to the leadership their value in combat. "We had to go through rigid training, and the whole nine yards, but we didn't worry about that," said Brooks, who said he served as a platoon runner only two weeks after the platoon was formed. "The main thing we wanted was to be treated fairly. That was the key; the key to our existence. And I made sure of that."

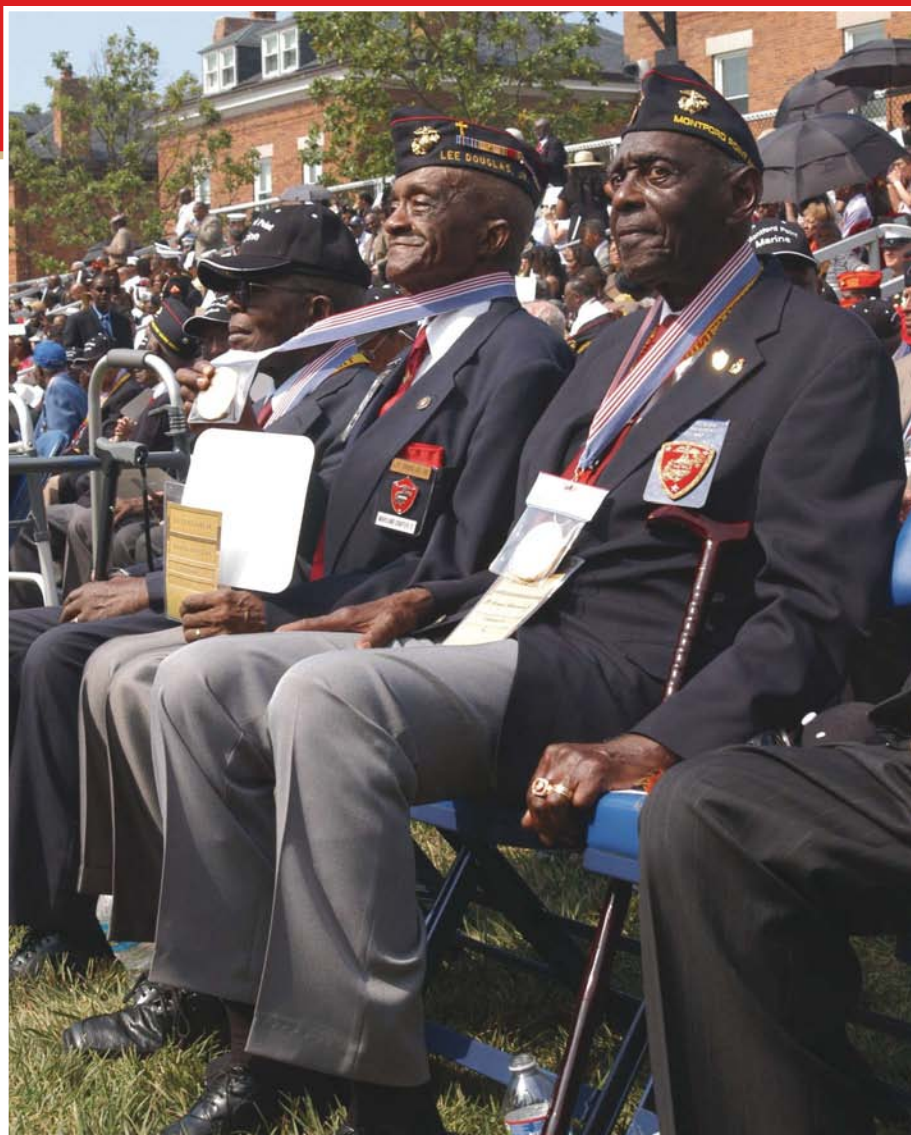
Many Montford Point Marines proved their valor when wartime circumstances brought them new responsibilities, as in the case of former Private First Class Vincent R. Long, another parade attendee. Long served with the 20th Depot Co, one of the units awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for heroic action on Saipan in WW II. Long was in the Fourth Marine Division when it hit Saipan.

He claimed that his unit was pulled into action by default, when another division was slow to get into position. "We were told ... 'Gentlemen, what you fellas do here today will depend on the outcome [of the

future] of African-American Marines.' So they took all of us who were down in [the Depot Company] and put us into this [combat] pocket, and [we] were able to detain [the enemy] for three days until reinforcements came through. But we were in combat and also supply a lot of times. When we first landed, [we were] right there in the water, knee-deep, waist-deep, and one of the barges with supplies got hit, and we [kept] unloading ... because they needed those supplies."

As predicted, the combat actions of the service support companies on Saipan, Tinian and Guam gained national attention. According to Bernard C. Nalty in "The Right to Fight: African-American Marines in World War II," a monograph in the Marines in World War II Commemorative Series, then-Commandant of the Marine Corps "Lieutenant General Alexander A. Vandegrift ... declared: 'The Negro Marines are no longer on trial. They are Marines, period.' *Time's* war correspondent in the Central Pacific, Robert Sherrod, wrote, 'The Negro Marines, under fire for the first time, have rated a universal 4.0 on Saipan.' "

The heroic efforts of those Montford Point Marines who served during WW II influenced President Harry S. Truman's decision to desegregate the U.S. Armed Forces in 1948. Montford Point was closed



Above: Montford Point Marines proudly display their medals after the awards ceremony.

Below: Former Cpl James E. Brooks, the oldest Montford Point enlistee in attendance, gives a playful salute to LtGen Willie J. Williams during the parade and award ceremony reception. Brooks stood with the Commandant and African-American senior leaders of the Corps to salute the Barracks' marching companies during the "Pass in Review."



in 1949 and later renamed "Camp Johnson," after Master Sergeant Gilbert H. Johnson, the legendary Montford Point African-American drill instructor.

As for the Marines who served there, they continued their lives in service to their country—some in continued service to the Corps, others in civil service, and all as leathernecks, who placed great value on hard work, equal opportunity, freedom and love for their country.

"You never turn your back on your country," said Long. "There is no other place I know of that I want to live."

Brooks went on to work in the Department of Labor, at both the Pentagon and the Navy Yard. At 90 years of age, he still runs and plays tennis. "I do it all," Brooks said with a smile.

Long, who was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., returned to his beloved city and served a 35-year career with New York City Transit. He started out as a bus driver and worked his way up to train operator, then became a supervisor of a train yard and eventually a yardmaster. He credited the Marine Corps for "making a man" out of him.

Epkin, the epitome of a joyful spirit, who attended the ceremony in dress blues, said he fully enjoyed the life he had in the Corps, and "being a jarhead" was the best thing of all. Epkin held a cook's military occupational specialty, 3371, and worked in officers' clubs. He retired as a master gunnery sergeant.

MGySgt Epkin was one of the last Montford Point staff noncommissioned officers to retire from the Corps. "I didn't get discouraged," he said. "I did what I had to do. Shoot, I served 32 years, 2 months and 13 days. And I thank God he brought me through, because it's not my doing. When you go through three wars and come back without a scratch, you have something to be thankful for."

"There has been a momentous increase in consideration of all races in the Marine Corps, because we had to fight for it," said Brooks.

At the close of the ceremony, Brooks stood with the Commandant and senior African-American leaders of the Corps during the "Pass in Review." Many Montford Point Marines rose from their seats and wheelchairs to salute and return the honor to their Marines—their Corps.



Leatherneck Laffs



"When did they start making MRE Helper?"



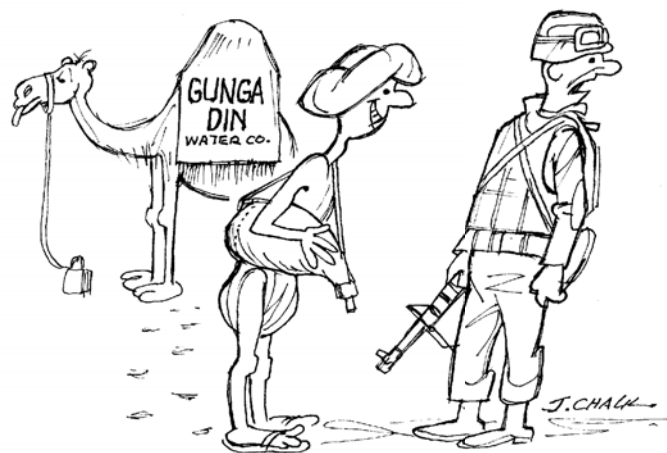
"If you're thinking about a fight, forget it."



"No, Recruit, I can't get a signal either."



"There are two categories in Supply:
Things nobody can have and stuff nobody wants."



"Any of you guys need water?"

"We like to think of him as a kind of force multiplier."



"OK, on the count of three, everyone lean forward—one ..."

To Get Back in the Fight

Major Randolph Talcott Zane, USMC 1887-1918

Story by Col William T. Anderson, USMCR (Ret) • Photos courtesy of the author

On 12 Aug. 1919, USS *Zane* (DD-337, later DMS-14 and AG-109) was launched at Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, Calif. A *Clemson*-class destroyer named for Major Randolph T. Zane, USMC, who died in France in 1918, she began an illustrious career to include surviving the attack on Pearl Harbor. The ceremony received considerable coverage in the press as Maj Zane was the son of a U.S. Navy admiral and son-in-law of the

governor of California. How this came to be is an interesting story of courage, family loyalty and bureaucratic bumbling.

Randolph T. Zane was born in Philadelphia on 12 Aug. 1887, the son of Admiral A. V. Zane, USN. He was commissioned a lieutenant of Marines in January 1909 and in December reported for sea duty in USS *New Hampshire* (BB-25), the last pre-dreadnought battleship. Thus began a period of “expeditionary service” with

the fleet that was common among Marine officers of the era. Zane would rise in rank based upon exemplary conduct with Marine units on both coasts.

Following the U.S. Declaration of War on 6 April 1917, newly promoted Captain Zane grew restless. While on duty in Hawaii, he requested a “Change of Station” in a letter dated 27 April 1917:

“In view of the present war conditions, and the improbability of any degree of war



Officers of the 2d Bn, 6th Marines, 18 June 1918, upon relief from Belleau Wood. Then-Capt Zane is believed to be the fifth officer from the left.

COURTESY OF LT COL PETER OWEN, USMC (RET)



Capt Randolph T. Zane, USMC

activity in these islands, I respectfully request transfer to either sea or shore duty in the United States.”

His request was approved, and he was directed to proceed to San Francisco. Leaving Hawaii, he headed to Quantico, Va., to join the new Sixth Marine Regiment. Assigned to command the 79th Company on 19 Sept., Capt Zane began making the new Marines arriving from Paris Island ready for their “expeditionary service.” [From 1917-19, Parris Island was spelled with only one “r.”] By November, under the command of a future Commandant, Maj Thomas Holcomb, the efforts of the leaders of 2d Battalion were bearing fruit.

The regiment sailed for France aboard USS *Henderson* on 24 Jan. 1918. Disembarking in February, the Marines were disappointed to be assigned training duties. Eventually, the regiment moved near Verdun and was “in the line” from mid-March to mid-May. Suddenly, everything changed at the end of May.

At 0500, 27 May 1918, the German Army launched the third phase of its spring offensive. The German Corps Containing created a salient close to Chateau-Thierry. Opposing the German Army at this apex was the 2d U.S. Division containing 4th Marine Brigade with 5th and 6th regiments. Assigned to a French corps, the brigade deployed north of the Paris-Metz Highway. Following the apparent success of 1st Bn, 5th Marines at Hill 142 west of Belleau Wood on the morning of 6 June 1918, the corps’ commander directed his forces to continue the attack into Belleau Wood itself in the afternoon.

At approximately 1745, the Marine brigade began its attack on Belleau Wood.

Two battalions, the 3d Bn, 5th Marines (3/5) and 3d Bn, 6th Marines (3/6), were directed to take objectives in Belleau Wood and the village of Bouresches. Both battalions initiated the attack as directed, but soon ran into stubborn enemy resistance. With 3/6 on the right flank focused on the southern edge of Belleau Wood, 3/5 was

Capt Zane was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross, displaying “such bravery as to inspire the garrison to resist a heavy machine gun and infantry attack by superior numbers.”

responsible for attacking over open ground into the western edge of the former hunting preserve. The latter assault would be immortalized by generations of Marines as “through the wheat” where 3/5 would suffer terrible casualties. In the 6th Marines sector, 3/6 was stymied by a combination of difficult terrain and effective German defensive positions.

As twilight approached, the commander of the Marine brigade, U.S. Army Brigadier General James G. Harbord, realized that the first phase of his plan to take Belleau Wood was stalled. As the attack bogged down at the edges of Belleau Wood, 2/6, which had been supporting 3/6’s right flank along the road from Lucyle-Bocage to Bouresches, was directed to take Bouresches. With 2/6’s 79th Co supporting 3/6, the 96th Co was ordered to seize the village.

After considerable effort and casualties, including the death of its commander, 96th Co succeeded in establishing a foothold in the village. A future Commandant, Second Lieutenant Clifton B. Cates, took the lead with the remnants of his 4th Platoon and two additional platoons. With the reinforcements, Cates began to organize the defense of the village. Subsequently, the survivors of 79th Co, under the command of Capt Zane, reinforced Cates in Bouresches. As the senior officer present,

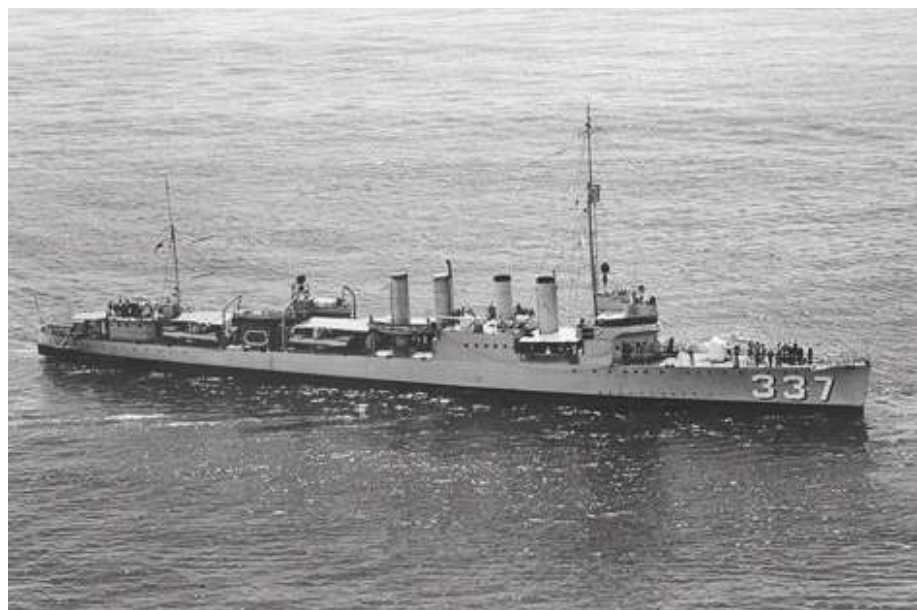
Zane assumed command of all forces in the village.

Additional reinforcements arrived, to include members of the U.S. Army’s 2d Engineer Regt, bringing the force to 190 Marines and 175 soldiers.

During 6-9 June 1918, this joint force held the village against counterattacks and artillery barrages, including gas. Although the Marines didn’t know it at the time, the taking of Bouresches caused much anxiety in the opposing forces. Holding the western edge of the village controlled avenues of approach to Belleau Wood itself. Thus, the Germans stubbornly contested the village and reinforced their position along the old railroad embankment north of the village. Once expelled, they spent the next several days counterattacking.

Relieved between 10-11 June by the reconstituted 3/5, the exhausted force in Bouresches moved to the rear for a well-earned rest. Capt Zane was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross, displaying “such bravery as to inspire the garrison to resist a heavy machine gun and infantry attack by superior numbers.” The regimental recommendation dated 8 June 1918 provides further detail: “His successful handling of the defense and his personal example of bravery and coolness inspired the garrison to resist with such effect that, although the infantry were at

USS *Zane* (DD-337) was a *Clemson*-class destroyer commissioned at Mare Island, Calif., on 15 Feb. 1921.



one time within 30 feet of the town, the town was held and the enemy repulsed with heavy losses.”

Unfortunately, 79th Co didn’t have much time to recover.

On 13 June, 2/6 was ordered into brigade reserve. The battalion then received orders around midnight to relieve 2/5 in Belleau Wood. During the deployment, 78th and 96th companies were struck by a devastating barrage of high-explosive and gas rounds. When 2/6 arrived to relieve 2/5 around 0300, 14 June, it comprised Zane’s 79th Co, 80th Co and the few survivors of the decimated units. The rest were either casualties on the ground or walking wounded straggling back to the aid station in Lucy-le-Bocage.

Maj Frederick “Fritz” Wise, 2/5’s commander, recommended that the planned relief be delayed as the replacements were insufficient to man the position and that he remain with his battered battalion to consolidate the two battalions in defense.

Due to exhaustion, the relief of all the brigade units in Belleau Wood was directed on 14 June. Over the next two days, the Marines carefully withdrew, replaced by 7th Infantry Regt from the U.S. Army’s 3d Division. Maj Holcomb’s 2/6 enjoyed some well-earned rest in the rear areas between 17-23 June. Unfortunately, the operations of the 7th Infantry proved to be unsuccessful. The Marine brigade moved into divisional reserve on 22 June in anticipation of returning to Belleau Wood.

During the early morning hours of 26 June, when 79th Co was approaching its

assigned position in Belleau Wood, it received a punishing artillery reception. According to documents in his official record, Zane was wounded seriously while attempting to aid a wounded sergeant. A German shell struck nearby killing three Marines and striking Zane in the left lower back. In addition to the wound caused by the explosion, he also suffered concussion injuries damaging his left eardrum.

Zane was transferred through two field hospitals, eventually arriving at Evacua-

tion Hospital #7 on 30 June. He spent several weeks in Base Hospital #3, transferring to the American Red Cross Hospital Convalescent Camp Biarritz on 10 Aug. Although he returned to duty on 30 Aug., he never fully recovered from the concussion injuries. He became the provost marshal of a U.S. camp at Blois near Le Havre in northern France and was promoted to major in late August. In addition, he was presented his Distinguished Service Cross on 2 Oct. 1918. After his death, the family would accept his Navy Cross for the same action.

Tragically, Zane continued to suffer the effects of his injuries. His hearing was impaired permanently, and complications

from the damage to his inner ear developed in early October. Readmitted to British General Hospital #2 on 13 Oct., he developed an ear infection. With the lack of antibiotics, his condition deteriorated, and he died on 24 Oct.

Maj Zane was interred in the American section of the Saint Marie Cemetery in Le Havre on 28 Oct. 1918. According to the 29 Oct. letter to ADM Zane from the U.S. Navy Port Captain of Le Havre, CAPT David J. Boyd, USN, “[A]n unusual number of British officers and French civilians were present, your son being very popular and well known.” Critically important later, the letter also states Zane’s death resulted from the concussion injuries received at Belleau Wood.

The news of his death generated controversy. His records contain considerable correspondence about the nature of his wounds and the cause of his death. A Casualty Cablegram dated 5 Nov. reported Zane had died of an ear infection. Newspaper accounts several days later suggest he died of influenza. His widow, Barbara Stephens Zane, was notified by cablegram on 15 Nov. that Zane had died of the ear infection. Confused, the family began to question the characterization of having died of disease rather than combat injuries.

On 1 Dec., Mrs. Zane wrote the Commandant, Major General George Barnett, that she believed her husband had died of wounds he received at Belleau Wood and that this casualty notice was in error. Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps wrote the 6th Regt commander on 2 Dec., seeking clarification of the circumstances of Zane’s death and asking “whether

The news of his death generated controversy. His records contain considerable correspondence about the nature of his wounds and the cause of his death.

tion Hospital #7 on 30 June. He spent several weeks in Base Hospital #3, transferring to the American Red Cross Hospital Convalescent Camp Biarritz on 10 Aug. Although he returned to duty on 30 Aug., he never fully recovered from the concussion injuries. He became the provost marshal of a U.S. camp at Blois near Le Havre in northern France and was promoted to major in late August. In addition, he was presented his Distinguished Service Cross on 2 Oct. 1918. After his death, the family would accept his Navy Cross for the same action.

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FROM MAJ ZANE'S OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FILE



FROM MAJ ZANE'S OFFICIAL PERSONNEL FILE

After his death, Maj Zane initially was buried in Saint Marie Cemetery, Le Havre, France (left), and later moved to the American Cemetery in Bony, France (right).

Major Zane should be listed as having died as [a] result of wounds received in action, or as having died from disease.”

William Stephens, Zane’s father-in-law and governor of California, followed up on 10 Dec. with a letter to Headquarters Marine Corps, stating a California newspaper had published a death notice indicating Zane died of disease. The governor inquired, “[I]nasmuch as Major Zane’s death was due entirely to battle causes, should his death not be recorded as ‘died of wounds’?”

BGen Charles G. Long, assistant to the Major General Commandant, confirmed that the Marine Corps was seeking clarification. BGen Long stated he believed that Zane’s death was “probably caused by the wounds he received” and that changing the cause of death “will be perfectly proper.” However, he stressed that confirmation from France was necessary.

The official request of 2 Dec. worked its way through the bureaucracy to the Marine brigade now on occupation duty in Germany. On 1 Feb. 1919, the brigade adjutant endorsed the original correspondence to 6th Marines. Subsequently, on 3 Feb. 1919, the regimental surgeon commented that Zane was wounded and evacuated to the rear with a diagnosis of “wound gunshot, back, slight.”

Later, the American Expeditionary Force Central Records Office noted the cause of death as “Otitis Media, Left ear, chronic suppurative and mastoiditis and cerebral abscess” (i.e., ear infection). Zane spent 27 June to 30 Aug. in various hospitals. “Slight” wounding? A clinical record in his personnel file states that Capt Zane was admitted to Base Hospital #3 from Evacuation Hospital #7 on 5 July 1918, with a diagnosis: “Gun shot (sic) wound left buttock, severe.” An undated biographical sketch in his official records indicates he was “shell-shocked and slightly wounded.”

Unfortunately, the response from Europe didn’t really answer the question of Zane’s cause of death. The final endorsement page contains the following undated handwritten note at the bottom of the page, “Carried on 1919 Navy Register as having died of wounds, by authority of Gen Barnett, in view of circumstances and of facts of Capt Boyd USN.” (In a 29 Oct. 1918 letter to Zane’s father, CAPT Boyd, the U.S. Navy Port Captain at Le Havre, clearly says Zane’s death was a consequence of the concussion injury to his eardrum.)

BGen Long wrote Governor Stephens on 10 April 1919 and proudly stated the January 1919 Navy Register would show Zane “died as a result of wounds received in action.” Thus, the matter was settled by the personal intervention of MajGen



The official Navy caption is “Mrs. Barbara Zane and Miss Marjorie Zane at the launching of USS Zane, 12 Aug. 1919.” However, this is obviously in error as Maj Zane’s daughter, Marjorie, was 5 years old at the time. More likely, this is his widow, Mrs. Barbara Zane, right, and her mother, Mrs. William Stephens, wife of the governor of California. The Navy officer is not identified.

Barnett. Zane’s official records were annotated to indicate he died of wounds instead of disease. Tragically, ADM Zane never received the news, as he died at his home in Washington, D.C., on 2 Jan. 1919.

On 4 June 1919, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels approved the following: “Destroyer number three three seven has been named ZANE in memory of Major Randolph T. Zane, U. S. Marine Corps.” As planned, the launching of USS Zane took place on 12 Aug. 1919, with Marjorie Zane, Zane’s daughter, as the sponsor. It was Zane’s birthday.

Shortly after his death, both sides of his family requested that his remains be returned immediately in order to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. However, there were no plans to return any American remains in 1918, and the request was politely denied. Ultimately, all families of those buried in Europe were asked if they wished the remains to be returned. Many families declined the offer of repatriation, and in January 1921, Mrs. Zane requested that her husband’s remains stay in France. Later, on 30 Aug. 1923, Zane was laid to rest in the new American Cemetery in Bony, France, now administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Battle stress illness, such as post-traumatic stress (PTS) or the more serious traumatic brain injury (TBI), was not understood in 1918. Indeed, we are slowly coming to grips with such injuries today. Only recently has the DOD accepted that such injuries may warrant a Purple Heart

medal. The reference to Zane being “shell-shocked” explains how a “slight” gunshot wound caused him to be in and out of hospitals for several months and then convalescing away from his Marines.

A Marine of Zane’s caliber would have been itching to return to the battalion. His leadership of 79th Co in preparing his men for and leading them in combat at Belleau Wood is his legacy. Unfortunately, he was not ready to return physically or emotionally, a direct result of the battlefield concussion. It appears that he was relegated to a job in the rear and not treated in a manner that would have prepared him to return to the brigade. This failure was a disservice to him personally and to 79th Co.

Today, our focus is on recognizing such injuries and treating Marines so that they can get back in the fight. Maj Zane’s experience should be a lesson.

Editor’s note: After more than 40 years of military, contractor and civilian service, Col Anderson is retired in Spotsylvania, Va., while continuing to teach on the Marine Corps Command and Staff College Adjunct Faculty, Distance Education Program, Marine Corps University. He has written extensively on Marine Corps operations in WWI. While he worked for NATO in Europe, he was instrumental in the development of the staff ride that is being used at Belleau Wood and is on a team drafting a Marine Corps Staff Ride publication for that purpose.



Retired U.S. Army SFC Michael Elliott, a Golden Knight, tandem master and master parachute rigger, tandem-jumped with President George H. W. Bush (41) twice and volunteered to ensure Cpl Todd Love made a safe skydive over Hawaii. (Photo by T. K. Hinshaw of Skydive Hawaii)



Love Is in the Air!

Corporal Todd Love, USMC: Someone Who Intends to Live Life Well

By Col John R. Bates, USMC (Ret)

Corporal Todd Love doesn't remember that last step he took. Actually, he remembers little of the events from 0710 on Oct. 25, 2010, or of the days and weeks thereafter. While on patrol in Sangin province, Afghanistan, he became an intended victim of a huge improvised explosive device (IED) buried by a Muslim terrorist alongside the main route leading from the village Love's patrol had just passed.

Pressure detonated, the violent bone-ripping blast temporarily blinded and deafened all within 100 meters of the device. Most would feel the concussion of the shock wave and be thrown from their intended path, but as is often the case when at ground zero, few would remember actually hearing it. Memories, should there be any, would be a surrealistic slow-motion horror movie.

The road erupted. The earth shook,

belching fire, rock, equipment and body parts. The life of Todd Love would be changed dramatically forever.

The horrific blast vaporized everything into a pink mist from Cpl Love's groin down. His left arm was mangled badly and hung uselessly from just below the elbow. Had it not been for the searing heat of the blast cauterizing his major blood vessels and arteries, he would have bled out quickly.

Moments later when his unit corpsman reached his position, it logically and understandably was assumed that the corporal was dead. As per standard operating procedure of combat lifesaving, he was given shots of morphine to help cope with the unbearable pain that was sure to come should he possibly still be among the living. Reaching the site as the dust was settling, the corpsman noted that there were still signs of life.

Remarkably, Cpl Love regained consciousness. His first cognizant words were

to inquire if he still had his manhood. The answer was, "Yes."

His next question was about the status of his team leader, Cpl Kyle Thompson, who was just a few feet from him when the IED exploded. Thompson was hit in the face and lost an eye. Told of his team leader's injuries, Cpl Love responded with the best dark humor he could muster: "Thompson ... Thompson ... it sucks to be you right now!"

At that point, the rest of the fire team knew that both Marines had every intention of making it home. An hour and 20 minutes later, a British helicopter, the closest aircraft to their position, arrived to retrieve the emergency medevacs. The day and the intense fire of close combat were far from over. At least 10 rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the medevac before it reached cruising altitude. Fortunately, all missed their mark.

Ten days later in intensive care at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany,

and with his father, Gary, at his side, Todd Love lifted the covers to feel for what might be left. His singular statement was, “That high?” His father said, “Yes.” Cpl Love assessed the damage and perhaps his future and quietly filed those thoughts away. It was time to refocus.

The blast was a defining moment in life for the Marine. From that point on, the injuries he had suffered would affect not only him, but his family, friends, fellow Marines and everyone else who knew him. The important options in life were reduced actually to two: He could spend the rest of his life as a “victim” and depend on the world for his basic needs, or he could resolve to live life to the fullest with not much more than sheer determination. Cpl Love chose the latter.

Meeting him and his father for the first time at the Marine Corps Marathon last fall, I saw quiet determination in everything they both did. Neither wanted pity, distance or isolation. Both wanted only the opportunity to live, not just exist from day to day. They told me that at the invitation of Jeremy Soles, president of Team X-T.R.E.M.E., they had been invited to Hawaii, all expenses paid, to surf, scuba and skydive. All three sports are not for the weak or the timid, and the percentage of the able-bodied population who would do any, much less all three, is low. Cpl Love wanted to do it all.

Arriving in Hawaii, Todd and Gary Love toured the usual visitor sites. After some moments of reflection at Pearl Harbor and the USS *Arizona* Memorial, it was time for lunch. The closest restaurant was on a high second deck at the Rainbow Marina. Until arriving, no one in the party realized that there was no elevator. What might have been an awkward moment unfolded as if choreographed. Arriving at the bottom of the ladder well, Gary Love glanced at his son in his wheelchair, grabbed the chair with one hand and then bent down for Todd to sling his good arm around his father’s neck. Without missing a beat or a step, they climbed the two flights of stairs to the top landing. Somehow, they made it look so natural.

Back at their hotel in Honolulu, not wanting to wait for the elevator, Cpl Love took it upon himself to use the escalator. The hotel service attendant saw him and immediately rushed to reprimand him for a safety violation. With a twisted sense of humor only a wounded Marine could have, Cpl Love’s response was, “Come on now. You are trying to treat me like I’m disabled.”

That afternoon, with professional coaching, Cpl Love rode the waves on a surfboard. Just to prove he was a “natural,” he did a handstand on his prosthesis and



SASHA SCHINDLER OF SKYDIVE HAWAII

Jeremy Soles, president of Team X-T.R.E.M.E, supports Cpl Love’s left, and MSgt Matthew Small, USMC is on Love’s right as they celebrate the jump. Love’s father, Gary Love, is kneeling on the far left, and tandem master SFC Michael Elliott, U.S. Army (Ret), is standing with a black parachute container on the left. The author is in the red, white and blue jumpsuit on the right.

his good arm. All was documented on camera—point proven.

The next day, with a device provided by the techs at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center (now the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center), he strapped a dolphinlike-fin device to his torso and scuba dove as if he had been doing it all his life.

There is nothing “natural” about leaping from an airplane in flight. Perhaps, that is exactly why Cpl Love wanted to do just that. Doing a tandem skydive with a triple amputee presents some unusual challenges. Without legs, there is nothing to cinch with the leg straps. Would the prosthetic arm change the body-flight dynamics?

The biggest and most obvious complication was who would be qualified, available and willing to be his tandem master. The only tandem master who both would and could was Michael Elliott, a former Golden Knight and retired U.S. Army sergeant first class. Elliott had jumped with President George H. W. Bush strapped to his body on two occasions and had jumped with a long list of amputees; he was one of the very few qualified to make a jump with Cpl Love.

Elliott, a master parachute rigger, made a tandem harness attached to a ballistic-material “bucket” in which Cpl Love would sit. At Skydive Hawaii, they tried it on. The fit was perfect. Cpl Love, his father and Team X-T.R.E.M.E. would do an exhibition skydive into the X-TERRA Games at Kualoa Ranch on the northeast shoreline of Oahu.

The ride to altitude was filled with the

usual edgy humor. “Corporal Love, when you are about to land, don’t forget to lift your feet up,” and “Don’t worry if we have a high-speed malfunction. We will have the rest of our lives to figure it out and ride our reserve.” If there was tension on that flight, it wasn’t in the face of Cpl Love.

Watching the movement to the door with Cpl Love strapped to Michael Elliott’s body seemed surreal. The skies were broken with soft, dark clouds. The exit at about 9,000 feet was over the water. Within a couple hundred feet of leaving the aircraft, they were body-flight stable and smiling. At 5,000 feet they waved off and deployed the main canopy. Feet-dry at about 3,000 feet, they made lazy upwind spiral turns as they set up for the initial approach. Turning on final at about 200 feet, they headed into the wind line, flared and contacted the deck at the wind “T,” right on target. Cpl Love immediately was surrounded by people cheering loudly.

To him, it was just another day in the life of someone who intends to live it well. On that day, Love was all around us. Love was in the air.

Editor’s note: Col Bates is a retired Marine infantry officer, currently residing in Hawaii.



Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos of Cpl Love skydiving and a video of him playing Bach on the piano at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/CplToddLove



The Battle of Bunker Hill, August 1952 As Seen From “Easy” Med

Story by Birney Dibble, M.D. • Photos courtesy of the author

When the Battle of Bunker Hill started in the middle of August 1952, I'd been with “Easy” Medical Company, 1st Medical Battalion, First Marine Division for about six weeks and the commander for about two weeks. Prior to that, I'd been a battalion surgeon for six months with the 3d Bn, Fifth Marine Regiment.

Easy Med, a tent hospital about three miles behind the 1stMarDiv lines, was

located just north of the Imjin River in what was left of Munsan-ni on the far left flank of the United Nations' lines. Only the Korean Marine Corps on the Kimpo Peninsula lay between the Yellow Sea and us. The “Neutral Corridor” ran from the railhead at Munsan through our lines to Panmunjom. The peace-treaty people lived in boxcars at the railhead. Their convoy of jeeps filed by Easy Med almost daily.

My command post was in one of the two Korean houses left intact in Munsan. An hour after dark on 15 Aug., I heard a Bell helicopter settling onto the landing strip about 30 yards from my sliding paper door. Another roar filled the sky as a second copter sailed overhead, banked and circled, waiting for corpsmen to race up the little hill in back of the security Marines' tents to mark the four corners of the second strip with flashlights. I could



The Korean War's August 1952 Battle of Bunker Hill brought LT Birney Dibble, USNR (inset) and his team of doctors and corpsmen at "Easy" Medical Co more than 1,000 casualties requiring nonstop surgery for 62 hours. Navy surgeons (opposite page, from left) Lou Shirley, Bill Ogle, Gordon McKinley and Sam Dougherty were part of the around-the-clock team.

hear a third copter circling the hospital. Doctors and corpsmen ran for the triage tent. I grabbed my cap and ran after them.

Both patients from the first copter were already in the triage ward, a 16x32 squad tent. Within a few moments, two more were brought in from the second copter.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Lou Shirley, USNR, a general practitioner from Louisi-

In most firefighting there was a fourth group of men who would wait only for death. They were badly wounded men who didn't die right away.

ana, got off his knees where he'd been working on one of the wounded men. He turned to Lieutenant Bill Ogle, USNR, and said, "Belly wound, Bill. Chunk of omentum poking through. Not much loss of blood, though, 'cause his pressure and pulse are normal. One for you?"

Ogle nodded and said, "Yeah, let's go."

A truck rumbled up outside the tent. In came 11 walking wounded with bandaged arms, heads and legs. "Dr. Lee," I called out, "you start at one end, and I'll start at the other, and we'll get these men triaged." Yung-Kak Lee, a Korean doctor with the U.S. Army at the Chosin Reservoir, had been rescued by the Marines and stayed with them.

Four more stretchers were brought in. While I triaged them, I was able to piece together what had happened on the line. Most of the wounded were from the 1st Marines, who held an S-shaped, two-mile-long front that included hills called Siberia, Bunker, Reno and Carson.

I sorted the casualties into three groups: those who could be operated on under local anesthesia in the Minor Operating Tent, those who needed immediate surgery under general anesthesia in the Major Operating Tent and those who could safely wait while the more urgent cases were taken care of. In most firefighting there was a fourth group of men who would wait only for death. They were badly wounded men who didn't die right away.

I moved down the line of stretchers. Corpsman Don Flau stayed with me while another corpsman, J. P. Holliday, worked just ahead of us. He removed the bandages, so I could inspect the wounds. Another corpsman followed us and rewrapped the bandages while the men awaited definitive surgery.

Rarely did we do anything to the wounds during that first exam. We gave blood to those who needed it, started IVs with normal saline if the patient was headed for major surgery, inserted nasal-gastric tubes for belly wounds, gave tetanus toxoid to everyone and did other necessary procedures to treat shock and prepare the men for the operating tents.

The hours ticked by rapidly. By 0200 on Saturday, 16 Aug., nearly 100 wounded men had been admitted. Most of the walking wounded waited outside the triage tent,



The Easy Med command post in Munsan-ni, three miles behind the front lines during the Battle of Bunker Hill, was one of only two houses standing in the town.

Inset: LT “Wild Bill” Ogle, certified by the American Board of Surgery, was one of the more experienced Easy Med surgeons in August 1952.



having been examined and found not to need urgent surgery.

By 0600, the steady flow slowed a little, but there was a backlog of almost 50 surgical cases. Some of the more serious cases, like belly wounds and compound fractures, were waiting too long for surgery.

I got on the EE-8 field phone to the commanding officer of the 1st Medical Bn, Commander Bill Ayres, at Able Med. As I told him about our problem, he shouted, “OK, Dr. Dibble, we’ll take your worst ones out. I’ll send up some Sikorskys and ship ’em to the *Consolation*.”

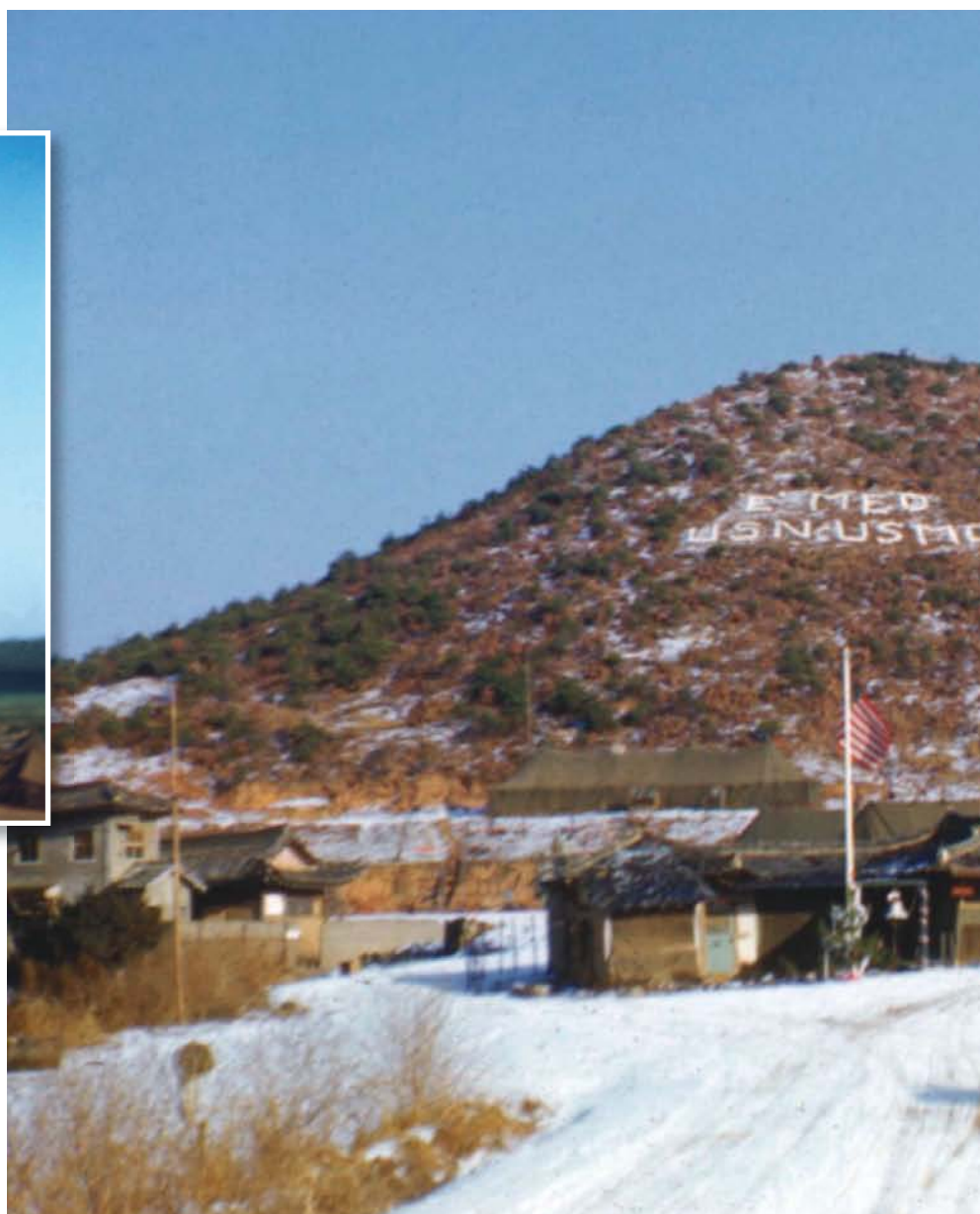
Navy Hospital Ship *Consolation* lay off Inchon. She rotated with two other U.S. Navy ships, *Repose* and *Haven*, and with *Jutlandia*, a converted Danish cruise ship.

Hurriedly, I re-examined all the serious patients in the holding ward. I marked 12 of the most seriously wounded for “copter evac.”

About 1000, I went back to the minor-surgery tent, soaped my hands and arms, and then scrubbed off the dirt and blood and vomitus that had accumulated in my knuckles and under my fingernails. I’d washed frequently during the past 16 hours, but hadn’t had a chance really to scrub.

I stood with my eyes closed, half asleep, my hands mechanically working with brush and soap, my mind jumping from thought to random thought, a surreal stream of consciousness.

LTJG Lou Shirley woke me from my reverie. “OK, Skipper, take over.”



A Marine lay on his belly with a large dressing over his left buttock. I put on my gloves and started drawing up procaine from a bottle held by the corpsman.

The corpsman pulled the dressing off the buttock. I glanced at the wound and was surprised to see a large piece of wood,

**I glanced at the wound
and was surprised to see a
large piece of wood, the handle
of a “potato masher” grenade.**

the handle of a “potato masher” grenade.

The corpsman scrubbed around the wound with liquid green soap. I placed sterile towels around the wound and anesthetized the skin and muscles as well as I could. I made an incision around the protruding wood and pulled it out with some difficulty. I debrided the wound of

splinters and other debris and packed it open with gauze.

“All done, Mac,” I told the patient.

“Got it sewed up already?”

“Oh, no. We never do that here. We leave it wide open to drain for five to 10 days. Somebody back at Able Med or maybe the hospital ship will close this up when it’s ready.”

He grinned. “That hole’ll be kinda hard to explain to the boys in the locker room, won’t it, Doc?”

“You can always tell ’em an old witch stuck her broom up your a--.”

With a mischievous smile, incongruous under the circumstances, he said, “Wish there was a coupla young witches around here about now.”

I chuckled, went into the scrub tent to wash up and turned to my next case. The corpsman was scrubbing a Marine’s leg that had a dozen or more jagged puncture wounds. “These don’t look too bad, Mac.

The Easy Medical Co, 1st Medical Bn field hospital in August 1952 looked very much like a TV or movie set, but it was for real.



Probably keep you out of action a month is all.” I talked almost continuously with the Marine as I injected each wound with procaine.

For most of the boys there was a release in talking. Whether they’d been on the line a few days or a year, they’d been under constant discipline. Furthermore, the fact that they were wounded indicated that just recently they had been under tension in a life-and-death situation where they had had practically no control.

Saturday night came, and we’d been up for 36 hours without sleep. Sunday morning, 17 Aug. came, and we’d been up for 48 hours without sleep. There was no sign of a letup. Periodically, I called CDR

LT Birney Dibble, wearing two surgical masks, and his operating room corpsman, wearing his cover backward after they ran out of surgical caps on the second day of the battle, work on a severely wounded Marine.

After 62 straight hours of surgery followed by almost 24 hours of sleep, the Easy Med doctors relax and rehash events of the past four days. From left: Ed Hanson, Gordon McKinley, Bill Ogle, Sam Dougherty, Will Lascheid, Yung-Kak Lee (Korean surgeon), and Will Senders.



Ayres, and Sikorskys would transport the backlog of serious belly and chest cases.

Post-op cases were in rows on the hill-sides all around the hospital. Some were on stretchers; most were on the ground. Ward corpsmen walked along the rows checking dressings, marking the wounded for evacuation by truck, jeep, cracker-box ambulance and helicopter or for a doctor to recheck before evacuation. It was hot, lying there in the sun, and we had to be sure the wounded weren't getting dehydrated. I asked our senior hospital administrator, Warrant Officer (Hospital Corps) George de Preaux, to send a couple of our security Marines around with water.

The toughest job of all was in the main operating tent where life-or-death operations were performed. Legs were saved or sawed off. Bellies were opened to stem the flow of blood and liquid feces. Shattered kidneys and spleens were removed. Livers were sutured. Chest drainage tubes were inserted. Through it all, the principles of good surgery had to be observed.

About 1000, Sunday, 17 Aug., 36 hours since the first copters arrived and 52 hours since anyone had slept, I took my turn as first assistant in the major tent. I worked with LT Ogle. We made a good team. He was a good surgeon, and I'd done enough surgery to be a good assistant.

LTJG Sam Dougherty sat in the center of the OR tent between the head ends of

two operating tables. With his left hand he was giving a general anesthetic to a patient on one table where LT Frank Spencer was working. With his right hand he was arranging the medicines and instruments for the induction of the next patient on the other table. His mind was working on two entirely separate problems at the same time.

Two corpsmen gently lifted our next patient onto the table. His utilities had been replaced with dark-blue pajamalike pants. His torso was pale white, contrasting with the deep tan of his face and hands. He was about 19, strong of face and body. He had two small defects: a tiny hole in his abdomen just below the ribs on the right where a bullet had gone in and a slightly larger hole in his left flank where the bullet had come out. His eyes were slightly glazed from the pain, his cheek muscles bulging from jaws set hard. He already had a generalized peritonitis.

Dougherty had continued to mechanically squeeze the bag on the anesthesia machine supplying Spencer's patient with oxygen and gases. He nodded to me to take over the bag and turned his full attention to the Marine waiting to have his belly opened. He put the man to sleep, inserted an endotracheal tube, and started the regular anesthetic.

"All set, Bill. You can scrub," he said to Ogle, as he sat back on his stool. He took

both anesthesia bags again, adjusting the valves regulating the rates of flow of the different anesthetic gases. Sweat poured unheeded down his face, neck and arms.

We scrubbed up outside the tent.

The patient had been scrubbed from nipples to mid-thighs, and then painted with bright red Merthiolate. Corpsman Vern Toy, the Mayo table tech, slapped a scalpel into Ogle's hand. He made an incision, explored the abdomen thoroughly, found 10 holes in the small intestine but no other major structures injured. He sewed up the holes, ran the bowel through his fingers one more time, irrigated the entire abdominal cavity with warm saline, and said, "OK, guys, let's get out of here. He's gonna be OK."

The operation had taken just under an hour.

Another man was brought in from the holding ward. He, too, had only one wound, but a mean one. A large flying fragment from a mortar or artillery shell had ripped through his left leg, tearing off all the muscles on the inner and anterior aspect of the leg from mid-thigh to knee. The bone was intact but laid bare for a distance of almost six inches. All the muscles, as well as the main artery, nerve and veins, had been blown away. The leg below the knee lay useless on the stretcher, bluish-white in impending gangrene.

Ogle studied the wound, his head mov-

ing slowly from side to side. I knew what he was thinking. It was theoretically possible to reconstruct the leg, but it would take many hours while men who needed immediate surgery would be deteriorating.

Ogle made his decision. He placed his hand on the shoulder of the anxious Marine. "It's got to come off, Mac. No way to save it. Sorry." His voice was compassionate, and his eyes held fast to the Marine's.

The Marine nodded his head almost imperceptibly, sucked in his breath involuntarily, and closed his eyes.

It was a short procedure, and Ogle had me do it so he could close his eyes for a minute. I think he was as close to sleep as you can get and still stand up.

The second day ended, and the third night began. Fatigue dragged at my shoulders until they ached with dull pain, knotting my stomach so I couldn't even eat, squeezing my temples with steel-banded fingers, buckling my knees when I relaxed for a fraction of a second.

While the doctors worked, the corpsmen stood asleep on their feet, rousing more and more painfully each time. While the corpsmen switched patients, the doctors leaned against the tent posts or sat on a cot and closed their eyes for precious moments. Two of the corpsmen began to hallucinate, reliving experiences they had had on the line, and had to be carried unconscious to their tents.

The third night was the worst. The constant flow of men from the lines was lessening, but the aching fatigue in each man resulted in slower reflexes. Minor techniques, such as starting an IV, became major undertakings. The surgeons' eyes blurred over, making them stop to close

them till the blurring cleared. Even Dougherty was having difficulty getting his patients asleep and then awake.

It was a nightmare.

Unnoticed by all, the nightmare was about to end. Some 62 hours after the casualties began arriving, 74 hours since anyone had slept, on the morning of Monday, 18 Aug., a Sikorsky helicopter settled onto the copter pad near my CP. Another circled slowly, waiting for the first to clear its cargo. We heard the helicopters, of course, but we'd been hearing them for days.

The sun rose fiery red on the horizon as the first helicopter settled in. Two corpsmen trotted in a drunklike stupor to bring

**Ogle made his decision.
He placed his hand on the
shoulder of the anxious Marine.
"It's got to come off, Mac.
No way to save it. Sorry."**

in more seriously wounded men. To their surprise, out climbed a half-dozen men in shiny new green utility uniforms, new combat boots, cameras slung around their necks, eyes glancing warily around them as if a Chinese communist with a burp gun might be hiding in the bushes.

They were U.S. Navy doctors and corpsmen sent from Japan to relieve the men of Easy Med.

It was all over for us for a while. We slept nearly the clock around. When I finally awoke early on Tuesday morning, 19 Aug., I went over the statistics with WO de Preaux. We'd triaged 1,004 wounded

men from Friday night to Monday afternoon.

We performed 142 major operations under general anesthesia, more than two an hour.

We evacuated 153 wounded men by vehicles to Able Med for minor debridement.

We shipped 288 severely wounded men to *Consolation*; 48 Sikorskys with six stretchers in each.

We operated on 397 WIAs in the Minor Surgery Tent under local anesthesia. A high percentage of those "minors" were multiple shrapnel wounds: 5, 10, 20 or even 30 wounds in a single body, but none of them breaking bone or penetrating the belly or thorax. Many would have been called "majors" in a Stateside hospital.

Three men came in DOA.

We lost 21 men before, during, or after surgery, a 2 percent mortality rate.

The 1st and 7th Marines will never forget Bunker Hill, and neither will we, the doctors, corpsmen and Marines who were there on the other end of that pipeline from that bloody hill.

Author's note: When the smoke cleared, and my brain started functioning again, I was so proud of all those doctors, corpsmen and Marines that I wanted to recommend every one of them for a Bronze Star with a combat "V." Of course, I could not, but I did recommend half a dozen. I received one too. Major General John T. Seldon, Commanding General, 1stMarDiv, pinned them on us.

The number of wounded men who died in Korea after reaching the hands of the medical service was less than 2½ percent. In World War II, it was 4 percent; in WW I, 8 percent. The primary reason for the lower percentage was helicopter evacuation directly from the battlefield. There were other causes: blood, serum and plasma given early, the plasma often in the field before evacuation; antibiotics; improvement in lifesaving techniques utilized by corpsmen and doctors; and bringing surgical specialists into the Navy medical companies up front with the Marines and the Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals close to the front lines.

Editor's note: Birney Dibble enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and was a corpsman assigned to the base hospital, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. After WW II, he completed medical school and became a Navy Reserve officer. Called to active duty, he spent 16 months with 1stMarDiv in Korea, 1951-53. As a surgeon, he has completed mission hospital service in numerous foreign countries. A prolific writer, he's written seven books and dozens of articles.



MajGen Edwin A. Pollock, who assumed command of 1stMarDiv on 29 Aug. 1952, presents LT Dibble a Bronze Star for his Easy Med leadership during the Battle of Bunker Hill.

FAMILIAR FACES

Marine Corps Sticks With Tried-and-True Helo Airframes As It Overhauls Light Helo Fleet



By Dan Taylor

When Major Rory Feely first climbed into the cockpit of a brand-new AH-1Z light attack helicopter back in 2007, it certainly didn't feel like an airframe that had been around since the Vietnam War.

"It's got that new car smell," said Feely, operations officer at Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 267, the first squadron composed entirely of upgraded H-1 aircraft. "It's very exciting. ... Everything inside it looks so sleek."

Gone are the old displays and systems, replaced with an upgraded glass cockpit, a multifunction display and a device used for controlling the sensors on the aircraft that Feely said resembled a Sony PlayStation controller.

Feely has flown the AH-1Z and its light-utility cousin, the UH-1Y, as well as their predecessors: the UH-1N utility and AH-1W attack helos.

Things have become more difficult in modern days for the H-1 as the grit and sand of the desert and the thin air of the high altitudes in Afghanistan make flying a nightmare in some situations, but the Marine Corps believes those limitations are a thing of the past. The service is in the midst of replacing its aging fleet of Cobras and Hueys with 349 new, fully upgraded H-1s to serve as the light helo of choice for the next generation of Marine aviators.

The UH-1Y "Yankee," which replaces the UH-1N utility variant, was declared operational in 2008 and deployed on its first ship a year later. The Marines declared the AH-1Z "Zulu," which replaces

the AH-1W attack variant, operational last year, and the aircraft is undergoing some of its first deployments right now as the Corps has its first taste of what the aircraft can do.

The Marines first deployed a squadron, HMLA-367, with both Yankees and Zulus in November 2011 in the Western Pacific, Horn of Africa and Middle East regions aboard amphibious ships. Pilots have flown 500 assorted unit missions and more than 800 hours.

The Marine Corps is completely overhauling the aircraft: boosting the rotors from two to four, adding more wing space for weapon stations and digitizing the cockpit, to name a few improvements. In a modern-day military that has sought the latest and greatest in technology, the Marine Corps has stood pat with its H-1



Left: A UH-1Y Venom assigned to HMLA-167 waits to launch while an AH-1W Super Cobra from HMLA-269 lifts off USS Ponce (LPD-15) in December 2011.

Below: An AH-1Z Super Cobra assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 (Reinforced), 11th MEU conducts an orientation flight over Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii, on Nov. 21, 2011.



CPL DEMETRIUS MUNNEN/USN

platform, an aircraft that has served the nation since the Vietnam War.

Feely noticed the difference in the newer versions right away.

"One thing that's great about them is the aircraft is more powerful, so the margin of safety is significantly improved," he said. "The 'November' [UH-1N] was so power-limited. [The UH-1Y] has a nicer rotorhead to fly more smoothly, and it's got an automatic flight-control system on board to assist the pilot in keeping the aircraft stable."

Reducing the workload helps the pilot stay focused on the most important task: flying the aircraft.

"At the end of the day, they're just cool,

and they're fast, and they carry a lot of ordnance," Feely added.

Hank Perry, who was once commander of HMLA-267 at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and flew H-1s from 1970 to 1990, remembers flying older variants of the aircraft.

He recalls what it was like to operate the helos on a 110-degree day in 1988 in the Persian Gulf. He was getting ready to send his squadron of AH-1 Cobras and UH-1 Hueys on a reconnaissance mission with some tankers, on a day so hot that "you couldn't touch the side of the ship with your bare hand because it would burn you," said Perry, who is now the manager of military business development for manufacturer Northrop Grumman.

The Cobras were loaded up with 300 rounds for the 20 mm gun, an AIM-9 air-to-air missile, a pair of Hellfire missiles, a TOW antitank missile and a pod of 2.75-inch rockets. "That was just about our maximum gross weight at takeoff with fuel," Perry said. "It's very demanding to take off in the heat of the day with that ordnance."

The new H-1 makes vast improvements in just about every area, from weapon stations to automation to power, he said.

"It's hard to put your finger on one thing—it's so vastly improved on situational awareness [and] workload in the cockpit," Perry said.

Cpl Joseph James, a Marine rifleman in the Personal Security Detail, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 6, observes a UH-1Y Venom with HMLA-469 land at Forward Operating Base Jackson in Helmand province, Afghanistan, June 2, 2012.



SGT LOGAN PIERCE



MCSN KORY ALSBERRY, USN

Above: An aircraft handler signals an HMM-268 (Rein) AH-1Z Super Cobra pilot as he lifts off USS *Makin Island* (LHD-8), April 16, 2012.

Below: A Bell UH-1Y Venom, assigned to HMM-163 (Rein), is inbound to USS *Boxer* (LHD-4) in November 2008. *Boxer* was the first amphibious assault ship to embark the *Venom* on an operational deployment.



MCS DANIEL BARKER, USN

Feely said warfighters won't have to make the tough decisions they had to make in the past.

"For the old aircraft, you would look at [whether you would] carry ordnance or fuel and maybe one or two Marines, whereas now you don't have to make that choice," he said. "You can carry all the ordnance, all the fuel and still have room for eight Marines."

One of the big improvements to the aircraft is that the crew is able to see targets beyond the range of the weapons on the helo, said Feely, who participated in the

testing of the aircraft.

"We see the target beyond the range of our weapon systems, which is what you really want for an attack aircraft, whereas with the old-model [AH-1], we were well inside the range of the weapon system before we were actually able to positively identify the target with a sensor," he said.

The H-1 has been around for a long time. The Corps originally hoped simply to remanufacture old airframes into the new versions to save on costs. One of the remanned aircraft coming off the line today used to be an AH-1J, which flew

during the 1970s, Perry said, and conceivably could have been used during the Vietnam War.

"This last AH-1W going through the teardown for remanufacturing started life as an AH-1J," he said. "It became an AH-1T; it's an AH-1W, and now it will be a Zulu."

The Marine Corps has done some remanufacturing, but in the end, the Corps realized it would be extremely difficult to do that with most of the fleet because of how old and outdated the airframes are. Also, the Corps leadership did not want to take aircraft out of the operating fleet because there was such a high demand for them. As a result, the Marines decided to manufacture the rest of the fleet from scratch.

The decision was not without major consequences. In December 2008, the program triggered a breach of Nunn-McCurdy Act cost thresholds, requiring notification of Congress and a review of the program. The program manager said at the time that most of the cost increase came as a result of having to build more aircraft from scratch than previously thought.

The fiscal year 2013 President's budget request calls for the purchase of about 30 AH-1Zs and UH-1Ys per year over the next five years as the Marine Corps seeks to complete its eventual total buy of 189 Zulus and 160 Yankees. The FY-13 base budget seeks eight AH-1Zs and 15 UH-1Ys, as well as four AH-1W remanufactures at a cost of \$777 million. The budget also seeks supplemental funding for an additional helicopter at a cost of \$29.8 million.

Today, the Corps' light helo fleet is in a state of transition, said Colonel Harry Hewson, the H-1 program manager.

"We still have all four type-model-series H-1s out there flying," he said. "There's still some of the legacy UH-1Ns, mostly in the Reserves, and we're phasing those out pretty quickly. We still have the mainstay attack helo, AH-1W, and [it will remain the mainstay platform] in the next few years until Zulu production ramps up."

Hewson said the UH-1N was a "challenge" in modern-day military operations, and the capability leap from the UH-1N to the UH-1Y has been huge.

"It just didn't have the power to lift the payloads we need to move in utility missions," he said. "The Y has twice the range, twice the payload. Particularly up in places like Afghanistan, you get a lot of hot-weather, mountainous environments—very helicopter-specific terrain. The Yankee is doing things the November could never have done ... not only doing gunship support, but command and control, armed reconnaissance, resupplies, you name it."

In fact, the Marines decided against

basing UH-1Ns in Afghanistan for the duration of the war.

"We did just a simple look at aircraft power trucks and realized they just wouldn't be capable of doing those Marine missions in that environment safely," he said. "It just doesn't make sense to send them in there, so we really only went focusing on the Yankee."

Specifically, the UH-1N has difficulty getting off the ground and handling dusty landing zones, which the Marines learned in Iraq. Also, the aircraft wasn't designed to operate in the high environments and at its maximum gross weights like the Marines need in mountainous Afghanistan.

"When you get up in thinner atmospheres and a lot of heat, it reduces the amount of air ingested in the airplane and reduces the amount of power," Hewson said.

The aircraft that is entering the fleet now greatly resembles its predecessor, but its insides are totally different, he said.

"Almost everything in it has changed," he said. "There's much more powerful engines, a much more reliable drive system, the rotorhead on the thing is using state-of-the-art composite fiber technology that's changed significantly over old aluminum blades, the cockpit is completely different, it's driven by two very powerful mission computers, [it has] a very stable and useful autopilot system, and all the information on the Yankee is provided to the pilot on a helmet."

With the Zulu not yet ready to completely replace the AH-1W fleet, the Marines are making some moderate improvements on the legacy attack variants, Hewson said.

"We've given them some minor upgrades to the night targeting system in the nose," he said. "We got a digital video link where it can communicate with the ground. We've given them a couple of different weapons. We've improved weapons choices. So the 'Whiskeys' [AH-1Ws] have matured quite a bit since all the shooting started 10 years ago."

As the Defense Department's long-term strategy shifts out of Afghanistan and toward the Asia-Pacific region, Hewson doesn't see the Marine Corps' need for light helos and the H-1 diminishing anytime soon.

"The Marine light-attack helicopter squadron mission isn't going to change," he said. "The airframe is going to be extremely useful in any environment. A good example is the work it's doing with the 11th [Marine Expeditionary Unit]—anti-piracy work, engagement around the Pacific and Middle East region."

In making the upgrades to the aircraft, the Marine Corps focused on making many of the systems on the aircraft software-based so that the aircraft can evolve and



CPL GENE A. ANSWORTH III

AH-1Z Super Cobras with HMM-268 (Rein), 11th MEU sit ready to go on USS Makin Island's flight deck, forward deployed, in the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet area of responsibility in February 2012.

be upgraded with ease over time as the challenges change and new technology becomes available.

According to Hewson, the Yankee and Zulu share 84 percent of the same parts, and they both have a mission computer that runs on the same software.

"That brings the sustainment bill down quite a bit," he said. "Basically, because of the open systems-type environment, we can, over time, insert things largely like you would insert an application. By bringing in additional software applications, we can really exploit the computing power of these mission systems and bring in new things."

As the aircraft gets more missions under its belt, the Marine Corps will learn more about the aircraft and how best to utilize it, Perry said.

"They're still developing those tactics," he said. "The second MEU [15th MEU]

with combined UH-1Ys and AH-1Zs is now deployed. The UH-1Y ... is operating at about three times planned utilization of the flight hours of these aircraft.

"It's a testament of the durability and sustainability of the AH-1Z and UH-1Y," he added.

Editor's note: Dan Taylor is an editor, writer and journalist who has covered the world of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill since 2007 as the managing editor of Inside the Navy, a trade publication based in Arlington, Va. He has been a regular contributor to the Navy League's Seapower Magazine. Before that, Taylor was a police reporter for the Bristol Herald Courier in Bristol, Va. He graduated in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in government (journalism track) from Patrick Henry College in Purcellville, Va.



Sergeant Shawn P. Sales

DOD Graphic Artist of the Year



By Capt Jack T. Paxton, USMC (Ret)

For the second straight year, Marine Sergeant Shawn P. Sales has been named Department of Defense Military Graphic Artist of the Year, this time for his diverse portfolio that includes a sharp-focus graphite drawing of a sniper and his spotter, among many other exceptionally creative artworks.

The combat camera production specialist, who is an instructor at the Defense Information School (DINFOS), Fort George G. Meade, Md., topped 84 artists representing all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. In all, 229 submissions were judged in March 2012 for the 2011 competition.

Sgt Sales spent half of his seven-year career as a Combat Illustrator, then the Marine Corps merged the Combat Illus-

trator occupational specialty and the Combat Lithographer occupational specialty to form the Combat Camera Production Specialist. So, he continues to use his illustrator skills, but in new and greater roles. For example, he is the official military courtroom sketch artist in the courtroom and pretrial hearings of the U.S. v. Army Private First Class Bradley Manning, who allegedly leaked classified military information. The case is commonly known as the WikiLeaks trial.

The highly talented Sales currently is a Basic Multimedia Reproduction Course instructor. He enlisted in 2004 and twice deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

At 35, the native of West Hartford, Conn., is seemingly a bit “long in the tooth” to be only a Marine sergeant. Asked about

it, he laughingly replied that he entered the Corps at an older age than the average Marine.

“While I grew up the son of a Marine, I didn’t give the Corps much thought initially. I did think it was neat when I was a young child, especially when I was given a chance to go through my dad’s old seabag to play ‘dress-up’ with his wrinkled uniforms.”

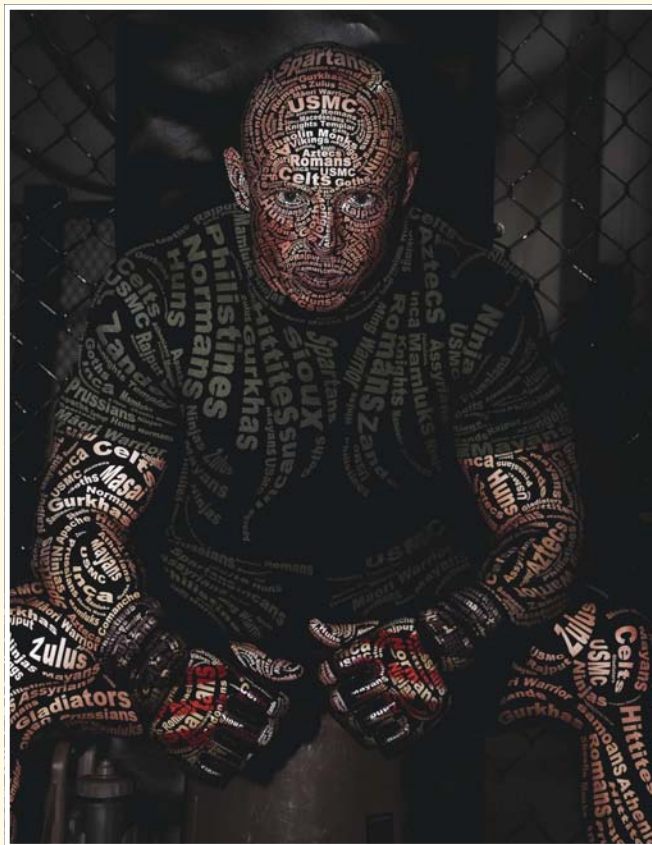
His first artistic influence came with a trip to the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass. “We had a lot of Rockwell prints in our home, and my folks wanted to see where this work was created. I spotted a helmet that sat atop Rockwell’s easel and asked the tour guide if I might try it on. She could see I was disappointed when she told me ‘no,’ but when her group moved into another room,



she placed the Spartan helmet on my head. At that point I felt being an artist was truly possible for me.”

Sales graduated from Conard High School in West Hartford, then attended Paier College of Art in Hamden, Conn., for a few years before trying for a life as a working artist. “I sold some work, although I probably gave away more than I sold. I did show paintings in local galleries, but I soon found out that I needed steady employment to help pay for my supplies.”

He worked at a number of places to earn money for art supplies. He tried his hand



Multitalented Marine graphic artist Sgt Shawn Sales’ work includes (clockwise from far left) a graphite drawing of a Marine sniper team, a digitally depicted Marine with text identifying warrior cultures past and present, a graphite and charcoal drawing on watercolor paper depicting two Marine aviators, and an expressionist painting utilizing acrylic and ink on canvas.



at a nightclub and then as a crew chief at Trans World Airlines. “I even delivered ice at one time ... all the while trying to hone my talent as an artist,” he said.

It was his Marine dad, former machine-gunner Aaron Sales, who suggested a possible artistic job in the Marine Corps. “Remembering back to those early days when I would try on Dad’s old uniforms, I enlisted in 2004, ultimately becoming a combat illustrator.

“Some may say that I started my career late; that’s just not true. I may have entered the Marine Corps at a later age than some, but I started my career as an artist long

ago. All the artwork I created before joining is one of the reasons I’m successful today. I wouldn’t trade those years for the world. I now bring something to the table that some Marines don’t have: life experience, an artistic eye and the ability to materialize my vision.”

Editor’s note: Jack Paxton is a retired Mustang captain and executive director of the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association. He resides with his wife, Pat, in Wildwood, Fla.



We—the Marines

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

***Leatherneck* and the MCA&F Honor Combat Correspondents**

■ Each year the Marine Corps Association & Foundation (MCA&F) promotes excellence among active-duty Marines through activities including an extensive awards program. The vast majority of the more than 10,000 MCA&F-sponsored annual awards go to enlisted Marines.

In recognizing honor graduates at recruit training and other professional education programs, including all noncommissioned officer and staff noncommissioned officer courses, the MCA&F stands tall—and it's the MCA&F members and subscribers to *Leatherneck* and the *Marine Corps Gazette* who help ensure the continued support of Marine leaders in recognizing professional excellence.

Among the awards are those presented to Marine combat correspondents and combat cameramen for content published in *Leatherneck*. The MCA&F, in conjunction with the United States Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, sponsors a monetary award and a plaque for excellence in three areas: best *Leatherneck* cover artwork, best photograph used inside the magazine and best story.

These awards are named in honor of former *Leatherneck* staff members and are presented during a ceremony at the annual USMC Combat Correspondents Association Conference.

The 2012 winner of the Master Ser-

geant Tom Bartlett Award, or best cover award, is Sergeant Pete Thibodeau. The award is named after the late managing editor of *Leatherneck* and is awarded to any active-duty Marine whose artwork or photograph was used as a magazine cover and judged as the best cover during a 12-month period. The honor includes a plaque and a check for \$1,000. One of Thibodeau's photographs was used as the October 2011 magazine cover.

The winner of the Lou Lowery Award for 2012 is Corporal Reece Lodder. The award is named for legendary Marine photographer, Lou Lowery. Active-duty sergeants or below are eligible, and the award is for the best photograph used within the magazine. Cpl Lodder's winning photograph, "‘Silk Chutes’ Over Mokapu," is on page 37 of the April 2011 issue. The honor includes a plaque and a check for \$500.

The winner of the Ronald D. Lyons Award for 2012 is Cpl Sarah Dietz. The award is named for Marine veteran and long-serving editor of *Leatherneck*, Ronald D. Lyons. Active-duty sergeants or below are eligible for this writing award for the best news story or feature article used in *Leatherneck*. "Bridgeport Keeps Marines in the Fight," written by Cpl Dietz, was published in the September 2011 issue, beginning on page 40. She will receive a plaque and a check for \$500.

Leatherneck

1st Law Enforcement Battalion Participates in Javelin Thrust 2012

Leathernecks with 1st Law Enforcement Battalion showcased their skills and capabilities during Large Scale Exercise-1, Javelin Thrust 2012, that took place early in July at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Javelin Thrust is an annual large-scale exercise that involves I Marine Expeditionary Force and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, drawing more than 5,000 active and Reserve Marines and sailors from 38 states to train together as a seamless Marine air-ground task force.

The newly activated 1st LE Bn has a broad range of occupational specialties to cover its four main tasks, which are to provide police advising, training, partnering to conduct law enforcement and policing operations. The battalion's goal in the exercise is to demonstrate the vast capabilities it has to offer to 1st MEB in a deployment situation.

"We're able to put on display the abilities that Law Enforcement Battalion brings and to educate 1st MEB and the leadership on what we can and will bring to the fight," said Captain Gunnar Spafford in the operations section of 1st LE Bn. "We are law enforcement experts that provide a flexible and scalable capability that will enhance the Marine Corps' mission across the range of military operations."

The battalion is conducting crew-served



CPL MATTHEW TROYER

Sgt Pete Thibodeau
MSgt Tom Bartlett Award



CPL KEVIN JONES

Cpl Reece Lodder
Lou Lowery Award



SGT HEATHER GOLDEN

Cpl Sarah Dietz
Ronald D. Lyons Award



CPL JOSHUA YOUNG

Military working dog handlers with the newly activated 1st LE Bn, I MEF took advantage of Exercise Javelin Thrust 2012 at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., to demonstrate the skills of their dogs.

weapons training, range operations, combat-marksman-style shooting, squad assaults and tactical site exploitations during the weeklong exercise. Members of the battalion also will be responding to a civil disturbance scenario, practicing detainee handling and conducting convoy operations.

“Up until now, we’ve been focusing on the basics, making sure the Marines don’t forget what we do on a basic level,” said Second Lieutenant Juan Diaz, the 2d Platoon commander with Company A, 1st LE Bn. “While we’re out here, we’re going to be focusing on the military police specific training evolutions.”

One of the major roles of 1st LE Bn is its ability to advise other military units, host nation or police forces in law enforcement specific tasks in a deployed environment.

“There are individuals out there who don’t know much about law enforcement, so we’ll teach them how to enforce and how to handle combat scenarios,” said Cpl Fidel Rodriguez, a dog handler with 1st LE Bn.

While 1st LE Bn showcased its ability to support 1st MEB, Marines within the law enforcement battalion are showing their unique military occupations. Corpsmen, dog handlers and motor transport mechanics attached to the battalion proved their capabilities.

“I’m just here to support and show 1st

LE Battalion what the combat trackers have to offer,” said Rodriguez, whose role as a dog handler is as a combat tracker. “If people are lost, they’ve got us. We’ll look for them.”

The exercise is an opportunity for 1st LE Bn to validate its readiness to handle future challenges with 1st MEB. “We want to integrate within 1st MEB’s command and have them utilize us in the fight,” Spafford said. “We want to refine our concept of operations and make it better. I think it’s already a success.”

Cpl Joshua Young

Combat Correspondent, 1st MEB

Marines Brace for Aussie Advance During Exercise Hamel 2012

■ Elements of Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2d Bn, First Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit held a defensive position during Exercise Hamel 2012, a multinational training evolution between the U.S. Marines and soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand armies. The exercise took place from the end of June to the beginning of July, in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Queensland, Australia.

Holed up in a simulated small town, in an area called Raspberry Creek, leather-

Cpl Fritz Waechter, a machine-gun team leader with Weapons Plt, Co G, BLT 2/1, 31st MEU, directs M240G machine-gun fire while training with Australian and New Zealand soldiers in Australia’s Shoalwater Bay Training Area during Exercise Hamel 2012.



CPL JONATHAN WRIGHT



SGT BRYAN MCDONNELL

MARINES PARTNER WITH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS—Attendees at the National Association of Black Journalists annual convention and journalism workshop “JShop” that took place in New Orleans, June 20-24, pose with Marine mentors, Maj Carl Redding Jr., far left, and Capt Kenneth Kunze, far right. The workshop provided Marines an opportunity to highlight the role that journalism and public affairs play in the Marine Corps.

necks with “Golf” Co’s 3d Platoon and Weapons Plt, with Australians acting as either the local police force or the civilian populace, weathered the storm of the attack by Australia’s 1st Brigade.

“They’re out there, but they’re being very cautious in how they advance,” said Lance Corporal Luis Duran, a squad automatic weapon gunner with Co G, BLT 2/1, 31st MEU. “In the meantime, UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles] have been constantly flying overhead while small reconnaissance teams have been testing our defenses.”

The Australian army’s 1st Brigade was undergoing certification for operational deployment during Exercise Hamel. The brigade was tasked with pushing back the Marine and Australian contingent and eventually eliminating them.

Per the scenario, all Marine and Aussie advances were repelled back to Raspberry Creek, the place that served as the dividing terrain feature between the two forces.

“I give it up to the Australians for treating this exercise like it is a real conflict,” said Sergeant Jose Morales, a squad leader with Co G, BLT 2/1, 31st MEU.

Aside from various skirmishes past the Raspberry Creek lines, no major offensive occurred. The 1st Brigade prepared for the assault against the town by employing continuous UAV surveillance, flyovers by jet aircraft and ground reconnaissance.

Using recon hides and artillery assets of its own, the reinforced Marine unit repelled 1st Brigade’s intelligence collection attempts and held them at bay.

“We’ve had the opportunity to continually reinforce the defenses in and around the town as we fend off 1st Brigade,” said Lance Corporal Theodore Kavich, a fire team leader with 3d Plt. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and is the nation’s force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.

Cpl Jonathan Wright
Combat Correspondent, 31st MEU

Canadian Forces Conduct Urban Training With U.S. Marines

■ U.S. Marines acted as the opposition force against more than 120 Canadian troops during military operations in urban terrain (MOUT) training, July 6-8, in a portion of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2012 at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii. RIMPAC ran from June 29 to Aug. 3 and took place in and around the Hawaiian Islands.



CPL TYLER MAIN

Soldiers with Co A, 2d Bn, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, and a Marine from 1st Bn, 3d Marines, move in to clear a rooftop during a military operations in urban terrain exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows, Hawaii, July 6.

"We've done urban operations training [in Canada], so here we're just enhancing our [standard operating procedures] by working with the Marines," said Canadian Forces Sergeant Victor Law, a section commander with Company A, 2d Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Law, who is in charge of an eight-man team, said it was his first time working with U.S. Marines. He added that the experience, along with the realism of the training facility's mock village, would prove valuable to his team.

"It's allowed our troops to break through plateaus and gain a better threshold on their soldiering abilities," said Law, who hails from Quesnel, British Columbia.

The Canadian Forces contingent focused on its tactics for noncombatant evacuation operations (NEOs), which, in a real-world scenario, would involve the evacuation of civilians from a hostile area.

"It's important training because if we do operate with them again, we know exactly how they work, and how we can better ourselves [as a team]," said Corporal Noel Desantiago, a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion, Third Marine Regiment.

More than 2,200 personnel from Canada, the United States and seven other countries

took part in RIMPAC 2012 as part of the Combined Force Land Component Command, which conducted amphibious and land-based operations throughout the exercise to enhance joint interoperability between participating nations.

Since the Canadian Forces were unfamiliar with the mock village, the training progressed with a "crawl, walk, run" approach, becoming more elaborate each day. By the end of the evolution, the entire company of Canadian soldiers had successfully exercised the NEO scenario.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for our soldiers, our leadership and our coalition partners," said Canadian Forces Captain Benjamin Wong, the operations captain for Co A. "It gives us an opportunity to cross-train ... it also gives us a good chance to measure ourselves and see where we stand in the world.

"We all have different experiences," said Wong. "[RIMPAC gives us the opportunity] to pool all those experiences into one big pot, see what other countries are doing, what lessons people have learned over the years, and then apply those lessons to our own missions and situations."

A total of 22 nations and more than 25,000 military personnel participated

in the biennial exercise. RIMPAC is the world's largest naval exercise.

Cpl Ben Eberle
Combat Correspondent, MARFORPAC

Quick Shots Around the Corps

VMM-561 "Pale Horses" Deactivate

■ Private First Class Melissa Eschenbrenner, Public Affairs Office, Marine Corps Air Station, Miramar, Calif., reports that Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 561, known as the "Pale Horses," deactivated during a ceremony at MCAS Miramar, July 6.

VMM-561 was first activated in May 1968 during the Vietnam War, but deactivated a year later. The squadron flew the Sikorsky CH-34 Seahorse during the Vietnam War.

In December 2010, the squadron was reactivated as an MV-22B Osprey unit at MCAS Miramar and earned the National Defense Service streamer for its 2011 deployment.

Plans call for VMM-561 to reactivate at MCAS Futenma, Japan, as the VMM-265 "Dragons." It will be the first MV-22B squadron in Japan.



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



SGT BRYANA PETERSON

"When I said feet and shoulders,
I meant feet shoulder-width apart."

Submitted by
Jack McHugh
Hamilton, N.J.

This Month's Photo



COURTESY OF COL RAY ERWIN, USMC (RET)

(Caption) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Dream up your own Crazy Caption. Leatherneck will pay \$25 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.

A Case for a New iPad

By Scott Dinkel

You spent a lot of money on an iPad, and you don't want anything to happen to it, right?

Earlier this year *Leatherneck* had Marines at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., rate six different cases and covers for the iPad. The results may surprise you. There are differences in what the reviewers want for personal use and what they would want for use in the field if iPads are issued. See whether or not you agree with the ratings.

Our Marine testers told us they use cases for their iPads for protection against drops and dust. They said protection against heat, cold, bumps and rain were not as important. Most of our reviewers were willing to spend \$50 for a case to protect their iPad investment, and while we have listed retail prices, you can find them for less than the quoted price.

The first case reviewed was the RAM Handi-Case by RAM Mounts (retail \$87.55). This case has a hard plastic shell and also can carry a notepad and pen. While this case was sturdy, Marines thought it was best for use in the field rather than for personal use. This case has been changed, and the company now makes smaller tablet holders that fit into mounts for vehicle use. Overall, Marines liked this case for field work and felt it would be best in vehicles like the joint light

tactical vehicle (JLTV) or mine resistant, ambush protected (MRAP).

Gumdrop (retail \$59 and \$69) provided our reviewers with two cases from their Drop Tech Series that have high-density shock-absorbing silicone skin on a polycarbonate shell. The cases also have a replaceable screen protector frame that leaves all controls handy. One was listed as a Military Edition, but other than color, Marines could not tell the difference between the two. They did prefer the green as it seemed to have a military flavor. The military model does have protection over the camera lens, but this was not a big deal to our reviewers.

The Pelican Box 1075 (retail \$75.95), a protective box on display in the Pelican booth at Camp Pendleton's Marine West expo this past February, was added to our list of cases for review. While it was not on our original list of those cases to be evaluated, it was very well received and comes in several variations. Some of the Pelican cases carry just the tablet, and others allow for accessories to be carried.

The Otter Box Defender (retail \$89.95) showed great strength, and many Marines already are using the Otter Box protective case for their cell phones. The company has a full line of watertight cases for almost any use.

The Codi (retail \$129.99) qRTX is a nylon protective case with shoulder strap

for easy carry. Many of our testers liked the case but thought it was too much like a netbook or small laptop case and too big for the iPad.

For overall appearance, the Gumdrop Military Edition case received just a couple more votes than the Pelican case and the Otter Box, while Gumdrop and Pelican ranked tops in sturdiness and a general good feeling in the hand.

When it got down to choosing the one Marines thought would provide the best protection, the top three in order were Pelican, Otter Box and Gumdrop Military Edition.

Preferred covers were, in order: Gumdrop Military Edition, Otter Box and Pelican for the top three, and the ones they would most be willing to spend their own money on were Gumdrop Military, Otter Box, Pelican case and a tie with the RAM Handi-Case and the Codi case.

If you have a better protective case, let us know. There are cases coming out every day, and with the cost of the iPad and other tablets, it makes sense to take care of them. The best thing you can do is go to your local electronics store and pick up one of these cases, see how it feels in your hand and buy the one you like best. This could be better protection for your tablet than an extended warranty.



RAM Handi-Case

Gumdrop
Drop Tech Series



Pelican Box 1075





PHOTO BY SCOTT DINNELL

There are differences in what the reviewers want for personal use and what they would want for use in the field if iPads are issued.



Otterbox Defender (stand)



Otterbox Defender (cutaway view)



Codi Apple iPad Case

CORPS ALBUM

Edited by Col Walt Ford, USMC (Ret) • Photos courtesy of Susan Strange



SGT H. N. GILLESPIE

Sgt Richard "Dick" Mawson, a Marine broadcaster, began his Battle of Iwo Jima radio reporting while landing with the Fourth Marine Division. Families huddled around radios back home hoping to hear news about their Marine in the Battle of Iwo Jima.



USMC

Double Trouble: The Jones twins get together on Iwo. PFC Eugene S. Jones, 4thMarDiv, a former *Washington Times-Herald* cameraman, left, and PFC Charles O. Jones, 5thMarDiv, formerly of the *Washington Daily News*, were recruited to be a part of the new Marine Corps Public Relations Division.



SGT JAMES A. MONDELL

Four Marine newsmen cover the Battle of Iwo Jima in their front-line "sand bag city room" between Motoyama Airfields No. 1 and No. 2, 25 Feb. 1945.

1945: MARINE CORPS COMBAT CORRESPONDENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS TELL THE IWO JIMA STORY



USMC

Above: Four Marine Corps combat photographers take a busman's holiday and pose for a photo on Iwo Jima in March 1945. From left: Sgt Chester E. Ludka, TSgt Byrd F. Ferneyhough, TSgt J. F. Heiberger and Cpl C. L. Warnecke.



PFC ROBERT R. CAMPBELL

Left: Sgt William H. "Bill" Genaust, St. Paul, Minn., left, and Cpl Atlee S. Tracy, Chicago, relax on Iwo Jima, 24 Feb. 1945. Genaust filmed the iconic 23 Feb. 1945 flag raising atop Mount Suribachi and was killed in action on 4 March.

Editor's note: Have a favorite Marine Corps photograph? Send it, along with a date, unit or any other available identification, to: Corps Album Editor, Leatherneck Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134. Send electronic copies to: leatherneck@mca-marines.org. Photos must not be copyrighted or have run in any other publication. Selection will be at the discretion of the "Corps Album" editor.

Leatherneck—On the Web

See more photos of combat correspondents telling the Marine story from bloody Iwo Jima in February and March 1945, courtesy of Susan Strange at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/lwoccs

In the Highest Tradition

Edited by R. R. Keene and Lawralynn Diehl

Wounded by a Three-Round Burst, He Got Up to Protect Fellow Marines And Was Shot Three More Times

He watched as five Marines beside him dropped, struck by the sheer force of insurgent machine-gun fire. Within seconds, Lance Corporal Jeffrey Cole was hit by a three-round burst that lifted his 200-pound frame and 80 pounds of gear completely off the ground, moved him five feet in the air, and slammed him into the dirt—all in less than half a second.

The Woodstock, Ga., native had taken three rounds into the ceramic plates protecting his body from small-arms fire. He was down, but not wounded.

The injured Marines made their way into a nearby canal for cover as Cole provided suppressive fire with his rifle.

With half of the Marines on the patrol wounded, they tried calling for extraction, but couldn't raise anyone. No help was on the way, and approximately 20 insurgents entrenched only 30 meters from their position were headed in their direction.

On Aug. 17, 2010, Cole had been with 2d Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division in country for three weeks. He was already a veteran of 46 missions, luckily without incident.

This patrol consisted of six Marines from his squad as well as a Navy corps-

man and three Marines from a Professional Mentor Team, a group primarily responsible for training and working with Afghan National Security Forces. They were on a reconnaissance mission to photograph the local landscape and populace and learn as much as they could about the area.

At 1:30 p.m., the patrol spoke with local Afghans and searched mud compounds. Around 3:30 p.m., they left the final compound; a crack of gunfire filled the air and they found themselves in the fight for their lives. The patrol was pinned down by heavy enemy fire, five Marines were wounded, and they were unable to contact anyone on the radio.

"Thirty minutes into the firefight, I heard screams that the enemy was advancing toward us," Cole said as he recounted his actions that day. "I took a machine gun from my buddy, who was shot, and gave him my rifle. I put the machine gun in my shoulder and started firing. Then I got up on the road and shot from my hip in a sweeping motion from left to right. I shot 150 rounds off, and as I did, I was shot three more times. A round hit my plates again and two rounds went through my arm."

"This time it felt like a sunburn," Cole said as he remembered the feeling of the rounds penetrating his arm. "My bone vibrated and [the rounds] severed my

nerve and blew out the inside of my upper arm. I couldn't feel anything. It spun me around and threw me into the ditch."

Immediately, the Marines put a tourniquet on the wounded Cole. They knew they had to move quickly. They made their way into a nearby compound as enemy fire dug into the mud walls. The enemy was advancing and all Cole could hear were the calls over the radio.

"All channels, anywhere, anything around us that can receive us—we need help now!"

Another tourniquet and a pressure dressing were applied to Cole's arm, but he still was losing blood. Time was running out. Despite his grievous wounds, Cole continued to provide accurate suppressive fire on the enemy, making sure the Marines remained covered and safe.

Then, as if by some miracle, the sound of attack helicopters broke through the cloud of gunfire. The Marines, who were running low on ammunition and were badly wounded, continued to return fire as their air support offered protection for a medical evacuation. A British CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter landed under heavy fire from the nearby insurgents. The Marines, supporting one another, staggered toward the rescue helicopter in the midst of enemy fire and climbed aboard.

Cole was flown to Camp Bastion where



COURTESY OF 2D MAR DIV

Above left: Marines apply a tourniquet to LCpl Jeffrey Cole after he was shot twice in the left arm. This photo was taken during a firefight in Marjah, Afghanistan, after the patrol came under enemy fire. Six of the 10 Marines were wounded, yet Cole continued to provide suppressing fire and ensure the safety of fellow Marines.



CPL JEFF DREW

Above right: Col Kenneth M. DeTreu, Commanding Officer, 8th Marines, congratulates LCpl Cole after presenting him with the Silver Star.



SSGT JIMMY BENTON



SSGT JIMMY BENTON

he immediately went into surgery. Nearly 18 hours later he was stabilized. The call that Cole was injured went out to his family, and his brother was grateful that his older sibling hadn't been more seriously wounded.

Cole was awarded the Silver Star, the naval service's third highest award for valor, July 10 during a ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. He adamantly insists that he is not a hero and that when he decided to stand up on that road, he was just doing his job.

"I don't think I deserve it," Cole said. "Nothing I did comes close to [what] the Marines I was with [did]. Pinned down in a ditch, wounded, they fought for an hour against an enemy that got within 30 meters. Not once did they waver. This award isn't my award. It's their award, and all the guys who we lost who can't wear it now, I'll wear it for them since they can't."

Cpl Jeff Drew
Combat Correspondent, 2dMarDiv

SSgt Worley Was in the Fight, Refusing Aid Until the Shooting Ceased

Staff Sergeant Paul Worley, an infantry platoon sergeant, was presented the Silver Star July 17 during a ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The Eden, N.C., native was awarded the Silver Star for heroic actions while serving

as the 1st Squad Leader, Combined Anti-Armor Team 1, Weapons Company, 3d Battalion, First Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, July 12, 2010, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Worley and his squad provided flank security for a route clearance platoon as part of Operation Roadhouse I. During the operation, the enemy initiated a coordinated attack with sniper fire, rockets and rocket-propelled grenades.

Worley and his squad sustained an admirable effort for approximately five hours, according to his citation. When numerous machine-gunners began to run low on ammunition, Worley ran between compounds to resupply his men. During one of those trips, he was shot in his right thigh.

His courage did not waver in the face of adversity. He tended to his own wounds and directed a corpsman to a more seriously injured Marine. In addition to courage, Worley showed commitment to his

Above: SSgt Paul Worley, foreground, a platoon sergeant with K/3/1, salutes during his Silver Star award ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif. SSgt Worley (inset) displayed exceptional courage, valor and perseverance during a five-hour firefight in Afghanistan during 2010.

mission and refused to be medically evacuated until he saw fit.

"My adrenaline was so high," said Worley. "When I got hit, I scooted behind a wall and dressed my wound. Once I did that, I continued what I was doing and took a few more trips to get the ammunition. My command wanted to evacuate me, but I explained the situation to them, and I got to stay until it was dark out."

Worley continued to move about the battlefield under seemingly endless waves of effective enemy direct fire. With self-reliance and personal determination, he efficiently led his squad until the enemy was suppressed.

"It's definitely one of those moments you never forget," said Worley. "It's easy to be in charge when you have the Marines that I had with me."

SSgt Worley's actions were directly responsible for the destruction of enemy forces and ensuring the safety of his Marines.

PFC Demetrius Morgan
Combat Correspondent, 11th MEU

Personal Combat Awards

The awards records in the Marine Corps' Award Processing System (APS) and Improved Awards Processing System were used to populate this list, which reflects personal combat awards from the start of the global war on terrorism presented to Marines and sailors serving with U.S. Marine Corps forces only. This list may not reflect certain personal combat awards

processed outside of either system and/or approved by another branch of service. Any questions on the content should be submitted in writing to the Personal Awards Section at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Manpower Management Division, MMMA-2, 2008 Elliott Rd., Quantico, VA 22134.

The following awards were announced in June:



Bronze Star With Combat "V"

Capt Clint W. Alanis,
2d Marine Special Operations
Battalion (MSOB),
U.S. Marine Corps Forces

Special Operations Command
(MARSOC)

SSgt Nicholas B. Archut, 1st Bn,
Sixth Marine Regiment, Second
Marine Division

Capt Glenn P. Baker, 1/5,
1stMarDiv

Capt Anthony P. Bariletti, 3d
Combat Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv

SSgt Clint E. Crooks, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC

Capt Frank G. Edwards IV,
2d MSOB, MARSOC

LtCol Seth W. Folsom, 6th Marines,
2dMarDiv

SgtMaj Octaviano Gallegos Jr., 3/9,
2dMarDiv

HM3 Ryan A. Garcia, 1/5,
1stMarDiv

GySgt Timothy R. Hogan,
2d MSOB, MARSOC

Sgt Gerald B. Lentsch, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC

Sgt Christian A. Marlow, 1/5,
1stMarDiv



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal With Combat "V"

GySgt Roberto L. Alvarez,
2d MSOB, MARSOC

SSgt Benjamin P. Baker, 2d MSOB,
MARSOC

GySgt Michael E. Beech, 2/9,
2dMarDiv

Capt Harry P. Consaul IV,
Headquarters, U.S. Marine
Corps Forces Central Command
(MARCENT)

SSgt Joseph L. Donadio, 9th
Engineer Support Bn, Third Marine
Logistics Group

Cpl Jose A. Galvan, 1st CEB,
1stMarDiv

SSgt Brian C. Jacklin, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC

LCpl Jared J. Lilly, 2/9,
2dMarDiv

SSgt Sky R. Mote, 1st MSOB,
MARSOC

Sgt Scott A. Sauer, 1st CEB,
1stMarDiv

1stLt Matthew G. Stuhler, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

SSgt Robert W. Warren, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

MSgt Marshal A. Wille, 2/9,
2dMarDiv



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal With Combat "V"

Sgt Dallas S. Allen, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Cpl Eric M. Arthur, 3/3, 3dMarDiv

Cpl Aaron J. Bagley, 1st Light
Armored Reconnaissance Bn,
1stMarDiv

HN David Bailey, 2/6, 2dMarDiv

Sgt Austin D. Breedlove, 2/9,
2dMarDiv

HM3 John P. Carreon, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Cpl Brandon S. Cotter, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Cpl Jeffrey R. Dacey, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Cpl Thomas M. Dean, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

1stLt Jason E. Duehring, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

GySgt Christian S. Dunne, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

SSgt Ronald M. Duplessis Jr., 2/11,
1stMarDiv

Cpl Jeffrey Egipciano, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

LCpl John P. Ellington, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

HN Matthew J. Fobaire, 2/9,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Christian P. Gardner, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Cpl Travis T. Gilday Jr., 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Trenton J. Goodrich, 9th ESB,
3d MLG

Sgt John R. Hall Jr., 7th ESB,
1st MLG

SSgt Jonathan M. Hartman, 2/9,
2dMarDiv

LCpl Ramon T. Kaipat, 1st LAR Bn,
1stMarDiv

Sgt Nathan M. Kidd, 1st LAR Bn,
1stMarDiv

1stLt Gregory J. Kirsch, 2/9,
2dMarDiv

Cpl Robert D. Knutson, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

GySgt William E. Korth, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Paul A. Krukowski, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

SSgt Alvaro J. Lainez, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

HN Janvincent M. Lopez,
Hq, MARCENT

LCpl Brandon J. Lowe, 1/2,
2dMarDiv

HM3 Nicholas L. Mihalecz, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

LCpl David Pratts Jr., 2/6,
2dMarDiv

LCpl Jamal A. Reaves, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

LCpl Sean C. Riley, 2/9,
2dMarDiv

Cpl Anthony J. Roberts, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Travis L. Sealy, 2/9,
2dMarDiv

HN Clark A. Secchari, 2/11,
1stMarDiv

Sgt Justin K. Smith, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Neil P. Steinmetz, Hq,
MARCENT

Sgt Samuel W. Tice, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

LCpl Geoffrey L. Trolinger,
2/6, 2dMarDiv

SSgt Apolosi S. Tuivai, 1st LAR Bn,
1stMarDiv

LCpl Austin A. Utter, Hq,
MARCENT

LCpl Thomas B. Warner, 2/6,
2dMarDiv

Sgt Charles J. Wolfom, 2/9,
2dMarDiv

SSgt David R. Young, Hq,
MARCENT

Compiled by the Personal Awards Section, HQMC



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Leatherneck Line

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

USS *Iowa* Floating Museum Opens in Los Angeles

Known as the “Battleship of Presidents,” USS *Iowa* (BB-61) became Los Angeles’ newest museum attraction with the ship’s grand opening to the public on July 7.

The last remaining World War II battleship and one of the most powerful battleships of her time, *Iowa* made her final voyage May 26, from the Port of Richmond, Calif., across the San Francisco Bay and under the historic Golden Gate Bridge, which turned 75 a day later.

Crowley Maritime Corporation’s 7,200-horsepower tugboat *Warrior*, connected to *Iowa* in a series of towlines and chains, guided the ship across the bay and under the Golden Gate Bridge.

The U.S. Navy recently transferred ownership of USS *Iowa* to the Pacific Battle-

ship Center, a nonprofit organization that has renovated the ship in preparation for operating her as an interactive floating museum in the Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, Calif.

USS *Iowa* is more than 15 stories high, 887 feet long and weighs more than 45,000 tons. It’s known as the “Battleship of Presidents” because it hosted U.S. Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

After a routine offshore hull cleaning, the ship traveled by tow down the main channel to her permanent home at Berth 87 in the Port of Los Angeles. There, the ship hosted a reunion of USS *Iowa* veterans on July 2-6.

“The Veterans Association of the USS *Iowa* is extremely pleased and proud that our ship is being returned to her original

beauty and glory as a museum/memorial,” said the association’s president, Gerald Gneckow. “Many of our members who served aboard during WW II and Korea are now quite elderly. For them, the opportunity to set foot aboard their ship once again is the answer to a prayer.”

While there is an admission charge to tour the ship, tickets are discounted (with valid ID) for active-duty and retired military personnel, reservists and seniors. Admission is free to children age 5 and younger as well as residents of the state of Iowa. To purchase tickets online, visit www.pacificbattleship.com and click on the “Visit USS *Iowa*” photo link.

The museum, which is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, highlights the contributions of the battleship and her crew during WW II, the Korean War and the

USS *Iowa* is saluted by a fire boat’s spray as she is guided by tugboat for her final journey through the San Francisco Bay and under the Golden Gate Bridge, during the bridge’s 75th anniversary weekend, Saturday, May 26. (Pacific Battleship Center photo/Jeremy Bonelle)



Cold War. Educational programs at the museum offer lessons in history, leadership, team-building, character development and community service.

PAO, Pacific Battleship Center

Admiral Nimitz Foundation To Host Leadership Symposium

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation will host a symposium Sept. 15-16 at the Fredericksburg Theater Company's Steve W. Shepherd Theater in Fredericksburg, Texas.

The topic, "Leadership in Wars and Crises: Presidents, Admirals and Generals," will focus on the roles of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz in World War II; President Harry S. Truman and General of the Army Douglas MacArthur in the Korean War; President John F. Kennedy and Gen Curtis LeMay during the Cuban Missile Crisis; President Lyndon B. Johnson and GEN William C. Westmoreland for the Vietnam War; and President George H. W. Bush and GEN Colin Powell, USA (Ret) for Desert Storm.

Presenters include Craig Symonds, Richard Frank, Michael Absher, Lewis Sorley and Lieutenant General Donald Holder, USA (Ret). For more information, or to register online, visit www.PacificWarMuseum.org.

PAO, Pacific War Museum

Young Marines Announce National Young Marine of the Year

Young Marines National Executive Director LtCol Michael B. Kessler, USMC (Ret) named 17-year-old Young Marine Sergeant Major McCall Behringer of Baltimore the organization's National Young Marine of the Year for 2012-13.

Behringer joined the Hamilton Young Marines, in Baltimore, in 2006 when she was 10 years old. She has since earned more than 120 awards with the Young Marines organization, including three Personal Commendations, the Meritorious Service award (issued at the national level) and is the 13th recipient of the coveted Young Marines Distinguished Order of Merit.

Behringer said the Young Marines program provides the opportunity for young Americans to become great leaders, both inside and outside of the program. "The title of National Young Marine of the Year comes with a responsibility to the 10,000 other Young Marines. There aren't words to describe the feeling I had the moment my name was called as National Young Marine of the Year," she said.

Kessler said that Behringer would excel as a national representative of the Young Marines organization. "She has truly done it all. Her demonstrated leadership, judg-

ment, initiative and poise under pressure make her an outstanding selection to carry the mantle of her predecessor," said Kessler. "Her interview with the selection board demonstrated that she was not only very knowledgeable of the Young Marines program but was able to articulate in such a way that she was proud of her association with the Young Marines. And what I like most about this selection is that she legitimately cares about the kids who make up our membership."

Behringer's accomplishments are exemplary, and she has participated in numerous events to represent the Young Marines organization on a national level. Prior to her selection as National Young Marine of the Year, she has been active in promoting the organization, from an interview with former Vice President Dick Cheney to most recently a guest on Voice America's TAGG program.

YM SgtMaj Behringer said she has learned about leadership, citizenship, and most importantly about herself since joining the Young Marines. "These are values I would not have attained if it weren't for the Young Marines," she said. "Between the community service and discovering a connection with our nation's history and veterans, I have become a Young Marine every day of my life. I live by the Young Marines values of discipline, leadership

and teamwork and have become the person and Young Marine I have aspired to be."

Janelle Johnsen
PAO, Young Marines

"The President's Own" Announces 2012 Concert Tour to the Northeast

"The President's Own" United States Marine Band will depart Washington, D.C., next month for its annual fall concert tour, performing 29 concerts in 31 days throughout Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts,

Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

The band's first concert is at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 1, at the Lampeter-Strasburg High School Auditorium in Lampeter, Pa., and the tour concludes at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 31, at Queen Anne's County High School in Centreville, Md. Concerts are free, but tickets are required.

The complete itinerary and ticket information is available at www.marineband.usmc.mil/national_tour. For additional information, call (202) 433-5809, or e-mail www.marineband.publicaffairs@usmc.mil.

SSgt Rachel E. Ghadiali
PAO, United States Marine Band



YM SgtMaj
McCall Behringer

TAMMY MILLER

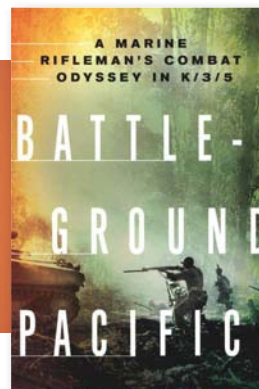
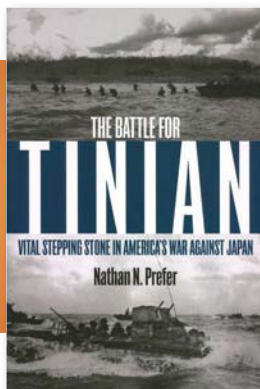


SSGT CLINTON FIRSTBROOK

SEMPER FI SPARK—Sgt Geovanni Cruz from New Britain, Conn., celebrates Independence Day with his girlfriend, Sgt Aleksandra R. Petropavlovskaya, from Houston, on July 4. Cruz is a motor transport mechanic, and Petropavlovskaya, a supply clerk. Both Marines are with Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, headquartered in Minneapolis, under Marine Wing Support Group, Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing.

Books Reviewed

Unless otherwise noted, these books may be ordered from The Marine Shop. Subscribers may use members' prices. Include \$5.99 for shipping. Virginia residents add 5 percent sales tax; North Carolina residents add 6.75 percent. Prices may change. Make check or money order payable to: MCA, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, call toll-free: (888) 237-7683, or shop online at www.marineshop.net.



THE JOURNEY OF A WARRIOR: The Twenty-Ninth Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps (1987-1991): General Alfred Mason Gray. By Colonel Gerald H. Turley, USMC (Ret). Published by iUniverse. 528 pages. Softcover. Stock #1469761327. \$28.76 MCA Members. \$31.95 Regular Price.

To read Colonel Gerry Turley's book, "The Journey of a Warrior: The Twenty-Ninth Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps (1987-1991): General Alfred Mason Gray," is to understand how the 21st-century Marine Corps came into being. The picture that the author paints is of one man's journey, a man who rose from the lowest position in the Marine Corps—recruit—to the highest—Commandant—and along the way became one of the most transformational officers in the Marine Corps since John A. Lejeune.

Today's Marines, most of whom may take the existence of our Corps for granted, must understand that our relevance as a part of America's national strategy depends on our continual evolution. If we do not anticipate and fill America's need for a force in readiness, then America does not need a Marine Corps. Col Turley's biography of Gen Gray shows us a Marine who foresaw needs and promoted innovation during every step of his career. We can all learn from our 29th Commandant. His accomplishments should be taught to all Marines as part of their history, serving as examples of how Marines must think and act.

A short list of innovations he fathered

follows: He re-established the policy of infantry training for all Marines. He carried it well beyond our "every Marine a rifleman" ethos, believing that all Marines, regardless of occupational specialty, should be qualified to serve in a rifle squad. He conferred on every Marine the title "warrior" and further strengthened the bonds of our brotherhood.

He promoted continuous learning for all ranks. The Commandant's Reading List, the Marine Corps University and educating Marines with other service schools, foreign armed forces and such agencies as the FBI were all due to his foresight.

He insisted that the Marine Corps no longer be a closed shop, relying on its own assets and ignoring outside opportunities at other service schools and civilian agencies and high-level billets on joint staffs. This wove the Marine Corps into the fabric of our national strategy at the highest level. For the first time in our history, Marines have served in America's top-level command and staff billets, e.g., as commanders of U.S. Central Command, Southern Command, Strategic Command and as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As of this writing, the senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is a Marine sergeant major.

General Gray also was instrumental in shaping our operational posture to meet the challenges posed by terrorist states and asymmetrical warfare.

He modernized our traditional role of projecting power against armed enemies from the sea. To this end he pushed development of the MV-22 Osprey aircraft in order to support combat operations on the world's littorals from over-the-horizon amphibious forces. He was an early advocate of the maritime prepositioning ships and was a major force in redesigning our amphibious fleet to meet today's requirements.

He upgraded the Corps' armor capability and formed the light armored reconnaissance units.

He transformed our intelligence assets so they all reported to a central collection point for coordination and dissemination.

Col Turley punctuates his story of Gen Gray's life with colorful anecdotes that illustrate his character and his affection for Marines of every rank. He bonded with the troops like few commanders have before or since. He seemed to be everywhere at once and, even after he became Commandant, refused to stick to a pre-arranged schedule.

One of the best episodes in the book is about how he, when Commandant, drove his own car through the main gate of Quantico. The sentries on the gate quickly informed the commanding general the CMC was on board, but that they didn't know where he was going. During an exhaustive search of the base, someone finally spotted him on a softball field. He had been driving by, saw the game, stopped

and borrowed a glove, and played short-stop for a while as the frantic search for him rippled through the base. He was never happier than when he was with his troops, and the Marines loved him for it.

There are many important issues regarding our 29th Commandant's life and the changes that he wrought that space will not permit me to cover. Suffice it to say that because of Gen Gray's wisdom, foresight and energy, our Corps is very well prepared for its journey through the 21st century. Thank you, Col Turley, for telling his story.

LtCol Otto Lehrack, USMC (Ret)

Editor's note: A retired Marine infantry officer, LtCol Lehrack is a frequent contributor to Leatherneck and author of several books about Marines at war. His most recent book, "Road of 10,000 Pains: The Destruction of the 2nd NVA Division by the U.S. Marines, 1967," is available from the MCA bookstores.

THE BATTLE FOR TINIAN: Vital Stepping Stone in America's War Against Japan. By Nathan N. Prefer. Published by Casemate. 240 pages. Stock #1612000940. \$29.66 MCA Members. \$32.95 Regular Price.

Tinian. Ti/nia/n or Ti-ne-an.

Translation: "calm, peaceful setting of the afternoon sun," from "trilial," an ancient Chamorro Carolinian term.

How ironic, and almost fitting, that such a simply spelled, beautiful sounding name would become known in world history as the tiny launching pad for the extinction of the Rising Sun's terrifying military might and ruthless desire to wage war. By the summer of 1945, the 35-square-mile, Manhattan-size, sandy-rocky island became the home to hundreds of B-29 Superfortresses, including "Enola Gay" and "Bockscar."

In a masterful study of the assault on Tinian by the weary Second and Fourth Marine divisions (only days after the ferocious fight for Saipan), Nathan N. Prefer tells the human side of the story exactly as a good military historian should—lively, enmeshed with fascinating biography and battle detail, all accompanied by hitherto unpublished photographs easy-to-grasp maps and appendices.

Echoing virtually all the knowledgeable World War II experts, from Admiral Raymond A. Spruance to Marine Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith and Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison who argued that taking Tinian was the most brilliantly conceived and executed amphibious operation in the Pacific War, Prefer concludes that capturing Tinian was not necessarily a fundamental requirement for future operations but would have far-reaching

results as an air base in our strategic plans to invade Japan.

According to the author, the battle-toughened Marines who suffered heavy casualties on Saipan rolled ashore on the morning of July 23, 1944. Fastening a grip amid light opposition, the leather-necks of the two Marine divisions drove quickly across the entire northern tip, establishing a line from which they could smash southward. With the support of terrific gunfire from artillery and destroyers, cruisers and battleships knocking out camouflaged blockhouses, including aircraft from Saipan strafing enemy areas, the Marines pushed some four miles down the west coast past Ushi Point and the airfield above Gurguan, winning control of approximately half the island.

The Japanese flight southward became so rapid the Marines advanced without even sniper fire. Within 48 hours, the Marine assault forces began pushing down the hills from Mount Lasho toward Tinian Harbor and the bombarded town of Tinian. Spotting planes already were taking off from the northern captured strip, assisting the 7th Air Force raids launched from nearby Saipan. The most powerful tank force ever assembled at a single front in the Pacific spearheaded the advance.

After repulsing the final Japanese counterattacks, the Marines drove the Japanese into a long, narrow pocket along the southwestern coast. After nine days, all organized resistance ceased.

Why the stunning victory?

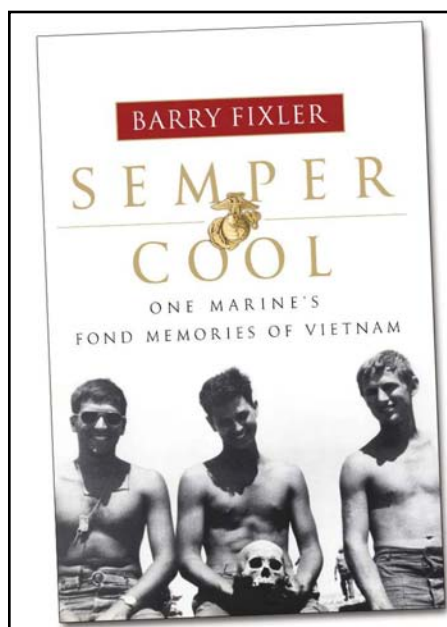
Prefer delimits it well: evaluations of previous island assaults; improved beach and inner-island reconnaissance, intelligence gathering and assessment; combined planning; superb preparation and organizational logistics; staging; the ac-

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"Fixler seems to have loved every minute of his time in the U.S. Marine Corps, including sustained vicious combat in Vietnam... His blunt recreating of his war-time experiences is well done and evocative."

—Marc Leepson, *The VVA Veteran*



tual bombardments and Marine attacks; perfect monitoring during the fighting; and the final evaluation by all for the next campaign. In short, there was absolute determination not to repeat the unnecessary casualties suffered on Tarawa, Guadalcanal, Guam and Saipan.

With the publication of "The Battle for Tinian—Vital Stepping Stone in America's War Against Japan," author Nathan Prefer has established himself as a first-rate military historian. Few know how to blend sound knowledge, military temperament and combat atmosphere in placing the reader in the actual engagements—leaving this reviewer anxious to read his next effort due this fall, an account of the U.S. Army's operations on Leyte. His previous books include "MacArthur's New Guinea Campaign," "Patton's Ghost Corps" and "Vinegar Joe's War."

Don DeNevi

Editor's note: Don DeNevi, an author himself, is a frequent reviewer for Leatherneck magazine.

BATTLEGROUND PACIFIC: A Marine Rifleman's Combat Odyssey in K/3/5. By Sterling Mace and Nick Allen. Published by St. Martin's Press. 352 pages. Stock #1250005051. \$23.40 MCA Members. \$25.99 Regular Price.

Marine Sterling Mace has elegantly written of his time in "Hell" with Company K, 3d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment on the Japanese-held islands of Peleliu and Okinawa: "Nobody would believe a fraction of what I've seen. ... Seventeen-year-old enlistees, still sweet with candy behind their ears, who couldn't tell you the difference between a peep-sight and a poop-hole, can recite anything

[continued on page 70]

In Memoriam

Edited by R. R. Keene

"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, units served in, dates of service and, if possible, a local or national obituary. Allow at least four months for the notice to appear.

Operation Enduring Freedom: Marine Casualties, June 1-30, 2012

The following were listed as having died while supporting combat operations:

Corporal Taylor J. Baune, 21, of Andover, Minn., with 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., June 13, in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Lance Corporal Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, Va., with 1/7, 1stMarDiv, I MEF, MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, June 23, in Helmand province.

LCpl Hunter D. Hogan, 21, of Norman, Ind., with 1/8, 2dMarDiv,

II MEF, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 23, in Helmand province.

LCpl Eugene C. Mills III, 21, of Laurel, Md., with 1/8, 2dMarDiv, II MEF, MCB Camp Lejeune, June 22, in Helmand province.

Cpl Anthony R. Servin, 22, of Moreno Valley, Calif., with 2/5, 1stMarDiv, I MEF, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 8, in Helmand province.

Private First Class Steven P. Stevens II, 23, of Tallahassee, Fla., with 1st Combat Engineer Bn, 1stMarDiv, I MEF, Camp Pendleton, June 22, in Helmand province.

Cpl Thomas J. Adams, 80, of South Plainfield, N.J. He was a veteran of the Korean War who served from 1952 to 1954 as an artilleryman with 1/11, 1stMarDiv.

He retired after more than 25 years as a machinist with Thul Machine Works in Plainfield. He was a member of the MCL.

Capt William B. Allen Sr., 81, in Memphis, Tenn. He joined the Platoon Leaders Course program in 1951, and after his commissioning, he served as the battalion equipment officer with 8th Engineer Bn.

He went on to run Allen Ready-Mix, which expanded to Allen Sand and Gravel and Allen Block and, eventually, Allen Materials, one of the largest building materials businesses in the Mid-South area. In the early 1980s, he turned to the consulting business and founded Allen and Associates, a firm that advised ready-mixed concrete and building materials businesses. In 2001, he co-founded Allen-Villiere Partners.

He earned a black belt in judo and was a Scoutmaster.

SSgt Austin G. Anderson, 27, of Ringwood, Okla. The small plane he was a passenger in on May 11 crashed northwest of Chanute, Kan., killing three others on impact. Anderson and Hanna Luce survived the crash. Luce was trapped inside the burning wreckage. Anderson rescued her and guided her to safety, but Anderson was badly burned and died the next morning in a Wichita, Kan., hospital. Luce suffered severe burns on more than 28 percent of her body and continues to recuperate.

Those who knew Anderson say he was the kind of man who did not hesitate to do such a thing. He was a veteran of two tours in Iraq and

a recently discharged member of Electronic Maintenance Co, 4th Maintenance Bn, Fourth Marine Logistics Group in Wichita.

He had graduated the week before the crash from Oral Roberts University with a bachelor of science in business administration.

MSgt Alfred L. DeSerio, 105, of Darby Borough, Pa. He was possibly the oldest living Marine upon his death, and a 42-year veteran of the Corps, who served in World War II and the Korean War and had two tours of duty in Vietnam. He retired from the Corps in 1970.

One of DeSerio's WW II duties was to escort the bodies of fellow Marines home to their families. "I was proud to do it," DeSerio told a newspaper reporter last November. "After the funeral, you'd take the flag off the coffin and fold it up. The hardest thing to do was present the flag to the mother."

After leaving the Corps, he was a maintenance worker at Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital in Darby until his retirement in 1988.

Years later, he often was recognized for his long service to the Corps, receiving proclamations from state government and a challenge coin from the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Known for his generosity, DeSerio once helped save a nun from losing her home. In return, the nun would send him a card every Easter with a piece of palm.

He was a member of the Upper Darby MCL Det. #884, which named him Citizen of the Year in January.

LtCol Eugene T. Dolan, USMC (Ret) of Falls Church, Va. Upon his retirement from the Corps, he was a professor at the University of the District of Columbia, responsible for

setting up the student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals and was the faculty advisor until he retired.

Maj Christopher S. Donner Jr., 99, in Hallandale, Fla. He was married and with a newborn son three weeks after Pearl Harbor, yet at age 30, he volunteered for the Marine Corps. He was an artillery officer in the Pacific and was a major in the Marine Reserve during the Korean War.

His civilian career included teaching and administration at private and public schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and at Penn State and Stanford universities. The majority of his professional time was spent at Chestnut Hill Academy in Philadelphia, where he taught and coached. In Philadelphia, he was an advocate for the founding of The Philadelphia School and the Ambler Farm on Tennis Avenue, a rural classroom for the school's urban children, allowing them to experience woods and fields and the magic of an old barn.

He wrote articles for magazines such as *Skin Diver* and the *Marine Corps Gazette*. In 1967, he returned to the South Pacific to film a documentary marking the 25th anniversary of the Marine Corps landings on Guadalcanal. The Kent State University Press will publish "Pacific Time on Target," his gritty account of his combat experiences in the Solomon Islands and Guam as a member of the 9th Defense Battalion and also in the Battle of Okinawa as a forward observer with the 11th Marines.

MSgt Frank J. Dudzik, 88, of Moline, Ill. He served during WW II and the Korean War. He worked ordnance for VMB-613.

He was a 60-year member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of

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AEF Battlefields & Paris**

Post Tour: 26 May - 1 Jun '13 Battle of the Bulge

**24 May - 2 Jun '13 - Viking River Cruise
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**1 - 9 Jun '13 - 69th Anniversary of D-Day:
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America throughout the Quad-Cities area.

LtCol Eugene A. Dueber, 95, in Portland, Ore.

Cpl John R. Gibson, 75, of Sandlick, Ky. He entered the Corps in 1954 and ended his total Marine service in 1962, having served as an aviation mechanic at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., and MARTC Glenview, Ill.

GySgt Charles E. "Papa-san" Hoffman, 73, in Fall River, Mass. He was a Vietnam veteran who enlisted in 1955 and retired in 1976. He served two tours in RVN, from 1965 to 1966 and from 1968 to 1970, as a platoon sergeant with 3d Plt, Provisional Rifle Co, Force Logistics Command. His awards include the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V."

After retiring from the Corps, he worked at Duro Industries for 27 years.

Frederick D. Johnson, 88, of Grand Rapids, Mich. He was the Michigan State High School Champion in the 100-yard dash and the broad jump and was later elected to the Grandville High School Sports Hall of Fame. He was a Montford Point Marine who enlisted in 1943.

After the war, he was a member of the Michigan State University track team and named All-American in the long jump and the 100-yard low hurdles. He still holds the career scoring record for track and field at a Michigan college, and two world records (and always will as the events are no longer run) in the indoor 75-yard dash and the 65-yard low hurdles. He later was inducted into the Michigan State Sports Hall of Fame and the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame. He refereed

football and basketball for 23 years.

As a businessman, he owned Johnson's Spring Service and the Kimberly Academy of Cosmetology. He taught school, worked as a foreman at General Motors, was involved in real estate development and retired from the Michigan Department of Education in Lansing.

LtCol John Francis J. Kelly, 84, of Foneswood, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps near the end of WW II. Early in his career, he served as a drill instructor at MCRD, Parris Island, S.C. He was a platoon sergeant during the Korean War, was twice wounded and received a field commission. Later, he served three tours in Vietnam.

Retiring in 1974 after 30 years of service, he became a systems analyst and formed his own consulting company, Aberdeen Group Ltd., and served as a deputy sheriff for the Westmoreland County (Va.) Sheriff's Department.

Hugh E. McElroy Sr., 90, in Flower Mound, Texas. During WW II, he served with the 4thMarDiv at Roi-Namur, Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He was awarded the Purple Heart.

He retired as operations general manager, Avco Lycoming, Stratford, Conn. He had a 40-year career in the aerospace defense industry.

SSgt Carlous Perry, 30, at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. A native of Clay, Miss., he died April 30 after conducting personal physical training. He enlisted in 2000 and was promoted to his present rank in 2008. He was a maintenance chief assigned to 8th ESB, 2d MLG, II MEF. A 2007 veteran of Operation Iraqi

Freedom, his personal decorations include two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and three Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals.

MGySgt Johannes "Joe" Rasmussen in Leonardtown, Md. Following four years in the U.S. Navy, he joined "The President's Own" United States Marine Band as a cornetist in 1947 and retired in 1976. He traveled with the Marine Band on 25 national concert tours; 23 of those were consecutive tours during which he served as stage manager in addition to playing cornet.

SSgt Robert J. "Bob" Richardson, 84, of New Braunfels, Texas. He served on Guam in the waning months of WW II. He was called back to active duty as a tank instructor during the Korean War.

He later joined the Texas Highway Patrol and served as a State Trooper for 31 years, obtaining a commission as a Special Texas Ranger upon retirement. He also served four years with the Comal County Sheriff's Office and was a supervisor of employee safety compliance for Hunter Industries.

Cpl William L. Welch, 76, of Sturbridge, Mass. He enlisted in 1953.

He went on to become a business teacher and coach at Southbridge High School and Sanderson Academy. He was a star athlete and team captain, winning 10 letters in high school. He was inducted into the Mary E. Wells-Southbridge Hall of Fame in 1993. He was a member of the MCL.



SOUND OFF

[continued from page 9]

space-available, free service.

Also, according to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., website, www.mcrdpi.usmc.mil/, photos back to 1939 are available. Our friends at Parris Island confirmed that old platoon photos are obtainable. They did ask we pass along that they accept credit cards and prefer phone calls. They “do not want to receive checks,” and you must have your platoon number, day, month and year of graduation.

For MCRD San Diego photos, visit the depot website, www.mcrdmuseumhistorical.society.org/platoon-photos-and-grad-books, or write: Platoon Photos, Building 26, P.O. Box 400085, San Diego, CA 92140-0085. Office phone: (619) 524-4426, fax: (619) 524-0076. Platoon photos at MCRD San Diego are now \$38 plus \$3.50 S&H. Additional platoon photos are \$15.

Latin Beyond What We Learned As Altar Boys

The July 2012 issue carries an article on Personnel Retrieval and Processing. This retired Latin teacher enjoyed the story but

rejects the motto cited—*Nemo Resideo*—which is bad Latin and does not mean “No One Left Behind.” True, “*nemo*” means “nobody” and is in the nominative case, but “*resideo*” is first person singular and means “I remain sitting” or “I stay.”

More appropriate and correct would be “*Nulla relicto*”—in the ablative case, which shows an adverbial or circumstantial function—“[with] nobody left behind.”

LtCol George B. Stebbins Jr., USMCR (Ret)
Bakerton, W.Va.

An Update of the “Frozen Chosin”

Readers of Dr. Stanley I. Wolf’s article in the June issue relating his experiences as battalion surgeon with 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment at Hagaru-ri, North Korea, in that frozen November of 1950 may be interested in an update.

Veterans of the Chosin Reservoir campaign will remember the town, but Hagaru-ri no longer exists. Where Hagaru-ri once stood there now is a fair-size city, Changjin, the proper Korean name for the reservoir itself, Changjin-ho. In the winter of 1950, the reservoir came to be called Chosin because that was what the Japanese called it, and the only available maps were Army Map Service translations of Japanese tactical maps (remember them?) dating from the early 1900s. The present-day city of

Changjin is much larger than the non-descript collection of ramshackle buildings of memory and boasts a paved highway and a railroad.

At the south end of the city, apparently on the site of the airstrip that 1st Engineer Bn scraped out of the frozen soil, is a North Korean military airfield that consists of a single NNW-SSE-oriented concrete runway with a parallel concrete taxiway. There is a concrete parking apron at the north end of the airfield. To the east of the airfield, the hill known as East Hill that was the scene of such intense fighting appears as unremarkable now as then. Likewise, the area to the south and southwest of the airfield where “How” and “Item” companies, 3/1 were so heavily engaged is little changed.

Was it all really 62 years ago?

Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, USMC (Ret)
Grayson, Ky.



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Reunions

Reunions are run on a space-available basis. Information should be submitted no later than four months in advance of the reunion.

• **3dMarDiv (Texas Chapter)**, Oct. 4-7, New Braunfels, Texas. Contact Mike Sohn, (210) 654-3310, jumient2@hotmail.com.

• **6thMarDiv Assn.**, Sept. 17-22, Portland, Ore. Contact Sharon Woodhouse, (503) 642-3439, sjawoodhouse@gmail.com.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Oct. 10-12, Branson, Mo. Contact Col Ken Frantz, USMC (Ret), (936) 273-4830, execdir@marcorengasn.org, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **Marine Air Traffic Control Assn.**, Sept. 19-23, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Roger McIntosh, 5 Quartz Cir., Fredericksburg, VA 22405, (540) 373-9691, mac13120@cox.net.

• **Marine Corps Air Transport Assn.**, Sept. 19-23, San Antonio. Contact Humberto C. Reyes, 2103 W. Mulberry Ave., San Antonio, TX 78201, (210) 867-9226, (210) 734-5967, hreyes5416@aol.com.

• **USMC Motor Transport Assn.**, Sept. 16-19, Seattle. Contact Terry Hightower, P.O. Box 1372, Jacksonville, NC 28541,



When suicide bombers attacked the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon on 23 October 1983, it was the Corps' deadliest single-day death toll since Iwo Jima. COLONEL SARA PRITCHETT, USMC (RET), joint public affairs officer for the 4th Marine Division and the 4th Aircraft Wing, had overall responsibility for the media.

Sally is proud that she played a role in such an important historical event, and it is one of her fondest memories. "Enlisting in the Marine Corps changed my life and shaped who I am today. I can't imagine my life without the Corps." She continued to serve as a public affairs officer until her 1987 retirement.

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(910) 450-1841, secretary@usmcmta.org.

• **Moroccan Reunion Assn. Inc.** is planning a reunion for Marines and sailors who served at Port Lyautey/Kenitra, Morocco. Contact Robert Sieborg, Moroccan Reunion Assn. Inc., P.O. Box 13362, Omaha, NE 68113, (402) 496-1498.

• **26th Marines**, Sept. 14-16, Albuquerque, N.M. Contact Sonny Hollub Jr., (515) 312-4168, sonnyusmc@gmail.com, or Harvey Lang, (575) 542-8085.

• **1st Bn, 4th Marines Assn.**, Oct. 10-14, Laughlin, Nev. Contact Brad Bennett, (218) 722-4589, bradbennett@hotmail.com, or Richard Camacho, (805) 384-9138, camacho4@roadrunner.com, www.1stbn4thmarines.com.

• **1/27 (and supporting units, RVN, 1967-68)**, Sept. 20-23, San Diego. Contact Felix "Sal" Salmeron, 1406 Nighthawk Dr., Little Elm, TX 75068, (469) 583-0191, mar463@aol.com.

• **2/1 (RVN)**, Nov. 8-15, San Diego. Contact Paul Mangan, (515) 360-2600, namgrunt@aol.com, www.firstmarines.org.

• **2/9**, Nov. 8-12, Branson, Mo. Contact Gabe Coronado, (810) 334-0377, member 3107@aol.com.

• **3d Recon Bn Assn.**, Sept. 25-30, Williamsburg, Va. Contact Doug or Aggie Heath, (770) 684-7668, dnaheath@aol.com

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• **7th Engineer Bn, Vietnam Veterans Assn.**, Sept. 20-23, Branson, Mo. Contact Norm Johnson, 6100 Cochrane Rd., Marlette, MI 48453, (989) 635-6653, deltal@centurytel.net, or Doug McMackin, 4859 W. Cinnabar Ave., Glendale, AZ 85302, (623) 466-0545, gunnymac@hotmail.com, www.usmc.org/7th/.

• **11th Engineer Bn Assn.** is planning a reunion. Contact Charles Luhan Jr., 8451 S. Kilbourn Ave., Chicago, IL 60652, (773) 585-9629, CL11engrhn@sbcglobal.net.

• **A/1/7 (Korea, 1950-53)**, Oct. 8-11, Charleston, S.C. Contact Leonard R. "Shifty" Shifflette, 25 Emery St., Harrisonburg, VA 22801, (540) 434-2066, CaptShifty@comcast.net.

• **A/1/12 (RVN)**, Oct. 18-21, Charlotte, N.C. Contact Dale Punch, 131 Boulder Dr., Lincolnton, NC 28092, (704) 477-8829, dalepunch@charter.net.

• **B/1/1 (Okinawa, 1959-60)**, Sept. 24-26, Las Vegas. Contact William Sitar, (732) 283-9000, sitar@sitarcompany.com, or Donna Goldbach, (908) 510-9600, goldbach@sitarcompany.com.

• **E/2/5 (RVN, 1966-70)**, Oct. 18-21, Quantico, Va. Contact Ochal Caudill,

(909) 271-5323, ochal@roadrunner.com.

• **F/2/5**, Sept. 16-20, Nashville, Tenn. Contact 1stSgt William B. "Sam" Henderson, USMC (Ret), (775) 980-9603, deh1262@aol.com.

• **F/2/5 (Korea)**, Oct. 3-7, Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Contact Arlen Hensley, (423) 245-2047, arlenhensley@charter.net.

• **G/3/1 (Korea, 1950-55)**, Oct. 8-11, Oklahoma City. Contact Bob Harbula, (412) 462-8537, bobbyjuly@yahoo.com.

• **K/3/7 (RVN)**, Sept. 20-24, Oklahoma City. Contact William Rolke, (262) 780-0993, k37usmc@att.net.

• **Co A, 7th MT Bn (RVN)**, Oct. 4-6, Branson, Mo. Contact John Gibbons, (903) 439-2712, jrg1jr@gmail.com.

• **Co B, 7th MT Bn (RVN)**, Oct. 6-8, Arlington, Va. Contact Tim Weddington, (816) 808-2357, timweddington@comcast.net.

• **H&S Co, 1/7 (Camp Sukiran, Okinawa, 1960-61)**, Sept. 24-29, Denver. Contact John T. Ward, (412) 371-3639, jtwardmarine@yahoo.com.

• **2d Topographic Co**, Oct. 14-15, Stafford, Va. Contact Jim Martin, 7 Crockett Dr., Chelmsford, MA 01824, (781) 572-7924, jimtrees@aol.com.

• **USMC Postal (MOS 0160/0161)**, Sept. 30-Oct. 5, Branson, Mo. Contact MSgt Harold Wilson, USMC (Ret), 835

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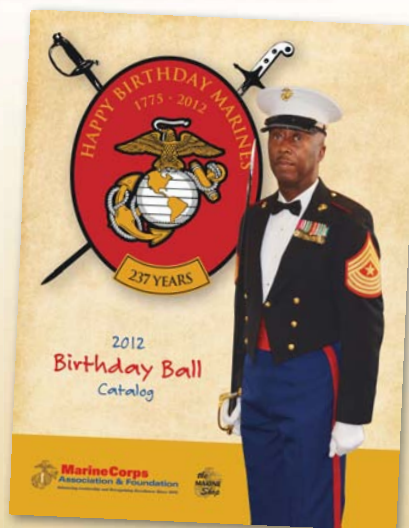


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• **Yemassee Train Depot**, Oct. 19-20, Yemassee, S.C. Contact Roy Hughes, P.O. Box 265, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 589-3385.

• **Marine Barracks Sasebo, Japan**, Oct. 8-11, Quantico, Va. Contact 1stSgt C. R. McCarthy, USMC (Ret), (515) 274-9110, coach430@aol.com.

• **Combined Action Unit (RVN, 1965-71)**, Nov. 8-12, Treasure Island, Fla. Contact Ken Scoggins, 4856 Lowndes St., St. Louis, MO 63129, (314) 894-3225, scoggins@swbell.net.

• **Korean War Recon Marines**, Oct. 3-6, Houston. Contact James Sauser, (281) 332-5725, jimsauser1@gmail.com.

• **MarDet/Marine Barracks, NAS Bermuda**, Oct. 10-14, San Diego. Contact Charles Ault, 885 E. Tallmadge Ave., Akron, OH 44310, (800) 344-6683.

• **MSG Paris** is planning a reunion. Contact Roland C. Beisenstein, 53 Castle Rock Dr., Mill Valley, CA 94941, (415) 388-4941.

• **"Alpha" Btry, 1/11 (1965-66)**, Oct. 14-17, Las Vegas. Contact Kathy Carter, (702) 951-5942, for reservations, or Gordon Hansen, (928) 757-4882, for information.

• **American Embassy Saigon (RVN)**, Sept. 26-29, Chesapeake, Va. Contact MSgt Gus F. Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.org.

• **Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program**, Nov. 2-3, Washington, D.C. Contact Marcia Landau, burkland@nexet.net, or Skip Smith, (770) 335-4896, ssgolf1@bellsouth.net.

• **4th USMC/METOC/Weather Service**, June 2-6, 2013, Las Vegas. Contact Lee Halverson, (925) 837-7493, lhazmateer@aol.com, or Don Innis, (321) 724-6600, dinnis@cfl.rr.com.

• **TBS 4-67**, Oct. 10-13, Quantico, Va. Contact G. T. Smith, (203) 273-2076, www.usmc-thebasicschool-april1967.com.

• **21st Special Basic Class (1953)** is planning two reunions for 2012. Contact Shirley Fry, (703) 469-3750, ssfry@juno.com.

• **Scout Sniper Plt, 3d Marines (RVN)**, Feb. 8-10, 2013, Las Vegas. Contact Jim O'Neill, (928) 684-2309, taraniall@gmail.com.

• **Plt 115, Parris Island, 1965**, is planning a reunion for 2012. Contact SgtMaj D. J. Farrell, USMC (Ret), (918) 689-1989, or Steve Holton, (301) 375-6036.

• **Plt 151, Parris Island, 1962**, Oct. 4-7, Bluffton, S.C. Contact Larry Smith, 19624 Middletown Rd., Freeland, MD 21053, (410) 343-2354, asylrs@comcast.net.

• **Plt 296, Parris Island, 1965**, is plan-



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ning a reunion for 2014. Contact SgtMaj James Butler, USMC (Ret), (910) 340-7074, jbutler29@ec.rr.com.

- **Plt 339, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion for 2012. Contact LtCol Bob Mullins, USMC (Ret), (740) 417-9112, rmullins11@columbus.rr.com.

- **Plt 1089, Parris Island, 1986**, is planning a reunion. Contact Mark Smith, P.O. Box 828, Columbus, MS 39703, (662) 549-7712, msmith@cpi-group.com.

- **Plt 2085, Parris Island, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Simmons, jstlputt@aol.com, mkboyle@myfairpoint.net.

- **Marine Air Groups (WW II-present)**, Oct. 17-21, Branson, Mo. Contact James Jordan, (417) 535-4945, james.m.jordan@hughes.net, or MSgt Bob Miller, USAF (Ret), (636) 327-5854, mbobsue13@yahoo.com.

- **Aviation Logistics Marines**, Sept. 27-30, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Don Davis, (252) 444-1777, greyegl@ec.rr.com.

- **VMF-124, VMF-155, VMF-213 and VMA-124**, Sept. 14-15, Memphis, Tenn. Contact Col David Hallin, (901) 747-3018, davidhallin@earthlink.net, or CWO-5 Alfred Rome, (901) 755-3726, cwo5owl@bellsouth.net.

- **VMAT-102 A-4M Skyhawks (and related squadrons from MCAS Yuma,**

Ariz.), March 9, 2013, Las Vegas. Contact GiGi Ahrstrom, (513) 544-1016, LTK165@hotmail.com.

- **VMF/VMA-211 "Wake Island Avengers,"** Sept. 18-23, Dearborn, Mich. Contact Richard Downs, 7 Elizabeth St., Enfield, CT 06082, (860) 745-0144, vmfvma-211@cox.net.

- **Marine F-4 Phantom Reunion**, Nov. 1-4, San Diego. Contact AFRI (Attn: F-4 Phantom), 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23510, f4phantom@afri.com.

Ships and Others

- **USS Antietam (CV/CVA/CVS-36)**, Sept. 19-23, Portland, Ore. Contact Lyonel Young, (316) 425-5693, lyonel.young@cox.net.

- **USS Cabot (CVL-28)**, Oct. 21-25, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Marie Saraceni, (484) 494-5533, msaraceni@comcast.net.

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

- **USS Cowell (DD-547)**, Oct. 6-8, Branson, Mo. Contact Larry Salley, 19 Auburn St., Greenville, SC 29609, (864) 268-3365, lsalley3@charter.net.

- **USS Elokomin (AO-55)**, Sept. 25-28, Norfolk, Va. Contact Robert F. O'Sullivan,

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Fri., Sept. 21—*WWII-era Music*, 7 p.m.,

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Sat., Sept. 22—*Commemorative Concert by the Quantico Marine Corps Band*, Raritan Valley Community College, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 23—

Breakfast at St. Ann School Cafeteria

29 Second St., Raritan

First Breakfast 9-9:45 a.m.

Honoree Celebration 9:45 a.m.-10:10 a.m.

Second Breakfast 10:15-11 a.m.

Memorial Mass, St. Ann Church, 10:30 a.m.

GySgt John Basilone Memorial Parade,

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More info: www.basiloneparade.com

POC for questions:

Ed Danberry: 908-444-0450

Email: RaritanGuy@gmail.com

25 Denny St., Dorchester, MA 02125, (617) 288-3755, theeloman@verizon.net.

• USS *Everett F. Larson* (DD/DDR-830), Sept. 16-20, Warwick, R.I. Contact Art Colson, 17 Maple Ave., Eliot, ME 03903, (207) 439-2123, acollcnett@aol.com, www.uss-everett-f-larson.com.

• USS *Plymouth Rock* (LSD-29), Sept. 20-25, King of Prussia, Pa. Contact David Dortch, (870) 236-3725, tazrhondave@yahoo.com, or Harry T. Andersen, (847) 336-2151, htajma@comcast.net, www.ussplymouthrock.com.

• USS *Ranger* (CVA/CV-61), Sept. 22-29, New England/Canada cruise leaving from Manhattan, N.Y. Contact Brian Forrester, (800) 998-1228, brian@hcttravel.com, or Herb Boudrot, (207) 251-3793, boilerman006@yahoo.com.

• USS *Saratoga* (CV-3, CVA/CA-60), Oct. 4-7, Nashville, Tenn. Contact (877) 360-7272.

Reader Assistance

Readers are cautioned to be wary of sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered.

Wanted:

• Marine veteran William Franks, (267) 474-5371, williamfranks26@yahoo.com,

wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 3053, Parris Island, 1968-69.**

• Marine veteran John F. Forgette, 104 S. Garden St., Bellingham, WA 98225, (360) 671-5083, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 288, Parris Island, 1951.**

• Former Cpl William J. Collins, 103 Fort de France Ave., Toms River, NJ 08757, (732) 341-3008, wants **issues of *Leatherneck*, 1950-51.**

• Marine veteran Joseph D. Escobedo, 11916 Leah Ct. N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87112, (505) 292-3596, scoobie48@aol.com, wants a **recruit graduation photo of himself in his dress blues from Plt 2050, San Diego, 1969.**

Sales, Trades and Giveaways:

• Marine veteran Howard E. Sweitzer, 1417 N.W. 62nd Way, Margate, FL 33063, (954) 972-0555, has Marine Corps memorabilia for sale: **Korean War-era USN flight jacket; 1954 battle jacket; "Pepperbox" pistol, 1859; miscellaneous items, books and *Leatherneck* magazines.** Send SASE (legal-sized envelope and two stamps) to receive a complete list of items.



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Mail Call

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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• Eloise Peacock, 311 Ella Ln., Dripping Springs, TX 78620, (512) 858-1623, to hear from or about **W. A. WALDON, originally from Wickett, Texas, who was a member of Plt 71, San Diego, 1950, and served with H&S Bn, Camp Pendleton, Calif., 1953.**

• SgtMaj Jerry Blake, USMC (Ret), 3805 Palmerston Ave., Dayton, OH 45417, (937) 268-2632, to hear from members of **Plt 228, Parris Island, 1963.**

• Marine veteran Joseph Mysak, 226 W.

6th Ave., Roselle, NJ 07203, to hear from members of **Plt 247, Parris Island, 1943.** The drill instructor was **Rufus ARDOIN.**

• Former Cpl William J. Collins, 103 Fort de France Ave., Toms River, NJ 08757, (732) 341-3008, to hear from those who served with **2d Plt, Co A, 1st Bn, 8th Marines, 1946-48, and Machine Gun Plt, "Heavy 30s," Weapons Co, 1st Bn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv, 1951.**

• Former Sgt William "Bill" Odell, P.O. Box 3, Edmond, WV 25837, (304) 574-

0027, (304) 237-2338, free_spirit049@yahoo.com, to hear from members of **Plt 1084, San Diego, 1970, and Marines who served with H&S Co, H&S Bn, 1st FSR, Da Nang, RVN, 1970-71.**

• Marine veteran Paul E. "Johnny" Johndrow, 17861 Oaklawn Dr., Claremore, OK 74017, (918) 342-0661, to hear from **Clyde PETERSON, who served with VMA-223, MCAS El Toro, Calif., 1957-58.**



BOOKS REVIEWED

[continued from page 57]

you want to know about slitting Nip throats. Still the riflemen on Okinawa hear things beyond sound. We see things that were never meant to be seen, as we fade into the night."

Rifleman Mace, along with his co-author Nick Allen, sets the highest standard for the construction of a mesmerizing military autobiography. His gift for writing in the first-person present tense brings the book alive with the drama and power of a scorching first-rate novel. Additionally, Mace skillfully uses italics to denote his personal thoughts and often ironic personal musings. This book rings out with the sights of blood, smells of cordite and gut-wrenching actions of one "grunt's" experience in the unforgiving island action of the Pacific War.

Mace joined the Corps in 1942 and had some Stateside training assignments before being shipped to 3/5 for preinvasion training on the island of Pavuvu. In September 1944, the First Marine Division made its hot landing on the blood-splattered beaches of Peleliu. Those who watched the 2010 miniseries "The Pacific" may recall that the TV event focused on the war experiences of several Marines, one being Eugene Sledge, who also served in K/3/5. Mace remembers PFC Sledge as "a quiet guy from the mortar section."

He also recalls several other members of "King" Co celebrated in that gripping TV series: most notably, PFC Merriell

"Snafu" Shelton and their captain, Andrew "Ack Ack" Haldane.

It should be noted that Mace was a consultant on Sledge's celebrated autobiographical work, "With the Old Breed."

Upon hitting the beach, and under fire for the first time, Browning Automatic Rifleman Mace describes himself as "dazed, distressed, amazed, brave, and miserable." He writes: "My feelings are beyond fear. It's an otherworldly sensation: I could be killed at any second, yet my limited life experience makes it impossible to conceptualize being alive at one moment, and then in the next instant, *poof!*—gone!"

Of being a rifleman in a line company, he brings you to the lowest common denominator: "Our sole potential was killing a lot of Japanese. God we loved the Marine Corps!"

Much of what was presented in the TV series is noted in the book. The early days without water, the race to cross the airfield and their early battles fought east of the Umurbrogol Mountain ridge are fully noted. In the coming weeks, the company made the landing on the nearby island of Ngesebus. Sporting a miniature airstrip, the island needed to be neutralized because the Japanese shelled the Marines on the main island. Of his landing experience on Ngesebus, Mace remarks: "A machine gun popped off to our right, *S--t!* It never fails; the body goes rigid, with muscles you never knew you had going stiff."

Finally, Company K took its dreaded turn at the deadly "Five Sister" mountain range that had torn the living guts out of the First Marine Regiment.

The 1stMarDiv hit the mainly undefended beaches on Okinawa on April Fools' Day 1945 and moved quickly across the island without serious opposition. But the war would soon find the men of Co K when they were set against the heavily defended Shuri Line. Mace's war ended when a dud hit, but failed to explode, next to him. "*Rung!* I've got my head in a church bell, and somebody is banging the hell out of it. ... I've got a screamer in my skull, and the lunatic is planning his escape." The concussion left him only stunned, but it had punctured both of his eardrums. In addition, his hospital records list his secondary medical diagnosis as psychoneurosis anxiety.

Mace writes: "Once you look around and all of the [M]arines you previously knew have vanished, that's the sign that either you're a slow learner or there's simply nothing left to learn. I had lived the Pacific war."

If you like your war stories unvarnished, uncensored, realistic and graphic, this is the book for you. You'll find Sterling Mace's gritty war memoir, "Battleground Pacific," hard to beat. Personally, once I started reading it, I simply could not put it down.

Robert B. Loring

Editor's note: Bob Loring served with the 4th ANGLICO from 1963 to 1969. A resident of Florida, he continues to be an aggressive worker for the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation and a frequent Leatherneck contributor.



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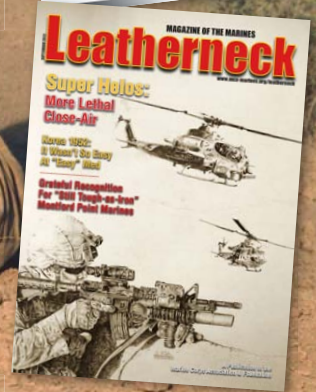


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Gyrene Gyngles

Edited by Clare A. Guerrero

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The Pause

It's been 11 years
Since the attack of 9/11.
Through the canyons of the city,
We still hear those bagpipes playin'—
And even though we're busy
Trying to make a living,
We can't help but pause a moment
To gaze up at the heavens
And remember all those people
Who lost their precious lives—
Trapped in the burning rubble
From those towers in the sky.
Then, we pray our loved ones
Will never have to die
At the hands of Satan's soldiers
While never knowing why!

Jim Curtis

Warriors Remembered

We heard the call; we paid the price.
What within us stirred?
What seed awakened in us the courage to commit?
Is it youth alone that knows the purity of values,
Untainted by the issues others argue?

Was it duty? Was it pride? Was it the lesson of our fathers?
What turned our heads from our secure surroundings?
What turned our steps to face the distant drum,
Awakened to a yet more noble purpose?

Some volunteered; others came when summoned.
All made the choice, standing straight to face the call.
We heard the call; we answered with our service.
We paid the price for others. Let them remember.

We gathered separately, then bonded without knowing,
Until we met no strangers in the brotherhood of arms.
Some carried on through gallant deeds of sacrifice.
Some were struck down by senseless acts of war.
Some in wonder breathed new life
at finding they were spared.

The bond of soldiers fueled our steps.
Our love of comrade higher, than even noble purpose.
Indeed we fought for country and for freedom,
But in the end, fought only for each other.
Our duty to our brothers right and left.

Those who have not walked these steps
can never comprehend,
Nor can words express what smiles and glistening eyes
Say so completely between brothers.
Many did not return, some whose fates remain unknown.
Many more returned forever changed,
Quietly different; never voicing change so obvious to those
who know them.

It mattered not what politicians argued.
It mattered not what history would reveal.
We had no expectation but to serve where duty called us.
We asked for no reward except a nation's thanks.

Col Albert J. Nahas, USA (Ret)

Lest We Forget

During the War of 1812, begun 200 years ago,
The fledgling American Navy dealt Britain a blow.
Leathernecks fought at the Battle of Lake Erie,
Aboard USS *Lawrence*, with Commodore Perry.

The battle flag that the wind would whip,
Sternly proclaimed: "Don't give up the ship."
Flown to commemorate Captain Lawrence's last quote,
These words flew defiantly over the boat.

In a bloody sea duel with their ship to defend,
Most ship's company fought to the end.
Among them a Harvard man, who could give no more,
He was Lieutenant John Brooks, of the Marine Corps.

As the battle raged, Perry's ship was a wreck,
With the starboard cannons strewn about the deck.
The rigging and sails were fallen and shredded,
Forcing Perry to give an order he dreaded.

In a desperate act that would change his luck,
Perry ordered his battle flag struck.
With terrible casualties among the *Lawrence* crew,
He boarded *Niagara* and raised the battle flag of blue.

For such brave men we should thank our stars!
Commodore Perry's immortal message would say,
"We have met the enemy and they are ours!"

Marine veteran Michael Spataro



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