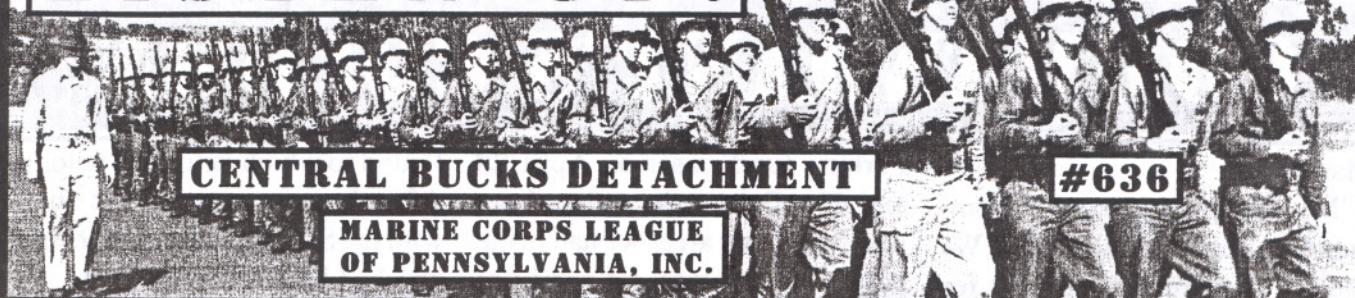


LISTEN UP!



VOLUME XX, Number 6

JUNE 2007

Commandant: JAMES POWELL

Editor: DON H. GEE

POLITICS DURING WARTIME

by Michael DeLong
New York Times

TAMPA, FL--As the deputy commander at United States Central Command from 2001 to 2003, I represented the military in dealing with politicians regarding the capture and rescue of PFC Jessica D. Lynch in Iraq, and thus I can speak with authority about what really happened after her maintenance convoy got lost near Nasiriya in 2003 and she was taken prisoner. I feel compelled to respond to accusations that have been made in recent days by several politicians.

The initial reports from the field regarding Private Lynch stated that she had gone down fighting, had emptied her weapon and that her actions were heroic. Based on these reports, politicians from her home state, West Virginia, wanted the military to award her the Medal of Honor. Their request rose up the ladder until finally it reached me.

But initial combat reports are often wrong. Time must always be taken to thoroughly investigate all claims. In the case of Private Lynch, additional time was needed, since she was suffering from combat shock and loss

Please turn to **LYNCH** on Page 5

Marine Corps Historian Simmons Dies

One of the Corps' most prominent historians has died.

Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons, Sr. passed away on May 5 at the age of 85.

In addition to being a highly respected authority on Marine Corps history, he was an often interviewed History Channel and Discovery Channel consultant on World War II history.

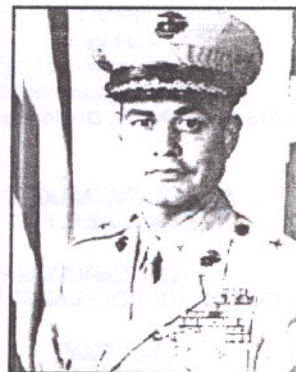
Edwin Howard Simmons was born August 25, 1921, in Paulsboro, NJ, and graduated from high school there in 1938. He earned his B.A. degree in journalism in 1942 at Lehigh University where he was named a Phi Beta Kappa in 1941. He also held a master's degree in journalism he earned in 1955 at Ohio State University. Prior to accepting his commission as a Marine Second Lieutenant on June 12, 1942, he held an Army Reserve commission.

During World War II, he trained at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, VA, and Camp Lejeune, NC, prior to serving overseas with the 5th Field Depot in the South and Central Pacific. He took part in combat during the capture of Guam and later served with the 7th Service Regiment on Okinawa and in China. He was promoted to Captain in January 1944 and to Major in June 1949.

Following the war, he served for three and one-half years as Managing Editor of the *Marine Corps Gazette*, then completed the Amphibious Warfare School, Junior Course, Quantico, in 1950.

At the outbreak of the Korean War, he was serving with the Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, Camp Lejeune. With his unit was part

of the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, he was ordered to Korea in August 1950 and participated in the Inchon



BrigGen. ED SIMMONS

Landing that September. He continued in combat as a weapons company commander during the North Korean Aggression, the Communist China Aggression and the First UN Counter Offensive; and as a battalion operations officer and executive officer during the Communist China Spring Offensive.

Returning to the United States in July 1951, he served in various assignments with the Training and Re-

Please turn to **SIMMONS** on Page 4

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

My first month as your Commandant is now in the books. We had an extraordinary turnout for my first meeting behind the podium. It was great to see that many members attend.

Now, for some fund-raising news. We had our annual A-Day

Parking fund raiser on April 28 and 29. Due to the reduced access to parking areas we had in the past, this year was not nearly as successful as before.

We are also entering the home stretch for the Department of Pennsylvania Youth and Veterans Raffle ticket sales. So, please sell as many as you can. Remember we get 40 cents per ticket sold. All tickets need to be turned in at the June meeting so that we can get them to the state convention.

Finally, we have our biggest fund raiser of the year coming up Memorial Day weekend, May 24 thru May 27, at the State Liquor Store in Doylestown. **Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce** is coordinating this effort, so if you can spare any time to help, please contact Budd.

On a personal note, along with **Junior Pats Commandant Bill Miller**, I attended the Alfred E Smith Memorial Ceremony at the Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill, PA. **Alfred E. Smith** was a Medal of Honor recipient and is the name sake of the Devil Dog

Pound to which Bill and I belong. After the ceremony, we had lunch with the Smith family. A nice time was had by all that attended.

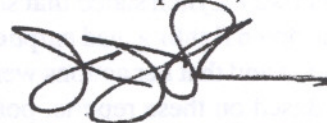
We also had good participation for the viewing of Marine **Lt. Travis Manion**, on May 5 at the Reed-Steinbach Funeral Home. Lt. Manion was killed in action in Iraq. Thanks to all that attended and a special thanks to Rich Scott for getting me the word about this Marine.

Don't forget the Memorial Day Parade on Monday the 28. We will meet at the Lenape Middle School on Rt. 202 in Doylestown. Please be there between 0800-0830, so that we can get our float together.

The Pennsylvania Department Pistol match is June 2 and 3. Anyone interested in coming out and fire for the Detachment, please contact me or Budd Pearce.

Well, that's it for this month, see at the June meeting.

Semper Fi,



Jim Powell



**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

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DON H. GEE, PC

Jr. VICE COMMANDANT
ELLIS M. (BUDD) PEARCE III, PC

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WEBMASTER
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LISTEN UP! Seeks Editor

Someone familiar with desktop publishing is needed to edit our Detachment newsletter. If you're interested in serving your Detachment as its P-R Officer, contact **Commandant Jim Powell** (215-862-6280) or **Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee** (215-822-6898).

MAY DETACHMENT MEETING



M I N U T E S

The regular meeting of the **Central Bucks Detachment #636, Inc.**, of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, Inc., was held May 9,, 2007, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

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

The Minutes of the April Meeting were unanimously accepted by the members.

Paymaster's Report was delivered by **Paymaster Bob Cody**. The Paymasters Report was unanimously accepted.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Jim Powell reported there will be a Southeast Division Meeting on May 20 and the Department Convention will be held on June 21. He also reported the Detachment was well represented at the funeral for Lt. Manion.

Senior Vice Commandant Don Gee, PC, reported the Detachment strength at 50 including 22 Life Members, 23 Regular Members, 4 Associate Members, and 1 Honorary Member.

Junior Vice Commandant Budd Pearce, PC, reported on the A-Day Parking Fund-Raiser. He also asked for volunteers among the members to help man our table for the Memorial Day Weekend Fund Raiser at the State Store in Doylestown. Marines are needed Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Contact him at: 215-343-5609 to help out. He also reminded the members that the raffle tickets and money are due at the June meeting.

Judge Advocate Bill Jerrom reported the Detachment had no legal problems.

Chaplain Ed Hoth, PDC, reported his services were available but not requested since the last meeting.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling, PC, reported the Detachment's Color Guard had been requested by Delaware Valley College for its graduation ceremony on May 19.

Quartermaster Bob Duff reported he was awaiting receipt of new items from Marine Corps League Headquarters.

The Public Relations Officer set May 20 as the deadline for submitting materials for the June issue of *Listen Up!*

Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling reported the Young Marines Unit's will be holding a "Coin Toss" on May 19.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rifle & Pistol Team--Team Coordinator Budd Pearce reported the Department Pistol Match will be held June 2 & 3 and the Department Rifle Match is scheduled for Sept. 23.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Day Parade--Parade Marshal Don Gee announced there would be a final United Veterans of Doylestown Memorial Day Parade Meeting on May 16 at 1930. The Parade is scheduled for May 28 beginning at 1000 at Central Bucks West High School. Flag-Raising at the Courthouse is at 0800 followed by a Flag-Raising by Commandant Jim Powell at War Memorial Field at 0900.

e-Script Program--e-Script Program Coordinator Don Parzanese Sr., PC, reminded the members about the e-Script program which gains money for the Detachment. Members can easily sign up for the program (see Page 6). The Detachment gets a percentage of the money spent at Genuardi's Markets and other businesses.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 1930 on June 13.

SIMMONS (From Page 1)

placement Command at Camp Pendleton, CA; with the Naval ROTC unit at Ohio State University; and with the G-4 Division at Headquarters Marine Corps. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in December 1954. From August 1959 until October 1960, he served as Naval Attache to the Dominican Republic. Prior to returning to the Dominican Republic in September 1961 as U.S. Military Liaison Officer, U.S. Embassy, Santo Domingo, he was assigned as Senior Editor, Publications Group, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico. In January 1962, he joined the Strategic Plans Section, G-3 Division at Headquarters Marine Corps, and in July 1963 was promoted to Colonel.

From July 1965 until July 1966, he served in Vietnam, first as G-3 of III Marine Amphibious Force, and later, as Commanding Officer, 9th Marine Regiment.

Returning from Vietnam, he was a student at the National War College for the next year prior to reporting to Headquarters Marine Corps where he served as Deputy Fiscal Director of the Marine Corps from August 1967 until May 1970. He was advanced to the rank of Brigadier General on June 1, 1968.

BrigGen. Simmons returned to Vietnam for another one-year tour, and served as Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division (Rein), and subsequently as Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Brigade. He returned to Headquarters Marine Corps on July 20, 1971, where he became Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Strategic Studies. On Dec 1, 1971, he assumed duties as Director of Marine Corps History and Museums. He went on the retired list on July 1, 1972, but continued on active duty without interruption of service as Director of Ma-

rine Corps History and Museums. On July 1, 1978, he reverted to inactive status on the retired list. In late October 1978 he returned as a Civil Service employee to his previous position as Director of Marine Corps History and Museums.

Gen. Simmons wrote for numerous military and general publications, including the *Naval Review*, *Naval Institute Proceedings*, *Marine Corps Gazette*, *Sea Power*, and *Army*. He authored the short history, *The United States Marines*, (published London, 1974, and New York, 1976) and contributed extensively to various histories and standard works including the *Encyclopedia Britannica* and the *Dictionary of American History*. He was a fellow, governor, and treasurer of the Company of Military Historians and a member of the boards of trustees of the American Military Institute, the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, and the United States Commission on Military History. He was also a past president of the 1st Marine Division Association, a life member and past president of the American Society of Military Comp-trollers, and a former vice-president of the National War College Alumni Association. In 1970, he received a Centennial Distinguished Graduate Medallion from Ohio State Univer-

sity.

His medals and decorations include: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star Medal, the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and two gold stars in lieu of a second and third award, the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" and gold star in lieu of a second award, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", the Purple Heart, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation with three bronze stars, the Navy Unit Commendation with one bronze star, the China Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal with one silver star indicative of five bronze stars, the Vietnam Service Medal with one silver star, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Brigadier General Simmons is survived by his wife, the former Frances G. Bliss of Denver, CO, two sons--Edwin H. Jr., and Clarke V.--and two daughters--Bliss and Courtney.

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 Jim--very popular; Hard Candy--no lollipops; Lotions and Moisturizers; Lip Balm; Chewing Gum; Crackers/Snacks/Granola Bars--in individual packages for easy totting; 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!

Navy's Newest Destroyer Named for Marine Hero

SCIO, NY--The Navy honored Marine **Cpl. Jason L. Dunham** on Mar. 24 by naming a guided missile destroyer after the fallen Marine hero during a ceremony here.

Hundreds of students, teachers and veterans packed the gym of Scio Central High School as Navy Secretary Donald C. Winter announced that the name of the Navy's newest Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer would honor the memory of the Marine Corps' most recent Medal of Honor recipient.

Dunham is the Marine Corps' first Medal of Honor recipient for actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He earned the Medal of Honor for his actions in Iraq on Apr. 14, 2004, when he threw himself on top of a live grenade to save the lives of his fellow Marines. He died of his injuries eight

days later at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD.

Winter made the announcement in Dunham's hometown, with Dunham's parents, Dan and Deb, and siblings in attendance.

"Dan and I are very excited and proud to accept the powerful tribute the Navy has honored Jason with," said an emotional Deb Dunham to the crowd. "We wish to thank the Navy for this historical honor you have given Jay by commemorating his actions and memory with a ship's title."

"There is a long tradition in the United States Navy of naming our war ships after heroes," Winter said. "The hero would no longer be with us, but his name would live on."

Winter said that when the time came to name the newest destroyer, he had no problem coming up with a fitting

namesake.

"It seemed appropriate, when the time came to name DDG 109, that we name that great ship after our newest Medal of Honor recipient," he said. "This is the first time we've had a chance to recognize a Marine from this generation, and particularly a Marine who served so well and sacrificed his life on behalf of our nation in the global war on terror."

The Navy currently has six destroyers named after Marine Medal of Honor recipients. Winter said he expects the USS Jason Dunham to serve the fleet well for many years to come.

"I fully expect that this ship will be in the fleet for 30, 40 years, or maybe even more," he said.

The USS Jason Dunham will be christened in 2009 and commissioned in 2010.

LYNCH

(From Page 1)

of memory; facts, therefore, had to be gathered from other sources. The military simply didn't know at that point whether her actions merited a medal.

This is why, when the request landed on my desk, I told the politicians that we'd need to wait. I made it clear that no one would be awarded anything until all of the evidence was reviewed.

The politicians did not like this. They called repeatedly, through their Congressional liaison, and pressured us to recommend her for the medal, even before all the evidence had been analyzed. I would not relent and we had many heated discussions.

The politicians repeatedly said that a medal would be good for women in the military; I responded that the paramount issue was finding out what had really happened.

As it turned out, after a careful review of the facts, the military con-

cluded that the initial reports were incorrect. Ballistic tests on Private Lynch's weapon demonstrated that she had never fired; she had merely been a passenger in a vehicle that went astray, came under fire and crashed.

Private Lynch was badly hurt, and in her condition, she could not fight back. Her actions were understandable and justifiable, but they could not be labeled heroic.

(It's important to make clear, too, that Private Lynch has never claimed to be a hero. As she told Congress early last month, the "story of the little girl Rambo from the hills who went down fighting" was not true.)

Accusations that the military played up Private Lynch's rescue for its own publicity purposes are also false. As someone who witnessed the operation from the planning to the execution, I can tell you it was one of the most spectacularly executed rescues I've seen in my 36-year career. Our receiving word of Private Lynch's rescue

— and subsequently, news of the rescue of the other prisoners — was a high point of the war for all of us at CentCom.

None of us were in it for the publicity: we did it to save a comrade. Period. We never ordered the operation filmed — the troops who executed it decided to film it on their own. Ultimately, it was good that they did, not for publicity purposes, but because that film can now be used to train soldiers.

A nation needs heroes. Hero-making in itself is not a bad thing. But hero-making without grounds is. In the case of Ms. Lynch, overzealous politicians and a frenzied press distorted facts. For these politicians to step forward now and accuse the military of capitalizing on the Jessica Lynch story is utter hypocrisy.

[*Michael DeLong, a retired Marine Lieutenant General, is the author, with Noah Lukeman, of "A General Speaks Out: The Truth About the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq."*]

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**STATE STORE
FUND-RAISER
24-27 MAY**

**MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE
28 MAY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
13 JUNE**

**FLAG DAY
14 JUNE**

**FATHER'S DAY
17 JUNE**

**FIRST DAY
OF SUMMER
21 JUNE**

**4TH OF JULY
PARADE
4 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
11 JULY**

**DETACHMENT
MEETING
8 AUGUST**

**LABOR DAY
3 SEPTEMBER**

**GRANDPARENTS
DAY
9 SEPTEMBER**

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- * No pins, medals or any other devices shall be worn on the MCL Cover other than the EGA.
- * **Either** DOD or MCL ribbons to be worn one-eighth inch above the left breast pocket of white short sleeve aviator shirt. **DO NOT INTER MIX!**
- * Shooting badges will not be worn with MCL ribbons.
- * MCL Ribbons **ONLY** on the MCL Ceremonial Uniform (khaki shirt). No DOD ribbons or Shooting Badges to be worn.
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- * Large medals may be worn on the MCL Mess Jacket.

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USMC TRIVIA QUIZ



1. Which Marine Corps tank unit was the first to be deployed to Vietnam?
2. What does SNCOIC stand for?
3. Where was the 3rd Marine Brigade activated?
4. Where was the first Amphibious Landing School located?
5. What is the length of the M16A1 rifle with M7 bayonet attached?

**Answers in next month's LISTEN UP!
ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S QUIZ**

1. General Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith was largely responsible for developing the amphibious landing techniques in the Pacific during WWII.
2. Operation: FREQUENT WIND, Saigon, Vietnam, was the largest helicopter evacuation ever attempted.
3. Chesty Puller, the most decorated Marine in history, had 53 decorations, including five Navy Crosses.
4. There are five stars on the Medal of Honor ribbon.
5. President Thomas Jefferson was the President who first ordered Marines to guard U. S. Navy ships.



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

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(Applicant's Signature)

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