



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Central Bucks Detachment

P.O. Box 1372

Doylestown, PA 18901

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## CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 1990

The first year of the 90's decade is winding down. It hasn't been a totally uneventful twelve months though, since the Persian Gulf crisis and "Operation Desert Shield" has provided a setting for an additional chapter in the Marine Corps history book. So far it has been a cat-and-mouse game with Saddam Hussein, and if things go right, the major combat will be at the conference table, rather than on the desert sands. However, if this is not to be, our fighting Marines, along with other United Nation forces, will do whatever is necessary to bring the conflict to a satisfactory conclusion. We can only hope that it is swift and decisive.

Aside from world problems, it is time to wish all our Detachment members and their families a very Merry Christmas, along with a happy and prosperous New Year.

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DETACHMENT MEETING ON NOVEMBER 14

- \* All officers and fifteen members were present, along with one visitor, Lance Cpl. Mary Waldron, (daughter of our Jr. Vice Cmdt. Mike Waldron), who is on leave after returning from Okinawa, and will report to Cherry Point for assignment.
- \* Our two newest members, Don Gee and Robert Randle, were given the official induction ceremony by Detachment members. Bob is a transfer from the Penn-York Detachment. Don was recently elected President of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association.
- \* Mike Waldron gave a report on the Beirut Memorial Ceremony at Penns Landing on October 21, which was highlighted by the attendance of Marine Corps Commandant General Al Grey, who was guest speaker.
- \* The Marine Corps Birthday Ball was held on November 10 at the Valley Forge Sheraton, with three Detachments participating: Valley Forge, All Divisions, and Central Bucks. Guest of Honor was Admiral N. Ronald Thunman. A fine turnout from the Detachment members and their guests resulted in a gala evening by all.
- \* A possible bus trip to Marine Barracks at 8th and I Streets in Washington for the Evening Parade may be forthcoming in June. More on that later.
- \* Bill Haas and Bill Plant offered to donate 12 Thanksgiving turkeys for any needy dependents of military personnel who are serving overseas with Operation "Desert Shield". Cmdt. Parzanese will attempt to get names of anyone in this situation.

"Leatherneck" license plates will be made available for purchase as soon as Penn Dot approves the design.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 1990, (2000 hours), at the American Legion Home in Doylestown.

## 'Butter bar' stands tall... as cookies prove enough for all

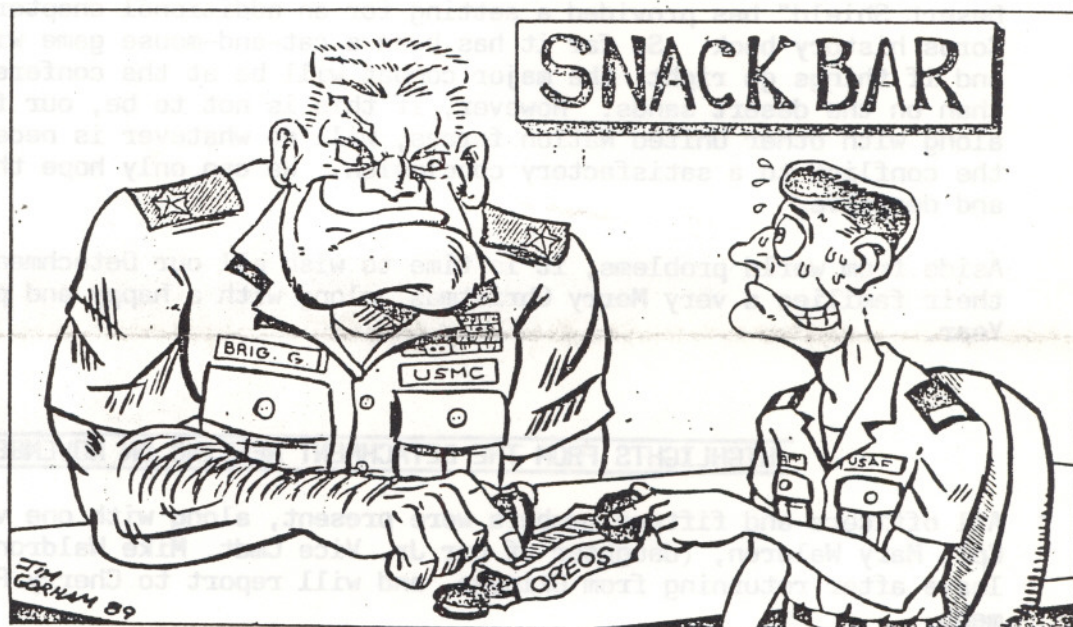
By W. Mitchell Clapp  
LOWRY AFB, COLO.

Every second lieutenant acquires embarrassing memories when he wears his gold bars; it seems to come with the job. The first time the Air Force sent me on temporary duty by myself, I experienced probably the most embarrassing moment of my life, which I'll relate in hopes that other butter bars out there won't make the same mistake.

I was travelling from Wright-Patterson to Vandenburg AFB. In an airport bar, I bought a cup of coffee, a package of Oreos and a newspaper. After giving the cashier the nine bucks or so that these items cost, I scanned the crowded seating area for a place to relax. The lounge was crowded, but there appeared to be a spot across from a fellow in a military uniform of some sort. "Great!" I thought, "another soldier. Maybe he can tell me about life in the forces."

I placed my coffee on the right side of the table, my newspaper on the left and my Oreos in the center before I took my first close look at the man opposite me. He was a Marine Corps brigadier general — a mean-looking man with no hair, an honest-to-God scar on his forehead and about six rows of ribbons, including the Silver Star with a cluster. To me, the general had horns, fangs, a pitchfork and a long, pointed tail as well. I was already committed to using the table, but not wanting to bother the general, I meekly squeaked out, "Good morning, sir," before sitting down.

I had begun the paper's crossword puzzle and was making good progress when I heard a peculiar rustling sound, much like the crinkling of cellophane. I looked up out of the corner of my eye to discover that the general had reached across the



center of the table, opened the package of Oreos, taken one out and was eating it.

Now, not having attended the Air Force Academy, I was not familiar with how to deal with the fine points of military etiquette, such as what to do when a senior member of another service calmly rips off one of your cookies. Several responses came to mind, but none of them seemed entirely appropriate.

I realized that the honor of the Air Force was, in a small way, at stake here. I certainly couldn't let the general think I was a complete weenie. Besides, at airport prices, one Oreo is a significant fraction of take home pay for a second lieutenant.

The only response I could make was to reach across the center of the table, open the opposite end of

the package, trying not to notice that the other end had mysteriously come open, extract an Oreo and eat it very, very thoroughly.

"There," I thought. "I've subtly shown the general that these are my Oreos, and he should go buy his own."

Marines are known for many qualities, but subtlety is not among them. The general calmly reached out for another Oreo and ate it. (By the way, the general was licking the middles out first before eating the cookies.) Not having said anything the first time, of course, I couldn't bring it up now. The only thing to do was to take another cookie for myself.

We wound up alternating through the entire package. For an instant our eyes met, and there was a

palpable tension in the air, but neither of us said a word.

After I had finished the last Oreo, they announced something over the PA system. The general got up, put his papers back into his briefcase, picked up the now-empty wrapper, threw it away, brushed the few crumbs neatly off the table and left. I sat there marvelling at his gall and feeling very foolish. A few minutes later, they announced my flight. I felt a great deal more foolish when I finished my coffee, threw my cup away and lifted my newspaper to reveal... my Oreos!

Today, two of us are running around the Armed Forces telling the same story, but only one of us has the punch line. And general, if you are reading this, get in touch with me, and I will be glad to send you a case of Oreos.



Top Left: Marine Corps Commandant Al Gray at the Beirut Memorial Ceremony;  
Top Right: Beirut Memorial; Lower Right: Detachment Commandants cutting the  
cake at the Birthday Ball at Valley Forge Sheraton; Left Center and Bottom:  
Central Bucks Detachment members , wives and friends at the Birthday Ball.

"ONCE A MARINE - ALWAYS A MARINE"



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Marine Corps League  
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**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

Incorporated by Act of Congress  
August 4, 1937

Temporary Membership Card and Receipt  
This will certify that.

is a member in good standing of the

This card is good for a period of sixty days from

Sponsor's Signature

Amount



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

(Date)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Married ( ) Date of Enlistment/Commissioning \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement \_\_\_\_\_ Service No. \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application - New ( ) Renewal ( )

( ) I hereby apply for membership in the \_\_\_\_\_ Detachment,  
Marine Corps League and enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for one year's membership.\*

( ) I hereby apply for membership in the Marine Corps League as a Member-at-Large (MAL), and  
enclose \$20.00 for one year's membership\*

\* Includes \$2.00 for year's subscription to MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NEWS

I hereby certify that I have served as a U. S. Marine for more than 90 days, that the  
character of my service has been honorable, and if discharged, I am in receipt of an  
honorable discharge. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of  
honorable discharge/service upon request.

(Sponsor - where applicable)

(Applicant's signature)

Upon completion, turn into your Detachment sponsor with required payment. Applicants for  
MAL Membership, remit this form with check or money order in the amount of \$20.00 to:  
National Headquarters, Marine Corps League, 956 North Monroe Street, Arlington, VA  
22201.