

LEATHERNECK EXCLUSIVE—Results of the Iwo Jima Flag-Raising Panel

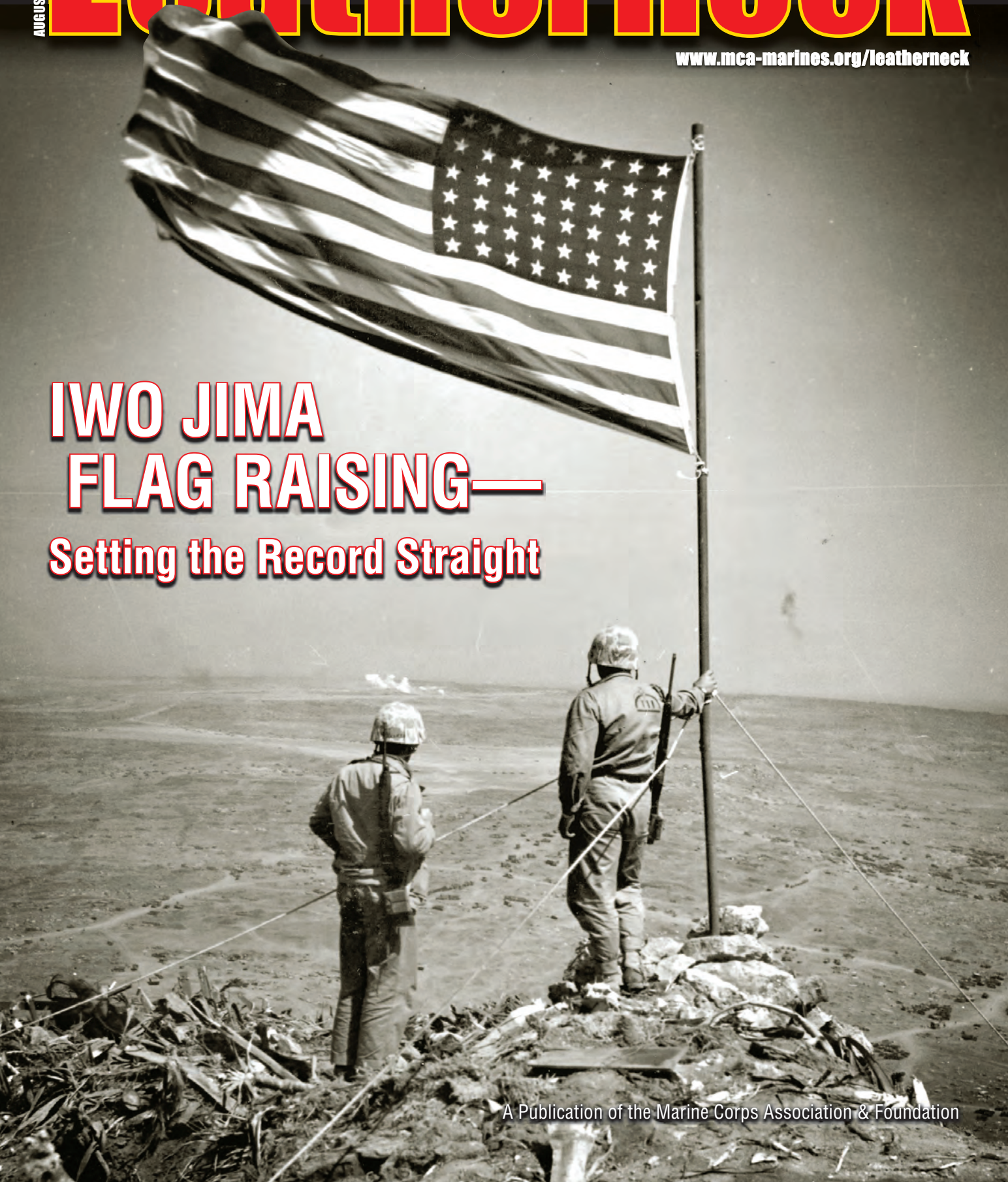
MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

AUGUST 2016

Leatherneck

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IWO JIMA FLAG RAISING— Setting the Record Straight



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Contents



LEATHERNECK—MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

AUGUST 2016
VOL. XCIX, No. 8

Features

16 *Mayhem From the Heartland: The Warriors of 2d Battalion, 24th Marines* By Kyle Watts

With their origins in the 9th Reserve Battalion in Chicago, 2/24 was formed in 1943 as part of the Fourth Marine Division and immediately prepared to join in the war in the Pacific theater. Nicknamed the “Mad Ghosts,” the battalion has been everywhere from Saipan to Iwo Jima to one of its most recent deployments in the “Triangle of Death.”

24 *The Corps’ Amphibious Roots* By Capt Jonathan B. Bong, USMC

The Quasi-War with France is one of the lesser-known chapters in American military history, but the Battle of Puerta Plata is one of the earliest instances where the Navy-Marine team successfully projected amphibious combat power.

30 *Examining the Evidence: USMC Reviews the Iwo Jima Flag-Raising Photo* By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

In this *Leatherneck* exclusive, we look at how the identities of the Marines who were immortalized in the famous Iwo Jima flag-raising photo are being questioned—again. This past spring, a panel of Marines and historians was formed to review newly discovered evidence and set the record straight.

36 *The Marine Corps Reserve—The First 100 Years* By LtGen Rex C. McMillian, USMCR

This August marks the 100th anniversary of the Marine Corps Reserve. The Reserve has stood the test of time and, to this day, remains as strong as ever.

50 *The Hill* By Philip N. Pierce

Originally published in the April 1962 issue of *Leatherneck*, this article tells the story of “Fox” Company during the Korean War. Co F, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines was tasked with defending a vital piece of ground, known only as “The Hill,” in below-freezing temperatures in order to help fellow Marines.

56 *An Anbar Summer* By SSgt Carson D. Clover, USMC

The third-place winner of the *Leatherneck* Writing Contest, SSgt Clover recounts his experiences with HMM-161 in Al Anbar during Operation Iraqi Freedom II when his intimidating yet well-admired CO, LtCol David Coffman, was wounded during a mission.

Departments

2 Sound Off

8 In Every Clime and Place

14 Corps Connections

22 Leatherneck Laffs

44 We—the Marines

47 Crazy Caption

48 Passing the Word

60 Books Reviewed

64 In Memoriam

68 Reader Assistance

72 Saved Round



COVER: Marines look out over the island of Iwo Jima from the top of Mount Suribachi two days after the flag raising in February 1945. Photo by SSgt Mark Haufman, USMC. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending \$2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Letter of the Month

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

I am submitting a letter to *Leatherneck* magazine, which I have been receiving since 1967.

My wife and I have donated to Fisher House Wisconsin for the past three years. April 23, 2016, was the ribbon-cutting ceremony for our new Fisher House. We attended the ceremony which featured the 24th [Marine] Regiment Honor Guard. There were four Marines representing “Fox” Company, 2d Battalion, 24th Marines and they looked and reacted sharp and neat in their maneuvers. I was proud of them as I stood at attention.

When the ceremony was completed, there was a tent set up for food and beverages. My wife, Joanne, and I sat down to eat. We were in a conversation with the commander of one of the VFW posts when another couple walked up and sat down. They were in civilian clothes.

I was wearing a white shirt and tie covered with a hand-woven Marine Corps sweater, which I had made many years ago. The sweater had the letters U.S.M.C. on the front. The gentleman that sat down with us reached over and shook my hand with the greeting, “Semper Fi,” followed up with his name, Pete Pace.

I was numb and couldn’t say anything for a couple of minutes until my wife asked me what was wrong, at which time I answered, “That was General Pete Pace, the [Chairman of the] Joint Chiefs of Staff—the first Marine named to that post in the history of our country.”

I thought you would like to know that even after 40 years of service to our country and Corps, Gen Pace is still helping Marines and serving our country.

Cpl Robert C. Fuller
USMC, 1961-64
Milwaukee, Wis.

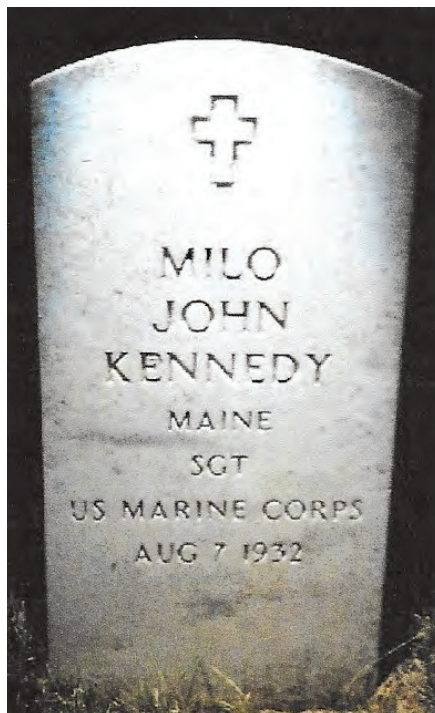
Honoring an “Old Corps” Marine

Milo John Kennedy grew up in the small town of Jefferson, Maine. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1922 at the age of 18 and served on active duty for three years. After boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., his assignments included Marine Barracks Norfolk, Va., Marine Detachments aboard USS *New York* (BB-34) and USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37) and with Machine Gun Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines aboard

the troopship USS *Henderson* (AP-1). After he was discharged he continued his service in the Marine Corps Reserve.

In 1927, Milo joined the U.S. Park Police in Washington, D.C.

On the night of Aug. 7, 1932, while making an arrest in Logan Circle Park, he was attacked from behind by a gang of thugs and murdered. He was 28 years old. Several people were arrested and some were sentenced to death.



Sgt Milo John Kennedy was remembered at Police Week in Washington, D.C.

Milo was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. As his tombstone indicates, he had attained the rank of sergeant as a Marine. After conducting research on his life and death, I decided to honor him during Police Week 2016. I purchased a brick bearing his name to be placed in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

SSgt Jack M. Sands
USMC, 1952-62
Waldorf, Md.

• *Thank you, Staff Sergeant Sands, for remembering this outstanding Marine who served his country so well.—Editor*

Ghost Platoon

In the May issue of *Leatherneck*, the story “‘Ghost Platoon’: Operation Frequent Wind” was a wake-up about the

end in Vietnam. The story filled in a lot of questions I had about the fall of Vietnam. The fall tore out my insides thinking about the people we lost since the start of the war.

Along with our losses, we had many who didn’t come home the same.

The cost of the war, like others, was really expensive. The only ones who really know about war are the ones who fought it or their families.

Your article also showed how the people of South Vietnam felt betrayed by the U.S. Throwing babies over the fence to get them out is a really tough thing to do. To them, all hope was gone. They now joined the throw-away society like the vets were part of. Out of sight—out of mind.

I’m proud of how the Marines worked at the end. Plus, let’s say a special Semper Fi to Lance Corporal [Darwin D.] Judge and Corporal [Charles] McMahon, the two killed by a rocket. They joined a long line of men and women who died before them in Vietnam.

P.S. Tell Master Gunnery Sergeant Ron Keene to enjoy his retirement. I went to Vietnam on the same 1st Recon trip he was on. I can still picture him with his cigar sitting by the Perfume River early in the morning on the hotel patio.

Ralph Mussehl
USMC, 1/3/7, 1968-69
Lewiston, Mich.

We can all take Marine pride in the performance of the “Ghost Platoon” during Operation Frequent Wind evacuating Saigon. I was especially proud to read of the wise decision to assign command of the platoon to First Lieutenant Bruce Thompson-Bowers, based on his previous combat experience. That said, for literally thousands of reasons, this was the saddest article I have read in *Leatherneck*.

The necessity of the platoon arriving in civvies due to provision of the Paris Peace Accords while divisions of the North Vietnamese Army were streaming southward would be laughable were the situation not so tragic.

Sgt Jeff Davis
H&S/3/3, RVN, 1967-68
Dike, Texas

Sailor or sailor?

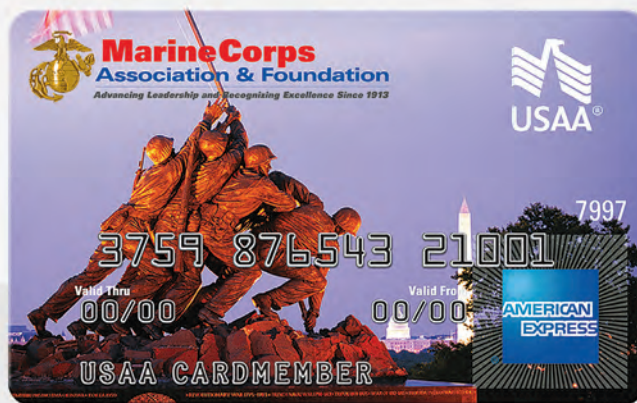
I’ve been a subscribing member for more than a few years.

I always instill in my Sailors to capitalize the “S” in Sailors.

I noticed in your section “In Every



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COURTESY OF CAPT JACK PAXTON, USMC (RET)

Retired Marine Capt Jack Paxton takes a drink from the Devil Dog Fountain in the town of Belleau, France.

Clime and Place" [May issue] particularly in photo captions, you refer to "Marines" or "U.S. Marines" and "sailors." I do not wish to get into a punctuation battle, but I do think it proper to capitalize the "S" in Sailor when used in the context you use when referring to personnel in the world's-greatest Navy.

HMCM (FMF/PJ) Laura Hedien, USN
Grayslake, Ill.

• *Master Chief: you make a good point, and a quick review of the Navy style guide supports your opinion. Starting with this issue, we'll be capitalizing Sailor in Leatherneck!*—Editor

My Experience at Belleau Wood

Eight years ago on a Space-Available flying vacation, we landed at Ramstein, Germany, and set out on planned day missions. We did Bastogne where my uncle won his Distinguished Service Cross during the Battle of the Bulge; visited Patton's grave at Hamm, Luxembourg; then decided on a two-day trip to France and Belleau Wood.

In reading Allan Bevilacqua's "Belleau Wood: 6 Days in June" (June issue), I was taken back to that morning when the American Battle Monuments agent sat my wife and me down in the briefing room adjacent to his office and gave us a map brief of that famous Marine battle. Then he loaded us into his personal car and took us around the American Cemetery and the adjacent wheat field and to the main entrance to the woods, all the while

explaining the bitter battle the Marines fought to gain victory in those dense woods.

That day [of our visit] the wheat field had been harvested, but you could still envision Dan Daly's cry: "Come on, you sons-of-bitches! Do you want to live forever?" While the wood is not so dense today as it was in 1918, there are still reminders of the battle. Original trench lines are still visible although now pretty much filled in.

The agent unlocked the garden so I could take a sip from the Devil Dog Fountain in the small village adjacent to the woods. The highlight came when we returned to his office, and he presented me with a certificate of authenticity of our visit and a small cutting of wood with BW burned into it.

Note: It is said a drink from the Devil Dog (*Teufelshund*) Fountain guarantees 10 years additional life. Now at 86, you can believe it. The original Iron Mike greets visitors to Belleau Wood.

Capt Jack T. Paxton, USMC (Ret)
Executive Director
USMCCCA and USMCCCA Foundation
Wildwood, Fla.

Spacecraft Recovery

Regarding the excellent article "Spacecraft Recovery: Marine Aviation Played a Critical Role at the Dawn of the Space Age" in the May issue, apparently other Marines also "got the call."

As a young amtrac platoon leader on Okinawa, circa 1972, my gunnery ser-

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geant shared this sea story with the platoon (i.e., "this is no sh-t, men").

When the Mercury/Redstone system was designed, the emergency rocket escape system was untested, reliability unknown. In the event of an aborted takeoff, the rocket, mounted above the capsule, would fire, landing astronaut and capsule nearby, possibly in large exhaust cooling pools.

In those pools were three amphibian tractors; the crews trained with the same aluminum poles mentioned in the article, to hook the lifting loop on top of the spacecraft while underway, jousting style.

The detachment from Camp Lejeune, N.C., and the gunny and three amtracs (painted white) stayed at Cape Canaveral, Fla., for the first few Mercury flights but were never required to perform their mission for real.

The gunny said so!

1stLt Anthony J. Caminiti
USMC, 1972-76
New Hyde Park, N.Y.

Every Father's Day

Since retiring from the Marine Corps I've had a phone call every Father's Day from a Private Barber wishing me a happy Father's Day. He's always left a message but with no phone number, thus, I've not been able to thank him for the call. I hope

he reads *Leatherneck* and will see my letter. We were probably in the Second Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C., from 1964 to 1966.

I've appreciated the calls and appreciate being remembered all these years.

Maj Gunnar A. Johnson, USMC (Ret)
Jacksonville, Ore.

Eagle, Globe and Anchor On Shirt Collar

A community in Florida known as The Villages has several recreation centers,



Eagle, globe and anchor on shirt collar.

COURTESY OF LEONARD ARMSTRONG

all with different themes. The newest center is the Eisenhower Center, and it has a military theme. Below is a photo of a mannequin dressed in a USMC uniform which sports the eagle, globe and anchor on the shirt collar, but is normally worn on the blouse. Is this something done prior to the 1960s when I served?

Sgt Leonard Armstrong
USMC, 1967-70
Westminster, Md.

Memorial Concert in Washington, D.C.

I want to call your attention to the fact that during the 1½-hour [Memorial Day] concert in Washington, D.C., saluting all military, living and dead, there was absolutely no mention of the men and women who fought and died in Korea. I guess it is still the forgotten war.

Sgt Earl Maddalena
USMC, 1953-57
Daphne, Ala.

• *Sad to say, it does seem that the Korean War and the veterans who so proudly served their nation in the early 1950s often are overlooked. Your letter serves as a reminder to all of us to remember those who helped defend the Korean peninsula from the further spread of Communist aggression.—Editor*

Why \$25 for “Letter of the Month”?

I have probably been subscribing to *Leatherneck* magazine since it was first published. Every single issue leaves me wondering why you pay \$25 to the person you select as “Letter of the Month.” It seems to me that being selected as the “Letter of the Month” should be pay enough.

Richard D. Blomgren
Lake Isabella, Calif.

• *We pay \$25 to encourage our readers to take the time to write to “Sound Off.” We receive fewer and fewer letters each year and want to do what we can to promote this very popular feature of *Leatherneck*.—Editor*

Marine Send-Off

When my dad, Marine Sergeant William G. Hebert, passed away from a stroke at the age of 96 in April of this year, the Corps lost another of its now fast-dwindling supply of Iwo Jima veterans. As part of a weekend boondoggle a few years back, Dad and I visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. As we entered the Iwo Jima invasion room, a friendly and informative volunteer began to take him through the landing step by step. When he informed her, ever

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so politely, that he had “been there and done that,” she was completely taken aback. His youthful appearance made his story unlikely. He quickly charmed and convinced her.

As I grew up, “The Marines’ Hymn” was ever on Dad’s lips, and with the “Halls of Montezuma” and the “Shores of Tripoli” ringing in my ears all those years, I had little choice but to go into the Corps. I served as a lieutenant from 1968 to 1971, spending a year in Vietnam. Dad’s disciplined nature, military bearing and “devil dog” enthusiasm also motivated his grandson, Corporal Scott Prisby, to enlist.

On the evening of Dad’s stroke, his speech was severely affected and he could barely communicate with us. What he could do, his mind as sharp as ever, was answer my questions. Knowing the answers, we could, of course, understand and he could finally communicate. It gave

him confidence and helped allay his fears. He answered: “1941,” “sergeant” and “Iwo Jima,” and, finally, that night, just before he went silent from the morphine, we sang “The Marines’ Hymn” together one last time as he squeezed my hand.

Knowing that this Marine needed a proper send-off, I contacted the local Marine Corps League (Westfield River Valley Det. #141, Westfield Mass.), an organization I knew little about in terms of its many missions. I knew they were there because every time I went to visit Dad, I passed their post on North Elm Street, and a striking, life-size Marine statue was staring down at me from the second-story window.

The detachment chaplain, on hearing of Dad and family’s commitment to the Corps, responded enthusiastically, quickly taking over and making the arrangements

[continued on page 66]

In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

NORTHERN TERRITORY AUSTRALIA **MRF-D Conducts Simulated Casualty Evacuation**

Marines and Sailors with Company B, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, Marine Rotational Force Darwin simulated casualty evacuations in a training area outside of Robertson Barracks, an Australian Army base located in the Northern Territory of Australia, May 20.

“We were on a basic patrol,” said Sergeant Joseph R. Slizewski, a squad leader with Co B, 1/1, MRF-D. “A couple hundred meters in, one of our guys in the rear stepped on an [improvised explosive device].”

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Patrick L. Perez, USN acted as a simulated casualty during the exercise.

“I had an amputated left leg, a sucking chest wound on the left side of my chest

and a possible traumatic brain injury from the blast,” said Perez.

The Marines made sure that their first priority during the evacuation was to maintain fire superiority at all times.

“We don’t want to take any more casualties,” said Perez. “Of course, second is to do everything you can to save that life.”

First responders applied lifesaving aid and then moved the “casualty” away from the blast site to a safer spot all while spinning up a nine-line medical evacuation request. Meter by meter, Marines moved the casualty toward the landing zone and set up security around the casualty for protection.

“We’ve got to take care of our boys,” said Slizewski.

The company requested medical evacuation support from the UH-1Y Huey/Venom helicopters of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 367.

“I try to figure out where the [landing

zone] is in relation to the aircraft and what is the quickest and safest entry,” said First Lieutenant Mark A. Betzel, a pilot with HMLA-367. “Flying is always challenging, whether it’s [casualty evacuation] or any other mission set.”

As a utility helicopter, the UH-1Y conducts a wide range of missions. The aircraft can provide offensive air support, intelligence and surveillance, command and control, tactical insertion of troops, and, in this case, fly far and fast—making the difference between life and death.

“They were really fast getting down and getting out,” said Slizewski about the UH-1Ys. He said he had never worked with that specific aircraft before, but was impressed with how “spot on” the pilots were.

In real-life scenarios, pilots will fly the casualty to receive medical services nearby. Crew chiefs on board are not trained as corpsmen, so getting the patients to a



During a casualty evacuation exercise, Marines with MRF-D are surrounded by light debris stirred up by a UH-1Y Huey/Venom helicopter at a landing zone outside of Robertson Barracks, Northern Territory, Australia, May 20.

higher echelon of medical care is critical for their survival, according to Betzel.

“Going on a Huey is one hell of a ride,” said Perez. “They took good care of me and I’ll always take care of them. We’re all looking out for each other, and I trust them with my life.”

Performing the training in an unfamiliar environment provided a new learning experience for the Marines and Sailors who are deployed with MRF-D to Darwin, Australia, for six months.

“The Marines realize the importance of this training, and they really put their heart and soul into this,” said Slizewski.

Cpl Mandaline Hatch, USMC

EL QUWEIRA, JORDAN **Eager Lion 16 Concludes With** **Final MOUT Exercise**

Leathernecks with 1st Battalion, Second Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division and the Jordanian 77th Marines Battalion concluded their training period together with a final exercise as part of Eager Lion 16 in El Quweira, Jordan, May 24.

Organized by United States Central Command, Eager Lion is an annual military exercise between the Kingdom of Jordan and the United States that is designed to prepare both forces to fight alongside one another.

Throughout the training evolution, which began May 15, both U.S. and Jordanian Marines honed their skills in squad attacks, patrolling, military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) and the operation of various weapon systems. Their final exercise required the two forces to work together to clear two separate towns occupied by a simulated opposing force.

“I’m thankful and grateful for this opportunity that we got with the Marines to practice, gain experience and assess where we are in terms of readiness,” said Lieutenant Colonel Hisham, the commanding officer of the Jordanian 77th Marines Bn.

Observing the exercise was an entourage of officers with the Jordanian Armed Forces, including Brigadier General Ibrahim, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Naval Forces.

“The objective of this exercise was to work together and learn from each other,” said BGen Ibrahim of Jordan. “I think this has been achieved today. This is all about being professionals that defend our respective countries.”

Making use of flares, smoke grenades, squad maneuver and support-by-fire positions, the two forces worked side by side to gain ground on their objectives and clear buildings one by one. The exercise concluded with a casualty evacuation from each battalion.



CPL PAUL S. MARTINEZ, USMC

Above: Leathernecks with 1/2, 2dMarDiv, advance downrange during the final exercise of Eager Lion 16 in El Quweira, Jordan, May 24. Eager Lion is a recurring exercise between partner nations designed to increase interoperability and enhance regional security and stability.



CPL PAUL S. MARTINEZ, USMC

Marines with 1/2 prepare to launch an attack during Eager Lion 16’s final exercise in El Quweira, Jordan, May 24. U.S. and Jordanian Marines worked together to clear two separate towns occupied by a simulated enemy force.

Following completion, leaders from both nations congratulated their battalions for their progress and exchanged gifts in appreciation of their strengthened partnership as allied military forces.

“Our actions here are a small part in the long-term relationship between our two countries,” said LtCol Eric Reid, USMC, the commanding officer of 1/2. He added that the 77th Marines Bn “has the potential to be whatever it needs to be for the Kingdom of Jordan.”

Cpl Paul S. Martinez, USMC

BUJANOVAC, SERBIA **Pushing Through the Pain** **During Platinum Wolf**

With oleoresin capsicum (OC) streaming through the air, a Marine stood a short distance away, squinting his eyes and preparing for the pain that was about to engulf his senses.

Once it hit his eyes, he heard screams telling him to open them up and let the chemical sink in. Despite the searing, burning sensation that clouded his vision, he pushed forward, channeling his

aggression and training to push through the pain and complete the mission.

The Marines of Company D, 4th Law Enforcement Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, Marine Forces Reserve completed their OC and Taser courses during Exercise Platinum Wolf 2016 at Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base, Bujanovac, Serbia, May 10-13. Working alongside the Marines to complete the courses during the exercise were servicemembers from the partner nations of Bosnia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia.

One course was set up for the OC training, and a separate Taser course was designed to provide instruction on using a Taser and putting shots on target. Volunteers were shot with the Taser to allow the rest of the group to see the effects.

“We are teaching non-lethal weapons, techniques and tactics,” said Captain Zzoram Stanoski, a company commander and non-lethal weapons instructor with the Macedonian Military Police Battalion. “We taught [use of] the equipment, the influence of the Taser and influence of OC.”

Although willingly being sprayed with OC and shot with a Taser is a daunting and painful task, both the U.S. Marines and servicemembers from the other participating nations made sure to complete the important job despite discomfort and impaired vision.

“It is important, especially in this sort of field, to be exposed to that, so that they

know if they do have to employ their OC spray at some point, there’s a good chance they will be affected as well,” said Sergeant Martin Belden, a squad leader and non-lethal weapons instructor with 4th LE Bn, FHG, MARFORRES. “If the wind is blowing back in their face or if their partner sprays a subject and they get secondary spray from that, they need to fight through that exposure.”

Belden was part of a group of non-lethal weapons instructors from each of the participating nations. They focused not only on OC and Taser training, but also provided training on crowd control, combat lifesaver courses, virtual battlefield simulators, recognizing improvised explosive devices and more. This training was part of the larger goal of Exercise Platinum Wolf—to ensure that the U.S. and the six participating Balkan nations are fluent in peacekeeping operations and can build lasting partnerships to enhance their interoperability.

Sgt Sara Graham, USMC

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF. MAGTF-2 Concludes ITX, Prepares for Deployment

Marine Air-Ground Task Force 2 conducted a final exercise at Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 17-19, as part of Integrated Training Exercise 3-16.

According to Colonel Daniel Q. Greenwood, Commanding Officer, Second Marine Regiment, various units from Second

Marine Division came together to form MAGTF-2 and were evaluated on their ability to conduct offensive, defensive and counterattack operations during the FINEX.

“ITX is probably the most realistic combined-arms training we can do in the Marine Corps,” Greenwood said. “It’s a great test of where we are as a regiment and will serve as a foundation for us to begin our mission-specific training for our deployment this fall, when we serve as the command element for [Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Crisis Response-Africa].”

Designed as a culminating predeployment event, ITX tests a MAGTF within a standardized scenario, which is then assessed against established training and readiness standards by Tactical Training Exercise Control Group’s (TTECG’s) evaluators, also known as Coyotes.

“It challenges everyone from the individual Marine all the way up to the regimental MAGTF command element,” Greenwood said. “It requires us to integrate every weapon system alongside our maneuver in a realistic scenario TTECG paints for us.”

The goal of ITX is to ensure units are capable of operating as an integrated MAGTF. For Marines, this means learning to work in conjunction with the other components of the MAGTF.

“We are integrating all the elements of a MAGTF, so we have squadrons from the [aviation combat element], the [logistics combat element] and two infantry battalions,” Greenwood said. “Additionally, we have support from other detachments such as light armored reconnaissance, tanks and artillery in order to give the Marines the most realistic training possible.”

According to Captain Eric B. Willis, a company commander with 2d Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment, this iteration of ITX was the first time many of his Marines were exposed to training that encompasses an entire MAGTF.

“We inserted [via aircraft] to our location under the cover of artillery and close air support assets,” Willis said. “From there, our role was to establish a blocking position to protect the battalion’s flank and to drive the enemies into our engagement area.”

The training during the FINEX was important exposure to different operations they may conduct while deployed.

“Giving the Marines a chance to experience and see what a MAGTF can do is definitely beneficial,” Willis said. “The command relationship built with [2d Marines] throughout the FINEX will mirror our relationship during the upcoming deployment.”



LCPL DEVAN ALONZO BARNETT, USMC

Cpl Joseph A. Myers, a military policeman with 4th LE Bn, FHG, MARFORRES, participates in the oleoresin capsicum qualification course during Exercise Platinum Wolf 16 at Peacekeeping Operations Training Center South Base, Serbia, May 11. The exercise is designed to seamlessly integrate reserve Marines with the active component while demonstrating interoperability with partner nations in the Baltic region.



LCPL LEVI SCHULTZ, USMC

Marines with 3/10, 2dMarDiv fire a 155 mm M77A2 howitzer in the Black Top Training Area at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., May 18. Various units from 2dMarDiv participated in ITX 3-16 in preparation for their deployment with SPMAGTF-CR-AF.

The training also is an important opportunity for the other elements of a MAGTF. Corporal Mitchell W. Bland, field artillery cannoneer, 3d Bn, 10th Marines, explained that working alongside air and ground elements added another dimension to their training.

“Our mission is to provide direct support for the infantry and coordinate our fire with air support,” Bland said. “Air support can’t provide constant suppression. We mark their target with illumination rounds and provide suppression for ground elements when they are unable.”

Throughout the FINEX, communication played an integral role as the various elements moved in unison to accomplish their objectives.

“One of the biggest concerns when you get a large group of people is ensuring all entities understand the absolute plan,” said Gunnery Sergeant Nicholas L. Brown, watch officer, 2/8. Being able to come together to accomplish the mission is what makes warfighters great. The Marines out here are doing great things for the Marine Corps and their units by setting an example throughout the ITX.”

LCpl Levi Schultz, USMC

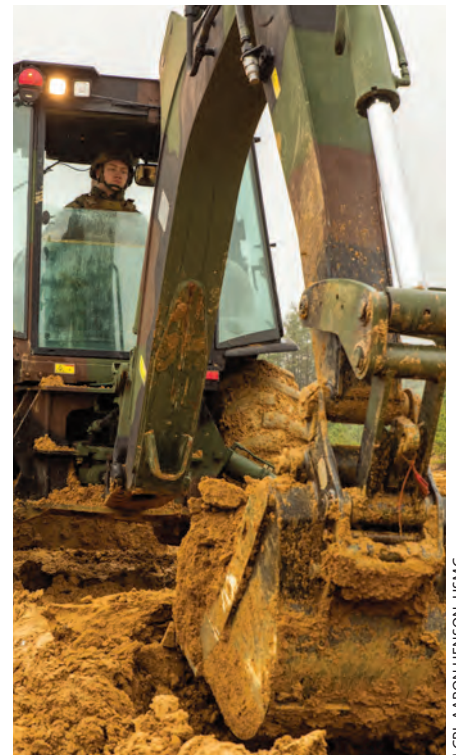
HIROSHIMA, JAPAN **Exercise Allows MWSS Marines To Combine Skills, Training**

Leathernecks with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 concluded the weeklong Exercise Thunder Horse 16.2 at the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force’s Haramura Maneuver Area in Hiroshima, Japan, May 14.

Thunder Horse focused on reinforcing skills that the MWSS-171 Marines learned throughout their military occupational specialty schooling and during Marine Combat Training in order to maintain situational readiness.

Field radio operators, combat engineers, water purification specialists, heavy equipment operators, bulk fuel specialists, motor transportation operators and aircraft rescue and firefighters worked together to accomplish the mission.

“This was a great opportunity for the squadron to come together,” said Sergeant Javaze McDonald, aircraft rescue and firefighting specialist and crew leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. “This shows why every military occupational specialty is important to get the job done. I had to branch out and learn



LCPL AARON HENSON, USMC

LCpl Austin Bradford, a heavy equipment operator with Heavy Equipment Plt, Engineer Co, MWSS-171, digs a fighting hole for defensive positions during Exercise Thunder Horse 16.2 at the JGSDF’s Haramura Maneuver Area in Hiroshima, Japan, May 12.

TANDUO BEACH, MALAYSIA



LCPL CARL KING JR., USMC

“ON LAND AND SEA”—Marines assigned to Company E, Battalion Landing Team, 2d Bn, Second Marine Regiment post security after an amphibious transition from ship to shore on Tanduo Beach, Malaysia, May 30. Embarked aboard USS Ashland (LSD-48) in support of Exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT), they took part in a series of annual, bilateral maritime exercises between the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and the armed forces of nine partner nations—to include Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

how to talk to the motor transportation and heavy equipment operators as well as properly communicate on the radio. This exercise allows us to experience, understand and put all the pieces together in order to operate smoothly.”

Heavy equipment operators and combat engineers dug fighting holes for defensive positions, provided mechanical and road clearance with a bulldozer, conducted vehicle recovery, participated in security patrols and established a forward operating base.

“The combat engineer platoon conducted various engineering missions including engineer reconnaissance, route sweeps, survivability missions and placing overhead cover for machine-gun positions,” said Staff Sergeant Alfred Negron, platoon sergeant with Combat Engineer Platoon, Engineer Company, MWSS-171. “The heavy equipment operators practiced earth-moving operations utilizing the medium crawler tractor bulldozer; 120M motor grater; tractor, rubber-tired, articulated steering, multipurpose vehicle; and a 7.5-ton air mobile crane.”

Motor transportation operators, bulk fuels specialists and field radio operators trained in various areas including direct refueling, recovery and general engineering operations, established a tactical motor pool and participated in a hike.

“We accomplished a lot of our annual training such as how to conduct a convoy, night patrols and conducted classes on how to camouflage our equipment as well as machine-gun courses,” said SSgt Dalton Revier, a motor transportation second section head with MWSS-171.

Aircraft rescue and firefighting Marines from H&HS went along for the field operation to conduct aircraft salvage and recovery drills and employ basic training techniques learned throughout Marine Combat Training.

“We went over patrols, provided security and made terrain models that were ultimately used in the aircraft salvage and recovery,” said McDonald. “We went over the little details that make everything work seamlessly.”

Revier said that based off of the first day of the exercise, he saw improvement

in the Marines within a few days.

“The first few days, each unit has their own specific training for themselves,” said Revier. “The squadron as a whole saw huge improvement and will benefit greatly. The Marines’ newfound knowledge will be useful just in case we are deployed, whether it’s humanitarian or combat related. They now have the confidence to go and do what needs to be done.”

Revier said he believes the exercise went very well, because within a week, the Marines built morale and accomplished a great deal. In addition, the noncommissioned officers had an opportunity to share their knowledge and mentor the junior Marines.

By conducting training like this in realistic environments and circumstances, the Marines maintain high levels of readiness for whatever mission with which they may be tasked.

LCpl Aaron Henson, USMC



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Quantico, Va.

Legendary Quantico Barber Retires After 55 Years

William Jordan was honored in an official retirement ceremony at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., March 25. The dedicated military barber retired after 55 years at the Mainside Central Barbershop. Jordan was recognized for his patriotism and commitment, having cut the hair of Marines ranging from privates to Commandants of the Marine Corps.

"I feel like I am a Marine," Jordan told the more than 200 members of the community who attended the ceremony. "From boot camp up to retirement, I have worn your rank. Because, when you get promoted, I get promoted. [The Marine Corps] is a family I wish everyone could have."

Ida Irby, *Quantico Sentry*



RON LUNN



COURTESY OF RAY WHITNEY



ANITA PEEK PHOTOGRAPHY

Texarkana, Texas

Decades Later, Marine Bugler Pays Tribute

When Marine veteran Ray Whitney attended Field Music School at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., in 1963, he had no idea that 53 years later he would again wear his uniform with bugle in hand.

Whitney, a member of the Marine Corps League of Texarkana, Texas, purchased a new set of dress blues from *The MARINE Shop* after learning that there was a shortage of buglers to play "Taps" at military funerals. His Marine Corps League chapter provides honor guards for any deceased veteran in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana who has worn any uniform in service of our nation, and Whitney has been receiving requests to play his bugle at local cemeteries.

"My motive is to do what I can while I still can," said Whitney, who served in the Corps from 1962 to 1966 and left active duty as a corporal.

Submitted by the Rev. Mike Siconolfi

Lynchburg, Va.



COURTESY OF STEVE BOZEMAN

Marines From All Eras Congregate at Weekly Rally

A diverse group of veteran Marines congregated in front of a World War I Marine doughboy statue during a weekly “Support Our Troops” rally, held for the 740th consecutive Friday at Monument Terrace in Lynchburg, Va., Feb. 12. The Marines in attendance were part of a larger group of veterans and other supporters who gather together each week to show support for those military personnel who are still in harm’s way. Many are members of the Lynchburg Area Marine Corps League Detachment 759.

Submitted by Steve Bozeman

Benton, Ark.

Fellow POW Marines Reunite 65 Years Later

Marine veteran Ted Wheeler, left, and Master Gunnery Sergeant Len Maffioli, USMC (Ret), right, both in their early 90s, reunited in Hot Springs, Ark., in October 2015 after 65 years apart.

The remarkable story of their friendship began during World War II when they served together in 4th Motor Transport Battalion, Fourth Marine Division. They saw action on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima and then went their separate ways after the war. Both continued to serve the Corps as reservists and were called to active duty during the Korean War. Maffioli and Wheeler reunited on a ship headed across the Pacific from San Diego. They both landed at Inchon, South Korea, on Sept. 15, 1950, and subsequently went to different units.

Six weeks later, during the Chosin Reservoir campaign, the Chinese captured several hundred American troops: among them were Maffioli and Wheeler. They spent six months as prisoners of war, somehow managing to stay together when their fellow prisoners were divided up and taken to various locations and camps. During one of the moves, they, along with 16 other Marines and a U.S. soldier, were able to successfully escape from their captors.

In 2014, a great-grandchild of Wheeler’s read a book Maffioli wrote about his experiences, which mentioned Wheeler and included his photograph. After learning about the book, Wheeler was able to track Maffioli down by phone. The two veterans finally reunited in person in Wheeler’s home state of Arkansas last fall.



COURTESY OF MGYSGT LEN MAFFIOLI, USMC (RET)

Submitted by MGySgt Len Maffioli, USMC (Ret)

“Corps Connections” highlights the places and events through which active-duty and veteran Marines connect with one another, honor the traditions of the Corps and recognize the achievements of their fellow leathernecks.

We welcome submissions of photos from events like the ones featured here. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck Magazine*, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to s.bock@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos.



Mayhem From the Heartland

The Warriors of 2d Battalion, 24th Marines

By Kyle Watts

Throughout its 100-year history, the Marine Corps Reserve has proven its capabilities with innumerable examples of Marines leaving their civilian lives to augment the active component. The example set by the Chicago Marines of 2d Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, the “Mad Ghosts,” is second to none. Every Marine is a rifleman, and this infantry battalion has upheld that credo since its origins prior to World War II through present day.

Rooted in the 9th Reserve Bn formed in Chicago, 2/24 was activated in March 1943 as part of the Fourth Marine Division. The new battalion transferred to Camp Pendleton, Calif., and began immediate preparation to take part in the war already waging in the South Pacific.

The Marines of 2/24 faced their first test in battle during the campaign to capture Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. With nothing but the voyage at sea to acclimate themselves to life on the front lines, and no combat experience whatsoever, the 24th Regiment sailed directly from the United States into the fight on the twin islands of Roi and Namur. Second Bn hit the beach on Namur at midday on Feb. 1, 1944. Occupying less than 1 square mile, Namur proved itself a formidable objective. The Japanese

forces fought ferociously from an elaborate system of trenches and pillboxes within the island’s dense vegetation.

Shortly after landing, as the Marines fought yard by yard inland, a massive explosion rocked the entire island and blackened the sky. Marines clearing Japanese fortifications had tossed a satchel charge into a bunker. Unknown to them, the bunker was filled with Japanese torpedo warheads and other large explosives. “An ink-black darkness spread over a large part of Namur such that the hand could not be seen in front of the face,” said one Marine who witnessed the explosion. “Debris continued to fall for a considerable length of time which seemed unending to those in the area who were all unprotected from the huge chunks of concrete and steel thudding on the ground about them. Before the explosion, the large blockhouse was conspicuously silhouetted against the skyline. After the explosion, nothing remained but a huge water-filled crater.”

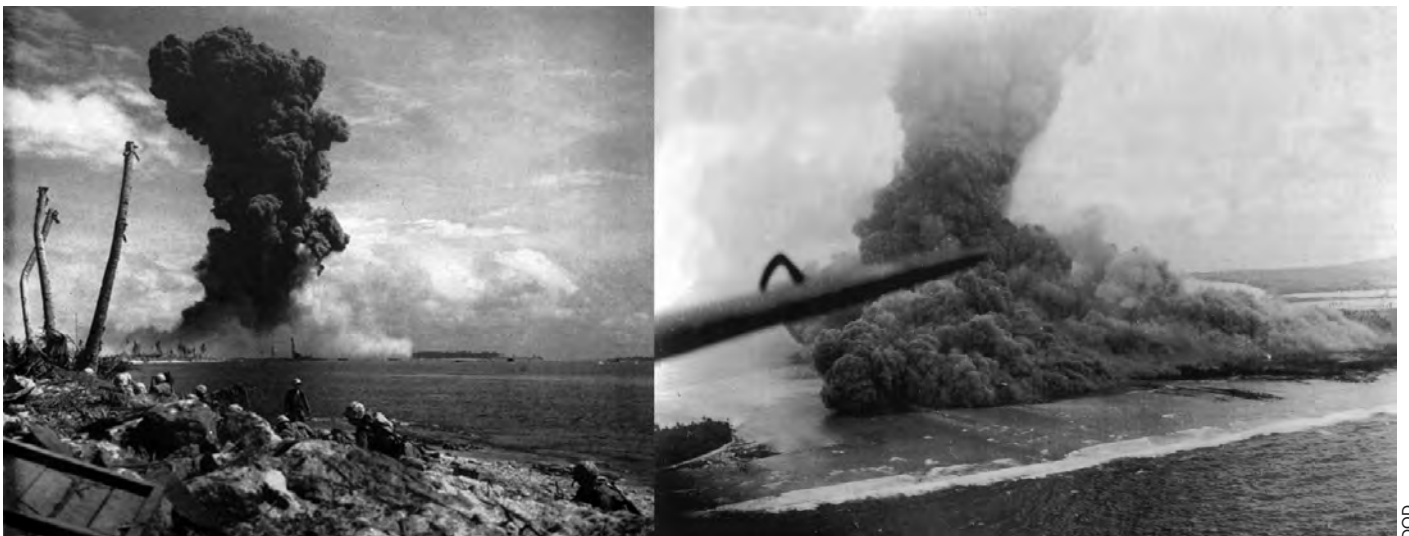
Marines all over the island were killed or injured, either by the explosion itself or from falling debris. With their assault temporarily stalled, small-unit leaders regrouped the landing force and continued pressing the attack. This one incident killed or wounded over half of the battalion’s total battle casualties in a matter of seconds.

Just 24 hours after landing on the beach,

Roi and Namur islands were secure, and almost 3,500 Japanese soldiers were killed. Marines of 2d Bn withstood a true trial by fire and earned the right to call themselves combat veterans. The 24th Regiment then departed the Marshall Islands for Hawaii where leathernecks spent the next three months regrouping and preparing for their next combat operation—securing the Marianas.

The first phase of operation took place on Saipan. Second Bn arrived off the shore of the island along with thousands of other Marines and soldiers taking part in the battle which began on June 15, 1944. The 24th Regiment initially formed the Division reserve, but soon was ordered to motor toward the beach, following the hotly contested landings of the initial assault waves.

Although now combat veterans of the Pacific theater, 2/24 encountered many new aspects of battle on Saipan. The Japanese use of artillery was unlike anything the Marines saw on Namur. In the initial days of the battle, heavy casualties were inflicted by guns zeroed in on the beaches and avenues leading inland. Marines on the ground quickly learned the terror and frustration of an unseen enemy that could blow them to pieces, but at whom they could not return fire. The battle for Saipan was also much longer than Namur, testing their endurance and ability to fight



The view from neighboring Roi Island and an aerial view of the explosion that rocked Namur shortly after 2/24 landed in 1944. More than half the battalion’s total casualties in the battle resulted from this incident.

through mental and physical fatigue. The terrain posed a menacing challenge, creating a fight more like guerrilla warfare where individual action was the key to success. Ridges, gullies and caves covered the island. All were fortified and defended by the enemy. Sugar cane fields covered much of the more open ground, creating perfect concealment for snipers.

Second Bn pushed inland from the beach, eventually reaching Magicienne Bay on the east side of the island. Having cut Saipan in two, the Marines moved cave by cave around the bay, beginning the push north to secure the remainder of the island. For 25 days, the Marines fought to maintain a line of attack with their adjacent units, grinding northward and dislodging the Japanese. Throughout the battle, they encountered another feature of war they had not previously experienced—civilians. Tragic scenes greeted the Marines across the island. Their first experiences involved watching civilians kill themselves or be killed by the Japanese army. On July 9, 2/24 reached the island's northernmost point, and the island was declared secure that same day.

Despite the victory, the battalion was afforded little rest. Even as they were still conquering Saipan, the 24th Regiment was selected to spearhead phase two of the operation in the Marianas. And 2/24 would be the tip of that spear.

The island of Tinian lay just 3 miles off the southern coast of Saipan. Both sides knew it would be the next objective. The plan to secure it called for unconventional tactics. The largest beaches capable of accommodating a traditional large landing force were well-defended by the enemy. The only other option lay in two smaller beaches on the north side of the island. To some, these were not even an option. At 60 yards and 160 yards wide respectively, White Beach 1 and White Beach 2 were so narrow that landing planners would not have considered them under normal circumstances. The final decision to land the main assault force there was debated at the highest levels. To increase the likelihood of success, a feint landing was planned at the larger beaches. The success of the assault depended on the success of the feint.

Preparations for battle began. Second Bn's Company E was selected to hit the beach in the first wave of the attack and pave the way for the remainder of the battalion. The landing factored in much risk. Hardly over the fatigue from its previous fight, the battalion was not at full

strength due to the casualties sustained on Saipan. It also would be landing without any armor or artillery support. Because of the narrowness of the beach, the participating units would have to land in columns, one after another. This meant that any delays would wreak havoc on the following assault waves. Light and fast,



COURTESY OF KYLIE WATTS

A veteran of every major battle with 2/24 during WW II, Capt Joseph J. McCarthy was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on Iwo Jima. He rose to the grade of lieutenant colonel before being discharged, and returned to the Chicago Fire Department after the war.

each unit hitting the beach would need to quickly punch inland, making room for the entire assault force following behind.

On the morning of July 24, 1944, the battalion loaded into its landing vehicles and crossed the line of departure. This

would be its third amphibious landing in six months. The Japanese defenders believed the ruse and prepared for a landing on the larger beaches to the south. This meant that the bulk of the enemy forces were on the opposite end of the island from where the main assault force now attacked.

As Co E landed, it encountered steady, intense small-arms fire. This was quickly overcome, and the entire battalion was ashore in less than one hour. Moving inland, sporadic resistance continued, but overall, the day was a “cake walk” as described by the battalion's commanding officer. The Marines lucked out, and the feint had been more successful than any of them could have dreamed.

The night of the landing proved otherwise. The Japanese were intent on repelling the Marine invaders who essentially had walked through their back door. They began probing 2d Bn's defenses before midnight. Next, they launched a full-scale counterattack, throwing everything they had at the Marines. This one night became the real battle for the island. Marines cut down hundreds of banzai-charging Japanese soldiers. By morning, the bulk of the enemy force lay dead or had scattered south.

Following the failed counterattack, the Marine force pushed south to capture the remainder of the island. Second Bn, 24th Marines helped capture Tinian Town, the main city of the island. What had once been a heavily fortified and defended bastion of the Japanese now was practically a ghost town. Following the town's capture, the battalion continued moving along the western coast of the island, fighting the dense vegetation, heat, humidity and monsoon-like rain as much as it fought the remaining Japanese defenders. It reached the southern coast of the island on Aug. 1. Tinian was declared secure just nine days after the landing.

With the Marianas now in American hands, 2/24 sailed for Hawaii once more. For their service on Saipan and Tinian, the 24th Regiment and the 4thMarDiv would be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. The unit was afforded six months of rest to regain its strength as a fighting force. This respite also was spent preparing for what would be the battalion's most challenging test yet, and the Americans' next step in the island-hopping campaign toward Tokyo—the capture of Iwo Jima.

Following the initial assault waves, 2/24 arrived on the beach of Iwo Jima in the

afternoon on D-day, Feb. 19, 1945. The battalion found itself in the midst of a battle on an island unlike anything it had encountered before. Casualties began mounting immediately as the battalion began its push inland. Beyond the beach waited a barren wasteland teeming with enemy pillboxes, bunkers and underground command centers, all connected by underground tunnels and covering each other with interlocking fields of fire. Through this killing field, the Marines assaulted toward Motoyama Airfield No. 2.

On the third day of the battle, the attack stalled in the face of withering fire. Marines attempted to find cover in the shallow bomb craters dotting the landscape. Finding himself and his rifle company pinned down, Captain Joseph J. McCarthy organized a plan of attack.

McCarthy, a member of the Chicago Fire Department and former Marine first sergeant, was not unaccustomed to stress in battle. He had fought as a company commander with 2/24 through Roi-Namur, Saipan and Tinian. "He was not a one-shot hero," stated a Marine who served with McCarthy. "He was a hero at every campaign and everything he did."

On Saipan, he earned a Purple Heart and later a Silver Star for leaving his covered position under intense fire to recover a wounded corpsman and carry him to safety. Upon returning to his position, McCarthy found the corpsman had been shot and killed in his arms.

Now on Iwo Jima approaching the airfield, McCarthy moved from cover to cover, organizing a combined arms team to destroy the pillboxes that were halting his advance. From their concealed and fortified fighting positions, the Japanese defenders observed McCarthy's movements and zeroed in on him with their machine guns. Having been constructed of steel-reinforced concrete, many of the enemy pillboxes withstood the intense aerial bombardment prior to D-day. Marines found the only way to affectively neutralize one was through direct assault.

McCarthy led his team across 75 yards of open ground through rifle, machine-gun and antitank gunfire to charge the first pillbox. Reaching the fire port, McCarthy pulled the pins on his grenades and tossed them through the opening. While directing the follow-up attack of his riflemen and flamethrower team, he spotted two enemy soldiers escaping out the back of the pillbox. With rounds cracking overhead, McCarthy moved from cover into the open and shot them both.

Approaching the next pillbox, McCarthy



Marines from Golf Co on Iwo Jima. The leathernecks of 2/24 arrived on the island in the afternoon on D-day, Feb. 19, 1945.

again directed the demolitions, rifle and flamethrower attack. The ruined fortification now silenced, he found an entrance and went inside. He stumbled upon a Japanese soldier taking aim at one of his Marines. Without hesitation, McCarthy tackled and disarmed the enemy soldier and shot him with his own weapon.

McCarthy was awarded the Medal of Honor. "I was scared all the time," he would later say of his experiences in battle. "Any man who tells you he wasn't scared was an imbecile. But you dealt with it." McCarthy later was wounded in the battle, earning his second Purple Heart.

Following the capture of Airfield No. 2, the battalion entered one of the hottest zones of combat on the island. Hill 382 (or "The Meat Grinder" as the Marines called the area) was one of the largest hills on Iwo Jima and one of the most heavily defended. Its crags and caves bristled with Japanese fighting positions. All were connected by a complex web of passageways that the defenders used to move unseen from one position to another. The Marines took Hill 382 after five days of fighting; it was a combined effort of several battalions from different regiments.

Leathernecks of 2/24 remained on Iwo Jima, helping mop up any remaining pockets of Japanese, until the island was declared secure. For its actions and contribution to victory, the battalion received its second Presidential Unit Citation.

Following its return to Chicago and deactivation in October 1945, the battalion as a whole would not be mobilized for war again until November 1990 in support of Operation Desert Storm. The battalion arrived in Kuwait in January 1991. The unit was selected to perform security over I Marine Expeditionary Force rear installations. These included airfields,



The destruction of the two pillboxes created a gap in the Japanese line that McCarthy could now exploit. He reassembled his company and resumed the attack, destroying the enemy and capturing a ridge beyond the fortifications. For his "brilliant professional skill, daring tactics, and tenacious perseverance," Capt

ammunition depots and headquarters facilities located in northern Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. During its five-month deployment, the battalion also processed and handled thousands of surrendered Iraqi prisoners of war. The Marines returned home to Chicago in May 1991.

The next call to war came in 2004, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). The battalion's Marines trained intensively for three months at Camp Pendleton, preparing themselves to transition from their civilian lives into "a world of violence on a daily basis," as described by Lieutenant Colonel Mark Smith, the "Mad Ghosts" CO, who led them through that deployment.

The battalion arrived at Baghdad International Airport in September 2004. The Marines mounted their vehicles and departed for their area of operation. Their first day in Iraq, on their first trip outside the wire, the Marines were greeted by an Iraqi corpse hanging from a tree. They immediately knew that where they were going would not be a simple place to secure.

The battalion set up headquarters at Forward Operating Base (FOB) St. Michael in the town of Mahmudiyah, becoming the first Reserve infantry battalion of OIF to operate independently on its own FOB. The mission was to patrol and secure the area in and around the towns of Mahmudiyah, Yusufiyah and Latifiyah. This known enemy stronghold and untamed region of Iraq would gain a reputation for extreme and constant violence. It is known by the media and history as the "Triangle of Death."

Small units from the battalion dispersed into the area, conducting random patrols, night raids, vehicle checkpoints, and capturing or killing insurgents. They were in daily combat in the form of car bombs, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and coordinated small-arms attacks, sustaining casualties along the way. Huge weapons caches were captured and destroyed. Marines took part in civil affairs projects such as water treatment, medical treatment, animal vaccinations and providing school supplies. After spending time with the Mad Ghosts, war correspondent John F. Burns, in his 2004 *New York Times* article "With 25 Citizen Warriors in an Improvised War," wrote: "One striking thing about life with the 2/24 ... was the absence of grinding complaint. These [M]arines have bolted the hardships of their deployment onto the corps ethos of unremitting toughness, to the point that deprivation is less complained about than celebrated, as proof that the [M]arines can overcome."

The Fallen Heroes of 2d Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment OIF 2004-05 OIF 2007-08

Sgt Matthew S. Adams
Weapons Co
July 25, 2004

PFC Ryan J. Cantafio
Golf Co
Nov. 25, 2004

LCpl Daniel R. Wyatt
Fox Co
Oct. 12, 2004

LCpl Richard D. Warner
Fox Co
Dec. 13, 2004

Cpl Nathaniel T. Hammond
Weapons Co
Nov. 8, 2004

PFC Brent T. Vroman
Fox Co
Dec. 13, 2004

LCpl Branden P. Ramey
Golf Co
Nov. 8, 2004

LCpl Travis M. Wichlacz
Fox Co
Feb. 5, 2005

LCpl Shane K. O'Donnell
Golf Co
Nov. 8, 2004

LCpl Andrew W. Nowacki
Truck Co
Feb. 26, 2005

Cpl Robert P. Warns II
Golf Co
Nov. 8, 2004

SSgt Chad J. Simon
Golf Co
Aug. 4, 2005

Cpl Peter J. Giannopoulos
Weapons Co
Nov. 11, 2004

LCpl Dean D. Opicka
Fox Co
April 14, 2008

Cpl Brian P. Prening
Fox Co
Nov. 12, 2004

Cpl Richard J. Nelson
Fox Co
April 14, 2008

With the Marines, into the fight went members of the Iraqi Security Forces. One of the battalion's primary missions was to train the Iraqis and prepare them to take control of the region. This task proved easier said than done. Frustrations and setbacks plagued the training program. Iraqis joined the army for many different reasons, and many of those were not compelling enough to keep the soldiers committed in life or death situations. Some soldiers were corrupt. Also, for the Iraqi soldiers, just joining the army and working with the Americans brought immediate risk to their lives. It was not uncommon for a soldier to go missing, and for officials to find later that he or his family or both had been murdered by insurgents.

In spite of these difficulties, for six months the Marines worked the Iraqis, making great strides toward turning them into a cohesive fighting unit.

One of the main gauges of the battalion's achievement came in January 2005. The Iraqi democratic elections were scheduled to take place, and security at

the polling sites throughout the country was paramount. No one knew if citizens actually would show up to vote, especially in the Triangle of Death where it had been made clear by the insurgents that any people who showed their faces on election day would be killed. Despite the threats, and a resumed ferocity of insurgent attack the day of the elections, Iraqi civilians came out to vote. Thousands of people walked the streets to the polling sites and waited in the long lines for their turn. "It looked like a Chicago street fair," described Guillermo Rosales, at the time a platoon commander in "Echo" Co. The stunning voter turnout and successful security performed by the Iraqi army served as a kind of culminating victory for the Marines of 2d Bn who had worked hard and fought harder in the months leading up to that day.

The battalion remained in the region for several more weeks. In March 2005, it turned its area of operation over to the Army and returned home to Chicago to a well-deserved hero's welcome. During its



COURTESY OF 2/24

Marines of Fox Co during the battalion's second Iraq deployment, 2007-08.

deployment, 2/24 lost 13 Marines killed in action.

In September 2007, the Mad Ghosts again were selected to deploy in support of OIF. This time their area of operation would be based out of Habbaniyah, encompassing the corridor between Ramadi and Fallujah. For this deployment, their primary mission would be working with the Iraqi army and police, preparing the security forces to take control.

The unit's Police Transition Teams operated in tandem with the local Iraqis to help accomplish this goal. The Chicago Marines proved uniquely suited for the task. As civilians, many of the reservists were police officers in Chicago and the surrounding area. The combination of their law enforcement experience on the street with their military knowledge of operating in a war zone allowed them to provide effective training for the Iraqi police.

The country had been somewhat more pacified since its experience in the Triangle of Death, but 2/24 participated in combat situations throughout this deployment and suffered losses. On April 14, 2008, an IED detonated, killing two Marines from Fox Co and wounding one more. The battalion continued conducting patrols, raids and checkpoints in conjunction with the Iraqi army. Many large weapons caches were discovered, capturing ton after ton of ammunition, small arms and explosives.

The deployment came to an end after almost eight months in Iraq. Second Bn,

24th Marines turned Habbaniyah over to 1st Bn, 2d Marines, then returned home to Chicago.

Today, the 802 Marines of 2/24, along with their Inspector-Instructor staff, serve their Chicago community and Midwest region with the same dedication that propelled them successfully through the last 73 years. They perform full funeral honors and act as color guard during various sporting events. They receive, sort and distribute more than 60,000 toys a year to families, churches, charities and other organizations as part of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Even when not serving in Marine uniform, the Mad Ghosts carry the same ethos into their civilian lives. Many of these Marines are police officers, fire fighters, medical professionals, teachers or belong to some other profession that provides a service to the community. They remain committed to each other as well, many of them having drilled together, trained together and deployed together for years.

"It gets more personal here," said Sergeant Todd Jones, marksmanship instructor and supply Marine with H&S Co. A Chicago native and veteran of eight years with 2/24, Sgt Jones explained how his relationship with his Marines extends beyond their drill weekend each month. "Troop welfare is a big thing for me. I keep in touch with my Marines to try to make

sure they are engaged and not getting in trouble. I make sure they are getting paid correctly for drill. If they need to find a job, I try to help them find one."

In 2009, a Marine who served with 2/24 during its first Iraq deployment created and directed an award-winning documentary titled "The Triangle of Death," chronicling the Mad Ghosts' experiences. One of the Marines interviewed in the film is LtCol Guillermo Rosales, a veteran of both Iraq deployments and a former platoon commander, company commander and battalion commander of the unit. "If a person wants to live in peace, then I'll fight for that," says Rosales. The battle history and honors of 2/24 reflect this sentiment. From the Pacific Islands to the Middle East, wherever they are called, the Chicago Marines have gone into the fight. They have left their jobs, families and lives at home so that others may live in peace.

As we remember 100 years of outstanding service from the Marine Corps Reserve, we can take pride in the "Mayhem From the Heartland," the Marines of 2d Bn, 24th Marine Regiment, who have faithfully upheld the Corps' warrior ethos and the spirit of Semper Fidelis.

Author's bio: Kyle Watts is formerly a Marine captain and communications officer. He currently is living in Kenosha, Wis.



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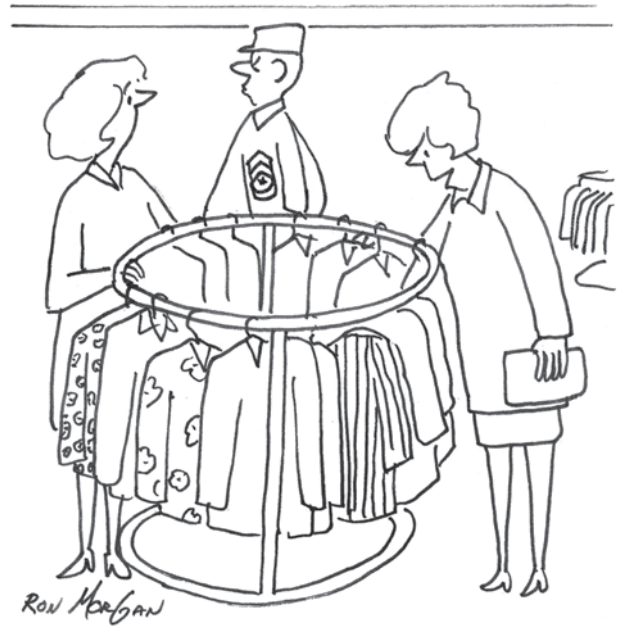
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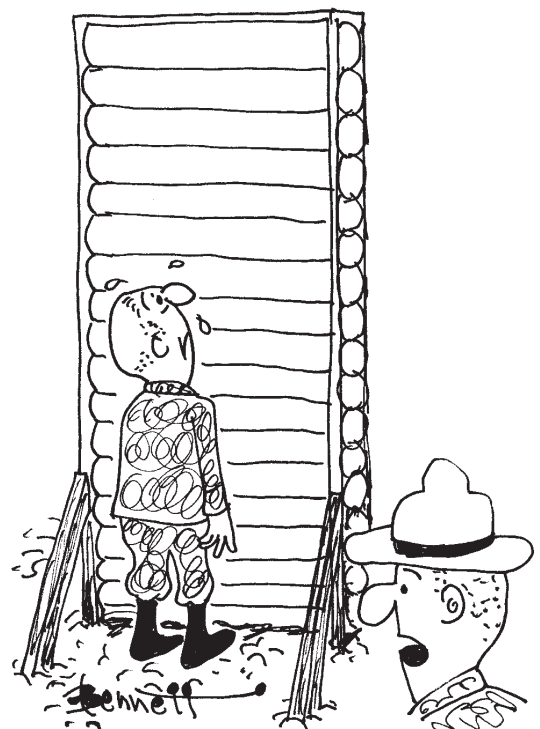
"It's like the Cloak of Invisibility."



"He's carried weighted packs 50 miles, but he won't hold my purse for five seconds."



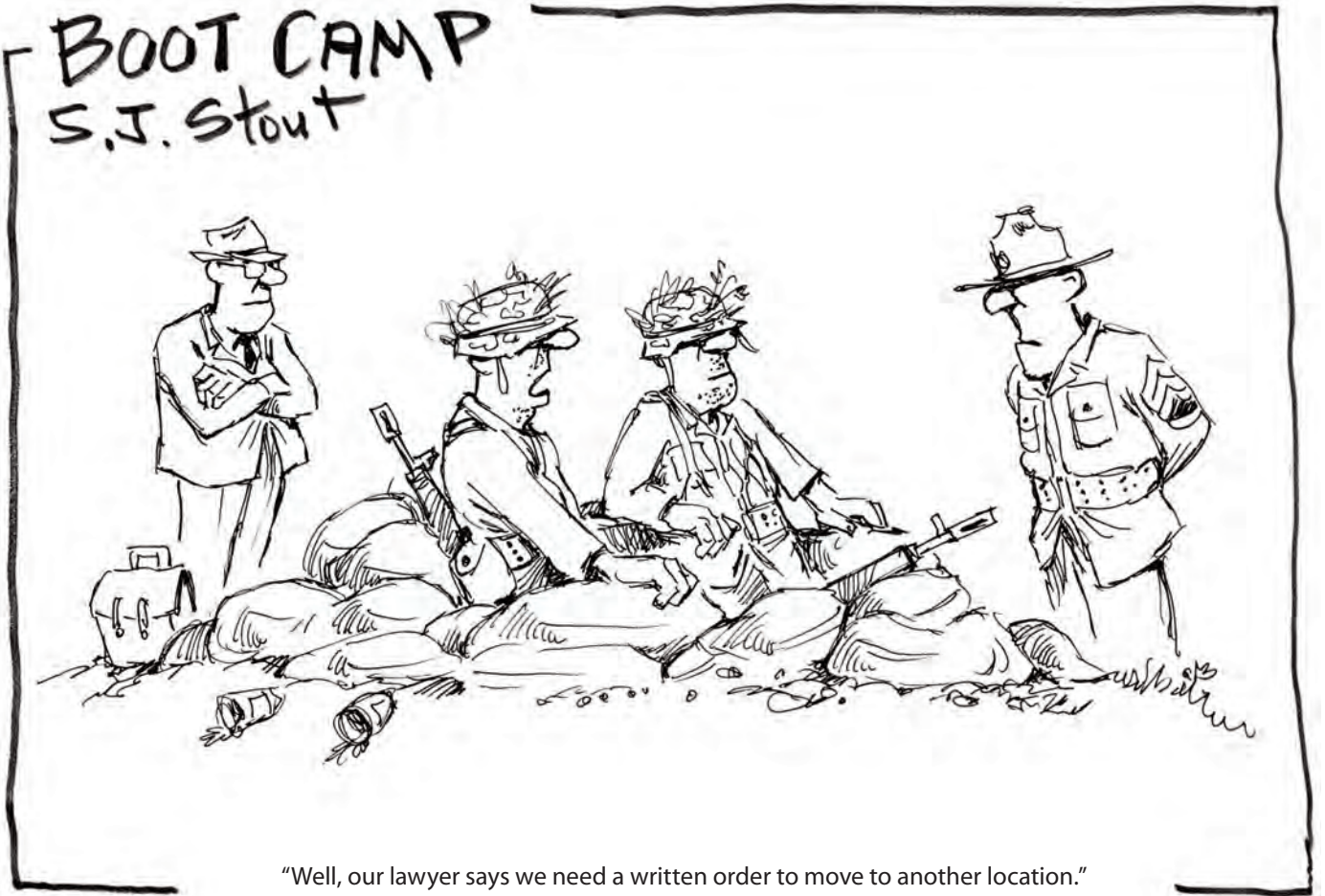
"I'm sorry, Captain, but I can't schedule you for major surgery until your promotion goes through."



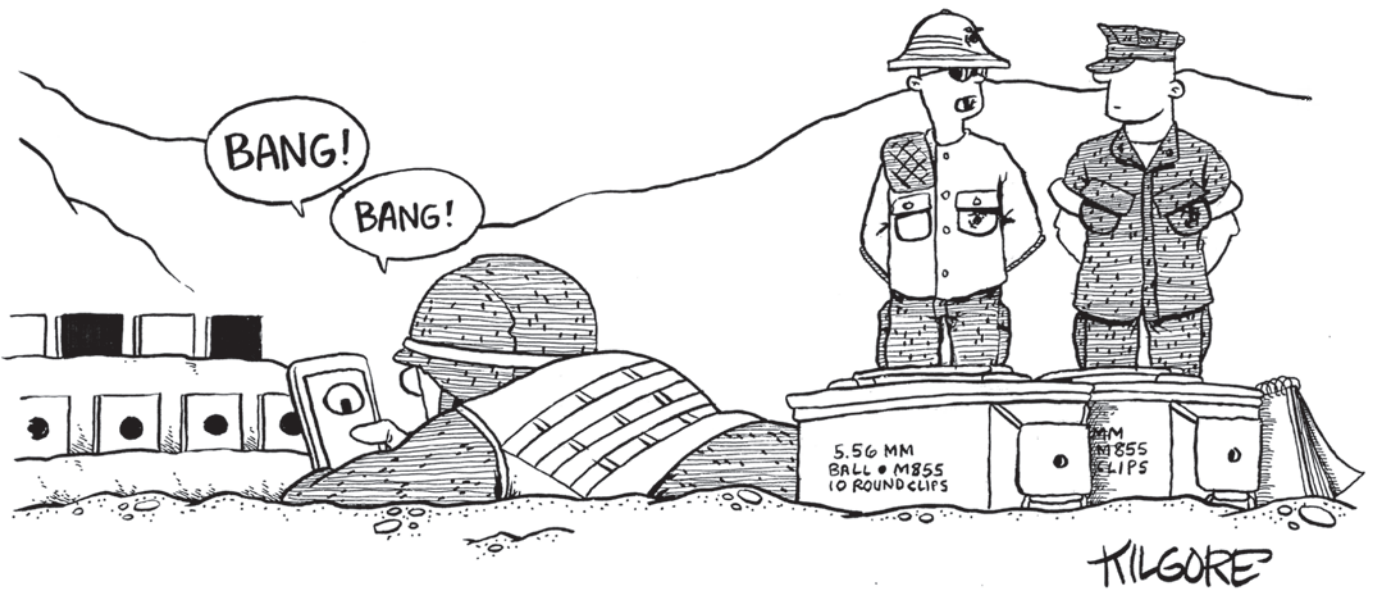
"It's not over until it's over the wall, Marine."

BOOT CAMP

S.J. Stout

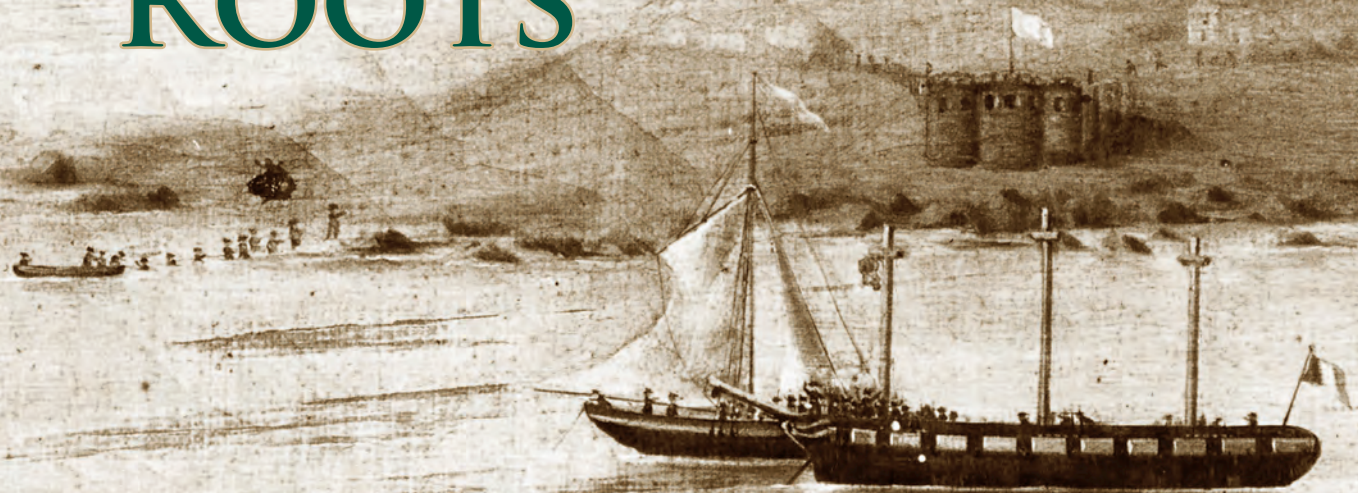


"Well, our lawyer says we need a written order to move to another location."



"It's the new rifle-qual app."

THE CORPS' AMPHIBIOUS ROOTS



By Capt Jonathan B. Bong, USMC

Going Back to the Old Corps

The Quasi-War with France is one of the more overlooked chapters in American military history. Spanning only two years from 1798 to 1800, this undeclared war between the United States and the French Republic was fought nearly entirely at sea. It did include one battle, however, that marked one of the earliest instances in American naval history where the Navy-Marine team successfully projected combat power through amphibious means.

The Quasi-War

The backdrop of this conflict has its roots in the back and forth of European power politics and the incessant rivalries that often led to conflict. At the end of the 1700s, the last French Revolutionary government had exhausted its treasuries and was having trouble financing its conflicts with England. Angered by John Jay's Treaty with Great Britain in 1794, the French leadership authorized the seizure of American merchant vessels.

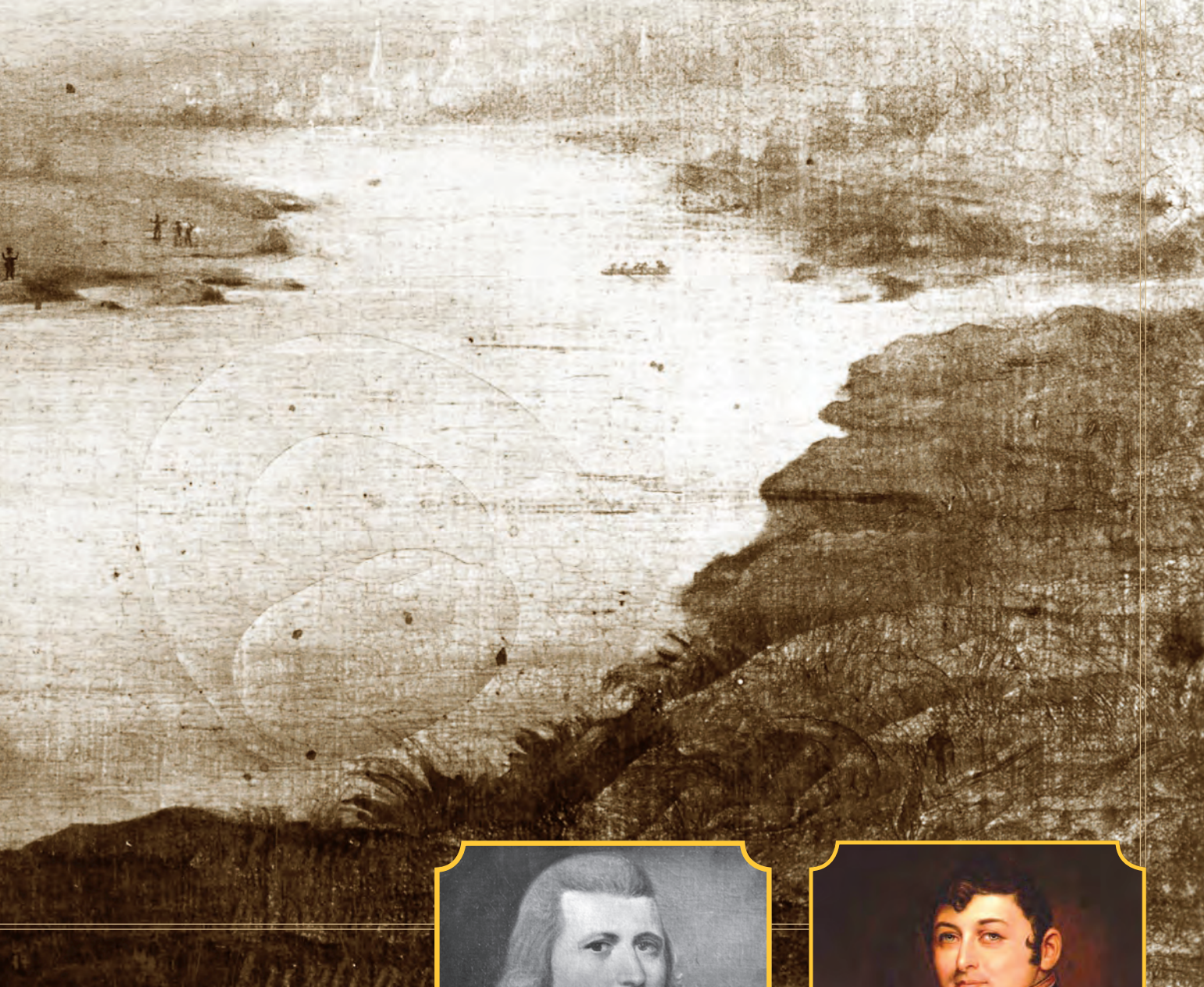
The United States sent envoys to France in an effort to restore relations; however, French demands of low-interest, U.S.-

backed loans made reconciliation impossible and President John Adams began preparations to take the fledgling nation to war. As France began to realize the extent of her diplomatic faux pas, she attempted to reengage the American government in negotiations. During this interim period, the U.S. Navy began operations against the French in the Caribbean.

Puerta Plata

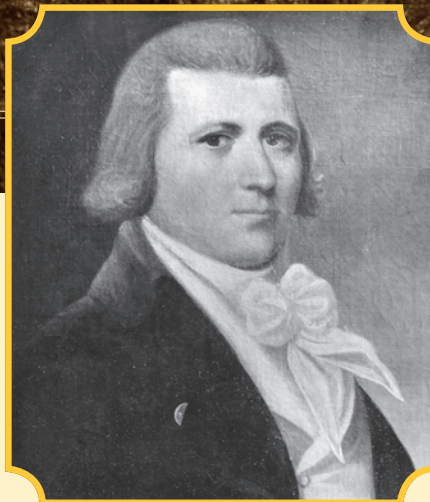
On May 3, 1800, Captain Silas Talbot, commanding USS *Constitution*, noticed an unusual amount of activity at the port of Puerta Plata, Santo Domingo (modern-

Oil painting depicting the action between USS *Constitution* and HMS *Sandwich* in Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo, 1800. CAPT Talbot commandeered the sloop *Sally* and used her on a cutting-out expedition, led by LT Isaac Hull of *Constitution*. (Painting courtesy of U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command)



day Dominican Republic). Suspecting the port was being used by French privateers, he initially debated entering the port. Uncharted reefs, the frigate's deep draft and the guns of an imposing Spanish fort made that impossible; CAPT Talbot decided instead to wait outside the port for the French to leave.

On May 8, Talbot intercepted a brig, a barge and a schooner anchoring in a bay west of Puerto Plata. Determining one of the vessels to be a captured American merchantman, the captain of *Constitution* sent five of the ship's boats loaded with Marines and Sailors to engage the priva-

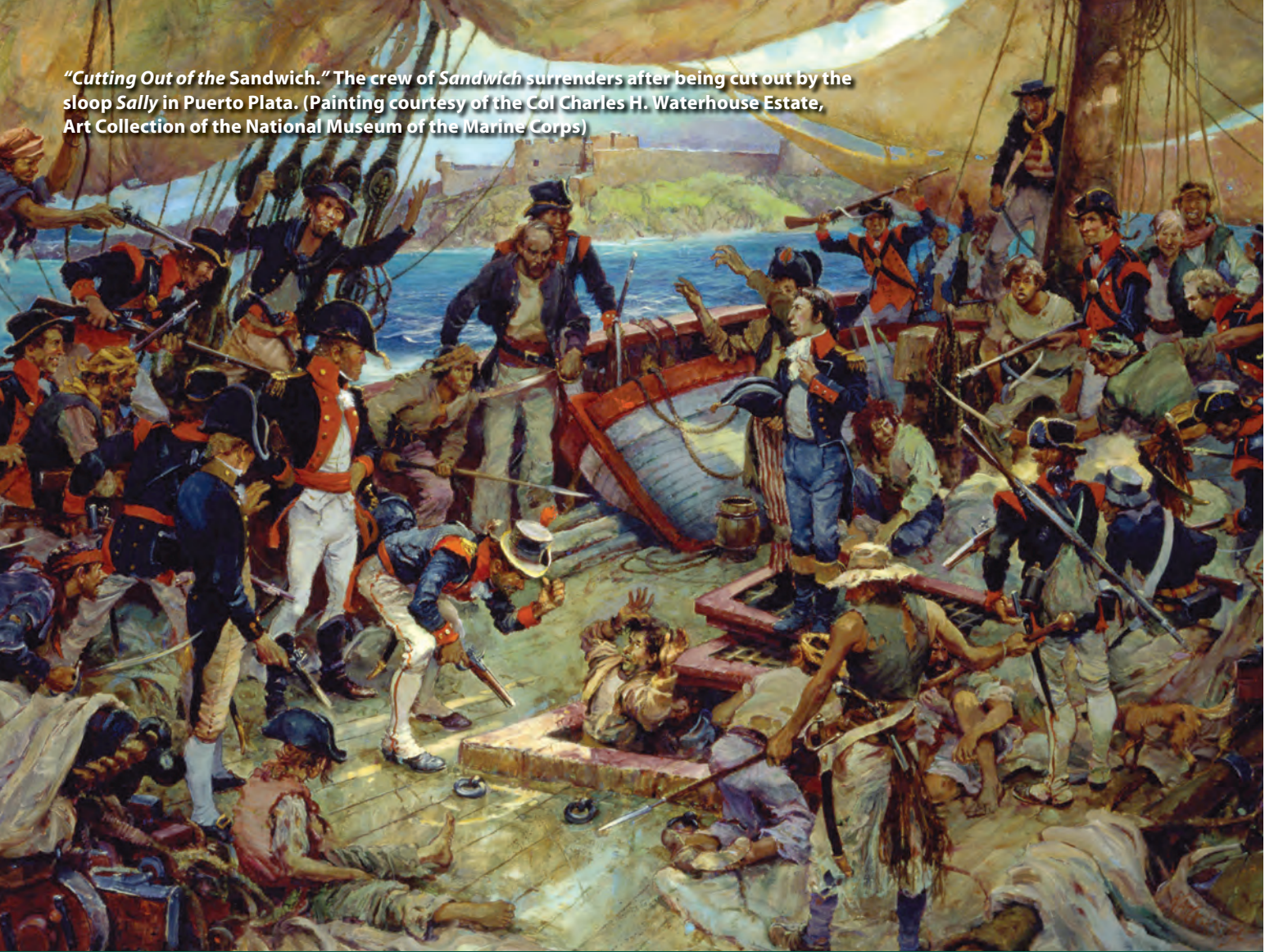


CAPT Silas Talbot is famous for commanding USS *Constitution*. (Oil painting by Thomas Birch courtesy of U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command)



Isaac Hull served aboard USS *Constitution* as a young naval officer. Later, he commanded the famous ship. (Portrait by Orlando S. Lagman, courtesy of U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command)

"Cutting Out of the Sandwich." The crew of *Sandwich* surrenders after being cut out by the sloop *Sally* in Puerto Plata. (Painting courtesy of the Col Charles H. Waterhouse Estate, Art Collection of the National Museum of the Marine Corps)



TRACK OF THE ACTION,

Dec. 29, 1812.

H. M. S. Java mounted 46 guns, and had on board at the time of the action 377 men.

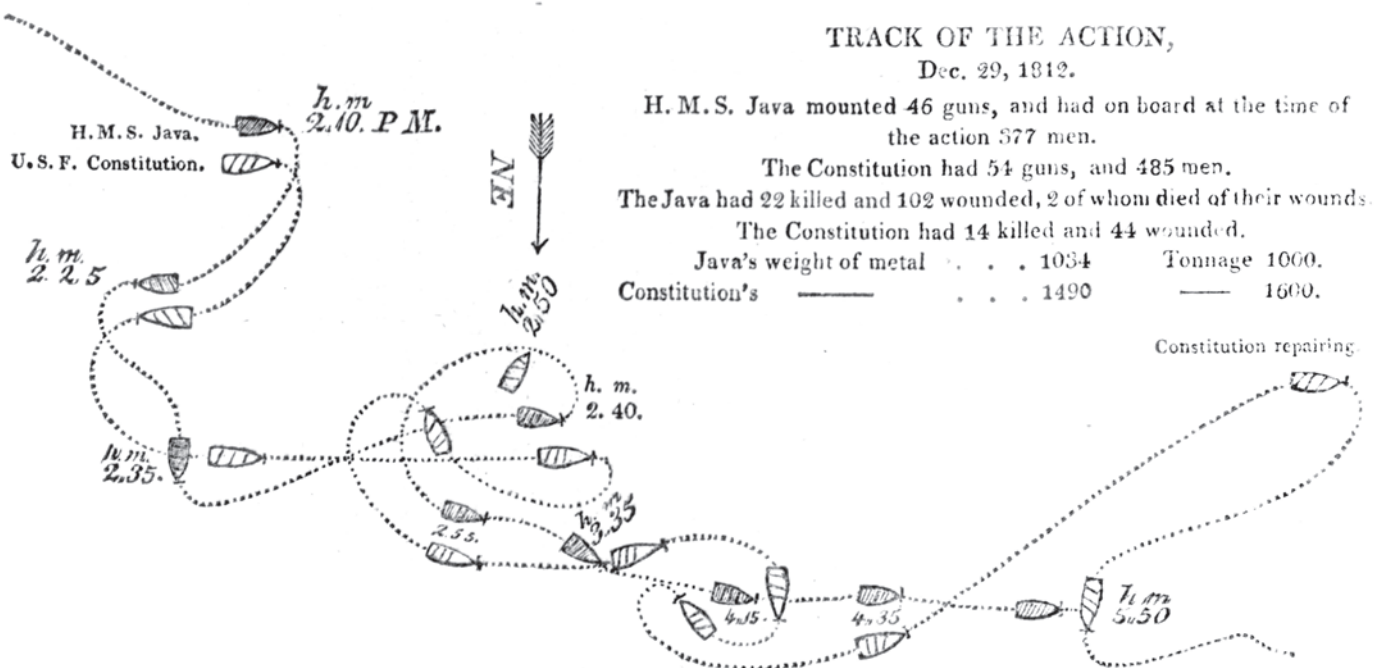
The Constitution had 54 guns, and 485 men.

The Java had 22 killed and 102 wounded, 2 of whom died of their wounds.

The Constitution had 14 killed and 44 wounded.

Java's weight of metal	1034	Tonnage 1000.
Constitution's	1490	1600.

Constitution repairing.





“Dropping Astern.” This oil painting by Michel Felice Corne depicts HMS *Guerriere*'s main and fore masts collapsing from the effects of USS *Constitution*'s fire in 1812. The dismantled British frigate surrendered, but was so badly damaged that she had to be destroyed. (Courtesy of U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command)

teers and free the American ship. The action resulted in the capture of the brig and schooner, the latter being a French privateer. The barge escaped into shallow waters and was pursued by one of *Constitution*'s boats. The boat returned without capturing the barge, but with the American smuggling sloop *Sally* in custody.

“... the Wooden Horse at Troy”

In order to facilitate the cutting out of the remaining privateer in Puerto Plata, Talbot ordered Lieutenant Isaac Hull, USN to commandeer *Sally* with *Constitution*'s Marines and a portion of her Sailors hidden below decks led by Marine Captain Daniel Carmick and Marine Lieutenant William Amory.

Sally, being well-known to the inhabitants at Puerto Plata, aroused no suspicions and was allowed entry into the port. Hull, disguised in civilian attire, maneuvered *Sally* through the harbor and alongside the privateer's (*Sandwich*) starboard bow. Hull gave the signal and 90 Marines and Sailors emerged from *Sally*'s decks to board the privateer. The speed at which they attacked was so great that the French privateers quickly were overwhelmed by

the Americans and retreated below decks, effectively ceding command of the ship's rigging and control of the vessel. The captain of the privateer surrendered and the prisoners were stowed below.

As luck would have it, the privateer was in the middle of an extensive refit and her top and topgallant masts were struck on deck, rendering the vessel effectively immobile. Realizing that the vessel could not be re-rigged while under fire from the fort's heavy guns, Hull dispatched Capt Carmick, Lt Amory and the Marine contingent to capture the fort.

Using *Sandwich*'s boats, the Marines rowed across the open harbor toward the fort. Upon approaching the base of the fort, the Marines waded ashore in neck-deep water holding their muskets and powder above their heads. With speed and surprise on the attacker's side, the Marines were able to spike the fort's heaviest guns before disengaging to defend *Sandwich* and *Sally* from the fort's garrison. Sailors from *Constitution* were able to finish refitting *Sandwich* by nightfall; however, there was no wind to sail out of the harbor.

Throughout the night, both vessels faced attacks from the fort's garrison, but, with

their artillery disabled, the garrison was only able to attack with musket fire. By morning, the wind had picked up enough for the vessels to leave the harbor, and they rejoined *Constitution*.

Perhaps the most impressive part of the operation was the fact that not a single Marine or Sailor was lost. Neither Talbot nor Carmick recorded any casualties.

Guerriere and *Java*

The cutting out of *Sandwich* would not be the end of Isaac Hull's escapades in *Constitution*. In 1810, he would assume command of the now-famous heavy frigate just in time to participate in the War of 1812.

On Aug. 19, 1812, 600 miles southwest of Cape Race, Newfoundland, a ship was reported sighted on the horizon to the south and CAPT Hull ordered *Constitution* to pursue. By 1545 that afternoon, it was evident that the ship was HMS *Guerriere*, a Royal Navy frigate of 38 guns. The battle began in true naval fashion with each ship maneuvering to gain advantage of the weather gauge and positioning relative to each other. Conventional military wisdom at the time advocated firing the ships broad-

"Action Between USS Constitution and HMS Guerriere."
This oil painting by Anton Otto Fischer depicts the action between USS Constitution and HMS Guerriere as Guerriere's mast goes over the side after being raked by Constitution.



side at the enemy's stern or bow. In this manner, penetration by cannonball would fly down the length of the entire ship, resulting in dismantled guns, cut rigging and heavy casualties.

By 1700, both ships were within pistol shot, and the Marines were able to engage with small-arms fire. *Constitution's* heavier guns inflicted heavy damage on *Guerriere*, and the enemy frigate's mizzenmast was brought down. The trailing mast and associated sails caused a loss of maneuvering

control. The ships collided and became entangled in each other's rigging. At that point, the Marines became heavily involved in the battle as they fought *Guerriere's* boarding parties while simultaneously attempting to board.

First Lieutenant William Sharp Bush, senior officer for *Constitution's* Marines, was killed attempting to board. His death would pass into history as he became the first Marine officer to be killed in combat. The Marines gave better than they got, and

their deadly musketry wounded *Guerriere's* captain, first lieutenant and sailing master and killed the second lieutenant.

As the ships drifted apart, *Constitution* succeeded in completely dismasting *Guerriere*, leaving the vessel helpless in the water. Shortly after, *Guerriere* struck her colors, and news of the victory greatly improved American morale for the war effort and proved that the fledgling nation was a match pound for pound for the world's most powerful naval empire.



A skilled sailor, William Bainbridge became captain of a ship before reaching the age of 20. He later took command of USS *Constitution* and won the battle against HMS *Java*, December 1812. (Painting by John Wesley Jarvis courtesy of U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command)

to sit out the battle. *Constitution's* Marines, sniping from the maintop, mortally wounded *Java's* commanding officer, CAPT Henry Lambert. By 1620, *Java*, like *Guerriere* months before, was dismasted and unable to maneuver. Bainbridge turned downwind to maneuver into raking position. *Java* struck her colors, the second Royal Navy frigate to fall to *Constitution*.

Diamond in the Rough

While Marines played a more pivotal role in the cutting out of *Sandwich*, the naval battles between *Constitution* and the Royal Navy were more indicative of the Marines' primary mission of repelling boarders and providing support fire for the Sailors. Drawing on the rich history and tradition of the Royal Marines, the U.S. Marine Corps built on that legacy and proved that American Sailors and Marines were more than a match for their British counterparts. The advance and growing lethality of modern artillery put an end to yardarm-to-yardarm naval battles, but the maritime raiding concept highlighted by the cutting out of *Sandwich* demonstrates the value of Navy-Marine raiding capabilities.

As the United States continues to face threats from non-state actors (i.e., piracy), this "Old Corps" concept may find new relevance in today's security environment.

Author's bio: Capt Jonathan Bong is a squadron ground supply officer at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.



Lightning Strikes Twice

Four months after the taking of *Guerriere*, *Constitution* again was at sea, this time off the coast of Brazil. A family emergency caused CAPT Hull to be given a shore assignment and CAPT William Bainbridge was given command of *Constitution*.

On Dec. 29, *Java* and *Constitution* sighted each other at around 1100 and cautiously closed the distance exchanging private signals, neither providing the correct counter-signal, thus confirming their enemy

status. By 1400, both closed to weapons range and a general action commenced.

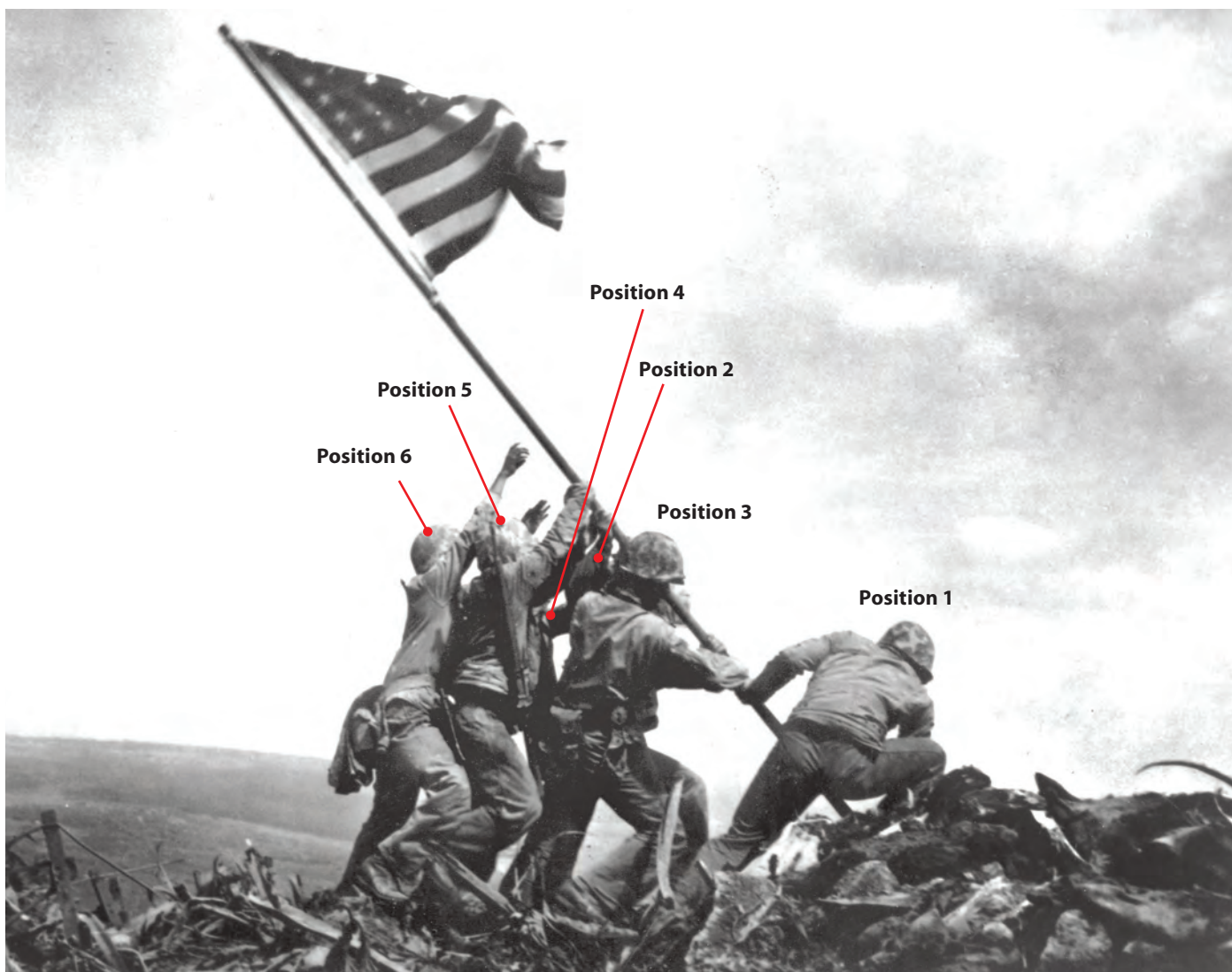
With *Java* holding clear advantage of the weather gauge, Bainbridge was forced to maneuver to avoid raking fire. Bainbridge decided to close with *Java* and engage upon parallel course. Both ships exchanged broadsides with *Constitution's* heavier and more accurate fire taking its toll on *Java*.

During one broadside exchange, Bainbridge was wounded; however, he refused

COURTESY OF U.S. NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE COMMAND

Examining the Evidence

USMC Reviews Iwo Jima Flag-Raising Photo



JOE ROSENTHAL, ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Col Mary H. Reinwald, USMC (Ret)

A simple click of a camera's shutter, and a small moment in Marine Corps history is preserved.

Just one moment in the millions during the incredible battle for the small island of Iwo Jima. Circumstances, however, made this moment very different; the photograph took on a life of its own, and its subjects were immortalized. The time, place and dire straits in which the free world found itself contributed to the popularity of the photograph. The country, after several years in a cataclysmic two-front war, was desperate for something positive. The photograph embodied so much for the American people. The men in the picture, regardless of what else they

had done on Iwo Jima or in other battles throughout the Pacific, were viewed as heroes not just for raising a flag, but for raising the spirits of a nation.

But what if the men weren't who we thought they were? What if a mistake, however inadvertent, was made?

On Nov. 23, 2014, the *Omaha World-Herald* published a story entitled "New Mystery Arises From Iconic Iwo Jima Image." The story detailed the efforts of two history buffs, Stephen Foley and Eric Krelle, to prove that Pharmacist's Mate Second Class John H. Bradley, the corpsman who was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions in the initial days of fighting during the Battle of Iwo Jima, is not in Joe Rosenthal's iconic photograph of the flag raising on Feb. 23, 1945, as

had been believed for almost 70 years. They presented substantial evidence that a mistake may have been made, and other media outlets began to express interest. The Marine Corps was notified of the new evidence, and after an initial review, a decision was made to do a more thorough analysis.

At the direction of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert B. Neller, a panel was convened to "accurately identify and appropriately credit" the flag raisers seen in the Rosenthal photo. On April 22, 2016, the panel, made up of both active-duty and retired Marines, as well as civilian historians, assembled at the General Alfred M. Gray Marine Corps Research Center at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., to review the newly dis-

covered evidence and existing photographs, eyewitness statements, and a film shot during the flag raisings. The results of the board and its recommendations were briefed to Gen Neller on May 4, 2016.

Lieutenant General Jan C. Huly, USMC (Ret), a former Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations, served as president of the panel.

Background

U.S. forces landed on Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945, and four long days later, the commanding officer of 2d Battalion, 28th Marine Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Chandler W. Johnson, sent a patrol to secure Mount Suribachi. Sergeant Henry O. Hansen and PhM2c John H. Bradley were part of the patrol headed by First Lieutenant Harold G. Schrier, the executive officer of Company E. Private First Class Harold H. Schultz also was a member of the patrol. An American flag was raised that morning at approximately 1020. Staff Sergeant Louis R. "Lou" Lowery, photographer for *Leatherneck*, captured the first flag raising on film, and it is clear that PhM2c Bradley participated in the first flag raising.

A few hours later, a resupply patrol, tasked with replacing the first flag with a larger one, was sent to the top of Suribachi. Sgt Michael Strank, Corporal Harlon H. Block, PFC Ira H. Hayes and PFC Franklin R. Sousley were members of the resupply patrol; Joe Rosenthal, an Associated Press photographer, joined them as they made their way up the mountain. Sgt William H. Genaust and PFC Robert R. Campbell, Fifth Marine Division combat correspondents, also accompanied the patrol.

The second flag was raised at approximately 1220 as the first flag was lowered. Sgt Genaust filmed the preparation and raising of the second flag, but there is a break of undetermined length in his film between the flag raisers holding the flag in a horizontal position and later starting to lift the flag. PFC Campbell photographed the first flag as it was lowered. Joe Rosenthal photographed the second flag raising, and one of his shots became the iconic photo.

The fighting on Iwo Jima took a huge toll on the Marines involved in the second flag raising. Both Cpl Block and Sgt Strank were killed in action on March 1, as was Sgt Hansen. PhM2c Bradley was wounded on March 12 and evacuated the next day. PFC Sousley was killed on March 21.

When Rosenthal's photograph was sent back to the States, the sensation it created led to a decision to bring the flag raisers home to take part in a war bond



PFC ROBERT CAMPBELL, USMC

The raising of the second, larger flag was tightly synchronized with the lowering of the first flag so Marines throughout the island did not think the Japanese had re-taken Mount Suribachi. Lt Harold G. Schrier, patrol leader, later stated that he was so focused on the first flag going down that he did not see the second flag go up.



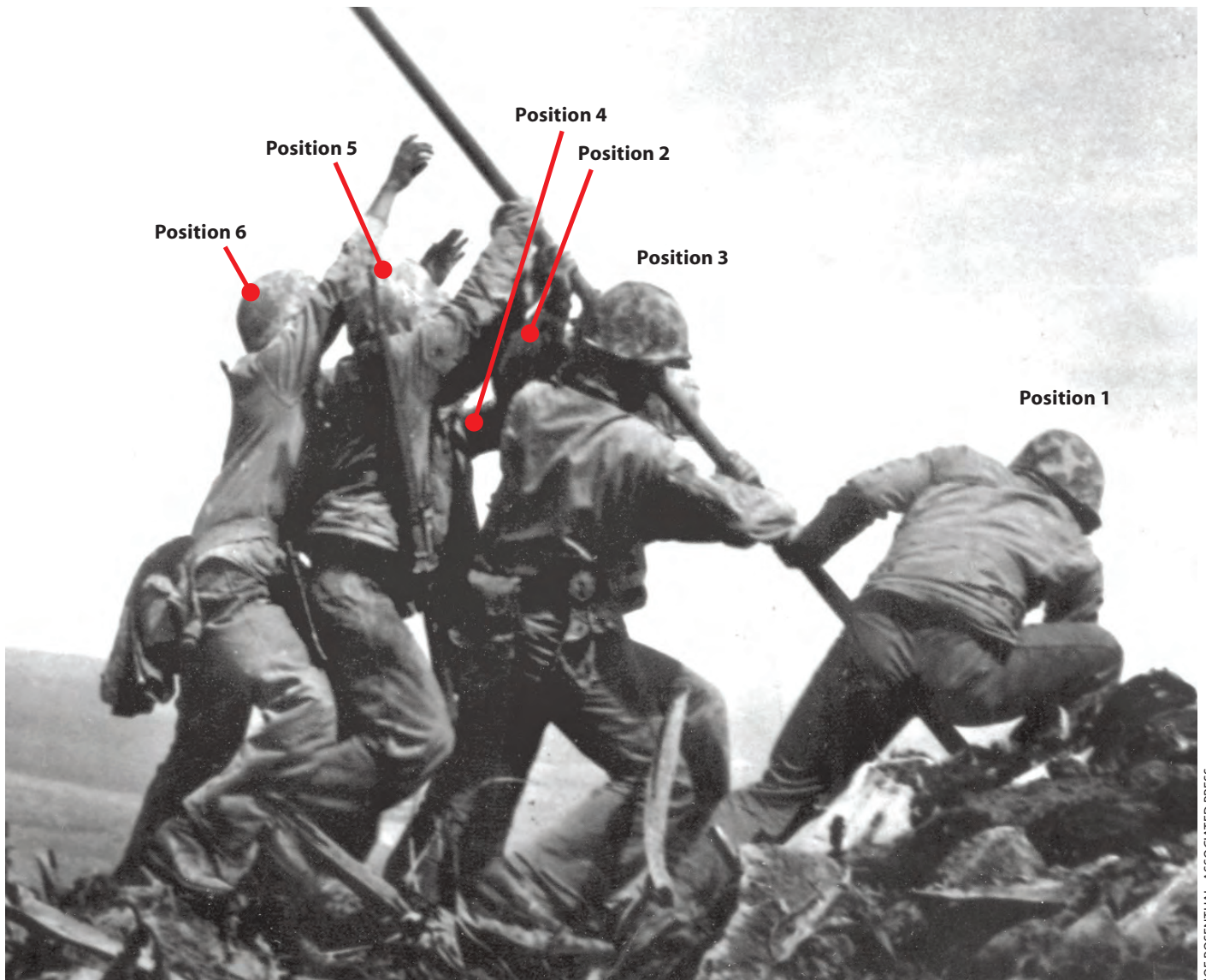
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

At the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the flag raisers who survived the battle were brought back to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 7th War Bond Tour.

tour. PFC Rene A. Gagnon returned to the United States in April 1945 and identified the flag raisers as Sgt Hansen, PhM2c Bradley, Sgt Strank, PFC Sousley, PFC Hayes and himself. Bradley and Hayes also were brought to Washington, D.C., that month, and they confirmed Gagnon's identification of the flag raisers.

In July 1946, however, in response to a letter from the mother of PFC Harlon Block, Ira Hayes admitted that Block, not Hansen, was the Marine in Position #1 in the Rosenthal photo. A board was convened at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps in December 1946 with Major General Pedro A. del Valle as the president tasked with determining the participants of the flag raising, specifically the individual in Position #1, as depicted in the Rosenthal photo.

The del Valle board released its findings in January 1947. The opinion of the board was that Cpl Harlon H. Block (Position #1), PFC Rene A. Gagnon (Position #2), PhM2c John H. Bradley (Position #3), Sgt Michael Strank (Position #4), PFC



JOE ROSENTHAL, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Franklin R. Sousley (Position #5) and PFC Ira H. Hayes (Position #6) raised the second flag on Mount Suribachi. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Alexander A. Vandegrift, approved the board's results.

The Huly Panel

The Huly panel reviewed the results of the del Valle board, scrutinizing each individual in the Rosenthal photo, in keeping with the Commandant's direction. The results of the Huly panel, however, differed from the results of the board from 70 years ago.

Position #1: Cpl Harlon Block. No new evidence or recent allegations contradicted Block being the man in Position #1. A comparison of photos taken by Joe Rosenthal throughout the actual flag raising with the film shot by Sgt Genaust shows the person in Position #1 with equipment and a facial profile consistent with Block. Coupled with Hayes' identification of Block as a flag raiser in 1946 and confirmation by the del Valle board,

no evidence suggests that Block is not the Marine in Position #1.

Position #2: PFC Rene A. Gagnon. Similar to Block's identification, no new evidence has called into question Gagnon's identification as the second flag raiser. Upon his return to the States in 1945, Gagnon identified himself as the Marine in Position #2; this identification was later corroborated by both Bradley and Hayes. Although his face is obscured throughout most of the film and photographs, a brief glimpse appears to be Gagnon, and the gear he wore in other clearly identifiable photos is consistent with the gear worn by the Marine in Position #2. As did the del Valle board, the Huly panel continues to believe that Gagnon helped to raise the second flag.

Position #3: PhM2c John Bradley to PFC Franklin Sousley. In addition to Gagnon's initial identification of Bradley as the individual in Position #3, Bradley himself confirmed this according to a memo to the Director, Division of Public Information, Headquarters, U.S. Marine

Corps dated Sept. 24, 1946, from LtCol E.R. Hagenah, USMC, written for the del Valle board. In his own letter to Gen del Valle, dated Dec. 26, 1946, Bradley stated, "I was on top of the hill already and when the flag was raised I just jumped up and gave the group a hand." In a letter to the same board dated 16 Dec. 1946, the Co E commander, Captain Dave Severance, also agreed that, to the best of his knowledge, Bradley was one of the flag raisers. The photographic evidence, however, does not support this.

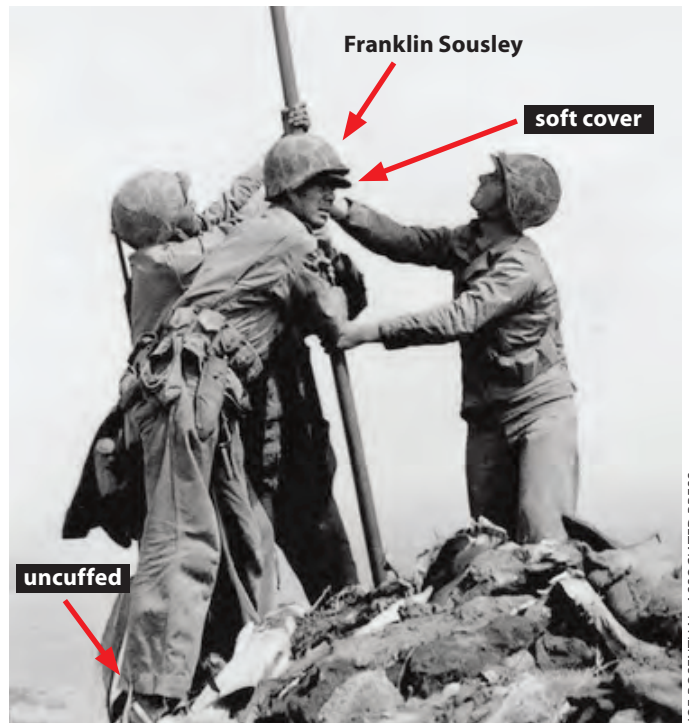
As seen in both the Genaust film and other photographs taken atop Mount Suribachi, the individual in Position #3 is wearing an empty canteen cover, cartridge belt without suspenders, wire cutters, and a soft cover under his helmet; he is not carrying a rifle nor wearing a field jacket. Additionally, his trousers are not cuffed.

The Suribachi photographs, including Rosenthal's famous "Gung Ho" photo, also show Bradley without an empty canteen cover, wire cutters, or a soft cover under his helmet. The photos do show



SSGT LOUIS R. LOWERY, USMC

The field jacket, medical kits, leggings and uncuffed trousers of PhM2c Bradley, left, are clearly evident in this photo taken just after the first flag raising.



JOE ROSENTHAL, ASSOCIATED PRESS

PFC Sousley, pictured here in the left foreground, is wearing equipment identical to the equipment worn by the individual in Position #3 of the second flag raising—uncuffed trousers, soft cover under helmet, wire cutters and empty canteen cover.

Bradley wearing a field jacket, with two medical unit 3s, a first aid pack, a K-bar, a full canteen cover and suspenders evident. Additionally, his trousers are cuffed, and he is wearing leggings.

If Bradley is not in Position #3, then who is? Surprisingly, determining the individual in Position #3 was relatively easy after closely analyzing photographs for specific equipment and gear. PFC Sousley, originally identified as the Marine in Position #5, is seen in photographs atop Suribachi wearing an empty canteen cover, a cartridge belt without suspenders, wire cutters, and a soft cover under his helmet. He is not seen wearing a field jacket, and his trousers are not cuffed—his gear is identical to the gear worn by the individual in Position #3. In addition, there is a moment in the Genaust film and in a Rosenthal photo where the face of the individual is seen briefly. The individual resembles Sousley. In the Huly panel's opinion, Sousley was in Position #3, not Position #5, in Rosenthal's photo.

Position #4: Sgt Michael Strank. As was the case with Block and Gagnon, no new evidence was discovered to call into question Strank's participation in the second flag raising. Although the del Valle board determined that the individual in Position #4 was Sgt Strank, the Huly panel worked to confirm this since Position #4 was the most obscured in both the photo and the film. But it was both the film and the Rosenthal photos that once again

helped to confirm what was already known.

The Huly panel, after thorough review, ruled out the possibility that the obscured individual in Position #4 could have been Bradley. The individual in Position #4 is not wearing medical unit 3s or any of the other gear that Bradley was. Before the break in the Genaust film, it appears #4 was wearing a soft cover; after the break, however, the individual appears to be wearing a hard cover. The clarity of the film is such that it is not absolute, but one thing is certain based on other photographic evidence—Bradley only wore a helmet. Strank, however, is seen wearing a soft cover beneath his helmet in several photographs.

In addition, in the Genaust film, the ring finger on the left hand of the individual

in Position #4 is evident; the finger is bare. Photos clearly identifiable as Strank show that he was not wearing a ring on that finger. Bradley's left hand, however, clearly shows a ring on his ring finger in photos.

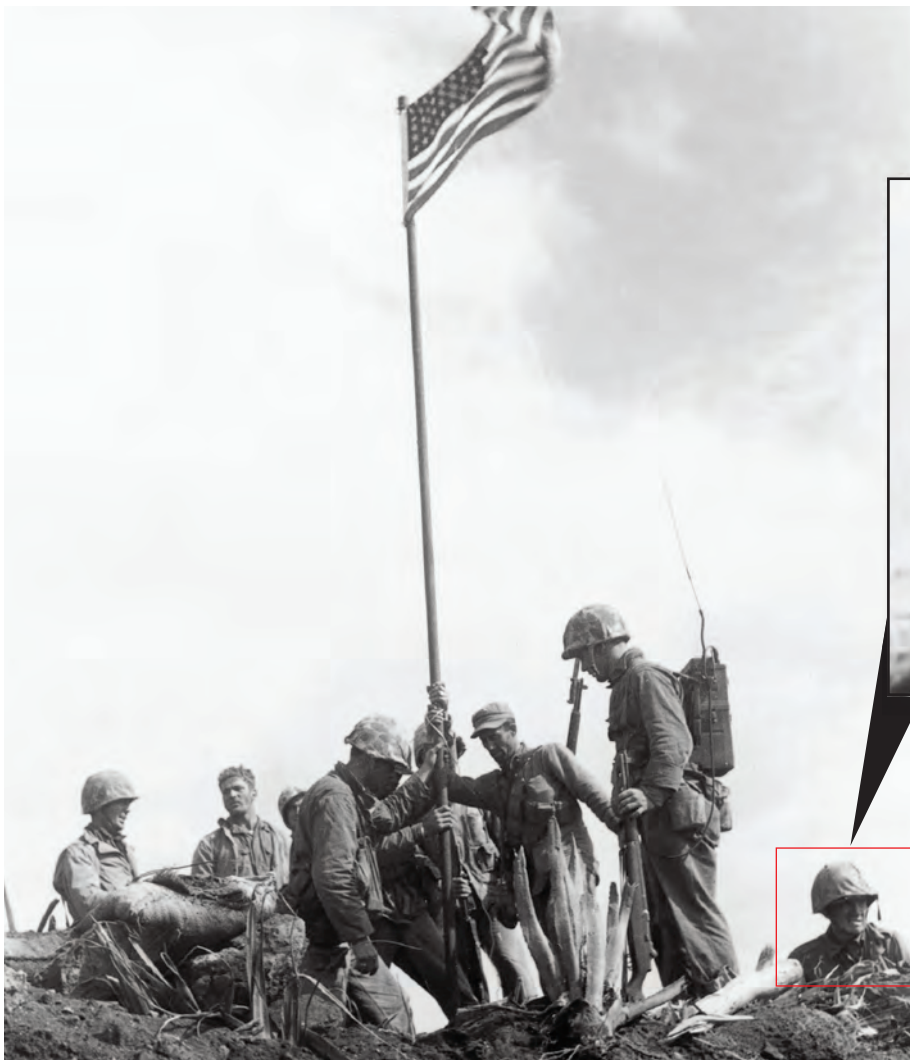
Position #5: PFC Franklin Sousley to PFC Harold Schultz. But if Sousley is in Position #3, who's in Position #5? The equipment, or lack thereof, indicates that it can't be Bradley. Again, Genaust's film and the photos taken by Lowery, Campbell and Rosenthal were thoroughly reviewed and a key piece of evidence helped to greatly simplify the identity—a broken helmet liner strap.

Only one Marine photographed on that fateful day on Mount Suribachi had a broken helmet liner strap hanging from



SGT WILLIAM H. GENAUST, USMC

In this still image from Sgt William H. Genaust's film, the Marine from Position #5 is shown walking away from the second flag. The hanging helmet liner strap and rifle sling mark the man as PFC Harold Schultz.



PFC Schultz is clearly visible in photos from the first flag raising. The helmet liner strap and distinctive rifle sling were instrumental in correcting the identity of the Marine in Position #5 as PFC Schultz.



SSGT LOUIS R. LOWERY, USMC

Questions Remain

While the Huly panel's results may be correct, further forensic analysis is needed, and given today's technology, entirely possible. Gen Neller has directed that such analysis be conducted in the hopes that the flag raisers' identities can be confirmed with as much certainty as possible.

Regardless of the outcome, other questions remain. Why weren't the flag raisers identified clearly from the beginning? Why did John Bradley, Ira Hayes and Rene Gagnon identify Bradley as the individual in Position #3? Why didn't Hayes or even Bradley correct the record when the Hansen-Block mistake came to light in 1946? Why did it take well into the 21st century for someone to conduct a forensic analysis of the photo? Why did no one notice the absence of a corpsman's gear on anyone depicted in the photograph and the memorial? And perhaps most puzzling, why did Schultz never say anything?

Seventy years later, and with few survivors left who served on Iwo Jima, the questions may never be completely answered, but there are some plausible explanations as to why a mistake of this magnitude was made.

First, and perhaps most importantly, no one at the time could have anticipated the impact of that one photo. Even Rosenthal initially had no idea what he had captured.

In addition, to everyone present on Mount Suribachi that day, the second flag raising was not necessarily memorable. When the first flag was raised, shouts and celebrations were heard from the Marines on the beach as ships in the surrounding waters sounded their horns. Little attention



Harold Schultz

SSGT LOUIS R. LOWERY, USMC

the left side of his helmet, and that was PFC Harold H. Schultz, another member of Co E. And, as importantly, the individual in Position #5 had a distinctive rifle. The sling of #5's rifle was attached to the stacking swivel—not to the upper hand guard sling swivel as was appropriate. Again, photos show that the only Marine with his sling attached in that manner was PFC Schultz.

However, and so very puzzling, no previous identification or claim that PFC Schultz was a flag raiser has ever been found.

Position #6: PFC Hayes. The easiest of all to identify. In addition to Gagnon and Bradley identifying Hayes from the beginning, Hayes himself admitted that he was a flag raiser, and the photographic evidence strongly supports these claims.



JOE ROSENTHAL, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joe Rosenthal's other famous picture, the "Gung Ho" photo, was a key piece of evidence used to assist in identifying flag raisers and their equipment.

was paid to the second flag as it went up. Even Lt Schrier, the patrol leader, wasn't looking. In his own words, "At the time the picture was taken, I was busy taking down the original flag, and cannot definitely identify any member [of the second flag raising]."

A third significant factor adding to the confusion surrounding the identities is that the battle for the island of Iwo Jima raged for weeks after the flag raising. The flag went up and the Marines continued the fight. And the fight was a costly one; by the time Iwo Jima was secured, 5,931 Marines had been killed in action and another 17,372 were wounded. The dead included four of the Marines identified as flag raisers (Strank, Sousley, Block and Hansen). Bradley was among the seriously wounded; only Gagnon and Hayes emerged from their time on Iwo Jima physically unscathed.

And there may have been another reason, one that creates a disturbing picture of

what happened when the surviving flag raisers returned to Washington, D.C. From the letter Ira Hayes wrote to Harlon Block's mother in 1946: "I tried my darnedest to stay overseas but couldn't, all because they had a man in there that really wasn't, and beside [sic] that had Sousley and myself switched around. And when I did arrive in Washington, D.C. I tried to set things right but some colonel told me to not say another word as two men were dead, meaning Harlon and Hansen. And besides the public knew who was who in the picture at the time I didn't want no last minute commotion." After the initial identification was made, right or wrong, were the remaining three under pressure not to make waves?

Perhaps the biggest mystery of all, if it is PFC Harold Schultz in Position #5 as the evidence indicates, why didn't he ever say anything? There is no record of any claims made or even any letters he may have sent saying he was a flag raiser. From

what little is known about him, Schultz was a solitary man both in the Corps and in civilian life. He didn't marry until he was in his 60s and, even then, only briefly mentioned the flag raising to his new family. After Schultz died, his stepdaughter found a copy of Rosenthal's "Gung Ho" photograph in his desk drawer. Schultz had written his name and the names of other Marines on the back. He made no mention of the flag raising.

Ironically, the significance of Rosenthal's photo and the Marine Corps War Memorial that it inspired is not who raised the flag, but rather who and what they represented. While the desire to correct the historical record is both understandable and necessary, that moment on top of Mount Suribachi more than 70 years ago will still hold a special place in the hearts of Marines and in the history of the Corps, regardless of who raised the flag.





The Marine Corps Reserve

The First 100 Years



Above: Enduring extreme cold weather, difficult mountainous terrain and a numerically superior enemy in the winter of 1950-51, regular and reserve Marines persevered to continue the fight during the Korean War. (Courtesy of National Archives)

Top: In addition to being one of the first Marines to enter the Marine Corps Reserve, GySgt Charles E. Clark became the first warrant officer of the reserve component when promoted to Marine gunner in 1917. (Courtesy of National Archives)



USMC

Above left: Capt Preston Plummer, USMCR, a Marine civil affairs team leader, inspects a canal irrigation system in Garmsir District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, 2012.



COURTESY OF PETER MERSKY

Above right: A pair of F-4S Phantoms from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 321 in a vertical climb over the National Capital Region. Aircraft from the VMFA-321 Marine Reserve Training Detachment operated from Joint Base Andrews, Md., throughout the Cold War.

By LtGen Rex C. McMillian, USMCR

On Aug. 29, the Marine Corps Reserve celebrates its 100th year of existence. From World War I through the global war on terrorism, the Marine Corps Reserve has played an essential role in the Marine Corps total force by augmenting, reinforcing and supporting the active component across the full range of military operations. The Marine Corps has served as our nation's premier force in readiness, due in large part to the steadfast performance of the men and women of the reserve component.

As early as the Civil War, both civilian and military leaders recognized the need for a naval reserve, which included detachments of Marines, to quickly augment the fleet in the event of war. Prior to WW I, individual states attempted to meet this need through naval militias that were under state control. The lack of a centralized national force, however, limited the combat effectiveness and readiness of these units, and the stage was set for the creation of an organized force prepared to augment the Corps in times of need.

World War I: The Reserve Force Is Born

As U.S. involvement in WW I appeared more likely, the increased demand for warfighters warranted the formal creation of an operational reserve force, and on Aug. 29, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Naval Appropriations Act of 1916, which established the Marine Corps Reserve. The organization grew rapidly—from 35 Marines on April 1, 1916, to a peak of 6,467, including 300 women, by the time Germany surrendered in November 1918.

During WW I, reserve Marines seamlessly integrated into ground and aviation units, fighting at sea and during decisive land battles such as Belleau Wood, Soissons, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. In addition, members of the Marine Corps Reserve Flying Corps flew with the British Northern Bombing Group, targeting enemy transportation networks.

U.S. Marine Lieutenant General Karl S. Day, who was a junior officer at the time, later spoke highly of the integration of reserve Marines: “Nobody gave a damn and few, if any, knew who were regulars, temporaries, duration reserves, what have you.” The collective contributions of reserve Marines helped turn the tide of the war, validating the Marine Corps

Col Ruth Cheney Streeter, the first Director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, led the way toward establishing a permanent Marine Corps Women's Reserve and the future integration of women in the Marine Corps.



COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Reserve Marines exit a helicopter during training with active-duty units and NATO Allies during the Cold War. The Total Force concept directs both active and reserve components to have the same functionality for seamless integration of forces.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Reserve's ability to quickly augment expeditionary units.

The Marine Corps rapidly demobilized after WW I. By 1922, the entire Marine Corps Reserve had been demobilized to inactive status, with 90 percent of reservists discharged, leaving fewer than 600 Marines in the reserve force. With isolationist attitudes widespread in the 1920s and '30s, the U.S. military endured a period of relative neglect in terms of budgets and public interest.

To maintain readiness during those lean years, Major General John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, determined that a healthy reserve component was a strategic necessity to compensate for a diminished active force, and rebuilding one emerged as one of his top priorities. In MajGen Lejeune's opinion, in the event of war, "it is absolutely necessary that there be in the Marine Corps prior to the emergency an adequate and well-trained Reserve."

Congress agreed with MajGen Lejeune and on Feb. 28, 1925, passed an act that superseded the 1916 act that authorized the creation, organization, administration and maintenance of the Marine Corps Reserve. It was organized into 18 battalions and established aviation squadrons, which conducted drills in weekly two-hour drill sessions. Reserve administration was concentrated in a single staff agency.

Discharged veterans of WW I were encouraged to return to the ranks. The Reserve grew throughout the 1920s until it exceeded 10,000 Marines by 1930. The growth was noteworthy for the fact that reservists received no drill pay outside of annual two-week "summer camp" training and had to purchase many of their own uniform items. Thus it was sacrifice and loyalty on the part of the Marines which kept the Reserve alive during the lean years of the Great Depression.

The Director of the Marine Corps Reserve, Colonel Julius Turrill, recognized this fierce loyalty in August 1929 and said: "Let us give the credit that is due the members of the Reserve ... they are Marines, who from motives of patriotism and love of Corps alone are devoting their vacation days to the service without reward and at considerable personal sacrifice to themselves. The active personnel [appreciate] as never before the fine spirit of service that actuates the Marine Corps Reserve."

World War II: A Legacy Established

In 1938, with tensions in Europe and the Pacific on the rise, Congress corrected organizational and fiscal shortcomings with the Naval Reserve Act of 1938. The act abolished the 1925 act and established the Organized Marine Corps Reserve, forerunner of today's Select Marine Corps

Reserve, and the Volunteer Marine Corps Reserve, forerunner of today's Inactive Ready Reserve. It also ensured that reserve Marines would be compensated adequately for their service and that they would receive realistic training. The improved training was an important factor in the success of the Marine Corps in WW II.

As the situations escalated in Europe and the Pacific, the Marine Corps Reserve rapidly expanded in 1940, more than a year before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Massive manpower was required to execute the newly developed amphibious warfare doctrine, and the subsequent Pacific Island-hopping campaign involved a surge of reserve Marines into the regular forces. The Marine Corps expanded from approximately 15,000 regular duty personnel to more than 485,000 Marines by 1945, with reserve Marines constituting the bulk of personnel strength. Of the 589,852 Marines to serve during WW II, approximately 70 percent were reservists. One general officer described the Reserve as "a shot in the arm when war came."

During the Pacific campaigns, reserve Marines endured extreme tropical conditions, scarce supplies and the desperate tactics of their Japanese adversaries. As the Pacific campaign progressed, the Marines seized crucial strategic targets, such as the Solomon, Marshall and Mariana islands, as well as Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Reserve Marines performed valiantly throughout the war, and 44 of the 82 Marine Medal of Honor recipients were reservists. Twenty reserve Marines received the Medal of Honor for actions in the Battle of Iwo Jima alone.

Many reserve aviators also distinguished themselves, including Medal of Honor recipients and aces Brigadier General Robert E. Galer, Colonel Gregory “Pappy” Boyington, First Lieutenant Robert M. Hanson and Brig Gen Joseph J. Foss, ANG (after the war Foss accepted a commission in the South Dakota Air National Guard).

Nearly all of the combat correspondents covering the war were reserve Marines. These former newspapermen and photographers told the Marine Corps’ story to the American public and were a vital link between the populace and their Marines serving overseas. Once they returned to their civilian careers, these journalists would continue to provide robust media coverage of the Marine Corps during the postwar years.

Wartime manpower needs also opened opportunities for women to serve, all of whom did so as part of the Marine Corps Reserve. More than 19,000 women joined the U.S. Marine Corps Women’s Reserve to “Free a Marine to Fight.” These pioneering women filled more than 200 types of occupations. They were truck drivers, electricians, mechanics, cryptographers, painters, parachute riggers, paymasters and aerial photographers. Colonel Ruth Cheney Streeter served as the first Director of the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve. She orchestrated the wartime expansion of the Women’s Reserve pro-



Maj Gregory “Pappy” Boyington, USMCR, commanded Marine Fighting Squadron 214, the famed “Black Sheep” squadron.

gram and pushed for the continuance of the Women’s Reserve after the war.

Further crucial manpower support came from the 19,168 African-American men who joined the Marine Corps during the war. Training began at Montford Point, near Camp Lejeune, N.C., for enlisted Marines in 1942; officers in 1945. Of these Marines, 75 percent served overseas. Although assigned to service support units, approximately 8,000 African-American Marines performed their duties under fire in places like Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. Some of the Montford Point Marines would continue to serve

honorably in the reserve force through the Korean War and beyond.

Just as in WW I, reserve Marines seamlessly integrated into the active component. As one official history noted, during World War II “the reservist was so indistinguishable from the regular that to attempt a distinction is irrelevant.” According to “The Marine Corps Reserve: A History,” another general officer elaborated on the successful integration of the total force during that period: “By the time we got into battle in WW II, the regular was a rare creature and the reserve became the Marine that you saw everywhere you went. Never has a fighting organization been more successful than the Marine Corps in WW II; therefore, the only conclusion you can reach is that the reservist in WW II was of the highest quality attainable.”

Still another officer referred to the relationship between the reserve and active components as “our greatest blessing, our greatest strength ... when fighting side by side, the labels reserve and regular melt away.” Through their commitment to the Corps and courage under fire, reserve Marines of the WW II era made an invaluable contribution to what was arguably the nation’s greatest military victory.

On to Korea: Mass Mobilization Of Reserve Marines

During the rapid demobilization following WW II, the Marine Corps once again relied on the Reserve as a manpower pool to augment a shrinking active component. By June 1950, on the eve of the Korean War, the Reserve was at an all-time high peacetime strength of 128,962.

The eruption of the Korean War validated the need for such a reserve force as the first mass mobilization of reserve Marines commenced. The improved organizational structure and wartime experience enabled the reserve force to mobilize 33,528 reservists to reinforce the First Marine Division as well as aviation and support units. The deployment of the Marine Reserve, which constituted 50 percent of the force, was pivotal to the defense of the Pusan Perimeter, the Inchon landing, the battles at the Chosin Reservoir, and the subsequent battles along the 38th parallel.

These Marines left their civilian lives and went into combat thousands of miles away in less than three months. General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., commanding general of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific in 1950, recalled that had it not been for the mobilization of the Reserve to bring the

A platoon of female Marines of the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve during WW II.



A Marine reservist crawls through mud and smoke during a training exercise in 1980. As part of the United States' strategic reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve maintained a high state of readiness for potential conflicts during the Cold War.

1stMarDiv to full strength, he never would have been able to offer the Division for the assault at Inchon, an operation, that in Gen Shepherd's opinion, "turned the tide of defeat to one of victory, to the lasting glory and prestige of the U.S. Marine Corps."

During the Korean War, more than 130,000 reserve Marines were activated. Thirteen of those reservists were Medal of Honor recipients, and every third aviation combat mission was flown by either a Navy or Marine reservist.

Political Battles And Institutional Change

As Marines were fighting in Korea, the Reserve was fighting a different type of battle at home. The Reserve, which included 12 members of the House and Senate, was instrumental in assuring the institutional survival of the Corps during the defense unification debates from 1946 to 1952. The efforts of reserve Marines and their supporters helped ensure the continued existence of an amphibiously oriented Fleet Marine Force.



COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The 1950s and '60s saw a series of organizational changes to enhance the overall responsiveness of the Reserve. The Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1955 established a six-month training program and made schooling available in 200 key occupational fields. The one-weekend-per-month drill schedule became standard after 1958. In July of 1962, the Marine Corps Reserve was restructured into the Fourth Marine Division and the Fourth Marine Aircraft Wing and additional force troops to form a division-wing team.

This allowed for the mobilization of whole reserve units, such as battalions, squadrons, regiments, or even the division/wing, rather than platoon, squad or individual augmentments.

Gen David Shoup, the 22nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, commented in 1963 on the need for reservists to remain ready: "In the future, as so often in the past, it will be the reserves we can count on for the additional ready strength required when the chips are down. Stay ready. If you are mobilized, it will be fast!"



COURTESY OF BOEING CORP.

A-4 Skyhawks of the Marine Attack Squadron 131 "Diamondbacks," a Marine Corps Reserve squadron that was based at Willow Grove, Pa., conduct flight operations from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., in 1978.

You will be needed—and needed badly.”

Due to the national draft and political pressure to limit U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, the Marine Corps Reserve was not mobilized during that conflict. But several hundred reserve Marines, mostly officers, did volunteer for duty in country, including the first combat artist to serve in Vietnam. On the homefront, the Marine Corps Reserve established and successfully collected more than \$784,000 in nationwide donations for the Civic Action Fund, which was sent to units in Vietnam, via CARE Inc., for use in buying tools, food, clothing, school and medical supplies to court the hearts and minds of the populace during the counterinsurgency campaign.

By the late 1970s, the Reserve had built itself into a force of 40,000 drilling Marines in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve and 68,000 non-drilling Marines in the Individual Ready Reserve. Of note was the creation of the Fourth Division Support Group in 1976 and the relocation of 4thMarDiv’s headquarters to New Orleans, La., in 1977. The move solidified the partnership with the headquarters of the 4th MAW already located there, ensuring greater cooperation and combined effort among the reserve component.

Throughout the Cold War, a robust reserve force acted as a strategic reserve in case of national emergency. Exercises were conducted in various climes and places for any national crisis. The Marine Corps Reserve continued to modernize doctrine, training, vehicles and weapon systems, with emphasis placed on expeditionary and combined-arms capabilities. This led to a reserve force organized, trained and equipped to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force operating construct. Time and again, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps referred to the entire service as a total force to highlight the degree to which the Reserve was integrated in all areas of the Marine Corps. The return on the investment in the reserve component became invaluable when Iraq invaded Kuwait and the call to duty came once again.

Desert Storm

In 1990, the largest mobilization of the Marine Corps Reserve since the Korean War occurred during the Persian Gulf War. Reservists served in I and II Marine Expeditionary Forces, including as commanders and staff, making up 15 percent of all Marines in theater. Other reserve units would deploy to Okinawa, Japan, to support Marine Corps missions. In total, the Marine Corps mobilized more than 63 percent of its reserve component, and more than 99.5 percent of unit personnel were able to deploy when



COURTESY OF FIELDING FREED

Reserve Marines waiting to be dismissed after returning home from the Persian Gulf War.

mobilized, more than any other service branch.

The fundamental lesson of the Persian Gulf War was that the Marine Corps could count on the Reserve to deploy as units ready for combat. A premier example was Company B of 4th Tank Bn. Upon arriving in Saudi Arabia just 32 days after its mobilization, “Bravo” Co picked up 13 MIAs and took them into battle with the 2dMarDiv. In its first engagement shortly before dawn on Feb. 25, 1991, the reservists detected a formation of T-72 tanks passing through another formation of Iraqi TSS tanks that were dug into revetments. In an action that lasted only a few minutes, the reserve company destroyed or stopped 34 of 35 enemy tanks.

Shortly after the war, on June 6, 1992, Marine Reserve Force was created, becoming the largest command in the Marine Corps. Redesignated as Marine Forces Reserve in 1994, this consolidated 4thMarDiv, 4th MAW and Fourth Force

Service Support Group in a command architecture to mirror the active-duty force structure.

The Persian Gulf War (and later, Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom) proved the reserve component’s ability to deploy as complete units. They mirrored active-duty units in organizational structure, capabilities and operational readiness. They distinguished themselves in offensive operations with close air support and ground combat, while also conducting rear-area security, detainee operations and engineering support.

In 1998, Gen Charles C. Krulak, then-Commandant of the Marine Corps, said of the reserve component: “As part of the Total Marine Force, our reserves have also recently assisted and augmented our forward presence around the globe. Marine reservists routinely practice carefully crafted reserve integration plans to augment or reinforce crisis response missions and add vital combat power.”



LCPL CESAR CONTRERAS, USMC

Reserve civil affairs Marines speak with the Nawa District governor at a Nawa police station in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, July 18, 2012. The meeting was to celebrate the opening of a new district medical clinic.

A New Kind of Warfare: The Post 9/11 World

Following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Marine Corps Reserve entered more than a decade of continuous unit mobilizations and deployments in support of the global war on terrorism (GWOT). This illustrious chapter in its history saw reserve Marines engaged in major combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, theater security cooperation, counternarcotics and crisis response operations in support of combatant commanders around the globe.

As of Jan. 1, 2014, 62,688 Marines from the Individual Ready Reserve had executed a total of 83,800 sets of mobilization orders. Every reserve unit, at the battalion and squadron level, has been activated at least once. This pace enabled Marine Forces Reserve to remain an operationally relevant force. The dedication and sacrifice of the reserve units provided relief to the operational tempo of the active component, validated the total force concept, and proved that reserve units can operate across the full spectrum of military operations, from the conventional assault on Baghdad to the subsequent counter-insurgency, provisional security and advisory/training missions that continue today.

After 15 years of combat operations, the reserve component remains an integral part of the total force, engaged in the full spectrum of military operations. Gen Michael W. Hagee, the 33rd Commandant of the Marine Corps, said of the Marine Corps Reserve in the GWOT: “Our Marine reservists are Marines first, and there was absolutely no difference in performance—on the ground, in the air, [and] in logistics.” The operational tempo of Marine Forces Reserve during this period has been the highest in the organization’s history. The end result is a depth of experience throughout the ranks that is unprecedented in generations of Marine reservists.

Today, reserve Marines also bring unique skills and advanced degrees from their civilian occupations into their service with the Marine Corps. The breadth of their experience is extensive and includes occupations such as police officers, firefighters, federal agents, mechanics, city planners, politicians, truck drivers, information technology and cyber professionals, carpenters, electricians and business owners. The depth and diversity of experience is a force enabler that adds enormous value to the modern battlefield. The Marine Corps has capitalized on this

talent advantage whenever possible, creating civil affairs groups and law enforcement battalions within the reserve component, for example.

Reserve Marines have served alongside their active-duty counterparts in every clime and place for 100 years, leaving an indelible mark on the battle history of the Marine Corps. The most essential ingredient to the success of the Marine Corps Reserve has been the caliber of the individual Marine. Reservists attend the same schools and are held to the same uncompromising standards as active component Marines. Around the globe, the reserve and active components are inextricably linked, conducting joint training in addition to real-world humanitarian, security and other special-purpose operations.

Today, the Marine Corps Reserve is a “Ready, Relevant & Responsive” force. Its 38,000 SMCR Marines and 65,000 IRR Marines are better trained and better equipped than ever before. In times of war and national emergency, as generations of “citizen-soldiers” did before them, reserve Marines will continue to answer the call to duty and contribute to the success of the Marine Corps.





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“O” Course Pushes PMO Marines; Builds Confidence, Camaraderie

Leathernecks from the Provost Marshal’s Office at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., tackled a confidence course at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., June 9. The course was part of a physical challenge designed to enhance confidence, build camaraderie and promote teambuilding.

“We like to do at least one physical training session per month to boost morale and build esprit de corps within the unit,” said Major Eduardo J. Pinales, the provost marshal for MCAS Beaufort.

The role of the MCAS Beaufort PMO is to not only provide law enforcement, investigative and security services for the air station, but also for MCRD Parris Island and Naval Hospital Beaufort.

“We haven’t done this [obstacle course] since we were recruits, so I think [it’s] a great way to build some confidence and push your body physically,” said Sergeant Michael L. Marcum, a criminal investigator with the unit.

The Marines were split into groups and given a different starting point at the course. Once the signal was given to start, each team was required to complete a full rotation.

“Most of the groups were a mix of different sections, so there were Marines talking and interacting with others who they might not have had a chance to do that with in the past,” said Marcum. “Once we got moving and going through the obstacles, everybody started to have a good time and pushed them to do things they thought they weren’t able to do.”

“The hardest but most fun obstacle here is ‘Slide for Life.’ I’ve never done it before, but I got through it,” said Corporal Lyndsay D. Dole, a military police officer with PMO.

MCRD Parris Island is unique because male recruits from the eastern United States and all female recruits train there—a grand total of nearly 18,000 annually. Designated as a recruit training base on Nov. 1, 1915, more than a million men and women have trained at the depot.

“It’s a unique experience being stationed here at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort and Parris Island,” said Sgt Michael Toops, an assistant operations chief with PMO.

After all the groups completed the course, the Marines gathered once again and retreated to an area where their lead-



SGT DENGRIER BAEZ, USMC

PMO Marines from MCAS Beaufort, S.C., slide down a rope obstacle during a confidence course at MCRD Parris Island, S.C., June 9. The challenge was part of a PT event designed to build camaraderie and promote teamwork.

ers could address them. Following a short brief, the PMO Marines returned to work, where they continued to maintain constant vigilance.

Cpl Jonah Lovy, USMC

Cobra Pilot Is First to Complete Aviator Immersion Program

Captain Jason Grimes, an AH-1Z Cobra pilot with Marine Light Attack Squadron 369, was the first to complete a new two-month Aviator Immersion Program at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport, Calif., June 9.

As part of the program, Marine Aircraft Group 39 sends pilots to MCMWTC Bridgeport to train alongside infantry battalions so they can gain a better understanding of the units’ operations.

“The end state is to have a closer integration between the [Marine Air-Ground Task Force], in particular with the aviation combat element and the ground combat element [GCE],” said Colonel Michael Borgschulte, the commanding officer of MAG-39. “One of the ways we get to that end state is through four lines of effort.”

Borgschulte emphasized that the No. 1

“line of effort” is to partner MAG-39 units with GCE units and conduct professional military education and training in order to build lasting relationships that would lead to more symbiotic training evolutions.

“The second line of effort would be what I’m calling the Aviator Immersion Program. So what I’ll do is take the pilots, and I’ll put them with ... a battalion for 45 to 60 days to get a better appreciation of what the GCE is doing,” Borgschulte continued. “The third line of effort is a medium-scale exercise, and [this involves us] using the synergy of all the aviation assets and ground assets in a grassroots-led exercise.”

Lastly, Borgschulte explained, the fourth line of effort is the simulation portion, linking simulators between Marine Corps Air Stations Miramar, Calif., Yuma, Ariz., and Camp Pendleton, Calif. Following that, GCE Marines fill requirements in joint tactical air control, the fire support coordination center and the Marine Air Control Squadron’s command and control system.

As part of the immersion program, Grimes filled the role of air officer for three different training evolutions with the infantry battalions.

He worked with 2d Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment during a Marine Corps Combat Readiness Evaluation, which helped the Marines improve combat readiness and prepare for combat scenarios. Grimes also trained with 2d Bn, 5th Marines in mountain warfare, which taught Marines mountain climate survival and assault climber techniques. A Fire Support Coordination Exercise gave Marines the training they needed to effectively call in artillery or air support.

“The main point of this program is to get more pilots over to the infantry units so they can have a better understanding of how they operate on a company or battalion level, and they can build relationships with the company and platoon commanders,” said Capt Grimes.

According to Grimes, it’s paramount to correspond effectively between the air and ground combat elements.

“As a Cobra pilot, my goal is to support those Marines on the ground,” said Grimes. “If all my training to support them is so disconnected that I never communicate or work with them, I think that kind of fails the whole [Marine Air-Ground Task Force] idea.”

From Grimes’ perspective, working so closely with a ground unit was very different from working with his squadron.

“There is a different mindset,” said Grimes. “The concerns of a battalion are going to be different than the concerns of the air unit as far as a threat goes. It was



3D/MAM

Capt Jason Grimes, an AH-1Z Cobra pilot with HMLA-369, wears ski gear during mountain warfare training at MCMWTC Bridgeport. Capt Grimes was the first pilot to complete the Corps’ two-month Aviator Immersion Program, June 9.

a great experience to see how the ground unit thinks through a situation and being able to explain to them how we might think through a situation on the air side.”

Cpl Kimberlyn Adams, USMC

24th MEU Hosts Military Day During Fleet Week New York

Marines and Sailors with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit joined together to host Military Day in Battery Park during Fleet Week New York, May 28.

The event was designed to give local residents a little insight into what Marines

are and what they do. The day started with a physical training session led by the recruiters of Recruiting Substation Manhattan, N.Y. They invited visitors to join so they could receive a little taste of Marine Corps training.

After the workout, the Marines showcased the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, combat vehicles, weapons, recruiting information and gear.

“Fleet Week is a time where we get to come here and basically show the American people what we do as Marines,” said Lance Corporal Grayson Slater, a machine-gunner with 3d Battalion, Sixth Marine Regiment. “We are showing them our humvees, our saber systems, Mark 19s, .50-caliber [machine guns], 81 mm mortar systems and [semi-automatic sniper rifle] systems.”

Thousands of residents of the city flowed in and out of Battery Park during the event to meet Marines and take advantage of the photo opportunities.

“I like knowing why people joined and what they do, and learning about their experiences,” said Linda Flood, a New Jersey resident. “Marines are probably the coolest people you can ever meet.”

The event ended with a special appearance by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon and the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, “The Commandant’s Own.”

“The Silent Drill Platoon and Drum and Bugle Corps were awesome,” said Sergeant Omar Iglesias, a motor transportation mechanic with the 24th MEU. “It was one of the coolest things I’ve seen in the Corps in seven years of service.”



CPL JOEY MENDEZ, USMC

LtGen John E. Wissler, Commanding General, Marine Corps Forces Command, talks to Marine Corps poolees with RSS Manhattan after the Military Day PT event in Battery Park, New York City, during Fleet Week New York, May 28.



CPL TRAVIS JORDAN, USMC

GETTING DOWN AND MUDDY—Approximately 2,000 Marines and Sailors were among the 15,000 runners who participated in the 2016 Marine Corps World Famous Mud Run, held at the Lake O’Neill Recreation Area, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 3. The approximately 10-kilometer race was part of the Commanding General’s Cup competition and included a number of obstacles—several mud pits, an ammo-can carry, a mud wall, and more. The event also featured a 5-kilometer race and a 1-kilometer race for kids.

The Marines continued to host events throughout New York and the surrounding area until May 30.

“Marines definitely are ‘The Few and the Proud,’” said Flood. “You [Marines] really just rock.”

Cpl Joey Mendez, USMC

Force Integration Plan: Corps Graduates Female Artillery Officers

At the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course, a joint Army and Marine course at Fort Sill, Okla., the Corps’ newest artillery officers met operationally relevant, gender-neutral military occupational specialty (MOS) standards in order to graduate. On May 17, for the first time ever, the graduating class included two female Marine officers.

“The officers’ course here is difficult,” said Colonel Wayne Harrison, the commanding officer of Marine Detachment Fort Sill. “It has a mix of technical and physical requirements that challenges the students.”

One of the female officers who passed the course was Second Lieutenant Virginia Brodie. She graduated No. 1 of the 137 students in both the gunnery portion of the course and in overall score and was recognized as the class’s distinguished honor graduate.

“I really love this job and want to be a fire direction officer in a fire direction center, so that makes it easy to put in the extra time and effort,” Brodie said.

2dLt Katherine Boy graduated the 19-week course as well. She finished in the top 5 percent of her class and was named an honor graduate.

Their path to the operating forces was no different than the rest of their classmates. Like all officers, they first had to earn a commission from a four-year college, a military academy or an enlisted-to-officer program, then attend The Basic School (TBS) at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va. At TBS, officers receive six months of training and education and are selected and assigned to an MOS-producing school based on their performance, needs of the

Corps and personal preference.

When the Department of Defense opened all jobs previously closed to women, Brodie and Boy became eligible for selection to artillery school. With the support of their leadership, they volunteered and were ultimately assigned with others from their TBS class to train at Fort Sill.

Throughout the five-month course, officers learn everything they need to know about fire support and gunnery to be an effective field artillery leader.

“In fire support, they are the eyes and the ears,” said Captain Isaac Williams, an instructor at the course. “They’re the ones actually observing the round and making corrections to make sure the round hits the target.”

Fire support Marines send enemy locations to the fire direction center, which uses what the students learn in the gunnery portion of the course to deliver fire.

“The gunnery side of this course is extremely difficult,” said 2dLt Marlin Adams, a student in the course. “There

2dLt Virginia Brodie points out an enemy position to 2dLt Katherine Boy during the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Sill, Okla., May 12. The two lieutenants made history as the first female Marine artillery officers to complete the course.

is a lot of math and specific details into making sure we're delivering timely, accurate and safe fire from our howitzers."

Instructors and leaders from the artillery course said that even though these are the first female Marine artillery officers completing the course, nothing has changed.

"The Army has [already] integrated females in this MOS for quite a while, so nothing really has changed in the way that we instruct the students," said Williams. "We are not going to raise or lower the standards. The standards have been set. Marines need to keep above an 80 percent academically and pass all of the physical tasks. If they can't meet this, they will not become an artillery officer."

The course will continue maintaining standards to produce the best artillery officers possible.

Boy said she is thankful she had the



LCPL JULIEN RODARTE, USMC

opportunity to be in the course and is excited to see what artillery has for her future.

"I think everyone brings their own mindset and way of thinking, and the more variety of people that you can get in an MOS who are excited to be there and willing to work hard, the better it's going to be to accomplish that MOS's mission," said Boy.

Boy, Brodie and the other Marines in the course received instruction in joint fires observation, target mensuration operations, and Marine logistics and completed a command post exercise before officially receiving their 0802 MOS and reporting to their first duty station.

LCpl Julien Rodarte, USMC



Crazy Caption Contest

Winner



CPL KHALIL ROSS, USMC

"How much rain did we get last night?"

Submitted by
Francis Hester
Austin, Texas

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

This Month's Photo



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Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Corps Updates Tattoo Policy

The Marine Corps has released a new tattoo policy that seeks to balance the personal desires of Marines with high standards of professional military appearance and heritage. Marine Corps Bulletin 1020, released June 2, explains the Corps' new tattoo policy which replaces all previous tattoo policy guidelines.

"The Commandant [General Robert B. Neller] and I have been talking with Marines throughout the Corps during our visits, and we've taken their questions and comments to heart because it continues to be important to Marines," said Sergeant Major Ronald L. Green, 18th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. "The Commandant said it best in the Marine Corps bulletin, in that we've attempted to balance the individual desires of Marines with the need to maintain the disciplined appearance expected of our profession. I think we've accomplished just that. ... We took the time we felt this policy deserved; we wanted to make sure we got it right."

A tattoo, regardless of its location, cannot express sexism, nudity, racism, vulgarity, or anything that is offensive or brings discredit to the Marine Corps.

Marines can have an unlimited number of tattoos that are covered by a properly fitting standard physical training uniform.

They are prohibited, however, from getting tattoos on the head, neck, inside the mouth, wrists, knees, elbows and hands with the exception of a single band tattoo of no more than three-eighths of an inch in width on one finger.

"The Commandant put a lot of time and effort into the development of this policy. He personally wanted to ensure Marines knew they were being listened to, and that

their opinions matter and will be taken into consideration," said Green, who added that Gen Neller wanted to establish a clearly written and understandable policy that would allow Marines freedom and flexibility to express themselves.

Under MCBUL 1020, there are now official ways to measure tattoos to ensure that Marines are in compliance with the policy. They must be at least two inches above the elbow or one inch below the elbow; at least two inches above the wrist; and at least two inches above and below the knee. Marines will use their own hands in order to measure how big the visible portion of a tattoo may be. If a single tattoo exceeds the bounds of the individual Marine's hand, then it is prohibited.

Marines will be able to serve on special duty assignments, such as recruiting duty, Marine security guard duty, drill instructor duty, Marine security force duty and Marine combat instructor duty if they are in compliance with the standards listed in the bulletin regarding visible tattoos. If Marines have tattoos that are not in compliance with this bulletin but are already on assignment or have gotten orders for special duty assignments, they will finish their



According to MCBUL 1020, the Corps' newest update to its tattoo policy, any part of a tattoo that protrudes from a proper-fitting PT uniform must be able to be covered by the individual Marine's closed hand as pictured here.

UPDATED TATTOO REGS

UNAUTHORIZED AREAS

- Above the collar bone (head and neck)
- Officers are limited to no more than four visible tattoos in the standard PT uniform
- Falls within 2 inches above the elbow and/or 1 inch below the elbow
- No more than 3 inches or the width of the individual Marine's four fingers extended and joined, whichever is greater
- Falls at least 2 inches above the wrist
- Falls within 2 inches of the knee (above and below)
- Single tattoo or collection of tattoos that cannot be covered by the individuals' hand.

AUTHORIZED AREAS

- Cannot be seen when wearing a properly fitting crew-neck shirt
- Falls at least 2 inches above the elbow or one 1 below
- All Marines may have unlimited tattoos on any area of the body that is covered by the properly fitting standard PT uniform
- Single tattoo only on one finger, cannot exceed 3/8 of an inch in width
- Falls at least 2 inches above or below the knee
- Single tattoo or collection of tattoos that can be covered by the individuals' hand.

tour but will be ineligible for another.

“Marines should understand that violating any policy has consequences, and leadership will hold Marines accountable accordingly,” said Green. “As Marines, we hold each other accountable, just as we are expected to protect one another.”

Any Marine who has already been “grandfathered” by a previous policy will not be affected by the bulletin.

“It is up to the individual Marine to ensure that their tattoos are reviewed, and ultimately up to their leadership to make sure that it happens and is conducted properly,” said Green. “We owe that to each other to make sure it’s done right.”

For the complete details regarding the new policy, visit www.marines.mil/tattoos.aspx.

Cpl David Staten, USMC

Installations Discontinue Vehicle Decal Requirement

In accordance with Marine Corps Administrative Message 245/16, all Marine Corps installations stopped issuing and requiring Department of Defense vehicle decals for vehicles entering bases and stations on May 16.

For active-duty personnel, ID checks of the common access card are still performed at entry gates, while dependents and veterans continue to need appropriate government-issued identification.

“The process to register a vehicle has not changed, except for the fact that we are not using the decals on the car anymore,” said Master Sergeant Jeremy Gohl, provost sergeant, Provost Marshal’s Office, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. “We have to check the driver’s common access card as they enter the base with or without the stickers.”

All Marines are still required to register their vehicles when they check in and check out of their respective unit; however, they will not need to fill out DD Form 2220 to receive their decals. According to Gohl, the old decals can be removed and disposed of by the vehicle owner.

“Phasing out the decals puts the responsibility of registering personally owned vehicles on the individual Marine,” said Gohl. “This also places more responsibility on the small-unit leadership to ensure their Marines are registering their vehicles. In the end, we will still vet every person who comes onto base—just in a more effective manner.”

According to the MARADMIN, those who fail to register vehicles aboard an installation will be subject to citation, loss of driving privileges, impoundment or other adverse personnel or administrative actions. It is also emphasized that de-



MCS AMY M. RESSLER, USN

Laura Orr, right, deputy education director at Hampton Roads Naval Museum, Norfolk, Va., teaches children about the museum’s exhibits after the 2016 launch of the Blue Star Museums program, May 26.

spite the policy change, Marine Corps installations will continue to execute in-depth security measures around the clock.

Cpl Medina Ayala-Lo, USMC

Military Families Eligible for Free Admission to Museums Throughout the Summer

It’s not too late for servicemembers and their families to take advantage of Blue Star Museums’ seventh annual summer free-admission program to more than 2,000 museums and nature centers across the nation and two territories.

Now through Labor Day (Sept. 5), all active-duty, National Guard and reserve component troops, members of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissioned corps and their families can visit a vast array of exhibits, free of charge.

The program is offered each year by the Department of Defense, Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and participating museums.

New participants this year include the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock, Ark.; the Children’s Museum of New Hampshire in Dover, N.H.; the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove, Calif.; the Rochester Museum & Science Center in Rochester, N.Y.; and El Rancho de las Golondrinas, a living history museum in Santa Fe, N.M., NEA officials said.

“The Blue Star Museums program is a fun, free activity for military families to enjoy during the summer months,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu.

“The program is also a great way for

servicemember families to connect to their new communities, and it can provide a meaningful way for families to reconnect after deployment,” Chu added. “The Blue Star Museums program is also a perfect way for the arts community to say ‘thank you’ to our servicemembers and their families for the sacrifices they make on our behalf every day.”

Whether families are taking a trip, moving to a new duty station or enjoying a “staycation,” the program has endless opportunities for adults and children. Entering its seventh summer of free museum admission, it has expanded significantly, said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO of Blue Star Families.

NEA officials estimate that last year, 840,000 military families took part in the Blue Star Museums program, and since its 2010 launch, 3.2 million families have benefitted from the free museum admission.

“Blue Star Museums has grown into a nationally recognized program that servicemembers and their families look forward to each year,” Roth-Douquet said. “It helps bring our local military and civilian communities together and offers families fun and enriching activities in their hometowns. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers.”

To view a complete list of participating museums, visit www.arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums.

Terri Moon Cronk, DOD News



Both the terrain and climate of Korea created challenges for the Marines of 2/7.



USMC

THE HILL

By Philip N. Pierce

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the April 1962 issue of Leatherneck. Private Hector A. Cafferata Jr. was one of the many Marines of Company F, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment who defended "The Hill." Cafferata later was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Korean War; he recently passed away, and his obituary is on page 64.

The frowning height towered above the ice-bound road that climbed its tortuous way through Toktong Pass.

Bleak.

Lonely.

For two regiments of Marines, trapped in the frozen valleys of Chosin Reservoir, The Hill would mean survival.

The darkness of late November comes early to the high country of North Korea—darkness and the cold.

It was mid-afternoon by the time "Fox" Company reached The Hill. The pale winter sun was already low in the sky. *Not much daylight left*, the gunny thought. *Not much time to get the position organized and dug in.*

There were 240 of them, counting the reinforcements—a section of 81 mm mortars and one of heavy machine guns. The brittle *chink ... chink ... chink* of their entrenching

tools, pecking at the stubborn frozen earth, echoed on the still mountain air.

"Hey, Sarge! Where they gonna set up the warming tents?"

"There ain't gonna be no warming tents. Ain't got time. You heard the man, foxholes first."

Chink ... chink ... chink ...

"Hey, Montana!"

"Yeah?"

"What is it they call hills out where you come from?"

"Buttes."

"Yeah, buttes. I guess you know this is gonna be 'Frozen Butt Butte' tonight!"

As the evening shadows began to lengthen in the valleys below, the gunny trudged methodically around the summit of The Hill. *Good idea to take one more look before it gets too dark*, he thought.

Automatically, his eyes were drawn to

the saddle, extending north from the high point of The Hill. Dipping in the center, like a sway-backed roof with steeply sloping sides, it linked The Hill with a boulder-strewn ridge 900 yards away.

The gunny shook his head. He didn't like the looks of that damn saddle. *It formed a natural avenue of approach from the ridge. After dark, a piece of terrain like that could mean trouble—bad trouble.*

From his vantage point, he checked the positions of the 3d Platoon. The second and third squads were emplaced around the top of The Hill, their foxholes partially concealed by low, snow-covered brush.

The light machine-gun section was well dug in, he noted. *Yeah, they could cover the saddle horn there.*

Behind him, Corporal Tom Ashdale's first squad was in position on the reverse slope. *Two up and one back*, he thought. *Good defensive tactics. The platoon leader, Lieutenant McCarthy, knew what he was doing. Organize a defense in depth and give yourself something to maneuver with.*

On his right, its flank tied in with the third squad's position, the 1st Plt extended down the eastern slope. Turning his head, he traced the long, thin lines of foxholes,

curving in an arc toward the rear as they neared the bottom. *No depth there*, he thought. *Damn, they had a lot of real estate to cover!*

On the western side, the positions of the 2d Plt looked like a reversed carbon copy of the 1st. Fox Co bent backward around the steep slopes of The Hill like an inverted horseshoe. The company command post (CP), 81 mm mortars and the heavy machine guns closed the gap at the bottom.

The cold sound of boots squeaking against the snow snapped his attention back to the hilltop. It was Platoon Sergeant Audas of the 3d Plt.

“What do you think, Gunny? We’re dug in like the school solution, huh?”

“Yo, John.” The gunny smiled. “Yeah, your positions look No. 1 to me.” He gestured down the slope. “Look at the 1st and 2d though, both of ‘em on line. That ain’t so good! Don’t know what the hell else they can do, though.”

Audas nodded. “Yeah, they both got too much area to cover with one platoon.”

“I’d sure feel better if we had another company up here,” the gunny grunted. “Or maybe the rest of the battalion.”

“Me, too! Say, Gunny, where the hell is the rest of the battalion? We haven’t seen them since they pulled out of Hagaru two days ago.”

The gunny jerked a mitten-covered thumb toward the jumbled white peaks to the north. “They’re up at Yudam-ni with the rest of the 7th Marines. Seven or eight miles up the road, the skipper says.”

“Must be where the 5th Marines went too. I saw their convoy going through Hagaru the same day the battalion pulled out.” Audas looked over his shoulder

toward the southeast. “How far do you figure it is back to Hagaru?”

“Seven miles—maybe 7½.”

“Kind of out here all by our lonesome, aren’t we?”

The gunny nodded.

From the pass, far below, the muffled roar of straining engines drifted upward. Like cautious black beetles, a line of trucks crept slowly up the narrow, twisting, ice-slick road.

“Supply convoy,” the gunny grunted. “Empties coming back from Yudam-ni.”

“It’s a cinch the [Chinese] are looking for a place to cut the MSR. And they couldn’t find a better spot than this pass.”

The two men watched the trucks snake through the pass and disappear around a hairpin turn, their sound fading to silence in the distance.

Audas shifted the sling of his M1 from one shoulder to the other and gazed thoughtfully down at the road. “So old Fox Company holds the pass and keeps the main supply route open. Huh, Gunny?”

“Yeah, John. We’re supposed to send our security patrols during daylight hours. It’s a cinch the [Chinese] are looking for a place to cut the MSR. And they couldn’t find a better spot than this pass.”

Now the sun was gone.

In the plunging valley below the road, the gray mantle of dusk was blending with the deepening shallows.

Now the knifing wind cut with a sharper edge of bitterness.

The gunny shivered, buttoning his parka

around his neck. “Better get back down to the CP, I guess.” He glanced once more around the summit and stared down the slope. “Keep a sharp eye on that damn saddle, John,” he threw back over his shoulder. “And stay loose, *punyo*.”

“Yeah, Gunny ... stay loose.”

Audas turned to look at the ridge, at the now graying snow-covered hill beyond. *They were out there—somewhere. The Chinese.*

Waiting.

It would be a long night on The Hill.

With the coming of darkness, the company settled down to its lonely vigil. While half the men huddled and shivered in their sleeping bags, the others manned the watch. Peering into the night, they silently cursed the bone-searing cold that slowly turned them to men of stone.

Crouched like hooded zombies behind their weapons, they numbly wondered if the frozen metal would work in the sub-zero temperature.

From the two-man foxhole he shared with Cpl Ashdale, Lt Robert McCarthy watched a full moon slowly rise from behind the jumbled hills to the east.

A phrase from some long-forgotten textbook drifted across his mind. *“Moonlight favors the defender”* Yeah, anything that added range to your visibility was a help. *It didn’t do anything for your hearing though. Nothing did at 12 degrees below zero. You either kept your ears covered, or they froze.*

He began to worry about the sentries with their ears covered. *Deaf sentries*, he thought. *Half sentries ... no ears. Only eyes. That sure as hell didn’t favor the defender!*

He threw back the hood of his parka and cocked his head, listening.

There was only silence.

Unseen, unheard, the Chinese regiment moved softly in the quiet snow. Silently they climbed out of the deep valleys, moving to the edge of the shadowed trees on the lower slopes. Masked from view, they quietly scaled the back of the ridge, grouping below the crest, opposite the saddle.

Now The Hill was surrounded.

And now, in the frozen silence, they waited for the signal to attack.

Private First Class Gerald Smith pushed back the sleeve of his parka and wearily took another look at the luminous dial on his wrist. *God, it was only 0230! Only half an hour since he’d taken over the watch? It couldn’t be! Must be something wrong with ... CRACK! A shot! Down below ... CRACK! ... CRACK! More to the rear ...*

He jerked his head around, staring intently toward the saddle. Suddenly,



A U.S. Air Force Fairchild C-119B Flying Boxcar drops supplies near Chungju, Korea, in 1951. The twin-engine aircraft played a vital role during the war, carrying men and supplies. During the winter of 1950, the Flying Boxcar crews air-dropped bridge sections to Marines trapped at the Chosin Reservoir.



President Harry S. Truman congratulates three Marines who have just been presented the Medal of Honor in Washington, D.C., Nov. 24, 1952. They are PFC Hector A. Cafferata Jr., TSgt Robert S. Kennemore and LtCol Raymond G. Davis.

the ridgeline beyond flared to life in a continuous blaze of muzzle flashes. Their white clothing almost invisible against the snow, the Chinese boiled over the crest and came pouring across the saddle.

“Here they come!” The shout burst from his cold-cracked lips. He slammed the butt of his M1 against his shoulder and began to work the trigger. Around him the night erupted in a tumult of crashing gunfire and hoarsely bellowed commands.

Suddenly, the machine gun covering the saddle jammed. The gunner, sobbing curses of frustration, frantically jerked at the bolt handle, beating his fist against the breech. It was no use. The gun was dead. He leaped to his feet, clawing the .45 from his hip. As the Chinese closed upon him, he emptied the clip at the onrushing horde. Six of them sprawled dead in the snow before the enemy tide flooded over his position.

The piercing shriek of a whistle sent the attack veering to the right. Changing direction, the Chinese turned the full fury of their onslaught against the fire teams led by Smith and PFC Harrison Pommers.

The Marines unleashed a storm of lead at the rushing, tangled ranks of the enemy. A grenade arched into Pommers’ pit. The men flung themselves to the ground as the blast seared the night with orange flame. Two more sailed in, the double explosion followed by cries of pain. A fourth tumbled through the darkness, exploding as it struck Pommers’ helmet.

Pommers sank to the ground.

A few yards down the slope, a giant of a man stood upright in full view of the enemy. Slowly and deliberately he squeezed off each shot. Private Hector Cafferata didn’t believe in wasting ammunition.

Crouched in a foxhole at Cafferata’s feet, PFC Kenneth Benson hammered at the frozen bolt of his Browning Automatic



According to his Medal of Honor citation, PFC Cafferata provided “accurate and effective fire against the onrushing force, killing 15, wounding many more, and forcing the others to withdraw,” during the Chosin Reservoir campaign, Nov. 28, 1950.

Rifle (BAR). After each blast of the rifle above his head, he could hear the big man grunt a number. “Moose” was counting his hits.

“Nine ... 10 ... 11 ...” On number 12 the M1 quit cold.

Now they were both without weapons. With a bellow of rage, Cafferata hurled the useless rifle toward the enemy. He bent over, slapped Benson on the shoulder and pointed up The Hill. “Let’s go, Bens,” he yelled. “Up there!”

The two men scrambled up the steep incline and stumbled into the shallow trench occupied by Smith’s fire team. Everyone in it was either dead or wounded.

“Gimme a rifle!” Cafferata roared. “Somebody gimme a rifle! Mine’s busted!”

“Here,” one of the wounded shouted, thrusting an M1 toward the big man. “You shoot while I load!” He reached across a still form lying beside him and grabbed another rifle.

Standing erect once more, Cafferata opened fire. Like a machine, he emptied clip after clip at the enemy, pausing only to stoop and exchange his empty rifle for a newly loaded one.

Now the hilltop was alive with grenades, tumbling, twisting, bouncing, in a rain of blasting agony and death. Swinging their entrenching tools like baseball bats, the Marines struck at the smoking grenades, batting them back at the throwers. One landed at Cafferata’s feet. He kicked it away. Another. A second kick. A third hissed by him, landing among the wounded in the trench. He dove, scooped it up, somersaulted to his feet and hurled it just as it exploded. The blast tore flesh from his hand.

Another grenade tumbled in. Benson seized it and threw. A livid sheet of flame blinded him, the crashing explosion smashing against his eardrums. He slumped to the ground as dark waves of unconsciousness engulfed him.

The Hill was a raging maelstrom. Jumping in and out of their foxholes like madmen, the Marines ripped at the enemy—slashing, thrusting with bayonets; clubbing, battering with rifles and entrenching tools. Shadowed forms lunged at each other. Struggled. Sank to the trampled snow, blotching its whiteness with dark stains.

Above the seething turmoil the crunching *whump* of mortar shells, the stuttering cadence of machine guns, the sharp bark of rifles, punctuated the blast of grenades in a shattering discord of battle din.

Through the uproar, angry voices cried out. Here a shouted curse; a sharp, explosive scream of pain. There a foreign cry of challenge, “Marine! ... Marine! ...” Unanswered, save for the silent thrust of

Marines return to Hagaru-ri. Yudam-ni was the western extremity of the Chosin Reservoir and was the scene of combat early in the campaign. Marines had to fight their way back to Hagaru-ri along roads surrounded by enemy.



USMC

a bayonet, the crunching blow of a rifle butt. A bugle blared its strident voice, faded to a trembling wail, gurgled and was silent.

Slowly the tempo slackened. The Chinese were falling back. By 0630 the attack had ceased.

Fox Co stood alone on The Hill.

They set up two tents as a makeshift aid station and brought in the wounded. The dead were carefully placed behind the tents. Hospital Corpsman Jim Morrissey stepped back to check their dog tags.

There were 20 of them—two rows of 10 each. *That was like Marines*, he thought, *lining up their dead in neat ranks*. For an instant, the soft, clear notes of “Taps” echoed across his mind. Then they were gone. He felt better about checking the dead, seeing them like that.

The job over, he moved back toward the tent full of wounded.

God, if there was only some way to get the plasma thawed out! ... Every bottle frozen solid. ... Some of those guys in there are in awful shape. ... They'll die without plasma. ...

There are five corpsmen besides me ... but what can any of us do? ... Stop the bleeding with battle dressings. ... Give the patient some morphine. ... Even the morphine is frozen! ... Had to hold a syrette in your mouth and let it thaw for five minutes before you could use it. ... Yeah, and that was all you could do for them—that and pray ... and watch them die. ...

He lifted the flap and entered the tent.

Down in the command post, Captain Bill Barber mentally totaled the casualties as each platoon leader gave his strength report.

“Twenty dead, three missing and 54 wounded. That gives us 163 effectives to hold this hill with.” He glanced at the semicircle of faces grouped around him. “And that’s all we’re going to have. We won’t be getting any replacements.”

“That gives us 163 effectives to hold this hill with.” He glanced at the semicircle of faces grouped around him. “And that’s all we’re going to have. We won’t be getting any replacements.”

The platoon leaders exchanged glances as the captain continued. “I just talked to Division Headquarters on the three hundred.” He nodded toward the radio. “Hagaru got hit last night too. As near as they can tell, there’s at least a division of Chinese between us and them. I asked for an air drop—ammunition and chow. They said they were in contact with Division Rear at Hungnam and would see what they could do.”

“We need that ammo, Skipper.” It was Lt Peterson, leader of the 2d Plt. “I’m down to two grenades per man.”

“I know, Pete, you and everyone else. When you people get back, pass the word to your platoons to collect every [enemy] weapon and round of ammunition in the area. I’ve got a hunch we’re going to need it!”

Capt Barber took a deep breath, and let it out slowly. “There’s something else you ought to know. The 5th and 7th got hit hard up at Yudam-ni last night. Took a lot of casualties. They’re completely surrounded. They’re going to have to fight their way out.” He turned his head, gazing down at the snow-covered road at the base of The Hill. “That’s the only way out for their rolling stock. If we don’t hold this hill, they haven’t got a chance.”

For a short time the group stood silently, each busy with his own thoughts. The company commander searched the tired faces of his lieutenants, one after the other. Then he nodded, as though to himself. “That’s the story, gents. Let’s get with it.”

By noon the enemy weapons had been collected and cleaned up. The majority of them were American Thompson sub-machine guns and Springfield ’03s. Almost every man had two weapons. Now if the fly-boys came through with their air drop. ...

PFC Ken Benson was back in action. He was still a little rocky from the grenade explosion, and there was an uncomfortable ringing in his ears. But what really bothered him was the fact that he’d lost his gloves. He went down the slope to where he and

Cafferata had been dug in the night before. He found the gloves—and the tattered remains of their sleeping bags. The Chinese had shot them full of holes and slashed them with bayonets, thinking there were sleeping Marines in them.

Benson gazed at the mutilated bags, his brow furrowed in thought. *Yeah, it might work. ... Get the dead guys' sleeping bags and stuff 'em with snow. ... Lay 'em out in a kinda circle. ... Those stupid [enemy soldiers] will think there's guys in 'em, surer than hell. ... When the [Chinese] stop to shoot 'em up—POW! I'll be sighted right in on 'em! Man, my own private ambush! ...*

He scurried up the slope in search of discarded sleeping bags.

In the middle of the afternoon, two R5D transport planes roared out of the lead-colored sky to the south. They came in low, checking the area. As they thundered past, the black letters, U.S. Marines, painted on their sides stood out in sharp relief. Banking in a wide turn, they roared back over the area, neatly dumped their parachute-borne cargos at the base of The Hill and flew off into the sky where they had first appeared.

Sergeant David Smith, the company supply sergeant, quickly organized a detail and went down to collect the supplies. As he bent over to cut the first bundle free from its parachute, a sniper's rifle barked. Smith tumbled into the snow with a broken leg.

Lt Schmitt, the Headquarters platoon leader, charged down the slope, intent on dragging the sergeant to safety. Again the sniper's rifle spoke. Lt Schmitt pitched headlong. The unseen marksman had scored two broken legs with two rounds.

A fire team from the 1st Plt went out to take care of the sniper.

They carried the two wounded men to the aid station and brought the supplies into the perimeter. There was .30-caliber ammunition, hand grenades, medical supplies and shells for PFC Lloyd O'Leary's mortars. O'Leary was in charge of the mortars now. The lieutenant, Technical Sergeant Al Phillips and six other mortar-men lay among the wounded in the aid station. Two more rested among the silent ranks of the dead behind the tents.

The darkness of the second night fell like a thick blanket. Some of the wounded left their sleeping bags in the aid station to join their fire teams. The positions were the same. But now as they peered into the blackness of the Korean night, the men were filled with awareness of their slender battle lines, thinned by casualties.

They thought about the two regiments, somewhere to the north, battling in the frozen night for precious yards of the ice-



bound road that led to salvation.

They thought about the shadowy figures, gathering now in the darkness beyond the ridge and along the edges of the valleys below the slopes.

They huddled deeper into their holes and checked their weapons for the hundredth time.

In the numbing cold and the darkness of The Hill, they waited. ...

Someone in the 3d Plt heard it first, the warning whisper of projectiles plummeting through the black sky.

"Mortars! Mortars!" The shouts echoed loudly in the stillness.

BLAM! ... BLAM! BLAM! ... BROOMM! ...

Now the night shuddered with crashing sound.

Angry red and yellow blasts of bright flame shredded the darkness.

Suddenly, the barrage lifted. Along the 3d Plt front, dark forms rushed forward, fired a few scattered shots, then quickly withdrew. Again and again they dashed toward the waiting Marines—against the center, the right, the left. Each time, a flurry of shots, strange shouts in an unknown tongue, then a scrambling retreat, back into the dark.

"Audas!" It was Lt McCarthy's voice from just below the crest.

"Yo," came the answering hail from the left slope.

"Probing attacks," McCarthy shouted. "They're looking for a weak spot! Pass the word to watch the flank—"

CRASH! The thunder of gunfire drowned out the words.

Massed in parallel attacks, the Chinese hurled themselves against both flanks of the platoon. On the right, the charging horde raced into a withering storm of death pouring from the muzzles of the defenders. The attack faltered. Like some mortally wounded monster, it veered, yawed, lost momentum and died a lingering death on the snowy slopes.

The line had held.

On the left, wave after wave of attackers smashed against the positions. Again and again the murderous fire from the foxholes ripped and tore the advancing ranks to ribbons. Each time a new line came hurtling out of the darkness to take its place. On and on they came, like a relentless human sea, surging closer ... ever closer.

Finally, in a screaming rush of scrambling bodies, they broke through.

"Fall back! ... Fall back!"

"Alternate positions!"

"On the double!"

Above the din, the hoarse shouts passed

Weapons Company, in line with Headquarters and Service Company, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, trying to contact the temporarily cut-off Fox Co in a glancing engagement to permit the 5th and 7th Marines to withdraw from the Yudam-ni area, Nov. 27, 1950.



USMC

up and down the line. The 3d Plt began to withdraw down the slope.

Capt Barber heard the frantic yells. He rushed up to investigate. Somehow in the chaos, he located Lt McCarthy.

"Mac, Mac, what's ... ?"

A burst of machine-gun fire burned through the blackness, catching them both in the legs, knocking them to the ground.

Capt Barber crawled over to the fallen lieutenant. "How bad is it, Mac?"

"Can't tell, Skipper. Leg's broken, I think. Guess ..." He grunted in pain. "... Guess Sgt Audas just got promo ... promoted to platoon leader."

Down the slope, Lt Peterson shouted encouragement to his platoon, bracing them for the all-out attack he knew would follow the breakthrough.

It never came.

The 50 or 60 Chinese who had penetrated the lines seemed confused. Aimlessly, they milled around, moving to a position behind the 2d Plt. There they congregated in a tight group, talking, shouting, blowing bugles.

Peterson turned two machine guns around and opened fire. In swift seconds the torrent of fire littered the area with a grotesquely tangled mass of bodies.

None survived.

The night and the battle wore on. Capt Barber had his wounds dressed and hobbled back to the lines. For Lt McCarthy, the fight was over.

In the dim, gray light of first dawn, PFC Benson, the tactician, executed his ambush. It had been a long wait. But now he saw them—a squad loping across the lower slopes toward his "sleeping Marines." The Chinese quickly surrounded the realistic circle of decoys. They lowered their muzzles and began to pump bullets into the bags. Those with bayonets slashed at them with frenzied blades.

Benson took a deep breath and carefully clamped down on the trigger. CHUNG! ... CHUNG! ... CHUNG! ... The coughing bark of his BAR brought a happy smile to his face. CHUNG! ... CHUNG! ... CHUNG! ... It was music to his ears. One by one the enemy jerked, spun, folded, toppled, like broken puppets—until his sights were empty.

Benson eased the BAR from his shoulder and surveyed his handiwork.

Benson, the tactician, was pleased.

As the morning light of the third day grew stronger, the Chinese broke contact and withdrew.

The rattle of gunfire ceased.

Quiet descended over The Hill, broken only by the mournful cries of wounded Chinese, somewhere in the snow beyond the perimeter. The cries grew weaker. Soon the creeping cold hushed them to silence.

Capt Barber counted his men.

Now there was less than half of Fox Co left to fight.

Hopefully, he searched the snowy slopes of the gray-white hills that flanked the twisting road to the north.

The coughing bark of his BAR brought a happy smile to his face. CHUNG! ... CHUNG! ... CHUNG! ... It was music to his ears.

There was no sign of movement.

He closed his eyes, listening with all his might.

There was no sound of gunfire.

Nothing.

For a moment, dark shadows of doubt clouded his mind. Did Fox Co wait in vain for the two regiments to the north? Was the death and the agony for nothing?

Then he remembered Sgt Audas leading what was left of the 3d Plt in the dawn attack to retake the crest of The Hill.

The dark mood vanished.

And he knew that his fear was not of his enemies, the Chinese and the cold, but

of the enemy against whom there was no defense—time.

Thus in the endless vacuum of time they came to know only daylight and darkness.

By day the planes came. And the sky was filled with bright blossoms of silk, lowering their precious cargoes of ammunition and food. Each plane would swoop low in a final pass of rushing thunder, dipping its wings in voiceless words of encouragement to the slowly shrinking circle of men on The Hill.

By night the guns of Fox Co bellowed their loud defiance into the Korean darkness. And out of the frozen night would come the answering roar of enemy guns, and the sound of clashing cymbals, and the brassy notes of bugles—and the voices. ...

"Fox Company, you are surrounded. I am a lieutenant from the 11th Marines. The Chinese will give you warm clothes and good treatment. Surrender now!"

And a rasping voice would bawl, "O'Leary, send up a flare. I want a talk to the son-of-a-so-and-so!"

And in the eerie, swinging light of the flare, an M1 would bark out into the dancing shadows.

And the voice of the enemy would speak no more.

On the sixth day, as he had times without number, Capt Barber searched the snow-covered landscape to the north.

He saw them!

Even in that far-off distance, he knew the hooded figures were Marines. Fanned out in skirmish lines, they swept the spiny, narrow ridges that flanked the road, moving in scornful contempt of those who had come to destroy them.

Below them, he saw the drab, green, serpent of the convoy, slithering its slow-paced way among the tumbled hills.

In the late afternoon, the men of Fox Co walked down the slope of the miserable mountain to the waiting vehicles.

They placed their wounded in the trucks, and their dead on trailers and the hoods of jeeps.

They shouldered their packs and joined the long lines of men who stood beside the muttering vehicles.

The convoy stirred ... moved in slow procession ... and disappeared around the far bend of the winding road that led to the sea.

Now in the gathering dusk there was only emptiness.

And the soundless shadows, creeping up the slopes toward the frozen mounds that had been the enemy.

And The Hill.

Bleak ... Lonely. ...

And silent.



An Anbar Summer

By SSgt Carson D. Clover, USMC

I started my career in the Marine Corps as a CH-46E Sea Knight airframes mechanic at the peak of the “Phrog’s” golden era. The phrase “Phrogs Phorever” didn’t hold as true as expected; nevertheless, we felt invincible at the time. My first deployment was with the “Greyhawks” of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 161. We deployed in February 2004 to the Al Anbar Province of Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. Our mission in Iraq was to perform casualty evacuations (casevacs). Effectively, we were aerial ambulances for casualties throughout the Al Anbar Province. In 2004, we were still in the beginning stages of the war in Iraq, and unfortunately, our services were in high demand.

Operating out of Al Taqaddum (TQ) Air Base, we were in the center of the “Sunni Triangle” between Fallujah, Ramadi and Baghdad. We were ideally located to be the first responders for the majority of the fighting. Due to the standing casevac mission, one lucky young officer always was posted on watch with the radios in the ready room. As soon as the “9-line” call

for help came through, someone would sprint out to our center courtyard and start wailing on a brass bell that we had mounted on a 4-by-4 post. At that sound, no matter what we were doing at the time, be it mounting a utility hydraulic pump, conducting engine washes, or “goin’ big” with a hand full of spades, we would drop everything and run to the flight line to ensure that aircraft launched as soon as possible. Lives depended on our ability to launch at the sound of the bell, and we took that mission seriously.

Any crew who were tasked with casevac would always be close by and have their gear staged on the aircraft. In the time it took aircrew to get their gear on and in position, all maintainers on hand would have blade ropes off, intake covers pulled and the auxiliary power unit fired up. Our standing guidance was to have the wheel chocks pulled so the aircraft could be taxiing out within 15 minutes of a call.

By the end of our first month, our response time was within five minutes and the aircraft was often breaking deck by 10. If that bell rang, every member of our unit knew lives were on the line. The seriousness of that sound sharpened our ears, and we became accustomed to seeing

our lieutenants and captains sprinting across the gravel—something that at first we junior Marines found quite comical. It didn’t take long, however, for us to realize how vital those sprints were.

The day of July 5, 2004, rolled into existence in the exact same routine as did every other in that “Groundhog Day” environment. It was “FOD (foreign object debris) walk,” which is an aviation term for a very thorough “police call” of the flight line. As our day-crew shift was coming in, most of us knew of, and some even saw, the predawn launch of aircraft 110, one of our CH-46E helicopters, and one AH-1W Cobra attack helicopter, in response to a casevac. This was nothing unusual because we were on 24-hour alert and already had seen more than 12 calls in one day within the first 96 hours of July.

This particular morning at FOD walk would be infamously different. Suddenly, officers came running out of the ready room. Some were shouting, but there was no bell. The first thing I noticed was their faces.

There always had been a sense of urgency and determination, but this was different. It looked like fear. By this time



COURTESY OF MCAS MIRAMAR, CALIF.

A Boeing-Vertol CH-46 Sea Knight, also known as a “Phrog,” sits on a taxiway in Iraq during a 2004 deployment. A workhorse in Marine Corps aviation, the CH-46 was in service from the mid-1960s until 2015.

we all had stopped walking, and instead, we were watching and listening. I picked up on bits of shouting, “They didn’t call in” or “They’re not answering,” but before I could decipher more, the bell started screaming to life with new veracity. At the same time, the quiet distant patter in the background that most helicopter squadron Marines grow accustomed to quickly grew to an angry thunder. I turned, already knowing subconsciously that something was off, and saw a helicopter coming in from the wrong approach direction.

One of our helicopters was flying lower and faster overhead than I’d ever seen. It was no more than 50 feet in the sky and moving far too fast to be coming into one of our parking spots. It buzzed past and shot straight for the taxiway parallel to the aid station. As I heard the APUs (auxiliary power units) from the standby crews spool up, I also heard what some officers were saying to the staff noncommissioned officers. “That’s his! That’s the CO’s ‘bird!’”

In that moment of heightened senses, everything snapped together instantly. Something was wrong. As some of the Marines already “in the know” started running toward the flight line and the taxiway leading to medical, I gave chase. Still being a vibrant, young corporal at the time, I found myself catching and surpassing some of my more “seasoned” superiors.

As we rounded the corner and started down the active airstrip, the commanding officer’s aircraft came into sight. We reached the aid station just as the next two aircraft, now on an internal casevac, came up behind us. Having no idea what to expect or what it was we thought we could do, a dozen of us just stood there frozen in the dust cloud kicked up by the rotors, waiting for any information or direction to be given to us. It was then that two corpsmen came down the ramp of the CH-46 on either side of our CO.

Lieutenant Colonel David “Stretch” Coffman was not given his call sign by accident. LtCol Coffman was “a mountain of a man”! Although I am 6-foot-1, I still had to tilt my head to look up at him. But it was not just his height; he was big. His aura was magnetic. His booming cannon of a voice and hard jawline were rivaled only by his eyes, as sharp as an eagle’s. They could warm your heart or freeze your soul, depending on why you were in his office. When he entered a room and started to speak, everyone listened. First contact may start off slightly intimidating, but the passion and intelligence in what he said would leave everyone in a room hanging on his every word.

And now, this man, who had promised us that he would do everything in his



COURTESY OF SSGT CARSON D. CLOVER, USMC

The Marines in the airframes work center were responsible for all structural and hydraulic repairs for the CH-46s during HMM-161’s deployment. Back row from left to right: GySgt Mark Arvizu, Cpl Josh Griffiths, Cpl Aaron Owens, Cpl Jordan Mordhorst, Cpl James Brownell, Cpl Carson Clover, Cpl Natividad Herrera, Cpl Luke Molvarec and Cpl Zachary Schuessler. Front row from left to right: LCpl Rob Greenwaldt, Cpl Evan Price, Sgt Herman Galindo III, SSgt Jason Vigness and Capt Scott Schuster.



COURTESY OF SSGT CARSON D. CLOVER, USMC

Then-LtCol David Coffman, left, awards LCpl Carson Clover a Meritorious Mast Award a few days prior to their deployment to Iraq.

power to ensure that we all returned home safely, was being led away. What once was a white bandage pressed against the side of his face could now pass for a red bandana. Blood ran down his neck and seemed to glue his skivvy shirt to his chest, despite the surrounding rotor wash.

The senior members of the squadron quickly moved in and followed him into

the medical tent. The copilot, First Lieutenant Steve Clifton, then came out walking, but he too was bleeding from his face. The “Dash Two” aircraft pulled up before we had a chance to process it all and LtCol Coffman was taken to the aircraft. Then they were gone. The only thing we could hear or understand through the sound of the blades overhead was “Baghdad.” That



The CH-46 that LtCol Coffman was flying when he and his copilot were wounded by small-arms fire was extensively damaged in the airframe as well as the hydraulics and avionics components.

COURTESY OF SSGT CARSON D. CLOVER, USMC



COURTESY OF SSGT CARSON D. CLOVER, USMC



COURTESY OF SSGT CARSON D. CLOVER, USMC

When the CO's war-torn Phrog was inspected, holes from at least 40 rounds were found in the aircraft. Note the bullet holes in the fuselage just above the ramp in the above left photo, and the holes along the side of the helicopter in the above right photo.

name was all we really needed to know because Baghdad was the location of the closest hospital. The medical facility in TQ only could handle minor injuries, and apparently, our commander required a higher echelon of care.

After being instructed to return to our spaces and await word, the walk back was nearly silent. All of those who weren't on the flight line when the bird came in or hadn't had the uncontrollable urge to sprint after it were just standing around. I didn't have answers to any of their questions. All I knew was that our CO

was shot and that they flew him away. Understanding the nature of our mission, when we flew injured personnel out, it was always in hopes of helping them, but it was known that their injuries were almost always grave. Helping strangers and sending them on was one thing, but now one of our own was gone. He was our leader, our mentor, the head of our family. The uncertainty that builds behind that idea is mind-numbing. All we knew was that our CO was shot and they flew him away.

Within half an hour, the executive offi-

cer, LtCol Jim Kennedy, and the sergeant major, SgtMaj Charles Booker, brought us into a school circle and provided details for us.

After responding to a casevac, the CO and 1stLt Clifton were flying northwest of Fallujah when their aircraft took large amounts of small-arms fire from both sides of their flight path by anti-coalition forces. This barrage caused multiple system failures to include a punctured hydraulic pressure line and a flash fire that traveled throughout the entire cabin.

A 7.62 mm round penetrated the cockpit

and hit LtCol Coffman directly in his protective chest plate. This caused the projectile to fragment and ricochet. One of those pieces shot upward and struck LtCol Coffman again, this time ripping right through his jawbone. Other fragments flew across the cockpit striking 1stLt Clifton, causing minor facial wounds. A rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) exploded on the aft ramp of the helicopter, creating a fireball that burned two-thirds of the way through the cabin and injured the aircrew. The gunfire also struck the avionics closet and damaged both internal and external communications. Even while flying under only hydromechanical power and with no communication or navigational capabilities, LtCol Coffman was able to assist 1stLt Clifton in flying their damaged bird back to TQ.

Within a day we learned that LtCol Coffman had been stabilized in Baghdad, sent to Ramstein, Germany, and then processed to National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Doctors there would have to reinforce the injured section of his jaw with a titanium mesh. He would then have his jaw wired shut for some time to allow it to heal properly. Fear and uncertainty created a kind of lethargy that lasted a few days. Even without our CO, we still had a mission to accomplish and aircraft to maintain. We knew that bell would ring again and that someone else would need our assistance. We pushed through and found new focus.

Once the CO's damaged Sea Knight was towed back to our line and into a maintenance hangar, we called on a civilian team from Al Asad to assist in inspecting the war-torn Phrog. They discovered holes from at least 40 rounds throughout the airframe and damage to several hydraulics and avionics components.

The following weeks proved to be both busy and challenging. During July 6-10, both the living spaces and the flight line work spaces were hit by almost a dozen mortar and 107 mm rocket indirect fire attacks. The Greyhawks were fortunate to sustain no further injuries. Without the casevac tempo ceasing, HMM-161 also hosted the aviation combat element from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit and familiarized them with the missions and area of operations; hosted LtCol Oliver North, USMC (Ret) and his news crew for a few days; and also were paid a visit by the Commandant, General Michael W. Hagee.

By the end of July, we had flown 114 casevac missions, transporting almost 200 injured personnel throughout Iraq, one of whom was our very own.

Even though the pace did not slow in August, there were several reasons to be



COURTESY OF BGEN DAVID COFFMAN, USMC

LtCol Coffman, left, and his copilot, 1stLt Clifton, stand behind the corpsmen and crew who were flying with them on July 5, 2004. Coffman returned to Iraq to see his squadron home at the end of their deployment. It took hundreds of maintenance hours, but the CO's Phrog was repaired before his return.

hopeful. We organized teams within the maintenance department to focus on returning the damaged aircraft to the fight. Airframes mechanics began patching holes, replacing and fabricating lines and performing structural repairs. Avionics technicians started rewiring all of the burnt wire bundles and replacing components. All of the divisions in maintenance devoted any manpower or free time they had to the task of reviving this aircraft. Within a mere 33 days and hundreds of maintenance man-hours, we called for a test crew, and aircraft 110 flew that same

day. After being riddled with bullet holes and having had an RPG explode across the tail, the bird was back on task awaiting the next ring of the bell.

With our relief squadron coming in and the advanced party members returning home, the light at the end of the tunnel burned brighter when we heard that LtCol Coffman had not only been released from the hospital, but had made it back to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., to greet our first wave home. His jaw was wired shut and sutures still fresh, but he was there.

However, none of that prepared us for Aug. 22. That evening, as we were forming up to receive some kind of word about our upcoming retrograde, shock and elation rippled through the masses as LtCol Coffman stood there in front of us! Not three days after the doctors cut the wires in his jaw, our CO boarded a plane and made it back to us. This action proved to us that he would keep his word that we all would return home together, and on our terms. That was the day I realized that our Marine Corps heroes are not just names we repeat or read in the pages of history books, but that they are here serving in our ranks now, their stories just not yet told.



USMC

Coffman received a Purple Heart for his wounds in Al Anbar. Now BGen Coffman serves as the Deputy Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force and Commanding General, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

Author's bio: SSgt Carson Clover is the airframes staff noncommissioned officer in charge for Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (Reinforced) 163 at MCAS Miramar.



Books Reviewed

THE WHITE DONKEY: Terminal Lance. By Maximilian Uriarte. Published by Little, Brown and Company. 288 pages. Stock #0316362832. \$22.50 MCA Members. \$25 Regular Price.

Notable cartoons from World War II skillfully were penned by the award-winning citizen-soldier, Bill Mauldin. Now comes, Maximilian Uriarte, a war-time cartoon artist for our 21st-century troops.

Uriarte survived two tours in Iraq between 2007 and 2009. He first served as an infantry Marine in Company I, 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment in the Zaidon region southeast of Fallujah. On his second tour, he journeyed through various parts of that embattled country as a combat photographer and combat artist.

In 2010, Uriarte created the comic strip, "Terminal Lance," which appeared regularly in the *Marine Corps Times*, as it does today. "The White Donkey: Terminal Lance" can be considered a cartoon novel in storybook form.

Uriarte's experiences in the "great sand-

box" sparked his need to express his hard-won, often conflicted, feelings about the conflagration in which he participated. First, we must dispel the notion that the renderings of "The White Donkey: Terminal Lance" are comic, or indeed, even slightly amusing. Many enlisted soldiers, Sailors and Marines, especially veterans of the "war in the sand," will identify quickly with many of the characters, sights and incidents depicted in the book.

The work reflects the war with mixed feelings and often searing intensity. As with most of Bill Mauldin's cartoon characters, the book expresses the junior enlisted man's view. Many distressingly ironic truths can be depicted sharply through the cartoons. It is clear why these cartoons became a hit with our enlisted warriors and veterans.

Uriarte writes: "I wanted to tell a story about the existential crisis of military experience, and what it means to enlist during a time of war."

The two key Marine figures in the story are Abe and Garcia. Both fresh out of

boot camp and infantry training, their first overseas assignment is with "India" Co, 3d Bn, 3d Marines. The new arrivals quickly are put on notice that they still are regarded as "boots" by the company's battle-tested Marines.

Leading up to the regiment's next deployment in Iraq, the battalion trains at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. There, both Abe and Garcia are promoted to the grade of lance corporal.

Unfortunately, lance corporal will be Garcia's terminal rank.

During their predeployment leave, Garcia goes along with Abe to visit his home in Oregon, where they wrestle with the anti-war attitudes of Abe's civilian parents, friends and former classmates. As expected, the two, now fully charged Marines, find it uncomfortable when exchanging views with a modern American hometown society.

Before the leave is over, both Marines are ready to return to the military atmosphere to which they now have become accustomed.

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The regiment's area of operation in Iraq is the Garma section between Fallujah and Abu Ghraib. India Co is responsible for the area known as Zaidon. On their first "outside the wire" adventure, the Marines experience their first slightly disturbing cultural anomaly. Their vehicle procession is forced to stop because of a white donkey on the road. Unable to move off the highway due to the threat of improvised explosive devices, the whole 21st-century war machine grinds to a screeching and somewhat ironic halt. As time and weeks slowly go by, India Co Marines grow frustrated by a lack of combat activity.

In a later action, Abe stops a speeding car with a single well-aimed shot which threatens a Marine check-point. The driver survives, but it turns out that he is unarmed and not a threat. As a result, Abe begins exhibiting his first slight post-traumatic stress indicators.

On the road to Zaidon, one of the armored personnel carriers is hit by a mine. Abe and the other Marines inside the vehicle are shaken, but Garcia, who mans the top turret, is thrown clear of the

vehicle and killed. The whole platoon is upset, but Abe, the vehicle's commander, feels personally responsible.

For Abe, this is a new chapter in his own advanced form of PTSD. In the next few weeks, Abe is demoted for striking an officer and talking back to the battalion's chaplain.

As a fighting tool, Abe is finished. The story follows Abe home where he finds himself unable to relate to his family and friends. Alcohol aids him to further disassociate from a society.

Not to spoil the ending, but Abe and his imaginary white donkey visit Garcia's grave in an attempt to resolve Abe's own personal version of a post-war serenity.

Although Bill Mauldin's WW II cartoons were not in serialized form, there are many interesting similarities between them and Uriarte's. Both of Mauldin's main characters, Willie and Joe, are like Abe and Garcia, in that they are from different cultural backgrounds. Their war brings them together as friends. They share the same military ethos and are subject to, sometimes unjust, orders of their superiors.

Together, like their Mauldin character counterparts, Uriarte's face death with their own personal brand of gallows humor.

At some point during their training and experience in combat, they bond on a higher level than any civilian could ever imagine and transcend to the highest level of what we Marines devotedly refer to as brotherhood.

For the reader, "The White Donkey: Terminal Lance" starkly exposes the life-alerting magnitude of "survivor's guilt" feelings. This well-constructed serial cartoon artfully leads the reader to a deeper understanding of the life of military veterans.

Once absorbed, one surely gains a richer appreciation of the effects of PTSD on both the victim and his or her caring family members.

Well done, Marine: You skillfully struck the head of the nail, and you struck it with humanity coupled with immensely artful power!

Robert B. Loring

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



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“Hand-to-Hand Fighting on Ridgeline 749, Kanmubong Ridge”

GHOSTS OF KANMUBONG RIDGE, NORTH KOREA—1951. By Jack L. Cannon, USMC (Ret). Published by Silver Mist Books. 164 pages. Soft-cover. Stock #1512373206. \$27.90 MCA Members. \$30.99 Regular Price.

Where did the Marine Corps combat artists go? Warrior-artists such as John W. Thomason Jr. from World War I; Tom Lovell, Jack Clymer (also *Leatherneck* artists) and Kerr Eby from WW II; Korea’s Henry Jackson; John De Grasse from Vietnam; and later Jack Dyer, Mike Leahy, Pete Gish and Charlie Grow. Today, the Corps has but a few.

One name that doesn’t come up as much is Korean War artist and sniper Jack L. Cannon. His are works that deal primarily with actual combat; not machine guns mute behind sandbags, foot patrols under the Middle East sun, civic actions at village wells, or gaunt stares of grunts being treated in military hospitals.

Cannon’s watercolors are stark depictions of the winter of 1951 in Korea.



Howling Manchurian winds that screamed and slapped with the sting of a lash and stabbed like driven nails through the coats of Marines fighting Chinese Communist hordes in the frozen passes where the only heat was from the muzzle flash of rifles.

Private First Class Jack Cannon, USMC (Ret) was a Browning Automatic Rifleman with “Fox” Company, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division. He had been bounced out of the 82d Airborne because the Army found out that he was underage. He had, however, earned his parachute wings and was an expert rifleman. He was in the process of joining the French Foreign Legion when Korea exploded, and he soon found himself snapping-in with a WW II M1 Garand on the range at Parris Island.

Once in Korea, the Marines realized the young Cannon was a good artist, so he was designated as a combat artist. He reported to the public information office and was handed a sketch pad.

“I liked the job of combat artist,” he writes. “I operated by myself, and I could come and go with no formations to make. I was on my own and there were very few witnesses to what I did.

“I procured a ’03 Springfield with a 12-power Unertl scope. ... I could handle two jobs—combat artist and sniper, but sometimes the art did suffer. My bosses Lieutenant [Jeremiah E.] O’Leary and [Staff] Sergeant [Gary] Cameron once chided me, ‘Careless perhaps, for getting hit three times.’

“After thinking back on it, that’s a hell of a combination, sniper and combat artist! But, after all these years, I don’t think I would change a thing. I have always been a loner, and this type of duty suited me just fine.”

Sometimes, when reflecting on the random and mindless carnage, Cannon did what a lot of men in combat do and quietly penned poems. He poignantly asks “Why” in a poem about his Iowa friend, PFC James R. Schulte, who was killed beside him. “The last thing Bob said 3 seconds before the 122 mm round hit was ‘gimme a time check.’ ... I said, ‘It’s 16:54.’”

Brevity is the key to Cannon's work in his watercolors, pencil sketches, poetry and autobiography. He evokes emotional responses by using all to tell his simple but fascinating tale.



"Marine F4U Corsairs Working on Bunker Hill"



"Machine-Gunners"



"They Will Take This Hill"

This painting appeared on the cover of *Leatherneck* magazine, March 1989.

In the last verse, he ponders:
 "Have wondered so many times,
 "Why not both. ... Why you instead of me?"

Brevity is the key to Cannon's work in his watercolors, pencil sketches, poetry and autobiography. He evokes emotional responses by using all to tell his simple but fascinating tale. "When you are young and full of 'piss and vinegar,' there are a lot of things you don't realize about war," he writes.

As a combat artist he wasted little time in discussions about the abstract, the great impressionists, or the Dutch painters of the Golden Age. He was busy trying to capture images of the Marines in combat and stay alive while doing it. Artistic snobs may dismiss it all as kitsch, but he captured it all because he was there when it happened and kept the memory vividly alive.

A week before Christmas in 1951, after he was wounded for a third time by incoming 82 mm rounds, he was evacuated. He was assigned to the Temporary Disabled Retired List and eventually was placed on the Permanent Disabled Retired List with the grade of PFC.

He has never forgotten those whom he made quick sketches of before they died, and he later turned those sketches into watercolors: "You will have a dream or have nightmares in which you talk to them on the phone, or discuss the situation ... as you did just prior to their getting killed.

... I have no control over it. ... No, combat is not all glory. There is also a lot of pain. Pain isn't always temporary—but pride is forever!"

—R.R. Keene

*Author's bio: Master Gunnery Sergeant Ron Keene, USMC (Ret) is a former associate editor of *Leatherneck*. He recently retired after 25 years on the magazine staff. A Vietnam veteran, he received the Colonel Robert D. Heintz Jr. Award in 2012 for a two-part historical article he wrote for *Leatherneck*.*



In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

Blue Angels Pilot Dies in Crash

A U.S. Navy F/A-18 Hornet assigned to the Blue Angels crashed June 2, during an air show practice in Smyrna, Tenn. The pilot, Marine **Captain Jeff Kuss**, 32, of Durango, Colo., did not survive the crash.

Capt Kuss was the opposing solo pilot on the U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron and was flying Blue Angel #6. This was his second year on the team and his first year as a demonstration pilot.

He was a 2012 graduate of U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev. While assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312, he deployed with Carrier Air Wing Three aboard USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN-75) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He had accumulated more than 1,400 flight hours. His awards include the Strike Flight Air Medal.

"The Navy and Marine Corps aviation team is grieving the loss of one of our own," said Vice Admiral Mike Shoemaker, USN, Commander, Naval Air Forces. "Capt Kuss was an incredible Marine, husband and father, and an inspiration to so many; his loss will be felt across the nation. Being a naval aviator is an inherently dangerous profession, and our aviators knowingly accept that risk in service to their nation, but it still pains us greatly when we experience the untimely loss of a valued aviator and shipmate."

Capt Kuss was taking off to start the afternoon practice when the mishap occurred. The crash was approximately 2 miles from the runway.

The other five Blue Angel jets were not involved in the incident and landed safely moments later. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

PFC Hector A. Cafferata Jr.

Private First Class Hector A. Cafferata Jr., who was awarded the Medal of Honor during the Korean War, died at age 86 in Venice, Fla.

On Nov. 28, 1950, while serving as a rifleman with Company F, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division (Reinforced), Private Cafferata "waged a lone battle with grenades and rifle fire as the attack gained momentum and the enemy threatened penetration through the gap and endangered the integrity of the entire defensive perimeter. Making a target of himself under the devastating fire ... he maneuvered up and down the line and delivered accurate and

effective fire against the onrushing force, killing fifteen, wounding many more and forcing the others to withdraw so that reinforcements could move up and consolidate the position."

Later in the morning, an enemy grenade landed in an entrenchment that was occupied by wounded Marines, and Pvt Cafferata rushed over and hurled the grenade away from his comrades before it detonated. In the process, one of his fingers was severed and his right hand and arm were wounded. "Courageously ignoring the intense pain, he staunchly fought on until he was struck by a sniper's bullet and forced to submit to evacuation for medical treatment."

He was born in New York City on Nov. 4, 1929. He attended school in New Jersey. Cafferata played football in high school and was a semi-pro for two years. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1948 and was a member of the 21st Reserve Infantry Battalion in Dover, N.J., until called to active duty on Sept. 6, 1950.

After training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., he was sent to Korea where he joined 2d Bn, 7th Marines.

After being wounded in Korea, he was evacuated to Japan and then the U.S. for recovery. He was retired on Sept. 1, 1951.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, his awards include the Purple Heart and the Korean Service Medal with one bronze star. (See "The Hill" on page 50 to read more about Cafferata's actions in Korea.)

Walter H. Agee, 87, of Bartlett, Tenn. He retired from the Marine Corps after 22 years of service.

Marvin R. Avance Jr., 84, of Kilgore, Texas. He was a Marine who served during the Korean War. He later had a career in law enforcement.

Carmino "Carl" Baldinelli, 92, of Cranston, R.I. He was a Marine veteran of WW II who saw action on Iwo Jima.

Joseph Beekman, 102, of Seaford, N.Y. He was a China Marine who later fought in the South Pacific during WW II.

Sgt Edward L. Bellamy, 69, of Bastrop, Texas. He served for seven years, including a deployment to Vietnam with MAG-11, 1st MAW. He also was assigned to VMA-214 at MCAS El Toro, Calif., and VMCI-2 at MCAS Cherry Point, N.C. He was a member of the Marine Corps League Lost Pines Leathernecks Det. 1384.

Sgt Berwyn A. Bragg, 87, of Shady-side, Ohio. He was a Marine who served in the South Pacific during WW II. His

awards include the Purple Heart. He was a member of the China Marine Association.

John P. Brennan Jr., 66, of Milford, Ct. His Marine Corps service included three tours in Vietnam. He later retired from the U.S. Postal Service.

MSgt Bruce B. Brinkman, 78, of Clinton, N.C. He was a Marine who served for 20 years. His tours of duty included several Mediterranean cruises and multiple tours to Vietnam. His awards include the RVN Gallantry Cross with palm and the RVN Service Medal with five stars.

Conrad Burns, 81, of Billings, Mont. He was a Marine who served from 1955 to 1957. He represented the state of Montana in the U.S. Senate from 1989 to 2007.

Bill Lee "Bulldog" Cunningham, 84, of Dallas, Texas. He was wounded three times in Korea. After returning home from the war, he was a drill instructor at MCRD San Diego, Calif. His awards include the Purple Heart.

Blaine M. Davis, 90, of Lisbon Falls, Maine. He enlisted in the Marine Corps when he was 17 and saw action with 4thMarDiv during the island-hopping campaign in the South Pacific.

Gary L. Deegan, 66, of Wichita Falls, Kan. He was a Marine who was wounded in Vietnam. He later served in the U.S. Air Force. His awards include two Purple Hearts.

Sgt David W. Dowdakin, 91, of Portland, Ore. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from high school in 1942. He fought on Tarawa, Saipan and Okinawa. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and suffered from severe frostbite at the Chosin Reservoir. He was a member of The Chosin Few and the Second Marine Division Assn., serving as the organization's president in 2001.

Robert A. Hanson, 91, of Moline, Ill. He left college in 1942 to serve in the Marine Corps during WW II. After the war, he completed college and had a successful career in business. He eventually became the CEO of John Deere.

Sgt William G. Hebert, 96, of Westfield, Mass. For 45 years he worked as a pressman for Springfield Newspapers, except during WW II, when he served in the Marine Corps in the South Pacific. On Iwo Jima he was with 5th Engineers. His son and grandson are Marine veterans.

GySgt William F. Leddy, 87, of Lincoln, R.I. He was a Marine who served from 1947 to 1968.

Sgt Joseph G. "Joe" Musselwhite, 79,

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Right: The grounds of Beech Hill, home of the Irish Marines



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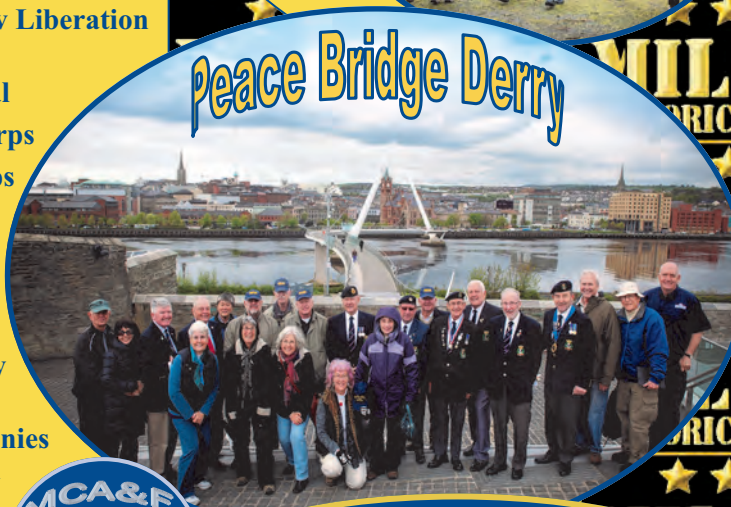
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of Natchitoches, La. In 1954, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served for six years with 2dMarDiv and 3dMarDiv.

Robert L. Owensby, 90, of Naperville, Ill. He was with the 4thMarDiv on Iwo Jima. He was wounded on March 8, 1945. His awards include the Purple Heart. After the war, he became an architect.

Earl W. Pelot, 87, of Wausau, Wis. He was a Marine who served from 1946 to 1949 and again from 1951 to 1952. He was a member of American Legion Post 492.

Capt Robert E. Rain, 97, of Dallas, Texas. He was an Eagle Scout who earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in 1941. He was a law student at UT when he joined the Marine Corps. He saw action on Guam where he was wounded. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat “V” and the Purple Heart. After the war, he completed law school and had a career as an attorney.

LCpl Bernice “Dee” Waldron Sarnosky, 52, of Stafford, Va. She served in the Marine Corps and later the U.S. Army Reserve. She worked for the federal government for more than 27 years and was awarded the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Cpl L. Jack Spence Jr., 91, of Huntsville, Texas. He enlisted in the Marine Corps less than three weeks after the

attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. He was stationed in Trinidad and later was transferred to the quartermaster corps at MCB Quantico, Va., and then Camp Lejeune, N.C.

1stSgt Jim “One Shot” Turner, 55, of Anderson, S.C. He was a Marine who served for 22 years.

Richard T. Vana, 92, in Chicago, Ill. He was a Marine Raider in the South Pacific during WW II. His awards include the Purple Heart.

GySgt Ezell Walker, 85, of Mobile, Ala. He was a combat veteran of the Korean War and was a sniper in the Vietnam War. He was a member of the Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Association and a founding member of the Marine Corps League in Mobile.

His awards include two Purple Hearts.

Vincent J. Walsh, 87, of El Cajon, Calif. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from high school. He served at the end of WW II. He was recalled to active duty in 1950, and he served in the Korean War with the 7th Marines. Following the war, he remained in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1962.

He attended the University of Buffalo and earned a degree in engineering. He then worked as an engineer and executive for Rohr Industries for 32 years.

His awards include the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Maj Henry “Bud” Wildfang, 99, in Rockport, Texas. He was a Marine aviator during WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He logged more than 24,000 hours flying time in 21 types of aircraft. His awards include five Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Purple Heart and the Air Medal (29 awards).

The Marine Corps Aviation Association annually presents the Major Henry Wildfang Award to the premier Marine aerial refueler transport squadron.

“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.



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tears in their eyes when they shook my hand and uttered "Semper Fi."

At the cemetery, the MCL coordinated the rite of passage, playing "Taps" and firing a three-gun salute, later delivering the empty cartridges to me as a keepsake. A half-dozen members of the league joined us at the luncheon, reminding those in attendance that it was a Marine who had been put to rest.

The United States Marine Corps also did its part on behalf of a grateful nation. It sent two very squared-away Marines—a sergeant and a corporal—who conducted the flag service with formality and decorum, marked by slow-motion marching and solemn hand salutes, before presenting the flag to me.

The Marine Corps League and the United States Marine Corps did an outstanding job that day. They honored one of their own, impressing in the minds of all those gathered what it means to be a Marine. Dad's heart would have swelled with pride. I know I have never been prouder to be a Marine. Thank you, fellow Marines.

Lt Thomas W. Hebert
USMC, 1968-71
1stMarDiv, RVN
East Windsor, Conn.



SOUND OFF

[continued from page 7]

for both funeral parlor and graveside services.

On the day of the funeral, nine members of the MCL arrived in the full uniform of the League—red and gold jackets, blue dress trousers and trademark red covers.

The detail marched in, executed a left face and, in front of 60 or so captivated mourners, conducted a meaningful prayer service that spoke of a brother-in-arms and ended with "The Lord's Prayer."

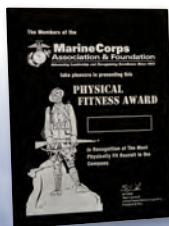
Before taking their leave, they attentively greeted each member of the family in the front row, expressing their condolences. At least two of these MCL Marines had

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Reunions

• **1stMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 1-7, Houston, Texas. Contact June Cormier, (760) 763-3267, june.oldbreed@fmda.us, or Heidi Lamb, (760) 763-3268, heidi.oldbreed@fmda.us.

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 23-28, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Don H. Gee, P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **5thMarDiv Assn.**, Oct. 6-8, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Ivan Hammond, P.O. Box 2312, Texas City, TX 77592-2312, (409) 770-4249, sgthambone@verizon.net.

• **Marine Corps Mustang Assn.**, Aug. 16-18, New Orleans, La. Contact LtCol Richard J. Sullivan, USMC (Ret), (508) 954-2262, sul824@verizon.net, www.marinecorpsmustang.org.

• **Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Assn. (Conference and Annual Training Symposium)**, Aug. 21-27, Fredericksburg, Va. Contact Jack Paxton, (352) 748-4698, usmccca@cfl.rr.com.

• **Marine Corps Engineer Assn.**, Oct. 17-19, Pala, Calif. Contact Maj Charlie Dismore, USMC (Ret), (512) 394-9333, www.marcorengasn.org.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn. (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)**, Sept. 15-18, San Diego, Calif. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or CWO-3 Chip Dykes, USMC (Ret), (760) 908-2322, www.westcoastdi.org.

• **Marine Corps Counterintelligence Assn.**, Sept. 8-11, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Contact Ralph "Buck" Wheaton, (304) 947-5060, buckmccia@frontier.com.

• **Marine Corps Cryptologic Assn.**, Sept. 6-10, San Diego, Calif. Contact Clifton Mitchell, (805) 482-1936, cmitch1_1@msn.com.

• **7th Engineer Bn Vietnam Veterans' Assn.**, Sept. 22-25, San Diego, Calif. Contact Doug McMackin, (623) 466-0545, gunnymac@hotmail.com, or Jim Taranto, (518) 567-4267, tarantoj@gmail.com.

• **Early Vietnam Veterans**, Oct. 20-23, Washington, D.C. Contact Bill Pratt, 661 N. Big Oak Rd. N.W., Malta, OH 43758, (740) 962-2666, maag16-411@embarqmail.com, www.mlrsinc.com/evv.

• **Aviation Logistics Marines**, Oct. 6-9, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Don Davis, (321) 978-5147, greyegl@dec.rr.com, www.avlogmarines.org.

• **The Chosin Few**, Aug. 16-20, San

Diego, Calif. Contact LtCol J.P. White, USMC (Ret), (760) 727-7796, chosin50@roadrunner.com.

• **Subic Bay Marines**, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, Boston, Mass. Contact John Laccinole, (818) 591-8916, johnlaccinole@aol.com.

• **3d and 4th Defense Bns (Solomon Islands, WW II)**, Sept. 14-17, Billings, Mont. Contact Charles Buckley, (510) 589-5380, ceb39reunion@gmail.com, or Sharon Heideman, (512) 638-2075, sharon_heideman@yahoo.com.

• **11th Motor Transport Bn (RVN, 1967-70)**, Oct. 6-9, Las Vegas, Nev. Contact Mike "Large Al" Alford, (503) 680-6505, alfordmtd@frontier.com.

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Aug. 23-28, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumcl3usmc@verizon.net.

• **1/27 (1stMarDiv, OPCON, RVN, 1968)**, Sept. 19-22, Charleston, S.C. Contact Felix Salmeron, (469) 583-0191.

• **2/3 (RVN)**, Aug. 24-27, Charleston, S.C. Contact Art Ferguson, (623) 780-1819, clydesdadfergy@aol.com.

• **2/9**, Nov. 8-12, Arlington, Va. Contact Danny Schuster, (978) 667-4762, dits0n35@verizon.net, www.2ndbattalion9thmarines.org.

• **"Stormy's" 3/3 (1960-62)**, Sept. 6-10, San Diego, Calif. Contact Burrell Landes, 2610 W. Long Cir., Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net.

• **3/5 (50th Anniversary of Operation Hastings, all companies)**, Sept. 22-25, Nashville, Tenn. Contact John Templeton, (870) 405-8103, jltemp44@yahoo.com.

• **3/5 (Battalion Radio Operators, FACs and Pilots, RVN, 1966-68)**, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Branson, Mo. Contact Lynwood Scott, (813) 685-2197, lynwoodvscott@hotmail.com.

• **3/11 (Battery Adjust)**, Sept. 14-18, New Orleans, La. Contact Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dmiller482@gmail.com.

• **3/26 (RVN, 1966-70)**, Aug. 24-28, San Diego, Calif. Contact Tony Anthony, (619) 286-3648, ltcoltony@aol.com, www.326marines.org.

• **A/1/8 (August 1994-July 2000)**, Oct. 21-22, Stafford, Va. Contact CWO-3 Jim Clark, (910) 381-1871, jimclark@strategiclog.com.

• **A/1/12 (RVN, 1965-70)**, Sept. 22-24, Southport, N.C. Contact David Dorsett, (910) 619-5020, dhdorsett@ec.rr.com.

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

• **D/1/7 (RVN)**, Sept. 22-25, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Bob Divine, (517) 227-3714, bwdivine@gmail.com, www.deltacompanyvietnammarines.com.

• **E/2/3 (RVN)**, Sept. 11-16, Boise, Idaho. Contact Bill Smith, 7201 Castle Dr., Dublin, CA 94568, (925) 997-8041, da190@aol.com.

• **G/2/5 (all eras)**, Sept. 28-Oct. 2, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact Martin Steinbach, 7395 Kirby Dr., Burlington, KY 41005, (513) 623-9594, martinsteiny@aol.com.

• **H/2/26**, Sept. 10-16, 2017, Branson, Mo. Contact Bill Hancock, 2748 Moeller Dr., Hamilton, OH 45014, (513) 738-5446, hancockw@roadrunner.com.

• **I/3/1 (1stMarDiv, Korea, 1950-55)**, Aug. 16-20, Branson, Mo. Contact Suzi Woodward, (860) 262-1334, suzi11111@aol.com.

• **L/3/9 (RVN, 1967-69)**, Sept. 8-10, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Dale McCoy, (919) 901-2981, reelmccoy@reagan.com.

• **W/1/12 (3dMarDiv)**, Sept. 21-25, San Diego, Calif. Contact J.P. Burrage, (704) 425-5771, vsunshine18@gmail.com.

• **1st Plt, I/3/1 (RVN, 1968-69)**, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Dick "Cpl Reb" Bienvenu, (636) 357-9620, dickbienvenu@yahoo.com.

• **2d Topographic Co (FMF)**, Oct. 16-20, Stafford, Va. Contact Jim Martin, (781) 572-7924, topotrooper@aol.com.

• **630th Military Police Co (RVN)**, Oct. 5-8, New Orleans, La. Contact Roger Merillat, rkmerillat@gmail.com, www.630thmilitarypolicecompanyvietnam.org.

• **"Bravo" Co, 7th Motor Transport Bn (RVN, all eras)**, Sept. 30-Oct. 3, Philadelphia, Pa. Contact Tim Weddington, (816) 808-2357, timweddington@comcast.net, or Walter Schley, (816) 377-9438, walterschley1966@aol.com.

• **1st 8-Inch Howitzer Btry**, Sept. 7-11, San Diego, Calif. Contact Greg Ladesich, 25382 Via de Anza, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677, (949) 249-3525, GPL0812@att.net, www.rpdsquared.com.

• **3d 155 mm Gun Btry (SP) and 3d 175 mm Gun Btry (SP)**, Sept. 15-18, Charleston, S.C. Contact Ed Kirby, (978) 987-1920, ed-kirby@comcast.net.

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

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- **10th/12th Counterintelligence Teams**, Aug. 27, Huntingtown, Md. Contact CWO-5 Ed Moroney, USMC (Ret), (301) 249-5606, ramage@aol.com.

- **Yemassee Train Depot**, Oct. 14-15, Yemassee, S.C. Contact Roy Hughes, P.O. Box 265, Yemassee, SC 29945, (843) 589-3385.

- **Marines Stationed in Holy Loch, Scotland**, May 17-21, 2017, Dunoon, Scotland. Contact Doug Ebert, (307) 349-3468, lochsailor9@charter.net, or Gerry Haight, (817) 602-0825.

- **American Embassy Saigon (RVN, pre-1975)**, Sept. 4-7, Portland, Ore. Contact MSgt Gus Tomuschat, USMC (Ret), (804) 693-3007, saigongunny@yahoo.com, www.saigonmac.com.

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

- **S-1, Hq Bn, MCB Quantico (1974-78)**, Aug. 6-7, Quantico, Va. Contact Ray Davis, 312 Bridgewater Cir., Fredericksburg, VA 22406, (540) 752-7725, scout1977@hotmail.com.

- **TBS, Class 5-62**, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Denis W. Retoske, (714) 287-0706, dwrlyer@gmail.com, tbsclass562@gmail.com.

- **TBS, Class 1-66**, Oct. 2-5, Quantico, Va. Contact Ed Armento, (502) 228-6595, evarmento@aol.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• **Plt 3002, San Diego, 1956**, Sept. 6-10, San Diego, Calif. Contact Jack Lahrman, (765) 427-8132, jdlahrman@mintel.net.

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

• **Marine Air Groups (WW II to**

present), Oct. 5-8, Branson, Mo. Contact Jerry Gipe, 808 W. Walnut St., Waverly, MO 64096, jgipe@hotmail.com, or Joseph Mowry, josephmowry@att.net.

• **Marine Air Control Squadrons (all squadrons)**, June 22-25, 2017, Quantico, Va. Contact Frank Walter, 3465 W. Loon Lake Rd., Angola, IN 46703, fwalter@frontier.com.

• **Marine Air Base Squadrons 43 and 49**, Sept. 17, Earleville, Md. Contact Col Chuck McGarigle, USMC (Ret), 23 Greenwood Dr., Bordentown, NJ 08505, (609) 291-9617, mabsreunion@comcast.net.

• **HMM-165/VMM-165 (all hands/all eras)**, June 8-11, 2017, Washington, D.C. Contact Al Dickerson, (317) 462-0733, www.hmm165whiteknights.com.

• **HMM-265**, May 22-26, 2017, San Francisco, Calif. Contact George Cumpston, (704) 351-0193, george36691@aol.com, or Tim Bastyr, (770) 304-2290, tmb2sdl@numail.org.

Ships and Others

• **USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2, 1943-71)**, Oct. 12-16, Portland, Maine. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS Elokomin (AO-55)**, Sept. 22-25,

Lisle, Ill. Contact Ron Finet, N6354 County Rd. H, Elkhorn, WI 53121, (262) 742-4269, finet@hotmail.com.

• **USS Hornet (CV-8/CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 13-18, Portland, Ore. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS Houston (CL-81) Assn.**, Oct. 19-23, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Dr., York, PA 17408, (717) 792-9113.

• **USS John R. Craig (DD-885)**, Sept. 20-25, Nashville, Tenn. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48185, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net.

• **USS Ranger (CVA/CV-61)**, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, Charleston, S.C. Contact George Meoli, (203) 453-4279, uss.ranger@yahoo.com.

• **USS Renville (APA-227) and USS Rockport (APA-228)**, Aug. 31-Sept. 4, Branson, Mo. Contact Lynda Rumble, 945 Oakwood Ln., Myrtle Beach, SC 29572, (704) 906-7622, lyndarumple7@gmail.com.

Mail Call

• J.P. Kuchar, 33 Sheridan Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840, (732) 549-6468, jpkuchar@mac.com, to hear from **SSgt Walter TAYLOR and Sgt J.M. JONES Jr., drill instructors, Plt 171, Parris Island, 1966.**

• Erin Miller, (608) 438-8178, eem1919@gmail.com, to hear from anyone who knew **Pvt Duwayne "Wotsy" SOULIER**, who served with **Hq Co, 7th Comm Bn, 1st Marines** and was attached to **M/3/5, RVN, 1966-67**. He was listed as missing in action following a **May 1, 1967, helicopter crash.**

• Cpl Bruce Allen Anderson, c/o Dean Rottinghaus, (513) 257-6499, rottinghaus@gmail.com, to hear from or about a Marine with the last name **JONES**, an infantryman who saved Anderson's life after he was injured in **Da Nang, RVN, near the airport, Oct. 31, 1965.**

Wanted

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

• Dennis Weems, 116 Carriage Square Dr., Bossier City, LA 71112, (318) 742-2545, wants a **recruit graduation book and platoon photo for Plt 1028, San Diego, 1969.**

• Fredrick Washington, (210) 815-2806, fcwashi2015@gmail.com, wants a **recruit graduation book for Plt 2041, San Diego, 1977.**



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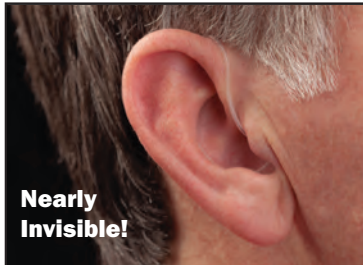
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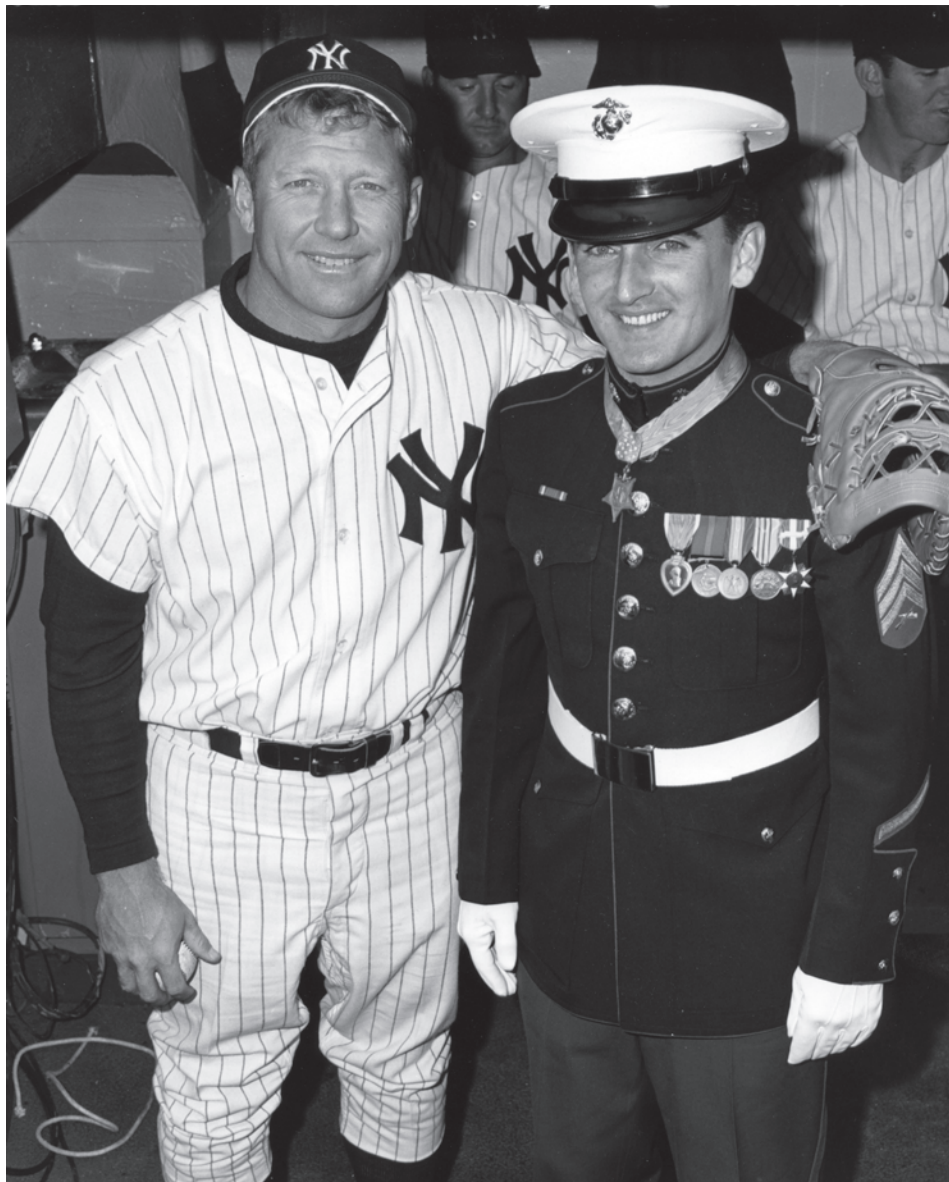
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CPL R.R. MYERS, USMC

O'MALLEY MEETS "THE MICK"—Sgt Robert E. O'Malley, right, the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor in Vietnam, and baseball great Mickey Mantle, who played centerfield and first base for the New York Yankees from 1951 to 1968, prepare for opening-day ceremonies, April 14, 1967, at Yankee Stadium, N.Y., N.Y. The Yanks dropped the opener, losing 3-0, while the Boston Red Sox saw their rookie pitcher, Bill Rohr, pitch a one-hitter, which Sgt O'Malley termed "one of the best games, ever!"

On Aug. 18, 1965, O'Malley was a corporal serving as a squad leader in Company I, 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division (Reinforced) near An Cuong 2, South Vietnam. According to his MOH citation, "While leading his squad in the assault against [an] enemy force, his unit came under intense small arms fire. With complete disregard for his personal safety, Corporal O'Malley raced across an open rice paddy to a trench line. ... Jumping into the trench, he attacked the Viet Cong with his rifle and grenades, and singly killed eight. ...

"He then led his squad to the assistance of an adjacent Marine unit which was suffering heavy casualties. Continuing to press forward, he reloaded his weapon and fired ... into the enemy emplacement. He personally assisted in the evacuation of several wounded Marines, and again regrouping the remnants of his squad, he returned to the point of the heaviest fighting. ... Corporal O'Malley gathered his besieged and badly wounded squad and boldly led them under fire to a helicopter for withdrawal. Although three times wounded ... and facing imminent death from a fanatic and determined enemy, he steadfastly refused evacuation and continued to cover his squad's boarding of the helicopters while, from an exposed position, he delivered fire against the enemy until his wounded men were evacuated. Only then, with his last mission accomplished, did he permit himself to be removed from the battlefield."

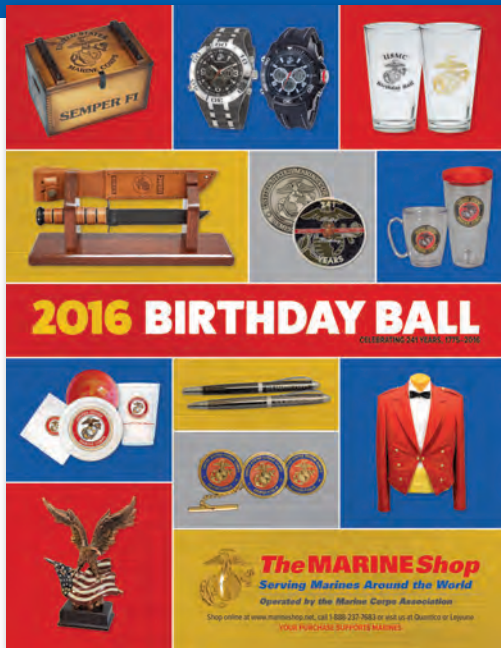


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