

Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

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Commandant **James Herbst**

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1914 1915



Volume XXIII, Issue 6
June 2013

Dan Luty, editor
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Commandant's Report June 2013

The May's Detachment meeting we remembered our deceased members from the past year: George Curran, Jack Q Thomas, Conrad Sendlinger, Karl F. Heinzelmann, James Ross and Auxiliary Members: Lee Robinson and Jeanne Knapp. May they rest in peace.

John Joseph McNamee was voted into to the Detachment as a new member. John is presently serving in the USMC Reserve.

The next Detachment meeting is the Annual Spring/Scholarship Dinner. The dinner starts at 1800 and the cost is \$12. Our regular General Meeting should begin around the normal 1930 start time.

"Lest We Forget"

On May 11, the dedication ceremony of the Delaware County Veterans Memorial was held. An estimate of 5,000 people attended and the rain could not dampen their enthusiasm. The Detachment Color Guard and Honors Detail looked sharp and did a great job. Many Detachment members took part in the ceremony and many others were in attendance.

This beautiful Memorial was many years in the making. Many thanks go to the founding members: Claude de Botton (land owner and major donor), Linda Houldin (Delaware County Historical Society), and our own, Smedley Butler Detachment Members, Steve Neri (Past Commandant) and Stan Short. It's so unfortunate that both Steve and Stan had passed before the completion.

Thanks also go to Newtown Township Veterans Park Committee Chairmen Jerry Leon and Bill Kinney. For years Jerry worked on this committee and when he moved to Florida, Bill took over. Jerry was instrumental in working the early fund raisers. Bill did a great job on keeping us up to speed on the developments of the Memorial. Bill had great patience and insight during the rehearsal for the Memorial ceremony.

Many members of this Detachment also supported this great endeavor from Color Guards, photo shoots, buying raffle tickets and purchasing bricks, this was a team effort. It was also a pleasure to work with American Legion Post 805 and VFW Post 7390 Broomall. I am proud to work with these great Veterans.

Semper Fi,

James Herbst

Commandant

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2013 Help Us Help Others Schedule

JROTC Awards - Chester High School



Earle Drake awarding Manjiak Starky and Avonna Rogers Distinguished Citizen Medals, Bronze.



General Smedley Butler Associate Life Member, Jeff Elliot awarding a Cadet the Amvets Award

Date	Store/Event	Address
6/01	Newtown Sq. ACME 610-353-8018 Lawrence Pk. ACME 610-325-2880	3390 W Chester Pike Newtown Square, PA 567 Sproul Road Broomall, PA
6/02	Newtown Sq. ACME Lawrence Pk. ACME	3390 W Chester Pike 567 Sproul Road
6/08	Paoli ACME 610-240-0101 Devon ACME 610-341-6073	39 Leopard Road Paoli, PA 700 W Lancaster Ave Devon, PA
6/09	Paoli ACME Devon ACME	39 Leopard Road 700 W Lancaster Ave
6/15	Glenolden Wal-Mart 610-583-2682 Boothwyn Wal-Mart* 610-494-2535	50 N Mac Dade Blvd Glenolden, PA 605 Conchester Hwy Boothwyn, PA
6/16	Glenolden Wal-Mart Boothwyn Wal-Mart*	50 N Mac Dade Blvd 605 Conchester Hwy
6/22	Havertown SuperFresh 610-446-4516 Pathmark Brookhaven 610-872-8855	1305 W Chest Pike Havertown, PA 5005 Edgemont Ave Brookhaven, PA
6/23	Havertown SuperFresh Pathmark, Brookhaven	1305 W Chest Pike 5005 Edgemont Ave
6/29	Paoli ACME 610-240-0101 Devon ACME 610-341-6073	39 Leopard Road Paoli, PA 700 W Lancaster Ave Devon, PA
6/30	Paoli ACME Devon ACME	39 Leopard Road 700 W Lancaster Ave
7/04	Paoli ACME 610-240-0101 Devon ACME 610-341-6073	39 Leopard Road Paoli, PA 700 W Lancaster Ave Devon, PA
7/06	West Goshen ACME 670-431-4726 Concordville ACME 610-459-2759	907 Paoli Pike West Chester, PA 101 Byers Drive Glen Mills, PA
7/07	West Goshen ACME Concordville ACME	907 Paoli Pike 101 Byers Drive
7/13	Lawrence Pk ACME 610-325-2880 Glenolden ACME 610 586 0577	567 Sproul Road Broomall, PA 503 S Mac Dade Blvd Holmes PA
7/14	Lawrence Pk. ACME Glenolden ACME	567 Sproul Road 503 S Mac Dade Blvd
7/20	Ridley ACME 610-237-3800 Newtown Sq. ACME 610-353-8018	124 Morton Ave Folsom, PA 3390 W Chester Pike Newtown Square, PA

"SCUTTLEBUTT" BOOSTER CLUB



Help support our award winning 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!

JUNE BOOSTERS

Paul Donohue	Jack Kelly
Charlie Coombs	Stan Samsel
Bud Davis	Beth & Jim Herbst
Joe Direso	Florence & Bob Spano
Jerry McGuckin	Jeanne & Tom Falgiatore
Lloyd Spangler	Tom Kerrigan
Jack McLeod	

Thank you boosters!

Bob Spano
Paymaster

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

Birthday Greetings for June

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

George Boyajian
John Burfete, Jr.
Robert Cervino
Paul Ferguson
Kalif Kasaba
William Kinney, Jr.
Jeremy Leon
Thomas McGovern
Joseph Mealey
Gerd Naydock
Thomas Rodriguez
Robert Senior
William Williams, Sr.



Happy Birthday...and many, many more!

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Officers

Commandant	James Herbst
Sr. Vice Commandant	Paul Ferguson
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jack McLeod
Adjutant	Jack Kelly
Paymaster	Bob Spano
Judge Advocate	Charles Coombs
Sergeant-At-Arms	Charles (Bud) Davis
Chaplain	Christopher Bush
Service Officer	Con McGinley
Director	Bill Kinney
Director	Ed Seidl
Director	Rodger Godfrey
Jr. Past Commandant	Dan Luty

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	Charles (Bud) Davis
Color Guard	Jim Donegan
Flag Collection	Barry Reese
Historian	Jack Gallagher
Home Association	Tom Kerrigan
Honor Guard	Joe Tier
Honor Guard Assistants	Ben Sides/Joe Blee
Locker Box	Paul Ferguson
Marksmanship	Paul Drinkard
Membership	James Herbst
Newsletter (Scuttlebutt)	Dan Luty
Newtown Twp Vets Park	Jerry Leon
Nominations	Dan Luty
Property	Bob Spano
Communications	John Burfete
Scholarships	Wayne Williams
Scouting	John Gingras/Ed Seidl
Toys-For-Tots	Bob Cosgrove
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	www.va.gov

Looking Ahead

Other Organizations' Events (Cont'd.)

DETACHMENT EVENTS

June

- 1 Department Pistol Match, Fort Indiantown Gap.
- 1 1st USMC Commandant, Samuel Nicholas Plaque Dedication. Meet time is 1230 at 3rd & Arch Street Friends Meeting House.
- 1 Montford Point Marine Exhibit at the Springfield Library. Display runs 1 June – 1 July.
- 7 General Meeting at the Knights of Columbus. ***Annual Spring Dinner starts at 1800, MEETING TO FOLLOW Scholarships.**
- 10 Editor Luty and 3 friends start a 60 mile long backpacking trip along the Loyalsock Trail.
- 12-16 Department Convention at the Park Inn Radisson in Mechanicsburg.
- 13 VAVS Bingo at the Coatesville Medical Center.
- 14 Flag Day.
- 25 Staff Meeting at American Legion Post 805, Broomall, start time is 1930.

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, \$7.00/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.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

OTHER VETERANS' & FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS' 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.

SICK CALL

Dave Brimble	Con McGinley
Matt Balfrey	Joe Mensack
Marino DeFrancesco	Barry Reese
John McHenry	

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

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment #741
Marine Corps League
General Meeting Minutes – 7 May 2013

Commandant: Commandant Jim Herbst opened the meeting at 1930. The regular opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Jim Herbst, Sr. Vice Commandant Paul Ferguson, Jr. Vice Commandant Jack McLeod, Judge Advocate Charles Coombs, Paymaster Bob Spano, Adjutant Jack Kelly, Chaplain Chris Bush, Sergeant-at-Arms Charles Davis, Director Roger Godfrey, Director Bill Kinney, and Jr. Past Commandant Dan Luty.

Annual Remembrance Ceremony: Each year, at the May general meeting, the Detachment remembers those members who have passed away in the past year. A candle is lit for each member who has passed away, and a bell is rung as the member's name is mentioned. A candle is then extinguished as each name is mentioned. The Auxiliary joined the Detachment in this ceremony again this year, and the same procedure was followed for the names of those from the Auxiliary who had passed away during the past year. The Detachment members who were remembered were George Curran, Jack Q. Thomas, Conrad J. Sendlinger, Karl F. Heinzlmann, and James D. Ross. Auxiliary members who had passed away and were remembered were Lee Robinson and Jeanne Knapp.

Application for Membership: An application for membership was received from John Joseph McNamee. He had served in the Marine Corps and his DD214 was in order. He is presently in the USMCR, and he is a member of the Malvern Police Department. Paul Donohue made a motion to accept John Joseph McNamee into membership as a regular member of the Detachment. Wes Tomlinson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Minutes: George Boyajian made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2 April 2013 general meeting as published in the *Scuttlebutt*. Bernie McGinley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Officer Reports:

Commandant: Jim Herbst reminded members to review the meeting's agenda to look at the Detachment's busy schedule for May. The dedication ceremony for the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Park is scheduled for 11 May 2013, and the Walk for the Wounded event is scheduled for 18 May at Rose Tree Park. Jim Herbst asked members to listen to the various reports during the meeting, and to help with staffing the different events where they can. The Memorial Day weekend is always busy, with the placing of flags on graves at Glenwood Cemetery on Saturday, and the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill on Sunday and then the parade and other events on Memorial Day. Jim Herbst also mentioned the need for members to assist with the Honor Guard to serve during funerals for deceased veterans. On another matter, he also mentioned that there is still a problem with a new computer system at MCL National Headquarters, so if a member has any questions on his membership status, the member should contact Jim Herbst.

Adjutant: Jack Kelly reported that letters of thanks for donations made by the Detachment had been received from the Fisher House Foundation in Rockville, MD, and also from the Semper Fi Fund in Oceanside, CA. The Semper Fi Fund also sent along a certificate to the Detachment "gratefully acknowledging your support."

The certificate was signed by Karen Guenther, founder of the Semper Fi Fund. Jack Kelly also mentioned that a letter had been received from the family of a deceased Marine, Joseph T. Collins. The letter was in praise of the Honor Guard for its respectful ceremony during the burial service for Mr. Collins.

A note of thanks was also received from Marple Newtown High School, acknowledging the Detachment's donation to the school's LINK (Leaders Involved in Networking Kids) program. Jack Kelly also read a note of thanks from Midshipman Michael Noblit, who was presented with the Detachment's Gung Ho Award at the annual Spring Review of the Villanova NROTC on 23 April.

Chaplain: Chris Bush reported that member Matt Balfrey is still ailing. He also mentioned that he had been out to Villanova University and had given a short address to the graduating seniors in the NROTC program, and he had also given each one a copy of the Holy Bible.

Sr. Vice Commandant: Paul Ferguson mentioned that the next general meeting in June is the scholarship awards dinner meeting. The cost for the dinner is \$12.00 per person. Dinner is scheduled for 1800, but members were asked to arrive at 1715, if possible, to assist with the set up for the meeting. The meeting will begin once dinner has been completed. Paul Ferguson also reported that the annual Combined Veterans Alliance picnic is scheduled for 17 August at Drexel Lodge Park, and Justine's again will be the caterer. The annual Marine Corps Birthday ball is scheduled for 9 November 2013 at the Paxon Hollow Country Club. More details will follow at a later date.

Jr. Vice Commandant: Jack McLeod reported that seven Help Us Help Others events had been completed. In the past weekend, \$2,300.00 had been collected from two store locations, somewhat less than the week before. In the coming week's events, activity would include a Wawa store on a Thursday, but a scheduled event at a local Walmart store has fallen through. One other store will be visited for donations this coming weekend. Jack McLeod mentioned that three members have recently joined the HUHO efforts and they are Charley Coombs, Dominick Mattioni, and Anthony Ambrosini.

Paymaster: Bob Spano presented the paymaster's report as of 30 April 2013. He also asked the membership to review the organizations listed on the back of the agenda suggested for donations for this month. George Boyajian made a motion to accept the paymaster's report as received. Bill Kinney seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Director Kinney: Bill Kinney mentioned that there was an excellent turnout for the rehearsal on Monday for the upcoming dedication ceremony at the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Park. He reviewed some of the planned activities for the Color Guard, Honor Guard, and other participants for the program on 11 May. Bill Kinney emphasized the need to arrive early. He mentioned that our member Joe Daly, chief of police of Springfield Township, would be in charge of security during the event. Commandant Jim Herbst commended Bill Kinney for all of his work, among many others in the community, on this project. Bill Kinney was given a round of applause.

Committee Reports:

Americanism: Earle Drake reported that he, Jim Mulhern and Lloyd Spangler had made Americanism presentations at the Stonehurst Hills Elementary School (Lloyd Spangler is a 1938 alum), the Young Marines at the General Butler Reserve Center, and at the Loomis Elementary School.

District One Activities: As District One Vice Commandant, Earle Drake reported that a District One meeting had been conducted on 28 April 2013, with thirty-eight Marines in attendance. Six Detachments were represented, including the General Smedley D. Butler Detachment. The guest speaker was Andrew Colket, from Congressman Pat Meehan's office. He provided information on how the Congressman's office can assist veterans.

Earle Drake also reported that plans are underway for the dedication ceremony honoring the first commandant of the Marine Corps, Samuel Nicholas, on 1 June 2013. This will take place at the Friends Meeting House in Philadelphia at Third and Arch Streets. A two member Color Guard (no weapons) is needed for this event. Earle Drake also mentioned that a tribute to the Montfort Point Marines will be at the Springfield Public Library during the month of June. Earle Drake mentioned that the officers had voted to place a quarter page ad in the Parade book. Earle Drake had found that the Detachment had placed a half page ad last year. Earle Drake made a motion to take a half page ad again this year, at a cost of \$125.00. Bill Kinney seconded the motion and the motion passed. In another matter, since he is involved in the July 4th Parade planning, he provided some details on the July 4th Parade.

Color Guard: Jim Donegan provided information on the use of the Color Guard at the upcoming ceremonies for the Delaware County Veterans Memorial Park on 11 May 2013. He also mentioned that the Color Guard is needed on the annual Walk for the Wounded event on 18 May 2013 at Rose Tree Park. The Color Guard will also be involved in the Memorial Day Parade and other events that day.

Honor Guard: Ben Sides mentioned that the Honor Guard participated in 18 funerals for deceased veterans during the month of April. The year to date total is now at 81. Ben Sides mentioned again that additional help is needed for the Honor Guard.

Home Association: Tom Kerrigan had no report, but he mentioned that the Detachment trailer will be ready for upcoming events, where needed.

Membership: Jim Herbst presented Bob Cosgrove with his Life Membership pin.

Property: Bob Spano reported that new flags have been ordered for the outside of the building.

Scholarships: Wayne Williams mentioned that scholarship applications have been received from nine applicants. The number of scholarships to be awarded had been established as six, but Wayne Williams suggested that the Detachment should award scholarships to all nine applicants. Wayne Williams made a motion to award scholarships to all nine applicants this year. Jim (JR) Robinson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

The scholarship recipients are Hayley Nedbalski, Caitlin Donahue, Amelia Herbst, Jenna Maas, Lauren D'Amora, Kathryn Mayer, Kelly Balzereit, Ashley Ross, and Joseph Paparo.

Toys for Tots: Bob Cosgrove mentioned that since the former storage space is no longer available, another storage location will be needed for the Toys for Tots program later this year. He asked for suggestions for storage space either from the membership or from some other source.

Young Marines: Bob Stanton expressed his appreciation to those members who had come out for a presentation to the Young Marines. He also mentioned that the Young Marines would be participating in the placing of flags at Glenwood Cemetery as well as being in the Memorial Day Parade. Bob Stanton thanked the Detachment members for the recent financial assistance given to the Young Marines program.

Unfinished Business: John Cook mentioned the upcoming event at Arlington Cemetery in Drexel Hill to honor John Mackie, the first Medal of Honor recipient in the Marine Corps.

It was also mentioned as a reminder that at the next general meeting, a collection will be taken for the benefit of the Young Marines, who lost camping equipment valued at \$500.00 during Hurricane Sandy. If the full \$500.00 is not received, the Detachment will cover the difference. On another matter, Jim Herbst thanked those members who represented the Detachment at the recent Spring Review of the Villanova NROTC program.

New Business: No items of new business were raised.

Announcements: The items of upcoming Detachment events, as listed on the agenda, plus several others, were reviewed.

Good of the League: Bob Stanton mentioned that one of the Young Marines recently received his Eagle Scout award. Bob Spano reviewed the list of organizations being suggested for donations this month. Dan Luty made a motion to donate the funds as listed on the back of the agenda. The organizations and the amounts to be donated in parentheses are: (1) Fisher House Foundation, Rockville, MD (\$2,000.00); (2) The Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, Oceanside, CA (\$2,000.00); (3) Operation First Response, Inc., Culpeper, VA (\$2,000.00); (4) Society of St. Vincent DePaul, Havertown, PA (\$1,000.00); (5) Upper Mainline YMCA, Berwyn, PA (\$1,000.00); and The USO, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA (\$2,000.00). Bernie McGinley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Dan Luty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. George Boyajian seconded the motion and the motion passed. After the regular closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 2045.

Jerry McGuckin won the 50/50. Thirty-nine members signed the logbook.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Kelly
Adjutant



Delaware County Veterans Memorial Dedication



Delaware County Veterans Memorial Dedication



Eagle Scout Court of Honor, BS Troop 144

Marines Had Six Four-Stars, but not for very long



Dressed in their desert camouflage uniforms the six Marine four-star generals share coffee in the Home of the Commandants in Washington, D.C., April 19, 2013. From left to right: John F. Kelly, James N. Mattis, Joseph F. Dunford, James F. Amos, John R. Allen, and John M. Paxton Jr. (U.S. Marine Corps photo illustration by Sgt. Mallory S. VanderSchans)

With its emphasis on its enlisted troops and its creed that every Marine is a rifleman, the Marine Corps is the military service that keeps the smallest ratio of brass to troops. But for a brief moment—actually only until Wednesday—there are, for the first time, six four-star generals in the Corps.

Earlier this month [April 19], the officers gathered at the Home of the Commandants at the Marine Barracks Washington, the only time six active-duty four star generals have gathered together, according to the service. Except for a handful of five-star admirals and generals in American history, four-stars is the highest attainable rank in the military. And for the Marines it is unusual to have four or five, much less six.

The Corps thinks of the gathering as historic. But for the generals, the April get-together was simply a reunion of a group of men who have worked with each other and off for four decades.

“It was a bunch of friends who started out as second lieutenants,” said Gen. James Mattis. “We never thought we would end up as four stars. It is the surprise and twists and turns of life.”

The Marine Corps can count on having two four stars at any one time: the commandant, currently Gen. James Amos, and the assistant commandant, currently Gen. John Paxton. In addition, the Marines currently have four joint force billets: the current and former Afghanistan commanders, Gen. Joseph Dunford and Gen. John Allen, the head of Southern Command, Gen. John Kelly, and the former head of Central Command, Gen. Mattis.

With Gen. Mattis due to take off his uniform in June and Gen. Allen formally retiring this week, the time of six four stars won't last long. And with the entire military poised to shrink with continuing budget cuts, it may not happen again for a long while.

It's the cup of brandy that no one wants to drink

On April 16, in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, the surviving **Doolittle Raiders** will gathered publicly for the last time.

They once were among the most universally admired and revered men in the United States. There were 80 of the Raiders in April 1942, when they carried out one of the most courageous and heart-stirring military operations in this nation's history. The mere mention of their unit's name, in those years, would bring tears to the eyes of grateful Americans. Now only four survive.

After Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, with the United States reeling and wounded something dramatic was needed to turn the war effort around. Even though there were no friendly airfields close enough to Japan for the United States to launch retaliation, a daring plan was devised.



Sixteen B-25s were modified so that they could take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier. This had never before been tried -- sending such big, heavy bombers from a carrier.

The 16 five-man crews, under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, who himself flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet, knew that they would not be able to return to the carrier. They would have to hit Japan and then hope to make it to China for a safe landing.

But on the day of the raid, the Japanese military caught wind of the plan. The Raiders were told that they would have to take off from much farther out in the Pacific Ocean than they had counted on. They were told that because of this they would not have enough fuel to make it to safety. And those men went anyway.

They bombed Tokyo, and then flew as far as they could. Four planes crash-landed; 11 more crews bailed out, and three of the Raiders died. Eight more were captured; three were executed. Another died of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. One crew made it to Russia. The Doolittle Raid sent a message from the United States to its enemies, and to the rest of the world: We will fight. And, no matter what it takes, we will win.

Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the war. They were celebrated as national heroes, models of bravery. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a motion picture based on the raid; "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," starring Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson, was a patriotic and emotional box-office hit, and the phrase became part of the national lexicon. In the movie-theater previews for the film, MGM proclaimed that it was presenting the story "with supreme pride."

Beginning in 1946, the surviving Raiders have held a reunion each April, to commemorate the mission. The reunion is in a different city each year. In 1959, the city of Tucson, Arizona, as a gesture of respect and gratitude, presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets. Each goblet was engraved with the name of a Raider.

Also in the wooden case is a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac. The year is not happenstance: 1896 was when Jimmy Doolittle was born. There has always been a plan: When there are only two surviving Raiders, they would open the bottle, at last drink from it, and toast their comrades who preceded them in death. As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders; then, in February, Tom Griffin passed away at age 96.

So now, out of the original 80, only four Raiders remain: Dick Cole (Doolittle's co-pilot on the Tokyo raid), Robert Hite, Edward Saylor and David Thatcher. All are in their 90s. They have decided that there are too few of them for the public reunions to continue. The events in Fort Walton Beach this week will mark the end. It has come full circle; Florida's nearby Eglin Field was where the Raiders trained in secrecy for the Tokyo mission. The town is planning to do all it can to honor the men: a six-day celebration of their valor, including luncheons, a dinner and a parade.

The men have decided that after this final public reunion they will wait until a later date -- some time this year -- to get together once more, informally and in absolute privacy. That is when they will open the bottle of brandy. The years are flowing by too swiftly now; they are not going to wait until there are only two of them.

They will fill the four remaining upturned goblets. And raise them in a toast to those who are gone.



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

**Honor-Courage-
Commitment**



Belleau Wood Memorial

Next Meeting
4 June, 2013
Spring Dinner starts @ 1800
Meeting to follow @ 1930
Knights of Columbus
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.
(Route 252)
Newtown Square, PA 19073