



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Central Bucks Detachment

P.O. Box 1372

Doylestown, PA 18901

CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT NEWSLETTER

The "dog days" of August are upon us and before you know it, Labor Day will be knocking at the door. Better get all your summer vacation time used up before it's too late.

- ITEMS FROM THE DETACHMENT MEETING ON JULY 12 -

- Don Parsonese signed up his brother from Escondido, California, as our newest member. Welcome Aboard, Anthony.
- Final arrangements for the September bus trip to Atlantic City will be announced at the August meeting.
- A meeting is planned with All-Divisions Detachment to firm up plans for the Marine Corps Ball in November at NADC in Warminster. Start making plans to attend and bring along as many friends as you can. The last two affairs were a lot of fun and very successful, so get your reservations in early.
- The women veterans group will hold an observance at Willow Grove Mall on November 11 to salute our area's veterans. The focus will primarily be on the women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Your support will be appreciated.
- Official installation of the Detachment officers was conducted by former State Commandant, Paul Seton. His new office is National Vice-Commandant for the Northeastern Division of the Marine Corps League. He is also Adjutant of the Department of Pennsylvania, MCL.
- Herb Krout was presented with a special plaque by Commandant Parsonese on which was engraved "Herb Krout in appreciation for your special efforts Memorial Day 1988, 1989 Central Bucks Detachment MCL." To this we can only add "Well done, Herb. No one deserves it more."
- Mike Waldron's daughter qualified on the rifle range at Parris Island.

Following the regular meeting, an informal rap session was held with Paul Seton. He reported that Charlie Strause of Cressona, PA is the new State Commandant. At the State Convention June 15 to 17, it was reported that there were 4,016 members at that time in Pennsylvania.....Department Rifle Match is scheduled at Indian-town Gap on September 24 and 25.....The National Convention will

be in Texas in August.....On November 5 MCL will have a Veteran's Day program at Indiantown Gap and the speaker will be PA Attorney General Ernie Preate.....Marine Commandant General Al Gray has been invited to a ceremony at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, on October 22.....Paul is chairman of the National Convention Committee for 1991 and he is making a bid for King of Prussia as the location.

NEXT MEETING - AUGUST 9, AT 2000 HOURS, AMBER INN, DOYLESTOWN

Shoe



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DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Commandant's Correspondence
15 June 1989

From: Commandant
To: All Marines
Subj: Convention Report 1989

COPY

Last year at this time, the delegates at the Department Convention in Williamsport under took a number of initiatives designed to improve our Department, many goals were set. As we prepare for the 44th Convention, there were some goals and opportunities in the past year that were not realized. The challenge is before us, once more, to do bigger & better things in the coming year. This is a progress report of the past year.

4016
1. Membership. As of 16 May 1989, this Department's strength listed 3819 members in good standing, and counting the Associate members 3888. This is an increase of 555 over the 3333 total at the 88 Convention. The Department's goal, still remains at 4000.

2. Detachments. The number of Detachments in Pennsylvania, total 56, in the past year we lost, Philadelphia Memorial in the Southeast, Cameron County, Elk Horn, and Loweranitis in the Northwest Division. The new Detachments on board are Phoenixville area, in the Southeast, Juniata Area, in the Central, Bedford Area, Indiana Area in the South-West.

3. Our Economics. The Department is solvent, our financial posture is excellent. we are meeting all of our commitments and obligations. The Jr Vice Commandant will be presenting the 89/90 Budget, in which there will be some minor changes. The Department Copier went down just before the Convention, it was repaired at a cost of \$270.00. These monies were appropriated as a contingency by the Department Staff at the 3rd Quarter Meeting.

4. Computer. The Tandy HD 3000 has been programed, a status report will be given by the Paymaster.

5. Assistant Paymaster. Maynard King has handled all of the Department's financial transactions, and has kept the accounts accurate. As a 501-C4 organization, the 990 forms required by the IRS, were submitted on time.

5. Fund Raisers. At the 3rd Quarter Staff meeting, the Department had just received \$400.00 from the All Occassion Card program. I recently toured Famous Artists Corp it is a very large facility, with large production dependent upon Veterans Organizations. Its an excellent money maker, if all Marines would donate towards the Cards.

The Car ticket Campaign drawing will be Saturday 17 June at 1400, the goal was to raise \$25.925 by the 89 Convention.

6. Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. As a member of the PA War Veterans Council, the Departments' assesment was \$4000.00. As Commandant I made that donation on behalf of the Marine Corps League in July 1988. Sixteen Detachments have contributed \$1949.00, to this date. The Department is still asking one dollar per member from each Detachment.

7. Communications. The Newsletter, "Once A Marine" has been distributed at Staff meetings, its an excellent publication, there has been some distribution problems, and lack of information from Detachments to the PR NCO.

Your Commandant has generated 24 UpDate letters in the past two years. I would hope that these letters put the latest word out.

"Once a Marine, Always a Marine"

8. Quartermaster. Marine Jim Daley, has done an outstanding job, in the past two years providing merchandise to the members of the League. In addition to being at all Staff Meetings and conventions, phone call orders were sent out by mail and UPS. This has been a good profit making endeavor, as the Budget income line will indicate.

9. Department Activities. The 9th annual rifle match was held in September 88 at Ft. Indiantown Gap, with approximately 240 members on board. This annual event has been a good for retaining and recruiting members. The 10th annual match is set for 23 & 24 September 89 at the same location.

The Department and the Bethlehem Detachment hosted the Tri-Division Conference, that included, the New England, Mid-East, and the Northeast Divisions in April in Bethlehem. This was a first of a kind in the eastern part of the country, and it was successful.

Marine Corps League Day was held on 23rd of April 89 at the Chapel of Four Chaplains in Philadelphia. The Department submitted the name of General Alfred M. Gray USMC, the Commandant of the Marine Corps to the Chapel of Four Chaplains for the Bronze Medallion Award. His nomination was accepted, and the Commandant was present to accept.

Your Department Commandant attended graduation exercises at Scotland School on Saturday 3 June, and presented a donation of \$400.00 to their ROTC program, and a 4x6 Marine Corps League Flag, to be displayed in the Chapel.

10. Legislation. Your Legislative Officer, Paul Hastings has been very active this past year, and will give a more concise report, but I must mention, just a few items. The small games of chance Bill, that passed in Harrisburg in the early part of the year, it was a victory, all around and especially for those that had it listed on the local Primary Ballot, and voted it in.

The other piece of Legislation, that passed unanimous in both House & Senate was the Bill designating Route # 15 in Pennsylvania as Marine Corps League Memorial Highway. When the signs go up in the very near future, it should give the Marine Corps League extensive visibility.

There is another Bill that we Veterans expect to see introduced shortly, and that will cover establishing an independent agency in the State government devoted to Veterans affairs, the rationale behind this is that Pennsylvania has the 4th largest Veterans population of all 50 states, and yet it is one of only a handful of states which does not have an independent Veterans Department.

Last September, I was elected President of the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, representing 16 Veterans Organizations in Pennsylvania. By virtue of this position, it placed your Commandant on the Veterans Memorial Commission, which is dedicated to raising funds and erecting a Memorial Amphitheater at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, this also provided me the opportunity to serve on the Vietnam Veterans Health Initiative Commission.(VVHIC)

I have represented the Department of Pennsylvania at every function and ceremony, that I could possibly attend, and hope my performance as Commandant has enhanced the dignity, honor, and prestige of the Marine Corps League. I have visited every Detachment, except for a few that don't meet, and this covered 66000 miles in 2 years. As I turn over the gavel to my to my duly elected successor, I wish our Department and League continued success in all endeavors, and especially in Membership.

Semper Fidelis



Paul J. Seton



"ONCE A MARINE"

DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Special Department Convention Issue 1989

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**The Few
The Proud
The Marines**

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We will begin with feedback... The last two issues of Once A Marine have contained articles in favor of the Marine Corps League allowing Navy Corpsmen to become full voting members. The first article was prompted by The Hidden Bell Detachment Newsletter. The second was a letter from Marine Jim Bradford of the Chester County Detachment. In the past few weeks the amount of phone calls and letters received, in regard to this subject, has been overwhelming. I say overwhelming because since this publication came into being the only things received were Detachment newsletters and an occasional phone call from Commandant Seton. All that changed. The phone started ringing and the mailman wore out the hinge on the box. The remarkable thing was that every call or correspondence received was pro. I have not received one con. That's interesting, to me at least, so stand by, you are about to be exposed to a lot of research by quite a few Marines. All of it is in favor of welcoming Navy Corpsmen with an 8404 MOS (FMF qualified) aboard.

Congressional Medal of Honor....Boone, Joel Thompson

Rank and organization: Lieutenant (Medical Corps), U. S. Navy. Place and date: Vicinity Vierzy, France, 19 July 1918. Entered service at: St. Clair, PA. Born: 2 August 1889, St. Clair, PA. Citation: For extraordinary heroism, conspicuous gallantry, and intrepidity while serving with the 6th Regt, U. S. Marines, in actual conflict with the enemy. With absolute disregard for personal safety, ever conscious and mindful of the suffering fallen, Surgeon Boone, leaving the shelter of a ravine, went forward onto the open field where there was no protection and despite the extreme enemy fire of all calibers, through a heavy mist of gas, applied dressings and first aid to wounded Marines. When the dressings and supplies had been exhausted, he went through a heavy barrage of large-caliber shells, both high explosive and gas, to replenish these supplies, returning quickly with a sidecar load, and administered them in saving the lives of the wounded. A second trip, under the same conditions and for the same purpose, was made by Surgeon Boone later that day.

MOS 8404 (FMF Qualified)... Marines are all aware that the photograph taken by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal was actually the second flag erected on Iwo Jima's, Mt. Surabachi. This moment in history has probably become the most reproduced image in the world. The United States Marine Corps War Memorial was sculpted to exact detail from that photo. If you think about it we are only talking seconds, maybe milliseconds of a captured moment in time that brought six Americans together to perform an act of single purpose. That purpose was to tell the world that we, as Americans, are willing to preserve our freedom at any cost.

Three of the six, Marine Corporal Harlon H. Block, Marine Sergeant Michael Strank and Marine Private First Class Frank R. Sousley paid the supreme sacrifice on Iwo Jima. Marine Private First Class Ira Hayes died in 1955. Marine Private First Class Rene A. Gagnon died in 1979. The only survivor was not a Marine, not in the true sense of the word. He is Pharmacist Mate Second Class John H. Bradley. A Navy Corpsman. Corpsmen Bradley was later wounded and evacuated. In the true tradition of the U. S. Navy Medical Corps assigned to a Marine Unit, he acted as a Marine, he was there, just as Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Lieutenant Joel Thompson Boone, U. S. Navy Surgeon, was in the south of France on 19 July 1918 administering aid to wounded Marines.

Marine Sergeant Bill Ross... noted in his book, "Iwo Jima - Legacy of Valor", that Surgeons and Corpsmen were on the beaches with the first wave and remained until the last shot was fired. When a Marine was wounded seriously, his first and best hope for survival was that a Corpsman was nearby. It meant life or death.

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Pharmacists Mate First Class John Harlan Willis. 28 February 1945 while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Marine Division. KIA D-Day + 9. Award Posthumous

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Pharmacists Mate Third Class Jack Williams. 3 March 1945 while serving with the 3rd Battalion, 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division. KIA D-Day + 12. Award Posthumous

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Pharmacists Mate Second Class George Edward Wahlen 3 March 1945 while serving with the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines, 5th Marine Division. Other awards: 3 Purple Hearts.

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Hospital Apprentice First Class Robert Eugene Bush 2 May 45 while serving with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Pharmacists Mate Second Class William David Haylbarton Jr. while serving with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Okinawa

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Hospital Apprentice First Class Fred F. Lester 8 June 45 while serving with an Assault Rifle Platoon, 1st Battalion, 22nd Marines, 6th Marine Division. Award Posthumous

Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Pharmacists Mate First Class Francis J. Pierce while serving with the 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines, 4th Marine Division

WWI...Six U. S. Navy Medical Corps personnel assigned to U. S. Marine Corps Units were Medal of Honor recipients. One Posthumous

WWII...195 names of Navy Corpsmen assigned to U. S. Marine Corps Units are on crosses on the Island of Iwo Jima. 259 Navy Medical personnel assigned to U. S. Marine Corps Units were wounded during this campaign

Korea... Five U. S. Navy Medical Corps personnel assigned to U. S. Marine Corps Units were Medal of Honor recipients. Four Posthumous

Vietnam... Three U. S. Navy Medical Corps personnel assigned to U. S. Marine Corps Units were Medal of Honor recipients.

Corpsmen David E. Ballard assigned to Company M, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines 3rd Marine Division

Corpsmen David R. Ray assigned to Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division

Corpsmen Wayne M. Caron assigned to 1st Marine Division. Award Posthumous

We have always taken care of our own... Isn't it about time that the Marine Corps League welcomed Navy personnel who carry the MOS 8404 and are FMF QUALIFIED into its ranks as voting members? Why are we not allowing Pharmacist Mate Second Class John H. Bradley from becoming one of us. He was one of us on Iwo Jima. With the upcoming Department and National Conventions around the corner we are of the opinion that the Dept. Pa., MCL should lead the way in recognizing and finally taking care of our own. The time has come.

Editors Comment... In conversations with elected officials of the League, I was led to believe that allowing Navy Cropsmen who held the MOS 8404 (FMF Qualified) would mean changing the charter and perhaps the By-Laws. It seems that in order to change the charter it must be taken back to the Congress of The United States for their approval. I can't believe that is such a big deal. As stated earlier, all the feedback received was pro. The Marines in favor took the time to communicate. If a person feels strongly enough about a situation, they are willing to let others know where they stand. The only comment received against was in a conversation with a former Marine at a local sloop chute. "If the guy wanted to be a Marine then he should have gone through Parris Island like I did". Upon further questioning the former Marine was asked where he served while in the Corps. His answer, "I was at Parris Island and then took ITR at Camp Lejeune. After that I came home and only had to spend two weeks a year at summer camp". This former Marine is a member of the Marine Corps League, which is how it should be.

10th Annual Reunion - For those of you in the western portion of the State, or any one interested, the Tri-State Detachment of Youngstown, Ohio will be hosting a reunion of all Marines and persons attached to Marine Units on Friday, 4 August 89 at the ITAM Post #3 in Youngstown, Ohio. If you would like more info contact: W. R. Simon, 2268 Innwood Drive, Youngstown, Ohio 44515-5150 (216) 792-0003. Reservation deadline: 31 July 89

Follow the 28th Division Highway... An unforgettable event will take place Thursday, 22 June thru Wednesday, 28 June in Boalsburg, PA. The Moving Wall will be displayed at the Pennsylvania 28th Division Shrine. The half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in our nations capital, is 250 feet in length, 6 feet in height and contains the names of the 58,156 dead or MIA's of the Vietnam War. For those of you who have never seen the Memorial in D.C. or missed the Moving Wall when it was in the central Penna. area last August, you must avail yourself of the opportunity to view this symbol and tribute to those who served. This is the only scheduled appearance in Penna. this year. Boalsburg is located near State College on Route 322.

Dear Pvt. A. Sheet Byrd...I am appalled at the amount of crime that is prevalent in our society today. You can not pick up a paper or turn on the television without hearing about another crime being committed. It has gotten to the point that it is not safe to venture out of your home. I for one have taken steps to protect my family. I just got a gun for my wife. What are your comments on this situation

Signed, Concerned

Dear Concerned...I think you made one hell of a good swap.

Attention military history buffs...There exists a book store in New York that carries all kinds of out-of-print military books, both American and foreign. It particularly specializes in unit histories. The proprietor buys books all the time, so the stock is always changing. Three or four times a year. The Military Bookman publishes a catalog available for \$10. Subscribers can have their names and the titles of books they would like put onto the computerized list. The store tries to accommodate individual requests from a veteran looking for a single book on his own unit. Call the Military Bookman at (212) 348-1280 and describe the book you want. If one comes in, they'll let you know.

THE PAIN IS TEMPORARY - THE PRIDE IS FOREVER