

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

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JANUARY 2010

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

PENNSYLVANIA MARINE KILLED IN AFGHANISTAN

As a kid, **Matt Ingham** of Juniata wanted to be a game warden.

But 9/11 triggered his martial spirit, and he signed up for a way of life where the quarry shoots back.

Early Monday, Jan. 11, the ultimate consequence of that decision came due when Marine Staff Sergeant Ingham, 24, died with two comrades in an ambush in southern Afghanistan.

When two of Matt's fellow Marines in dress uniform walked through the door of his home office on North Fourth Avenue Monday afternoon, Matt's father, **Gary**, suspected the worst.

"Please tell me he's injured," he recalled saying. But he knew by the set of their faces that wasn't it.

"We're sorry to inform you ... " they began. He flung his glasses down, breaking one of the stems.

Still, the visitors were kind, waiting two-and-a-half hours until Matt's mother, **Tammi**, came home from work at the Central Pennsylvania Humane Society so they could tell her in person.

On Tuesday, Matt's platoon leader called from Afghanistan. Almost immediately, Gary and Tammi began crying. The platoon leader spoke of the ambush that killed Matt and two fellow Marines he'd stationed with him in an exposed position, anticipating an assault. He said Matt remained calm and called for helicopters.

"He saved the rest of our lives," the platoon leader said.

toon leader said.

Matt, a 2002 Altoona Area High School graduate, had already done two tours in Iraq and was among the first Marines there at the beginning of the war. He went to Afghanistan in the fall, part of a reconnaissance outfit in the Third Marine Division.

Gary didn't like the idea of his son in combat. "But he was his own man," Gary said.

He said his son was good with a gun and could shoot a bull's-eye at a thousand yards.

He liked the structure of the military, and he was a "physical kid."

"His arms are like this," Gary said, making a circle with his hands about 7 inches in diameter.

He played football in junior high school, but motocross was his love. He became a professional motocross driver in Okinawa, Japan, where he was stationed.

The platoon leader spoke of riding with Matt up and down hills until he had to get off.

In 2006, Matt, who has a sister, **Monica**, who lives in Phoenix, married **Yasmin Rajpar**, whom he met in eighth grade at Keith Junior High School.

"They were the loves of each others' lives," said Yasmin's mother, **Shamim**, an Altoona native who lives in Altoona with her husband, **Haider**, a native African she met in the Peace Corps. They adopted Yasmin as a baby from Pakistan

22nd MEU Prepares for Haiti Response

by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON--About 2,000 Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Lejeune, NC, are preparing for what initially is expected to be about a 90-day deployment providing disaster-relief support in earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

The Marines began loading equipment on three Navy ships--*USS Bataan*, *USS Carter Hall* and *USS Fort McHenry*--Jan. 15, a process **Marine Capt. Clark Carpenter**, the 22nd MEU Public Affairs Officer, said he expected it to take two days.

The unit is tailoring itself for the support mission ahead, with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461 from New

River, NC, as its aviation element, providing eight CH-53 helicopters. Four UH-1 Huey helicopters also will deploy with the MEU.

Carpenter said it's not yet clear what role the Marines will play--lift support, disaster assistance, security support, or a combination of all three--so it's preparing for whatever it's asked to do.

"The great thing about a Marine expeditionary unit is that we train to do all of those things," he said. "We are an extremely flexible organization, and we train to many missions during our pre-deployment work-up period, a six-month-long period when we train for humanitarian relief and disaster recovery

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**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets
7:30 p.m.
2nd Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
315 North Street, Doylestown, PA

COMMANDANT
JAMES POWELL
215-862-6280
usmc80@comcast.net

Sr. VICE COMMANDANT
BEN JONES
267-907-2611
benjaminjones1@gmail.com

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
A. J. (JACK) GENTILE
215-968-2291
jgentile@singerequipment.com

ADJUTANT-PAYMASTER
DON H. GEE, PC
215-822-6898
USMCCCA@aol.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE
WILLIAM MICKELSON
215-538-0213
billmickelson@verizon.net

QUARTERMASTER
COREY A. FISHER
215-822-6898

CHAPLAIN
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE, PC
215-343-5609
buddpearce@comcast.net

MESS SERGEANT
WIL HAAS
215-257-7828

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
DON H. GEE, PC
215-822-6898
USMCCCA@aol.com

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
BOB SUNDLING, PC
215-348-8925
sundling@tiniusolsen.com

WEB SERGEANT
JAMES POWELL
215-862-6280
usmc80@comcast.net



COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Oorah Marines,

Another year has passed and I hope this year will be as successful as the one we just had.

As we enter our Detachment's 24th year we have some big challenges ahead and as always, I believe that we can improve on what we did this past year.

A summary of things we were involved in this past year were:

- 1) Annual Fund Raiser on Memorial Day weekend, which was highly successful again. We continue to do well with this fund raiser.
- 2) Participated in the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade and the Chalfont Independence Day Parade.
- 3) Participated in the Department of Pennsylvania Pistol Match.
- 4) Held our Quarterly Highway Cleanups and received good participation in our 11th year of the program.
- 5) Participated in the Ceremony in Philadelphia marking the anniversary of the Beirut Marine Barracks Bombing.
- 6) Participated in the Nockamixon Community Day Celebration in Revere, PA.
- 7) Held a Detachment Holiday Party in Doylestown.

Other noteworthy accomplishments and notables were:

* We won 2nd Place, Category I for membership in the Department of Pennsylvania for 2009.

* **Past Detachment Commandant Bill Miller** was re-elected Department of Pennsylvania Southeast Division Vice Commandant. I was again appointed as one of his assistants.

* I was also appointed to the Department Internet Team, Bylaws Committee and was appointed Assistant His-

torian (not sure why on this one). I was also appointed Northeast Division Vice Chief Devil Dog.

* Our Detachment did a great job by increasing our membership by five new members.

* And **Marine Ken Murray** was our Detachment Marine of the Year.

All in all it was a successful year for our Marines and Associates to participate in.

As for the challenges ahead, with the economy being what it is, it will be more imperative to recruit new members. This is the life blood of the League and for us to continue to thrive we need to increase our membership and get the newer members to participate. Which leads me into Election of Officers. **We need new blood!**

Marine Jack Gentile has graciously stepped up and taken on the office of Junior Vice Commandant and I thank him for that. But, we need others to do the same. So, if you have any interest at all in serving your Detachment, please talk with Past Commandant Miller or myself. And remember you will not be alone if you choose to serve your Detachment. We have some fine Past Detachment Officers who are always willing to help in any way they can.

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and has a prosperous New Year.

Semper Fi,

Jim Powell

Detachment Web Site at:

www.mclcb.org

JANUARY DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting on the Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held January 13, 2010, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 19 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant and the Adjutant/Paymaster. Distinguished members in attendance included **Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr., Budd Pearce and Bob Sundling**, and **Past National Northeast Division Commandant/Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**.

The **Minutes** of the December Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The **Paymaster's Report** as presented by the Commandant was unanimously accepted.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported on the Department Quarterly Staff Meeting he attended the past weekend. Major items included Department Awards, ByLaws Change submissions, recognizing WWII veterans of all services at the Department Convention, and the planned 2012 Department Reunion in Johnstown. He also reported an information session about the Washington Crossing Veterans Cemetery will be held on Monday, Jan. 18, at the American Legion Post. He reminded that Chapel of Four Chapel nominations are due by Mar. 30. He also reminded the members that the Department Southeast Division Meeting will be held on Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. at the Chester County Detachment Home in Downingtown.

Junior Vice Commandant Jack Gentile had nothing to report.

Judge Advocate Bill Mickelson reported the Detachment had no known legal problems.

Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Budd Pearce, PC, reported the Department Pistol Match is scheduled for May. Anyone interested in joining the team should contact him.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported there have been no requests for the Detachment Color Guard since the last meeting.

Quartermaster Corey Fisher reported \$30 in sales at last month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and unanimously accepted to donate \$200.00 to the Fallen Warrior Memorial to be built in Boalsburg, PA, to honor those who paid the ultimate price in Iraq.

Marine Don Parzanese Jr. presented a flag flown over his base in Iraq and a Certificate of Appreciation to **Peggy Sundling** for her 19-year effort to provide "Goodies for the Troops" (*See Photo on Page 4*). Don, who just returned from a tour in Iraq, is a Sergeant in the Army National Guard.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed until February 10, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

THOMAS JEFFERSON said:



"THE DEMOCRACY WILL CEASE TO EXIST WHEN YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO WORK AND GIVE TO THOSE WHO WOULD NOT".

GOODIES FOR THE TROOPS



IN APPRECIATION--Marine Don Parzanese Jr. presents a flag flown over an Army Base in Iraq and Certificate of Appreciation to Peggy Sundling at the January Detachment Meeting for her "Goodies for the Troops" program. Don, who recently returned from a tour in Iraq, is a Sergeant in the Army National Guard. Peggy has sent more than five tons of items to troops in harm's way since she began her effort in 1991. *(Photo by Don Parzanese Sr.)*

AFTER-CHRISTMAS GIFT



NEWEST ARRIVAL--Ella Sage Jones helped Senior Vice Commandant Ben Jones and wife Melissa close out 2009 when she arrived on Dec. 31.

GOODIES FOR THE TROOPS

Peggy Sundling, who continues to send "Goodies to the Troops," has provided a sampling of items which are needed for the shipments. She cautions, "NO CHOCOLATE!" Items include Moist Wipes--with or without aloe (some people are allergic); Beef Jerky/Slim Jims--very popular; Hard Candy--no lollipops; Lotions and Moisturizers; Lip Balm; Chewing Gum; Crackers/Snacks/Granola Bars--in individual packages for easy toting; Fruit Snacks/Raisins--in individual packages; Writing Tablets/Envelopes/Pens; Crossword Puzzles; Magazines--military, automotive, hunting, etc. (used, are fine); Drink Mixes--individual envelopes.

Thanks, Marines, for your continued support!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
10 FEBRUARY**

**NATIONAL MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
11-13 FEBRUARY
FALLS CHURCH, VA**

**LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
12 FEBRUARY**

**PRESIDENT'S DAY
15 FEBRUARY**

**WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
22 FEBRUARY**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
10 MARCH**

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
14 MARCH**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
17 MARCH**

**SPRING STAFF MEETING
19-20 MARCH
JONESTOWN, PA**

**FIRST DAY OF SPRING
20 MARCH**

**PALM SUNDAY
28 MARCH**

INGRAM *From Page 1*

and raised her here. Matt "absolutely adored" their daughter, she said.

They were best friends, "like two puppies from the same litter," she said.

They hiked and kayaked together in Okinawa, where he was stationed. They saw life as an adventure, she said. She was a secondary school teacher taking courses for a master's degree. Despite the divergence of their life goals, they supported each other's ambitions, she said.

Shamim took pride in her son-in-law's excellence as a Marine.

"I hope I've conveyed to you our love for him, and our high regard," she said. "He's part of our family."

Yasmin had just returned to their home in Okinawa from Christmas vacation in Altoona when she learned of Matt's death. She sounded "numb" and "flat" when her mom spoke to her Monday. She'll fly accompanied by a casualty officer to Dover, DE, where Matt's body will be brought back to the States, and she'll probably re-settle here, Shamim said.

With strangers, Matt was reserved, but with people he loved he was "loving" and "carefree," Gary said.

He "messed with everybody," according to the platoon leader, but he always kept a straight face.

Listening on the speakerphone to the platoon leader speak, Tammi slapped her husband on the thigh at that point.

Matt never spoke of what it was like in battle, said his father, who never served. Surely he was scared, Gary said.

"I don't see how you could get used to that," he said.

But Matt was highly trained and stayed calm Monday in anticipation of the attack, his father pointed out.

Gary and Tammi planned to Dover to meet the plane that will bring their son's body in.

Depending on the weather, a motorcycle honor guard may accompany the hearse from Lancaster to Altoona, Gary said.

Gary said he goes from "numb to angry." But he remained sensitive to others.

He called the Marines who delivered their message of death "super nice." He asked the platoon leader to give his phone number to the families of the other two Marines killed in the ambush, so they could call if they wanted.

He said goodbye to the platoon leader by saying, "Stay safe, so I can talk to you again."

Before Matt left for Afghanistan, Gary visited him in San Diego, where they rode motorcycles in the desert, fished in the ocean and went to bars at night. They were buddies. "That 'I'm your dad' sort of thing went out when he went into the Marines," Gary said.

The platoon leader told Gary that Matt wasn't easy to lead because of his knowledge and strong convictions.

They didn't always agree but always "talked it out," the platoon leader said.

He learned a lot from Matt, he said.

Matt wanted to make a career of the Marines, his dad said.

"He was literally the No. 1 Marine I've ever had," the leader told them. "I'm sorry I couldn't bring him home."

HAITI *From Page 1*

operations just like this one."

The 22nd MEU returned Dec. 5 from a seven-month deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of operations. It sailed through U.S. European Command, serving as its theater reserve force and conducting training missions in Bulgaria and Greece.

From there, the Marines transited through the Suez Canal to the 5th Fleet area of operations, serving as Centcom's theater reserve force. In addition to exercising with Middle Eastern partners, the MEU supported the Bright Star exercise in Egypt and delivered the first 10 Osprey

helicopters into Afghanistan.

Upon getting word of the upcoming Haiti mission, 22nd MEU officials began recalling unit members, and they conducted the first crisis action team planning session six hours later, Carpenter said.

"So we have been prudently planning the embarkation of the ships," Carpenter said. "Right now, the focus is to expeditiously and safely embark these ships and get the equipment we need aboard. We are tailoring a very flexible package to ensure we can accommodate broad requests, because we don't exactly know the specifics of what we will be doing right now."

The Haiti mission offers another opportunity for the MEU to demonstrate its flexibility and readiness, Carpenter said.

"Marines stand ready to support any mission that may be asked of them," he said.

"We are exceptional warriors when we are asked to be warriors. But equally important, we are exceptionally compassionate when we need to be compassionate. And these roles we can do equally as well.

"So it's a great opportunity to highlight the compassion that the United States Marines and United States Navy have and can offer to those in need around the world," he said.

BUMPER STICKERS SEEN ON MARINE BASES

"Except For Ending Slavery, Fascism, Nazism and Communism, WAR has Never Solved Anything."

"A Dead Enemy Is A Peaceful Enemy - Blessed Be The Peacemakers"

"Death Smiles At Everyone - Marines Smile Back"

"It's God's Job to Forgive Bin Laden - It's Our Job To Arrange The Meeting"

"Do Draft-Dodgers Have Reunions? If So, What Do They Talk About?"

"Interrogators can't water-board dead guys"

"U.S. Marines - Certified Counselors to the 72 Virgins Dating Club."

"Water-boarding is out so kill them all!"

PETER ORTIZ: Little Known OSS Hero

"One of the most decorated Marine officers of World War II, **Colonel Peter Ortiz** served in both Africa and Europe throughout the war, as a member of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

Although born in the U.S., he was educated in France and began his military service in 1932 at the age of 19 with the French Foreign Legion. He was wounded in action and imprisoned by the Germans in 1940. After his escape, he made his way to the U.S. and joined the Marines. As a result of his training and experience, he was awarded a commission, and a special duty assignment as an assistant naval attaché in Tangier, Morocco. Once again, Ortiz was wounded while performing combat intelligence work in preparation for Allied landings in North Africa.

In 1943, as a member of the OSS, he was dropped by parachute into France to aid the Resistance, and assisted in the rescue of four downed RAF pilots. He was recaptured by the Germans in 1944 and spent the remainder of the war as a POW.

Ortiz's decorations included two Navy Crosses, the Legion of Merit, the Order of the British Empire, and five Croix de Guerre. He also was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French. Upon return to civilian life, Ortiz became involved in the film industry. At the same time, at least two Hollywood films were made based upon his personal exploits. He died on 16 May 1988 at the age of 75."

There are numerous detailed accounts of the background and exploits of Ortiz in various publications; I will list those of which I am aware at the end of this article. He had been born in New York City and educated in France where he left school before graduation to join the Legion. He was said to be the youngest sergeant in the history of the French Foreign Legion. He was wounded in action between the Legion and Germans in 1940, then imprisoned in a concentration camp in Austria.

After escaping, making his way to the U.S. and joining the Marine Corps in June 1942, he was commissioned in August 1942, commissioned a captain in the

Marine Corps Reserve in December 1942, and assigned to North Africa as an assistant naval attaché where he organized a patrol of Arab tribesmen to scout German forces on the Tunisian front. He was assigned to the OSS after recovering from wounds suffered in Tunisia.

Captain Ortiz had reported back to HQMC in April of 1943, and the following month joined the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a secretive organization and predecessor to the CIA. He was a graduate of both the Legion's and Marine Corps' parachute schools. Having lived in France he was fluent in that language; he also spoke nine other languages and was fluent in five. He parachuted into France on January 6, 1944, assigned to help organize and lead elements of the French underground forces known as the "Marquis."

Leatherneck magazine of January 1991, indicates that:

In the course of his duties he began frequenting a nightclub in Lyons that catered to German officers. This enabled Ortiz to gain much information regarding German activities in the area, which he turned to good use against the Germans. This Marine had worn his Marine uniform when leading Marquis groups in raids. To have an Allied officer leading them bolstered their morale immensely, especially when the uniform bore such impressive decorations.

"One night, while Ortiz sat with the German officers at the club in Lyons, an enemy soldier damned President Roosevelt. He then damned the United States of America. And then, for whatever reason, he damned the United States Marine Corps (Ortiz later wrote that he "could not, for the life of me, figure why a German officer would so dislike American Marines when, chances were, he'd never met one.")

Perhaps Ortiz was bored. Perhaps. He excused himself from the table and returned to his apartment, changed into his Marine uniform, shrugged into a raincoat and returned to the club. He ordered a round of drinks, removed his raincoat and stood brandishing his pistol.

"A toast," he said, beaming, respon-

dent in full greens and decorations, "to the President of the United States!" As the pistol moved from German officer to German officer, they emptied their glasses.

He ordered another round of drinks and then offered a toast to the United States Marine Corps!

After the Germans had drained their glasses, the Marine backed out, pistol leveled at his astonished hosts. He disappeared into the rainy, black night.

....The train approached. The explosive device was detonated....the Marquis opened up....Grenades were tossed. Ortiz waited for the firing to subside, then stood in full view in his Marine Corps uniform and ordered the Marquis to withdraw....leaving 47 Germans dead and many others wounded. Not a Marquis was lost.

His adventures were numerous..."--*Leatherneck*, January 1991

After the war, Colonel Ortiz worked with director **John Ford**, a former member of the OSS himself. Two movies were produced depicting the exploits of Ortiz. They were **13 Rue Madeleine** with **James Cagney**, etc., and **Operation Secret** with **Cornel Wilde**, etc.

Ortiz also had small parts in such films as, "The Outcast," "Wings of Eagles," and "Rio Grande." He also played the part of Major Knott in the film, "Retreat Hell," a movie about the Marines at the Chosin Reservoir in 1950.

Marine Colonel Peter Ortiz was laid to rest at Arlington National cemetery on May 23, 1988. Prior to burial, the procession was led by the Marine Band in full dress, playing hymns - then a Marine rifle company in full dress, with fixed bayonets - six white horses pulling a caisson with the flag draped coffin and the beautiful black riderless horse with the reversed boot.

A Navy commander chaplain conducted a short service.

Representing the U. S. Marine Corps was **General Frank Breth**, Director of Intelligence; representing France was **Colonel Guy Hussenot**; representing England was **Captain Jeremy Robbins**, of the British Royal Marines.

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CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
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"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

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I hereby apply for membership in the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**, Marine Corps League, and enclose **\$35.00** for one year's membership (which includes subscription to **MARINE CORPS LEAGUE MAGAZINE**).

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.

_____ (Sponsor - where applicable)

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