



LISTEN UP!

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT #636
Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XII, Number 7

JULY 2000



**CENTRAL BUCKS
DETACHMENT, Inc. #636**
P. O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901-1372
Meets
7:30 p.m.,
2d Wednesday of Month
American Legion Post 210
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MARINE OF THE YEAR:
WIL HAAS

KOSOVO MEDAL APPROVED

WASHINGTON (Army News Service)--In a recent Executive Order **President and Commander-in-Chief Bill Clinton** approved the establishment of the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

The inclusive dates for service to qualify for the medal are after Mar. 24, 1999, and until a terminal date to be decided by the Secretary of Defense.

The Kosovo Campaign Medal will be awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who serve or have served in Kosovo or contiguous waters or airspace, as defined by such regulations.

Upon application, any member may be awarded the the Kosovo Campaign Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or the Armed Forces Service

Medal.

However, no service member may be awarded more than one of these three medals by reason of service in Kosovo. Also, no person shall be entitled to more than one award of the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

Also, any member who qualified for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal by reasons of service in Kosovo between Mar.24, 1999, and May 1, 2000, shall remain qualified for those medals.

The Kosovo Campaign Medal may be awarded posthumously to any person who qualifies under the regulations guiding the medal. (NOTE: This article taken from Executive Order 13154.)

Marines Will Get New Howitzer

The Navy has announced the U.S. Army's Watervliet Arsenal (WVA), Albany, N.Y., will produce a new Light-weight 155mm Towed Howitzer (LW-155) cannon assembly for the U.S. Marine Corps.

The LW-155 program is a joint effort for the Marine Corps and Army to replace the aging M198 155mm howitzer nearing the end of its 20-year service life. The decision to build the cannon assemblies at WVA was made after analysis from the Joint LW-155 Program Office that showed the WVA was the best value solution for the Marine Corps.

The \$1-billion joint program calls for the 450 LW-155 howitzers to be built for the Marine Corps and 273 for the Army. The Marine Corps is scheduled to begin fielding in 2003 and completely fielding by 2006. The Army will begin fielding in 2005 and complete fielding by 2009.

The LW-155 weighs about 9,000 pounds, slightly more than half the weight of the 16,000-pound M198. This reduction in weight provides the LW-155 increased ground mobility airlift and capability. The LW-155 can be airlifted by the V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor and CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 12 JULY 2000 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST, 315
NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

I want to thank those who made the Memorial Day Parade; it was one of the best yet. It seems that each year the turnout in Doylestown has been growing. Well if you didn't make this one, you missed something. The sight of all those people along the street applauding you and the sounds of the kids cheering makes you proud to be a Veteran. I marched at the front of the parade with the other commanders of the various Veterans groups and the view from there was great! I had chills after the first block of the march. Maybe next year one of you will get to find out what it's like to be up front and see all those people out there and hear them cheer you, all you have to do is run for Commandant. The Young Marines were with us this year, and they looked really good. It was nice to have them back marching with us. Our color guard looked excellent and we had some new faces up there this time. Thanks guys, you did an outstanding job!

We announced the the date for the next Highway Clean-up would be 15 July. I will speak to the heat gods and ask them to be gentle on us old Jarheads. We also spoke about the 4th of July Parade. The parade starts sometime around 9:00 on Tuesday the 4th. We will be meeting at the Clemens parking lot in New Britain at about 8:15 so that we will have time to get the float together. From what I have heard, the Young Marines might be with us again and will be at the front of the parade again. There will be lunch stuff



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.

on board so we will have our usual good lunch after the parade. My wife will make sure that everyone gets something to eat, as she usually does. I really have to thank her for doing that, I don't ask, but she just gets the job done! Our float is entered in the float competition again this year.

That's about all I have for right now,

'Pearl Harbor' to Begin Filming

WASHINGTON--The U. S. Navy has approved and is encouraging strong support for the Disney film "Pearl Harbor" which is nearing its production stage. Using ships from the Naval Sea System Command's Inactive Fleet, the producers hope to begin shooting on location in Pearl Harbor this month.

The Department of Defense (DoD) and Navy leadership see this feature film as a superb opportunity to pay tribute to the American heroes of Pearl Harbor and to all veterans of World War II.

This production will require the most complex motion picture support that DoD has authorized in more than 20 years. The inactive ships will be towed to Ford Island to simulate the battleship row of the period. Filming will also take place aboard the museum battleship USS MISSOURI (BB-63).

Other filming locations will include Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Ford Island, Hickam Air Force Base, Fort Shafter,

SHIP NAMED FOR JIMMIE HOWARD

BATH, ME--A Marine Gunnery Sergeant for whom the latest destroyer was named at the Bath Iron Works here never liked being singled out for his heroism in Vietnam, his widow and friends said.

The 19th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer to be launched into the Kennebec River at the shipyard bears the name of Vietnam War hero **Jimmie E. Howard**.

Howard was awarded the Medal of Honor for leading a platoon against repeated enemy attacks by a battalion-sized Viet Cong force.

I'm late with this column, as usual, and Don is waiting for me. Next month, I will try to get done on time so I have time to think about what I probably am forgetting this month. See you at the Parade!

Semper Fi,

Budd Plance

and Wheeler Army Air Field. At many of these sites, filming is expected to include the flying of vintage aircraft and the use of pyrotechnics and special effects to reenact the December 7, 1941, attack.

The Navy will serve as the lead military service for this effort and will be assisted by Army and Air Force when necessary.

Military personnel may participate as extras in the production on a volunteer basis, while in a leave or off-duty status.

In a message of support for the project, **Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen** said, "The script for this patriotic, epic period motion picture depicts positive, reasonably accurate portrayals of military men and women, and is anticipated to be of considerable public affairs, recruiting, and retention benefit."

2000 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

4TH OF JULY PARADE
JULY 4
CHAL-BRIT SHOPPING CTR.

DETACHMENT MEETING
JULY 12

DETACHMENT MEETING
AUGUST 9

NATIONAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 13-19
RADISSON HOTEL
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Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, was held June 14, 2000, at Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 15 members present including all officers except the Senior Vice Commandant and the Chaplain. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Director of Public Relations** and **Past Commandant Don Gee**, **Past Commandant of the Department of New Jersey Ed Hoth**, and **Marine of the Year Wil Haas**.

The Minutes of the May Meeting were unanimously approved.

The Paymaster's Report was presented by **Paymaster Bob Cody**. The report was unanimously accepted.

Commandant Budd Pearce reminded the members the Department of Pennsylvania Convention would be held at the Valley Forge Hilton from June 22-24. He also reminded the members about the July 4 Parade in New Britain.

In the absence of **Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller**, the Junior Vice Commandant reported the Detachment strength at 52 members: 13 Life Members, 35 Regular Members, and 4 Associate Members with 2 members delinquent.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported we had missed the opportunity to book a Town & Country Players fundraiser this year. He also reported the down payment had been made to the Orion Club at Willow Grove and the Detachment had reserved the club for our annual Birthday Ball on Nov. 11.

Adjutant Gary Smith read correspondence from the Department of Pennsylvania about the Department Convention.

Judge Advocate Bob Momorella reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Public Relations Officer Don Gee set June 20 as the deadline date for submitting material for the July issue of *Listen Up!*

Committee Reports

Adopt-A-Highway--Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Budd Pearce set Saturday, July 15, as the date for the next highway clean-up.

Audit Committee--Commandant Pearce set Wednesday, July 12, at 6:45 p.m., as the date and time for the annual audit to be conducted. Committee members will assemble at the American Legion Post to conduct the audit.

Rifle & Pistol Team--Commandant Pearce stated the Pistol Match was held June 3-4 and Team Captain Bill Rosenberger will have a full report at the July Meeting.

Announcements

The Bucks County Korean War Memorial will be dedicated on Friday, June 23, at 11 a.m. at the Bucks County Court House.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until July 12 at 7:30 p.m.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“When I joined the military it was illegal to be homosexual, then it became optional I'm getting out before it becomes mandatory.”

Anonymous
LtCol., USAF (Ret.)

NEW ASSISTANT COMMANDANT NOMINATED

WASHINGTON, DC--**President Bill Clinton** has nominated **Lieutenant General Michael J. Williams**, currently Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs and Resources at Headquarters Marine Corps, for appointment to the grade of General and assignment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

LtGen. Williams was born on July 12, 1943, in Baltimore, MD. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy in 1960 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the U. S. Naval Academy with a B.S. degree in June 1967. He also holds a Masters Degrees from the University of Southern California (1974) and the College of Naval Warfare.

Upon completion of Naval Flight Training at Pensacola, FL, he was designated a Naval Aviator in February 1969.

He next served operational tours in both the continental United States and the Republic of Vietnam before being ordered to the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico, VA, in 1973. Upon graduation in June 1974, he served on Okinawa with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

In the summer of 1975, Williams joined HMX-1 at Quantico. There, he was des-

ignated a Presidential Helicopter Pilot.

Following graduation from Command & Staff College in June 1979, he was ordered to the Naval Academy where he served as a Company Officer and Executive Assistant to the Commandant of Midshipmen. He transferred to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, El Toro, CA, in July 1982, for duty as Executive Officer of H&MS-16 and later as Commanding Officer of Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301.

From June 1984 until June 1985, Williams attended the Naval War College, Newport, RI. He then joined the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa, where he served as the Assistant G-3).

In the summer of 1986, he reported to HQMC for duty. In July 1989, he was transferred to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point, NC, as the Wing Inspector before assuming duties as MAG-26 XO in April 1990. Col. Williams assumed command of the Squadron on July 16, 1990. He deployed to Saudi Arabia to take part in OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD and OPERATION DESERT STORM.

Returning to the U.S. in May 1991, he was assigned duties as the Vice Director

for Operational Plans and Interoperability, J-7, and Vice Director, Joint Staff for Military Education, The Joint Staff, in November 1991. While serving in this capacity, he was promoted to Brigadier General on April 1, 1992. He served in that capacity until July 16, 1993, when he assumed command of the 2nd Force Service Group. On June 8, 1994, BrigGen. Williams was appointed Commanding General, Joint Task Force 160, a humanitarian relief effort for Haiti and Cuban migrants at Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba. He resumed command of 2nd FSSG on Oct. 31, 1994. He was advanced to Major General in March 1995 and, in July, was appointed Director of the Marine Corps Staff, Washington, DC. On July 23, 1996, he became Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico.

Gen. Williams' personal decorations include: the Defense Superior Service Medal with gold star, the Legion of Merit with gold star, the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V," the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Strike Flight Numerals "25" and bronze star, and the Navy Commendation Medal with gold star and combat "V."

Mass Grave May Contain Executed Marine Raiders

A mass grave of United States Marines who went missing during World War II in the Central Pacific has been found. The find has led military authorities to appeal for witnesses who may have seen other soldiers beheaded by the Japanese.

A U.S. Army official confirmed today the dead all came from the U.S. Marine's 2nd Raider Battalion which attacked Japanese-occupied Butaritari Island (then known as Makin and now part of Kiribati) in August, 1942. Of the group, whose deputy commander was the then President's son **Major James Roosevelt**, 30, went missing and their fate has never been determined.

Colonel David Pagano, of the U.S. Army's central identification laboratory in Hawaii, said they had located a mass grave last December containing 20 bodies. At least 19 of them were Marines, but the other may be a local per-

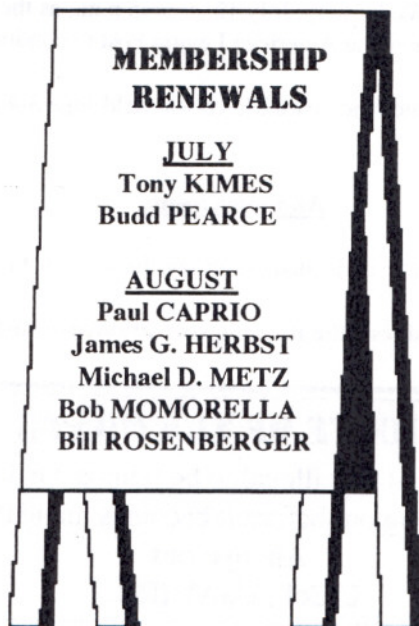
son.

Pagano said they had flown the bodies to Honolulu where they will undergo a

year-long identification process based on dental records. There is still no sign of the other missing soldiers, but historical evidence points to nine Marine prisoners being taken to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands where they were beheaded by the Japanese.

Because none of the missing had been located until now, it has never been known who was killed in battle and who was executed. Pagano said their search would now move to Kwajalein, which is a vast U.S. Army ballistic missile testing base.

"We have not located the ones who was believed to have died on Kwajalein," Pagano said. "We need to find good reliable witnesses who will lead us to where they are buried. We just know of the story and we know of the trace of what presumably happened. We have yet to get a witness to tell us where they were buried or if they were buried."



'DEVIL DOGS' RETURN TO BELLEAU WOOD

by GySgt. Manny Pacheco

MARINE FORCES EUROPE, STUTTGART, Germany--Nearly 82 years after they cleared Belleau Wood of Imperial German Infantry, at the cost of more than 1,000 of their comrades, the U. S. Marines returned once again, but this time to repair the damage done by Mother Nature.

Fourteen Marines from Headquarters, Marine Corps Forces, Europe, along with four others from the U. S. Embassy, Paris, joined forces to clean up the wood and surrounding grounds from the damage done by one of the worst wind storms to hit Europe in 100 years. In addition, the Marines also cleared storm damage from a nearby German military cemetery, in which German casualties of the battle are interred.

The devastating storm, which struck Western Europe late last year, killed more than 125 people and knocked down countless thousands of trees. According to some reports, Paris was hardest hit, with an estimated 10,000 trees damaged. Belleau Wood, which is located about 60 miles east of Paris, was also very hard hit.

"We had more than 2,000 trees damaged in the battlefield alone," said **Philip De La Mater**, Superintendent of the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery at Belleau, France. "In addition, we had 200 downed trees in the cemetery and 12 headstones damaged."

"They (Marines) came in here Monday morning and by that afternoon had not only made trails passable, but also had cleared more trees than we ever expected," said De La Mater. "They came here and have managed to do in one week what would have taken my crew (of 12) at least two or more weeks to complete. More importantly, they

were able to do what we wouldn't be able to do until late spring or early summer," he added.

"When the Marines asked if there was anything they could do to help with the cleanup effort, I was quick to say 'yes'," De La Mater stated. "But, I didn't expect them to show up here with all of this equipment and so motivated to work.

"Their motivation has been an inspiration to my crew who are working twice as hard to try to keep pace and help the Marines in any way possible," he added.

The 14 Marines and an Army medic traveled to Belleau on a limited budget. However, through the help of various units in Stuttgart, and monetary assistance from the Marine Corps University Foundation in Quantico, VA, they were able to get the job done.

"We received help from both the Army and Navy here in Stuttgart," said **Major Carl Simons**, the officer-in-charge of the team. "Additionally, the Marine Corps University Foundation was extremely helpful, not only in the money they allocated us, but also the quick turnaround in the approval process," he added.

The Marines spent the week cutting, stacking, clearing, and burning brush in the battlefield. Additionally, they spent a day cutting and clearing trees from the German cemetery.

While working the battlegrounds, the Marines also learned that the famous Bulldog fountain, located near the Belleau town square, had stopped running. The fountain, which was a source of drinking water during World War I, is rumored to give Marines an extra 20 years of life if they drink from it.

With some Marine Corps ingenuity and 100 meters of plastic tubing, they were able to once again get the water

flowing and provide a permanent solution to the Marines' Fountain of Youth.

The week at the battlefield was not only very helpful in restoring one of the Marine Corps' most important battlefields, but also provided the Marines with a different appreciation of what that WWI battle must have been like.

"As I walk this battlefield in the rain and wind wearing my Gore-Tex (wet weather gear) I can only imagine how miserable they must have been without any of these comforts and constantly under fire," commented **Sgt. Londra Graham**. "From now on, when I hear people speak of Belleau Wood, I will listen with a different ear."

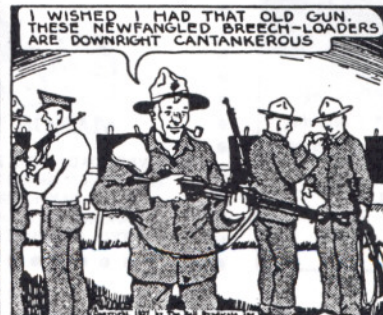
"It makes me proud of the fact that not only are we restoring our battlefield, but that we care in such a way that the Marines are working just as hard to clean the German cemetery," said Graham. "We may have been enemies but with honor and respect the men who fought and paid the ultimate sacrifice for their beliefs," he added.

In addition to getting a better feel for what the battle must have been like Marines also uncovered remnants from those days. One Marine uncovered a live 75mm artillery round, while others located pieces of shrapnel.

Belleau Wood is the site of one of the greatest, but costliest victories in U. S. Marine Corps history, until World War II. The action stopped the last major German offensive of the war. Following the battle, the wood was officially renamed Bois de la Brigade de Marine in honor of the Marines who fought and died there. Subsequent to the battle, German veterans of the battle nicknamed the Marines who fought there "Tuefelhunden," or "Devil Dogs," a term which is still used by Marines today.

SERGEANT STONY CRAIG—Newfangled Shooting-Iron

By Frank H. Rentfrow and Don Dickson



'Homes for Heroes' Web Page Produced by AFIS

WASHINGTON--There are stories of days and nights fighting and slogging through muddy fields in Europe, of bloody assaults and mind-and-body numbing cold on the Korean Peninsula, of tense and lonely watches at sea between fierce battles in the South Pacific.

Theirs are stories of courage and endurance, of selfless service to country, of triumph over fear.

And ultimately, theirs are stories of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines whose names will rarely make it into history books, but whose bravery and willingness to sacrifice all made this the American century.

Now, their stories are yours to read on the new "Home for Heroes" (<http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/heroes/>) website produced by American Forces Information Service.

The site features profiles of the veterans living at the Armed Forces Retirement Home--veterans who served and fought in the nation's wars from World War I through Operation Desert Storm.

The site also includes a photographic tour and general information about the retirement homes.

The Armed Forces Retirement Home actually consists of two facilities: the U.S. Soldiers and Airmens Home in Washington, DC, and the U.S. Naval Home in Gulfport, MS.

Originally established in the 1800s to provide safe haven for elderly and disabled soldiers and sailors, they have evolved into retirement communities offering a secure and comfortable life style.

Approximately 1,600 veterans from every military service reside in the retire-

ment homes. Their average age is 76. About 85 percent saw duty in World War II, 30 percent served in Korea, and 10 percent in Vietnam. They come from every state in the union. About 150 of the residents are women.

In the first profile on the website, readers are introduced to Jack Donne, a veteran who took part in some of World War II's greatest campaigns, including Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge.

Subsequent profiles will be added to the website approximately every two weeks. In addition, a photographic tour of the U.S. Naval Home in Gulfport will soon be added to the site.

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

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

I hereby apply for membership in the **CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT**, Marine Corps League, and enclose \$30.00 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.

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(Applicant's Signature)

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