THE OLD BREED NEWS

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Getting Bullock his honors and medals

By Tom McLeod

Dan Bullock was a member of F/2/5. He had an unusual story, which, in my opinion, is a "Newsworthy" history article. Although no one knew it, he was **fourteen years old**. While making a second attempt to retrieve depleted ammunition during an attack at An Hoa combat base he was shot multiple times and died instantly. He was "Fifteen" at this time, making him the youngest U.S. "Killed-in-Action" in the Vietnam War. When he was to be buried his true age was discovered. Because he used a false birth certificate, making him older, his enlistment was deemed fraudulent.



PFV Dan Bullock

When he was to be buried his true age was discovered. Because he used a false birth certificate, making him older, his enlistment was deemed fraudulent.



Veterans salute Dan Bullock at his gravesite.

Please turn to **BULLOCK** on page 13

Opha May Johnson Receives Obelisk

We reported in a prior edition that Opha May Johnson, the first woman Marine, was buried in her family plot in an unmarked grave in St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington D.C. That situation has been corrected.

She joined the USMC in August 1918 and paved the way for thousands of other women to be able to serve as Marines through the current day. Opha May Johnson received an obelisk to mark her grave at a ceremony, August 29, 2018. The ceremony was part of a series of events to highlight 100 years of women in the Marine Corps. The monument was put up by the Women Marines Association to commemorate the 100 years of women serving in the Marine Corps.



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert B. Neller and members of the Women Marines Association unveil a monument at the gravesite of Opha May Johnson, St. Paul's Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, D.C., Aug. 29, 2018. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Paul A. Ochoa)

Retreat, Hell!

By Colonel Warren Wiedhahn USMC (Ret)
Pusan - Inchon - Seoul - "Chosin" - Korea 1950

Many of us are old enough to remember the 1952 Warner Brothers film, Retreat, Hell, starring Frank Lovejoy, Richard Carlson, and Anita Louise. Those two words used by our leader, Major General O.P. Smith, USMC, Commanding General, lst Marine Division, when questioned by the media on whether we were retreating from the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir in December 1950, still resonate. His emphatic remarks that will go down in Marine Corps history were: "Retreat, hell. We're just attacking in a different direction!"

The Commandant of the Marine Corps at the time, General "Lem" Shepherd, approved the film. He said it cost the Corps a million dollars to film it at Camp Pendleton, California. It was not a particularly "great" film, since they used gypsum to simulate snow. However, it was rushed to production to "Remember the Sacrifices" of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines - to include the British Royal Marines, who fought bravely against two enemies in North Korea - the "ChiComs," as we called them, and the frigid Siberian winter with temperatures registering 40 and 50 below zero!



Note: Over 500 of our fellow warriors still remain entombed in those formidable North Korean mountains!

I give you this background because I

Please turn to **RETREAT** on page 12

The 1st Marine Division Association

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2017 – 2019

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President's Message

Jerry Johs



I thank everyone who attended the Colorado Springs, CO reunion. Everyone who participated in the tours had a good time. The Garden of Gods trip was a huge success.

I also thank our office staff members for all their help and Steve "Doc" Lakernick for his hard work in executing the reunion.

Next year's reunion will be in Louisville, KY, August 4-11, 2019. We are still in the planning phases, and will have more information in the upcoming OBN.

Please consider joining us at the end of January for the FMDA Anniversary taking place January 28 - February 1, 2019. I hope to see a lot of you there. We will have more information for you shortly.

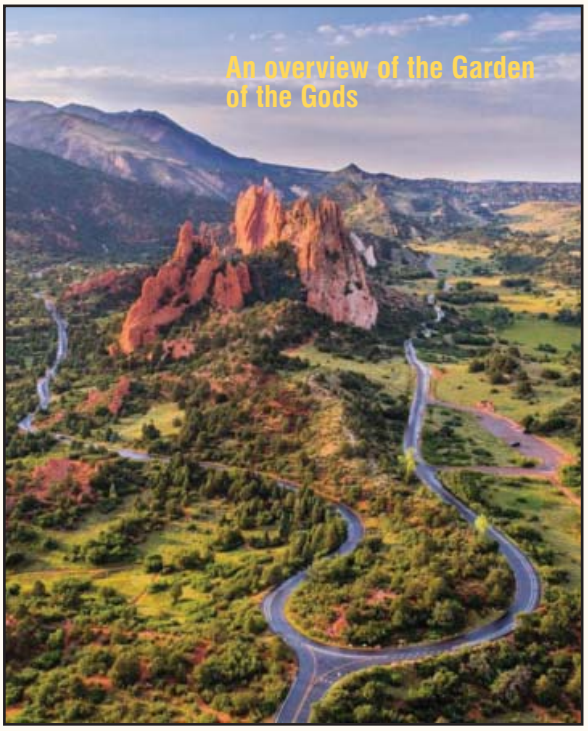
Jerry Johs,

FMDA President

71st Reunion After Action Report

From the President:

We are back home now after a great week of camaraderie at the Association's 71st Annual Reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Colorado is beautiful, of course, and we had mostly pleasant and sunny weather. However, on Monday there was a hail storm with golf ball size stones.



Attendance was up some from last year. We met our room quota the hotel had blocked for us. An estimated 225 to 250 good people took part. We filled the banquet hall Saturday night with about 130 guests.

The tour of the Air Force Academy was inspiring. We enjoyed military appreciation night at a minor league baseball game. The Garden of the Gods tour was amazing, a time to appreciate nature's beauty.

Those who took in a session of machine gun shooting really enjoyed the outing. At the banquet we were honored to host our guest speaker, Colonel Paul J. Nugent, Chief of Staff of the 1st Marine Division.

The ladies got together Saturday for lunch, bingo, and entertainment from KJ Reimensnyder-Wagner. All reported a good time. However, the crowd was smaller than in the past. To ensure the future of this treasured gathering, I encourage all of our women who can to please participate next year. How can we make it more attractive to you? Please contact Cheryl Johs at *cjohs2012@gmail.com* to share your ideas.

We accomplished the usual business at our board, committee, and members meetings. I appreciate the attendance and participation of everyone at the meetings.

Thanks to all who worked so hard toward making this year's reunion a memorable time.

The members who show up every year were there for the most part. There were new members attending their first reunion ever. We meet next year in Louisville, Kentucky. I hope to see new and old faces there too, as we carry on a longtime tradition of the 1st Marine Division.

Incidentally, the staff is still reconciling donations from the Colorado Springs reunion. The final report will appear in the next OBN.

Jerry Johs
President, 1st Marine Division Association

This message was written by Dennis J. Coady, FMDA Administrative Assistant, at the direction of President Jerry Johs.

Attendance was up some from last year. We met our room quota the hotel had blocked for us. An estimated 225 to 250 good people took part.

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Attention All FMDA Chapters

Please send any updated information to FMDA headquarters when you have new officers with their updated address, telephone number, e-mail address and Chapter representative.

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The Editor's Desk©



Art Sharp

This is what legacy associations do©

It is amazing how some people do not appreciate the value of history even when they have created it. These same people want the history of their significant contributions to die with them. That is killing history, not preserving it.

I was at the general membership meeting of the Chosin Few Association in Norfolk, VA a few weeks ago. The question arose about whether or not to convert the organization into a legacy association. The matter was put to a vote after some discussion for and against the change.

A couple members spoke against the move. Their argument was cogent: we are old and we are about to assume our posts in heaven. We were the ones who fought the battle at the Chosin Reservoir. It is over for us. Let our heroic efforts and history die with us. Does letting history die create and perpetuate a legacy?

Supporters demurred. They argued that converting the Chosin Few into a legacy association would perpetuate history. The survivors of the Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Air Forcers, and others who participated in the battle were the perfect people to maintain the legacy of the warfighters' unparalleled valor at Chosin. One proponent of the change pointed to the success of the Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA), which had made the change to a legacy organization and done well since.



Loaded with battle-wise Marines of the Fifth Amphibious Corps, LSM (Landing Ship Medium) dash for the beach at Iwo Jima shortly after H-hour. Shrouded by the smoke of the naval bombardment Mount Suribachi appears in the background. (Photo by Cpl Arthur Kiely, Jr., Official USMC Photo)

There were a few more spirited arguments pro and con re the conversion. Ultimately the motion passed. The Chosin Few Association is now a legacy organization. The children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends of the survivors can now move forward with their task of keeping alive the history of the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, long after the last veteran has assumed his final duty post. That is what legacy associations do.

Yeah, there are pros and cons of turning military associations over to the survivors' kin and friends. But, it must be remembered that even though people pass on, their legacies don't. Has anyone forgotten the 500 Marines whose remains lie to this day at the Chosin, but whose spirits are still alive in the hearts and minds of their comrades who said goodbye to them out of exigency and their families who still pray for them to come home? Somebody has to work to bring them home—and that will happen someday.

But, if the last Chosin survivor is no longer among us, whose job will it be to preserve their memories and work for their returns? That job will fall to the legacy members of the Chosin Few Association. Certainly they may not have been the warfighters who made the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir one of the most famous confrontations in military history. But, they will be able to bear witness to the struggle based on the stories that they learned from their fathers, grandfathers, uncles et al who were there. Spreading that knowledge will keep the history of the Chosin Reservoir battle alive. That is what legacy associations do.

No doubt this is not a question the FMDA will have to deal with, since the 1st Marine Division is not likely to be phased out anytime soon. As long as there is a 1st Marine Division there will be potential members for the association. The problem of attracting new members from an existing entity is different from increasing membership in an association whose members are going to guard heaven's gates at an alarming rate. Hey, it could happen with the FMDA if….

Let's face it: it's not likely that peace will reign across the globe and unicorns will rule the world any time soon. But, if it does, that would be the time the 1st Marine Division—and the entire Marine Corps—will no longer be needed. Until that day comes, the question in military associations will remain: do we want to exist as a "last man standing" organization or convert to a legacy body? The answer, of course, lies with the individual organization. Someone needs to pass on the history of each organization though.

That's what legacy associations do. They want to preserve history, not kill it.



A memorial stands in honor of those Marines and sailors who fought at the Chosin Reservoir during the commencement of the Chosin Memorial service outside Camp Pendleton's South Mesa Club, Feb. 1, 2011. The memorial service was held before the opening ceremony of the 1st Marine Division's 70th Anniversary. (Photo by Cpl Zachary Nola)

9 August 2018
Colorado Springs, Colorado

This meeting was called to order by association President Jerry Johs at 1530 hours. The invocation, provided by Chaplain William (Denny) Weisgerber, was followed by Secretary Pierre A Sims with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Proof of Meeting Notice was duly presented for the OBN by Secretary Pierre A. Sims.

Officers present: President Jerry Johs; Dep. V/P East Elmer Hawkins; Dep. V/P West James A. Fossos; Treasurer A. J. Burn; Secretary Pierre A. Sims; Sgt.-at-Arms Lee Rux; Legal Officer James T. Allison; Chaplain William (Denny) Weisgerber; DAL East Steve (Doc) Lakernick; DAL Central Michael Galyean; DAL West Richard Cesaroni.

The following members were welcomed to attend this meeting: June Cormier, Executive Assistant; Chapter Representative John Decker; Jerry Corrento.

Pierre A. Sims, Secretary, commenced the roll call.

The necessary quorum was met to conduct this meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved for the OBN.

§ President Johs opened this meeting by introducing a guest from USAA (United Services Automobile Association), Gino Montagno; Affinity Account Manager Lead for USAA.

• Mr. Montagno gave an uplifting report on how USAA can financially help the FMDA with a new structure on how money is credited to the FMDA via association members' use of any USAA products and services.

Before it was credit card use only. Now it is all products and services. The FMDA will now get a flat rate from USAA when a member uses USAA products and services. This is a great time to become a member of the USAA, as it is a very good company. Being a member of USAA is helping the FMDA.

§ President Johs then introduced Barbara Ozenbaugh-Goniotakis and Michelle Avery Murphy from Avery Murphy, LLC, who gave a great presentation on hotel site selection and contract negotiations

• with their expertise and knowledge of the industry, if the FMDA would partner with them, at no cost to the association (their compensation comes from negotiating with the hotel), they could be a great support in the future by getting us the best deal for our members attending the FMDA reunions

• Keep in mind, this is only for hotel selection. The FMDA will still select the site for the reunion and Avery Murphy LLC will negotiate with the hotel with our needs and desires in mind

The Reunion Committee proposed to address this matter to the Board of Directors meeting on August 10, 2018. All were in favor.

OFFICER REPORTS:

The following information was mentioned.

§ President Johs:

• announced that the reunion was doing well

• mentioned that the FMDA was saving money by going digital with the Old Breed News, at a yearly savings of about $32,000

• disclosed that the Constant Contact email, which delivers the ONB digital to our members, is at about 60% being opened, but he would like it to be at 100%

• encouraged all members to open and read the OBN, which would help keep costs down

• referenced the Stiletto knife being auctioned off at the reunion; it was the number one knife off the assembly line and a very rare item. It is a good fundraising item and it helps bring in money to the association.

• Please support and get your tickets.

§ V/P Vince Rios is sick and could not attend

§ Dep. V/P East Elmer Hawkins had nothing to report

§ Dep. V/P Central Daniel Flavin is sick and due to his health problems, has resigned

§ Dep. V/P West James Fossos gave the status of the chapters in his area of responsibility

• for the most part they are very active and are doing some great things in the name of the association

§ Secretary Pierre A Sims

• noted that, based on all the meetings that took place throughout the day, everything is very positive, and it appears that with the chapters' participation the association is going in the right direction

• suggested that, since everyone has talked about the decline of members due to death, chapter representatives visit Marine Corps Reserve units in their designated areas and encourage the young reservists to join the FMDA via their chapter. This will bring awareness of the FMDA and the hope for new members.

§ there was a discussion to have the by-laws changed to allow the $1,000.00 Life Membership be paid in monthly installments of $83.33. Elmer Hawkins made a motion to approve the change, which was seconded by Richard Cesaroni. The motion was approved, with all in favor.

• this would encourage members to be life members by giving them this option. Plus, it gives a steady flow of money to the FMDA.

§ President Johs and V/P West Fossos talked about incentives to be a life member and the pro and cons

• most important of all, being a life member helps the association in the long term with support

• the idea to suggest a change to the by-laws regarding this matter will be brought up at the Board of Directors meeting

§ Legal Officer James Allison thanked everyone for their support, noted that the association has had very few problems, and all is well at the moment. Consequently, he had nothing new to report.

§ Treasurer A. J. Burn gave the financial report:

• we have about $70,000 in the bank

• due to the reunion finances, revenues can fluctuate until we get a final report after the reunion is over

• for the most part we are doing okay financially, but we have a long way to go

• The association is doing everything it can to keep operating costs down, and is still reviewing the past administration's books.

• it appears that under President Johs administration we are improving and doing the corrective thing to keep the association intact

• we are still in need of money. Hopefully fundraising and support

from the chapters will accomplish this

§ Chaplain William (Denny) Weisgerber had nothing to report

§ Sgt.-at-Arms Lee Rux suggested making a change to the by-laws to change the terms of office for the board from two years to three years

• the purpose is to prepare the next administration with a better transition and give the current administration at that time more time to develop a plan for success for the association

• presented a change to the by-laws regarding the payment to the FMDA from the FMDA (SF) to reflect $200.00 a month instead of the "Up to 20%"

• after a lengthy discussion on both matters, a motion was made to present the suggestion to the Board of Directors for consideration. All were in favor.

§ President Johs ended the meeting with his thoughts and his appreciation for all the members who attended this meeting

• a motion to adjourn was seconded by Sgt.-at-Arms Lee Rux.

Meeting was adjourned at 1705 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Pierre A. Sims, Secretary

1st Marine Division Association: Minutes – Scholarship Fund, Inc. Board of Director's Meeting

9 August, 2018
Colorado Springs, CO

This meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman James Fossos at 1400 hours. Secretary Pierre A. Sims provided the invocation and Ed "Tex" Stiteler led the Pledge of Allegiance. Proof of Meeting Notice will be printed in the OBN.

Officers present by telephone conference: (Chairman Emeritus) John Stevens, Cliff Cromer, Chief Financial Officer Jerry Reed, Chairman Col. Len Hayes. Officers present: Secretary Pierre A. Sims, Ed "Tex" Stiteler, Vice-Chairman James Fossos, President FMDA Jerry Johs, George Sager Jr., Elmer Hawkins. The following personnel were invited to attend: Charles Kershaw, James Allison, and June Cormier.

A Quorum (4) was met to conduct this meeting.

Roll call was conducted by Pierre A. Sims, Secretary

The minutes from last meeting have been accepted and given to June Cormier, Executive Assistant. The minutes for today's meeting will be accepted.

OFFICER REPORTS:

The following information was mentioned.

§ Vice-Chairman James Fossos opened up the meeting by giving his thoughts about the:

• direction of the FMDA Scholarship Fund Inc.

• outstanding job that CFO Jerry Reed and Col Len Hayes are doing in regards to the managing of the funds

• selection of students worthy to receive scholarships from the FMDA Scholarship Fund Inc.

§ Jerry Reed, Chief Financial Officer, gave an up to date status report in regards to the Kurtz Estate. In summary, as of 9 August, 2018, the following represents the summarized financial position of the FMDA Scholarship Fund Corporation:

• Capitol Securities income generated to date: $5,000.00

• Year to date Scholarship Fund income: Break-even

• Scholarship payments to date in 2018: $14,000.00

• Assets: Securities held by Capitol Securities: $308,000.00

• Cash held in banks: $32,000.00

• Total Cash and Cash Equivalents: $340,000.00

• Kurtz Estate Receivable: $350,000.00

• Total Assets: $690,000.00

• Liabilities: Scholarship Payable: $19,000.00

Total Net Assets as of 9 August, 2018: $671,000.00

§ Financial Report was given by Jerry Reed, Chief Financial Officer, including the:

• current status of the FMDASF, Inc.

• bank balances as it stands today

• overview of the financial situation

• status we are in at present

As of today, the FMDA Scholarship Fund Inc. is solid.

§ Chairman Len Hayes reviewed the 2018 scholarship approved applications in progress.

• Scholarships Award Payable: Condition – Require attendance confirmation from schools before a scholarship check will be issued

• The following to receive checks: Michael Woods, Cody Carrier, Alyssa Lacey, Bethany Lacey, Keeton Landfair, Veronica Sheriff, Garrick Arias, Kiarah Nicole Davis, Kyle Litzenberg, Allen McGeehan, Alexander Pavlicin

• Chairman Hayes explained the process of how students are selected and noted that all are considered in accordance to the by-laws governed by the FMDA Scholarship Fund, Inc.

• there were three new applicants since the last conversation with the board

• Chairman Hayes reaffirmed the process to receive a scholarship

• the three applicants were approved by the selection committee on 20 April 2018

Vice-Chairman Fossos motioned to approve, which was seconded by Ed "Tex" Stiteler and the members of the board in attendance, to move forward with the process.

• also discussed was the information that there were four applicants interested but no applications were submitted.

§ there was discussion on the new website for both the FMDA and the FMDA Scholarship Fund Inc.

• the website is in a working stage to support both the FMDA and the FMDA Scholarship Fund Inc. to bring unity and cohesiveness to the association and its members.

§ Meeting was adjourned at 1445 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Pierre A. Sims, Secretary

10 August 2018
Colorado Springs, Colorado

This meeting was called to order by association President Jerry Johs at 1530 hours. The invocation was provided by Chaplain William (Denny) Weisgerber, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Proof of Meeting Notice was duly presented for the OBN by Secretary Pierre A. Sims.

Officers present: President Jerry Johs; Dep. V/P East Elmer Hawkins; Dep. V/P West James A. Fossos; Treasurer A. J. Burn; Secretary Pierre A. Sims; Sgt.-at-Arms Lee Rux; Legal Officer James T. Allison; Chaplain William (Denny) Weisgerber; DAL East Steve (Doc) Lakernick; DAL Central Michael Galyean; DAL West Richard Cesaroni.

The following members were welcomed to attend this meeting; June Cormier, Executive Assistant, and Marty Vasquez, Executive Director.

Secretary Pierre A. Sims commenced the roll call.

Lee Rux stated that a Quorum was met to conduct this meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved to be printed in the OBN.

These Chapters were represented at the meeting: Los Angeles, Portland OR, Central Florida, 7th Com, 1/5, Liberty Bell, 7th Marines, Echo2/7, Rocky Mountain.

OFFICER REPORTS:

§ President Johs opened the meeting with his thoughts and a short status of the FMDA's direction

§ Dep. V/P East Elmer Hawkins gave an overview of the state of the chapters in the association

• we are losing members throughout the east coast due to age and death

• we need to concentrate on getting new members

§ President Jerry Johs

• offered his thoughts about the chapters' meetings, because some of the committees did not show up; he only gave his report of which committee showed and what was discussed. Not much was reported.

• provided an overview of the financial state of the organization, the direction we need to be headed, and the need to look at all the committees for future success

§ engaged this meeting by introducing a guest from USAA (United Services Automobile Association), Gino Montagno; Affinity Account Manager Lead for USAA

• Mr. Montagno gave an uplifting report on how USAA can financially help the FMDA with a new structure on how money is credited to the FMDA via association members' use of any USAA products and services

• before it was credit card use only. Now it is all products and services.

• the FMDA will now get a flat rate from USAA when a member uses USAA products and services

• this is a great time to become a member of the USAA, as it is a very good company

• being a member of USAA is helping the FMDA

§ President Johs introduced Barbara Ozenbaugh-Goniotakis and Michelle Avery Murphy, from Avery Murphy, LLC, who gave a great presentation on hotel site selection and contract negotiations

• with their expertise and knowledge of the industry, if the FMDA would partner with them, at no cost to the association (their compensation comes from negotiating with the hotel), they could be a great support in the future by getting us the best deal for our members attending the FMDA reunions.

• keep in mind this is only for hotel selection. The FMDA will still select the location for the reunion and Avery Murphy, LLC will negotiate the hotel

§ there was a proposal to bring up the offer at the membership meeting tomorrow, August 11, 2018. All were in favor.

§ **Dep. V/P West James Fossos** gave the status of the chapters in his area of responsibility

• for the most part they are very active and are doing some great things in the name of the association

• the chapters are doing some beneficial fundraising

• they are willing to share ideas with all who are interested

• there is still a problem getting hold of some of the chapters

§ **Secretary Pierre A Sims**

• thanked all who supported the reunion and participated via meeting attendance or simply attended

• as it stands, the association is going in the right direction

• we need more chapters to attend the reunions and provide their support

• since membership is down due to deaths in the association, we need to look at our Marine reserve units in our area

• that is the start of a possible growth for the FMDA if we explore it

THANKS

§ a big shout out to Steve "Doc" Lakernick for his overall support in making this reunion successful

§ a big "Thank You" to Mike Pfalmer from RMC Distributing Company, Colorado Springs, CO for the kind donation of the beer and equipment

§ **Legal Officer James Allison**

• thanked everyone for their support

• talked about the need for growth for the FMDA to continue as an association for future Marines

• likes the idea about going to the reserve units, but cautions that we need to have a purpose and direction to attract these Marines

• declared that we have experienced a pretty uneventful so far this year

• we need to watch our tax filing papers within the association

• no big problems to report; overall the association is doing well

§ **Treasurer A. J. Burn**

• gave a financial report

• we have about $72,108.21 in the bank as of 7/31/2018

• due to a lack of conclusive accounting for the reunion, the figures can fluctuate until we get a final report once the reunion is over

• for the most part we are doing okay financially, but we have a long way to go

• the association is doing everything to keep operating costs down, and is still reviewing the past administration's books

• it appears that under President Johs' administration we are improving and doing the correct things to keep the association intact

• we are still in need of money and we hope that the fundraising and sup-

port from the chapters will help us acquire additional income

§ **Chaplain William (Denny) Weisgerber**

• discussed his thoughts about going to the reserve units and asking them with whom they served; they might have served with the 1st Marine Division and didn't know it

• expressed his sorrow for the deaths of our fallen association members

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

§ **Warrior Liaison Committee:** Nothing to report.

§ **Finance Committee:** Nothing to report.

§ **Bylaws Committee:**

Sgt.-at-Arms Lee Rux

• suggested amending the by-laws to change the terms of office for the board from two years to three years

• the purpose is to prepare the next administration with a better transition and give the current administration at that time more time to develop a plan for success for the association

• the proposal was rejected by the board of directors

• proposed a change to the by-laws that makes the payment to the FMDA from the FMDA (SF) $200.00 a month instead of the "Up to 20%"

• after a lengthy discussion on both matters, Jim Dougherty made a motion seconded by James Fossos to pass the payment to the FMDA from the FMDA (SF) to reflect $200.00 a month instead of the "Up to 20%." All were in favor.

§ there was a discussion to have the by-laws changed to allow the $1,000.00 Life Membership be paid in monthly installments of $83.33. Elmer Hawkins made a motion to approve the change, which was seconded by Richard Cesaroni. The motion was approved, with all in favor.

§ **President Johs re Fundraising**

• the silhouette knife being auctioned off at the reunion was the number one knife off the assembly line and is a very rare item

• it is a good fundraising item and it helps bring in money to the association

• please support the raffle and get your tickets

• we also have a 50/50 drawing, a silent auction, Marine Corps flags and the Pike Peaks Marine Corps League PX shop. Also, we have golf shirts for sale, proceeds from which support the FMDA.

§ **Insurance Committee:** nothing to report.

Reunion Destination Committee:

• it was mentioned that the site for the 2019 reunion would be either St Louis, MO or Louisville, KY

• the choice was to be presented at the membership meeting per a motion by William (Denny) Weisgerber, seconded by President Johs. All were in favor.

§ **Awards:**

• an award to be to Harriett Wenhold in memory of the outstanding service rendered by the late Carl Wenhold. May our prayers be with her and the family.

§ **OBN Committee:**

• President Johs mentioned that the OBN is now digital and costs $1,008.91 per quarter.

• we are saving $8,000.00 per quarter

• to keep saving money we need every member to open their e-mail and read the OBN

• we are at 60% opening rate and need to get to 100%

• the more we open and read, the more money we will save

• we are still printing the hard copy of the OBN for some of the members

• we need to get the word out to those who are receiving the hard copy, get their e-mail addresses, and encourage them to read the OBN digital. This will us help cut down on printing cost of the hard copy of the OBN.

§ **Historical Committee:** Nothing to report.

§ **Scholarship Selection Committee**

• James Fossos gave a report on the Scholarship Foundation and the selection process for the committee

• it is one of the best run organizations in the way they select the nominees and the follow up is the best

• you can be assured that the money donated to the scholarship fund is well documented and administered in accordance with the by-laws

• outstanding job being done by Jerry Reed

• total net assets as of 8/9/2018, $671,000.00

• scholarship awards payable to 11 applicants with 3 pending

§ **Nomination Committee:** To be selected at the membership meeting.

President Jerry Johs gave closing remarks and asked for every one's support in keeping this association together and to work together for the common goal, that is the 1st Marine Division Association.

Steve "Doc" Lakernick made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Denny Weisgerber.

Meeting was adjourned at 1715 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Pierre A. Sims, Secretary

Southern Cross Team Contributions

Southern Cross Donations =3; Total = $300.00

• SSGT RALPH C AST	55th	100
• CPL THOMAS M MASTERSON	5th	100
• MGYSGT HOWARD C SNOWDEN	20th	100

General Membership meetings scheduled for 2019

Our Association By-Laws require that the membership be notified of our twice yearly General Membership meetings. Here is the schedule for 2019, as approved by the Board of Directors. The meetings are set to coincide with our annual Anniversary and Reunion gatherings.

Date	Time	Location
February 1, 2019	2:00PM	Pacific Views Event Center, Camp Pendleton CA
August 2019	TBD	Crown Plaza Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky

Specific dates, times, room details, etc. will be posted on the Association's website and in the Old Breed News as soon as they are available.

1st Marine Division Association: Minutes – General Membership Meeting

Minutes - General Membership Meeting

1st Marine Division Association, 11 August 2018

Colorado Springs, Colorado

This meeting was called to order by President Jerry Johs at 0830 hrs. The invocation, provided by Chaplain William (Denny) Weisgerber, was followed by Sgt.-at-Arms Lee Rux and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Proof of Meeting Notice was duly presented for the OBN by Secretary Pierre A. Sims.

Officers present: President Jerry Johs, Dep. V/P East Elmer Hawkins, Dep. V/P West James A. Fossos, Treasurer A. J. Burn, Secretary Pierre A. Sims, Sgt.-at-Arms Lee Rux, Legal Officer James T. Allison, Chaplain William (Denny) Weisgerber, DAL East Steve (Doc) Lakernick, DAL Central Michael Gaylean, DAL West Richard Cesaroni.

In attendance were over 50 members so a quorum was met.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved and presented for the OBN. A motion to accept the minutes was offered; all were in favor.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President Jerry Johs:

§ gave his thoughts on the report of the DVP West concerns and stated that we need to work together to make it work for the association

§ announced that the reunion was successful thanks to Steve "Doc" Lakernick, June Cormier, Marty Vasquez, and Dennis Coady. They were very instrumental in the success of this reunion. We don't have the final numbers, but all indicators show that we are doing well.

§ engaged this meeting by introducing a guest from USAA (United Services Automobile Association), Gino Montagno; Affinity Account Manager Lead for USAA. Mr. Montagno gave an uplifting report on how USAA can financially help the FMDA with a new structure on how money is credited to the FMDA via the association members' use of any USAA products and services.

Before it was credit card use only; now it is all products and services. The FMDA will now get a flat rate from USAA when a member uses USAA products and services. This is a great time to become a member of the USAA, as it is a very good company to be a member of. Being a member of USAA is helping the FMDA.

§ introduced Barbara Ozenbaugh-Goniotakis and Michelle Avery Murphy from a company call Avery Murphy, LLC. They gave a great presentation on hotel site selection and contract negotiations, based on their expertise and knowledge of the industry.

If the FMDA would partner with them, at no cost to the association (their compensation comes from negotiating with the hotel), they could be a great support in the future by getting us the best deal for our members attending the FMDA reunions. Keep in mind that this is only for hotel selection. The FMDA will still select the site for the reunion and Avery Murphy, LLC will negotiate the hotel.

VP Vince Rios: Vince Rios is sick and could not attend the reunion.

Secretary Pierre A. Sims:

§ requested any chapters represented at the reunion to come forth and be recognized. Respondents included Los Angeles, Portland, OR, Central Florida, 7th Com, 1/5, Liberty Bell, 7th Marines, Echo2/7, and Rocky Mountain.

§ thanked all for a successful reunion

§ talked about changes to the website, working with Jud Blakely. Hopefully we will have a much better and improved website for both the FMDA & FMDA (SF).

Treasurer A. J. Burn:

§ gave the report of the finances:

• as of 7/31/2018 we have about $72,108.21 in the bank but, due to the reunion, the money can fluctuate until we get a final report after it is over

• For the most part we are doing okay, but we have a long way to go

• the association is doing everything to keep operating costs down, and is still reviewing the past administration's books

• it appears that under President Johs' administration we are improving and doing the correct thing to keep the association intact

• we are still in need of money, with the hope of fundraising. Support of the chapters will accomplish this.

BREAK

During the break, the passing of the hat for donation to the FMDA brought in about $666.00. Chapter representatives gave donations to the FMDA:

§ Central Florida, $500.00

§ Echo C/2/7, $100.00

§ Liberty Bell Chapter, $200.00

§ 1st Recon Bn, $100.00

§ 1st Recon Bn, $500.00

§ 1/5, $1,000.00 to the FMDA (SF)

RESUMPTION

DVP West James Fossos:

§ gave the statuses of the chapters in his area of responsibility

• for the most part they are very active and are doing some great things in the name of the association

• good fundraising going on with the chapters, which are willing to share ideas to all who are interested.

• there is still a problem getting hold of some of the chapters

• we need to be working on getting new members to replace our fallen members

• talked about the success of the clay shooting for fundraising and exploring the possibility for other chapters to start their own fundraising events

• we need to develop a plan on how to increase membership for the FMDA

DVP Central: Daniel Flavin is sick, has a bad case of Parkinson and therefore has resigned his position.

Chaplain Denny Weisgerber:

§ reminded the membership to look at the reunion journal and look at the members who have passed on

§ that should give us a wake-up call that we need to start looking for new members to replace our fallen warriors

• let's keep this association around by recruiting new members, for

we are getting older and we need fresh blood to replace these outstanding warriors. Please help.

§ stated that he is available to visit our deceased members and is called upon a lot to attend funerals

President Johs requested that all members stand for a moment of prayer for all our fallen warriors of the 1st Marine Division Association, with Chaplain Denny Weisgerber leading the prayer.

DVP East Elmer Hawkins:

• gave an overview of the state of the chapters in the association

• we are losing members throughout the east coast due to age and death

• we need to concentrate on getting new members

• we need to look at the chapters in the association to see if they are still active, for we have lost a lot of chapters and need to know which ones are still active within the association

• talked about the bottle of alcohol for the last man standing

• since Guadalcanal this bottle has been kept in the name of the 1st Marine Division Association

• we need to find out the names of those who served during that time frame and see who is still around to determine who gets to drink from the bottle

• it is the hope to share this at the anniversary of the 1st Marine Division next year

• more information will be forthcoming

Legal Officer James Allison:

§ thanked everyone for their support

§ talked about the need for growth for the FMDA to continue as an association for the future Marines

• likes the idea about going to the reserve units, but cautions that we need to have a purpose and direction to attract these Marines

§ pretty uneventful so far this year

§ need to watch our tax filing papers within the association

§ no big problems to report, association is doing well

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

By-laws Committee:

Sgt.-of-Arms Lee Rux

§ presented a change to the by-laws for the payment to the FMDA from the FMDA (SF) to reflect $200.00 a month, instead of the "Up to 20%."

§ raised for discussion a motion to have the by-laws changed to have the $1,000.00 Life Membership be paid in monthly installment of $83.33. Motion made; change passed.

Finance Committee:

§ Steve "Doc" Lakernick had nothing new to report

Historical Committee:

§ nothing to report

Fundraising Committee:

§ President Johs mentioned the Stiletto knife being auctioned off at the reunion, the number one knife off the assembly line and a very rare item

• it is a good fundraising item and it helps bring in money to the association

• please support and get your tickets

§ we also have a 50/50 drawing, a silent auction, Marine Corps flags, and the Pike Peaks Marine Corps League PX shop

§ we have golf shirts for sale, the proceeds from which will support the FMDA

Awards Committee:

§ to give an award to Harriett Wenhold in memory of the outstanding service rendered by the late Carl Wenhold; may our prayers be with her and the family.

Reunion Destination:

§ William (Denny) Weisgerber mentioned that it would be either St Louis, MO or Louisville, KY

• Cost for St Louis, MO is $129.00 plus tax and for Louisville, KY $127.00 plus tax

§ it was decided that that the next reunion will be in Louisville, KY

Blue Diamond:

§ had nothing new to report

Insurance Committee:

§ nothing new was discussed or mentioned

Scholarship Selection/Fund Committee:

§ James Fossos gave a report on the Scholarship Foundation and the selection process for the committee

• it is one of the best run organizations in the way they select the nominees and the follow up is the best

• you can be assured that the money donated to the scholarship fund is well documented and administered in accordance with the by-laws

• outstanding job being done by Jerry Reed

• total net assets as of 8/9/2018, $671,000.00

• scholarship payable to date is $19,000.00

• scholarship awards payable to 11 applicants with 4 pending

§ Elmer Hawkins gave a complete overview on how the scholarship program works and what goes into making it work

§ Jud Blakely's family benefited from the Scholarship Fund, and his work with the website for free is his way of saying thank you

Nominating Committee:

§ there was nothing new to report

OBN Committee:

§ President Johs mentioned that the OBN is now digital and costs $1,008.91 per quarter.

• we are saving $8,000.00 per quarter

• to keep saving money we need every member to open their e-mail and read the OBN

• we are at 60% opening rate and need to get to 100%

• the more we open and read the more money we will save

• we are still printing the hard copy of the OBN for some of the members

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
09-15-2018

Life	Annual	Assoc. Annual	Friend	Total
5,511	978	79	19	6,587

• we need to get the word out to those who are receiving the hard copy and get their e-mail address and encourage them to read the OBN digital

• this will help us cut down on printing costs of the hard copy of the OBN

Selection of Unit Directors:

§ Jerry Johs, 1st; John Loudermilk 5th; Jerry Gerrent, Aviation; Jimmy Clendennen, 7th; Paul Wojahn, Engineer Bn; James Fossses, Recon Bn.; Howard Wilt, 11th Marines.

§ Marty Vasquez gave a report on the Wounded Warriors

• no casualties to report

New Business:

§ need nominating committee for the selection of the next officers of the association for the next term

§ officers selected were Jerry Corrento, Elmer Hawkins, Fred Tolleson, George Seager, and Paul Wojahn

§ James Fossos proposed to accept the stated members; all were in favor

§ Steven Easterday, 7th Engr. Bn., spoke regarding the flag the Oregon chapter proposes to use

• after a lengthy discussion regarding exactly what for and how the flag is going to be used, and who in the association would use the flag, there was a request to table the proposal till the 1st Marine Division Anniversary

• motion to have the manufacturer present the flag for review. Motion was accepted.

§ motion to make changes to the bylaws to reflect what the Oregon chapter is going by regarding 30-day delinquent in membership dues to the FMDA, but current with the chapter.

• after a long discussion on this matter, table to motion this to the by-laws committee, motion was passed and seconded by the membership

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Pierre A. Sims, Secretary

Out of the archives

Anyone know the Marines in this photo? It was taken only 74 years ago.



Meet the new CG of the 1st Mar Div, MajGen Robert F. Castellvi



MajGen Robert F. Castellvi

Major General Castellvi assumed command of the division from Major General Eric Smith on July 6, 2018. Here is his bio.

Major General Castellvi, from Chicago, IL, earned his commission through the NROTC program in May 1984, following his graduation from the University of Illinois. His assignments in the Operating Forces include: Rifle Platoon Commander, Weapons Platoon Commander, and 81mm Mortar Platoon Commander with 1st Battalion, 2d Marines (1985-88), participating in Operation EARNEST WILL in the Arabian Gulf with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU(SOC)); Platoon Commander and Executive Officer for Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team Company, Atlantic (1988-91), deploying in support of JTF Panama; Rifle Company Commander, H&S Company Commander, and Battalion Operations Officer for 2d Battalion, 9th Marines, (1991-94) deploying with 15th MEU(SOC) to Somalia for Operation RESTORE HOPE and the Arabian Gulf for the Peacekeeping Phase of Operation DESERT STORM; Commanding Officer of 2d Battalion, 3d Marines (2001-03); Commanding Officer of Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division (2006-08), deploying to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM as the Senior Advisor to the 1st Iraqi Army Division; Chief of Staff of the 1st Marine Division (2009- 11), deploying to Afghanistan for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM as the Chief of Staff for Task Force Leatherneck; and the Chief of Staff for I Marine Expeditionary Force (2011-13).

Other assignments include: Project Officer and Assistant. Program Manager for Anti-armor Weapons, Marine Corps Systems Command (1994-97); Plans Chief, U.S. Central Command Theater War Plans, Marine Forces Pacific and Marine Forces Central Command (1999-01); and National Defense Strategist and Military Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense (2004-06).

His previous assignments as a General Officer were as Commanding General Marine Corps Installations East, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (2013-15); Deputy Commanding General for Operations, Combined Joint Force Land Component Command, Iraq, Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (2014-15); Deputy Commanding General, II Marine Expeditionary Force / Commanding General, 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade (2015-17); and Director, Manpower Management Division (2017-18).

Major General Castellvi is a graduate of the U.S. Army Infantry Officer Advance Course, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the School of Advanced Warfighting, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He has earned master's degrees from the Marine Corps University, the National Defense University, and Capitol College.

RETREAT from page 1

was recently asked if it isn't time to consider dissolving The Chosin Few. My equally emphatic answer was—and is—"Hell, No!"

Another Marine Corps Commandant, speaking before a group of retired Marines said, in essence: "There are three pivotal battles in Marine Corps history that will forever be the touchstone of Marine Corps bravery and tenancy under extreme combat conditions. They are Belleau Wood in WWI, Iwo Jima in WWII, and The Chosin Reservoir in Korea."

The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) is going strong. As the veterans age (now five years older than us) their descendants have taken over the operational reins and continue to administer this proud association. The families of Belleau Wood (the 100th Anniversary in 2018) have recently asked for help locating their descendants. For us to even discuss dissolving the "Chosin Few" association borders on being sacrilegious and beneath the dignity of consideration.

A Chosin (Changjin) Few "Legacy Member" is someone who is the direct descendent of a Chosin Few veteran. As



Maj. Gen. O.P. Smith – 'Retreat, hell. We're just attacking in a different direction!"

the veterans age (average age 89), it's VITAL that the "Legacy" of this ferocious "Frozen Chosin" Reservoir Battle in 1950 NEVER BE FORGOTTEN! Who better to carry our banner into the annals of military history than our "Legacy Family" members?

Please note: we are not leaving our Army, Navy and Air Force veterans out! If you served "In, Over or Around" the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir in November and/or December, 1950, you are one of ... "The Chosin Few"!

The first step in perpetuating our Legacy was the dedication of our "Magnificent" Chosin (Changjin) Memorial at the National Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Virginia. The second step was the establishment of Chosin Few Legacy Regular Membership, which was passed at our recent reunion in Norfolk, Virginia.

Friends, we "owe it" to future generations to carry the legacy of the Chosin (Changjin) Reservoir proudly on our banners. When we're no longer able to carry the torch, then our children and grandchildren will carry if for us! We should also be doing everything within our power of persuasion to return, for their descendants, those warriors still entombed in North Korea. To do less would be a stain on our very soul.

We had to leave and bury our dead to save the living. They should come home!

BULLOCK from page 1

ment was deemed fraudulent. He was buried unceremoniously and laid in an unmarked grave for 21 years. Former talk show host Sally Jessy Raphael heard of this and paid for a proper headstone.

The Marine Corps should correct this injustice and give him his full military honors and any medals due him—and President Trump should look into this.

Tom McLeod,
museumpacific@cableone.net

PFC Dan Bullock, F/2/5

• Born - December 21, 1953, Goldsboro, North Carolina, U.S.

• Died - June 7, 1969 (aged 15), An Hoa Combat Base, Quảng Nam Province, South Vietnam

• Service/branch - United States Marine Corps

Dan Bullock was a United States Marine and the youngest American serviceman killed in action during the Vietnam War, dying at the age of 15.

Early life and education

Bullock was born in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He lived in North Carolina until he was about twelve, when his mother died and he and his younger sister, Gloria, moved to Brooklyn to live with their father and his wife. He had wanted to become a pilot, a police officer, or a U.S. Marine.

Career

When he was fourteen years old, he altered the date on his birth certificate to show he was born December 21, 1949. He processed through the recruiting station, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on September 18, 1968. He completed recruit training at Parris Island as a member of Platoon 3039 in Parris Island. At first he struggled to make it through, but was able to complete the process with help from one of his fellow recruits. Bullock graduated from boot camp on December 10, 1968.

Bullock arrived in South Vietnam on May 18, 1969 and was assigned as a rifleman in 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Fox Company, 2nd Battalion 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was stationed at An Hoa Combat Base, west of Hội An, in Quảng Nam Province.

He was killed instantly by small arms fire on June 7, 1969 when, according to his squad leader, he was on watch during a North Vietnamese army night attack.

After he was interred, his gravesite did not have a marker. In 2000 one was finally provided.

Legacy

On June 7, 2003 a section of Lee Avenue in Brooklyn, where Bullock had lived since age 11, was renamed in his honor.

(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Bullock)

One Shared Chopper Might Have Helped

Heavy fighting at close range took place between the NVA and the 2 platoons of "K" Company. After the attack began, battalion XO Major Clark G. Henry, with "L" Company, began moving back to the CP site to reinforce the "K" Company Marines.

L/Cpl Rudolph (Rudy) Lefebvre of L/3/4, 3rd Marine Division, working with 2/1 during Operation Hastings in Vietnam, was KIA on July 18, 1966. His well-attended military funeral took place twelve days later at St. Mary's Church in his home town of Chelmsford, MA.

The town named a square after him. The plaque to mark the square was provided by fellow Marines of L/3/4. Here is an account extracted from command reports of L/Cpl Lefebvre's last day (July 18, 1966):

At 180210H, "K" Company reported continuous probing of lines through the night from North Vietnamese troops. K Company returned fire with M-79, S/A, grenades. At 180303, "K" Company reported they had made contact with approximately 50 VC around their perimeter. "K" Company opened fire with S/A and an artillery mission was called in.

At 180915 "K" Company spotted 1 Vietnamese 75 meters SE of its CP and began M-79 and S/A fire. At 181021H, Battalion CP and "L" Company lines received in coming S/A fire countering with Arty, 81s, and S/A fire returned. Contact was broken.

3-4's Report 7-18-66

Contact with NVA soldiers commenced when 3rd Bn, 4th Mar. began landing in the LZ on 15 July and continued with slight lulls until the Battalion was extracted. At 181500H, the Battalion column, moving east toward new positions, began receiving 82mm mortar fired along the column. The column became separated from the two rear security platoons still in the CP area. As the mortar fire was received, an estimated 1,000 NVA assaulted the old battalion CP and closed with 66 Marines of "K" Company.

The NVA assaulted the position from four approaches. They set up six mortars in the same mortar positions used by the Battalion earlier. Heavy fighting at close range took place between the NVA and the 2 platoons of "K" Company. After the attack began, battalion XO Major Clark G. Henry, with "L" Company, began moving back to the CP site to reinforce the "K" Company Marines. Movement was difficult as the column was receiving S/A fire. Battalion Commander LtCol S. A. Vale was directing artillery and airstrikes on the NVA.

The "K" Company troops fought their way out of the OP while artillery and air strikes were being conducted. The extremely effective artillery and air strikes inflicted heavy casualties on the NVA. The "K" Company Marines moved out from the CP site approximately 20 minutes after the initial attack; the NVA did not pursue them with anything other than small arms fire. The two platoons met "L" Company, which had come to reinforce them. They were under small arms fire until approximately 1800. Results: 15 USMC MIA, 48 USMC WIA, 139 NVA KIA, 362 NVA KIA probables.

All indications early on the morning of July 18th were that the Marines of 2/4 had a busy day ahead of them. At 0615 "K Co" reported incoming H&I fire, but the damage was limited to 1 AN/PRC 10, 1 packboard, and assorted equipment. About 8:45 "K Co." Marines opened fire on several VC south of their area. Shortly before 1000 hours the VC opened fire on the battalion CP and surrounding elements. Artillery fire was requested immediately.

Company L reported about 8-10 rounds of incoming small arms fire. At 1045 they fired on 3 NVK. They were sure they hit at least one. The company moved back to the CP.

Things quieted down until 1300, when BN was requested to plot H&Is on its position to cover its withdrawal. Once that started the battalion began its relocation from its prior site to establish a new temporary CP. Automatic arms, sniper fire, and mortar fire impeded Co. K's movement back to the CP.

The NVA were overrunning the previous landing zone, and Co. K was fighting off a serious assault. Co. L reinforced them; elements of 2/1 were dispatched to help as well. ("G" Co. of 2/1 was placed under the operational control of 3-4 on July 19th, and returned to its own unit a day later.) The Marines called in artillery fire and air support on the overrun landing zone as I Co. set up a defensive perimeter around the CP group.

At about 1630 two friendly WIAs were medevaced. One of them may have been L/Cpl Lefebvre, based on a message from Robert Coleman, a friend of Lefebvre's from their days with the 2nd Marine Division.

You'll be remembered my friend

"Rudy, you were a great friend and Marine. We had some good times at Camp Lejeune. In the Med we had a blast: Naples, Malta, Greece, Sardinia, Spain… It was fun…. I knew you'd been shot. Brownie…said you were alive when they put you on the chopper. I smile when I remember the good times we had. Your friend CPL Bob Coleman G Co., Wpns Plt, 2nd Bat., 1st Mar Reg., 1st Mar Div.1966."

There was an innocuous entry in the "Problems/Lessons Learned" section of 2/4's July 1966 Command Report" a few days earlier:

"On "Operation Jay" a Command Control helicopter shared by the Cos of 2/1 and 2/4 would have greatly enhanced the link-up between the two units. In addition, potential enemy strongpoints and routes o£ exfiltration could have been observed as well as selecting possible LZ's for landing of other blocking forces."

It might also have saved Rudolph LeFebvre's life.

USMC Commandant Robert B. Neller Addresses Com

Marine House Association, USA's chairman and founder, Yong Chu Park, hosted his 25th annual lunch celebrating the 68th anniversary of the Inchon Landing on September 13, 2018. USMC Commandant Robert B. Neller spoke to the gathering of about 440 active Marines, Korean War veteran Marines and Sailors, and friends at the Pacific Views Event Center, aboard Camp Pendleton, California. Honored guests included Wan-joon Kim, Consul General, Republic of Korea, Los Angeles, and Oceanside, California deputy mayor Chuck Lowery.



Korean War veterans and General Neller

General Neller spoke of the close relationship between the American and South Korean people, and of the gratitude of the South Koreans for the United States Marines. He said the current president of South Korea, Moon Jae-in, tells the story of his own parents being among the 100,000 refugees fleeing from the battle of the Chosin Reservoir, and then rescued by the Marines and put aboard U.S. Navy ships.

A beautiful performance of Korean folk dancing concluded the event.

Dennis Coady, *dennis.oldbreed@fmda.us*

(All photos other than those attributed specifically by Dennis Coady)



Korean folk dancers entertain guests at Inchon observance



General James A. McMonagle (L) and Irv Spector (C) greet General Neller



HA1 Bob Bobst and his daughter Pam have lunch with active duty Marines at Inchon event



General Neller addresses Marines at Inchon commemoration (Photo by LCpl Betzabeth Galvan, MCIW-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton)

mmemoration of 68th Anniversary of Inchon Landing





LCpl Anderson, GySgt Denny Weisgerber, and LCpl Andreke (L-R) at Inchon anniversary venue

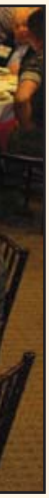




MC Col Napier (L) and General Neller at podium at Inchon event (Photo by Howard Philips)

"Old Corps" and "New Corps" Marines dine at Inchon luncheon







Marines of different generations all smile the same at Inchon luncheon



Guests mingle in a full mess hall at Inchon luncheon

The 71st First Marine Division Associ

As usual a large number of Association members and their guests attended our annual reunion. This year's, our 71st, took place from August 5th through 12th in Colorado Springs, CO. There is no better way to demonstrate the positive receptions attendees had than to show them in pictures. Here are a few.



Some of the 127 attendees at the banquet Saturday evening



Reed King with Donna an
Room



1st Recon's hospitality room



GySgt Denny Weisgerber conducts memorial service



Layout for the silent auc



Volunteers from Marine Corps League's Rocky Mountain detachment



The Board of Directors at the General Membership meeting



Local high school ROTC unit that provided the Color Guard for Saturday's memorial service



Stiletto knife raffle winner A.J. Burn

See ya' next year!

ciation Annual Reunion

Colorado Springs, CO



and Norm Kellems in the Bodfish



SgtMaj Marty Vasquez (L) and Mrs. Harriett Wenhold



Cheryl and President Jerry Johs



uction



Wide view of the items available for the silent auction



American Storytellers print by Andy Thomas for silent auction



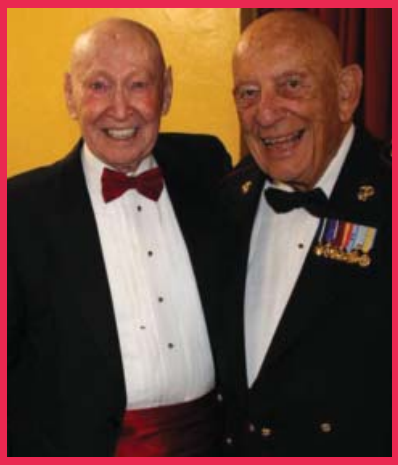
Dick Cesaroni, Paul Wojahn, Marty Vasquez, Elmer Hawkins, and Norm Kellems in the Bodfish Room



Marty Vasquez, guest of honor Col. Paul Nugent, and Steve (Doc) Lakernick (L-R)



John (Mother) Mullan, Catherine Mullan, and June Cormier (L-R)



Reed King (L) and Denny Weisgerber



50/50 raffle winner Paul Wojahn

Chapter Scuttlebutt

News from the Chapters of the 1st Marine Division Association

PHOENIX CHAPTER

On 31 May Bob Bohach, his daughter Sherry, John and Barbara Templeton, Gene Wuestenfeld and Andrew Wellers from Gold Canyon Meat Company arrived at MCAGCC, 29 Palms, CA for the Oscar Austin Award/Steak Fry for E/2/7. Gold Canyon Meat Company provided steaks for this event. That evening Captain Robert Wallace, CO of E/2/7, invited those who attended to the club to spend time with members of the company.

On 1 May Cpl Cory Larson, E/2/7, received the Oscar Austin Award, an engraved K-Bar as well as a certificate of appreciation for his actions while deployed. Also, HM2 Gordon McMichael of E/2/7 received the Richard D. Dewert Award, an engraved K-Bar and certificate of appreciation for his actions while deployed.

After the awards John Templeton presented Captain Wallace with a rendering of the *USS Oscar Austin*, which was signed by various members of the crew as well as the Marine whose life was saved by Pfc. Austin.

Later that month John Templeton and Gene Wuestenfeld attended the change of command as Captain Robert Wallace relinquished command of E/2/7 to Captain Jacob Crockett. At the ceremony the



Members of the Alamo Chapter at their June 2018 meeting

Regimental CO, LtCol Glenn, Captain Wallace, and Captain Crockett individually addressed the audience to specifically thank the Phoenix Chapter for their efforts and continued support of E/2/7.

In appreciation for their generous donation the chapter presented an engraved plaque to Mr. Pete Giannetti, Director, Gold Canyon Meat Company.

The next planned event for E/2/7 will be our chapter's Challenge Coin Presentation prior to their next deployment (TBD).

Gene Wuestenfeld

Former Duty Assignments

Does anybody remember Glynco Naval Air Station? At least one former 1st Division Marine was stationed there in WWII.

PFC JESSE W. CLOPTON

Brunswick, GA Sept. 29—A Henderson, NC Marine who knows what a Japanese bullet feels like when it hits is getting respite from 20 months on Pacific combat duty as a member of the Marine guard detachment at nearby Glynco Naval Air Station.

The Marine is Private First Class Jesse W. Clopton, son of' Mrs. Lillian Clopton…As a member of the famous First Marine Division which initiated an American offensive in this war, young Clopton was wounded by a Japanese rifle bullet on Guadalcanal in November 1942.

Just as the Leathernecks were getting the upper hand over the Japanese defenders he was knocked out of action for 30 days by the hole in his elbow, but remained with his outfit to finish out the Guadalcanal campaign and later to move on to Cape Gloucester, New Britain. He rested in Australia between campaigns.

Clopton has been on duty at the air station here since returning to active duty after spending a 30-day overseas furlough with his mother in Henderson. He is one of two brothers in the service, Lacy W. Clopton being a private in the Army.

(Source: Henderson [NC] Daily Dispatch, September 29, 1944, p. 2)

1st MarDiv: Crack shock troops of the United States

Marine Corps Training Program

Washington, D. C., June 23 [1941]

The intensive training program of the First Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force—crack shock troops of the United States—is being continued at an even greater pace in preparation for any emergency, it was made known here in an announcement by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox.

The fleet unit of the United States Marine Corps, which returned to the United States in April after several months of rugged training maneuvers in the Caribbean and at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has been continuing its fast program at Marine Corps bases at Quantico, Va., and Parris Island, S. C.

The force is developing and improving upon new techniques in landing operations in conjunction with ships of the Atlantic fleet.

The First Marine Division moved into the Caribbean area in October, 1940, and carried on rigorous joint operations with the fleet throughout the winter. In February the Marines conducted strenuous maneuvers in the area of Puerto Rico.

It has also been announced that the new training area of the First Marine Division at New River, N.C. is well under way and temporary facilities for 6000 soldiers of the sea will be completed by July 1.

Additional training facilities have been added to the Marine Base at Quantico, including motor transport, amphibian tractor, water distillation, demolition, camouflage, and signal communication schools.

(Source: The Midland Journal, (Rising Sun, Md.), June 27, 1941)

THE *RARE*
U.S. MARINE CORPS STILETTO

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Brought Back from World War II
In Honor of the 1st Marine Division.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Historically Correct; Authorized by the 1st Marine Division Association;
A Portion of the Proceeds from Each Goes to the Association.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

This 1942 Model Was The *First* Fighting Knife Specifically
Designed *for* Marines, *by* a Marine!

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *



What better symbol of your service as a U.S. Marine than a battleworthy – yet deluxe finished – version of the *first* military knife designed specifically *for Marines and by a Marine!*

Military Knives are symbolic of the owner's willingness to fight up close – eyeball-to-eyeball—with the enemy. This fighting knife was designed, with close combat in mind, by Lt. Col. Clifford H. Shuey, who formed the then-new Engineer Division at H.Q. U.S. Marine Corps. The year was 1942.

The knife was inspired by and based on the most-famous Allied fighting knife of World War II – the early version of the Fairbairn-Sykes Fighting Knife of the Royal Marine Commandos; this knife was also called the British Commando Knife.

But with its updated design and short-run production for U.S. Marines, it was issued to Scouts of the 1st Marine Division and was known among them as the Marine Corps Stiletto. The concept of the knife and the specialized fighting techniques for its use were first identified and taught to the U.S. Marine Raiders; a training cadre of them had been sent to the U.K. to train with the Commandos. The knife instantly captured the respect and admiration of the Raiders, and they called it the U.S. Marine Raider Stiletto.

At the same time, it was known to be issued to Scouts of the 1stMarDiv. As part of the web and woof of the 1st Marine Division's combat armory, it was particularly useful at silently dispatching an enemy sentry at night.

Now, the 1st Marine Division Association has revived this old warrior in a Museum-Quality Limited Edition – the 1st Marine Division Marine Corps Stiletto. Wartime Stilettos are a great rarity and regularly bring $2,000 -- $2,500, even if in just fair condition (a remarkably good one sold on the Internet in May of 2018 – for $4,000).

So, this is a chance to own one in original condition for less than 1/7th the price of a very good wartime original.

Each is a beautiful specimen – so special it is worthy of becoming a family heirloom. But not just beautiful, it is a custom-built military fighting knife, worthy of protecting your home, family, or yourself.

This is also a fundraising project; a portion of the proceeds is presented to our Association.

You are encouraged to take advantage of this rare opportunity, while it is available to Members by placing a reservation, with a deposit of only $59 (refundable).

RESERVATION FORM

☐ Description

- Casting the hilt in place on the tang of each Stiletto requires nearly a half-pound of fine Pewter, which has been used in knife making for centuries. It will not crack or flake off, as the wartime Stilettos are known to do – those hilts were cast of a then-experimental, wartime, Zinc-Aluminum alloy, which failed over time.
- This is the *first* time in history that this-style blade has ever been made of *Stainless Steel,* for long-term quality and beauty. For increased strength, the blades are *thicker* and are *forged* – then hardened, tempered, hand-ground, sharpened and mirror polished in Sheffield England, by a wartime supplier. They are both Battle-Worthy and Presentation Grade..
- The Special Edition 1st Marine Division identificaion inscription, with the Division's symbol, is custom etched across the blade.
- Custom etched on the blade reverse are the trademark of H.G. Long & Co. of Sheffield England (established in 1847) and the Limited Edition Serial Number. Overall length: 12".
- A Certificate of Authenticity, numbered to match your Limited Edition 1st Division Stiletto, is included.
- Two different Hilt Finishes – two different Limited Editions.
  - ☐ The Hilt at top shows the **World War II-Finish**, Limited Edition of 500. Serially numbered. Price: $249.
  - ☐ The Hilt below exhibits the **High-Polished Edition**. Limited to 100. Serially numbered. Price: $279.



- Leather Sheath (Optional):
  - ☐ Deluxe, high-quality, U.S.-made, thick leather sheath. Price: $49.



- Display Case (Optional):
  - ☐ Dark American Oak; 6" x 18" x 2"; locking glass lid; displays flat or upright on shelf or mantel; with wall-hanging provisions. Price: $59.



- Personalization:
  - ☐ Etch your name, or that of your Marine ancestor, personal info, etc. on the blade reverse. Maximum of 30 letters and spaces per line; 2 lines available; specify text. Price: $59.
- Shipping, handling & insurance, please add:
  - ☐ $16 – (UPS within CONUS/48),
  - ☐ $10 – APO if deployed-- by Post Office
  - ☐ $50 – Outside CONUS/48 -- by Post Office

For deliveries within Virginia (only), please add 5.3% sales tax.

Satisfaction is guaranteed, or return in 30 days for a full refund, including shipping charges *both* ways.



The blade point is so strong it is shown here, after it cut a quarter in half, with a hammer pounding on the butt of the Limited Edition Stiletto.

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Richmond, VA 23225

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Welcome Aboard!

* Life Member

New Members of the 1st Marine Division Association

NAME	UNIT	ADDRESS	PHONE	RECRUITER
NEW MEMBERS				
CPL PAUL B BISBEE	1 & 2 RECON BLT 115	1844 MILL ST, INNISFIL ONTARIO L9S1Z9, CANADA	705-436-7975	Dave Doc Snider
SGTMAJ TROY E BLACK	G-2 Bn 1Mar, 3d Bn 7Mar	19101 GEIGER RD, QUANTICO, VA 22134	540-424-7106	
MAJ/04 CAMILO CHINEA	Service Co HQ Bn 1MarDiv	16403 SW 79TH LANE, MIAMI, FL 33193	1-786-863-4779	SSgt Thomas Matteo
SGT MICHAEL T COLLINS	1 RECON BN VN	10421 S 51ST CT, OAK LAWN, IL 60453	708-822-7471	LtCol Charles Kershaw
SGT GERALD A CRAWFORD	1 Mar Wing HHM362	1911 E HAVASU LAKE DR, FORT MOHAVE, AZ 86426	702-244-0083	
COL CLAUDE 'NICK' N CRESSY USA (Ret)	C 1/5 KO	5654 MIRABEL LN, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80923	719-574-3683	
E-4 CPL PAUL A GUISTO	4th Div USMCR	1213 LARKIN DR, SONOMA, CA 95476	707-479-2135	
E-4 CPL HARRY F HANDY		3050 PARK AVE N.E., SALEM, OH 97301		Bob Brieske
KATHY JOHNSON		34522 N SCOTTSDALE RD, STE 120, 85266		
E-4 STEPHEN F JOYCE	W 2/11 VN	16 CRANDE DR, MARLTON, NJ 08053	856-396-0451	
E-5 SGT MICHAEL T KOSS	3rd Bn 5th Marines	10401 SKI DR, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73162	405-658-6587	
E-4 CPL LAWRENCE MICHAEL LANGE	WHSKY BTRY 2-11 VN	10 ELECTRA CIRCLE, THE WOODLANDS, TX 77382	713-299-4362	
E-5 HM2 JOHN DOC LOUDERMILK	C 1/5 VN	348 GRANDVIEW DR, SHEPHERDSVILLE, KY 40165	502-257-2002	
CPL E-4 MICHAEL R MOFFET	W BTRY 2-11, 4-11 HQ	51 W WASHINGTON ST, JAMESTOWN, OH 45335	937-872-5049	
E-6 ROBERT E PERKIONIEMI	H&S 2/7, 3 FSSG	4776 EL MOLINA AVE, RIVERSIDE, CA 92504		
E-4 CPL CARLOS G RATCLIFF	1st Recon Bn	130 SELF ST, LOT #14, SULPHUR, LA 70663	936-546-2145	
E-4 CPL ZACHARY M REDDEN	1-Mar	100 MCGUIRE ST, NORTH BENNINGTON, VT 05267	802-430-9127	Marty Vasquez
BRIANNA L RIOS		14510 BLUFF POINT CT, GAINESVILLE, VA 20155	571-393-8206	Vince Rios
MRS ELENA ROHDE	ASSOCIATE	11 SUNNY LANE, BETHPAGE, NY 11714	516-433-5212	
BGEN STEPHEN D SKLENKA	7th Marines	205 NICHOLAS ST, OCEANSIDE, CA 92058	760-468-5143	
SHARON BRADSHAW SMITH		4636 COPPERFIELD RD, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23455	757-408-9295	
SUNDANCE AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, INC.		10110 W 26TH AVE, LAKEWOOD, CA 80215	303-445-4869	
MR. DANNY R TIEDEMANN		33928 RAILFENCE RD, ALTA, CA 95701	530-308-1324	Thomas Tiedemann
CPL GABRIEL R VARELA RET	VMA (AW) 242, MAG11	4611 FRONT ROYAL DR, MCHENRY, IL 60050	847-809-2472	
MRS HARRIETT WENHOLD	ASSOCIATE	508 E 6TH ST, LANSDALE, PA 19446	215-362-6910	
*SGT E-5 JAMES C WILSON	11-Mar	277 CORAL GABLES, TRINITY, TX 75862	281-851-8430	
CAPT CHARLES L WOODLEY	K 3/16 5MAB, I 3/1 1MARDIV	349 W 31ST AVE, SAN MATEO, CA 94403	650-349-4670	
RENEWAL TO LIFE				
*CAPTAIN PAUL WARD APHOLT	1-Jan	94 MINGE COVE RD , ALTON BAY , NH 03810		
*MAJ LESLIE R CONKLIN USMC	HQ CO 7TH ENGINEER BN	4331 E TERRA VISTA LN, ANAHEIM, CA 92807		
CAPT DAVID B DOWNING	3-7MAR VN	78365 HIGHWAY 111 #440, LA QUINTA, CA 92253-2071		
*COL MARTIN C HIGGINS	E-2-7 1RECON VN	1453 LAKE JAMES DR, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464		
*PFC DAN W SILVERS	E-2BN 7MAR	10925 1ST AVE N, PLYMOUTH, MN 55441		
REINSTATED				
*CAPTAIN PAUL WARD APHOLT		94 MINGE COVE RD , ALTON BAY , NH 03810		
*MAJ LESLIE R CONKLIN USMC	HQ CO 7TH ENGINEER BN	4331 E TERRA VISTA LN, ANAHEIM, CA 92807		
CAPT DAVID B DOWNING	3-7MAR VN	78365 HIGHWAY 111 #440, LA QUINTA, CA 92253-2071		
*COL MARTIN C HIGGINS	E-2-7 1RECON VN	1453 LAKE JAMES DR, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23464		
*PFC DAN W SILVERS	E-2BN 7MAR	10925 1ST AVE N, PLYMOUTH, MN 55441		

A LONG DAY IN THE ARIZONA TERRITORY

By Bill Buchanan

On 13 December at Phu Lac, the pre-dawn glow on the eastern horizon silhouetted marines of Second Platoon preparing for a company-sized combat patrol. The only sounds were low whispers, the dull clank of body armor, weapons, and helmets, the jangle of machine gun belts thrown over already burdened young shoulders, the chink of rounds driven home in the chambers of M-14s as groggy warriors passed through the concertina. A sticky film already forming on the backs of our necks foretold another stifling day. Today, G Company would move out in a "reconnaissance in force" to challenge the R-20 Main Force VC Battalion in its own lair: the mysterious and untested terrain east of grid line 94— "Arizona Territory."

By mid-morning we were two kilometers northeast of Phu Lac crouching beside sandy hummocks of dry reeds and grasses along a tributary of the Song Ba Ren. We had moved well along the sandy riverbank. Even so, as we passed an enemy position we had come to call "Ambush Site Two," a couple of rounds buzzed overhead from the far tree line. Kneeling behind me, our former VC "Chieu Hoi Nguen Dau thought it might be a warning to other VC units, since they had no radios. I sensed that the same VC unit that had hit us numerous times was bunkered in at Le Bac, so I had the forward observer put about ten 81mm mortar rounds in there, just for drill. The radio net was jammed for a while, so I moved the platoon down the riverbank slowly until it cleared. Meanwhile, we could watch the "fire for effect" thud into the village that we had burned twice already.

Corporal Crum held up Third Squad at the banks of the Song Ba Ren. Beyond, I could see 400 meters of open sand marbled with ribbons of slate colored water. On the far side was a tree line that would be perfect for a classic R-20 Battalion ambush: resist the temptation to open fire until the hated "Thuy Quan Luc Chien My" (U.S. Marines) had entered the kill zone and had no cover.

This time it would be different. When Captain Gruner agreed to a brief 105mm artillery barrage into the tree line, I asked that the last few rounds be "Willy peter" (military jargon for white phosphorous—a substance that creates not only horrible burns on human skin, but creates gigantic billows of white smoke). The battery at An Hoa rumbled like distant thunder, then six artillery rounds shrieked overhead and detonated on target throwing up grey clouds of smoke and debris. I told Crum to get Third Squad ready to move.

Immediately after the Forward Observer announced, "Last rounds out," I yelled, "Move out on the double!" We were 50 yards out into the Song Ba Ren when brilliant white cumulus enveloped the far banks. Some of the machine gunners were sinking up to their ankles into the wet sand. The water was cold, but not as deep as it had looked at first. I noticed that the white phosphorous smoke was drifting too fast, so I yelled, "Hustle it! Move it out!" Soon we were climbing the far bank and setting in among the dunes, waiting for First and Second Squads to catch up. We were so winded, I just pointed to positions and marines stumbled wordlessly into them. All of us were drenched in sweat and river water. So far, not a round had been fired. Then all hell broke loose.

An African-American machine gunner was moving into position behind a locked gate when the tree line beyond a pasture ignited like a row of stage lights at opening night on Broadway. Instinctively, he dropped to the ground and unleashed a stream of red 7.62mm tracers, taking a shard of metal in his ring finger from enemy bullets that were ricocheting off the grillwork in front of him. How he survived the initial fusillade, I'll never know. The VC gunners had him dead to rights.

Third Squad was now heavily engaged. As I began to move First Squad behind them towards the left flank, leaving Second Squad in reserve, a tall rifleman took a round in the right leg. I swear I saw it streaking in from a high angle: probably from a sniper in a tree. "Doc" Salisberry crawled over and stopped the bleeding with a tourniquet.

I called, "Snipers up!" Two marines scuttled over, keeping low in the grass, obviously eager to go to work. I directed them to a gap in the hedgerow, which afforded a view across the opening. They positioned their scoped Remington sniper rifles and watched for targets of opportunity. Three more marines went down, but I continued to move the squad left to broaden our front facing the enemy. As our volume of fire grew, that of the enemy slacked. I briefed Captain Gruner on the radio and suggested that Third Platoon assault on our right flank, as we were blocked by a thick hedgerow and fence.

Soon we had linked up with the assaulting squads from Third Platoon and were examining several enemy prisoners, including one we located in a fighting hole covered with a nylon camouflage cape. He couldn't have been older than sixteen. My machine gunner had pumped a round into his left shoulder. It was swollen and purple and you could tell that he was on the edge of shock. His Chinese submachine gun lay next to the hole with several dings in it from the encounter. Later we learned from Third Platoon that they had seen several "khaki-clad soldiers" on the far side of the pasture. Thinking they were South Vietnamese or Korean, the marines held their fire. In fact, they probably were North Vietnamese advisors to the R-20 VC Main Force "Doc Lap" (Independence) Battalion. The captured VC soldier winced as we pulled him from the hole and dragged him towards a group of wounded marines and prisoners that soon would be flown by

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We were so winded, I just pointed to positions and marines stumbled wordlessly into them. All of us were drenched in sweat and river water. So far, not a round had been fired. Then all hell broke loose.

medevac helicopter to Danang.

I peered over his shoulder as Dau examined some documents taken from the prisoners; one appeared to be a list of names. Sure enough, he confirmed that it was a paymaster's roster with names of his former VC comrades.

After the whup, whup, whup of the medevac helicopter faded in the distance, the radio crackled with orders to continue the reconnaissance in force. The company moved southeast through banana groves, open fields, and rice paddies, occasionally finding abandoned and destroyed villages. Always we sensed the presence of small armed bands of VC tracking us on the periphery, anticipating and preparing the best ambush sites.

As the day wore on it became obvious it would be a long one. The company had just turned the bend on a long looping route to the northeast from Phu Lac across the eastern tip of Go Noi Island. In the span of 10 hours we had fought our way through grid squares 9654, 9753 and 9652. Sensing our homeward vector, the VC stepped up the pressure. Twenty-five yards ahead of me in a bend in the trail, I saw a lance corporal dive into the bushes just as a sniper bullet tore through the air and smacked into the trail beside him. Our fusillade of return fire silenced the sniper. Somewhere along the way we acquired another prisoner: the paymaster whose ledgers we had captured earlier in the day. He was not a happy camper. Corporal Charles "Chip" Mohney, right guide for Third Platoon, found himself on point again, dealing with the complexities of land navigation and exposed traverses across sandbars…

"We were going through this really, really big village. I was point and I came to a trail junction and, quite frankly, I was lost. I wasn't sure where the hell I was. I'm getting told over the radio, 'Move it out. Move it out.' They're pushing, pushing, pushing. I'm thinking to myself, 'Shit. You ought to be up here.' When you're on point and these guys are getting killed day-in and day-out and you're getting told on the radio, 'Move it out. Move it out,' you get to a point where you start taking things in your own hands, going as slow as you can, going as carefully as you can.

Lost in this ville at a trail junction, I stopped. I put my men out in a hasty one-eighty defense. I'm kneeling down with the map, trying to figure out where I was, catching hell on the radio. I'm next to a hedgerow and here comes all this crashing through the hedgerow. So, I'm thinking it's Captain Glasgow or Captain Gruner, you know, to get me unscrewed on where I'm at and get us moving again. I didn't pay it no mind until I look up and there is a NVA soldier holding a rifle. There he is, bigger than life, holding the rifle. One guy, all by himself.

I jump up, stand straight up. This guy looks at me. I'm telling you I can smell his breath, I'm that close. He looks at me and throws his brand-new SKS rifle up in the air. I'm so freakin' flabbergasted I watch the rifle going up in the air as he takes off running down the trail. I slap my M-14 up into my shoulder, ready to let loose with a 20-round burst but he's running right toward my men so I stop squeezing the trigger. They don't see him 'cause they're looking outboard in the hasty one-eighty. I start yelling, turn around! Turn around! Get him! Get him!' Well by the time my men realize what's going on, he's gone. Disappeared down the trail. Well then, Captain Glasgow does come up, picks up this SKS rifle. I get chewed up one side and down the other. Number one, I guess, for getting lost. Number two, not killing this guy. Well, if my men weren't in front of him, he would have been dead.

With darkness approaching, Captain Gruner decided to move as swiftly as possible back to base. Throughout the day, the company had pushed aggressively through the flat countryside, looking for trouble in Go Noi Island and finding it from small, scattered bands of VC. It had been a rear-guard fight since we began looping back home. Now it was time to break contact and move back to the relative security of the trenches and bunkers inside the concertina at Phu Lac.

Captain Gruner designated a squad from my platoon as point element for the move across almost a kilometer of open riverbank that sloped gently south towards a dark tangle of trees and underbrush on the opposite bank. It would be a long, exposed traverse, but the road back to Phu Lac lay hidden in the far tree line. I assembled my squad leaders and issued orders: 2nd and 3rd Squads would remain with the main body of the company and join us once we secured the far riverbank. I reminded the marines of First Squad who would be with me in the traverse to move quickly, to keep an eye on the tree line and avoid bunching up. Since we would be exposed to enemy fire the whole way with not even a pebble for cover, our interval spacing would be extreme. I instructed the squad to concentrate fire on the first enemy position that engaged us, then traverse to the next obvious target.

"Move out," I ordered.

We walked briskly across the sand in wedge formation, senses on full alert despite our exhaustion. After about 700 yards the tree line loomed malevolently before us beyond a steep, narrow gully like a voracious green monster waiting to devour us.

Crack! Crack! Crack! …The unmistakable report of AK-47 rounds snapped around our ears, throwing each of us into an evasive roll on the sand, followed by a bounce onto our feet to fire from the hip in unison, then a desperate sprint forward into what could be our salvation or our ultimate destruction—a thick wall of jungle. Marines crashed through the underbrush and flopped down beside me into firing positions gasping for air and scanning the canopy for snipers. Silence enveloped us. Nothing moved.

We regrouped and moved cautiously uphill, still in wedge formation. Beyond the open country we had just traversed, we could hear G Company engaging small bands of VC who were firing from the tree line behind them. Then the thunder from

An Hoa rolled, heralding a volley of 105mm howitzer rounds that tore through the air above us, making a sound like ripping fabric, then falling against the darkening horizon to detonate in impressive explosions of smoke, sand, and tree limbs. I hustled my radioman Shipley into the entrance of a nearby bunker until the mission ended: no sense both of us falling victim to a short round. Half a dozen volleys gave the company a chance to resume their movement towards us.

Back on the other side of the river, Sgt. Dale Farnham, the Second Platoon Guide, was soon to receive a promotion and a decoration courtesy of the Viet Cong…

We were on the sand bar and we got hit as we were going across. A machine gun was in the sand bar and…they were shooting at us and we made sort of like a frontal assault across an open area. One of the machine guns, and I think it was from Barry's Squad, jammed up. They couldn't get it to fire, so I ran up there and I says, 'What's wrong?' And he says, 'Well, the sand's clogged it all up, you know.' Well, in the citation for the Bronze Star they said I poured my canteen water on it. I didn't. I pissed all over it. I just pissed on it, washed it off, and it started firing again.

Second Squad leader Joe Barry, left behind with the G Company command group, remembers a feeling of extreme vulnerability.

"I was on one side of the riverbed. Sergeant Mack was standing on the other side, his radioman down behind him. A .30 caliber was firing on us. I'm out on a sand bar with one of my men and the VC, they're getting the range. Now they've crossed back and forth with their traversing mechanism, crossed the sand with machine gun fire, and they just keep creeping up trying to get us.

"Just about the time it would have happened, the fire mission finally was, you know, successful …no spotter rounds. They immediately fired for effect. The whole tree line lit up. You know, really good coordinates. Sergeant Mack wouldn't let me go across over the river to join up with Lieutenant Buchanan. He said, 'Already too many people over there.' He didn't want us bunching up. Where I was, I didn't realize how dangerous it was. The guy with me got a "John Wayne" wound, I called it. The round just creased his shoulder and, you know, you could see the whole ball of the shoulder. And I didn't—I'm no medic or anything—I just pulled out a compress and covered it the best I could. But on your shoulder like that, it's not going to stay.

When they hit the CP, Gruner and I and the radio operator, we dove behind big anthills that were there. And an enemy machine gunner was off to the east. He was just takin' out the anthill that my radio operator and I were behind; and I couldn't understand—the thing was just coming apart.

And, I mean, when the action was all over, he was praising me up and down: 'You saved my life. You saved my life.' And I said, 'Hey, look. That's a "John Wayne" wound. That's nothing. It didn't even hit the bone, you know? You're going to be fine.' But it did rip the muscle and well, later on, I don't know if he talked to the medic or what, he said, 'You could have killed me!' I thought I did what I could, you know. I covered it up and…what are you going to do with these Marines?"

On our side of the river, AK 47s firing in the direction of the beleaguered company headquarters broke out from the edge of the trees not 50 yards downhill from us. I formed the squad on line, then moved them through the darkening trees with hand signals towards what sounded like more than one automatic weapon. As soon as I could see light through the undergrowth, I gave the signal for a sustained rate of fire, indicating they should shoot low to compensate for the slope. The smoke and falling vegetation from our fusillade cleared and the enemy fire fell silent.

Lieutenant Marc Glasgow, the company Executive Officer, remembers the extremely exposed position the headquarters group was in as they tried to cross the open sand towards us…

"When they opened up on Buchanan's squad, they were pretty far through it. Before that happened, I did not want to go through there, so I discussed with Gruner about going 'round. But we didn't have time; it was getting late in the day. He deemed that we had to go through that open space while Second Platoon was going forward. When they hit the CP, Gruner and I and the radio operator, we dove behind big anthills that were there. And an enemy machine gunner was off to the east. He was just takin' out the anthill that my radio operator and I were behind; and I couldn't understand—the thing was just coming apart.

Pretty soon we had to move, or the bullets were going to come through. He was just taking it apart, and I couldn't understand how he knew where I was with the radio operator. Gruner was up behind another one. That's the first time I recall seein' what we called a Marine Corps gunship. It was a Huey with machine guns on the side. They called that in. That's what they sent for air support. That's all they could get to help us get out of that mess. By that time, I think Buchanan and the Second Platoon squad was in the tree line. We were stuck in the middle.

There was a platoon behind us. I turned around and this VC machine gunner that was taking the Goddamned anthills apart, was going to get the whole CP. I told Staff Sergeant Carter, the Platoon Sergeant, 'Go kill that guy.' And he did. They went and they killed the machine gunner. They circled around on his flank and killed him.

Back in our position across the river, Shipley's radio came alive. "Sir," he said to me, holding the handset to his right ear. "Sergeant Mack has been hit. Some more marines are down and they had to shoot that VC prisoner who was trying to escape. Bruner says they're almost out of ammo." By that time, we could barely see across the Song Ba Ren.

The dank night air, alive with insect song, enveloped us like the shroud of death itself. The rest of the company arrived and we linked up finally with Second and Third Squads. Soon we were in column formation on the road to Phu Lac. It was so dark we almost had to perform what Staff Sergeant Bill Curt, my Platoon Leader's Course drill instructor at Quantico, Virginia, delighted in calling "The Elephant Walk"—grabbing the

entrenching tool of the marine in front of you—as punishment for failing to keep a regulation interval. We were under strength, exhausted, and almost out of ammunition. My utilities emitted a sulfurous stench like a pile of rotting cabbage. Everyone was braced mentally for an ambush by a VC unit that had maneuvered into an ideal position during the skirmish by the river. That would be the final straw. Soon we could see the bulk of Phu Lac rising against the sky before us, could feel the ground tilting upwards towards home.

Corporal "Chip" Mohney recalled a very dicey situation…

"At the end of that day, just about everybody was out of ammunition, so we redistributed ammo. But there was no sense in me getting any because I could not kick my chamber open. I got the operating rod handle on the M14 on the ground and I'm kicking it but it won't move. It was full of sand. Whoever had them fixed bayonets and then we made the long walk home in the dark. Thank God nobody hit us. Not one round. Well, they might have ran out of ammo, too. Oh, it was dark."

The real point of the spear that night was Charles Gutierrez, a 22-year-old corporal from Albuquerque, New Mexico who found himself leading the column home through the menacing darkness…

"Man, it was so dark the trail was just a little white blur I could barely make out. We tried to move as quiet as we could so we wouldn't get ambushed. Many times the trail would turn, then I would have to kneel in the dark and wait to hear the footsteps of the man behind catchin' up with me. It was nerve wracking. We were all just tired as hell, but we had to pay attention so the marines at Phu Lac wouldn't shoot us when we got close to the wire."

Despite the casualties, the feeling was that G Company had entered the dreaded "Arizona Territory" and had tested the enemy in his Go Noi Island lair. We had shown them they no longer were masters of that sanctuary; that we would hunt them down beyond grid line 94 on our own timetable. As I stood at my traditional spot that night, ushering my marines through the gap in the concertina, one of them remarked, "God damn, lieutenant. We kicked some butt today!"

So much for the myth of the Arizona Territory, or so we thought.

Korean Consulate Recognizes 1MarDiv

June 27, 2018 Camp Pendleton, California

Leaders of the 1st Marine Division were recognized and thanked by the Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles, Kim Wan-joong. Awarded plaques of recognition were MajGen Eric M. Smith, Col Christopher S. Dowling, and SgtMaj William T. Sowers.

A Korean barbecue beef banquet was provided by longtime friend of the Division, Chester Yong Park, Chairman of Marine House USA.

The honorees and about 100 Division staff members and guests enjoyed lunch at 1st Division HQ. MajGen (Ret) James McMonagle and MajGen (Ret) William C. Groeniger III were among honored guests.



Col Christopher S. Dowling, MajGen (Ret) James McMonagle, MajGen (Ret) William C. Groeniger III, SgtMaj William T. Sowers, chairman Chester Yoon Park, and MajGen Eric M. Smith outside Waltzing Matilda's at 1st Division Headquarters, Camp Pendleton, California (L-R)

Quote:

"The Marines I have seen around the world have the cleanest bodies, the filthiest minds, the highest morale, and the lowest morals of any group of animals I have ever seen. Thank God for the United States Marine Corps!"

.....Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the United States, 1945

Looking for Basra veteran to interview

I have begun interviews for a one to two volume work of autobiographical interviews of men that fought in U.S. military actions since the Vietnam War. I would like to include an interview with a Marine who fought in the Iraq War battle for Basra, which began on March 22, 2003. I would also like to interview a Marine who took part in the attack on Fallujah, which began on April 5, 2004.

The purpose of the interviews would be to add information about the war, so readers can gain an understanding of the force gathered by the U.S. and allies and how it was applied in combat. I hope to find men who took part in these battles and who have the ability to tell about what each saw before, during, and after the battle, as well as to tell (with knowledge acquired long after the battle) about how the overall battle unfolded, and the weapons each side used.

As you know, information about these matters is available in books and on-line. However, I want to give it to readers in concise, magazine-type stories that have substantial amounts of first-hand reporting in them and can enliven otherwise dry facts.

If anyone is interested, contact Norman Black, *npblack2003@yahoo.com*.

Korean War MIAs Recently Identified

Here is the up-to-date list of Korean War MIAs ID's as of July 24, 2018.

NAME	UNIT	DATE/PLACE LOST
U.S. Marine Corps		
Pfc. Roger Gonzales	U.S.M.C. Reserve F/2/7 1st Marine Div.	11/29/1950 NK
Sgt. Meredith F. Keirn	F/2/7 1st Marine Div.	11/30/1950 NK



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Life Member = 6; Total = $435.00

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• CPL IRVIN A MAY USMC (Ret)	16th	50
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***CPL DANNY R APPLE**, VN, GREENSBORO, NC, 1/2/2014

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CLAY BRACE, , Vancouver, WA, 5/13/2018

***LTCOL WAYNE H BRANDON**, K-3-5 VN, CLIFTON, TN, 7/3/2018

***LCDR WILLIAM L CHILDERS** USN(RET.), D-1TK KO VN, DALLAS, TX,

CPL BERNARD (BERNIE) D CRESSY, C-1-5 KO, LAS VEGAS, NV, 9/22/2015

MAJ HAROLD L DAWE Jr USMC (Ret), C-1-5 MAG11 WWII KO , ARVADA, CO, 8/9/2018

***CPL ALFRED J DELLAERA**, I-3-1 WWII, FAIRFIELD, CT, 4/30/2018

***CPL PAUL S DEMEIS**, HQ/A-1-5 WWII CH, SIMI VALLEY, CA, 10/28/2008

***CPL ROY J HERSHBERGER,** C-1TK WWII CH, GOSHEN, IN, 5/29/2018

***MSGT PAUL G HUGHES** USMC (Ret), MAG-14 VMO6 WWII KO, SUTHERLIN, OR, 8/9/2017

***CAPT ARTHUR MOH** J JACKSON USAR (Ret), I-3-7 WWII CH, BOISE, ID, 6/14/2017

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***SSGT ELWOOD LITTERAL,** A-1-5 KO, LAKE CITY, FL,

COL PAUL G MCMAHON USMC (Ret), H-3-11 1MAW KO VN, SPRINGFIELD, VA, 3/7/2009

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***SGT ROCCO MITCHELL**, A-1-5 WWII, LYNN, MA, 5/18/2006

SGT GUY V MOLINARI, H&S-7 MAR KO, STATEN ISLAND, NY,

CPL EDWARD A MOORE, C-1-5, BRYN MAWR, PA, 9/24/2017

***SGT DUANE H NEWTON Jr**, VMF(N)513 KO, BELLEVUE, WA, 3/26/2018

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

Feedback/Letters to the Editor

Why there aren't many Chosin Reservoir survivors

I couldn't help but notice the article "Let's Hear it for WWII/Korean Veterans" in the March-April 2018 issue, p. 75, of *The Graybeards*, the Korean War Veterans Association's magazine. As a recalled Marine Corps veteran with four years of prior service I have to agree with my old friend Warren Wiedhahn that there are not many survivors of the Chosin Reservoir battle. I would be surprised if there are more than 2,500.

The average age of a Chosin Reservoir participant must have been in the mid-20s. The 1st Marine Division in particular was fleshed out with senior NCOs and officer corps veterans from WWII, many of whom were combat tested. This fact alone was the primary reason the 1st Marine Division was so exemplary in its combat effectiveness. It was, without question, the most lethal combat unit ever fielded.

Ironically, the Korean War saved the Marine Corps from extinction, as Truman, Bradley, Marshall, Eisenhower, Spaatz, Collins, and Secretary of Defense Johnson all conspired in 1947 to destroy the Marine Corps with their "Unification Act."

John Mixon, B Co., 1st Tank Bn., 1st Marine
Division, 6311 Barcelona Dr.,
Bakersfield, CA 93306

Editor's Note: Technically the National Security Act of 1947 saved the Marine Corps. It restructured the U.S. government's military and intelligence agencies following World War II. The majority of the provisions of the Act took effect on September 18, 1947, the day after the Senate confirmed James Forrestal as the first Secretary of Defense.

The Act merged the Department of War (renamed as the Department of the Army) and the Department of the Navy into the National Military Establishment (NME), headed by the Secretary of Defense. It also created the Department of the Air Force and the United States Air Force, which separated the Army Air Forces into its own service. It protected the Marine Corps as an independent service, under the Department of the Navy.

Aside from the military reorganization, the act established the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S.'s first peacetime non-military intelligence agency. *(Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Security_Act_ of_1947)*

The signing did not mean the Marine Corps was protected forever, though. As Alan Rems wrote in his article, "Semper Fidelis: Defending the Marine Corps:"

"But the fight was far from over. Vandegrift's successor, General Clifton B. Cates, correctly observed that the law was "not a refuge but a battle position which must be defended in full force." Until the attacks abated during the Korean War, the Marine Corps needed to reengage in a battle for survival. Most needed was a voice on the JCS, which began in 1952 when the Commandant was invited to attend discussions involving the Corps, and was fully realized in 1978 when full membership was obtained. Other milestones included appointment of the first Marine as JCS chairman in 2005 and selection with overwhelming bipartisan support of a retired Marine general, James Mattis, as Secretary of Defense in 2017." (Naval History, June 2017, Vol. 31, No. 3)

Was it really this peaceful at Inchon?

This is what Americans back home were reading about Inchon two days after the invasion:

Between the Marine lines and Kimpo were flat ricelands. Between them and Seoul itself were many ridges which could be defended if the North Korean Reds had the men and guns. But the leathernecks long since had taken more than enough territory to defend the beachhead they had stormed and won.

Port Secured

Maj. Gen. Oliver P. Smith, the Marine commander, established a command post at Inchon. That indicated the security of the port which South Korean Marines cleaned out last night. UN naval guns and aircraft blasted and burned most of Inchon into wreckage. Rear Adm. Won Yil Sohn of the South Korean navy said it was two-thirds destroyed. One fire still smoldered tonight near the waterfront. A large brick building stood with huge, gaping shell holes in its walls

The admiral said that the Korean Reds expected a UN landing several days ago.

But only two North Koreans were there, he said, and they were killed, fled, or captured.

Little Fighting

Only a little fighting occurred last night before Republican Marines took over the city, the admiral reported.

A few dead dotted the streets of Inchon. The odor of death hung faintly over the debris. Passive Korean civilians poked through their shattered homes.

Youngsters swarmed around the Americans. Now and then an adult flashed a greeting nothing more.

The UN liberation forces quickly stirred the battered port into activity from the pall that followed bombardment. Supply troops worked feverishly unloading munitions and food. They had to get as much as possible done in the few hours before the receding tide left an expanse of impassable gray mud banks.

The landing fleet lay offshore, guns stilled.

FMDA Joins Celebration of Women Serving in the Marine Corps

'100 Years Proud 1918 – 2018!'

The Women Marines Association (WMA) hosted its 30th Biennial Convention and Professional Development Symposium this August 30th through September 3rd in Washington, D.C. This year's convention marked 100 years of women serving in the Corps. The 1st Marine Division Association was there to support them.

President Jerry Johs, Deputy Vice President, West James Fossos, Treasurer A.J. Burn, Director-at-Large Steve 'Doc' Lakernick, and member Col. Eric P. Visser traveled to D.C. to join the celebration. The gathering ended on Labor Day with the closing banquet, at which LtGen Loretta Reynolds served as guest speaker.

The WMA is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization comprised of women who have served or are serving honorably in the United States Marine Corps regular or reserve components. (https://www.womenmarines.org/)



Marines display current and historical uniforms at WM gathering



A.J. Burn and LtGen Loretta Reynolds



Jim Fossos and LtGen Loretta Reynolds



Steve Lakernick, Jerry Johs, Eric P. Visser, Colonel, USMC (Ret), and A.J. Burn (L-R) at WM convention



Eric P. Visser, Colonel, USMC (Ret.), Nanci Visser, LtCol, USMC (Ret), LtGen William "Mark" Faulkner,USMC (Ret.), President and CEO of the Marine Corps Association and Foundation, Charles "Chuck" Ables, LtCol, USMC (Ret.), seated, President Jerry Johs, Kathleen Ables, Major USMC (Ret.).



Eric P. Visser, Jim Fossos, LtGen Loretta Reynolds, A.J. Burn and Chuck Ables (Standing L-R); Jerry Johs and Steve ("Doc") Lakernick (Seated L-R) at WM convention

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2002 —

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