THE OLD BREED NEWS

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A Marine For All Time

By Ned Forney

John Stevens is 97. Despite his age, the steely-eyed Marine who fought in World War II and Korea is still on a mission. He refuses to slow down. He's determined to keep the legacy of the brave men he served and sacrificed with alive for future generations.

...determined to be the lucky Marine who gets to drink the "last man" bottle of cognac at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco.

And he's also determined to be the lucky Marine who gets to drink the "last man" bottle of cognac at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco. "I really want that bottle," he tells friends with a fiery look. And if his past ninety-plus years of beating the odds is any indication, he'll get it.



John Stevens' boot camp graduation photo, 1939 (Photo credit: John Stevens).

During his 23 years as a Marine, Stevens went from private to lieutenant colonel and earned two Bronze Stars for heroism in combat. He served at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; Okinawa during the last major battle of World War

Please turn to **STEVENS** on page 6

Elmer J. Hawkins Sr., Veteran of Belleau Wood

"Letters from the Trenches"

Our own Elmer Hawkins may be 95, but he hardly qualifies as a veteran of that famous battle from World War I. However, his father, Elmer J. Hawkins, Sr., served at Belleau Wood in the battle that turned the tide for the Allies one hundred years ago. Every Marine knows the significance of this battle and the part the Marines played in stopping the Germans' spring offensive. General Pershing called this battle the "most important battle fought by US forces since the Civil War."

The German push had been so successful

Please turn to **HAWKINS** on page 8



Private Elmer J. Hawkins, Sr. on his wedding day to his wife Ruth

SgtMaj John Canley Awarded Medal of Honor

Retired Marine SgtMaj John Canley, of Oxnard, California, was presented with the Medal of Honor by President Donald J. Trump on October 17, 2018.

In January and February 1968, then Gunnery Sergeant Canley was with Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, 1st Marine Division. His company carried out a counter-offensive to retake the city of Hue.

He was originally awarded the Navy Cross, but it was upgraded through the office of U.S. Representative Julia Brownley.



President Trump bestows MOH on SgtMaj John Canley

His citation reads:

GUNNERY SERGEANT

JOHN CANLEY

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Gunnery Sergeant John L. Canley (MCSN: 1455946), United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism while serving as Company Gunnery Sergeant of Company A, First Battalion, First Marines, FIRST Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, during operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam from 31 January to 6 February 1968. On 31 January, when his com-

Please turn to **CANLEY** on page 5

The 1st Marine Division Association

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2017 – 2019

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President's Message

Jerry Johs



The holidays are here once again. I wish everyone great joy and happiness with family and friends.

The anniversary on Camp Pendleton the week of January 28-February 1, 2019 is shaping up to be a great time for all of you who plan to attend. I'm looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Please stop me when you see me and say "Hi."

Start planning for the next reunion, which is taking place at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport in Louisville, KY August 3-12, 2019.

If you would like to run for an office for the next term, please contact Elmer Hawkins, nomination committee chairman. Please call the office to get his information to call him.

Semper Fi,

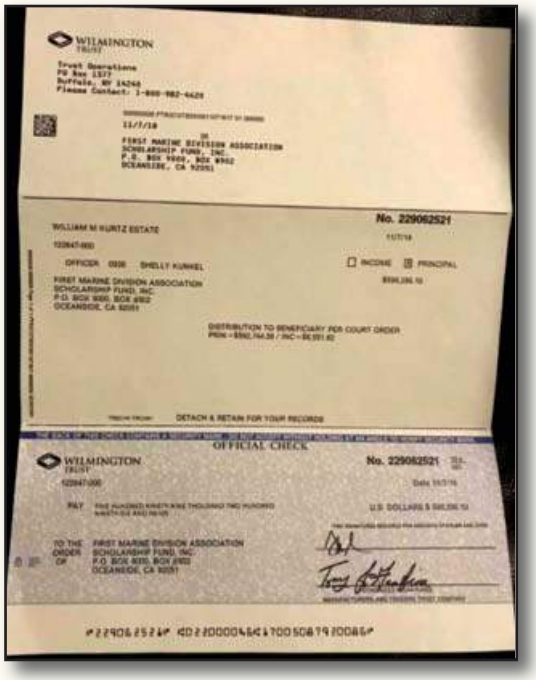
Jerry Johs, FMDA President

William M. Kurtz Donates Largest Scholarship Contribution In History

Attention FMDA membership!

One of our Life Members has left the FMDASF a wonderful endowment! SSgt. William M. Kurtz, 89, passed away on Saturday, May 20, 2017. William proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War and was a Life Member of the FMDA. He later worked for Case New Holland for over 44 years.

As evidenced by the check facsimile nearby, William's estate has made the largest contribution to our Scholarship Fund in history. The check payable to the FMDSF for $599,296.10 has been received and deposited and the development of a plan will be shared with and approved by the FMDASF Board in February to include "William M. Kurtz Annual Scholarship Award" each year.


WILMINGTON TRUST

No. 229062521

WILLIAM M KURTZ ESTATE

FIRST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

OFFICIAL CHECK

WILMINGTON TRUST

No. 229062521

PAY

TO THE ORDER OF FIRST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

A facsimile of the check from the Kurtz donation

The total assets of the FMDASF are now at $931,000. Our scholarship account is doing extremely well for the last two years.

Jerry Johs,
FMDA President

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Anniversary and Reunion News

78th Anniversary

Headquarters staff continues working with 1st Division Sergeant Major Terrence Whitcomb to plan the itinerary for the 78th Anniversary gathering. We are developing some new activities we hope the attendees will enjoy. The Registration form is now ready to download and print.

The schedule runs from check-in Sunday, 27 January, through check-out Saturday, 2 February, 2019, aboard Camp Pendleton, California.

General Membership Meeting

NOTICE OF TIME & LOCATION CHANGE:

Friday 1 February 2019 1 p.m.
1st Marine Division Headquarters
Camp Pendleton, California

Our General Membership meeting time and location has changed to better fit the Anniversary Commemoration schedule. The meeting will be Friday, 1 February 2019 at 1 p.m. at 1st Marine Division Headquarters, Camp Pendleton, California.

72nd Annual Reunion

The location will be the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky.

Check-in: Saturday, August 3, 2019

Check-out: Monday, August 12, 2019

Executive Committee/Board of Directors Meeting

Date: April 7th, 8th, 9th, 2019

Location: Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport

830 Phillips Lane
Louisville, KY 40209

Time: Sunday, April 7th

Free Day, use hotel facilities, free shuttle, and additional information will be provided to explore Louisville.

Monday, April 8th

- AM: Committee Meeting
- PM: Executive Committee Meeting
- Tuesday, April 9th
- AM: Board of Directors Meeting
- PM: Food Tasting

The Editor's Desk©



Art Sharp

Circumstances and 'shipping over'©

I sometimes wonder why I didn't "ship over." The answers are clear: nobody invited me to and the circumstances were never right. That last part may be why a lot of Marines don't reenlist.

I was seventeen when I joined the USMC. Although I was not a goal setter at that age, I set three goals when I enlisted: travel, learn something, and earn an honorable discharge. I met all three, and I enjoyed my life as a Marine. Why didn't I sign up again? I was amenable to shipping over. Could it be for the same reason a lot of other Marines don't reenlist?

Basically it was because of where and when I served. I may be the only Marine in history who was assigned to the same platoon throughout his entire four-year enlistment. There was a good reason for that: I was TAD most of the time—to the point where the company lost my records. Every time H&S/3/8 needed to reassign someone temporarily my name was pulled from a hat—uh, cover.

Need someone to help train U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen in 81mm mortar usage? "Old A.G. can do that. (That's what I was called back then.) His MOS is 0341, and he's a qualified gunner and FDC specialist." So A.G. went to Little Creek, VA for a couple weeks of "show and tell" to introduce the midshipmen to what an 81mm mortar looked like, how it was fired, and what role it played in Marine Corps strategy and tactics. Like any midshipmen were going to become Fire Direction Controllers in an 81mm platoon! Nevertheless I went.

Need someone to be a brig chaser? The Provost Marshal is a bit short-handed, and he needs a brig chaser for a couple weeks. Oh yeah, an 0341 is perfect for that. "Send old A.G. over to chase the brig for a couple weeks," someone said. And so A.G. became a brig chaser, even though he could not understand why a brig needed chasing, since it was pretty much riveted into the ground and couldn't escape.

Need an interpreter in Italy? "We heard old A.G. speaking Italian to a Carabinieri yesterday at Anzio. Let's TAD him and make him an interpreter."

I had studied Italian for three years in high school and I had enjoyed a rudimentary discussion, half in English and half in Italian, with a Carabinieri assigned to guard duty with me during a NATO exercise at the WWII-battlefield at Anzio during our Med Cruise. Someone must have overheard it. Truthfully neither one of us had a clue what the other was saying, but I was TAD'd nonetheless while we stopped at a couple other ports in Italy during our float, Genoa (twice) and Bari.

I could never figure out whether H&S's officers were trying to keep me away from real Marine activities because I was inept, they appreciated my multi-dimensional skills, or they figured the most dispensable person in H&S was an FDCer. It didn't matter. I was fulfilling one of my goals. I was learning a lot about USMC operations. Unfortunately, none of what I was learning was transferable to civilian life. There weren't too many career paths that required the use of an M-2 plotting board and a grease pencil.

And so A.G. became a brig chaser, even though he could not understand why a brig needed chasing, since it was pretty much riveted into the ground and couldn't escape.

At some point the Corps disavowed my membership as my four years wound down. I was TAD'd to the motor pool at Camp Geiger for the last few months of my stint. There I learned some valuable skills, as I earned my tractor-trailer license—albeit I never drove a tractor-trailer in my post-Marine life. We had far more driving assignments than we had drivers, so we were on the road most of the time. There was no time for military protocol. I almost forgot I was still a member of the Marine Corps—and the Marine Corps apparently did too.

Two days before my scheduled discharge I realized that no one had contacted me about checking out. I called our company clerk at H&S/3/8, who could not find my records. My pay records were there, but that was it. No wonder nobody gave me the shipping over talk. Nobody but the paymaster knew where I was.

I pondered just staying at Geiger, since I was getting paid and nobody knew where I truly belonged. I could probably still be there today if I had chosen that route, drawing my pay—and lost to H&S/3/8. Nah!

In retrospect I would not have shipped over. There was no enticement. I had never been assigned to an exotic USMC base, e.g., Camp Pendleton, or performed any "glamor" duties such as a seagoing (other than as a member of FMF) or embassy Marine. My assignments had always been mundane and Camp Lejeune had been my de facto home for four years, although I was hardly ever there.

There was nothing that made me want to stay. So, I accepted my honorable discharge and walked away with a DD-214 that says basically "He showed up in 1958, left in 1962, and didn't do much in between."

Those are hardly enticements to entice a Marine to reenlist. The circumstances were never right. How many Marines are not retained precisely for that reason?

Call For Candidates For 1st Marine Division Association Offices

Your Association needs you to serve as an officer for the 2019-2021 term.

Please send in a picture and bio to appear in the January-February-March 2019 edition of The Old Breed News. They need to be at HQ by 1 February 2019.

CANLEY from page 1

pany came under a heavy volume of enemy fire near the city of Hue, Gunnery Sergeant Canley rushed across the fire-swept terrain and carried several wounded Marines to safety. Later, with the company commander seriously wounded, Gunnery Sergeant Canley assumed command and immediately reorganized his scattered Marines, moving from one group to another to advise and encourage his men. Although sustaining shrapnel wounds during this period, he nonetheless established a base of fire which subsequently allowed the company to break through the enemy strongpoint. Retaining command of the company for the following three days, Gunnery Sergeant Canley on 4 February led his men into an enemy-occupied building in Hue. Despite fierce enemy resistance, he succeeded in gaining a position immediately above the enemy strongpoint and dropped a large satchel charge into the position, personally accounting for numerous enemy killed, and forcing the others to vacate the building. On 6 February, when his unit sustained numerous casualties while attempting to capture a government building, Gunnery Sergeant Canley lent words of encouragement to his men and exhorted them to greater efforts as they drove the enemy from its fortified emplacement. Although wounded once again during this action, on two occasions he leaped a wall in full view of the enemy, picked up casualties, and carried them to covered positions. By his dynamic leadership, courage, and selfless dedication, Gunnery Sergeant Canley contributed greatly to the accomplishment of his company's mission and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

Let's take a look at excerpts from 1/1's Command Report for the period:

ENEMY, WEATHER AND TERRAIN

1. Weather. The weather during the month of January continued to be extremely mild for the season. Periods of rainy weather lasted only 1 or 2 days at a time. These periods were characterized by low ceilings and visibility, continuous drizzle, when not raining and low temperatures.

The average high temperature was 75.5 degrees, and the average low temperature was 62.5 degrees. The mean humidity was 8706%. The average wind speed was 6.5 knots. The total rainfall for the month was 5.10 inches.

2. Terrain. The terrain features of the new First Marines AO is similar to the old AO in that observation and fields of fire range from restricted in the mountains to those areas where slopes about open valleys, to good in the low hills and valley floors of the piedmont area, to good in the coastal inlands. Trafficability remains good on all main routes of communication. Cross country movement continues to increase as the rains cease ending the monsoons.

3. Enemy. Enemy activity in the First Marines AO was limited almost exclusively to small arms/sniper fire, and mining activity. On the afternoon of 31 January 68, enemy contact suddenly grew heavy as 1/1 moved into the city of HUE in response to a report by the 1st ARVN Division that the city had been infiltrated and was under heavy attack from within.

Moving into the city 1/1 made increasingly heavy contact until intense enemy fire and darkness halted the unit's advance at the bridge vicinity YD 770220. 1/1 reported the enemy controlled the walls of the old portion of HUE City and every building in the line of advance contained enemy riflemen.

Heavy machine guns were encountered as were mortars and B-40 rockets and pilots reported antiaircraft fire over the city itself. 1/1 was unable to completely search the area of contact on the 31st of January due to darkness and heavy house to house fighting. As the reporting period ended contact continued to grow and 1/1 began to successfully exploit the initial contact.

Chinese Communists invite Marines to step aside

What would happen if an enemy force asked 1st Division Marines to step aside and let them attack their allies? That question was answered in 1945 when Marines assigned to work with Chinese Nationalist troops were asked by their communist foes to get out of the way and let them attack.

Here's the story.

New Clashes Along Vital Rail Line Being Reported

Chinwangtao, China, Nov. 10

— (AP)— Heavy fighting between Chinese Communists and troops of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Central Government broke out today along the ancient Great Wall of China north of here, bringing heavy artillery and mortars into play for the first time in China's civil war.

New clashes were reported along the Chinwangtao-Peiping railroad south of here.

American marines reported the booming of heavy weapons could he heard throughout the night from the direction of Shanhaikwan fortress city, which is the eastern anchor of the great wall and a key gate way into Manchuria.

Large forces of Nationalist troops, landed from American transports here, have been deployed for several days here near Shanhaikwan where Communists of the 8th Army are in control and strongly entrenched.

Aid Station Set Up

The new clashes along the rail line were at a city south of the junction where the Nationalists have established an aid station to handle the wounded. It was reported that the Communists had ambushed a Nationalist platoon and slain it but there was no confirmation.

Three Chinese were found hanged in the railroad yards, which are 15 miles south of here. A sizeable force of Nationalist troops are encamped at the junction as a guard and a small detachment of Marines of the First Division are billeted there. There has been no incidents involving marines in the past few days and no marine has been wounded.

The presence of the Americans, however, prevented the Communists from carrying out an intended attack on the village of Hih-lung, which is also on this railroad. The Communists had advised the marines of the intended attack and asked them to pull back out of danger during the fight.

The marines, assigned to guard duty at a bridge at the village, refused to leave their post. The Communists failed to carry out the attack.

Henderson [NC] Daily Dispatch, November 10, 1945







II; and the Inchon Landing, liberation of Seoul, and Battle of Chosin in 1950.

His incredible life of service to country and Corps is testimony to the millions of men and women of the "Greatest Generation" who dedicated their lives to saving America and the free world from fascism and communism.

A Poker Game And A Marine Recruiter

John Stevens was born on April 22, 1921, in Butte, Montana. He dropped out of high school at the age of 16 and joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), where he worked as a baker, lumberjack and fire fighter. After being discharged from the CCC in 1939, he returned to his hometown and, like many young men, found it hard to find a job. When he heard the Navy was hiring, he jumped on the opportunity and went to Salt Lake City to take his enlistment physical.

On the train to Utah, Stevens "sat up all night playing poker" and the next morning failed the eye exam. Discouraged, and regretting the money and opportunity he'd lost in the card game, he headed for home. But fate – and a Marine Corps recruiter – intervened.

"As I was leaving the office, a man in a blue uniform with a red stripe on the trouser leg caught me by the arm," Stevens said. "Here are some chits for a meal and hotel room," the Marine told him. "Get a good night's sleep and then come back tomorrow."

"I didn't know what the Marine Corps was. I had absolutely no idea, but I didn't want to go back to Butte," Stevens recalled. The rest is history. He enlisted in the Marines and never looked back.

A Day That Will Live In Infamy

After graduating from boot camp in San Diego, the 18-year-old Marine joined the 1st Marine Defense Battalion and was eventually sent to Midway Island and Pearl Harbor.

On the fateful morning of December 7, 1941, Stevens, recently promoted to sergeant, was awakened at 7 a.m. by loud explosions. Dashing outside, he witnessed firsthand the effects of bullets and shrapnel on the human body. "Japanese airplanes were dropping bombs and torpedoes on ships," he remembers, "and then coming back and strafing the general area."

"The attack was over in only two hours," Stevens recounted in a speech he gave in 2009. "They were pulling bodies out of the harbor and bringing them over to the naval hospital and stacking them up like cord wood. It was a pretty terrible sight." The devastating Japanese attack would forever change the 20-year-old Marine, his country, and the world.

The Battle Of Okinawa

By 1942, Stevens had risen to the rank of master tech sergeant and been offered a field commission. He accepted the promotion, became a second lieutenant, and two years later was promoted to captain. He then joined the 1st Marine Division Signal Company, where he served as executive officer and worked with Navajo "code talkers," native-American Marines who transmitted coded messages in the Navajo language and played a key role in helping defeat the Japanese.



Captain Stevens' men leaving the USS Henrico troop ship for their rendezvous with destiny. (Photo credit: USMC)

A year later, Stevens was off the coast of Okinawa waiting for the largest amphibious operation of the Pacific War to begin. "As we approached Okinawa, we started receiving Japanese air attacks [kamikazes]," Stevens remembers. "It is very frightening to be aboard a ship when you're under constant air attack," he added. "There's no place to hide. You can't dig a hole and jump in."

On April 1, 1945, the 24-year-old landed on Okinawa and spent the next three



The bottle of cognac will be opened by the last surviving member of the 1st Marine Division who served in combat during WWII. It is under lock and key in a glass case at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco. (Photo credit: Trip Advisor)



Captain Stevens (center pointing to map), with his platoon leaders and Korean interpreter, on the outskirts of Seoul. (Photo credit: US Marine Archives)

months fighting the Japanese. The Battle of Okinawa, Japan's last attempt to destroy the US before an all-out assault on the mainland, was a hellish experience for every man, woman, and child on the god-forsaken island.

When US forces finally secured the Japanese stronghold in late June 1945, over 12,000 Americans, an estimated 100,000 Japanese, and approximately 145,000 civilians were dead.

Less than two months later, the bloodiest conflict in history was over.

The Korean War

In 1950, Stevens, now the commanding officer of Able Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, was sent to Korea. "On 25 June, 1950, the day that the North Koreans launched their attack, I was on leave in Hollywood, California, when I received a telegram ordering me back to base," he recalls.

Once again, America was mobilizing for war. "We had just 7 days," he remembers, "to take in replacements, issue combat equipment, make out wills, take out allotments, and decide where our families would be living, among other details."

On August 2, Able Company arrived in Korea. The unit was immediately sent to the Pusan Perimeter. At the Battle of Obong-ni, or "No-name Ridge," as the Marines called it, Captain Stevens was awarded a Bronze Star for valor. During a "sudden and ferocious enemy attack," the Marine officer rallied his men, repulsed the enemy, and reorganized his company for a counterattack. "His outstanding display of personal courage, devotion to duty and leadership was an inspiration to his command" (from award citation).

At midnight on September 6, Able Company was pulled from the front lines and told to begin preparing for an upcoming "secret" amphibious operation. The next day a new officer reported to the company: Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez. The 25-year-old Marine from Tampa, Florida, had volunteered to join the unit.

Landing At Red Beach

On September 15, 1950, D-day for the Inchon Landing, Stevens and his men climbed over the railings of their troop ship, the USS Henrico, and boarded landing craft for their 5:30 p.m. assault on Red Beach. As they raced towards the shore and "the first wave came within 30 yards of the seawall," Captain Stevens radioed for US Navy Skyraider attack planes to make strafing passes along the beach.

Moments later, their landing craft slammed against Inchon's rocky shore. When Lt. Lopez, the 3rd platoon commander, and his men landed on the beach, there was no room to maneuver. The Marines immediately began taking casualties. For a brief moment the attack faltered.

Sacrificing So That Others Might Live

Realizing the situation was becoming desperate, Lt. Lopez stormed over the seawall into a hail of enemy fire, crawled forward, and pulled the arming pin from a hand grenade. Stevens later explained, "He [Lopez] got ready to throw the grenade into the bunker, and as he lifted his arm, he was hit in the right shoulder and chest by automatic weapon fire."

The young Marine lieutenant swept his wounded right arm toward the grenade, pulled it under him, and "took the full impact of the explosion." He died instantly. Lt. Lopez was posthumously awarded



LtCol Stevens before retiring from the Marines. (Photo credit: John Stevens)

the Medal of Honor, becoming the first Marine of the Korean War to receive the nation's highest award for valor. "He had served just 8 days in Korea and less than 1/2 hour in combat," Stevens said.

Minutes later, Able Company Marines took their objective, paving the way for subsequent waves of men to land at Inchon and repulse the enemy. In the 30-minute fight to secure just one corner of Red Beach, eight Marines from Stevens' company had died.

Stevens and his men went on to fight in the streets of Seoul, land at Wonsan, make their way to the snow-covered mountains of North Korea, and take part in one of the most epic battles in Marine Corps history: Chosin. During his time in Korea, Stevens honorably served his men, his country, and his beloved Corps.

"Dogged Determination And Indomitable Spirit"

Twelve years after returning from the Korean War, LtCol Stevens retired from the Marines, settled in San Francisco, and began a successful business career that spanned four decades.

His memories of WWII, Korea, and the brave men he served with, however, stayed with him. In 2009, the Korean War Memorial Foundation (KWMF) was start-



John with his wife, Jody. John has four children, seven grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. (Photo credit: John Stevens)



The main exhibit at the Korean War Memorial at the Presidio in San Francisco. (Photo credit: Gerry Parker)

ed in San Francisco, and Stevens immediately joined the effort to raise funds to construct a monument to the men who served, sacrificed, and died during the Korean War.

When asked about Stevens' contribution to the project, Gerry Parker, Executive Director of KWMF, said, "John worked six, often seven, days a week, devoting himself heart and soul to the demanding mission of bringing the Korean War Memorial from dream to reality."

On August 1, 2016, the memorial was officially opened in San Francisco's Presidio. "It now stands as a testament for all time to his dogged determination and indomitable spirit," Mr. Parker proudly told me.

Mr. Stevens, please let us know where and when your 100th birthday celebration will take place. We're looking forward to the party. And here's to drinking that bottle of cognac. Cheers!

The author thanks LtCol John Stevens, Gerry Parker, and Gregg DeRego for their friendship and support in researching and writing this article.

Ned Forney, who served as a Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, is a blogger and author who is living currently in Korea. He has completed a book on the Hungnam evacuation for which he is seeking a publisher.

HAWKINS from page 1



U.S. Marines in France in WWI



U.S. Marines in the trenches in WWI

that the "Stormtroopers" who had done so much damage to the Allied line could not be supplied and their advance had been slowed. The Germans had constructed heavily defended positions that threatened the rail hub at Amiens and even Paris itself. One such place was at Belleau Wood.

The task of clearing Belleau Wood was given to the 2nd and 3rd Divisions of the US Army. Half of the 2nd Division, known as the "Indian Head Division," was made up of the US Marines from the 5th and 6th Regiments of the 4th Marine Brigade.

Private Elmer Hawkins, Sr. was serving in the 66th Company of the 5th Regiment that later would become the element that we now recognize as Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Elmer, Jr. has provided me with copies of two letters from his dad that were both printed in his hometown newspaper in Kell, IL. The two letters were written from the front lines. Provided below is the text of both of these letters.

The headline for the first letter reads as follows:

"ELMER HAWKINS, IN FRANCE, WRITES – Former Kell Boy Describes in letter Life in the Trenches."

"The Trenches in France, Jan. 1, 1918. ~ Dear Father and All – I will write to you a few lines as I am sure you will be glad I am alright except for a slight cold. We are having some very cold weather here and lots of snow, which makes it rather uncomfortable. I received your letter and the tobacco you sent me and it was surely appreciated. We have recently been ordered to the front and are now in the trenches. We had to go up to the trenches at night time through the heavy snow for fourteen miles, with heavy packs on our backs. I took my place with the other fellows in the front line. It was blue cold, and we all took turns on the firing step and let the wind whistle about as though we liked it."

"We sleep in dugouts, and I can tell you it is not the best place in the world by any means. When we are on watch for a day or night, you bet we are glad to see our relief companions coming to relieve us. New Year's night we had a great time. We had a snake dance, the band fell

out at 10 pm and we all went single file behind them like a snake wiggling. We went all over town and at 12:00 a.m. the band played "Hail, Hail, The Gang's All Here."

This being the next night after losing so much sleep, I am too tired to write longer and will close. Tell all the folks hello for me,

Your son, Elmer Hawkins."

Three months later the newspaper in Kell, IL, printed another letter that Elmer had written to his family.

"Elmer J. Hawkins, writing on April 13 from France says –

I am still alive and getting along finely. Have not had time to write. Have been putting in good time looking Fritz over. I have been in the ranks for some time and am in the seventh line now, but will soon drop back to rest. This section is very quiet except bombardment.

Artillery is at work most of the time. Airplanes battle away and we get in our gas masks once in a while - - - three times last night. The sun has shone three days out of eighteen so you know what it has been like. The mud has been bad. We live in the ground in dugouts. The one I am in has running water in it, but the worst of it is, one can't stop it. About the only way you can find your bunk is to listen to the rats playing hide and seek in it, and they sure do play when a person has a box of hard tack in his pack. There are some of the biggest rats I ever saw and a lot of them, too.

I have been across no-man's land three times. I am saving the shell of the first shot I fired and am going to keep it.

Well, Fritz has started with the big guns again. He is not a very good shot, so he don't do much damage – Elmer Hawkins."

Two months after this second letter, Private Hawkins was crossing the open wheat fields approaching the thick forest of Belleau Wood. The German machine guns were placed in a way that they could continuously sweep these fields with accurate and high intensity fire. Over 20 days, the Marines launched six separate attacks on German positions at Belleau Wood that were well concealed and positioned. Caught in the open fields or in the densely packed wood, French officers advised the Marines to turn back. This prompted US Marine Lloyd Williams to respond, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here."

The rest, as they say, is history. After the battle, the French renamed Belleau Wood "Bois de la Brigade de Marine" (Wood of the Marine Brigade). The 4th Brigade was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French in recognition of their achievement. We know how proud Elmer is of his dad and his heritage in being one of the Marines who earned the nickname "Teufel Hunden" aka "Devil Dogs." We are proud also that "our" Elmer, along with Art Dreves, has been able to carry on that tradition and is setting a standard that will be hard for the rest of us to match.

Forces build memorial to Peleliu dead

By S/Sgt. John T. Kirby (Marine Corps Combat Cor.)
Peleliu, Palau Islands (Delayed)

The Military Cemetery

"I wanted to see the military cemetery and chapel although I knew that American remains had been removed from this site. The chapel had been severally damaged during a typhoon and only the four corners of the structure remained. Although there were markers, including the ones erected by the army, no other trace of the cemetery exists and it is now completely overgrown by trees." George Thomas

Marines, soldiers, and sailors, many of them veterans of the assault and capture of Peleliu, recently volunteered to complete a memorial cemetery here as tribute to their fallen comrades.

With nearly 1,300 white crosses marking the fresh graves of men who died on this island, Peleliu's armed forces cemetery is nearing completion less than three months after assault units established the first beachhead nearby.

Work of final beautification of the tiny site, solemn monument to fighting men of America's three services, is under the direction of a navy lieutenant and his crew of volunteer workers who devote off-duty hours to the task.

Site for the cemetery, known on pre-invasion charts as "Orange Beach," once bristled with the strongest defenses the island's enemy garrison could improvise.

Shattered amphibian tanks on the nearby reef are a grim reminder that veteran units of the First Marine Division established the initial beachhead less than 300 feet away.



All the war dead have been removed from Peleliu. This cross is at the site of the original cemetery. (Source: http://www.thomas5.com/tribute/60YearsLater2.html)

Today, across war-scarred Peleliu on the Jap-built airstrip, systematic aerial neutralization of enemy-held Caroline bases by Marine airmen is continuing on a round-the-clock schedule.

Leatherneck plane crews, together with infantrymen from the Army's "Wildcat" Division, are completing the work of grading white coral sand and planting wild flowers on the site.

Seabees Furnish Scrapers

A Seabee unit furnished sand-scraping equipment not in use on the expanding airstrip, while a Marine air group assigned all available trucks to hauling coral.

"Although we haven't anything but local materials and volunteer help on the job," the officer observed, "we've determined to make the site attractive as possible —even to a white coral chapel designed by Seabees and Army engineers."

As evidence of the success of his cooperative venture, he pointed to a hardworking group of sailors from a supply ship unloading nearby.

The sailors who had volunteered for an afternoon of work were planting small shrubs on two adjoining graves—a colonel and private killed in the same action early in the assault.

Source: This article appeared in the Roanoke Rapids [NC] Herald, January 18, 1945, Sec. B, P. 6.

1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

78th Anniversary Commemoration

28 January – 1 February 2019 Camp Pendleton, California

ADVANCE REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY 21 JANUARY 2019

REGISTRATION INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address : _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Email** _____ **Birthdate:** _____

Unit served in that I want on my badge (one only): _____

Please state exactly how you would like your name (include spouse/guests) printed on your badge(s) (i.e. rank, Mr., Mrs. or Ms.): _____

EVENT REGISTRATION

Registration fee includes Welcome Aboard Dinner with the Division Commander:
$45 per member, $45 per guest, and $40 each additional guest .....#_____ Total:$_____

Registration/Check-In at Pacific Views Lodge: Mon 28 Jan - Tue 29 Jan (0930-1600), Wed 30 Jan (0930-1200)

Mon 28 Jan (0930-1600) Registration – Pacific Views Lodge

(1700-1900) Welcome Aboard "Burn Your Own Steak Night" Dinner at Iron Mike's.....#_____ No Charge

Tues 29 Jan (0930-1600) Registration – Pacific Views Lodge

(0900-1115) Tour Edson Range (*Tentative*).....No Charge

(1145-1330) Lunch at 41 area Chow Hall (Camp Las Flores) ($20.00 per person)...#_____Total:$ _____

(1345-1500) Tour of 1st LAR Battalion and 1st Recon Battalion (*Tentative*) .....No Charge

Wed 30 Jan (0930-1200) Late Registration – Pacific Views Lodge

(0900-1030) Assault Iraqui Built Up Town.<<Rifle Range>> (Tentative).....No Charge

(1100-1200) 1st MAR Static Display (Tentative).....No Charge

(1200-1300) Lunch at 53 Area Chow Hall .....($20.00 per person)....#_____Total: $_____

(1330-1500) 11th MAR Static Display (*Tentative*).....No Charge

Thu 31 Jan (0900-1030) Amtrak Museum & School (*Tentative*)..... ..... No Charge

(1100-1200) Lunch at Camp Del Mar.....($20.00 per person)....#_____Total: $_____

(1200-1500) 3rd MAW (Tentative).....No Charge

Fri 1 Feb (0800-0830) Morning Colors.....No Charge
(0830-1000) Streamers Rededication.....No Charge
(1000-1100) Retirement Ceremony for MGySgt Kelley.....No Charge
(1100-1130) Photographs
(1130-1200) Tour White House 1st MarDiv HQ.....No Charge
(1200-1300) Lunch at 1stMarDiv Assoc HQ.....($20.00 per person)...#_____Total: $_____
(1300-1500) General Membership Meeting
(1800-2200) Anniversary Banquet at Pacific Views Event Center
Champagne Chicken Breast ($40.00 per person):.....#_____Total: $_____
Pasta shells, ricotta cheese & marinara ($40.00 per person):.....#_____Total: $_____

Note: Schedule of events above is subject to change. Read the Blue Diamond News newsletter for updates.

DUES: (if not current) - $35.00 per year, $150.00 Senior Life Member, $1000 Regular Life member:.....$_____

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

1st Marine Division Association (General) Fund.....$_____

Scholarship Fund.....$_____

Sponsor an Active Duty Marine or Sailor for Anniversary Banquet ($40.00 per person):.....#_____ Total: $_____

TOTAL..... $

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Credit Card# _____Expires: _____ Security code:_____ Total: $_____

☐MC ☐VISA ☐DISCOVER ☐AMEX Signature_____ Date: _____

ANNIVERSARY DINNER SEATING REQUEST:

Each table will consist of four association members and four active duty Marines. If you would like to reserve an entire table (party of eight), you must provide the names of your party and payment MUST be received NO LATER THAN 21 January 2019.

If you would like to be seated at a specific table (party of four or less) please provide the names of the members you would like to be seated with.

Please seat me and my guest with the following members (names): _____

Send payment and registration or fax a copy of the form to the office at: 1st Marine Division Association, P.O. Box 9000, Box #902, Oceanside, CA 92051. Office phone number (760) 763-3268: FAX number: (760) 763-3270; e-mail: june.oldbreed@fmda.us

NOTES:

- Attire for the Banquet: Coat and Tie or Service Alpha uniform
- All tours will require members/participants to fill out "hold harmless" agreements upon check-in
- Please make arrangements with the Division Association Office for medical assistance (if required).

LODGING INFORMATION

Pacific Views Lodge (Host Hotel)
(760) 763-7805
(5) One King bed Deluxe rooms- $114.00 per night
(13) Two Queen bed Deluxe rooms - $114.00 per night
Cut-off date/First night's due: 13 January 2019
Cancellation for refund: 20 January 2019

Ward Lodge
(760) 725-5304
(5) Two Queen-beds Standard rooms for $84/per night
(2) King-size ADA Deluxe rooms for $94/per night
(8) Two Queen beds Deluxe rooms for $94/per night
(20) Two Queen beds with Kitchenette rooms for $104/per night
Reservations must be made by 13 January 2019
Cancellation date is one week prior to the for the refund

Standard check-in time is any time after 1500 and check-out is at 1100
No smoking allowed. If smoking occurs during the stay, a $250 cleaning fee will be automatically added to the account.

No pets in exception of service dogs. Ward Lodge offers pet-friendly rooms based on availability, restrictions and fees apply, contact Reservations for details.

When making your hotel reservations please say that you are with the First Marine Division Association.

All members of FMDA who do not have an ID card, SgtMaj Marty Vasquez will sponsor you for Pacific Views Lodge or Ward Lodge.

VEHICLE ACCESS TO CAMP PENDLETON

NOTE: In order to access Camp Pendleton each driver and vehicle must be identified.

Please fill out information below and submit to HQ no later than 15 January 2019.

Name Last	First	Mid Initial	Suffix	Driver's License or State ID Card State of issue:
State Credential Identifier	Expiration Date		Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY	

Note: State Credential Identifier is the new term for Driver's License Number.

Quests & Queries

Baker/5/1st MarDiv

I am looking for anyone who was in Korea from 1951-52 with Baker Co., 1st Squad, 5th Regt., 1st Marine Division.

(PFC) Clifford L. Johnson, 11389 B Padgett Switch Rd., Irvington, AL 36544, dbeckham20@hotmail.com

Anyone remember Donald S. Sakowski, USMC?

My father, Donald S. Sakowski, served in the First Air Wing of the Marine Corps during the Korean War. He was stationed in Japan, by way of El Toro AFB, in 1951-1952. My father passed away in 1991. He is buried in the Field of Honor at Greenwood Cemetery, Trenton, NJ. Only recently have I had his marker corrected and replaced, and I am planning an intimate memorial service for him. He was a wonderful man and father, and I want to remember and acknowledge him as such.









Images by Clifford Johnson







The service will include a ceremony at the cemetery with presentation of the Colors, the Marine Corps anthem or bugler, PMCs, a flag, and words by a minister, myself, and possibly my siblings. A gentleman named Bob Smyth is helping me to acquire a Congressional Proclamation.

I would like to know what role my father played during his enlistment. I have the highest hopes that I will hear from someone who might have shared that experience and/or knew my dad. It is difficult to fathom such young men entering such an ominous unknown.

My father never spoke of his time in the service, and I wonder if, for instance, his work there led him to his love of working on cars. I would love to know what his daily life was like from entering the service, going to El Toro and then to Japan—the hour by hour daily life, food, meals, classes/training—all of it, even the fit of the uniform and lacing up boots, which must have been something to get used to.

A cousin of his, who is a distant relative of mine and considerably older, said in a brief phone conversation that she remembered him going in to the service with brown hair and coming back with white. I wonder if that's true. The Korean War is renowned for its brutality, both in conflict and in climate, from every angle.

Here's a little information about him:

Name: Donald S. Sakowski
Muster Date: Jan 1952
Rank: Sergeant
Station: Mgcis-1 Macg-2 1St Maw FMF, C/O FPO San Francisco Calif

Best regards,

Denise McCormack, 609-807-8238 or 609-479-6435, magicwords101@gmail.com

Memories of WWII in the Pacific

First Marine Division, FMF (Pearl Harbor -December 7, 1941)

By Otto Melsa

NOTE: The accompanying photos were not submitted by the author. They have been selected from various sources to complement the text.

After graduating from high school in the summer of 1941 and working with a civil engineer for several months, I became a locomotive fireman with the Illinois Central Railroad, three months before I joined the United States Marines on July 18, 1942. That was followed by a mandatory ten-week "Boot Camp" at Parris Island. Next, I was sent to Radio School at Quantico, VA., then on to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

After graduation and a five-day furlough to Tennessee for Christmas, I traveled by train cross country to San Diego, California on January 24, 1943.

The war in Europe with the Germans was raging. The offensive warfare against the Japanese in the South Pacific had been going on for a while, starting with the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942. The two sides engaged in intensive combat for several months the. The Marines were up against a very strong force of disciplined Japanese infantry on the ground and a dominating air force that gave them air superiority.

The Japanese Navy was constantly shelling Marine ground forces, which were suffering a shortage of supplies, e, g., food, medical supplies, ammo and replacement due to logistics problems. Only heroics, better leadership and an American "will to win" allowed a weary, exhausted group of rugged marines to claim victory and be evacuated to Melbourne, Australia for a period of rest, relaxation, hospital care for malaria and combat wounds, and to equip recruit replacements and train for future combat missions.

On January 24, 1943 I was assigned as a radio operator at a tank training center in San Diego, CA called Jacques Farm, but on February 22, 1943 I was reassigned to the (9th Replacement BN), and slated for overseas deployment. On March 11, I sailed from San Diego, CA aboard the *U.S.S. Mount Vernon* and arrived at Melbourne, Australia, where I disembarked March 31, 1943.

I was assigned immediately to First Signal Co., HDQTS BN, First Marine Division, and billeted with the Division headquarters inside a huge soccer stadium with rows of tents that formed a solid camping site. The "city" comprised pyramidal tents with wooden floors, six persons per tent.

Between April and September 1943, I performed signal duties in a very relaxed "Liberty" atmosphere, pulling guard duty and K.P., but my main effort was serving on a teletype watch operator shift for 6-8 hours, with weekends off. Shifts would change every week or so from daytime to evening to night owl hours.

Since this was "down under," unlike America, it was winter and quite cold, but our tents had really fine stoves that provided comfortable heat. Sometimes each month I would convoy to a training area south of Melbourne for combat training maneuvers with other members of my signal company. But, we knew the calm could not last.

On September 26, 1943 a Signal Company embarked on *U.S.S. Boutwell* to make a practice assault landing on Goodenough Island. Then, the company moved by LST from Goodenough Island to disembark on New Guinea on December 19, 1943. This "island hopping" was for practice and training more than for a combat mission, but it was necessary to teach efficiency and execution of massive assault landing. On working parties we learned how to load and unload massive amounts of equipment and supplies.

From New Guinea via LSTs we disembarked ashore on Cape Gloucester, New Britain on Christmas Day 1943. We pulled right up to the unopposed enemy jungle, but we had to wade ashore. Enemy air was a threat because we did not have air superiority, and hourly bombing runs and strafing attacks were common while we unloaded and penetrated into a very heavy jungle area.

I was busy for the first ten days on radio watches using typewriter and Morse code transmissions. We were located only 400 meters inland from the beach, and we were interrupted constantly by "condition red" air attacks.

Rain was constant for the time I was there (January through May 1944), but most of the time my radio watches were inside a paneled vehicle for protection from the bad weather and jungle heat.

For sleeping, we had a hammock with a mosquito net and a rubberized canopy cover overhead. It was tough to get in and



This photo illustration depicts Lance Cpl. Benjamin Ferry and his Grandfather, Richard T. Ferry, side-by-side while each was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. Coincidentally, both Benjamin and Richard were assigned the same unit with more than 60 years' difference in service time. Richard served with 3/5 during the Korean War, fighting in Inchon and at the Chosin Reservoir before being evacuated with two wounds suffered in combat. Benjamin is an automatic rifleman and is currently deployed aboard the USS Peleliu with India Company, Battalion Landing Team 3/5, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.



Marines remember Battle of Peleliu during 70th anniversary - Marines with Combat Logistics Detachment 379 march in the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Peleliu ceremony Sept. 15 at Peleliu Elementary School in the Republic of Palau. The event brought together members of the Palau community, World War II veterans who served in the Battle of Peleliu, elected officials of Palau and representatives the U.S. military to remember the landing that took place 70 years earlier. The Marines with CLD-379 came to the Republic of Palau aboard the USNS Sacagawea as part of T-AKE 14-2, a maritime pre-positioned force, multi-country theater security cooperation event that deploys from Okinawa to conduct training exercises and TSC events. The Marines are from CLD-379, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

tough to get out. Five months of that was enough. You even had your rifle in bed with you, and sometimes on a slow "air attack night" you might take your boots off.

Enemy problems??? The fighting by our infantry marines was miles from us, and we had good local protection.

We were very pleased to go aboard the *U.S.S. President Adams* on May 5, 1944 from Cape Gloucester and to disembark on Pavuvu on May 7, 1944. Pavuvu Island was only a few miles from Guadalcanal but had been developed into a coconut grove plantation with hundreds of tall coconut trees, which were just far enough apart for a square tent to be erected for six troops per tent.

The total division (First, Fifth, Seventh, and Eleventh Regiments, Tank Battalions and Division Hdqts) was billeted under tentage for rest, relaxation, medical care and to accept replacements as they arrived. Then, we had Refreshment Training with our individual weapons and target practice with crew served armament.

On a special day, along with 15,000 other marines, I sat in hot jungle weather to watch a Bob Hope Sponsored U.S.O. Show of Hollywood stars. WOW!!! Morale shot sky high, but it could not last. Our tempo was speeded up as we prepared our combat gear and equipment for wartime readiness.

On August 25, 1944 we embarked aboard the *U.S.S. DuPag*e (APA 41) at Pavuvu. After only one stop for a practice assault landing, we arrived and disembarked at Peleliu Island and Palau Island to participate in the attack on enemy Japanese forces there.

Peleliu is a three X six mile island with one volcanic mountain and an active air strip and runway that we fought our way ashore with landing craft and assault boats while being bombarded with enemy artillery, shore battery weapons, and heavy mortar fire. While traversing the last three hundred meters our assault boats were being hit and destroyed. My boat made it to the beach, but we could hear and feel shrapnel striking outside.

Our Marine and Navy aviation had bombed and strafed all the enemy positions for many weeks and our naval battleships had pounded the enemy many, many times, but we were still suffering from their intense fire power.

As we arrived at Orange Beach the sandy shoreline was littered with dead Marines, and our medical corpsmen were kept busy tending to the wounded.

My unit was in the third wave. To our dismay we found the first two waves still had not been able to advance off the beach because of the staunch enemy defense. We landed at 0800 hours and were ordered to dig in and wait until we could advance off the beach.

After a three-hour wait we moved forward onto the island surface, still under intense mortar and small arms fire. We moved 600 meters inland to a building that was our prearranged mission for day one. The heat was torrid and individual canteen water supply became a big problem. By night fall the weather cooled a bit arid the enemy shelling slackened. Radio watches and guard duty kept me busy for two days and nights.

On day three, another Marine and I were assigned to a Navy Ensign to perform a commo mission of spotting U. S. Navy gun fire from ships off shore onto the one mountain known as "Bloody Nose Ridge." For two days and two nights we directed fire by radio from our foxhole at the foot of the ridge. My buddy was PFC Charles Marks, from Akron, Ohio. The very young ensign was a Naval Reserve Officer from St. Louis, Missouri.

From our vantage point we could scan the entire ridge and observe with binoculars. We could see the many caves atop the ridge where the enemy was fully protected and firing artillery and mortar rounds on our troops all over the island and on the beaches.

During daylight we adjusted naval gun fire round by round. At night we assured that flares illuminated the entire mountain to prohibit the enemy's freedom of movement. Marks and I made sure the ensign was protected from enemy ground soldiers who were in the area.

Marks made one daytime trip to the beach to resupply our canteens and get more K-rations. When our division artillery could assume the illumination need the ensign was recalled to his ship and we returned to our company C.P., where we got one night's sleep.

Marks and I were assigned another mission on day five when an emergency arose when one of the Fifth Marine Regimental line companies reported a possible enemy gas attack and requested that gas protective masks be sent to its front line infantry. Marks and I, carrying extra canteens of water and several gas masks, went by foot to the battle area.

On arrival at Bravo Company, Fifth Marines C.P., we were advised that the gas attack was a false alarm. A misfire of a white phosphorus shell caused the havoc of an enemy gas attack false alarm. We radioed that message to our Signal Company C.P. While in the area I saw Captain Jack Holland, B Company Commander. We exchanged greetings and discussed it many times years later. I had known Captain Jack Holland from my hometown of Jackson, Tennessee. I had seen him in Australia and on Pavuvu

twice since being overseas.

I was on Peleliu for a total of sixteen days performing guard duty, radio watches and serving on burial details and filing reports of my two delicate assignments. After sixteen terrible days and tough nights it was a dreamer's delight to board the *U.S.S. Pinkney* at Peleliu and embark on September 30, 1944. It was heaven indeed to get hot meals, clean uniforms, sleep on real sheets, and enjoy fine living conditions. Where would we go for a non-combat rest area??? Oh, no!!! We landed back on Pavuvu on October 10, 1944.

My tent was the same one I had before with the same tent mates. We assumed a rest and relaxation status with lots of time for competitive athletics and new movies every night. I made the Battalion baseball team and was issued my first pair of spiked shoes. I played right field and got a few hits.

We also had a six-man touch football league. I played center on our company team, the "Bone Crushers." Our uniforms comprised T-shirts and shorts. We used coconut trees for boundaries, which made bruises more common than physical body contacts. However, that was short lived.

With new replacements coming on board, military training had to be initiated again. Classes, long marches, physical training (PT), rifle and small arms range fire, night time exercises, mental sharpness drills, and teamwork practice put us back on track for whatever the next mission would be. Thus, with full field combat gear, and after only four months of relaxation, we boarded the *U.S.S. Effingham* at Pavuvu on February 21, 1945.

My longest time on board ship (34 days) resulted in forming ships in convey for our next assault landing, which was rumored to be a "BIGGIE" It turned out that over 300 ships were required to transport our First Marine Division and two other Marine divisions, plus two U.S. Army divisions with reinforcement, to make the landing.

The ship I was on stopped two times on this trip at friendly occupied islands to permit shore trips for our troops for relaxation pauses. On one stop I had two cokes and two beers at "happy hour." My sergeant, Sammy Haynes, from Knoxville, TN, took my beers and gave me his two cokes).

There were two interesting experiences for me during all that ship board time. Because of my typing skills and ability to copy Morse coded radio news reports, I was invited to perform short shifts of copying news reports for distribution to our troops each day on our ship. I had access to the ship radio commo room with a courtesy pass for early chow, breaks, lunch and dinner. For once I didn't have to stand in long lines.

I enjoyed the assignment and made lots of ship board friends. I also had access to the ship's Post Exchange (PX). One day it dawned on me that I was missing my Sunday school classes and prayer meeting that I had attended without fail during my elementary school and teen years at home.

Yes, I attended at every possible opportunity during boot camp and advanced training, but I knew something was lacking. I visited the ship's chaplain. After some counseling and prayer he baptized me as a Methodist in a small ceremony. He notified my home church and family. I felt like a new person!!!

On April 1, 1945 we went ashore on Okinawa Shima which was a heavily defended Japanese Island very close to their homeland. My landing this time was a bit different. I was assigned as a Radio Operator to a small patrol of Division Headquarters Senior Officers whose mission was to precede Hdqts. and scout out suitable locations for Division Placement. My duties included maintaining commo for our team and supplying perimeter security during movement and over nighttime.

My jeep driver, PFC. Johnny Kassouf, was a great guy from Birmingham, Alabama. He was also the second baseman on our baseball team at Pavuvu. On D-Day our landing craft pulled right up to the beach in the third wave and we drove ashore. We were neither met nor fired upon by the enemy. WOW, what a relief!!!

We assembled our patrol and proceeded inland. Our first objective was a huge Yontan Air Strip that had been evacuated. We drove about two miles and dismounted at a spot picked out by our team leaders near the air strips. We immediately set up a field command post to await the full HDQTS to come ashore later.

By nightfall we were operational and properly secure. We had no enemy fire or contact. We had for the first time seen some natives during our move and purposely avoided their living areas. Our jeep had a small trailer which allowed for water and rations and helped provide shelter for protection and sleeping conditions. The weather was pleasant, which was so different than our other combat experiences.

On D-Day two of our patrols departed westward from Yontan Air Strip, directly across the middle of this huge Island.



The amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) returns to San Diego [in 2014] following the completion of its final deployment to the Western Pacific region. Peleliu completed Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014 and conducted joint force amphibious operations in the U.S. 3rd and 7th Fleet areas of responsibility with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and Commander, Amphibious Squadron 11 (CPR 11) while supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The ship is scheduled for decommissioning early next year. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Ryan J. Batchelder/Released)



At sea aboard the Navy amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5) October 13, 2001 - 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Special Operations Capable (SOC) AH-1W "Super Cobra" helicopters launch from the ships flight deck. Peleliu and her embarked MEU are conducting events in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. USMC Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew J. Decker (Released)

Again, we were scouting for a new location for a new division C. P.

Our infantry had already secured the area of enemy forces so we moved fifteen miles with no action. That night a lone Japanese straggler tried to penetrate our perimeter security. He killed a member of our patrol before we killed him. Later, when we established that new Division C.P. we were there two days.

Our next move sent our patrol and the Division C.P. back near our first location near Yontan Air Strip. From our vantage point near the landing beach area we witnessed a most spectacular aerial battle.

There were 300 or more U. S. Navy ships just off our beaches. The Japanese had assembled a sufficient number of fighter and dive-bomber air craft to challenge our naval vessels (carriers, cruisers, battleships, destroyers, etc.) with suicide bombing runs. These were called Kamikaze attacks, during which their planes would arrive in our area at 10,000 feet, pick a target ship that was stationary, and make a nose dive attack at full throttle. Sometimes two, three, or four enemy planes would be attacking at the same time.

Many times twenty ships would be directing anti-aircraft fire at incoming planes. Sometimes only one plane would arrive, but the sky would light up with fireworks. Sometimes incoming planes would be hit and destroyed before reaching the target. But many, many times explosions would erupt with a direct hit.

(Ironically, *USS DuPage,* aboard which Melsa had traveled to Peleliu, was struck by a kamikaze plane on 10 January 1945 while preparing to leave the area of San Fabian in the Lingayen Gulf. When enemy aircraft attacked, despite heavy anti-aircraft fire, a kamikaze crashed to port damaging DuPage severely and starting fires which stubbornly recurred and were fought all through the night.

DuPage lost 35 killed and 136 wounded; five men who were blown over the side were picked up by escorting destroyers. Despite its injuries DuPage continued to fulfill its duty as guide ship and arrived safely at Leyte three days later to transfer its casualties and undergo emergency repairs.)

Nighttime runs involved lone attackers, but the sky would light up with fireworks. We learned that our fighter aircraft would meet incoming planes many miles out of our view. Nevertheless, Japanese kamikaze planes arrived continually. The attacks lasted for two days and nights. Many ships departed to avoid being targets if their mission permitted.

On shore we were amazed at what we saw and what our naval forces were suffering. They were taking a huge loss of personnel and ships.

One Marine Division and one Army Division had been fighting on the southern half of Okinawa with heavy combat losses since the D-Day landing. Thus, the First Marine Division was ordered to move south. Our three regiments were assigned a large portion of front-line combat area. We needed a command post nearer the enemy front lines.

Two days of rain and bad weather made our travel slower, and we were meeting considerable enemy opposition and sniper fire. We moved about fifteen miles in mud the first day and about the same distance each day for the next three days.

Despite the strong enemy resistance our front line troops were receiving, we were gradually moving them southward toward Naha, which was the capital and largest city. We were getting radio reports that enemy troops and citizens alike were being driven into the ocean off the southern tip of the island. But, we were losing many killed and wounded Marines because a steady flow was being evacuated back to Yontan Hospitals. Our patrol was ordered back to the main division headquarters near Yontan Air Strip.

My duties changed and the needs for our patrol were eliminated when our Main Division Headquarters was made permanent. Our division troops were occupied in mopping up operation, as were troops of all U.S. units. Thus, I was assigned press copying duties, guard duty, and radio watch shifts on radio nets with our division units. We now had complete air superiority and all combat was in more distant locations on the island. Thus, we were in a more relaxed environment.

I was advised that I had enough "points" to be available for shipment to the states. Preparations were underway for First Marine Division to eventually land on Japan proper. I would not be a part of that.

Please turn to **MEMORIES** on page 29

Chapter Scuttlebutt

News from the Chapters of the 1st Marine Division Association

Bodfish Chapter resigns

The California-based Bodfish chapter withdrew from the association as of November 1, 2018. Dale Turner, chapter adjutant and Past President, wished the association the very best and closed with, "We remain Semper Fidelis."

Boardman - Puget Sound Chapter Dissolved

Sgt William Pete Hale informed Headquarters that the Bob Boardman-Puget Sound Chapter is dissolving. The chapter had been named to honor member Bob Boardman.

Los Angeles Chapter surrenders charter

Norm Kellems, president of the Los Angeles chapter, notified headquarters on 30 October 2018 that the chapter was withdrawing from the First Marine Division Association.

"We wish the First Marine Division Association the very best," he wrote.

Tennessee Chapter announces end

MGySgt Ed Evans USMC (Ret) informed Headquarters on October 10th that the Tennessee Chapter (BGen Austin C. Shofner Unit) is disbanding. They have not been able to hold a meeting in over a year, and are down to a dozen members. They will be transferring their cash assets to the Association. The Chapter name will be kept alive on a future website or Facebook page.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The chapter hosted an Oktoberfest Lunch for 5th Marines. About 70 Marines and 21 Chapter members gathered for brats, burgers, beer, and sauerkraut on October 26, at Task Force Mateo, aboard Camp Pendleton, California.

Southern California Chapter President SgtMaj Tony Aguilar welcomes the troops





Marines feast on brats, burgers et al at Southern California Oktoberfest

Chow call for guests at Southern California Chapter event





SgtMaj Aguilar scoops the beans

Active duty Marines heard stories of the Pacific landings from The Old Man of the Southern California Chapter, SgtMaj Paul Stephenson





The crew's turn to dine at Southern California Chapter's Oktoberfest

The chapter held its annual Toys for Tots Christmas Party on December 1, 2018 aboard Camp Pendleton. Attendees feasted on turkey and ham with all the trimmings that were served to active duty Marines and their families. Santa Claus was there with gifts for the kids.

COLORADO RIVER

Lunch with the 7th Marine Regiment

Jim and Carla Hogan, with the San Clemente Marine Corps Support Group, the Southern California Chapter, and the Colorado River Chapter, hosted Marines from the 7th Marine Regiment for lunch Wednesday, September 26, 2018 aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, California.

7th Regt. Marines enjoy lunch with FMDA members and staff











About 50 Marines and 10 Association members enjoyed club sandwiches and hamburger sliders at the Brass & Rockers Officers and SNCOs club. 7th Marines Commanding Officer Colonel Kyle B. Ellison welcomed the Marines and members. SgtMaj Anthony J. Pompos advised the active duty Marines to learn all they could from the veterans gathered there.

The members were honored with a 7th Marines Challenge Coin presented to each of them. SgtMaj Pompos honored us by becoming our newest member. Everyone there appeared to have a great time.

Military Service Records, Awards, and Unit Histories Guide Available

A New Congressional Research Service Publication on U.S. Military Service Records, Awards, and Unit Histories is now available. The Congressional Research Service has just published a short reference document that might be of interest to many:

- Military Service Records, Awards, and Unit Histories
- A Guide to Locating Sources

by Mese F. DeBruyne and Barbara Salazar Torreon

The guide provides information on locating military unit histories and individual service records of discharged, retired, and deceased military personnel. It also provides information on locating and replacing military awards and medals. Included is contact information for military history centers, websites for additional sources of research, and a bibliography of other publications, including related CRS reports. Access it at https://fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/RS21282.pdf.

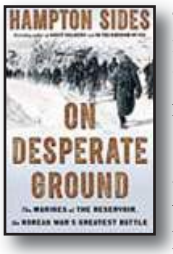
Book Review

On Desperate Ground: The Marines at the Reservoir, the Korean War's Greatest Battle

by Hampton Sides Doubleday, October 2018

Hardcover, 416 pages

At a book signing years ago, an old-timer gave a card to Hampton Sides and said, "You should write a book about this." The card identified him as a retired Marine, and a member of The Chosin Few— a group whose membership is limited to the men who, in the winter of 1950, fought at the Chosin Reservoir, in North Korea near the Manchurian border.



Sides put away the card, but remembered the advice, and has written On Desperate Ground—the latest and one of the best accounts of the First Marine Division's epic battle against three divisions of the Chinese army in late November and early December 1950. He has done a lot of research, which is conscientiously enumerated in his acknowledgments. Thus, all manner of views are represented: the decision-making commanders; troops doing the fighting, both Chinese and U.N.; President Harry Truman; and General MacArthur—interspersed with the tales of unknowns whose lives were forever affected by the battle.

Like all other narrators of the Chosin, Sides credits O.P. Smith, Commander of the First Division, as the force that kept his vastly outnumbered troops intact, fought the Chinese to a standstill, and resisted the idiocies of MacArthur and Ned Almond, Commander of Tenth Corps. Sides thinks Smith was "one of the great underrated Generals in American history."

Both MacArthur and Almond are shown to have had little concept of the situation into which they ordered their troops, and to have ignored the perilous realities of the Chinese presence, despite having been warned by their battlefield officers. The result was a defeat of General Walton Walker's 8th Army on the western edge of the Reservoir, and the annihilation of Task Force Faith on the eastern side. This unit was ordered into an indefensible position by Almond, and while trying to fight its way out was decimated by the Chinese.

The account of one of the few survivors, Private Ed Reeves, tells of physical and emotional endurance beyond belief, aided by the hand of Providence. Besides being shot in the head, and losing his fingers and later his feet to frostbite, Reeves played dead for a day, then crawled miles to the frozen Reservoir, where he was spotted by a plane and rescued by Marines searching for survivors of Task Force Faith.

The numerical superiority of the Chinese army, most of whom were combat veterans, and the willingness of their leaders to sacrifice them, were the keys to their plan for victory. And it almost worked. The massive attacks on the night of November 27 and the fighting during the next day and night kept the fate of the First Marine Division in doubt. Many factors combined to allow it to beat off the attacks, survive the 40-below nights, protect stranded companies, and keep its command integrity. Many of its officers had fought in the Pacific during WWII and knew how to lead troops into battle. Although the same was true of the Army leaders who served in Europe, Sides is clear that training, discipline and leadership of the Marines was superior, and that made the difference.

In Washington, away from the fighting, President Truman and his chiefs of staff depended on MacArthur in Tokyo for accurate details of the war's progress. Receiving nothing but optimistic reports containing scant solid information, Truman flew to Wake Island in mid-October 1950 to meet MacArthur, hoping to get straight answers to his concerns about the likelihood of Chinese intervention. Sides' chapter regarding this meeting shows the force of MacArthur's presence and his domination of America's military interest in the Pacific. Truman returned home believing the fighting would be over by Thanksgiving and the troops home by Christmas.

Less than a month later, MacArthur admitted to Washington that he was wrong. There were 260,000 Chinese soldiers ready to pounce on the U.N. forces at the Chosin Reservoir. Sides says MacArthur "had been outwitted and outflanked by a guerilla army with no air force, crude logistics and primitive communications, an army with no tanks and precious little artillery." The chapter on Washington's reaction to this news, the story of which is seldom reported in books on the Chosin, shows Truman's and Secretary of State Dean Acheson's realization that the war in Korea was the latest episode in Soviet attempts to dominate that part of the world. The combined armies of Communist China and North Korea were there to stay, and the U.S. was in for a long war. And this proved to be so, with peace not coming for almost three years.

Those next years of fighting were going to be much more difficult, and victory more doubtful, if the Chinese could destroy the Marines as they did General Walker's 8th Army, the ROK troops and Task Force Faith. Here, Sides' book shows itself to be a remarkable account of the First Division's break-out from encirclement by three Divisions of the Chinese North Army Group.

The title is apt, for the Marines were "on desperate ground," and General O.P. Smith knew he had to get his troops out of the Chosin Reservoir and south to the port city of Hungnam. Otherwise, they would be destroyed. He had only a few days to pull it off, and some of his front-line companies were scattered about in the hills surrounding the headquarters at Hagaru-ri. Fox Company was completely cut off, isolated, running out of ammunition and rations, slowly being leveled by enemy attacks. The road to them was held by the Chinese, so the only choice Smith had was to send a rescue party overland, in deep snow and darkness, across the hills to reach the stranded unit.

The telling of this is superb. Fox Company could not hold out another day, and their relief seemed an impossible mission. Led by Colonel Ray Davis, a Pacific veteran and holder of a Navy

Please turn to **BOOK** on page 30

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
11-21-2018

Life	Annual	Assoc. Annual	Friend	Total
5,435	987	77	19	6,518

Welcome Aboard!

* Life Member

New Members of the 1st Marine Division Association

NAME	UNIT	ADDRESS	PHONE	RECRUITER
SGT ROBERT L BEATTY	A-1-5	1455 E Refuge Church Rd, Stephens City, VA 22655-5745	540-327-7202	Vince Rios
E-3 LCPL DANIEL M BOYLE	1st Bn 1 Mar Reg	PO BOX 11132, SPRINGHILL, FL 34610	352-397-0001	
SGT JUNG GU CHO	Comm Radio	Mapo-Gu Daeheng-Ro 9-Gil 36 Sinsu-Dong, Mapo-Gu Seoul, 04090	02-703-3827	
*MAJ MICHAEL THOMAS CLARK	1Bn 3mardiv	197 FLYING MIST ISLE, FOSTER CITY, CA 94404-1401	650-345-5275	Vince Rios
JACKIE LEE DEEN		P.O. BOX 506, NEW BOSTON, TX 75570	870-279-1435	Richard Lee Hall
*E-9 SGTMAJ STUART D GLASS	1/4, 2/5, 1CEB, 1/11	402-B PEPPER LN, SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92672	49-981-2157	Marty Vasquez
SGT CHEN-BOK KANG		(OKIN-DONG) 31-1 JAHAMUN-RO 17-GIL, JONGNO-GU SEOUL, 03035	070-8764-6129	KMWVC
SSGT CHANG-GN KIM	D-7 Bulldozer Engr	A-101Taegeuk Apt Juan-Dongnamgu, Inchon Metro-City Rep Of Korea, 22136	032-866-5719	
SGT CHULKYUNG KIM		3F. 384-23 MANGWON-DONG, SEOUL, 04018, 02-325-1232, KMWVC		
CAPT EUNG-CHANG KWON	INF. 2MD Drill Unit	No.404 Seoljeong-ro 126Beongil 29, Michucolgu Incheon Metro-City, 22103	010-9-22-3152	
SGT JOSHUA E LINDSTROM	H&S 1/5 1MarDiv	333 HARPER RD, CLARKSVILLE, TN 37043	931-217-6674	Frank Lindstrom
CPL JERRY P MOORE	C/1/11, H&S 3Med 1/9, 3MAW	16400 HENDERON PASS, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232	210-592-3616	
E-4 CPL PHILLIP S PEELER JR	USA 1/43 ADA	7473 CHEVY CHASE DR #104, AUSTIN, TX 78752	210-288-7010	Vince Rios
SGTMAJ ANTHONY J POMPOS	3/7, 1/5, 7th Mar Reg	8 ACACIA CT, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277	989-980-5119	
MRS LAURIE E PRESCOTT		550 24TH ST, APT 308, OAKLAND, CA 94612-1701	415-250-2292	Vince Rios
SGT MARTIN B SPANN	H&S 1/5	1506 MEANDER DR, SIMI VALLEY, CA 93065	805-813-1061	
SGT1ST CLASS BYUNG-SUP YOO		11, COMPLEX 9, 902-1303 GOYANG CITY, GYEONGGI-DO KOREA, 10418	02-902-2312	
REINSTATED				
MAJ SAMUEL ANTHONY PRICE	3-1 1-4 13TH MEU OEF	3041 2ND AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92103		
SGT WESLEY RUDOI	7Mar Regt VN	1000 SUTTER ST #312, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109		

The 1st Marine Division Band band will never be banned in USMC operations

"Every Marine is, first and foremost, a rifleman. All other conditions are secondary." (Gen. A. M. Gray, 29th CMC)

There is sometimes a misconception about what Marine Band members do when other Marines are off fighting a war. This information about the 1st Marine Division Band during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (2003) may clear up some of the misconceptions.

.....

President Bush declared a "War on Terror" after terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11th, 2001. Soon after, Marines deployed to Afghanistan in support of "Operation Enduring Freedom."

The Marines of the 1st Marine Division Band took up guard duty at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton and prepared for deployment. In February of 2003, the 1st Marine Division Band began deploying to Kuwait in support of the war on terror.

While in Kuwait, the band stood duty as well as trained on machine guns and convoy security prior to deployment into Iraq. In March, the band crossed over into Iraq, providing security for the Division Headquarters both while on the move or at each nightly stop digging fighting positions and forming perimeter security. They traveled by convoy to Baghdad in a little over 2 weeks. The band finally stopped at the Secret Police Headquarters in Baghdad for eight days until moving south to Ad Diwaniyah.

Once the band reached Ad Diwaniyah they retrieved their instruments and started performing morale boosting concerts all over Iraq. They played in Babylon, Camp Commando, and around Diwaniyah for the numerous units in the surrounding area.

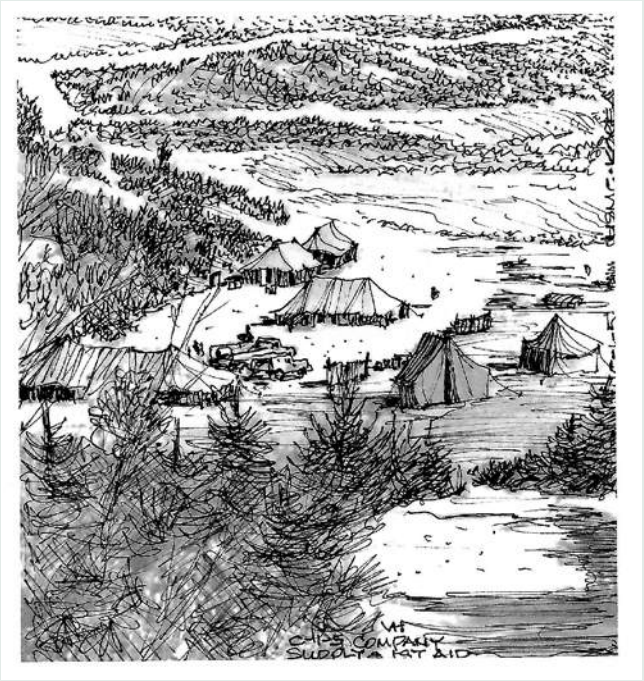
In early June the band returned to the United States and within a few days they were out providing musical support as if they hadn't left.

Source:
https://www.1stmardiv.marines.mil/Units/1ST-DIV-BAND/History/OIF/

With C/1/5 in the field

(Cpl) Val Heitur was with C/1/5 in Korea, 1952-53. Here are a few of his sketches of C/1/5 in the field that he provided to portray his time there.

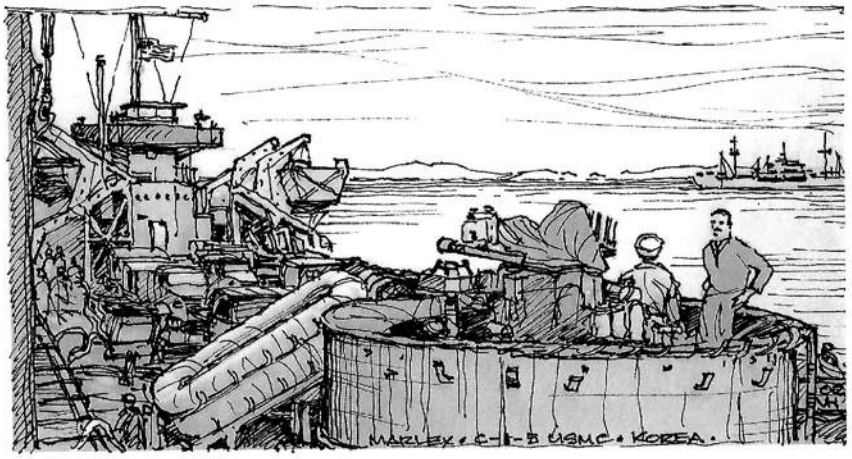
Val Heitur, 87 the Alameda, San Anselmo, CA 94960



Company supply and first aid point, 1952



Company jeep, 1952



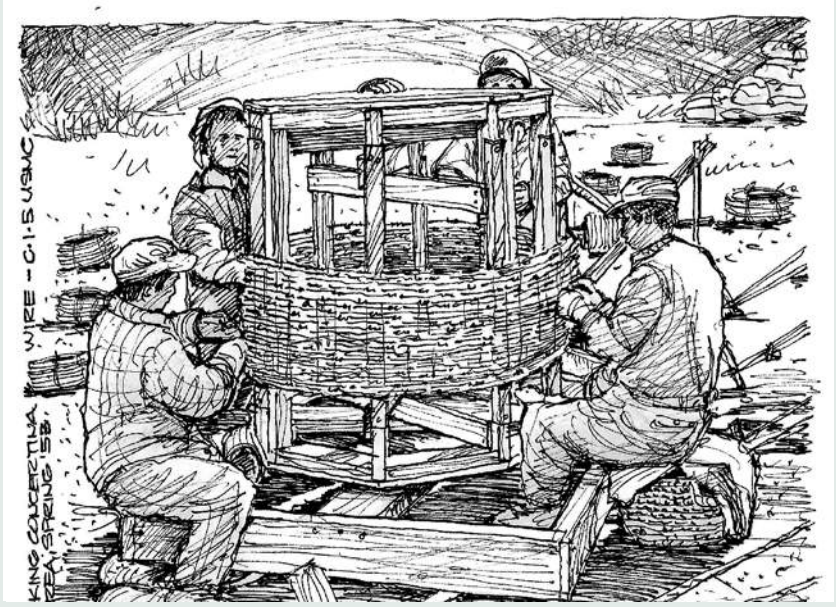
Marlex (Battalion landing exercise): ships in Inchon, 1953



Sorting mail, 1952



Morning chow on the MLR, fall 1952



Making concertina wire, spring 1953



Heading to supply and showers, winter 1952/53



Laying wire, Kansas Line, spring 1953



Korean farmer, Marlex 1952



Bringing in firewood, Marlex, 1952

TAPS

* Life Member

***MR. FRANK R AFFRUNTI Sr**, B-1-6, C-1-7, MARMORA, NJ, 7/11/2017

***COL WILLIAM H ALLEY Jr** USMC (Ret), 11MAR KO VN SWA, DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CA, 11/12/2018

PFC EUGENE J ALLWIN, A-1-1 KO, LAKE LINDEN, MI,

*CPL ARLINGTON, R ANDERSON, H-3-5 KO, FOND DU LAC, WI, 12/20/2010

SGT CLARENCE E ANGEVINE, C-1-7 WWII KO, COLDWATER, MI, 3/26/2013

SGT JOHN M ATTHOWE Jr, MAG-25, 3d MAW WWII, STEVENSVILLE, MT, 5/19/2014

***COL ALDEN O BAILEY** USMC (Ret), C-1-7 1AMTRAC CH KO, GRANBURY, TX,

STEPHEN R BAUMAN, FREDERICK, MD, 1/2/2016

*CPL ROBERT, C BAUMGARDEN, A-1ENGR CH, WEST SENECA, NY, 8/13/2018

ROBERT BECKER, LYNBROOK, NY, 9/30/2016

***SGT FRANCIS T BELMARES**, H-3-7 KO, PASS CHRISTIAN, MS,

SGT FRANK J BENDA, 1ST SVC BN KO, BROOKFIELD, IL, 9/22/2012

***LTCOL GENE E BERBAUM** USMC (Ret), HQ-HQ 1TK VN, VISTA, CA, 6/18/2018

BEVERLY BETTENCOURT, BENICIA, CA, 12/4/2017

LTCOL WAYNE V BJORK USMC (Ret), I-3-5 KO, HYATTSVILLE, MD,

CPL RONALD J BOLECH, E-2-1 CW, CHICAGO, IL, 3/20/2017

***CW04 HENRY A BOOKHARDT** USMC (Ret), AMTRAC TKS WWII KO VN, JACKSONVILLE, NC, 2/5/2010

***CPL ROBERT BRAND**, 1MP DIV HQ WWII CH, FARMINGTON, CT, 3/18/2018

SGT JOSEPH FRANK BRATKO, G-2-7 WWII, DEERFIELD BEACH, FL, 11/13/2011

***DAVID B BRAZELL**, A-1-1 WWII CH, SUN CITY, AZ, 10/17/2018

***CPO WILLIAM (BILL), J BROWN**, A/B/C-1-1 WWII CH, LEESBURG, FL, 6/20/2016

CAPT JOHN A BUCHANAN, 4.2-5MAR KO CW, NEWTOWN SQ., PA, 2/27/2011

***CPL STANFORD B BULLEN**, L-4-11 WWII, SCOTTSDALE, AZ,

***PFC HAROLD D BURTON**, A-1-1 WWII CH, CINCINNATI, OH, 1/14/2012

TIMOTHY BUSBY, OBN, LINCOLN, AL,

JAMES, A BUTLER, JACKSONVILLE, NC, 9/3/2015

***CPL BURNETT H CAIN Jr,** E-2-1 KO, BRIELLE, NJ, 2/4/2015

CPL HUBERT E CAMPBELL, HQBN 1MARDIV RECON CO, LIVONIA, MI,

SSGT BOBBY L CANNON, E-2-7 VN CW, WHITEVILLE, TN,

***PVT LEONARD** MARTIN CARD, F-2-1 CH KO, N. CHARLESTON, SC,

BETTE S CARR, OBN ONLY, WESTMINSTER, CA,

JAMES CARRIGAN JR, MILTON, MA, 5/2/2017

***SGT ELMER G CHAMBERLAIN,** 1AMTRAC KO, PHOENIX, AZ, 8/28/2018

***CPL CLEDIS COVELL COFFEY,** I-3-1 WWII CH, CLEVELAND, TN, 4/13/2013

***CPL JOHN E COMSTOCK,** C-1ST TK BN WWII, ABILENE, TX, 12/3/2016

***1STLT FREDERICK S CONLIN**, I-3-1 HQBN KO, W SPRINGFIELD, MA, 3/10/2014

***SGT PAUL M CONSTANTINOPLE**, A/B-7ENGR VN, EAST HAVEN, CT, 10/26/2017

***MSGT BILLY J COOK** USMC (Ret), B-1-11 MAW WWII CH KO, PHOENIX, AZ,

RICHARD CORRIGAN, GREENSBORO, NC, 11/29/2017

CPL GEORGE L COTTINGHAM, B-1-11 WWII, PENSACOLA, FL, 5/9/2012

***CPL JOE CRACCHIOLO,** 11TH MAR REGT, CARSON, CA, 3/13/2018

***CPL MURL 'SPEED' E CRAVEN**, 1TK WWII KO, CANYON COUNTRY, CA, 3/2/2016

***PFC WILLIAM R CRIM**, 1MAW KO, KILGORE, TX, 9/25/2016

GYSGT SAMUEL A D'ANDELET, HQBTRY 11TH MAR, SILVER SPRING, MD, 11/25/2014

***SGT HERMAN E DAHL** USMC (Ret), ANGLICO-1SIG KO, EVANSTON, IL, 9/10/2017

***SGT JOHN D DANIELS,** HQ-3-11 KO, BEND, OR,

***SGT JAMES L DAVIS**, C-SHRPTY VN, STONY POINT, NY, 6/26/2018

***CPL JOHN DENOVELLIS R**, B-1-1 G-2-7 VN, HENDERSON, NV, 2/21/2018

***PFC DONALD J DESROCHES,** HQ-2-5 WWII CH, W HARTFORD, CT,

SGT ALLAN D DINYON, B-1ENGR KO, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, PA, 6/24/2016

CPL ALFONSO J DIRAMIO, H&S-1MAR WWII CH, CLEARWATER, FL, 2/27/0201

***LTCOL CLARK E DOUGHERTY**, WPNS-3-5 KO, LACEY, WA, 7/1/2018

CAPT ROBERT 'BOB' L ECKERT, CORBIN, KY, 11/11/2018

CPL LESTER M EDWARDS, F-2-1, LYERLY, GA,

RICHARD E ELDREDGE, TEMPLE HILLS, MD, 1/1/2015

***CPL ROBERT D EVANS**, A-1-5 WWII CH, PASADENA, CA,

***SGT WILLIAM D EWELL**, C-1-7 KO, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, 7/15/2012

***SGT WILLIAM F FARRELL**, C-1-7 KO, MADISON, CT, 6/26/2017

LCPL WILLIAM F FARRELL, E-2-7 1MAR DIV VN, PHILADELPHIA, PA, 6/3/2013

BGEN JAMES E FERRIS, HQHQBN 6-3 KO, LIVERPOOL, NY, 11/25/2017

COL EDWARD F FITZGERALD, PORTSMOUTH, RI, 12/12/2013

MR. EDWARD C FLAMMANG, HIGHLAND HTS, OH, 12/20/2010

PVT NORMAN D FLAUGHER, D-2-11 WWII CH, MELVINDALE, MI, 5/6/2012

THOMAS J. FONTENOT, GUEYDAN, LA, 5/14/2014

SSGT JOHN FREITAS, L-3-4 E-2-5 CMC VN, WILKES-BARRE, PA, 5/22/2013

SGT EDWARD J FRENETTE, L-4-11 KO, ST CLAIR SHORES, MI, 1/13/2018

PFC JOHNNY H. GIBSON, SPRINGVILLE, TN, 6/16/2017

***GYSGT JAMES J GILLEO,** W-1-1 F-2-1 KO, JACKSONVILLE, FL, **1/18/2018**

***CPL DANIEL GINSBURG,** HQ-2-5 WWII CH, LOS ANGELES, CA, **1/30/2019**

***WILLIAM R GORDON**, A-1ENGR KO, PALM DESERT, CA, 1/27/2017

DONALD GRAMMES, ALLENTOWN, PA, 8/16/2018

PFC VERNON J GRUNDHOFER, I-3-1 KO, ST. PAUL, MN, 8/5/2012

SGT WILFRED F HAAS, H&S-1-5 KO, PERKASIE, PA, 2/22/2014

***SSGT RODNEY R HAMILTON,** 1-AAA WWII KO, OCEANSIDE, CA, 8/2/2017

EDITH R HANCOCK, OBN ONLY, SUMMERVILLE, SC,

SGT KENNETH S HANSON, MAG-33-CW, LIVINGSTON, MT, 12/11/2010

***SGT DONALD M HARRISON JR.,** 3-1 VN, OCALA, FL, 1/21/2015

***SGT FRANK O HART,** D-2-1 KO, PORT SAINT LUCIE, FL, 12/20/2006

***COL RICHARD L HEMENEZ**, S-2-2/5 VN, VISTA, CA, 10/23/2017

***PFC JESSE JR HERNANDEZ**, I-3-1 KO, TAYLOR, MI, 9/23/2018

***SGT WILLIAM J HESSIAN,** A-1-17 WWII, PALM HARBOR, FL,

***MSGT RALPH E HOFFMANN,** D/E-2-1 KO, THE VILLAGES, FL, 10/6/2018

***SGT NATHANIEL HOLMES III**, A-1-7 VN, BELLA VISTA, AR, 7/11/2017

EMIL AND CAROL HUDAK, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY, 4/30/2013

MGSGT JOE HUDDLESTON, 1ST ENGR BN, MAINT CO., JACKSONVILLE, NC, 9/15/2015

CPL GREG E HURLEY, 11TH MAR VN, ORMOND BEACH, FL,

***GYSGT MARSHALL**, E HURST USMC(RET.) 1ARMAMTRAC 1MAW KO VN, HAMLET, NC, 6/2/2018

***CPL RAYMOND G HUTCHISON**, 7ENGR G-3-5, KO, CHICAGO, IL, 2/19/2018

***COL HERBERT E ING** USMC (Ret), CO 1MAR VN, STAFFORD, VA, 4/25/2018

PFC NICHOLAS IRSUTO, HQ-2-7 WWII CH, SCHILLER PARK, IL, 3/13/2013

LTCOL RUSSELL N JACKSON USAF (Ret), UPPER MARLBORO, MD,

PFC EDWARD A JACOBSEN, H&S/B-1TK WWII CH, COATESVILLE, PA,

***PFC GEORGE, M JENKS**, WPNS-2-5 KO, LEWISBURG, PA, 7/13/2018

SGT JAMES P JOHNSON, D-2-5 KO, KALAMAZOO, MI, 11/25/2014

PFC LAWRENCE E JOHNSON, 1ST MAR REG 1ST MAR DIV, CINCINNATI, OH,

***ROBERT W JOHNSON,** A-1-5 KO, CARTHAGE, MO,

***LTCOL HOWARD, J JOHNSTON,** 3-1 CW, DENVER, CO, 11/18/2010

***HMC LEE, JOLLES,** 1MED WWII, SILVER SPRING, MD, 2/24/2011

CPL JAY BRADFORD JONAS, 3-5TH REGT VMC-J-2 CMC, CHICAGO, IL,

SGT WILLIAM G KABEI, B CO-1ST TK BN KO, COBLESKILL, NY, 3/24/2013

***GARRY D KLINE**, A-1RECON VN, MESA, AZ,

SGT GEORGE A KOLIAS, LEAWOOD, KS, 9/22/2017

***HMC LOU P KONSTAS** USN(RET.), 3-5MAR 2-1MAR VN, TAMAQUA, PA, 7/3/2016

THOMAS A LANGLEY, A-1-7, ROSSVILLE, GA, 2/13/2013

***SSGT CARL T LAWENDOWSKI**, H&S/B-1-5 KO, WHITESBORO, NY, 7/1/2017

CPL RICHARD A LEWIS, F-2-5 A-1-5 G-2-27 VN, BARNES, WI, 4/21/2018

***RM3 WILLIAM M LEWIS**, 4JASCO WWII, PITTSBURGH, PA, 1/23/2018

***MSGT GEORGE W LOOKINGLAND** USMC (Ret), W-1-1 WWII KO VN, WILLIAMSPORT, MD,

LCPL ANDY E LUCAS, A-1-5 CW, REISTERSTOWN, MD, 12/1/2015

RENEE LYNCH, DETROIT, MI, 11/4/2011

***MGYSGT KALLEN** MANUEL USMC (Ret), ARMTRAC-3-11 KO VN, JACKSONVILLE, NC, 4/21/2018

***SSGT CHARLES C MARR Jr**, , B-1-11 KO, NEW BERN, NC, 5/15/2018

SGT DARWIN W MAYCROFT, 1ST ARMO, FLORENCE, WI,

***SGT MAURICE M MCCLURE** USMC(RET.), 1MAW KO, WILLIMANTIC, CT, 11/1/2017

***CAPT ANDREW B MCFARLANE** USMC (Ret), F-2-1 HQ-1MAR KO VN, SADDLE BROOK, NJ, 8/8/2017

1STLT DENNIS J MCGONEGLE, K-3-7, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, 1/9/2012

COL WILLIAM E MCKINSTRY, DEDHAM, MA, 8/15/2013

CPL RAY E MCWILLIAMS, I-3-6 WWII, LONGWOOD, FL, 6/6/2011

SSGT RONALD M MENKE, D CO 7TH EN BN VN, SNEADS FERRY, NC, 1/19/2017

DARRELL G MILLER, WESTWOOD, MA, 3/8/2015

***SSGT HENRY L MILLER,** H-HEDRON-1MAW KO, WELCOME, NC, 9/21/2017

***CPL JOHN H MONTROSS**, L-3-5 WWII, SHRUB OAK, NY, 12/1/2017

ANN MORMILE, VALLEY STREAM, NY, 12/28/2011

***SGT ECKEHARD J MUESSIG**, E-2-5 WWII, SPRINGFIELD, VA, 10/31/2014

SGTMAJ JOHN A MURPHY USMC (Ret), COM CO 5TH MAR, JACKSONVILLE, NC, 2/24/2015

***CPL FRANCIS J NARDOLILLO,** A-1-7 KO, GLENMONT, NY, 4/6/2017

NAVAL ACADEMY PARENTS CLUB, LONG BEACH, NY, 3/26/2017

MARY H NIHART, SPRINGFIELD, VA,

***CPL JOHN T NOLTY,** FO 11MAR KO, MARCO ISLAND, FL, 7/14/2013

***SSGT RAY NUANES**, C-1-1 KO, ALBUQUERQUE, NM,

SGT ROBERT C O'LOUGHLIN Sr, F-3-5 KO, JACKSON, NJ, 10/15/2017

***CPL WILLIAM J.D. O'MARA**, C-1-7 KO, ALBUQUERQUE, NM, 9/2/2018

***GYSGT DWIGHT ODOM,** E-2-1 KO, SUWANEE, GA,

MRS JEAN ODONNELL, PLATTSBURGH, NY, 12/26/2015

***MSGT ROBERT L OLSEN,** H&S-1-7 VN CW, SAN ANTONIO, TX,

CAPT LOUIS DE STEFFANO ORLANDO, 2-5, HQ 5TH MAR VN, FREDERICKSBURG, VA,

WALTER L OWENS, D-1-5 VN, CLINTON, MD, 12/24/2017

MS BETTY J PALMER, SACRAMENTO, CA, 4/11/2011

MARY ANNE PARRELLA, WEST CHESTER, PA, 2/22/2015

***SGT CHARLES E PARSONS,** HQ-4-11 KO, NORTHRIDGE, CA,

ROBERT W PENDAS, FRIEND, QUEENSBURY, NY, 2/24/2014

FRANK PETERS, BRISTOL, CT,

MGYSGT ROBERT C PETERS USMC (Ret), LANSING, IA, 6/12/2014

***MSGT FRANK R PETROWSKI Jr** USMC (Ret), W-1-1 KO VN, JACKSONVILLE, NC, 7/10/2018

CPL DONALD E PETTY, 2-7 2-2 VN, DIXMOOR, IL,

***SGT EDWARD W PHILLIPS,** E-2-7, KO, WOODBURY, CT, 1/14/2018

RICHARD, PIERCE, SOUTH DENNIS, MA,

***CPL WILLIAM A POWERS,** A-1-7 KO, WAKEFIELD, RI, 4/22/2018

HMC GORDON R RAWN USMC (RET.), A-1-1 VN, WADING RIVER, NY, 10/4/2017

GYSGT RICHARD L RAY, 3RD CAG VN, JACKSONVILLE, NC, 4/19/2013

KEVIN F REED, CANANDAIGUA, NY, 4/24/2015

CPL WILLIAM B REED, H & S-1-11 WWII CH, CHESTERFIELD, MI,

KAREN RESNICK, CEDARHURST, NY, 3/21/2015

***SSGT EUGENE O RICHTER SR,** I-3-11 KO, CHESTERFIELD, MO, 7/23/2015

PVT LEONARD B RIEHL, H-2-5 F-2-5 WWII, DE RUYTER, NY, 7/23/2008

SGT TERRY W RIGNEY, H&S 3-27 VN, MACOMB, MI,

MR. & MRS. ROBERT L RITCHEY, BEDFORD, PA, 4/3/2018

JAMES RIVERA, PORT JEFFERSON, NY,

1STLT ALBERT ROBBINS, A-1-1 WWII, BOCA RATON, FL,

***SGT JOE J ROMANO,** AMMO ORDBN KO, ORANGE, TX, 8/5/2017

***CAPT WARREN H ROOKS** USMC (Ret), 1MAW MAG11/12 KO VN, ALBUQUERQUE, NM, 4/24/2018

CHARLES D ROSCOPF, HELENA, AR, 8/23/2017

MAJ JACK A RUFFER USMC (RET.), PALM DESERT, CA, 1/21/2018

***JOHN D RUSSELL Jr**, C-1SHPTY SPT-2PCSG(L) CH KO, PACIFICA, CA, 11/12/2012

SGT JAMES C SALA, C-7MT KO, CHESTER, MD, 2/27/2015

HM2 HOWARD H SANFORD, 1ST SVCBN-KO, ENOLA, PA, 3/28/2011

STELLA M SCHMAUS, CARLISLE, PA, 1/12/2015

***CPL ROY S SHIRAGA,** 7DIV KO, HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA,

***SGT HENRY H SIDOR**, I-3-5 KO, NOVI, MI, 6/27/2018

***CPL HARRY W SIGEL**, H&S-7MAR WWII CH, KAILUA KONA, HI, 8/16/2018

GYSGT RUDY SINGLETON, VMFA 214 VN, DALZELL, SC, 4/29/2012

***SGT DONALD V SMITH,** B-AMTRAC KO, CROSSVILLE, TN, 8/15/2018

***SGT RALPH K SMITH** USMC, M-3-5 WWII, MIAMI, FL,

CPL ELMO J SPEARS, HQ 7TH MAR, CROSSVILLE, TN, 12/28/2016

WALTER STALLINGS, PEARCY, AR, 5/21/2018

JAMES RICHARD STANARD, OBN, RICHMOND, VA, 4/13/2012

***SGT JACK C STEELE,** WPNS-1-5, KO, TALLAHASSEE, FL, 5/31/2012

SGT SIDNEY O STETSON, HQBN 11TH REGT 1MAR DIV WWII, MADISONVILLE, TN,

SGT JERRY E STEWART, WPNS-3-7 KO, MESA, AZ, 8/13/2009

CPL SCOTT STEWART, 9TH ENG 1MAR DIV VN, ADAMSVILLE, TN,

PHILIP STOFANAK, BETHLEHEM, PA, 6/23/2018

***GYSGT RICHARD J STREPEK,** E-2-11 KO CMC, LAKE WORTH, FL, 4/3/2013

***CPL MARK A STROHL,** MAG11 MP-HQ VN, NEOSHO, MO, 11/12/2017

***JAMES W SUITS,** B-1-1, 1MT WWII, HAMILTON, OH, 3/19/2018

PHILLIP G SWEET, C-1-5 VN, DONGOLA, IL,

JOHN J SWORDS, STATE COLLEGE, PA,

PFC BILL TAYLOR, 1ST PALA WWII CH, BROOKSVILLE, FL, 9/1/2011

CPL ROBERT I TAYLOR, B-3-1 WWII, DEARBORN, MI, 6/6/2015

***LT ROBERT J THELEN Jr,** H&S/A/D-1-7 VN, OVIEDO, FL, 12/17/2017

JOHN T THOMPSON, VICTOR, NY,

KENNETH E THORNTON, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA, 2/16/2016

PFC GERALD P THURSBY, , 7/19/1999

***COL CHARLES WILLIAM TIERNEY** USA(RET.), HQ/E-2-7 WWII CH, BREVARD, NC, 11/9/2017

CPL JAMES D TRUITT, M-2 C-1MAR DIV VN, LAGRANGE, GA,

***2NDLT MARTIN L ULLMAN,** 1-5MAR WWII CH, SEBASTOPOL , CA, 3/16/2016

CPL THOMAS LEE URBANSKI, B CO 9TH ENGRS VN, MILWAUKEE, WI, 7/8/2011

***SGT JACK J VAUGHN,** 1FSSR USS-ROCHESTER KO VN, NASHVILLE, TN, 11/9/2014

CHARLES VERMAELEN, MASSAPEQUA, NY, 6/13/2011

***SGT ORRA A VOLLMER,** B-1-1 MASS2 KO, WAUSEON, OH, 10/14/2018

***SGT BURL W WAITS,** H-3-1 KO, SACRAMENTO, CA, 8/21/2014

MRS ERNA JEAN T WALKER, ROCHESTER, NY,

SGT BRENTON R WARNER, SR, C-1AMTRAC KO, BALTIMORE, MD, 2/28/2015

***CAPT JAMES B WEBB,** 3-155HOW WWII, GRAND CHUTE, WI, 5/21/2012

LCPL CLARENCE R WEBSTER, D-1-1 VN, BALTIMORE, MD,

***SGT HENRY J WEGER,** HQ-2-7 WWII CH, PALATINE, IL, 5/18/0013

REBEKAH T WEIR, HYATTSVILLE, MD,

TSGT CALVIN ESTON WEISSENFLUH, WWII, BEND, OR, 10/15/2018

***GLEN R WELLS,** D-1-5, WWII, ASHEVILLE, NC, 8/15/2018

MRS SONYA WEST, OBN, DANA POINT, CA, 9/28/2018

***SGT JOSEPH WHALEN,** AMMO-1ORD KO, CLIFTON FORGE, VA, 2/2/2018

***SGTMAJ RAY V WILBURN** USMC (Ret), D-2-11 1MED WWII KO VN, TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA, 1/2/2018

CPL CRAIG E WILSON, 155MM ARTY CW, DOLLAR BAY, MI, 2/10/2018

*GYSGT RICHARD, JON WILSON, C-1-1 VN, MARIETTA, GA,

MAJ BRUCE MERLIN WINCENTSEN, G-3-5-1MAR DIV KO VN, STAFFORD, VA, 6/21/2018

MGYSGT EDWARD JOHN WOLFF, 1ST MED BN HQ 11MAR VN, CUMMING, GA, 3/30/2012

MS. ELEANOR WOOD, CARLISLE, PA, 5/25/2014

***SGT BILLY J WOODS,** 1MAR KO, HICKORY, NC,

SSGT ROBERT J WORSHAM, 1MAR 1AA CH KO, FARMINGTON, MO, 10/5/2017

***SGT LEROY M WROTEN,** 1TK KO, SEMINOLE, FL, 4/27/2012

LUCILLE WULBERN, SANTA ROSA, CA, 2/17/2011

***SGT JOHN D WYMAN,** H&S/C-1-5 KO, DENVER, CO,

MRS JOAN ZIELINSKI, OBN, HOLLAND, PA, 6/23/2016

MATTHEW ZIELKE, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, 10/12/2017

No U.S. Marines included in the latest batch of remains from North Korea

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) conducts a quarterly update meeting for families and advocates of missing service members from the Korean War. Here is an excerpt from the DPAA's notes from its October 31, 2018 meeting, which answered the question about whether any of the remains returned recently by North Korea were Marines.

1). Are the K-55 remains individual or comingled?

Answer: Dr. Byrd: We made the first two identifications from remains that were not highly comingled. However, most of the remains are comingled. Our next opportunity to make identifications should come in the next few months as all of the bone samples have been cut and submitted to AFMES-AFDIL and the results are starting to come in.

2.) Do you have an estimate of the number of individuals represented in the K-55?

Answer: Dr. Byrd: More than 55. However, we need to wait until the first round of DNA testing to make an estimate. Slightly more than 500 samples were submitted, and we need the results before estimating the number of individuals represented.

3.) Who is doing the negotiations for DPAA?

Answer: Mr. McKeague: When negotiations take place it will be myself and RDML Kreitz. Representatives from the State Department and the United Nations Command will be present as observers.

4.) Do you have any indications of North Korean cooperation?

Answer: Mr. McKeague: Yes, I believe the North Koreans are interested in the resumption of joint recovery operations with the U.S. They have been cooperating with the Republic of Korea on demining in the DMZ that will lead to joint recovery operations between the two Koreas.

5.) Do you know what area the K-55 remains came from? Any Marine loss areas?

Answer: Dr. Byrd: The information provided was similar to that in the K-208 turnovers. Usually a village or place name or a battle or POW camp was given. ***There are no locations from the west side of the Chosin Reservoir where the Marines fought.***



The United Nations Command Honor Guard prepares to transfer caskets of remains onto waiting C-17 Globemaster IIIs as members of the 36th Fighter Squadron perform a missing man flyover at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Aug. 1, 2018. Two C-17s left Osan AB for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, where members of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency will attempt to identify the remains of the fallen heroes. The UNC repatriated 55 cases of remains from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kelsey Tucker)



Members from the Maori Cultural Group and Pallbearers from the New Zealand Te Auraki Project escort remains of PJ Mollison and HL Herbert Lester Humm on the tarmac at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, Oct. 5, 2018. As part of a project called Te Auraki (The Return), the New Zealand Defense Force returns personnel and dependents buried overseas after January 1955 back home to New Zealand. (U.S. Army Sergeant Benjamin Parsons)

Contributions to the First Marine Division Association

General Fund

General Fund Total = $8,609.14

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• COL RICHARD W COFFMAN	1	150
• BRENDA A CUMMINGS	2	100
• MAJ HERBERT R EDSON USMC (Ret)	4th	20
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• MGYSGT JAMES L KEELY (Ret)	15th	40
• CPL THOMAS LADNER "In memory of John ""Red"" Ladner, 482nd Bombardment Group, 812th Bomber Squadron, WWII"	29th	10
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• SGT JOHN S O'KEEFFE	103rd	10
• SGT JOHN S O'KEEFFE	104th	10
• SGT JOHN S O'KEEFFE	105th	10
• CPL JAIME L OBRECHT	9th	25
• CPL JAIME L OBRECHT	10th	25
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• MRS JOANNE S STEVENS	8th	5
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• CPL WALLACE T STEWART	44th	25
• CPL WALLACE T STEWART	45th	25
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Life Member = 6; Total = $435.00

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• CPL PHILIP N MARASCO	3rd	35
• LTCOL DONALD J MODDER USMCR In Memory of LtCol Gary Holmquist	8th	25
• SGT DONALD L SONDERGAARD	1st	35
• 1STLT E. JAMES STRATES	7th	35

OBN Plea

Fund Donors = 4; Total = $205.00

• SGT RALPH M DELANEY	17th	25
• JAMES A HOWARD	9th	50
• SGT VINCENT RIOS USMC (Ret)	19th	50
• SGT HAROLD J THOMPSON	21st	50

Scholarship Fund

Donations = 7; Total = $465.00

• HM3 JOHN SON CHANG	2nd	250

General Fund

Blue Diamond Donations = 1; Total = $100.00

• SGT RALPH M DELANEY	19th	100

Southern Cross Team Contributions

Southern Cross Donations =3; Total = $300.00

• SSGT RALPH C AST	57th	100

Holiday and continuing series stories wanted for 2019



We are soliciting holiday stories for the 4th Qtr 2019 OBN. Yeah, it may seem a bit premature, but…we did not get one holiday story for our 2018 issue. Let's start building our holiday inventory now for the 4th Qtr 2019 holiday issue.

Please send your stories, photos, and art work recounting anything memorable, special, or routine that occurred anywhere you might have been…involving you, your unit, your friends… on the major year-end holidays, e.g., Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, New Year's Day, Boxing Day, Ramadan… The material can relate to war time or peacetime. Hopefully we will get enough stories, photos, and art work to fill the issue.

Hey, it's never too early to get a start on our holiday issue. Send your stories and photos to Arthur G. Sharp, OBN Editor, 2473 New Haven Circle, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Or, submit them electronically to sharp_arthur_g@sbcglobal.net.

A Real Christmas Tree, Con Thien, Vietnam, 1968



"A Real Christmas Tree: Private First Class Steve H. Boggn (The Dalles, Oregon) and Corporal Ren G. Horton (Marion, Indiana), members of 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment [1/12], decorate a real Christmas tree at Con Thien.

Many artificial trees have been sent to Marines in Vietnam, but Boggn was quite surprised when he received a real Christmas tree from his grandmother, Mrs. Marie Boggn (official USMC photo by Corporal J. G. McCullough)."

From the Jonathan Abel Collection (COLL/3611), Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections, Quantico, Virginia (Official Usmc Photograph)


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Semper Fidelis is not merely a motto for a Marine; it is a way of life

During this lull in activities, we learned that huge atomic bombs had been dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima (Japan proper) and thousands of Japanese were killed. (For record purposes the first bomb hit Nagasaki, Japan at 8:15 a.m. on August 6th; the second bomb hit Hiroshima, Japan, at 11:02 a.m. on August 9, 1945.)

Our U.S. air forces had performed the flight. (Remember, there was no official U.S. Air Force back then.) We were overjoyed, although we did not know what an atomic bomb was. Then we learned that Japan had surrendered. The surrender was finalized on the *U.S.S. Missouri*.

During that span of time I was transferred from First Signal Company to an anti-aircraft casual battalion for shipment to San Diego on the first available ship. I leaned that the First Marine Division mission had been changed and it would be sent to China on occupation duty.

I embarked aboard the *USS Highland* at Okinawa and arrived in San Diego on November 4. After several days processing at Camp Pendleton I left the west coast on a troop train headed to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. En route we made a "crew change" station stop at Jackson, Tennessee. My mother and dad (I had called ahead from St. Louis) met our train at 3 a.m. with a basket of fried chicken and goodies. Wow! What a thrill!!!

Later that day we stopped in Birmingham and Johnny Kassouf 's family met him with lots of chicken and goodies. We finally arrived at Camp Lejeune on November 21, 1945.

There was more processing and debriefing. Finally, on November 29, 1945 I received my final pay of $635.61 and my honorable discharge.

I left Camp Lejeune via Greyhound bus. The bus driver very kindly stopped to let me off in front of my home. My mother was on the porch at 3:15 a.m. to greet me. Nuff said!

OOORAH!!!!

In Memoriam

Charley Marks and I met at Parris Island during "Boot Camp" (Platoon 525) on July 17, 1942. We shared an unusually long time together until November 29, 1945. He was a big man who had completed some college work before joining the Marines. It seems that every time I changed assignments (about five times) he was on the same orders.

We were in radio schoo1 and tank training at San Diego. We went to Melbourne together, participated in all four combat landings together, were tent mates on Pavuvu, came stateside together, and were discharged together in November 1945. That longevity was very unusual for Marines.

Charlie was married to June while we were in Australia. They had a large family in Ohio after he left the Marines. He died on February 9, 2008. I still exchange Christmas greetings with June.

Johnny Kassouf was a short, stocky Armenian. He was a Marine radio school trained operator. I did not get to know him until we were in rest camp on Pavuvu.

Johnny was a good athlete. We played together on the battalion baseball team. He was a skilled poker player and seemed to always win money to send back home. Our time on Okinawa was a great experience, and I'm glad we could safely return home together.

We stayed in touch after the war. Johnny developed a serious body ailment and died in March 2001.

Sgt. Sammy Haynes was more mature than most of our signalmen. He left a wife and small children when he joined the Marines. He worked with a telephone company and blended into commo training with ease. Sammy was my tent N.C.O. twice on Pavuvu. We became very close friends.

Sammy had an unusual assignment in which he secretly taught Navajo Indians to be "code talkers." This was a very special use on voice radio to send messages in combat. It used the Navajo language with an improvised alphabet inserting military terms with an unknown tongue. The Japanese were never able to decode it.

This placed Sgt. Haynes in a very responsible position because in combat he had to be with his Navajos to assure their safety and guarantee that they could not become POW's, who would be subject to interrogation by the Japanese if captured.

I visited with Sgt. Haynes several times after the war. He developed a very serious blood disease and died in 1996.

Ensign Allen Jacobs I joined on our mission near "Bloody Nose Ridge" at Peleliu to spot naval gun fire and coordinate nighttime illumination of enemy held positions. We were exposed with no cover or concealment for two days and nights of risky conditions, but we were very successful in providing a need at a needed time. After we were relieved and back to safety, I never heard from Ensign Jacobs again.

Pacific finale

On November 15, 1994 I was blessed to revisit Peleliu with a group to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our assault landing. Air travel via Los Angeles, Guam, and Hawaii placed us at the international airport on Koror, which is 26 boat miles to Peleliu. Once there we were welcomed by the government, civilian natives, and local caretakers.

The terrain was drastically changed from how we left it, because new jungle overgrowth completely hid individual spots I searched. We placed and dedicated two plaques on a 4-sided First Marine Division Memorial atop "Bloody Nose Ridge."

On my homeward trip I visited Pier 7, U.S. Naval Station, San Diego, for an escorted tour of the *U.S.S. Peleliu*, which was provided graciously by its captain through pre-arrangements. That was a very special thrill for me.

On April 1, 1995 I revisited Okinawa to celebrate our 50th Anniversary of the assault landing on enemy-held bases. The changes here were more dramatic and different. On a six-lane interstate highway from Nara to Yontan Airbase we saw at least four other U.S. military bases.

Reach Otto Melsa at 6119 Ridgewyck Dr., Memphis TN 38115, (901) 363-0414, ottomelsa@aol.com

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Cross, the rescue party had to traverse three steep ridgelines in deep snow and a wind chill of forty below. On the point was Lieutenant Chew-En Lee, the first Marine of Chinese descent. It was an arduous journey that succeeded. The chapter describing the rescue party's rendezvous with Fox Company, titled "This Place of Suffering," is a piece of writing telling of brave men engaged in mortal combat. The carnage they inflicted on each other stunned the rescuers, and the Company's remnants showed resentment at being rescued— an example of esprit de corps understood only by military men.

Of all the general books on the Marines at the Chosin, Sides' best recognizes the role of combat engineers as crucial to the defense and break-out. The runway at Hagaru-ri, built around the clock and under sniper fire, allowed vital supplies to be brought in, and seriously wounded to be taken out. Later, on the road to Hungnam, the Chinese destroyed the bridge at a mountain gorge named Funchilin Pass. The column was stopped in its tracks, with its opponents waiting and watching from the high ground. Colonel John Partridge, commander of the Engineer Battalion, had built Smith a runway; now he built him a bridge, using Treadway sections dropped by cargo planes.

Problem after problem arose and was solved by the engineers. Once all was in place, even the heaviest equipment passed over, and the last impediment to safety was gone.

Every member of our Association should read On Desperate Ground, not just for the pleasure of its account of a battle we are familiar with, but to honor the remaining members of The Chosin Few, who almost seventy years ago kept our honor clean, and made us "proud to claim the title of United States Marine."

James T. Allison

Avenue in Palmdale, CA named after Gunny R. Lee Ermey

From Past HQ Administrative Assistant Lindsay Parra:

On November 10, 2018 a road in Palmdale CA was named after R. Lee Ermey (Gunny Lee) from Full Metal Jacket and featured actor in numerous movies and television shows.

For detailed coverage of the story go to *https://www.avpress.com/news/gunny-gets-his-own-boulevard/article_26324084-e5fe-11e8-ad66-27b7aa5e193c.html*

According to the article cited above, "Ermey, who was a real-life Marine drill instructor, actor, military ambassador and longtime resident of the Antelope Valley, also was well known for his charitable work in support of the Marine Corps, military programs, veterans and others.

Ermey died in April at age 74."



Scenes from the Ermey Avenue naming ceremony

Anybody remember the 1950 reunion in Washington D.C.?

How many troops who had planned to go to the reunion couldn't make it because they were off to war once again—this time in Korea? And how often nowadays do newspapers give the FMDA so much space when they hold reunions in their cities?

First Marine Division to Hold Reunion Here

Beginning August 4 several hundred members of the First Marine Division Association will gather August 4, 5 and 6 at the Hotel Statler for their annual reunion.

Beginning with registration of members at 1 p.m. August 4, the event will close at the same hour Sunday in small unit reunions.

Highlights will be a parade at 10 a.m., August 5, down Constitution Avenue and a banquet that evening at 8 o'clock.

Former Secretary of the Navy John L. Sullivan will be guest speaker at the banquet.

At 8 p.m. August 4, a three-hour cruise on the Potomac is scheduled. Election of officers for the coming year will be held at 1 p.m. August 5. At 10 am. August 6 memorial services will be held at Arlington Cemetery.

Other events include a parade at the Marine Barracks, Eighth and I streets S.E., at 5:30 pm. August 4, followed by supper there; a sightseeing tour at 2.30 p.m. August 5 and a cocktail party at the Hotel Statler at 7 o'clock that evening.

For the parade Saturday morning members of the association may wear either Khaki shirts, trousers and overseas caps, or civilian clothes. During World War II the division fought at Guadalcanal, New Britain, Peleliu and Okinawa. It is now en route to Korea.

NOTE: This article appeared originally in the Washington D.C. Evening Star, July 24, 1950, p. B-11

Trivia:

What is now the Capital Hilton was first known to its guests as the Statler Hotel. It opened its doors to the public on January 18, 1943 after being constructed during the days of World War II. Since its inception, it has played host to a wealth of prominent gatherings, cementing its identity as one of Washington D.C.'s most notable hotel entities throughout history. Presidents, dignitaries, celebrities, and queens have graced the Capital Hilton with their presence, beckoning guests to delight in the hotel's esteemed accommodations. *(Source: https://www.historichotels.org/hotels-resorts/capital-hilton/history.php)*

Advertising Rates – Old Breed News

1ST MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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❒ Apr-May-Jun 2019	❒ Apr-May-Jun 2020	❒ Apr-May-Jun 2021
❒ Jul-Aug-Sep 2019	❒ Jul-Aug-Sep 2020	❒ Jul-Aug-Sep 2021
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❒ ____ ($50.00) Business Card, Black and White

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New Britain

Peleliu

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NORTH CHINA
1945-1949

KOREA
1950-1953

Pusan Perimeter 1950

Inchon-Seoul 1950

CCF Intervention 1950

Chosin Reservoir 1950

UN Counteroffensive 1951

CCF Spring Offensive 1951

UN Summer-Fall Offensive 1951

2nd Korean Winter 1951-1952

Korean Defense 1952

3rd Korean Winter 1952-1953

Korea Summer-Fall 1953

VIETNAM
1965-1971

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Vietnam Offensives IV-VII 1969 — 1971

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Vietnam Summer-Spring 1969 — 1970

Sanctuary Offensive 1970

Vietnam Offensive VII 1970 — 1971

KUWAIT
1990 — 1991

SOMALIA
1992 — 1993

AFGHANISTAN
2002 —

IRAQ
2003 —