



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636

Marine Corps League Of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: **ELLIS M. PEARCE III**

Editor: **DON H. GEE**

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**CENTRAL BUCKS
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2nd Wednesday of Month
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MARINE OF THE YEAR
ELLIS M. "BUDD" PEARCE, PC

What's So Special About Marines?

I don't know who penned this; even if you have seen some or all of this before, its a good read.

Ask a Marine what's so special about the Marines and the answer would be "Esprit de Corps", an unhelpful French phrase that means exactly what it looks like - the spirit of the Corps, but what is that spirit, and where does it come from?

The Marine Corps is the only branch of the U.S. Armed Forces that recruits people specifically to fight.

The Army emphasizes personal development (an Army of One), the Navy promises fun (let the journey begin), the Air Force offers security (its a great way of life).

Missing from all the advertisements is the hard fact that a soldier's lot is to suffer and perhaps to die for his people, and take lives at the risk of his/her own. Even the thematic music of the services reflects this evasion.

The Army's Caisson Song describes a pleasant country outing. Over hill and dale, lacking only a picnic basket.

Anchors Aweigh, the Navy's celebration of the joys of sailing, could have been penned by Jimmy Buffet.

The Air Force song is a lyric poem of blue skies and engine thrust. All is joyful, invigorating, and safe.

There are no land mines in the dales nor snipers behind the hills, no submarines or cruise missiles threaten the ocean jaunt, no bandits are lurking in the wild blue yonder.

The Marines Hymn, by contrast, is all-combat. We fight our Country's battles, First to fight for right and freedom, we have fought in every clime and place where we could take a gun, in many a strife we have fought for life and never lost our nerve.

The choice is made clear. You may join the Army to go to adventure training, or join the Navy to go to Bangkok, or join the Air Force to go to computer school. You join the Marine Corps to go to War!

But the mere act of signing the enlistment contract confers no status in the Corps.

The Army recruit is told from his first minute in uniform that "your in the Army now", soldier. The Navy and Air Force enlistees are sailors or airmen as soon as they get off bus at the training center.

The new arrival at Marine Corps boot camp is called a recruit, or worse, but never a MARINE. Not yet, maybe never. He or she must earn the right to claim the title of UNITED STATES MARINE, and failure returns you to civilian life without hesitation or ceremony.

Recruit Platoon 2210 at San Diego, California trained from October through December of 1968. In Viet Nam the Marines were taking two hundred casualties a week, and the major rainy season operation Meade River, had not even begun. Yet Drill Instructors had no qualms about winnowing out almost a quarter of their 112 recruits, graduating eighty-one.

(MARINES, Page 4)

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

Due to the bad weather the January meeting was not as well attended as usual. As hard as I try to schedule nice weather, somebody keeps messing up my order. Oh well, it was a good meeting anyway.

We swore **Steve Cupitt** in as our newest member in January. He has been to the last 3 or 4 meetings and turned in all his paper work and money back in November. We finally got the chance to make it official. Welcome him at the February meeting, if you missed him this month. We also named the Nominating Committee for this year. **Past Commandant Bob Sundling** is the chair of the committee. If you or someone you know is interested in running for an office please get hold of Bob and let him know. Some people might be hesitant to run because they feel they are not sure of

what each officer is supposed to do. Don't let that bother you, all the current officers will be glad to explain their job to you. No job in the Detachment is going to kill you, and we promise not to shave your head and send you to Iraq if you mess up. Give it a shot; after all you're not getting any younger, so while you can still remember where and when we meet why not run for an office. There are a couple of jobs open that I know of, they are Sr. Vice Commandant and Paymaster.

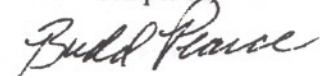
One of our newer members **James Powell** has volunteered to run for Junior Vice Commandant. Our current **Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller** is hoping to move up to Commandant this year. If we end up with more than one person running for a position, that's fine, that's what elections are supposed to be about. Come to the February meeting and hear what Past Commandant Sundling has to say and get involved this year!

Speaking of **Bob Sundling**, he informed me that he ran into **Paul Caprio**,

one of our members, at the Pep Boys Store in Warminster. Paul said to say hello to everyone and says he hasn't been able to get to the meetings due to his work schedule. Hopefully he'll get a Wednesday night off sometime and decide to come up and say hello in person.

My wife, Suzanne, was very happy to receive the award the Detachment voted to present to her. Although she couldn't be at the meeting I officially presented the plaque and the gift certificate when she got home from work. She got home a little after 2200 and I was already in my PJ's, but being a good Marine I didn't let that stop me from doing my duty, so I called my son into the room to witness the presentation, donned my red cover and in my best Commandant voice I read the plaque and presented the certificate. She was truly moved by the grandeur of the ceremony. She sends her thanks and says she'll be there at the parades again this year to feed the troops.

Semper Fi



2004 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
FEBRUARY 11**

**ST. VALENTINE'S DAY
FEBRUARY 14**

**PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEBRUARY 16**

**WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY
FEBRUARY 22**

LISTEN UP!

LISTEN UP! is the internal information publication of the CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636, Inc. of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc. It is published monthly by and for the members of the Central Bucks Detachment.

The Old Breed

I took my son to Las Vegas for a few days in June to celebrate his 21st birthday.

On the return flight, an elderly gentleman a few rows in front of us suffered a "cardiac event."

A number of self proclaimed nurses on the flight began patting his hand and calling out his name without effect.

After a few minutes of watching this man fail to respond and turn a sickly shade of gray, I got up and volunteered my son to help me.

Together we got him down on the deck of the aircraft and put an oxygen mask on the man even though he was not breathing, had no perceptible pulse and was quite cold.

Before I could begin C-P-R, his wife, quite scared, nervously asked if I was a doctor?

"No ma'am," I answered, "a corpsman with The Marines."

"Oh," she said, "my husband was a

Marine. Is he going to die?"

"No ma'am," I answered with the stock phrase, "No one dies on this corpsman without my express permission. What was your husband's rank?"

She answered "He was a Private at Guadalcanal in World War II."

I immediately leaned over the man and over the engine noise yelled in the man's ear, "Private, take a deep breath!"

After yelling this two more times, the man's chest heaved slightly and then he took a good deep breath. After a few more good hits on the oxygen mask, he opened his eyes. Before we landed his color had returned, he had a good pulse and had warmed up.

Although still groggy, as he was taken off the plane on a stretcher by the paramedics, he grabbed my hand and whispered, "Semper Fi."

P.G. Bradt, HM2(FMF)
Corpsman of Marines

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held January 14, 2004, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 12 members present including all officers except the Paymaster, Quartermaster, and Sergeant-at-Arms. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Gee and Bob Sundling**; **Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth**; and **Past Commandant and Marine of the Year Budd Pearce**.

Sick Call: Paymaster Bob Cody is recuperating at home.

The Minutes of the December Meeting were unanimously approved.

New Member: Marine Stephen Cupitt of Jamison was unanimously accepted for membership.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce reported the Detachment had received communication from the Department of Pennsylvania announcing the Department's Leadership School for prospective officers or anyone interested in learning more about the League's operations and procedures.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported about a notice he received concerning a bus trip to Parris Island. The trip is being co-sponsored by the Liberty Bell Chapter of the 1st Marine Division Association and All Divisions Detachment. He also reported the Detachment strength at 58 including 23 Life Members, 31 Regular Members and 4 Associate Members. There are four members delinquent in their dues.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. announced he had received the Detachment's tickets for this year's Department Raffle and encouraged all members to do their share in this fund-raising effort.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had received no correspondence other than that which had already been announced.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported he has not received a response from IRS.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

YOUNG MARINES--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Liberty Young Marines have placed a temporary moratorium on new members but are still accepting applications.

PUBLIC RELATIONS--The Public Relations Officer set Jan. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the February *Listen Up!*

NEW BUSINESS

Commandant Pearce appointed **Past Commandant Bob Sundling** as committee chair and **Past Commandant Don Gee** and himself as members. Anyone desiring to serve in any office with the Detachment should contact any member of the committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Past Commandant Bob Sundling asked the members to remember to bring non-perishable items to meetings to send to troops overseas as part of the shipments **Peggy Sundling** sends on a regular basis.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m.

MARINES

(From Page 1)

Note that this was post - enlistment attrition; every one of those who were dropped had been passed by the recruiters as fit for service.

But they failed the test of Boot Camp, and not necessarily for physical reasons; at least two were outstanding high school athletes for whom the calisthenics and running were child's play. The cause of their failure was not in the biceps nor the legs, but in the spirit. They had lacked the will to endure the mental and emotional strain, so they would not be Marines. Heavy commitments and high casualties notwithstanding, the Corps reserves the right to pick and choose.

History classes in boot camp? Stop a soldier on the street and ask him to name a battle of World War One. Pick a sailor at random to describe the epic fight of the *Bon Homme Richard*. Everyone has heard of McGuire Air Force Base. So ask any airman who **Major Thomas McGuire** was, and why he is so commemorated.

I am not carping, and there is no sneer in this criticism. All of the services have glorious traditions, but no one teaches the young soldier, sailor or airman what his uniform means and why he should be proud of it. But ask a Marine about World War One, and you will hear of the wheat field at Belleau Wood and the courage of the Fourth Marine Brigade, 5th and 6th Regiments.

Faced with an enemy of superior numbers entrenched in tangled forest undergrowth, the Marines received an order to attack that even the charitable cannot call ill - advised. It was insane. Artillery support was absent and air support had not yet been invented, so the Brigade charged German machine guns with only bayonets, grenades, and indomitable fighting spirit. A bandy-legged little barrel of a Gunnery Sergeant, **Daniel J. Daly**, rallied his company with a shout, "Come on you sons a bitches, do you want to live forever"?

He took out three machine guns himself, and they would give him the Medal of Honor except for a technicality: he already had two of them.

French liaison officers, hardened

though they were by four years of trench bound slaughter, were shocked as the Marines charged across the open wheat field under a blazing sun directly into the teeth of enemy fire. Their action was anachronistic on the twentieth-century battlefield; so much so that they might as well have been swinging cutlasses. But the enemy was only human; they could not stand up to this. So the Marines took Belleau Wood.



The Germans called them "Dogs from the Devil." Every Marine knows this story and dozens more. We are taught them in boot camp as a regular part of the curriculum. Every Marine will always be taught them! You can learn to don a gas mask anytime, even on the plane in route to the war zone, but before you can wear the Eagle Globe & Anchor and claim the title you must know about the Marines who made that emblem and title meaningful. So long as you can march and shoot and revere the legacy of the Corps, you can take your place in line. And that line is unified spirit as in purpose.

A soldier wears branch of service insignia on his collar, metal shoulder pins and cloth sleeve patches to identify his unit. Sailors wear a rating badge that identifies what they do for the Navy.

Marines wear only the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, together with personal ribbons and their **CHERISHED** marksmanship badges. There is nothing on a Marine's uniform to indicate what he or she does, nor what unit the Marine belongs to. You cannot tell by looking at a Marine whether you are seeing a truck driver, a computer programmer, or a machine gunner. The Corps explains this as a security measure to conceal the

identity and location of units, but the Marines' penchant for publicity makes that the least likely of explanations. No, the Marine is amorphous, even anonymous, by conscious design.

Every Marine is a rifleman first and foremost, a Marine first, last and always! You may serve a four-year enlistment or even a twenty plus year career without seeing action, but if the word is given you'll charge across that wheatfield! Whether a Marine has been schooled in automated supply, automotive mechanics, or aviation electronics, is immaterial. Those things are secondary - the Corps does them because it must.

The modern battlefield requires the technical appliances, and since the enemy has them, so do we, but no Marine boasts mastery of them. Our pride is in our marksmanship, our discipline, and our membership in a fraternity of courage and sacrifice. "For the honor of the fallen, for the glory of the dead." **Edgar Guest** wrote of Belleau Wood, "the living line of courage kept the faith and moved ahead."

They are all gone now, those Marines who made a French farmer's little wheatfield into one of the most enduring of Marine Corps legends. Many of them did not survive the day, and eight long decades have claimed the rest. But their actions are immortal. The Corps remembers them and honors what they did, and so they live forever.

Dan Daly's shouted challenge takes on its true meaning - if you lie in the trenches you may survive for now, but someday you will die and no one will care. If you charge the guns you may die in the next two minutes, but you will be one of the immortals.

All Marines die; some in the red flash of battle, some in the white cold of the nursing home. In the vigor of youth or the infirmity of age, all will eventually die. But the Marine Corps lives on. Every Marine who ever lived is living still - in the Marines who claim the title today. It is that sense of belonging to something that will outlive your own mortality, which gives people a light to live by and a flame to mark their passing.

Passed on to a Marine from another Marine!

GIANTS OF THE CORPS

Born 21 January 1783
Died 6 January 1859

- Veteran of the 1846 Mexican War. Fought at Chapultepec, the "Halls of Montezuma."
- Henderson emphasized competence of leaders and men and had newly appointed officers stationed first at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., for professional training.
- Commanded a regiment of Marines in 1836-37 during operations against the Seminole Indians in Florida. Legend has it that he tacked a sign on the barracks, "*Gone to Florida to fight the Indians. Will be back when the war is over.*"
- Reputation of the Marines surged during his Commandancy.
- Fifth Commandant—the longest Commandant in office—for 38 years.

BREVET BRIGADIER

GENERAL

**ARCHIBALD
HENDERSON**



Niagara Falls Man, 105 Named Corps' Oldest Living Marine

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. --Seventy-eight years have passed since Joseph DiPofi took off his uniform, but he has never stopped being a U.S. Marine.

"Once a Marine, always a Marine," the 105-year-old said last month. "Til I die."

He has not lost his soldier's conviction about honor and service to country, and fulfilling the mission.

The United States should finish the job in Iraq, DiPofi said.

"Stay there," he declares, jabbing a finger to make the point. "Once we land, we don't get out."

"Don't forget to print that," he tells a reporter, before returning, with the help of a walker, to his room at the Niagara Falls Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, where he has lived for 11 years.

After immigrating from Italy at the age of 15, DiPofi enlisted when he was 23 to give something back to his new country, his son, John, said.

So poor was DiPofi when he arrived at Ellis Island, he had only women's shoes. For years, he lived in boxcars and boarding houses, washed dishes and worked construction.

"The opportunity to be in this country meant so much and that's why he joined the Marines," John DiPofi said.

Those years as a Marine, from 1922-1925, "made me a gentleman," the elder DiPofi said, his accent still thick.

On Nov. 10, 2003, DiPofi helped the Marines celebrate their 228th anniversary by cutting a birthday cake with a ceremonial sword. It was 81 years to the day after he enlisted.

DiPofi is believed to be the oldest living Marine, according to the Corps.

He claimed the title from 104-year-old Eugene Lee of Syracuse, who was given the designation last month. Last year, a Florida man of 103 was believed to be the oldest.

After checking DiPofi's military records and birth certificate, the Marines said this time they have their man.

DiPofi worked at Carborundum until retiring at age 65. He never owned a car and used to walk the two miles to work, said his son.

"Walking and wine, that was his secret," John DiPofi said, "although not so much wine any more."

On Veteran's Day, the oldest Marine wore a veteran's post cap with the words "lifetime membership" as he reflected on his service.

"It made me somebody. I'm somebody," he said. "Very proud."

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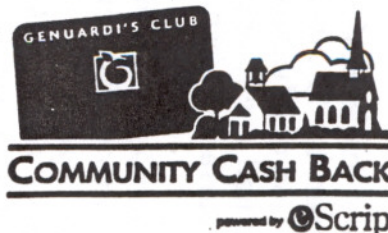
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I hereby certify I have served as a U.S. Marine for more than 90 days, the character of my service has been honorable and, if discharged, I am in receipt of an Honorable Discharge. By signature on this application, I hereby agree to provide proof of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

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