



Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

1914 1915



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Commandant Steve Neri • 610.853.8717

Volume XII, Issue 5

Sandra Mauer, editor

May 2002

Commandants Message...

My first task is to say thank you to the officers and chairman for all the long hours and work they have donated to the detachment these past few months. They really are to be commended.

Since this will be the last newsletter before our daily lottery program ends, I want to urge all members to be sure and buy their tickets at this meeting. Remember, this is the only time we ask the members to buy chances. Also, a reminder to the members that all ticket stubs and monies are to be turned in no later than May 15th.

The spring pre-meeting dinner will be on June 4th. This is a great time to socialize with your brother leaguers, their wives and significant others. The food is guaranteed to be good and the company even better. Please come and join us. Also, please contact Sr. Vice, Dave Brimble, and let him know if you are coming to the dinner and if your spouse or others are coming with you.

The Memorial Day parade will be on Monday May 27th here in Broomall. As usual the parade will end at Glenwood Cemetery. We will conduct a service there at the monument, then proceed to the Legion Post, where we will have a wreath ceremony and then on to Marple Veterans' Park for a wreath laying ceremony, the final duty for the day.

On Saturday, May 25th, this Detachment, The Young Marines, The Boy Scouts, The VFW and The Legion will be putting flags on the graves at Glenwood Cemetery. On Sunday, May 26th, we will be performing a service at Arlington Cemetery and the Old Presbyterian Cemetery.

The annual flag retirement ceremony will be at 10:00 on Saturday, June 15th, Marple Veterans' Memorial Park, Lawrence Rd., Broomall. Remember to bring all old, torn or unserviceable flags to this event. For those who have never witnessed this service, this is an excellent opportunity to see one conducted. Chairman Bill Lessig does an outstanding job supervising this event. This is a very important community service, and the public really appreciates and supports this program. Let's have a large member turnout for this event.

Enough about the future, let's talk a minute on the very recent past. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have had the 2002 Gung-ho award at Villanova University, the National Day of Prayer at Rose Tree Park and the Marine Corps Association banquet. I know without a doubt that this detachment will have had a fine turnout for these events and that the membership conducted themselves in a manner which will bring more praise to this outstanding detachment.

As always, I must say what an honor and privilege it is to be a member and also the commandant of the best detachment in the Marine Corps League.

Semper fi
Stephen D. Neri

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From the Commandant To All league members

Any member may submit an article for the "Scuttlebutt." The article should be typed and proofed and submitted **no later than the twelfth of the month**. This allows time to layout and arrange the paper. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep all members informed of detachment activities, past present and future. The newsletter also contains the commandant's message, officers' and the committees' reports and minutes of the last general meeting. You may have noticed that we now list members who are celebrating birthdays and you might want to extend personal congratulations when you see or speak with them. The purpose of listing the activities of other organizations is to encourage our members' participation and camaraderie with our fellow veterans. Our newsletter should also contain information that is current and helpful to veterans, such as VA benefits, how to obtain military records, legislation related to veterans, etc.

As many of you know our "Scuttlebutt" has won quite a few awards over the years and naturally we wish to continue that trend. The requirements to be eligible are well-defined and the competition is very competitive.

Remember, if you are submitting an article, the deadline is the 12th.

All material should be sent to me by :

e-mail : nerigyrene@aol.com

fax: 610-325-0853

mail: P.O. Box 656,
Broomall, PA 19008-0656

Semper Fi
Stephen D. Neri
Commandant

Birthday Greetings for May

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

Kenneth Bowser, John Davis, John Gingras, Eugene Grau, John Haynal, Dominick Longhi, Cornelius McGinley, Joseph Mensack, Richard Palena, Joseph Rossetti, Stephen Stott, and George VanDusen.

Happy Birthday...and many, many more!

The Legend Continues...

When General Smedley Butler left Philadelphia, all that the citizens offered were 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. 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 John Cook

Welcome New Members

The membership and staff extend a sincere welcome to our new members who have joined our ***BAND OF BROTHERS***.

Please be sure to add to your members list.

The new member who joined last meeting was:

Eugene Grau
2630 Radcliff Rd.
Broomall PA 19008
610.356.4889



THE FOLLOWING IS A BOOK REVIEW OF

*COURT-MARTIAL
AT PARRIS ISLAND
THE RIBBON CREEK INCIDENT*

BY: JOHN C. STEVENS III

On April 8, 1956, drill instructor, Matthew McKeon led Platoon 71 on a forced march through the backwaters of the Parris Island Recruit Depot in an effort to restore flagging discipline. An unexpected and extraordinarily strong tidal current in Ribbon Creek swept over the recruits, and in the panic that followed six men drowned. This book is the story of that night, the recruits of Platoon 71, and especially SSgt. McKeon and his court-martial.

The Ribbon Creek incident, as it came to be known, rapidly escalated into a national news story, with tabloid sensationalism. With the Marine Corps seeking a scapegoat, McKeon's fate seemed sealed until a skilled New York trial lawyer, sensing injustice, agreed to defend the sergeant without fee and mounted a massive public relations campaign to sway public opinion. The name of that defense attorney, Emile Zola Berman, is but one of a number of haunting parallels to the renowned Dreyfus court-martial in France fifty years ago. The final verdict pits Marine Corps tradition against conscience in the pursuit of justice.

The author, John C. Stevens III, an experienced trial court judge and a marine veteran takes an objective look at the training accident that threatened the very existence of the U.S. Marine Corps. His expert analysis of one of the most colorful and notorious court-martials in American military history sheds new light on the brilliant defense lawyer who demanded only justice as his fee and the ultimately flawed judgment against the drill instructor who led six young recruits to their deaths in Ribbon Creek.

This book is a "must read" for all marines and especially for those that received boot camp training at Parris Island.

submitted by John Cook

Reminder From The Scholarship Chairman

All members who wish to nominate a candidate for the Detachment's scholarship and have requested a Department scholarship will need to submit a copy of the Department's completed application to the Detachment Chairman.

If a member wants to nominate a candidate and has not requested a Department scholarship, a letter of acceptance or transcript from a qualified school will be required by the Detachment Chairman.

The drawing for the Detachment scholarship will be held at the May meeting. The selectees will be presented with their awards at our June meeting.

If you have any questions prior to the May meeting, please call me at 610-353-2863.

Harry Kaufman
Scholarship Chairman

Delaware County Young Marines, *Reporting As Ordered!*



26 April, we will be holding a graduation for recruits who have proved that they have what it takes to be a Young Marine. Graduation will be held at VFW Post 928 in Folsom, approximate time of 1800hrs.

18 May, we will be setting up the memorial at V.F.W. 928

25 May, we will be putting flags on graves in Glenwood Memorial Gardens.

27 May, we will be marching in Memorial Day parade in Broomall. We will also be performing color guard duties with American Legion # 777 in Memorial Day Parade

Looking Ahead

DETACHMENT EVENTS

MAY

- 02 National Day Of Prayer - Rosetree Park – 1130 hrs.–1300 hrs.
- 04 Department Training School – Hdqtrs. Bldg. 0830 hrs.-1600 hrs.
- 07 Detachment General Meeting – 1930 hrs. –2100 hrs.
- 10 Bus Trip To Quantico – 0800 hrs. (Please Arrive at K Of C By 07:30 Hrs.)
- 11 Bus Returns From Wash., D.C. – 2100 hrs.
- 12 Mother's Day (**Men, Do Not Forget!**)
- 13 VAVS – Bingo Party, Coatesville Va Hospital – 1830 hrs.
- 25 Glenwood Cemetery – Place Flags On Graves – 0900 hrs.
- 26 Memorial Services – Arlington Cemetery – 1300 hrs.
- 27 Marple Memorial Day Parade – 0900 hrs. – Old Rets School
- 27 Service At Glenwood Cemetery
- 27 Wreath-Laying At American Legion Post – 1100 hrs.
- 27 Wreath-Laying At Marple Veterans' Memorial Park - 1300 hrs.
- 28 S. D. Butler Detachment Staff Meeting – 1930 hrs.
- 31 Department Rifle/Pistol Match – Indiantown Gap, PA

JUNE

- 04 Detachment Spring Pre-Meeting Dinner – 1800 hrs.
- 04 Detachment General Meeting – 1930 hrs.
- 10 VAVS – Bingo Party At Coatesville Va Hospital – 1830 hrs.
- 15 Flag Retirement Ceremony – Marple Veterans' Memorial Park – 1000 hrs.
- 20-22 Department Convention – Pittsburgh, PA – Holiday Inn – Greentree
- 21 Southeastern Pa Military Vehicle Campout–1200 hrs. Starts Koa Campground, Rte. 162, Unionville, PA –
- 22 Korean War Marine Memorial DEDICATION- Penns Landing, Phila.
- 23 Campout Closes 1200 hrs.
- 25 S. D. Butler Detachment Staff Meeting – 1930 hrs.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

MAY

- 01 AMVETS Meeting – Post Hall, Morton Ave., Morton, PA – 2000
- 02 Knights of Columbus Meeting, Knights Home, Rt. 252, Newtown Sq., PA – 2000 hrs.
- 04 Chester County Det. MCL – Downingtown, PA – Liberty Night – 1900 hrs. (kitchen opens 1730 hrs.)

MAY (OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, CONTINUED)

- 08 Devil Dogs Pound 19 – Growl – VFW 928, MacDade Blvd., Folsom, PA – 1930 hrs.
- 08 American Legion 805 – Meeting – Post Home, W. Chester Pk., Broomall, PA – 1930 hrs.
- 09 Marple VFW 7390 – Meeting – Twp. Bldg., Broomall, PA – 1930 hrs.
- 11 Delaware County Det., MCL – Upland, PA, Det. Home – Spaghetti Dinner – 1800 hrs.–2100 hrs. \$7.00
- 11 Parade In Media, Pa – To Honor Harry Kalas
- 13 Del. Co. Chapter 113 DAV – Meeting – AmVets Post, Morton, PA – 2000 hrs.
- 18 Chester County Det., MCL – Downingtown, PA – Liberty Night – 1900 hrs. (kitchen opens 1730 hrs.)
- 19 Delaware County Det., MCL – Upland PA, Det. Home – Breakfast – 0800 hrs.–1130 hrs.- \$5.00
- 23 Gen. Holcomb Det. MCL – Wilm., DE – Dinner & Baseball – 1600 hrs.-2200 hrs. - \$??
- 25 Marcus Hook Memorial Day Parade – Walnut & Pine Sts. – 1200 hrs.
- 27 Media Memorial Day Parade – State Street – 1200 hrs.

JUNE

- 01 D.A.V. Recognition Day – Hosted by Phila. Phillies – Vets Stadium – Phila., PA Evening Game – 1900 hrs. – Special reduced rate tickets \$14.00 – Call Steve Neri
- 01 Chester County Det. MCL – Downingtown, Pa – Liberty Night – 1900 hrs. (kitchen opens 1730 hrs.)
- 05 AMVETS Meeting – Post Hall, Morton Ave., Morton, PA – 2000 hrs.
- 07 Chester Co. Det. MCL – Downingtown, PA – Liberty Night – 1900 hrs. (kitchen opens 1730 hrs.)
- 10 Del. Co. Chapter 113 DAV – Meeting – AmVets Post, Morton, PA – 2000 hrs.
- 12 Devil Dogs Pound 19 – Growl – VFW 928, MacDade Blvd., Folsom, PA - 1930 hrs.
- 12 American Legion 805 – Meeting – Post Home, W. Chester Pk., Broomall, PA - 1930 hrs.
- 20-23 AMVETS State Convention – Pittsburgh, PA – Westin Hotel

From the Senior Vice...

"An organization is only as strong as its members! **Please** help to strengthen our League by signing up some new ones."

Semper Fi

Dave Brimble

Reminder...

Any member who is attending the 8th & I trip, and hasn't already paid, please bring your payment to the May meeting... *Thank you!*

SICK CALL

Tom Flack is recovering from surgery in Haverford Mercy Nursing Home.

Jimmy "Wags" Wagner is recuperating at home and continues to need your prayers.

*If you know of a Detachment member who is sick or in the hospital, please let me know as soon as possible.
Note: The Chaplain's phone number is 610.353.5569.*

Chris Bush, Chaplain

"SCUTTLEBUTT" BOOSTER CLUB

Help support our newsletter and become a member of the Booster Club! Your \$10.00 contribution helps offset the cost of publication and postage.

We wish to thank our current Boosters, for with their assistance we are able to continue our award-winning newsletter! If you are interested in being a "Scuttlebutt" Booster, please see Bob Spano.

APRIL BOOSTERS

Jim Donahue, Nick Repino, Steve Neri, Bob Bunce, Mary & Jerry Powlus, Dot & Craig Allen, George Boyajian, Pat & Joe Mensack, Larry Doyle

Thank you boosters!

Adopt A Highway Update

On Sunday, April 14, 2002, the cleanup went very well. Thanks to the following members who came out and made it successful.

Steve Neri, Bob Spano, Nick Repino, Mike Horn, Joe Hudson, Gerry Powlus, Harry Kaufman, Chris Bush and Kurt Ramick.

Dave Brimble

Chairman, Adopt A Highway



Memorial Day
May 27, 2002

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Marine Corps League April 2, 2002 General Meeting

Commandant Steve Neri called the meeting to order at 1940 hrs.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS: present were: Commandant Neri, Sr. Vice Brimble, Adjutant Horne, Paymaster Spano, Sgt-At-Arms Stanton, Chaplain Bush, Service Officer McGinley, Director Tallmadge, Director Repino, Director Powlus, Jr. Past Commandant Kaufman.

There were 53 members in attendance.

Commandant Neri acknowledged guest George Curley from the Delaware County Detachment.

NEW MEMBER: Motion was made by Marine Stanton to accept Eugene Grau as associate member, seconded by Bob Matthews. Applicant was sworn in by the Commandant.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Marine Mensack and seconded by Member Ross to approve the minutes as published in the Scuttlebutt. Motion was passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Commandant Neri introduced Marine Horne as Acting Adjutant. Marine Horne read letters of thanks from the Bonhage family and the Miller family for the Honor Guard ceremonies performed for their family member. Marine Horne also read a letter from the Third Marine Division seeking former members of the division for membership. A letter was also read inviting our detachment to join with the Posting of the Colors and Closing on the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2, 2002 at Rose Tree Park in Upper Providence. Marine Horne read a letter proposing a motion to make the Toys for Tots program an official function of the Marine Corp League.

OFFICER REPORTS:

SR. VICE COMMANDANT: Marine Brimble reported that there are 148 regular members and 15 associate members for a total of 163 members in the detachment. There were no new members last month and one new associate member this month. He reminded everyone to try to recruit new members for the detachment.

PAYMASTER: Marine Spano, has comprised a letter stating our detachment's support of the language contained in P.L. 107-107 that makes the enactment of legislation granting full concurrent receipt to disabled

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military retirees. Letters were passed out to each member to be sent to the appropriate official. Marine Spano then read the monthly financial report. Motion to accept the report was made by Marine Tallmadge and seconded by Marine Boyajian.

CHAPLAIN: Marine Bush stated that he would like to know if any member is sick or in the hospital.

SERVICE OFFICER: Marine McGinley read legislation of Act 73, which allows Korean and WWII Vets a chance to graduate from their high school. This Act would include members of the graduating classes from 1951 to 1959. Marine McGinley also read that there are program changes that may cost the veteran some services. Effective March 4, the VA will only pay for three days of adult care or in-home services for veterans outside of Chester County. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of local congressional leaders, including Representative Curt Weldon, this reduction in services has been spared for now. The Philadelphia Korean Marine Memorial will be dedicated on June 22 at Penn's Landing. Dinner will follow immediately after dedication. Cost of dinner will be \$35.00. More details will follow.

DIRECTOR: Marine Tallmadge-no report.

DIRECTOR: Marine Powlus-no report.

DIRECTOR: Marine Repino-no report.

JR. PAST COMMANDANT: Marine Kaufman-no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Adopt-A-Highway: Marine Brimble reported that the next cleanup for Bishop Hollow Road would be Sunday, April 14th at 0900 hrs.

Americanism: Marine Tallmadge, reporting for Chairman Lessig, stated that for the month of March, 3 schools were visited, for a total of 345 students. Marine Tallmadge also commented on the great job that Bill Lessig does to promote the Americanism program.

Ceremonies: Marine Van Dusen reported that have been 52 funerals for the year so far, and we continue to honor requests for honors ceremonies at funerals. Commandant Neri passed out a copy of an article published by the Daily Times and a letter from the Miller family stating what a great job the funeral detail does.

Pistol/Rifle Team: Marine Bodle-absent.

Brother-to-Brother Program: Provided Transportation this evening for Bill Charlton.

Sgt.-At-Arms: Marine Stanton wants members to make sure they sign the book as they come in.

Quartermaster: Tom Lynch reported new members should pick up their free name tags, and members who are entitled to ribbons should also pick them up.

Scholarships: Marine Kaufman reported members

should get their application into the state as soon as possible. Also, a duplicate should be made for the detachment to keep on file. The deadline for the state scholarship is May 31. There is no information about the national scholarship at this time.

V.A.V.S.: Chairman Matthews reported receiving a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs in Coatesville thanking us for all the programs we support. Also a letter was read thanking the detachment for the donation of \$288.00 for the purchase of a TV. The monthly bingo party is the 2nd Monday of every month. Meet here in K of C parking lot by 6:30 PM, and then proceed to the Coatesville VA Hospital.

Young Marines: Marine Stanton reported that the graduation of Young Marines is April 26 at 7:30 PM at the VFW Post 928 in Folsom, PA. All are invited to attend. Also, the Young Marines are helping the Upper Darby Detachment with a clean up at Naylor's Run Park.

COMMANDANT'S REPORT: Commandant Neri reported that there are still positions open in the Detachment. They include Junior Vice, Publicity and Historian. He also thanked Marine Horne for taking the Adjutant position. Commandant Neri asked all those in the membership to please think about stepping into one of these important positions.

Commandant Neri stated that he attended a special meeting for the Media Theater Veterans' Alliance/Veterans' Legacy. The theater will set aside one performance of each show this year as a Veterans' Night, with a reception for those Veterans' Groups in attendance. Please show your support by attending the Theater for one of these performances.

The Commandant also asked Senior Vice Brimble to comment on the bus trip. The bus trip is sold out and all members who are going should please be aware that all packages will be searched and everyone will have to go through a metal detector. Also, please make sure to bring your ID along.

Paymaster Spano was also asked to comment about Life Memberships. All those who applied please see him for their cards. Also, any member who did not receive his Marine Corp League pin, please see Paymaster Spano to get one.

Commandant Neri reported that Senior Vice Brimble has completed our members' birthday list. These will be announced each month in the Scuttlebutt. Also, the staff has approved a new detachment application for membership that was passed out during the meeting.

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This is now the Official Application for this detachment, you should discard or destroy all others. Our Brother-to-Brother program is very important. The Commandant urged all members to get involved with this program.

The Commandant commented that Chaplain Bush is doing an excellent job for the Detachment. Remember to let him know if a member is sick, injured, or hospitalized.

The Detachment will be presenting the Gung-Ho award on April 23 at 3:00 PM at Villanova's NROTC Spring Review. Members are urged to attend.

Our spring pre-meeting dinner will be held on June 4 at 6:00 PM. Meeting to start at 7:30 PM. All are welcome. Please bring your spouse or significant other.

The Commandant reported that Judge Advocate Mayer is reviewing our bylaws and administrative procedures to make sure all are correct, and updated. All members will be given new copies once the project is finished.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Marine Spano passed out the letters that were agreed upon at last month's meeting to be sent to representatives.

NEW BUSINESS: New sign-in sheets are now numbered. At the end of each meeting, when the 50-50 is drawn one number will be drawn from the sign-in sheet to win a \$10.00 gift certificate to be used at our Locker Box.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Marine Corps Scholarship Association will be holding their annual awards banquet at Pier 1, Philadelphia Navy Yard. The Commandants award will be presented to our own James A. Wagner, by Gen. Jones, the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Motion by Marine Green to have the Marine Corps League place an ad in the Delchordians, annual program book. Motion to amend by Marine Kaufman to place a ½ page ad at \$50.00. Marine Boyajian seconded the Motion. Motion passed.

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE: Commandant Neri asked the membership to support the detachments lottery sales. Please see Marine Repino for tickets.

Marine Tanner reported that is he selling chances for the Department of Pennsylvania Marine Corps

League. The proceeds support Veterans & Youth programs. Commandant Neri stated that the detachment buys \$300.00 worth of these tickets every year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2115 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by Marine Horne, Adjutant.

The following officers attended the multi-detachment meeting on Saturday April 6th, 02; Commandant Neri, Sr.Vice Brimble, Paymaster Spano, Judge Advocate Mayer, Adjutant Horne, Sgt-at-Arms Stanton and Jr.Past Commandant Kaufman.

Scuttlebutt Material

The Locker-Box gift certificate was won by member John Schaffhauser. The 50/50 was won by Bob Bunce.



Did You Know...

Divine Wind

Ever wonder why the Japanese used the word "Kamikaze" for their suicide plane attacks? As legend goes, in the 13th century, a Mongol emperor amassed a large fleet for the invasion of Japan from the Asian mainland. The Japanese nation had little to defend itself and a Mongol conquest seemed imminent. As the fleet amassed outside Tokyo Bay gathered for attack, a typhoon came up and either sank all of the ships or blew them back to China. This storm, which the Japanese believed was sent by the gods to save their nation, was called the "Divine Wind" in Japanese the word is known as "Kamikaze".

submitted by John Cook

Next Regular Meeting is:
May 7, 2002
1930 hrs.
Knights of Columbus
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.
(Route 252)
Newtown Square, PA



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