

LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

#636

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

VOLUME XXIV, Number 2

FEBRUARY 2011

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

MCL Detachment Gives 'Blues' to Stabbed Marine

AUGUSTA, GA--A U. S. Marine reservist collecting toys for children was stabbed when he helped stop a suspected shoplifter in eastern Georgia.

Best Buy Sales Manager Orvin Smith told *The Augusta Chronicle* that the man was seen on surveillance cameras putting a laptop under his jacket at the Augusta store.

When confronted, the man became irate, knocked down an employee, pulled a knife and ran toward the door. Outside

were four Marines collecting toys for the service branch's "Toys For Tots" program.

Smith said the Marines stopped the man, but he stabbed one of them, **Cpl. Phillip Duggan**, in the back. The cut did not appear to be severe.

The suspect was transported to the local hospital with two broken arms, a broken leg, possible broken ribs, assorted lacerations and bruises he obtained when he fell trying to run after stabbing the

Marine.

The suspect, whose name was not released, was held until police arrived. The



BLUES--Cpl. Duggan receiving Dress Blues blouse from Riverfront Marines Detachment.

'Pappy' Boyington's Belongings Donated to Yuma

YUMA, Ariz. — When retired Air Force officer **Greg Boyington Jr.** decided to preserve some of his famous father's possessions, he said the choice of what to do with them was an easy one.

He gave them to a squadron assigned to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

"It just seemed to me that is where they belonged," said Boyington, who flew the F-4 Phantom in Vietnam. "They were just sitting in a box in a drawer here at my home."

Arguably the most fabled Marine Corps fighter squadron is VMF-214, and it is forever linked with its legendary leader, **Maj. Greg Boyington**, better known by his nickname of "Pappy."

Greg Boyington's father, a World War II ace who shot down 28 enemy Japanese planes, was a prisoner of war and a Medal of Honor recipient, also formed the legendary Black Sheep Squadron in 1943.

The squadron, composed of 49 replace-

ment and inactive pilots, shot down in 84 days of combat 98 Japanese planes over Kahili, Bougainville and Rabaul in the South Pacific and annihilated or damaged at least 130 other enemy aircraft on the ground.

The modern-day Black Sheep have been based at MCAS Yuma since 1987.

Boyington recently added to its rich history by donating his father's golden aviator wings to the squadron.

In addition to the aviator wings, Boyington gave his father's wristwatch to the squadron. In the early 1980s, the Sieko watch company released a special



'Pappy' Boyington

Please see **PAPPY**, Page 6

Richmond County Sheriff's office said it is investigating.

Cpl. Duggan's Dress Blues were damaged by the thief's knife. He is on Active Duty for Funeral Details. He would be unable to perform his mission without the appropriate uniform, therefore his Active Duty orders were to be cancelled. A senior Staff NCO advised that it was easier to replace him than to replace his uniform quickly. Members of the Riverfront Marines Detachment #1132 of North Augusta, SC, wanted Cpl. Duggan to be able to complete his mission and were able to present Cpl. Duggan with a new replacement for his uniform.

"We continue to admire the fast and effective response by all of the Marines present during this confrontation and are thankful that Cpl. Duggan's injuries were not severe and that a threat to our society is off of the street," stated Detachment Commandant John Tolley.



**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

JOE KIER

215-822-1036

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

Hello Marines,

We are now entering our Detachment's 25th Anniversary Year. It is my hope that this becomes an exciting and historic year for our Detachment. I believe that we will have some great plans from our 25th Anniversary Committee and the Marines willing to make them a reality. My hope is that every Detachment member participates in some way or form in the events we have coming up in the next year. The culmination of these events will be our 25th Anniversary Dinner that is planned for January 2012.

We also have our normal activities 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) Applebee's Fundraising Breakfast which turned out very well for a first time.
- 4) Department of Pennsylvania Pistol Match.
- 5) Held our Quarterly Highway Clean-ups and received good participation in our 12th year of the program.
- 6) Participated in the Department of Pennsylvania Rifle Match.
- 7) Held a Marine Corps League Rose Program Fundraiser and that too was extremely successful for a first time event.
- 7) Held a Detachment Birthday Ball at

the Waterwheel in Doylestown for the first time in several years.

Other noteworthy accomplishments and notables were:

Adjutant/Paymaster Don Gee, PC, a long-time member of our Detachment was awarded the Marine Corps League's highest award, the Distinguished Citizens Medal, Gold.

The Detachment was awarded the National Unit Commendation by **Marine Corps League Commandant Jim Laskey** for its many years of service to the Community and the League.

Past Commandant Bill Miller was re-elected as Department of Pennsylvania Southeast Division Vice Commandant and Junior ROTC Committee Chairman.

I was again appointed as one of his assistants. I was also appointed to the Department Internet Team, Bylaws Committee, Assistant Adjutant and Assistant Historian. I was also appointed to the National Northeast Division Web Sergeant. And I was also again appointed Northeast Division Vice Chief Devil Dog. And finally, I was elected as Pound Keeper of the Albert E Smith Pound #179 of the MODD.

Junior Vice Commandant Anthony "Jack" Gentile was our Detachment Marine of the Year for his outstanding support of the Detachment as Junior Vice and the many activities he led.

It was an outstanding year for our Detachment and the Marines and Associates who participated in the many activities and events we sponsored. As for the challenges ahead, with the economy being what it is, it will be ever more imperative to recruit new members. This is the life blood of the League and for our Detachment to continue to thrive we need to increase our membership and get the newer members involved.

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

Semper Fi,

Take a virtual tour of the
National Museum
of the Marines Corps

[http://
www.virtualusmc-
museum.com](http://www.virtualusmc-museum.com)

NO 'FORMER' MARINES

"A Marine is a Marine. I set that policy weeks ago--there's no such thing as a former Marine. You're a Marine, just in a different uniform and you're in a different phase of your life. But you'll always be a Marine because you went to Parris Island, San Diego or the hills of Quantico. **There's no such thing as a former Marine.**"



General James F. Amos
Commandant of the Marine Corps

CORPS, NAVY PREPARE FOR AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING

WASHINGTON--For the past 10 years, the word "Marine" in the Marine Corps has seemed a misnomer: combat in Iraq and Afghanistan have left the majority of Marines landlocked, with little or no experience in amphibious operations.

Naval leadership has taken note. The Navy and Marine Corps will begin exercises in the coming days that focus on amphibious combat training for sailors and Marines.

"*Bold Alligator 2011* will be the first brigade-level joint amphibious exercise in the last 10 years. The exercise this week will strengthen and refine our fundamental expeditionary capabilities to project a sustained combat power ashore," said **Rear Adm. Kevin Scott**, commander of the Navy's Expeditionary Strike Group Two and embarked commander of the Amphibious Task Force for the exercise. Scott discussed the planned training recently during a "DoDLive" Blogger's Roundtable.

Bold Alligator exercises will continue into the future, Scott said. *Bold Alligator 2011* is simulated, he said,

but still involves all of the critical Navy and Marine Corps leadership and components. The first live exercise is scheduled for February 2012.

The benefit of starting with a simulated exercise is the versatility simulation provides, Scott said. Simulated exercises also allow a framework to be built for future live exercises, he added.

"We can tailor the situation to test the many different aspects of an operation such as weather, opposing forces, actions by opposing forces, terrain, et cetera, and we can do this at substantially less cost," Scott said. "So we anticipate that we'll use this embedded exercise to build upon the live one that's going to take place approximately 13 months from now.

"And then, you know, my vision is we'll probably have several synthetic exercises between each live exercise," he continued, "to make sure that we capitalize on the assets when they become available.

"Within the last 10 years, we've seen the need for a ready and capable amphibious force for such events as

the Indian Ocean tsunami, the earthquake in Haiti and the flooding in Pakistan," he said. "As long as the majority of the world's populations and commerce reside along the coastlines and waterways of the world, there will always be a need for amphibious forces."

The *Bold Alligator* series will help the Navy and Marine Corps incorporate new technology, weapons systems and vehicles into their arsenal, Scott said. The idea, he added, is to have procedures and plans in place for any kind of mission--combat, humanitarian aid, search and rescue or disaster response.

"You know, the nature of amphibious force is that we're extremely flexible and can be specifically tailored to any mission at any time. No one can bring more capability ashore rapidly and sustain it as our Navy-Marine Corps team can," Scott said.

"*Bold Alligator 2011* is a first step in revitalizing the fundamentals of amphibious operations and assuring the Navy-Marine Corps team is ready, responsive and resolute."

TRIVIA -- For REAL Trivia Buffs (Part I)

*They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day it was taken & sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "Piss Poor."

But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot. They "didn't have a pot to piss in" and were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s:

*Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good

by June. However, since they were starting to smell. Brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

*Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children and, last of all, the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

*Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals

to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying, "Dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence: a thresh hold.

*In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire.. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold

overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT MARINES ON THE NET

CAPRIO, Paul	midupe@aol.com
CONCORDIA, Michael L.	m.concordia@verizon.net
CUPITT, Steve	scupitt@aol.com
DOHERTY, Joe	joedog7@verizon.net
DUFF, Bob	duffrbt@verizon.net
GENTILE, Jack	jgentile@singerequipment.com
HAGAN, Vincent	vincent.hagan@pnc.com
HOTH, Ed	Edhothusmc@aol.com
JONES, Ben	benjaminjones1@gmail.com
KIER, Joseph	joseph.kier@verizon.net
KOPP, Jacob T.	jkopp14@mac.com
McCOMB, Jim	jim_mccomb@verizon.net
McSTAY, James F.	jmestay@comcast.net
MICKELSON, Bill	billmickelson@verizon.net
MILLER, Bill	billjae2@verizon.net
MURRAY, Ken	kenmur1949@yahoo.com
MOMORELLA, Bob	mombo@starlinx.com
PARZANESE, Tony	tonyparz@hotmail.com
PARZANESE, Don, Sr.	donparzsr1@verizon.net
PARZANESE, Don, Jr.	donald.parzanese@us.army.mil
PEARCE, Budd	Buddpearce@comcast.net
POPP, Staci L.	staci1978@yahoo.com
POWELL, Jim	usmc80@comcast.net
PURA, John A.	purateam@aol.com
QUILLEN, Nick	nkquillen1@yahoo.com
SCOTT, Rich	richgscott@gmail.com
SMITH, Gary	sgarysemperfi@aol.com
SPILLANE, John	spillane3@verizon.net
SUNDLING, Bob	bsundling@tiniusolsen.com
WALDRON, Mike	gunnymike@verizon.net
WEAVER, Dick	dickweaver@verizon.net
WIMER, Lee	leewimer@aol.com
YEASTED, Vince	vyeasted@comcast.net

More in Next Issue

POW Corridor Dedicated at Pentagon

Defense Department officials dedicated a portion of the Pentagon to prisoners of war and troops missing in action, honoring one of the military's guiding principles: Never leave a comrade behind.

Michele Flournoy, the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, hosted the ceremony on the building's third floor, in Ring A between corridors 6 and 7.

The hallway is lined with information, artifacts and photographs underscoring the sacrifices of MIAs and POWs dating back to World War II.

"No matter how far away or how long

ago, we will do everything humanly possible to bring all those missing service members home," Flournoy said. "We do this for the sake of their family members, and we also do this for all who serve today."

The exhibit was placed in the corridor because thousands of people--service members, defense civilians and tourists--walk through it each year, Flournoy said. Its location, she added, underscores the importance the Defense Department places on recovering prisoners of war and those missing in action.

"As we stand here today," she said, "many thousands of servicemen and women are deployed around the world in harm's way. In the days and years to come, some of them will give their lives for their country. Some of them may fall into enemy hands.

"Part of what enables our men and women to focus on accomplishing their mission in harsh and dangerous environments is the knowledge that we will do whatever it takes to bring them home," she continued.

Army Air Forces flight engineer and gunner **Jerry Wolf** was one such service member. His B-17 Flying Fortress was shot down over Germany. He survived

the crash and spent 11 months in a German prison. Wolf noted that World War II veterans soon will be extinct, and displays such as the Pentagon corridor will help their legacy and service live on forever.

"I think the exhibit is wonderful and the recognition is great," Wolf said, adding he donated several letters he wrote while in the prison camp and other artifacts to the display. "It's wonderful to be noted for your service as an ex-prisoner of war."

Retired Navy **Rear Adm. Robert Shumaker** is another former POW who attended the dedication ceremony. His finger plane was shot down over North Vietnam in 1965. He spent eight years in a prison camp, three of which were spent in solitary confinement.

"Sometimes you don't have a choice," Shumaker said. "When an airplane crashes, it crashes. It's a terrible feeling, [but] I always knew that I'd never be forgotten by the American people."

In the past year, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command has accounted for 98 missing service members. More than 80,000 service members from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War remain unaccounted for.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**DETACHMENT MEETING
9 FEBRUARY**

**LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
12 FEBRUARY**

**VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE
14 FEBRUARY**

**PRESIDENTS' DAY
21 FEBRUARY**

**WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
22 FEBRUARY**

**ASH WEDNESDAY
9 MARCH**

**DETACHMENT MEETING
9 MARCH**

No COLA Increase for Social Security

WASHINGTON, DC-- The Social Security Administration has announced that no cost-of-living adjustments will be made to Social Security benefits in 2011 because the consumer price index has not risen since 2008 when the last Social Security increase occurred.

Like recipients of Social Security and other federal benefits, Veterans, their families and survivors will also not see a cost-of-living adjustment in 2011 to their compensation and pension benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Under federal law, the cost-of-living adjustments to VA's compensation and pension rates are the same percentage as for Social Security ben-

efits.

VA provides compensation and pension benefits to about four million Veterans and beneficiaries. For more information about VA benefits, go to www.va.gov <<http://www.va.gov/>> or call 1-800-827-1000.

Check Out
Our
Detachment Web Site
at:
www.mclcb.org

edition watch that was given to all of the living Medal of Honor recipients. Boyington's watch was the 34th one issued.

"My father wore that watch for a number of years," Boyington said. "Then I used to wear it occasionally to my fighter pilot reunions."

Retired **LtCol. Jim Hill**, one of the five living members of the squadron's original 49 pilots, thought Boyington's gesture was very appropriate.

"It was mighty nice of him," said the 90-year-old Hill, who served two tours of duty with the Black Sheep with "Pappy" as his commanding officer.

LtCol. Robert Schroder, the squadron's current commander, said the squadron is very rooted in "Pappy" Boyington's legacy and that it was an honor to receive some of the items that signified him as the hero that he was.

Boyington had contacted the squadron in October about giving the base his father's items and offered to have them shipped to the air station, which Schroder would not let him do.

"Absolutely not, because this was such a big deal for us," Schroder said. "We told him we would come and get them."

Schroder said when Boyington gave them the items, he requested that they be incorporated in the squadron's activities, which they have already done.

According to the Schroder, as of Nov. 10 the squadron has implemented some new traditions that honor Boyington's request. He said the squadron's commander will wear the watch during change-of-command ceremonies, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball and other special occasions.

As for the golden aviator wings, the privilege of wearing them for special occasions will always fall to the squadron's newest pilot. "Imagine being a new aviator and being handed Boyington's wings," Schroder said.

The first modern-era Black Sheep pilot to wear those wings was Capt. Srivatsan Santhanam, of Fairlawn, N.J., who wore them during the Marine Corps Ball celebrating the Corps' 235th birthday earlier this month.

"It was pretty awesome. I had only been

in the squadron a week and was told I get to wear 'Pappy's' wings," Santhanam said. "I was like, 'Wow, I showed up at the right time'."

Hill said VMF-214 was actually three different squadrons that all used the same squadron number and that Boyington was its second commanding officer.

The first VMF-214 was nicknamed the Swashbucklers and fought in mid-1943 in the Solomons campaign under **Maj. George Britt**, flying Wildcats and then Corsairs. The pilots from the squadron claimed 20 aerial victories and included two aces.

The famed Black Sheep squadron was its second formation and fought above the Northern Solomons and Rabaul from August 1943 through January 1944. The squadron shot down 98 Japanese planes and counted eight aces in addition to Boyington.

The third VMF-214 was a carrier-based squadron that flew off the USS Franklin against Japan in late 1944-1945.

"It was the original squadron that became famous," Hill said. "Other squadrons picked up on our name over the years."

The aviator wings and watch aren't the only items that belonged to "Pappy" that Boyington has given to the squadron. About 20 or so years ago, Boyington said, he gave a saber that belonged to his father to the squadron.

According to Boyington, when his sister lived in Spokane, Wash., a woman came to her home saying she bought the saber at a garage sale. The woman noticed later that it had the name Boyington etched into the blade and tracked his sister down because she wanted to return it to the family.

"Somehow it had gotten away from the family," Boyington said. "She wouldn't take any money for it, either."

That saber, along with a bust of Boyington, is on display outside the commanding officer's office.

Schroder said he considers it an honor to command VMF-214 because of its proud legacy. He added that he tells Marines who are new to the squadron that it is their "lucky day" when they join.

The colonel added that every Marine who has ever been in the squadron is aware of the historical significance of

being a Black Sheep and strives to continue the tradition of excellence that was forged by all those who came before them.

"This squadron has proven itself throughout the years," Schroder said of VMF-214, which was also the first Marine squadron to see action in the Korean War and has served numerous deployments during the War on Terrorism.

Kevin Gonzalez, a documentary filmmaker who made a movie about getting an airfield in Boyington's hometown named after the famous pilot, said the historic squadron actually has a second connection to Yuma.

According to Gonzalez, after VMF-214 was broken up after its third rotation, many of the pilots were transferred to VMF-211, the Wake Island Avengers, which is also now stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

Incidentally, Gonzalez said, Boyington's donation of the aviator wings and watch coincided with the time of year in 1943 in which the Black Sheep were about to begin their second combat tour in the Solomons, a tour in which "Pappy" was shot down.

Hill, who still occasionally speaks at air shows, said he is surprised about all the notoriety he and the squadron still receive to this day.

"When (he and other pilots) would go to air shows, we would have people lined up for half a block waiting to take our picture and get our autographs."

What really helped create that notoriety, according to Hill, was the popular TV show "The Black Sheep Squadron," which he said appealed to a new generation of Americans.

Hill also spoke fondly about meeting some Black Sheep squadron members in San Diego about six to eight years ago.

"I had lunch with the commanding officer," Hill said. "They put me in the cockpit of a Harrier, but I wasn't interested in a flight."

He also admitted to still getting excited whenever he talks about the Corsair, which has become an icon in aviation.

"Flying a Corsair was much simpler than flying one of today's planes. The plane is so unique. It was difficult to fly, but once you got the hang of it, you could do anything."

Quartermaster Store

DETACHMENT STRIP



\$5.00

USMC SATIN JACKET



\$55.00

LIFE MEMBER BLAZER CREST



\$25.00

COVER



\$22.00

DETACHMENT T-SHIRT



\$15.00

MCL PATCH



\$3.50

DETACHMENT LICENSE PLATE



\$10.00

To order any of these items or any other Marine Corps League items or Marine Corps items and have them ready for pick-up at the next Detachment Meeting, contact

Quartermaster COREY FISHER

at

ph: 215-822-6898

e-mail: cbquartermaster@aol.com

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, Inc.
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



"ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE"

**Application for Membership
Marine Corps League**

_____ (Date)

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Date of Enlistment/Commissioning _____

Date of Discharge/Separation/Retirement _____ SSN _____

Type of Application -- New () Renewal () Associate () Phone (____) _____

E-mail: _____

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)

(Applicant's Signature)



Remit this form with check or money order (made payable to **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, MCL**)
to: **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT, P. O. Box 1372, Doylestown, PA 18901-1372**