



LISTEN UP!

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

Commandant: ELLIS M. PEARCE III

Editor: DON H. GEE

VOLUME XIII, Number 8

2001



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MARINE OF THE YEAR
BOB MOMORELLA

13 WWII 'Raiders' Returned to U.S.

By JEAN CHRISTENSEN

Associated Press Writer

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, HI -- The remains of 13 Marines killed on a South Pacific atoll during World War II received a solemn send-off last month en route to their final resting place.

A lone bagpiper played "Amazing Grace" as he strolled past the 13 flag-draped caskets. Marine pall bearers then loaded them into a KC-130 Marine Corps airplane for transport to Arlington National Cemetery, where they were buried Friday, Aug. 17.

"There is no statute of limitations on honor," said **Sen. Daniel K. Inouye**, D-Hawaii. "It is never too late to do what is right."

The 13 were among 19 Marines from the 2nd Raider Battalion who were killed during an August 17, 1942, raid on the Japanese-held Makin Atoll, now known as Butaritari, in the Gilbert Islands.

Their bodies, left on the small coral reef island after the two-day raid, were buried together by local residents.

An unsuccessful attempt to recover remains on Makin was made in 1949. The search was renewed in 1998 by relatives of the dead and other World War II veterans; the break came when searchers found an island resident who had helped bury the bodies as a young boy.

The 19 bodies were recovered and identified two years ago. The other six remains were previously returned to families for burial.

Among the 13 was **Sgt. Clyde Thomason**, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor during the war. His half-brother, **Hugh Thomason**, 80, of Bowling Green, Ky., were among more than 40 of the late sergeant's extended family who attended the funeral service.

"During all of 50 years, I never expected that they would ever be found," said Thomason, a retired colonel in the Marine Reserves. "Finally, it was all brought about."

Investigators said they will begin searching next year for the remains of an additional nine of 11 missing Marines who military officials believe were executed on Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands after being captured by the Japanese.

THE NEXT DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE AT
1930 ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2001 AT THE AMERICAN LEGION
POST, 315 NORTH ST., DOYLESTOWN

COMMANDANT'S COLUMN

Marines,

For those of you who were not able to make it to last month's meeting, I have some news. Our **Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr.** informed us that he most likely will be going back on active duty within the month. If that works out we will need someone to stand in for the Junior Vice until the next election. Please give this some serious thought as you are truly needed to help out. The Marine that takes this position will have some work to do with getting the Ball together, but you'll have plenty of help. Even if you think you can't do this job I'll be willing to bet that you can. Look at it this way; even I did the Junior Vice thing for a year. If I can do it, you sure can. Please speak up at the September meeting, **YOU ARE NEEDED!!!**

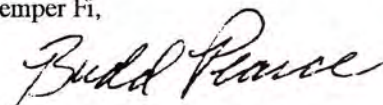
Last month it was voted to hold this year's Birthday Ball at the Orion Club again. Since the outcome of this Ball is going to depend on a number of people working together for the good of the Detachment, I think that if it is at all possible you should make every effort to make it to this year's Birthday Ball and show your total support for the other members of this Detachment. I know that some of you get a little bored with the same place, etc., but think of this...how would you feel if you came to the ball all excited to share some time with your fellow Marines and they were too bored to show up? Come anyway, make the Ball fun, and don't wait for

someone else to do it for you. I'll see you there!

I just got off the phone with **Ray Devlin**; he is the Southeast Division Vice for the Dept. of PA MCL. He was filling me in on some of the things that were discussed at the National Convention. There were also some very significant changes to the bylaws that I am sure you will want to know about. They will

be discussed at the September meeting. I will give you a hint at one of the BIG changes; it has something to do with anchors. Come to the September meeting and find out, or wait until your next *Listen Up!* newsletter.

Semper Fi,



V-A Expands 'Agent Orange' Coverage

Until recently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) would grant compensation to veterans exposed to Agent Orange (AO) outside of Vietnam only if the claimant proved exposure to AO and provided a medical connection between the current disease and that exposure.

In an apparent effort to equalize the treatment of all veterans exposed to Agent Orange, VA recently announced that if exposure outside of Vietnam were proven, and the veteran had one of the 10 diseases presumed by law to be related to exposure to AO, the medical connection would be presumed and the claim granted unless there were other disqualifying factors.

(See comments on the final rule adding diabetes to the list of "AO diseases" in 38 C.F.R. §3.309(e), at 66 Federal Register, page 23, 166 (May 8, 2001).)

In addition, any veteran concerned about exposure to AO during use, manufacture, testing or transport outside of Vietnam, may be given an AO physical by VA and added to the Agent Orange Registry (VHA Directive 2000-027).

The only real issue is proving exposure (all persons who served in Vietnam are presumed to have been exposed.) VA is determining whether Department of Defense information is sufficient to add some non-Vietnam units to the presumptive exposure list, but none have been added as of June 2001.

The following areas outside of Vietnam have been confirmed as places where AO was used:

1. The Korean demilitarized zone in 1968 and 1969 (extensive spraying).
2. Fort Drum, NY, in 1959 (testing).

Other areas where veterans allege AO to have been sprayed include:

1. Guam from 1955 through 1960s (spraying).
2. Johnston Atoll (1972-1978) was used for unused AO storage.
3. Panama Canal Zone from 1960s to early 1970s (spraying).



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.

2001 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DETACHMENT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12

DETACHMENT MEETING
OCTOBER 10

BIRTHDAY BALL
NOVEMBER 10

DETACHMENT MEETING
NOVEMBER 14

DETACHMENT MEETING
DECEMBER 12

DETACHMENT MEETING
JANUARY 9

Highlights

The regular meeting of the Central Bucks Detachment, Inc., of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania was held August 8, 2001, at the Albert E. Atkinson American Legion Post #210, 315 North St., Doylestown, PA.

There were 22 members present including all officers. Distinguished members in attendance included **National Public Relations Officer** and **Past Commandant Don Gee**, **Past Commandants Don Parzanese Sr.** and **Frank Yohe**, **Past Department of New Jersey Commandant Ed Hoth**, and **Marine of the Year Bob Momorella**.

The Minutes of the July Meeting were unanimously accepted.

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

New Applications: An Associate Member application was received from **Robert Gernser**.

Sick Call: **Marine Jim Marckstein** is still plagued by medical ills but is progressing.

OFFICER REPORTS

Commandant Budd Pearce reported the Detachment had presented a gift certificate to **Marine Herb Krout** in appreciation for his sustained contributions to the Detachment during parades.

Senior Vice Commandant Bill Miller reported the Detachment strength at 57 members: 19 Life Members, 34 Regular Members, and 4 Associate Members.

Junior Vice Commandant Don Parzanese Jr. reported on progress toward our annual Birthday Ball. He reminded the members he had reenlisted in the Marine Corps and a replacement was needed immediately to fill the Junior Vice Commandant position.

Adjutant Gary Smith reported he had no communications from the Department or the National organizations.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling reported he had received no requests for the Color Guard since the last meeting.

Quartermaster Bob Duff reported the Locker Box had some new items for sale.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rifle & Pistol team--Rifle & Pistol Team Captain Bill Rosenberger reported the Rifle Team now has five members.

Young Marines--Young Marines Liaison Bob Sundling reported the Young Marines had completed a successful "Boot Camp" and were planning a trip to Philadelphia to do rock climbing and a trip to the Water Gap to practice rappelling.

Public Relations--The Public Relations Officer set Aug. 20 as the deadline for submitting material for the September edition of *Listen Up!*

OLD BUSINESS

Marine Wil Haas reported the bus trip to Eighth & I had three vacancies due to a cancellation.

NEW BUSINESS

Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Sundling moved the Detachment hold the Birthday Ball at the Orion Club at Willow Grove. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Public Relations Officer reminded the members that "Marine of the Year" nominations need to be submitted in writing, with justification for the nomination, at the September Meeting. Nominations should be sent or delivered to 2001 Marine of the Year **Bob Momorella**.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

The Public Relations Officer reported the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed legislation granting that anyone who left high school to serve in World War II can now get his high school diploma.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marine Mike Waldron stated his daughter is participating in a Breast Cancer Walk-A-Thon and moved that the Detachment donate \$100 to the effort. The motion was seconded and approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, September 12.

DOD NEWS BRIEFS

'Worm' Immobilizes Tricare Website

With Tricare for Life taking effect on October 1 for Medicare-eligible Military retirees who have Medicare Part B, answers to questions about the program are supposed to be on tap at the Tricare Website (<http://www.tricare.osd.mil>). But the threat of the "Code Red Worm" has shut down the site for those who use commercial Internet Service Providers. The block was originally set on August 1 for all Defense Information Systems Agency gateways. It was partially lifted on August 2 but was imposed again on August 7. Another method to reach TFL is by phone at 1-888-DoD-Life. The Tricare Senior Pharmacy service (also at the blocked Website) can be reached at 1-877-DoD-Meds.

Panel Rejects Expanded Bronze Star Eligibility

The House Armed Services Committee has rejected a Pentagon request to authorize awards of the Bronze Star Medal to members outside of combat zones. DoD had hoped to overturn a provision of the fiscal 2001 defense authorization bill which restricted eligibility to those receiving hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay. Although the provision was intended to restrict the award to combat zones, only two of 43 regions where the special pays are authorized are designated as combat zones, according to sources.

DoD Leaning Toward Longer Tours of Duty

A Defense Department senior personnel official says modifying current "up-or-out" retention rules and establishing longer tours of duty might better serve members and their families. Under secretary **David S.C. Chu** told reporters last month that DoD is looking at personnel rules that impel service members to move frequently to secure promotions and possibly leave jobs they enjoy and

are good at, or leave the force. Critics of current military personnel practices "would say we've driven the 'up-or-out' principle, both in the officer and enlisted force, a little bit too far," Chu said. He added that **Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld** "is deeply skeptical about the pattern in which members spend so short a time in each post." The Secretary, Chu said, has lately asked about the practicality of troops, especially commanders, serving in billets for two years or less.

Marine Divers Getting Special Gold Pin

Top Marine **General James Jones** has approved a gold-colored pin for Marines who are qualified as combatant divers. The pin, which depicts a mask and oxygen re-breather, will join ranks with jump wings, explosive-ordnance disposal pins and aviation wings as part of the uniform of Marines who are authorized to wear the devices.

Gomer Pyle Honored; Promoted to LCpl.

On August 9, **Marine Commandant Gen. James Jones** made **Jim Nabors** an honorary Marine and meritoriously promoted him, after 37 years in grade, to Lance Corporal. Nabors played "Gomer Pyle, USMC" during the 1960s. As Pyle, he "brought to life a compassionate character who demonstrated that there is more to a Marine than just battlefield prowess," said Jones. He added that Pyle helped the public understand that Marines "have a sense of humor." No time in grade was set for when Nabors might be eligible for Corporal.

Services Declare War on 'Ecstasy' Drug

Use of the recreational drug "Ecstasy" causes memory loss, mood swings, erratic behavior and acute depression on humans, says the Department of Defense. A recent study showed marked

impairments in memory and concentration of ecstasy users, with no recovery shown after a year. Nevertheless, the drug has become popular with people between 18 and 21 years of age, and in the military urinalysis program 1,070 cases of ecstasy abuse in fiscal 2000 accounted for 5.6 percent of all "positives." Consequently, the services are launching aggressive random drug testing along with education programs about the drug and about the fact that a urine test will detect its use.

Service Dogs Possible for Disabled Vets

The Disabled Veterans Service Dog and Health Care Improvement Act of 2001, introduced by **Rep. Jerry Moran**, R-Kan., would authorize service dogs for certain veterans enrolled in VA health care. The dogs would assist those with disabilities or diseases that impair their mobility, hearing, or other activities of daily living. Eligible veterans would receive travel reimbursement for the costs involved in training or adjusting to their dogs. The bill also would expand eligibility to VA health care for disabled veterans and would explore improved coordination of ambulatory and community hospital care for veterans who live far from major VA facilities.

MIA Vietnam War Pilot Identified

Remains of a U.S. Air Force pilot missing in action from the Vietnam War have been identified as those of Air Force **Maj. Victor J. Apodaca, Jr.** of Englewood, CO. On June 8, 1967, Apodaca and **Capt. Jon T. Busch** were flying an armed reconnaissance mission over Quang Binh province, North Vietnam, when their F-4C Phantom was struck by enemy fire, and crashed.

Busch's remains were subsequently identified, but Apodaca's could not be until 1999. They will be returned to Apodaca's family for burial with full military honors.



TUN TAVERN



Built in 1693 by Samuel Carpenter, the Tun Tavern became Philadelphia's outstanding hostelry in colonial times. George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were among the notables who frequented Tun Tavern. It became the unofficial meeting place for the members of the Continental Congresses, where they planned, discussed and negotiated the policies of our new-born nation.

Other organizations, too, trace their origin to the Tun: the St. George's Society in Philadelphia, in 1729; the Grand Lodge (Masonic Order-of which, Washington, Jefferson and Franklin were members), 1732; and St. Andrew's Society, in 1747. The tavern was also used in 1756 to organize a regiment under the command of Colonel Benjamin Franklin, as a defense against Indian uprisings in the area.

The Tun was of brick construction, two-and-a-half stories high, and situated near the banks of the Delaware River. Above the main tap-room were rooms available for rent to transient guests and several large club rooms. Records show that the dining room was divided into boxes fitted with lighted.

room were rooms available and several large club the dining room was divided into boxes fitted with lighted and "elegantly"

Because of its waterfront location and the abundance of manpower who gathered there, the 1st Continental Congress ordered that two battalions be raised there and that they

location and the abundance there, the 1st Continental battalions of seafaring men be called Marines.

"Resolved that two battalions consisting of one Colonel, two Majors and other officers; and that they consist



privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed, or inlisted (sic) into said battalions, but such as good seamen; or so acquainted with marine affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required; that they be inlisted (sic) and commissioned to serve for and during the present war between Great Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress; that they be distinguished by the names of the first and second Battalions of American Marines." (Continental Congress, Nov. 10, 1775)

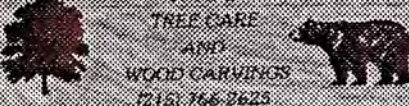
ions of Marines be raised, two Lieutenant Colonels, officers as usual in other regiments of an equal number of pri-

That very evening, men in coarse homespun clothing, blue woolen peacoats, or soft doeskin vests and britches, with tri-cornered hats atop their heads and flintlock rifles at their sides, raised their mugs of rum.

"Long live the United States, and success to her Marines!" toasted the officer.

His name was Captain Samuel Nicholas and, with Capt. Robert Mullens, he had been sent to Tun Tavern—owned by Mullens' father—to recruit men for the Continental Marines.


Thus, Tun Tavern gained its place in Marine Corps history as "The Birthplace of the Marine Corps" and the "First Marine Corps Recruiting Station."


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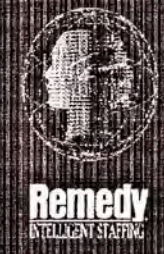
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