



Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

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1914 1915



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Commandant's Report

March 2011

I would like to begin by welcoming aboard new member, Jonathan Barr, who was sworn-in at our February meeting. Bob Spano and I have updated the "Red Binders" that we disperse to new members. The Binder has information that will help you get up to speed on, what the Marine Corps League and our Detachment, is all about. If you haven't received one, see Bob at the next meeting.

There are a couple of fundraisers that are scheduled for March. As always, *Chef Roberto*, will be preparing mounds of pasta for the Devil Dogs, Triboro Pound, annual Spaghetti dinner and there's a dinner at Daddy Mim's Creole to raise funds for homeless veterans. See page 3, *Looking Ahead* for more details on these two events.

Paul Ferguson recently sent out a call for USO volunteers, to help welcome home and send off our troops, at McGuire AFB. It had been quite awhile since I made the trip to help out, so I called the coordinator, who goes by the name MJ, and arranged for me and three buddies to help out.

The most difficult part of the night was getting on base. The two gate guards couldn't locate our paperwork and we sat there for fifty minutes before they could get it straightened out. The phrase, "hurry up and wait", came to mind. Thankfully, we left home an hour early, so as it turned out, we arrived at the terminal right on time, which was 2300.

The mission was to prepare breakfast for approximately 180 reservists that were heading to Afghanistan. We cracked a lot eggs, flipped a lot of bacon and sausage and washed a lot of dishes. Well, actually I got stuck with all the dishes, Commandant status did help me get out of that one. We completed the mission and were heading home by 0400.

I would like to commend MJ for all the hard work and long hours that she puts in. She doesn't always have all the right equipment, manpower or supplies, and yet she always pulls it off. Paul Ferguson deserves the same recognition. He is logging many hours at the USO at the Philly airport. Great job, Paul!

Semper Fi,
Dan Luty
Commandant

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"SCUTTLEBUTT" BOOSTER CLUB



**Help support our
newsletter and
become a
member of the
Booster Club!**

Any monetary contribution helps offset the cost of publication and mailing. We wish to thank our current boosters. With their assistance, we are able to continue our award-winning newsletter!

MARCH BOOSTERS

Wayne Barner	Bud Davis
Joe Direso	Jeanne/Tom Falgiatore
Richard Guyer	Beth & Jim Herbst
Jack Kelly	Gene Kern
Con McGinley	Jerry McGuckin
Pat & Joe Mensack	Stan Samsel
Bob Senior	Lloyd Spangler
Florence & Bob Spano	Hank Velardi

Thank you boosters!

Bob Spano

Paymaster

If you are interested in being a "Scuttlebutt" Booster, please see Bob Spano.

**Birthday Greetings
for March**

The Detachment staff sends best wishes to the following members who are celebrating a birthday this month:

- James Donegan
- Richard Guyer
- Albert Harper
- Anthony T. Jones
- Henry Kaufman
- Raymond Keesey
- Jacques Mauch
- Samuel Mayer
- John McHenry
- Thomas Potter
- Gerald Powlus
- Edward Seidl
- Charles Sexton, Jr.
- Lloyd Spangler, Jr.
- Robert Stanton
- Paul Turner
- Paul Vergalla



Happy Birthday...and many, many more!

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Officers

Commandant	Dan Luty
Sr. Vice Commandant	Bob Cosgrove
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jack McLeod
Adjutant	Jack Kelly
Paymaster	Bob Spano
Judge Advocate	Paul Ferguson
Sergeant-At-Arms	James D. Ross
Chaplain	Christopher Bush
Service Officer	Con McGinley
Director	Bill Kinney
Director	Ed Seidl
Director	Bernie McGinley
Jr. Past Commandant	Earle Drake

**General Smedley D. Butler Detachment
Committee Chairmen**

Adopt-A-Highway	John Burfete
Americanism	Jim Mulhern/E. Drake
Auxiliary Liaison	Tony Fusto
Awards	Harry Kaufman
Ceremonies	Jim Ross
Color Guard	Joe Conigliaro
Flag Collection	Barry Reese
Historian	Jack Gallagher
Home Association	Tom Kerrigan
Honor Guard	Wayne Barner
Honor Guard Assistant	John J. V. Cook
Locker Box	Paul Ferguson
Marksmanship	Paul Drinkard
Membership	James Herbst
Newsletter (Scuttlebutt)	Dan Luty
Newtown Twp Vets Park	Jerry Leon
Nominations	Earle Drake
Property	Bob Spano
Public Relations	Earle Drake
Scholarships	Wayne Williams
Scouting	John Gingras/Ed Seidl
Toys-For-Tots	Dan Luty
V.A.V.S.	Con McGinley
Young Marines	Robert Stanton
Web Master	Dan Luty

*DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS' AFFAIRS*

General & Healthcare Benefits

VA Hotline	800-827-1000
Veterans' Healthcare	800-222-8387
Education	888-442-4511
Grave Markers	800-697-6947
Life Insurance	800-669-8477
Website	<u>www.va.gov</u>

Looking Ahead

DETACHMENT EVENTS

March

- 3** Yes We Care Dinner/Fund Raiser. Daddy Mim's Creole BYOB, 150-152 Bridge St., Phoenixville from 1800 to 2300. Call 610-935-1800.
- 7** General Meeting at the KoC @ 1930.
- 14** VAVS Bingo Party @ 1930, Coatesville VAMC, 58B.
- 16** St. Patty's Day Super Bingo @ 1830, Coatesville VAMC, Great Hall.
- 18-19** Dept. of PA, 2011 Spring Staff Meeting. MCL Headquarters, Fort Indiantown Gap @ 0830.
- 22** Detachment Color Guard at DELCO Comm. College, time TBD. This event is focused on educating Veterans on opportunities they have in the business world. Vietnam Vet., Bronze Star recipient and former Pittsburg Steeler halfback, Rocky Bleier, will be the Keynote Speaker.
- 26** Devil Dogs, Triboro Pound #19, annual Spaghetti Dinner. V.F.W. Post 928, 1805 MacDade Blvd., Folsom, from 1600 to 1900.
- 29** Staff Meeting, American Legion Post #805, Broomall @ 1930.

April

- 4** April General Meeting at the KoC @1930.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

OTHER VETERANS' & FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS' MEETING SCHEDULES

Regular Events

AmVets: Harold P. Saks Post #118, 211 N. Morton Ave., Morton, PA 19070. Meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 1930.

American Legion: Broomall Post #805, 2340 West Chester Pike, Broomall, PA. Meetings the second Wednesday of every month, at 1930.

American Legion Nunan-Slook Post #338, Meets the second Tuesday at 7:30 PM of every month at the corner of Ralston & Graslynn Avenues, Havertown, PA.

Other Organizations' Events (Cont'd.)

Upper Darby Detachment #884 MCL, 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2000, 1026 Providence Rd. Secane, Pa. 19018

Disabled American Veterans, Delaware County Chapter 113, meets the second Monday of the month at 7:30 PM. Meetings are held at the Nunan-Slook American Legion Post #338. The Post is located at the corner of Ralston & Graslynn Avenues in Havertown, PA.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 67, AmVets, Harold P. Saks Post #118, 211 N. Morton Ave. in Morton, PA meeting is 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM - no meetings July or August.

Delaware County Detachment MCL, Third Sunday of the month: Breakfast: 0800-1130, \$6.00/person. Delaware County Detachment at detachment home, Upland, PA. Every Month except: June-July-August.

M.O.D.D. "Devil Dogs" Triboro Pound #19, Pack of Penna., Growls (meetings) are the second Wednesday of the month at 1930. Growls are held at the Herbert W. Best Post # 928, VFW. Located at MacDade Blvd. and Sutton Avenue, Folsom, PA.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Broomall Post #7390, Meetings the second Thursday of the month at 1930. Meetings are held at the Marple Twp. Municipal Building, Sproul & Springfield Roads, Broomall, PA.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Herbert W. Best Post # 928, meetings are the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month except in September, it will be the day after Labor Day, the 2nd (Tuesday and the 3rd Monday) Meetings are held at Herbert W. Best Post # 928, VFW, MacDade Blvd. and Sutton Avenue, Folsom, PA.

Knights Of Columbus: Mater Dei Council #4129, 327 N. Newtown Street Rd., Newtown Square, PA. Meetings the first Thursday of the month at 2000.

SICK CALL

John Haynal	Bob Bunce
Tom Kerrigan	Dave Brimble

Please remember to notify Chaplain Chris Bush (610.353.5569) of an illness, or of a member or family member passing away.



When General Smedley Butler left Philadelphia, all that the citizens offered was hearty “Good-byes” and “Good Luck.” They did things differently in China! Before he departed China, Butler was presented with two umbrellas by the Citizens of Tientsin and Boxertown. It was not likely that the General would leave these umbrellas in a taxi or restaurant; they were fifteen feet tall and nine feet in diameter.

Each village presented him with a “Ten Thousand Blessing Umbrella.” The umbrellas are for ceremonial occasions and were an ancient Chinese custom presented to a great public benefactor by unanimous vote of the local residents. There were tags and streamers with the messages “Butler Saved Tientsin”, “The Chinese People Love Butler as Butler Loves the Chinese,” etc., plus the names of the village elders were attached to the umbrellas.

These two umbrellas were later mounted in the main living room in the Butler home located on Goshen Road in Newtown Square.

POST NOTE....

Japan and China officially went to war on 28 January 1932.

The Tientsin Legation Marine Guard was surrendered after the Pearl Harbor Attack on 7th December 1941.

This ended a forty-year era of Marines in North China except for a brief period 1945 – 1947 when the 3rd Amphibious Corps composed of the 1st and 6th Marine Divisions occupied Peiping, Tientsin and Tsingtao.

In the 1970’s China revamped its history and changed the names of many of its ancient cities.

Submitted by:

J.J.V. Cook



Umbrella given to Butler.

2 March 1867: Jacob Zeilin, Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps from 30 June 1864, was this date promoted to the rank of Brigadier General Commandant, the first time Congress authorized this rank for the Marine Corps. The statute, however, was repealed in June 1874 so that the rank of Commandant would again revert to colonel upon Zeilin's retirement.

8 March 1965: The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to that conflict. The 3,500 men arrived both across the beach with Battalion Landing Team 3/9, and at DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1/3.

11 March 1778: Marines participated the action when the Continental Navy frigate *Boston*, enroute to France, sighted, engaged, and captured the British merchant ship *Martha*. As the drum of the *Boston* beat to arms, John Adams seized a musket and joined the Marines on deck until the frigate's captain, Samuel Tucker, sent him below for safety.

13 March 1943: The first group of 71 Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The Navy's willingness to share training facilities enabled the Marine Corps to begin training Marine Corps Women's Reserve officers just one month after the creation of the MCWR was announced.

17 March 1967: The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon. MSgt Dulinsky and the other officer and enlisted Women Marines that followed were assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) based in Saigon. Most worked with the Marine Corps Personnel Section providing administrative support to Marines assigned as far north as the DMZ, but two Lieutenant Colonels, Ruth Reinholz and Ruth O'Holleran, served as historians with the Military History Branch, Secretary Joint Staff, MACV.

25 March 1945: After 35 days of bitter fighting, the amphibious assault on the rocky fortress of Iwo Jima finally appeared over. On the night of 25 March, however, a 300-man Japanese force launched a vicious final counterattack in the vicinity of Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees and Marines of the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the fanatical Japanese force till morning but suffered heavy casualties --more than 100 killed and another 200 American wounded. Nearly all of the Japanese force was killed in the battle.

27 March 1953: The 5th Marines, supported by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the first full day of fighting after the Chinese assault the previous evening of Outpost Vegas on Korea's western front, counterattacked to regain enemy-held positions. Companies E and F of 2/7, down to only three platoons between them, managed to regain partial control of Outpost Vegas that day.

31 March 1801: On this date, LtCol Commandant William W. Burrows rode with president Thomas Jefferson to look for "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." President Jefferson was a personal friend of the Commandant, and deeply interested in the welfare of the Corps and accompanied Burrows on horseback on the morning of 31 March. They chose a square in Southeast Washington, at 8th and I Streets, because it lay near the Navy Yard and was within easy marching distance of the Capitol.

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment #741
Marine Corps League
General Meeting Minutes – 7 February 2011

Commandant: Commandant Dan Luty opened the meeting at 1930, and the normal opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Dan Luty, Sr. Vice Bob Cosgrove, Jr. Vice Jack McLeod, Judge Advocate Paul Ferguson, Adjutant Jack Kelly, Paymaster Bob Spano, Chaplain Chris Bush, Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Ross, Service Officer Con McGinley, Director Bill Kinney, Director Bernie McGinley, Director Ed Seidl, and Junior Past Commandant Earle Drake.

Minutes: George Boyajian made a motion to accept the minutes of the 3 January 2011 general meeting as published in the *Scuttlebutt*. Joe Mensack seconded the motion and the motion passed.

New Member: Earle Drake introduced a potential new member to the membership. Jonathan (John) Barr served as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, and he had received the Good Conduct Medal, among other awards. George Boyajian made a motion to accept Jonathan Barr as a new member. Bob Spano seconded the motion and the motion passed. Commandant Dan Luty administered the oath of membership to Jonathan Barr, and he was sworn in as a regular member.

Officer Reports:

Adjutant: Jack Kelly reported that letters of appreciation had been received from the Department of Veterans Affairs in Coatesville, PA, from America 4R Marines in Willow Grove, PA, and from Marine Corps League, Marines Helping Marines, Westminster, MD. These letters of appreciation were acknowledging recent monetary contributions made by our Detachment. In addition, Jack Kelly read a note of thanks from the family of a veteran who had recently been served by the Detachment's Honor Guard during the veteran's military funeral.

Sr. Vice: Bob Cosgrove provided a report on a survey that he had sent to those members with an e-mail address. The survey was to determine the level of interest among a number of possible social events. The top three events in the survey results were a trip to the Marine Corps Museum in Virginia, a trip to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Aberdeen, MD, and a tour of the White House in Washington, D.C. Bob Cosgrove indicated that he would get some information on trips to these locations, including available dates, costs, etc. Bob Cosgrove also indicated that he wanted to meet with any members who joined the Detachment in the past year, after this evening's meeting, to provide them with some information about the Detachment and the Marine Corps League.

Jr. Vice: Jack McLeod reported that he would be delivering Certificates of Appreciation to the stores that had permitted the Detachment to solicit funds at their locations during 2010.

He also has plans to visit with the president of Acme Markets to establish plans for soliciting donations at Acme locations during 2011.

Chaplain: Chris Bush mentioned that Anthony (Tony) Coladonato had passed away recently. Tony Coladonato was a good husband, a good Marine, and a good friend. He was a valuable member of the Detachment's Honor Guard. Chris Bush also read an e-mail requesting prayer for the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines in Afghanistan. This unit had recently lost nine Marines in battle in a week's time. Chris Bush read the names of the nine Marines who were lost, and a moment of silence was given in remembrance.

Paymaster: Bob Spano provided the paymaster's report as of 31 January 2011. George Boyajian made a motion to accept the paymaster's report as received. Joe Mensack seconded the motion and the motion passed. Bob Spano also requested that the members review the proposed budget for 2011, which would be acted on later in the meeting, and to also review the organizations suggested for contributions, also to be acted on later during the meeting.

Service officer: Con McGinley indicated that a Valentine's Day party is scheduled for this Wednesday, 9 February 2011, at the Coatesville Medical Center. The bingo game at Coatesville is scheduled for 14 February 2011.

Committee Reports:

Americanism: Earle Drake reported that he is continuing to work with the Delaware County Historical Society on some upcoming programs. He also mentioned that Sr. Vice Bob Cosgrove had put together a booklet entitled "Your Americanism Program." There will be an Americanism program at the Russell Elementary School in the near future, and there will be a presentation for adults at the Rocky Run YMCA.

Home Association: Bob Spano reported that new flags had been purchased and installed for the Knights of Columbus flagpole. This includes a new American flag, a new U.S. Marine Corps flag, and a new POW/MIA flag.

Honor Guard: Wayne Barner mentioned that the Honor Guard provided military honors at 21 funerals for veterans during the month of January 2011, and so far in February, seven additional funerals have been held. Wayne Barner expressed his appreciation for those members who provided the casket watch and for those attending the funeral of member Anthony (Tony) Coladonato. Tony Coladonato had been a faithful member of the Honor Guard.

Marksmanship: Paul Drinkard provided information on a Department pistol match scheduled for 3, 4, and 5 June 2011. Any members who would like to participate were asked to contact Paul Drinkard.

Membership: Jim Herbst reported that progress is being made. Bob Cosgrove mentioned that Jim Donegan and Gene Kern had recently become Life members.

Property: Bob Spano indicated that name tags for a number of members had arrived, and those members should see Bob Spano after the meeting.

Scholarships: Wayne Williams reported that the application forms for the Department of Pennsylvania MCL scholarships had arrived. Interested members should contact Wayne Williams for the application forms. Application forms for National MCL scholarships should be available in March.

Scouting: Ed Seidl indicated that two Eagle Scout award programs are coming up in March 2011.

Announcements: Dan Luty mentioned that certificates are available to be delivered to vendors and store owners who assisted with last year's Toys for Tots drive. Bob Spano mentioned that Charter members of the Detachment should see Bob Spano after the meeting to pick up a 20-year membership pin.

Unfinished Business:

Awards: Harry Kaufman presented Meritorious Commendation certificates to Jack Gallagher and Walt Tallmadge. Jack Gallagher's certificate was for his duties as Detachment Historian during 2010, and Walt Tallmadge's certificate was for participating in ceremonies during 2010. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Paul Ferguson for his participation during the annual Toys for Tots campaign.

Earle Drake presented a letter of appreciation from the Delaware County Historical Society to Commander Jerry Sweeley of the American Legion Post #805 in Broomall for loaning a Springfield rifle to the Society during the recent General Smedley D. Butler exhibit at the Historical Society. Another letter of appreciation was presented to Jim Cecchini, also from the Delaware County Historical Society, for his loaning an officer's sword to the Historical Society during the General Smedley D. Butler exhibit.

Officer Installation: Since Paul Ferguson was unable to attend the Officer Installation program in January, he was installed as the Detachment's Judge Advocate this evening. Earle Drake was the installing officer, administering the oath of office to Paul Ferguson. Bob Spano acted as Sergeant-at-Arms for the ceremony, and Chris Bush served as chaplain during the ceremony.

Members' Illnesses: Chris Bush mentioned that Bob Bunce is in Fair Acres in Lima, and he also mentioned that Tom Kerrigan has been in and out of the hospital lately. Chris Bush encouraged the members to call or write to these members.

New Business:

Proposed Budget for 2011: Paymaster Bob Spano reviewed the proposed budget for 2011. Several new line items were mentioned, and the highlights were mentioned. Harry Kaufman made a motion to adopt the proposed budget as the budget for 2011. Earle Drake seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Charitable Contributions: Bob Spano outlined the organizations that were being recommended to the membership for charitable contributions. These organizations had been discussed at the recent officers' staff meeting, and were being recommended for consideration by the membership. Harry Kaufman made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 each to the following organizations: (1) Fisher House Foundation, Rockville, MD; (2) Gathering of Eagles, Chocowinity, NC; (3) The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, Oceanside, CA; (4) Operation First Response, Culpeper, VA and (5) The USO, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA. Joe Mensack seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Good of the League: Paul Ferguson presented a plaque from the Philadelphia USO at the Philadelphia International Airport to Commandant Dan Luty, which recognized the "support, dedication, and contributions for our Military men and women through the Liberty USO." This recognized activity during 2010, and three individuals specifically, Jack Gallagher, Paul Ferguson, and Bob Spano.

Bob Spano mentioned that the Detachment patches designed for the red jackets had been received. Anyone desiring to purchase a patch for his or her red jacket could contact Bob Spano. Cost of the patch is \$5.00 each.

Dan Luty mentioned that he has forms for those interested in attending either the upcoming Northeast District meeting or the Pennsylvania Department convention.

Jim Robinson made a suggestion to list the names of members and what skills they may have, so that other members could contact those individuals if they had a need for their services.

George Boyajian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Ferguson seconded the motion and the motion passed. After the normal closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 2050.

Dan Luty won the 50/50. Fifty-four members signed the logbook.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Kelly

Adjutant

Sergeant Major John P. Bodnar

Retired Sgt. Maj. John P. Bodnar passed on 14 February, 2011. Sgt. Maj. Bodnar had been in the VA Hospital in Coatesville for quite some time. He was 88 years old.

Many of you probably received an email from a family member informing everyone of his passing. The email included some pictures and scanned images of a very interesting article published in the Torii Teller, the MCAS Iwakuni newsletter. The article was titled "The Man from OSS." I have included below, the Torii Teller article and the recent pictures.

Sgt. Maj. Bodnar served from 1940 to 1972. During his 32 year career as a Marine, Bodnar saw action in WWII, Korea and two tours in Vietnam. Sgt. Maj. Bodnar was awarded "The French Legion of Honor" and a Silver Star.

He appeared in a lot of magazines and newspapers, and was on CBS TV with Charles Kuralt during the 1992 Winter Olympics. He was also a speaker on the Ralph Edwards TV show "This is your Life" in the early 1950's when they honored Peter Ortiz, the leader of the OSS mission.

Sergeant Major John P. Bodnar, truly a hero! You will be missed, RIP.



When the Second World War erupted, 20-year old Marine Sgt. John P. Bodnar was anxious to escape the boredom of stateside duty and join a combat unit headed for the Pacific.

He never did make the Pacific campaigns, but his "escape from the boredom of stateside duty" was so successful it was almost fatal. The young Marine who craved adventure was eventually captured behind German lines and sentenced to death as a spy.

"I was a parachute instructor at Camp Lejeune in the early days of the war and I was eager to see some action. It was really frustrating to see my students shipped off to combat as soon as they finished training, and have to stay at Lejeune myself," recalls Bodnar, until recently the sergeant major of MWSG-17.

Finally one of his students, a major, asked the young sergeant if he was interested in using his paratroop skills in combat.

"I replied that I certainly was, but the major didn't say anything else about it and I had just about forgotten his offer until I got a call from home asking me what kind of trouble I had gotten myself into," Bodnar says. "It turned out that my folks thought I was in trouble because the FBI was running a security check on me," he adds.

After passing the thorough security check, Bodnar joined the "Office of Strategic Services" - the OSS - and was sent to Washington and subsequently London for training.

One of a seven-man team composed entirely of Marines and highly trained in demolitions, house-breaking, lock-picking and judo, Bodnar parachuted into France in 1944, and, with the aid of local resistance fighters, employed guerilla warfare tactics against the Nazi occupation force.

By the end of summer that year, four members of the team had been killed and the three survivors, with one Frenchman, were captured.

"Along with almost 200 Frenchmen we had attacked a German garrison and had taken heavy casualties. The Germans were determined to get us and a large force of their Alpine division cornered us in Centron."

Aware that they were surrounded and fearful of reprisals the Germans would take on the civilian populace if the intruders tried to hide in the town, the three Marines and one resistance worker surrendered under the condition that no civilians be harmed. After interrogation the four were sentenced to death as spies. *Following the war, grateful villagers erected a plaque honoring the three Americans in the village square.*

The Germans marched us out to a truck, gave us shovels and started to drive toward open country. We were under heavy guard and it sure looked like they weren't going to waste any time executing us," Bodnar remembers.

The Man from OSS, continued...

"A couple times they stopped the truck and I thought they were going to have us dig our own graves, but each time the man in charge shook his head and motioned for the driver to keep going."

Eventually the truck arrived at its destination - a transit prison camp. "We still had that death sentence over our heads so we decided it would definitely be unhealthy to arrive at our designated camp."

While they were being shipped to their prison camp by box car, the four men managed to pry open the trap door of the car and climb outside. After overpowering their armed guards, they leaped off the train and headed into the countryside.

"We were recaptured the next day, but managed to escape a few days later - this time for three days," he says.

After the Germans recaptured the men, they managed to escape a third time, only to be taken prisoner a few hours later.

"By the time we were recaptured after this third escape, the Germans had lost our original papers with the death sentence. They assumed we were just normal prisoners of war and we were sent to a camp where we remained until the Russians liberated us near the end of the war," Bodnar relates.

Sergeant Major Bodnar then returned to the United States where he was presented the Silver Star for his successful efforts in harassing the Germans before his capture.

If it all sounds kind of familiar, perhaps you saw the movie *13 Rue Madalaine* starring James Cagney, that was based on the adventures of the team and was "pretty accurate," according to Bodnar, even to the detail of having one of the Marines die on the initial jump when his parachute failed to deploy.

Other combat tours Sgt. Maj. Bodnar includes in his 30-year career with the Marine Corps are the Chosin Reservoir campaign with the 1st Marine Division in Korea and two tours in Vietnam, including one with the 3rd Marine Division near the DMZ and one with MWSG-17 near Danang.

"I've amassed a lot of memories in my career in the Corps," he muses, "and it's not over yet..."

*By LCpl. Bill McClellan
Oct. 9, 1970 edition of the Torii Teller*

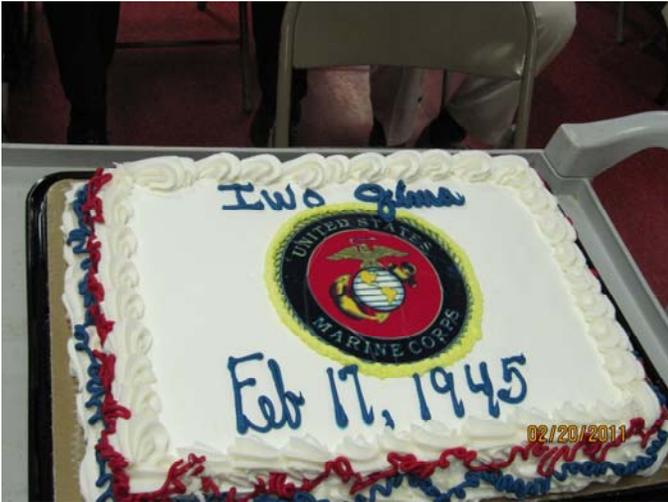


2004 - Sgt. Maj. Bodnar, receives The French Legion of Honor.



2009 - Sgt. Maj. Bodnar, representing WWII Veterans before a Philadelphia Phillies game.

Iwo then, Our Iwo Vets now





Marine Corps League
Smedley D. Butler Detachment
P.O. Box 184
Newtown Square, PA 19073-0184

*Honor-Courage-
Commitment*



Next Meeting
March 7, 2011
1930 hours
Knights of Columbus
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.
(Route 252)
Newtown Square, PA 19073