



SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade

NEWS LETTER

Vol. 28, No. 3

WWW.SixthMarineDivision.com

September 2002

6MarDiv Association awards scholarships

Scholarship Exec Will Explain Process at Reunion

The Sixth Marine Division Association and its Ladies Auxiliary have been doing business with the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation (MCSF) for years. Beginning with Pete Mucci early on in association history, a number of scholarships have been paid for and activated.

The MCSF is well-known with a solid reputation. It has a Marine, Brigadier General Michael Wholley (Ret), as its executive director. Wholley will address the Reunion in Las Vegas during the membership program to explain his group's efforts. He will discuss how scholarships are awarded, how bequests are made and other items of interest.

This past school year, five Sixth Division scholarships were awarded. Each year may have different numbers as recipients must qualify academically and must come from families with less than a \$49,000 annual income. Recipients will receive a minimum of \$500 a year that may go as high as \$2500 and could even be eligible for one of five scholarships worth \$5000.

In a letter to President-Elect John J Foley, Wholley said, as a general rule in the United States, "Perpetual scholarships are awarded using the "five per cent rule." He went on to explain that a \$10,000 bequest ordinarily means the disbursement of \$500 a year, but the MCSF is able sometimes to increase that amount from other funds.

Foley said that the MCSF has been promised \$20,000 from the association's

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Las Vegas Reunion for Fun, Fellowship and Business

It won't be all fun and frolic. The Sixth Marine Division Association's annual Reunion to be held this year at Las Vegas' Plaza Hotel from September 8th through 15th is designed to be enjoyable to the limit, but there will be business to conduct.

As the association naturally declines in active membership due to age and infirmity, it becomes even more important to maintain financial and organizational stability. President Bill Pauley, F-2-29, puts it this way:

"Problems have emerged, mainly financial, as a result of the decline of our income

[More about Las Vegas activities on pages 8 and 9.](#)

[Registration on page 10.](#)

base. That is why I have spent the past year emphasizing brotherhood and consensus. We must stand as one to prepare properly for our future as an organization.

"Our President-Elect John Foley will further the aims of our membership with proposals and actions that should, with your help and confirmation, prepare this group of

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 5

Rally 'round the Flag!



Some World War II Marines are still in the line. Here, Howard Terry, former corporal in Fox Company, Second Battalion, 29th Marines, Sixth Marine Division, expresses his support for the troops in the field in Afghanistan at a rally in Naples, FL. Terry lives with his wife Mary in North Naples. He is retired and participates in rallies and parades when he considers them appropriate.

Reprint permission courtesy of Judy Lutz, Naples Daily News)

**Sixth Marine Division Association
2001-2002 Board of Directors**

Elected Officers

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29th Marines – Edward M. Tomalolo
11 Shamrock St., Worcester, MA 01605

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2057 Amsterdam Ave., Schenectady, NY 12303

Honorary Board Member – James Wabeck
6230 del Paso Ave., San Diego, CA 92129

President's Message



William E. Pauley,
President, 6th
Marine Div. Assoc.

We were blessed to have had our April, 2002 mini-reunion in Covington, LA. Thanks to our host and chairman Leonard Limes and his outstanding helpers we were provided with an excellent reunion with all expenses taken care of

and with a net profit. We were fortunate to have had a Board of Directors quorum and working together with team spirit and harmony was productive.

Your Board addressed important items as described in the minutes of our meeting as published in this issue of our newsletter. Members attending were briefed on all action items undertaken by the Board.

As you can see by reviewing these minutes your active participation at our annual reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada September 8-15, 2002 is essential in maintaining a stable and an ongoing cost-effective operation. Not only acting upon the items addressed by your Board of Directors meeting in Covington is needed, along with your input and concern, but electing the officers who will lead and serve us during 2002-2003 will be the order of business.

Make plans now to attend your annual reunion in Las Vegas. Not only will we have an enjoyable time, thanks to our host/chairman Martin Essex, his wife Marilyn and all those who helped in putting it together, but we will prosper with your attendance and concern.

This is my last message and Las Vegas my last reunion as your President. It has been one of the great experiences of my life, and I am so thankful to all members who have taken an active concern in association needs. We all owe them our thanks.

Our Association will continue to survive thanks to all their efforts and dedication in making sure we operate in harmony and with a team spirit. Thanks for the support. I couldn't have made it without you.

We all need to keep pulling in one direction. We have to be open minded and receptive to new ideas in maintaining our Association as long as we are able to do so. We can never forget the sacrifices made by our fallen comrades and I feel confident that we, the survivors, will continue to work together and will keep doing our best as long as we possibly can in their memory and in the best interest of our Association and its members. Lets stand tall and enjoy the rest of our days.

See you in Las Vegas. We will have a great time and get done what needs to be done.

Have a safe trip. May team spirit and harmony prevail. May we always respect our flag: *It's your flag and my flag. The best of flags on earth. So cherish it fellow Americans. It's yours by right of adoption or birth. Americans have fought and still fight and have died to raise it to the skies and we, like them, must never yield. Keep it flying high.*

God Bless America.

Yours in Comradeship,
William E. Pauley,
President.

2001 - 2002 Appointed Officers & Committee Chairmen

Budget Committee Chairman

John J. Foley, 5161 Forest Glen Dr.
Springhill, FL 34607 (352) 686-6209

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Historian

Jack Hoag, 12341 Rebecca Ln.,
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Memorial Projects Committee Chairman

William T. Pierce, 2020 Arundel Pl.
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Reunion Site Chairman

John J. Foley, 5161 Forest Glen Dr.
Springhill, FL 34607 (352) 686-6209

Nominations Committee

Thomas M. Terpinas, Chairman
8056 Shorewalk Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46236

Andrew Horvath, Member as Past President
Harold E. Howell, Member as 2nd Past President

Piper

Joseph McConville, 75 Elm Rd.,
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Scholarship Program

Sam Petriello, 3016 Hemlock Dr.,
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A Message from the President Elect



John Foley,
President Elect,
6th Marine Division
Association.

They say that marriages don't break up over sex or money. It's the lack of either that does the job. Our association hasn't had any sex problems to my knowledge, but a financial crisis has done us a world of harm.

President Bill Pauley's emphasis on

brotherhood has slowed down the squabbling over money and other problems while a concerted effort by our officers has averted, at least temporarily, our financial difficulties. I like to think I've had some small part in that effort as well.

We have fewer and fewer members every year and most of the remainder are life members, who pay no dues. Fewer members are attending the main reunions, eating into profits from that source. In addition, the fewer members, the fewer donations. That's half the problem. The other half is a shortage of volunteers to serve the association. It is time for more involvement. It is time to step up and be counted.

Since I was hired on to be President Elect, my role has expanded to include reunion site chairman and secretary because of the resignation of the previous secretary due to his wife's medical condition. All members of our association are at the crossroads. This is our stand, our attempt to continue the existence of the 6th Marine Division Assn. The Reunion at Las Vegas in September will determine the success of our efforts.

We have paid all of our outstanding debts, consolidated our available resources

We have paid all of our outstanding debts, consolidated our available resources and in so doing stripped our treasury to a dangerously low point because of operating expenses, mainly our newsletter.

and in so doing stripped our treasury to a dangerously low point because of operating expenses, mainly our newsletter. No officer or chairman receives any payment except for legitimate expenses authorized by our president. Our Editor *pro tem* Joe Singleton and Watson Crumbie, Membership Chairman, are searching for alternate ways to publish and mail the newsletter, if that becomes necessary, and to reduce our costs with the help of Treasurer Joe McConville.

A 1700 member mailing has been undertaken to reach out to members who have not subscribed the \$10.00 annual cost requested for the newsletter. Joe will have this newsletter out before the next reunion at Las Vegas in September. Joe, among others, is also searching for a replacement for Watson, who will not seek reelection.

This is a good time to note the contributions of Watson Crumbie. He has saved the association thousands of dollars by his hard work as membership chairman and is leaving that post in as good shape as he found it upon taking over from Jack Dorman. He also has been of great help to other officers and chairmen, including our new editor, who insists he could not have produced his first edition without Watson's help.

A full report on everything will be given in Las Vegas by President Pauley and the concerned chairmen.

John J Foley
President Elect

The Geatest Generation

To my Father's Fellow Warriors

Your's has been called the "greatest generation of America". I emphatically agree. You are my heroes! During one of our country's worst crises, you stepped forward and filled the gap with courage and devotion, at great personal sacrifice. Not only are you my heroes, but also the wives and mothers who were left behind to care for your children and keep your homes intact.

■ A Marine's daughter honors 'Band of Brothers'

As strong, young men, you fought the enemy and won. Then as patriotic, hardworking veterans, you have continued to do your duty in the five decades that have followed your victory. You have been our fathers, our guides, our teachers.

My father, who was one of the greatest of your generation in my eyes, has slipped over to join his many comrades-in-arms on the other side. I loved him dearly. He was a wonderful man: husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. As I kissed him good-bye for the last time, I promised myself that I would write this-long-overdue letter.

The time is growing very short for this special generation-your generation. I wish I could personally express my love and thankfulness to each of you for all you have done for America and me. You were my father's friends and fellow warriors. As I honored my father's life, I honor yours. You have my eternal gratitude and love. We shall not forget you.

Go With God

Linda Ritter Smith
daughter of EA "Tex" Ritter,
Marine of the 6th Division
SEMPER FI

Editor's Note: Edgar A Ritter, 6th Jasco, died March 23 in Crystal City, MO. He is survived by his wife Norma Marie and several other children.

■ **ANNUAL DUES FOR 2003 ARE NOW DUE. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE** about your dues status, look for "check your label" found elsewhere in this edition. Annual dues are \$10.00. Make check payable to 6th Marine Division and mail to: Watson Crumbie, Membership Chairman, 4964 Shady Oak Trail, Grand Prairie, TX 75052-4197

■ **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION** to the *Striking Sixth* newsletter for 2003 is now due. Cost is \$10.00. Make check payable to 6th Marine Division and mail to: Watson Crumbie, Membership Chairman, 4964 Shady Oak Trail, Grand Prairie, TX 75052-4197

SCHOLARSHIPS from page 1

scholarship fund. This will fund three permanent scholarships. The additional scholarship beyond the usual apparently is largess from the Foundation.

Wholley told the *Striking Sixth* in a telephone conversation that he can give the names of the five students benefiting from the association's previous gifts, but it would take some research to determine the total number of our scholarships available.

As near as can be determined there is no record within our association of the total funds given the MCSF by our group or individuals within the group. We also do not know the types of scholarships.

The MCSF has a web site, www.marine-scholars.org, that lists Memorial Scholarships, Honorary Scholarships, Annual Scholarships and Perennial Scholarships. It lists the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Divisions as donors. It does not appear to list the scholarships provided by these groups or the amounts donated.

The MCSF E-Mail address is mcsf@marine-scholars.org.

Sam Petriello, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, through no fault of his, could not be reached in time to add information for this article.

Membership Status

Member Status as of 07/01/2002

2061	Regular Life Members
225	Regular Annual Members
104	Regular Annual Members In Arrears In Dues
411	Associate Life Members
35	Associate Annual Members
50	Annual Associate Members Arrears in Dues
23	Honorary and Organizational Members

2909 Total

Members In Arrears Are Carried Two Years

Subscription To Striking Sixth Newsletter

1323	Paid Subscribers
23	Honorary Members and Organizations
295	Widows (18 Paid Widows)
1268	Members Have Not Subscribed

2909 Total

Watson Crumbie
Membership Chairman

Editors Corner

Joe Singleton

It seems that the association has some troubles, money troubles, long term personality conflicts, all kinds of troubles. As a newcomer to the Working Stiff's end of things around here, I don't know much about our problems, only that they are most likely solvable. They usually are. I don't know anything about who might be angry at whom, so let's tackle the money problem.

We don't have enough of it. In other words, we are a little short, the bills mount up and payday is a long way off. Some say we spend too much, particularly on the biggest item of all: the newsletter.

They say the *Striking Sixth* is a drag on things. It costs more to put out than there is coming in. That sounds bad. I guess it is bad. Still, there might be a way out. We can shut it down, but that means shutting down the association as it can't survive without some form of communication.

There are those, I am told, who favor a shut-down. We're all too old, and on top of that we're most of us getting older, making it too much of a chore to keep things going. "Rockin' chair's gonna get us."

It has been suggested that if we leave fees the same but cut back to two or three issues a year instead of four, that might help. Sounds reasonable. That's sort of like those cereal boxes, though; the price is the same, there's just less cereal in them.

Another possibility is to raise the price a little, charge more for the product. That usually means fewer subscribers. Might work, though.

A solution I kind of favor will be the

hardest to pull off: increase circulation. We run close to three thousand members of one sort or another. We have something over a thousand paid subscribers at \$10 each. Two or three hundred newsletters go out for free to widows and such..

Suppose we double paid circulation? According to my trusty calculator that would mean another 10 grand coming in, making 20 altogether. My guess is we could bring four or five thousand of that to the association as profit for non-newsletter expenses. (I hope all this math isn't wearing you out like it is me.)

People are used to getting the *Striking Sixth* for free, getting more folks to pay for it may prove to be difficult. We need the missing Marines to subscribe to bring in that other \$10,000 and to further cement the bonds between us.

So the question is how do we increase circulation? How do we make the newsletter valuable enough to readers so they will pay for it? I don't know. I just work here. The only way that I know to get an answer is to ask. If anyone, anyone at all, has read this far, please drop me a line or E-Mail, tell me what you think, how can we make this newsletter more to your liking? Joe Singleton, 3506A Patty Dr, Lago Vista, TX 78645 (JoeS104183@aol.com).

Oh, one more thing. There are a lot of complaints about third class mail, that it takes too long to receive the newsletter after it is mailed. What do you think of an optional \$10 a year extra for those subscribers who want it mailed first class, making a \$20 total? Those content with things the way they are would stay at the same \$10 rate.

Joralemon Named Interim Secretary

Dewitt (De) Joralemon, H&S-3-15, has been chosen to fill the vacant post of 6th Marine Division Association secretary, according to President Bill Pauley, F-2-29.

The former *Striking Sixth* editor and resident of New Port. Richey, FL and Wakefield, RI, depending upon the sea-

son. He will assume his new duties immediately and serve until a new secretary is elected by the membership at the annual reunion in Las Vegas this Fall.

President-Elect John J Foley had planned to serve as secretary at the reunion in addition to his other duties, but that will not now be necessary.

Ladies' Auxiliary



Marion C. Bangert

Once More Into the Breach, Dear Friends:

Hi Again, I thought I had finished sending in articles, but guess I jumped the gun. Received an e-mail from Editor Joe to

find out I needed to get another one in. So here goes.

I want to inform you that on May 30th my twin brother, Harold F. Cross Sr, passed away suddenly. I am still reeling from it.

Harold has been an associate member since 1986. He was my companion to every reunion since my husband, Joe, died in 1988. He did not want his sister to travel long distances alone. We shared many joyous times and danced many nights away.

I will find going to Las Vegas very difficult. I will be there. Harold shared my feelings for the Sixth Marine Division Association. He will be with us in spirit, I am sure.

I have received many letters and calls

I want to inform you that on May 30th my twin brother, Harold F. Cross Sr, passed away suddenly. I am still reeling from it

from members of our auxiliary. It was so great to hear from you. It is like hearing from a family member. Let's continue even when I am no longer your President. I will always be your friend and willing to help if I can. Please remember to send your articles for the craft table. Also if possible sign up to work for an hour or so, giving our fellow members a break to see some of Vegas. It will be deeply appreciated.

Time is getting closer to when I leave this office. I want to thank all of you for supporting me so faithfully for two years. Also for all the work in making our craft table a huge success every year, but most of all for being caring and good friends.

See you in Las Vegas. God Bless You America and all of you.

Semper Fi

Marion C Bangert,
President of Auxiliary

REUNION from page 1

brothers for the uncertain times ahead."

Foley, K-3-4, has filled several organizational holes in the operation of the association this past year. In addition to preparing for the presidency and assisting Pauley, he has had to be secretary and fill a couple of appointed spots. There is a shortage of qualified individuals to tend to necessary business.

Nevertheless, the future president is optimistic. "The meeting in this famous city will cap a year of struggling to restore the health of our association, but I am sure we will be successful. This place will, with the gamblers' aroma everywhere, give a chance for all of us to gamble or not, but to have fun and work 'til we drop.

"We have a few more reunions up our sleeves, and I intend to enjoy them all with my combat buddies who are alive, and I will toss two or three single malts to friends who are gone, some in 1945, others over the years.

"I thank God for all the time he has given me to know each and every one," Foley said with emphasis and adding, "Semper Fi."

This is the theme of many. A small, informal poll of those who have registered reflects this attitude of visiting with old friends from trying circumstances a long time ago. For example, Joseph Gianvito, H&S-4-15, of Staten Island, NY, who is going for "about the 10th time," because "This is a wonderful opportunity to be with my buddies. It becomes more and more important as time goes by."

It's no surprise that this is the prime motivator for many.

Another New Yorker, Donald Honis, I-3-29, also will travel a long way to be with his friends at the Las Vegas Reunion. "The tours and things are all right," he said, "but I want to visit with my buddies. We're getting older, the ranks are getting thinner."

Honis has been to at least "half-a-dozen reunions," he said.

Martin Essex, host of the reunion, reported July 2, that 62 Marines had registered. That left more than a month for the remainder to sign up. The Plaza Hotel will not guarantee room availability after July 25, but there are plenty of hotels in Las Vegas with lots of rooms.

LADIES AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP and RENEWAL APPLICATION

\$5 Yearly

\$50 Lifetime

Your Name _____

Husband's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel.# (____) _____

Mail dues to: **Annie Wilkins, Treas., 3430 Joslyn St., Memphis, TN 38128**



The "Striking Sixth" newsletter is an official publication of the 6th Marine Division Association, 107 Grand Central Ave., PO Box 484, Lavallette, NJ 08735 and is published four times per year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, PO Box 70346, Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the Association.

Subscription rate for Striking Sixth is \$10.00 per calendar year. Membership Applications, dues, donations, address or record changes should be mailed to Watson Crumble, Membership Chairman, 4964 Shady Oak Trail, Grand Prairie, TX 75052-4468. Make checks payable to Sixth Marine Division Association, Inc.

Contributions and suggestions are welcome. Submissions should be sent to the editor, Joe W. Singleton, 3506A Patty Dr., Lago Vista, TX 78645-9779 (512) 267-9744 (E-Mail: JoeS104183.aol.com)

Meeting called to order by President Bill Pauley, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Claud Wilkins gave the Invocation, There were no Minutes of the Previous Board Meeting available as the secretary had resigned without providing any. President Pauley called the roll. President William E Pauley, present; President-Elect John J. Foley, present; Treasurer Joseph McConville, present; Chaplain Claud Wilkins, present, Editor pro tem Joe Singleton, present; Judge Advocate Sam Petriello, absent; Membership Chairman Watson Crumbie, present; Public Relations Director Vince Matthews, absent; Service Officer Carl Sproatt, present; Immediate Past President Thomas M. Terpinas, present; Past President Andrew Horvath, present Unit Directors: 4th Marines, Forest Townsend, absent; 15th Marines, William Gallagher, absent; 22nd Marines, Buzzy Fox, present. 29th Marines, Edward Tomaiolo, absent; 1st Arm Amph Bn, George W Tremblay, absent; 6th Eng Bn, Drew Dickinson, present; 6th Med Bn, Walter F O'Neil, absent; 6th Jasco, Edward Marsalek, present; 6th Motor Trans, Vince Matthews, absent; 6th Pioneers, John M Hibbard, present; 6th Recon, Fred E. Westphal, present; 6th Tank Bn, Albert Stoel, absent; Hq Co, Hq Bn, Augustine F Lepore, present; Honorary Board Member Rudolph F. Vojnar, absent; Honorary Board Member James Wabeek, absent. Appointed Officers & Committee Chairmen: Budget Chairman John J. Foley, present; Entertainment, Augustine F, Lepore, present; Historian, Jack Hoag, absent; Reunion Site Chairman, John J; Foley, present; Nominations Committee, Thomas M. Terpinas, present; Past President Andrew Horvath, present; 2nd Past President Harold E Howell, absent; Piper Joe McConville, present; Scholarship Program, Sam Petriello, absent.

George Gaspard, L-3-4, to be Director in place of Absent Forest Townsend. President Pauley called on all directors present that did form a Quorum to speak about topics for the Agenda. Watson Crumbie passed out proposals to be placed on the Agenda for consideration by the Board of Directors. They all were proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Watson

was thanked for his hard work as Membership Chairman by all present. Watson then discussed the mentioned proposals.

He stated that of the 3000. members of the Association, only 1300. had responded to the request for \$10. for yearly subscriptions to the newsletter. Of the 1300, widows (who receive the newsletter free) numbered 213, leaving 1087 who paid.. He also explained the need for one more mailing to the 1700 members who have not subscribed in an effort to get them to do so and to update information for the directory. The cost for this mailing is under discussion with Finisterre Publishing, but is believed to be under \$800. There is \$4000 previously paid being held by Finisterre Publishing against directory cost.

President Pauley asked for a motion to fund the cost for the 1700 mailing John Foley made a motion to approve and it was seconded by Buzzy Fox, and passed unanimously. Watson continued by explaining that Finisterre Publishing will not do our newsletter for the per unit price we now pay unless the print run is at least 2400. The cost of the newsletter for four issues presently approaches \$16,000 per year, it was stated.

Watson also said that he will not be the membership chairman after his term is over in September, and that a Membership Manager will have to be rehired at a suggested cost of \$1.25 per member unless a member stands for election to do the work for free as Watson presently does or some other arrangement is made. He stated that being membership chairman is no easy job, that he spends over eight hours a day at the task. The cost for Finisterre as manager will be about \$3800 per year. He said he is checking on another source in Austin, Texas, who could do this work. Finisterre served as manager before Watson took the job.. All of the stated research will be done by Watson Crumbie and our Editor, Joe Singleton, and they will report to President Pauley and the Board of Directors.

Watson bought a laptop computer, used, for \$438.00, and a motion was made for the Assn to buy this laptop for a Membership Chairman if one is elected or a Membership Coordinator who will work with the Membership Manager if one is

hired. The motion was made and passed to pay Watson for the computer, which is used to store membership information. Member Horvath asked if three issues of the newsletter can be printed each year instead of four, and Watson said the publisher, Finisterre, will agree to that. A lengthy discussion followed about the future of the newsletter as it is printed now. Editor pro tem Joe Singleton stated that he will need circulation, cost and distribution answers before he can offer an opinion. Joe Singleton and Watson Crumbie will collaborate to get the answers to our membership and newsletter issues.

Treasurer Joe McConville passed out copies of his Financial Report and commented on same. Joe reported that our Attorney Mylood and his accountant were addressing our tax problems with the Federal tax people and the New Jersey Tax Department, and that everything is being taken care of to our satisfaction.

John Foley as chairman of the Financial Committee stated that it was time for the Assn to turn over the remainder of the Scholarship Account, about \$20,000, to the Princeton USMC Scholarship to fund additional scholarships and then we will be vested forever. The VM1 Fund, which belongs to the General Shepard 6th Division Fund, will no longer be listed as an asset on our financial statements as the money is no longer under Assn control.

President Pauley stated that there will be no stipend paid to any elected officer as has been the practice in the past. Joe McConville, in response to President Elect John Foley's request to pay back the members who had advanced the money for the Jim Day plaques on Okinawa, stated a motion had been approved by the full membership with no nays at the Rapid City Reunion to provide Buzzy Fox, as Chairman of the Jim Day Plaque Dedication on Okinawa, with \$2000 for that purpose. The membership voted to give Fox an additional \$1000 in case any extra costs came up. It was voted yes again at the St. Louis Reunion, stated Buzzy Fox, but the money had never been appropriated. It was put in a motion and seconded that as soon as possible the members should each be given a check to cover their loan. Watson Crumbie voted nay. The

motion was passed. There will be no future memorials unless our financial status changes, President Pauley said.

Tom Terpinas, as Directory Chairman, stated that he will be waiting for all the membership information to be updated. Watson offered that the Memorial Medallion fund should be put into the gen-

eral fund. A motion was made and seconded and all but \$1000 will be put into the general account. Their will be no more large medallions ordered. After they are all issued we will go with the small medallions which the service officer will order and offer for sale at Las Vegas.

Watson spoke on his proposal that all

articles for the newsletter must go through the editor, that no others will communicate with the publisher for this purpose. It was also proposed that the editor will be required to follow a code of ethics for all material in the newsletter. A motion was made, seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes of General Membership Meeting ❖❖❖ Mini-Reunion ❖❖❖ Covington, LA ❖❖❖ April 21 – 24, 2002

The General Membership Meeting was called to order by President Pauley. He led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Claud Wilkins, who stated that he will be catching up on the Sympathy cards which were late because of his illness. John Foley gave his report on the Scholarship Program and that individual gifts can be given to Princeton USMC Fund.

Reunions were mentioned for Atlantic

City, Spokane and Kansas City, but the above have no chairman as yet. Springfield, Mo. has a chairman and we are working on that reunion for 2003. Any Member may submit his home town or his state for consideration. Mini Reunions will be discontinued. Tom Terpinas spoke on the effect unit reunions have on the 6th Division Main Reunion. He said that perhaps all the units could combine at the main Reunion.

Treasurer Joe McConville gave his report. President Pauley introduced our new Editor *pro tem* Joe Singleton. Watson Crumie gave the full account of the special mailing and the status of members and newsletter subscribers.

The reunion chairman for Las Vegas Marty Essex spoke on his planned events. Motion was made to adjourn and seconded.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT — GENERAL FUND - APRIL/MAY 2002

APRIL		* Return Seed Money Covington, LA	2,000.00
BANK BALANCE	21,702.57	* Returned Check From T. McKinney	500.00
DEPOSITS	2,074.00	Checks Paid:	
INTEREST	4.11	W. Crumie	336.15
CHECKS PAID	-38.50	W. Crumie (Lap Top)	438.00
SERVICE FEE	-18.75	T. McKinney	1,000.00
	23,733.43	M. Harlan	1,000.00
MAY		E. Fox	124.00
BANK BALANCE	23,733.43	Las Vegas (Seed Money)	1,500.00
DEPOSITS	12,740.39 ¹	J. Doman	16.62
INTEREST PAID	3.82	P. Mylod (lawyer fee)	1,135.80
CHECKS PAID	-9,448.96	W. Pollack (Accountant)	1,200.00
	27,028.68 -	N.J. Consumer	30.00
MEMORIAL MEDALION FUND-APRIL		Fin isterre Pub	<u>2,668.39</u>
BANK BALANCE	8,111.67		9,448.96
DEPOSITS	293.20	SCHOLARSHIP FUND - APRIL	
INTEREST PAID	1.45	Opening Balance	25,321.03
	8,406.32	Deposit	50.00
MEMORIAL MEDALION FUND-MAY		Interest paid	<u>4.45</u>
BANK BALANCE	8,406.32		25,375.48
INTEREST PAID	1.02	SCHOLARSHIP FUND - MAY	
WITHDRAWEL	-7406.32	Opening Balance	25,375.48
	1001.02	Deposits	110.00
MEMBERS CHECKS AND OTHER DEPOSITS		Interest paid	<u>4.33</u>
* Transactions from Memorial Medalion	7,406.32		25,489.81
		¹ includes profit – Covington, LA: \$1118.17	

Respect When Due

Sunday, at the Battlefield bookstore, I was chatting with a young Marine 2nd Lieutenant from Quantico. Nice boy who has been in before.

He was browsing when an old geezer my age came in the store.

He was wearing a ball cap with the globe

and anchor. I asked him when he was in the Corps, and it seems he was at the Frozen Chosin. I introduced him to the young officer, who treated him like a general. Seems the old timer had been wounded, and his proudest moment was shaking hands with "Chesty" Puller from a stretcher.

Looking at the two, I could feel the bond they had, though one is an old retired enlist-

ed man and the other a young officer. I was more than a little envious, and got a lump in the throat.

Landing on Iwo this date.

God bless America.

From a Civil War Historian and who also works part-time at the Fredericksburg Battlefield bookstore (downtown Fredericksburg).

The Plaza Hotel Located Close to Pedestrian Mall

The Plaza Hotel and Casino, chosen by Martin and Marilyn Essex as home base for the Sixth Marine Division Association Reunion in September, is at Number 1, Main Street, where it intersects with the world-famous Fremont Street, site of the city of Las Vegas' \$70 million dollar pedestrian mall.

The Plaza is a high rise, of course; it has its full complement of restaurants, fast food joints, the Vegas standard buffet, slot machines and other gambling devices, a bingo hall, which they bill as "state-of-the-art (whatever that means), a 600-person showroom and even a few rooms and suites (1037) for the tourists and Marines.

It has convention and meeting space. The Sports Deck has a pool, tennis court and fitness center. And, it wouldn't be Las Vegas without a wedding chapel. The one at the Plaza is complete with wedding planners in case we have love birds who haven't tied the knot, would like to but don't know how. There is also a beauty and barber shop.

The Plaza is closing its special registration for the association July 25, but it may be possible to get a room after that. Call 1-800-634-6575. Rates are \$55.50 weekdays, 77.70 weekends. For information on entertainment, check their web site at www.plazahotelcasino.com.

Quotable Quotes...

"Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death."
—Thomas Paine



"The only hope of a short war is to prepare for a long one."
—Calvin Coolidge



"The real democratic American ideal is, not that every man shall be on a level with every other man, but that every man shall have liberty to be what God made him, without hindrance."
—Henry Ward Beecher

From the Federalist.com

You Never Had Liberty in the 1940s Like You Can Have This Year in Vegas

Can you imagine getting out of boot camp in the '40s, drawing your pay and heading for the Las Vegas of the future? We might have lost the war. Returning to camp with money in your pocket would not have been an option.

There are pamphlets available at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority that list various events for the public. The only entries for September at the time of this writing are the annual Laughlin Shoot Out and professional bull riding and an off-road race at Primm, NV.

Here is a sampling of what the Las Vegas Show Guide has to say about what's going on other times of the year, which might give us some idea of the type of happenings planned there when we arrive in the Fall.

Long-legged lovelies go with the territory but are off-limits to Marines.

Las Vegas Show Guide

"A Tribute to Elvis" at the Riviera, "American Superstars" at the Stratosphere, "An Evening at La Cage also at the Riviera, "Ba-Da-Bing" at the Greek Isles, "Best of Bottoms Up" at the Flamingo

"Crazy Girls" at the Riviera, "Danny Gans" at the Mirage, "EFX Alive" at the MGM Grand, "I Love La Fong" at the Bourbon Street, "Lance Burton: Master Magician," Monte Carlo; "Laugh the Night Away" with Rita Rudner, New York-New York; "Legends in Concert," Imperial Palace; "Midnight Fantasy," Luxor; "Storm," Mandalay Bay.

"The Mac King," Harrah's; "The Birdman of Las Vegas," Tropicana; "Paul

McCartney," MGM Grand; "Bill Maher, Hilton; "Tanya Tucker," Orleans; "Natalie Cole," Paris; "Ray Anthony and His Big Swing Band," Stardust; "Phyllis Diller," Suncoast; "Loretta Lynn," Texas Station, and "Diamond Rio," Sam's Town.

There are scores more. Many hotels offer more than one show. In addition, there is more to do than shows. There is a Triple A baseball team affiliated with the Dodgers and an International Basketball League team, the Silver Bandits.

There's more. To get information on your own, call 1-877-VISITLV or visit the Chamber's web site at vegasfreedom.com.

Flying in to Vegas?

Chairman/Host Martin Essex wants to remind you that there is a Shuttle Bus available at Airport doors 9 and 10 that will get you to the hotel for \$5.00 each way. Enjoy! **See you in Las Vegas!**

There's Plenty to Do in Vegas Besides Gamble

Like, uh, Sight Seeing, Resting by Pool, etc, etc

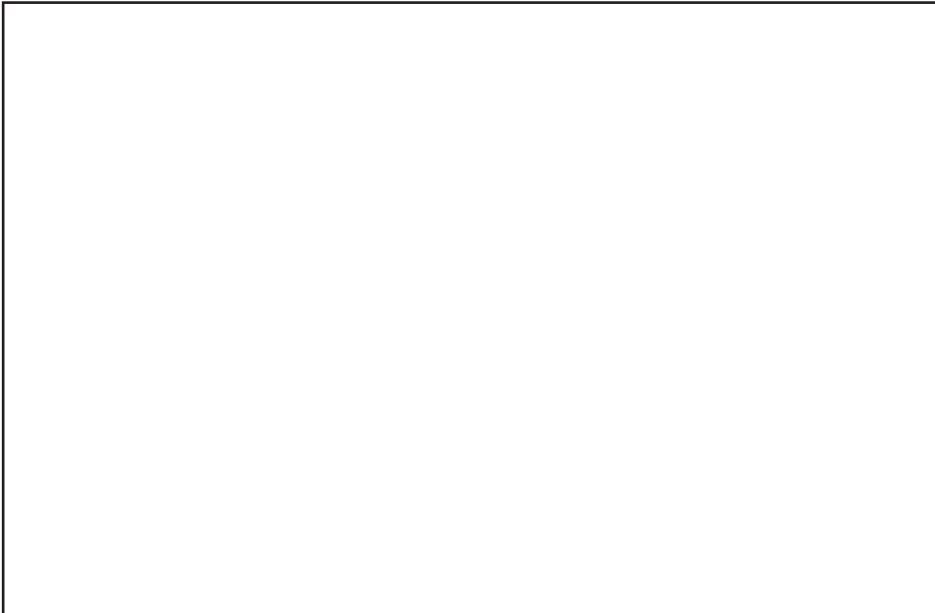
Don't pay any attention to the headline. The Las Vegas area is loaded with things to do that most people apparently find enjoyable. The show scene is covered in another article. Gambling we don't need to cover; it's everywhere there. You can't miss it.

There is also Hoover Dam nearby. Read the Reunion schedule; you'll see six hours blocked out for the tour. Part of that is travel time, but there is a lot to see. Lake Mead, obviously is just the other side of the dam. It's a keen reservoir with a variety of water sports.

Just wandering the "Strip" is fun, and Downtown's Fremont Street, five blocks of pedestrian mall, is full of hustle and bustle, restaurants, shops and plenty of people after that long green. Not so many as in the casinos, however.

The place is full of golf courses, 43 at least. There is also tennis, most of the hotels are big on massages and shopping is everywhere.

Thirty miles from Las Vegas is Mt. Charleston, Toiyabe National Forest and the Lee Canyon ski area. There won't be any skiing in September, but there will be horseback riding, hiking, picnicking or just enjoying the views. The area is high, though, takes awhile to get up there.



Fremont Street is Next Door to the hotel.

Red Rock Canyon, described as a geological marvel, is 16 miles west of the city. Spring Mountain Ranch, once owned by Howard Hughes, is at the western end of the canyon. It is billed as a desert oasis. Farther away is the 26,000 acre Valley of Fire, home of an early Indian civilization.

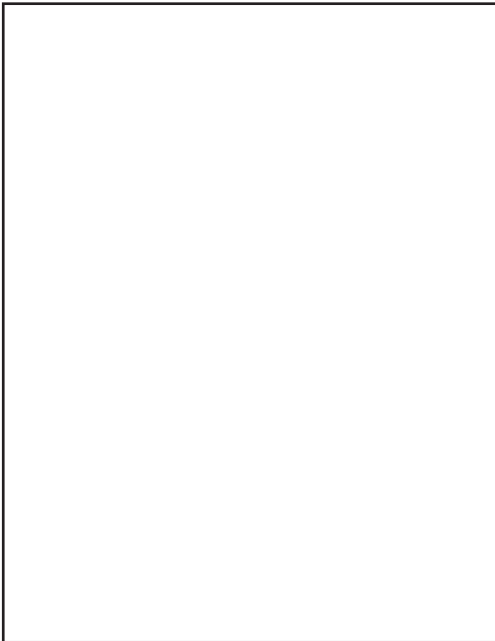
Laughlin on the Colorado River is worth a visit if you have time for the 90-mile trip. Mesquite, a desert resort, is 80 miles to the north. Jean and Primm are cities directly south on I-15, but they don't have anything more than Las Vegas offers.

Boulder City is located near the dam, but it is not in the loop when it comes to entertainment.

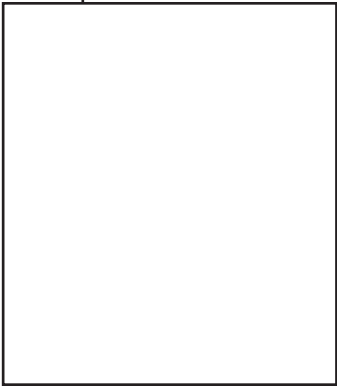
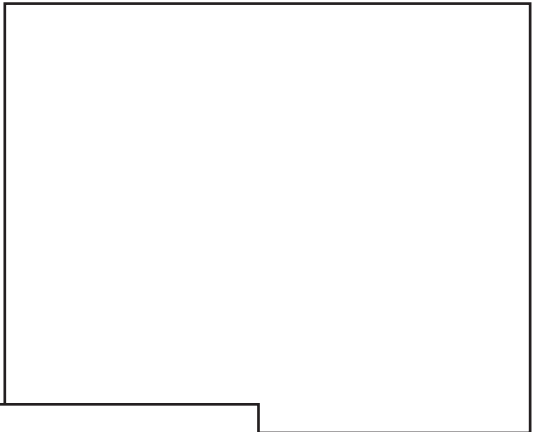
There are sightseeing tours available in Las Vegas and naturally buses, rental cars and taxis. There are even monorails between some of the hotel-casinos. Guides and maps can be obtained from the Convention and Visitors Authority, (702) 892-0711.

The Guides are fairly reliable until it gets to the weather. One refers to the "mild desert climate." In September the average high

is 94, which is a lot better than August at 103 and July at 105. On the other hand the humidity will run about 27 per cent in September, which modifies things a bit. Annual rainfall is something more than four inches, so you can leave your umbrella at home.



Hoover Dam Expedition is a feature of the Reunion.



The Plaza
#1 Main Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 386-2110
(800) 634-6575

Sixth Marine Division Association Registration For Reunion 2002
Las Vegas, NV ♦♦ September 8 to September 15, 2002

Name: _____
Last First Mid. Init.

Unit: Co _____ Bn _____ Regt _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Spouse Name: _____ Number in Party: _____

Medical Emergency Contact: Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

Registration Fee: Member only; spouse & widows free:.....\$ 20.00

Number of Guests: _____ @ \$10.00 each:\$ _____

Sub Total\$ _____

Sunday, Sept 8, 2002 (Your time to settle-in, renew friendships, make new ones)

1300 - 1600 Registration
 1300 - 2200 Hospitality Room (No host bar)

Monday, Sept 9, 2002

0900 - 1300 Registration
 0700 - 0900 Coffee and Donuts
 1300-2200 Hospitality Room (No host bar)

Tuesday, Sept 10, 2002

0700 - 0900 Coffee and Donuts
 1300-2200 Hospitality Room (No host bar)
 0900 - 1300 Women's Shop Trip (\$10.00 each)\$ _____
 1600-1800 Marine Corps League BBQ (\$19.00 each)\$ _____

Wednesday, Sept 11, 2002

0700 - 0900 Coffee & Donuts
 0900 - 1300 Registration
 1900 - 2200 Hospitality Room (No host bar)
 0900 - 1500 Hoover Dam trip (\$30.00 each)\$ _____

Thursday, Sept 12, 2002

0700 - 0900 Coffee & Donuts
 0900 - 1300 Registration
 1000 - 1200 Executive Committee/Board Meeting
 1300 - 2200 Hospitality Room (No host bar)
 1100 - 1330 Women's Meeting and Lunch (\$19.00 each)\$ _____
 2000 - 2200 Sun City Dancers (\$4.00each)\$ _____

Friday, Sept 13, 2002

0700 - 0900 Coffee & Donuts
 0900 - 1100 Memorial Service
 1300 - 2200 Hospitality Room (No host bar)

Saturday, Sept 14, 2002

0700 - 0900 Coffee & Donuts
 0930 - 1230 Men's Meeting/Site Selection
 1300 - ? Executive Committee/Board Meeting
 1830 - 2300 Banquet Dinner (\$32.00 each)\$ _____

GRAND TOTAL\$ _____

Sunday, Sept 15, 2002 Have a safe trip home — Thanks for coming

Make checks payable to:

Martin Essex, 6th Marine Division 2002 Reunion
 2712 Lotus Hill Dr
 Las Vegas, NV 89134
 Ph: (702-243-9603

2003 Reunion Site

There have been contacts with this site chairman by the convention people at Spokane, WA, Atlantic City, NJ, Springfield and Branson, MO.

Springfield has Marine Haywood, who is willing to be chairman, and I am in con-

tact with him and the convention people there. Any member may propose a site if he is willing to be chairman and will follow the Eighteen Point Program as published below.

I have stated before that I came aboard as chairman after the sites at Covington and Las Vegas were approved, so I have had no input for either reunion.

John J Foley

Chairman's Reunion Bid Guidelines

The following stipulations are needed to have a bid considered by your Annual Reunion Site Committee. Establish dates and.....

1. Obtain a signed agreement by the Hotel bidding for the Reunion.

2. Agree on room rates, taxes and number of rooms required:(estimate Sun. 100 rooms, Mon. 150, Tues. 250, Wed. 300, Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 350.)

3. Agree on Hospitality Room, its size and description. We require 7 AM to 11 PM room for 450 with round table seating, plus bar Sun. through Fri.

4. Agree on no charges for bringing in our own liquor and beverages to the Hospitality Room.

5. Obtain a complete description of the hotel, restaurants and other facilities, meeting room sizes. Meeting rooms required: (Thurs. evening, theater seating for 400, Friday afternoon, theater seating for 400, Saturday morning, theater for 450 men and theater for 75 ladies).

6. Details and cost of the banquet, menu and number that can be seated – (we require round table seating for 700-750 Saturday evening.)

7. Details of proposed events and their cost: (bus tours, sporting events,

golf, ladies's luncheon, shopping area, etc.)

8. Travel information—access to Reunion Site via Air, Rail, Bus, and Auto.

9. Establish availability of free parking facilities for cars and vans.

10. Establish the site and arrangements for our Memorial Services, (Friday 9:30 to 11:30 AM.)

11. Availability of meeting rooms for committees.

12. The number of members that will be available to assist on the Reunion Committee.

13. Detail all miscellaneous expenses that will have to be paid.

14. Obtain an application for exemption from state and local taxes, wherever possible.

15. The number of complimentary rooms.(1 to 40 plus Presidents suite is standard.)

16. Establish room reservation "cut-off" date, (no earlier than three (3) weeks before Reunion date.)

17. Establish name, location and rates of overflow hotel, if necessary.

18. Furnish timely and detailed accounting of Reunion Finances.

Board Meeting Rescheduled and Another Added on Saturday

The Las Vegas Reunion Board of Directors meeting originally scheduled for Monday, Sept. 8 has been rescheduled for 1000, Thursday, Sept. 11. President Bill Pauley said the previously announced Monday meeting would be too early in the week for some board members to attend.

Pauley also announced an additional board meeting of newly elected members will be held Saturday, Sept. 14 after the general membership meeting from 0930 to 1230. The extra meeting, Pauley said, is necessary because of the cancellation of minireunions, which had provided a second annual board get-together.

Army Feels Stung as Marines Latch on to Top European Post

From St. Louis Post-Dispatch:

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said: "Organizational issues tend not to have a great deal of interest broadly out in the public."

Even so, Rumsfeld said, "They can make an enormous amount of difference internally. One such "organizational issue" has sandbagged the Army.

The next SACEUR - the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe - is Marine Gen. James Jones. He'll replace Air Force Gen. Joseph Ralston, who got the job in 1999. The Army felt stung then and feels even more stung now. Mostly, SACEUR has belonged to the Army. In the last half-century, 13 generals have filled the post. Eleven wore Army green. The exceptions: Ralston and Lauris Norstad, also of the Air Force.

Europe hasn't been Marine Corps turf since World War I. So why put a Marine in charge? "It's a wake-up call for the Army," says retired Army Col. Jerry Morelock." Morelock says the Army badly needs a new set of generals. Since the retirement of Gordon Sullivan as Army chief in 1995, Morelock said in a phone interview, "I'm not sure anybody in the Army's top ranks has had the vision to see past the edge of his desk."

Rumsfeld wants the armed forces of the future to be both light and lethal. The Army packs plenty of lethality. But its critics say the Army also packs so much weight that the lethality gives way to lethargy. Thus, the suspicion that by putting a Marine general in Europe, Rumsfeld is sending the Army a message: Shape up.

Others see the appointment as a triumph of "jointness" - the increasing practice of mixing and mingling military force across service boundaries.

In Vietnam, Army Gen. Creighton Abrams had spurned a Marine general as his No. 2. "Abrams said no Marine could command anything bigger than a brigade." Now a Marine will command an entire continent,

Naval historian Paul Stillwell said in an interview, "You could see it as blow to the Army. But the Marine Corps ethic is to get there quickly and fight - maybe that's what Rumsfeld is trying to stress."

At the Mini Reunion...

Covington, LA



Enjoying fresh seafood at a New Orleans eatery are Walter Grisevich, 5th Field Depot, wife Madeline, and Susan Parham, daughter of Bill, F-2-29, and Barbara Pauley. Not knowing the pretty mystery lady on the right was in the picture, our amateur photographer failed to get her name.



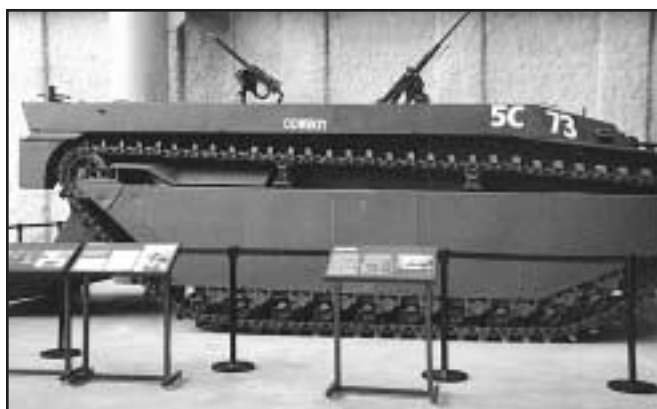
Leonard Simes not only put on the minireunion at Covington, he produced a thousand dollars in badly-needed profit. Here he is at one of the D-Day Museum exhibits, part of the program he offered attendees.



Bill Pauley, right, chaired the minireunion as association president. Joe McConville, L-4-15, treasurer, is at the center of the photo and John J Foley, president-elect, is at left. You can barely tell from this picture who is talking, who might be listening and who might not be.

On left, President-Elect John J Foley, K-3-4, tells it to the Marines at the Covington, LA minireunion.

Strut and Play – That’s the New Orleans way. Buzzy Fox Photo



The D-Day Museum had items in its new Pacific display that Marines will remember. Buzzy Fox Photo



Sproatt's Wound Resulted in Coincidence on Coincidence

From the Miami Valley Daily News
(Reprinted and edited with permission):

BY MARILYN MCCONAHAY

Staff Writer

mmconahay@tcnewsnet.com

No doubt there are many World War II stories to be told in the Sixth Marine Division, but the tale of Carl Sproatt's miracle would be difficult to top.

To look at the 76-year-old former F Company, 29th Marine Regiment frontline rifleman, one would never guess how close he had come to death far from home as a young man fighting to ensure his country's freedom.

Sproatt was one of about 31 members of the division who gathered for an annual reunion here. Don Brining of Troy, a medical corpsman in the division, hosted the event.

Sproatt, of Leesburg, Fla., and Harry Murray, 80, of Evansville, Ind., remembered the day Sproatt was spared. "I was wounded on June 5, 1945 during the battle of Okinawa," Sproatt said. "Two of my squad carried me back from the front line and yelled for a corpsman."

With Japanese soldiers getting closer, Murray, a First Class pharmacist mate in the 6th Engineer Battalion, was nearby. I came down and looked at him. I yelled, "Tie him off - he's dead," Murray said. "His face was blown almost off. All the time, the Japanese were firing at us," he said.

"Suddenly I saw a blood bubble come up where Carl's nose was supposed to be. I yelled, 'He's alive! Get some plasma,'" he said. "We had to hurry. We had a poncho, so we put him on it."

"Six Marines were carrying him on the poncho and I was running alongside carrying the plasma bottle. We got him to a truck and it took him to a First Aid station," Murray said. "I never saw Carl again until 50 years later."

He did hear what had happened to Sproatt, though.

"I came out of the service with TB. While I was in the TB hospital in Vincennes, Ind., I decided to have my teeth cleaned. The dentist mentioned he had a nephew that had been hit on Okinawa. He said he was hit in the face - it turned out he was talking about Carl - he was Carl's uncle," Murray said. "He told me Carl had had about 30 operations."

The bullet with Carl's name on it had entered the left side of his face and had taken out the right side on the way out. "Most guys shot in the head are just gone," Murray said. He added that when hit, Carl showed no response at all.

"The only thing I remember was that I had to go to the bathroom - I felt like I was huge," Sproatt said.

Murray, discharged on April 1, 1946 at the age of 25, became a research scientist at BristolMyers in Evansville. Sproatt studied accounting, managed a grain elevator and became successful in business.

Along the way there were a few surprises.

"I had heard that when I got, wounded, a guy named Indian Joe and one named John Spegher helped carry me back, for aid," Sproatt said.

"For 20 years, John said he had looked for me when he went on vacation. He and his son were in Vincennes one day and saw my family's name on a business sign. They came to our house," he said. "We don't know what happened to Indian Joe."

One day in 1996, Bud West another former corpsman and private detective, ran into Sproatt in Florida and called Murray, who was hosting a reunion in Vincennes.

"Bud said he had a guy there who wanted to come to the reunion. I started asking questions. 'Does he have a scar on his face? Does he have an uncle who is a dentist?'" Murray asked.

Indeed it was Carl Sproatt and he went to the reunion.

"We've been friends ever since," he said. "Ironically, we grew up 25 miles apart."

Service Officer's Report

Carl I. Sproatt

I can't believe it is time to write for the newsletter. 2002 is now past the half way mark. It will be time for our trip to Las Vegas before I am ready.

Thanks to Leonard Lines and his crew that hosted the mini reunion in Covington La. We enjoyed the hospitality, seeing familiar faces and meeting some new ones. We also enjoyed the trip into New Orleans as the lady's narration about the area was very interesting. The D-Day Museum was most informative.

Again, I want to thank everyone who

"I've always thought we had a miracle-. Here's a guy who was shot, and I thought I would never see him again. If he hadn't had that bubble, he'd still be out there on that battlefield," Murray said.

Brining has his own memories. He was 18-years-old in December, 1943 when he was drafted in his senior year of high school.

He became a hospital corpsman and requested sea duty. Brining landed on Okinawa on Easter Sunday, 1945. He worked out of a division hospital set up at Nago. "I also had guard duty at night manning a 30-caliber machine gun. One night, I was on the machine gun and heard, 'splish, splash, splish,, splash,' in the darkness. Knowing it could be the enemy, I opened up," Brining said. "The next day, we found three dead ponies."

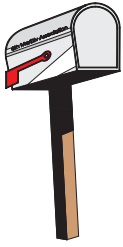
That incident earned him the nickname "Pony Killer," he said. Brining was shot by a light machine gun at Naha. He, too, was carried back under fire.

"I was sent home for 60 days, then went to Camp Elliott near San Diego to work in the dispensary and was discharged on April 30, 1946. I was home before my birthday, an old man of 21. I would not do it again for a million dollars; neither would I miss it for a million," he said.

Sproatt is Service Officer for the Sixth Division. "When someone passes on, I am notified and I pass the word," he said. He said that since the division's reunion in St. Louis last September, there have been more than 60 deaths in its 3000 person membership. "Each year at the reunion, it gets quieter and we go to bed a little earlier," he said.

sent a donation and paid for Memorial Makers. I have ordered more of the urn markers and will have a supply with me in Las Vegas for \$5.00 each. The urn marker has an adhesive back; so you can use them in other places that you want to have a 6th Marine Division emblem. See me in Las Vegas and should you want a bronze marker give me your name and address plus money and I will mail you one as soon as I get home.

See you in Las Vegas.



Mail Call/E-Mail Call

Care to lend a hand Joe:

It was either on Parry or little Engibe in the Marshalls. Senior Moment. Another Marine was hand-signaling me that a Jap was sniping out of an air vent in the back side of a small cave, The cave was dug into a large mound of dirt. The vent, a pipe, was maybe six inches in diameter.

I guess a Jap could fire through it and still stay out of sight. I crept up the side of mound, pulled the pin on a hand grenade, and dropped it down into the pipe. I slid down a foot or two, buried my head in the dirt. The explosion blew the pipe to smithereens. Dirt got into my helmet, into my ears but thank God no shrapnel. Duh! I probably came close to blowing my own head off.

My Marine hand-waver gave me a thumbs up and then pointed to another problem. He was pointing to the top of a helmet ready to pop out of one of those hidey holes as our general called them. We crept within a couple yards of the spider trench, when the occupants head came up. We both had our M1's zeroed in on what turned out to be a fellow Marine, whose eyes got as big as saucers. Thankfully our itchy trigger fingers didn't squeeze. Isn't it amazing that after all these years we can remember this stuff? War Stories. I wonder if those two Marines are still around and can recall this sixty-second flashback? Semper Fi.

Bill Hecht B-1-22
18642 Bobolink Dr.
Hialeah, FL. 33015
305-829-8830

Editor's Note: Last issue we asked members if they would "care to lend a hand" in remembering long-ago incidents. Bill Hecht and others came through. Ben Hecht, incidentally, was a famous playwright and cinema writer in the 30s and 40s. I wonder if Bill is kin?



Dear Mr. Singleton ("Care to Lend a Hand"):

After reading your request for sea stories, remembrances, etc., I know of an incident about Nazis in Tsingtao that may interest your readers. How many of us knew there were Nazis there? We knew there were thousands of Germans, but Nazis?

I was an aide on the commanding general's (AF Howard) staff. In March of 1946, I was instructed to proceed to the home of the top Nazi in Tsingtao and escort him and his family to the airport where they would board a DC-3 bound for Shanghai, to be transhipped from there to Germany.

My orders were that the family would be allowed to take with them personal effects and as much furniture as two trucks could carry and that no harm was to come to them while in our care.

The morning I drove to their home, I found two Marine trucks being loaded with their furniture. The family, man, wife, 10-year-old boy, eight-year-old girl, was also there. They were a fine-looking family, the children actually beautiful, but the parents' faces reflected despair and dissolution.

I put the mother in one truck, the husband in another. I took

the children in my jeep. At the airport, it took some time to transfer the family's goods onto the airplane. At noon, I asked the husband if they would like to eat lunch. Our commissary was close by.

He accepted the invitation with a nod and an expression of disbelief that an adversary would make the offer. They seemed grateful for the food but talked little. Their English was excellent. They were being sent to US authorities in Germany, and you could tell they knew it. They were Nazi's.

With lunch finished and the plane loaded, we squeezed them into the bucket seats. There was barely room. From Shanghai, they were shipped by the army to Europe. The furniture didn't make it out of the country; it was confiscated by the Chinese.

I have often wondered if "the shoe had been on the other foot," would the Nazi have offered me lunch — I doubt it!

Howard T. Brown,
HQ-HQ-6th Div
Celestine, IN

Editor's note: That was the letter, but in a phone conversation the lieutenant (that's what he was back then) said the extensive German population of Tsingtao was eventually repatriated. Some had been there since the Kaiser's fleet seized the port in the late 19th century. When asked if the Chinese helped round them up, he said Chinese cooperation in all areas was indifferent at best.



Editor:

I would like to talk to Ralph Martin and hear about him. Ralph was in A Company, First Battalion, 22nd Marines. Ralph got his ear shot off trying to rescue Scot Grant, the bravest man I knew. Grant's brother was a noted preacher after the war. Ralph was a good friend.

Charles Ganz, A-1-22
245 East First St
Alvo, NE 68304
(402) 781-2113



Dear Joe

Enclosed is a check to help with the newsletter. The \$25 originated with Col. Gene Carson, USA. Please, use it as you see fit, maybe for a subscription for him. Take it easy if you can't take any other way.

Semper Fi, Terry

Editor's Note: Howard Terry, F-2-29, has been sending Marine place mats gratis to his division pals. They originated with Jack Pankratz and John Chalk, both former Marine sergeants. Chalk, who was a "Leatherneck" artist did the drawings. Former Army Colonel Eugene Carson, whose Marine platoon leader son was killed in Viet Nam, sent a check to Terry to help defray expenses, resulting in this letter. How everyone (not all are listed) became involved in these acts of friendship are too complicated to explain here.



Dear Joe:

While we were in Covington for the reunion my wife talked with B. J. Norris of Covington. She was wanting to know if anyone remembered her brother. He was Earnest Ray Riley, he was with B co., 1st Bn., 4th Marines.

If anyone should remember him she would appreciate hearing from them.

Her address: B.J. Norris, 71 Iris Street, Covington, LA 70433
Phone: 985-873-5587

Thank you,

Carl J. Sproatt
cjsanddodie@cs.com

✉

Subj: Re: Leatherneck Magazine
Date: Tuesday, July 2, 2002 12:58:48 PM
From: Semperjag0
To: GYRENE629

Bully for Jack Hoag! Did you also note that the "Letter of the Month" for the December, 2001 issue of the "Leatherneck" was written by another 6th. Division Marine, John R. "Moe" McCormick? John was a BARman in the 4th. Reg't at both Guam and Okinawa. Be-fore that he served with the 4th. Marine Raiders in the New Georgia Campaign.

Semper Fidelis,

E. Mapes

✉

Dear Joe:

For the last several years, around April 1, I have attended a luncheon in memory of the Okinawa Campaign. This was hosted by the First Marine Division Association, New York Chapter. I didn't meet any Sixth Division veterans this year but had a great time with a few "swabbies."

Included in the program was a map of Okinawa (enclosed), which brought back memories of 57 years ago. I remember landing on Green Beach just below Yontan Airfield in a DUKW (amphibian truck) loaded with a 105 and gun crew from the 15th Marines. Later in the campaign we spent some time up north.

If you include this map in the newsletter, our guys can check it out and comment on its authenticity.

Semper Fi,

Harry J Krendel
6th Amph Truck Co.

Editor's Note: The Okinawa Luncheon is held each year (for how long, we do not know) at the 1st Marine District Club (Tun Tavern) by the First Marine Division Assn., NY Chapter. Address is 605 Stewart Ave., Garden City, NY. Members of all participating units are welcome.

✉

Joe, will you put this in your next newsletter? A fellow Marine who is a life member has been ill since the first of the year and will be unable to make the Las Vegas Reunion. I know he will appreciate cards or letters from his Marine friends. He is William Gallagher, 15th Marines, 220 So. Terkel St Columbia, IL 62236.
Phone: (618) 281-5535

Semper Fi,

Frank Labarge
1521 Keeler Dr
St. Louis, MO 63136

✉

To a number of Marines:

The oral historian at the Navy Yard would like to know about any experiences or remembrances of close air support on Okinawa. I was looking at some pics today do any of you remember seeing Japanese artillery that was in actuality logs?

Laura Lacey
Marine historian

E-mail reply from Howard Terry:

Laura, There was one that stands out in my mind, There was a Jap A.A. gun that was firing on us from inside a cave opening on Oruku Peninsular. I believe it was an equivalent to our 20 M/M and I don't know if any of the other fellas remember this.

Someone called in air support and a corsair F4U came over us and made a circle. The gun pulled back into the cave, so the pilot had to dive and come in low to place his 50 Cal. rounds into the opening, Man all 6 of those guns were blazing as he poured it on, but that gun was firing back at him, and it couldn't miss him because he had to come at the gun straight in. The pilot died on his guns, and the Corsair crashed just below the opening to the cave.

When we got up to that position I saw that gun shield was riddled with holes and the gunners were tore all to hell. I thought what a brave pilot that was to do that, but then I saw a lot of brave guys in those days.

I am not just saying that, it is the truth. All the guys I knew then were and still are the finest that I have ever met and ever hope to meet.

Just to finish this off, there was nothing sounded better to me than to hear one of our F4Us coming in over our heads, also to hear the loud squeaking of those Sherman tank treads getting louder when we were pinned to the ground with machine gun fire.

I hope I have answered your question satisfactorily, if not let me know.

Terry, F-2-29
Semper Fi.

✉

Editor:

My father, PFC Lacy R. Kessler, from Ansted, West Virginia served in the Sixth Marine Division (A Co., 1st Bat., 22nd). Being a Marine was one of the proudest achievements of his life.

When he enlisted he was 32 or 33 years old. Would that age be unusual, even for WWII? I feel fortunate to have several of his ribbons, and his Purple Heart as well as the Sixth Marine Division History book.

My sister treasures his dress blues and the letters he wrote home to our mom. After the war he suffered with several illnesses that left him totally disabled. Unfortunately he passed away in September of 1968 in a veteran's hospital in Clearwater FL.

He never spoke much of his time in the South Pacific, and I

know that few of his company survived. I have written for his service records, and I know it will take months to hear back. It would be wonderful to hear from someone from the Sixth who knew him during those trying times.

I never properly thanked him for his sacrifices, so I am taking this opportunity to thank all of you brave Marines! Without your efforts this world would be a much darker place. You are truly the Greatest Generation!

Sincerely,

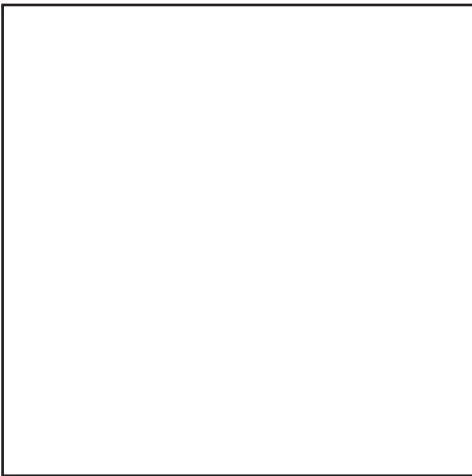
David J. Kessler
dkessler71@hotmail.com



Dear Mr. Singleton,

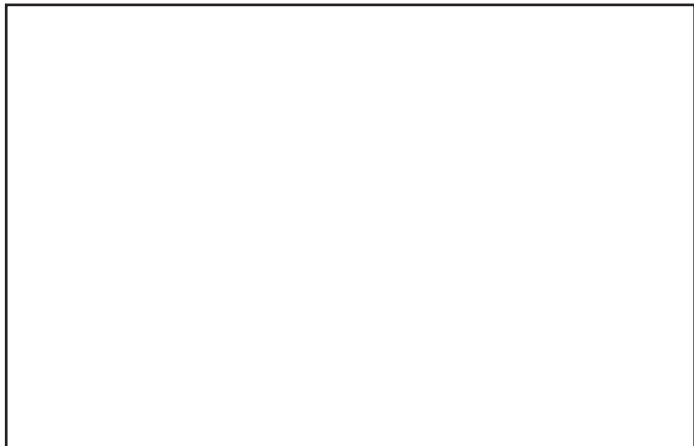
Since my husband Pfc Billy Joe Clifton, 6th Marine Division, I Co., 4th Regiment, was a proud and true Marine and I enjoy reading the newsletter so much. I wanted to find some pictures, no pictures from Okinawa, only a paper clipping that was mailed to his home paper. I thought maybe you could use it, if not, that's ok.

He was wounded in the left leg May 21, 1945. Ten days later he went back to his unit even though he still had an open wound that was not completely healed. On June 21, 1945, when their mission to take the island was nearly over, he was shot through the left arm and again taken to the field hospital for attention and surgery. Soon, he was put on a hospital ship called the USS Solace and sailed to Guam and on to Hawaii, then San Francisco, then on to Corpus Christi, TX.



Robert Knapik, I-3-4, left, and DC Rigby, HQ-3-22, at Fredericksburg, TX Nimitz Museum in 1991

I found a pic-



Billy Joe Clifton at unveiling of combat wounded display, Auston, TX.

ture of the unveiling of the 6th Marine Plaque at the Admiral Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX, on September 26, 1991, and the unveiling of the combat wounded display with Billy Joe Clifton standing by in Austin, TX, which I am enclosing. My husband passed away on April 17, 1998 in Fredericksburg, TX.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Clifton
107 Summit Circle
Fredericksburg, TX

Editor's Note: Mrs. Evelyn Clifton included this account with her letter. Apparently, it was Marine Corps issue picked up by Billy Joe's hometown paper at Hermleigh, TX.



The story as carried in Marine Corps Battle News, follows:

Billy Joe Clifton Goes Through Hill To Get to Japs

When a platoon of Marines was kept from going over or around a hill because of enemy fire on Oroku Peninsula of Okinawa, Clifton and his buddies found another way. They went through the hill.

They remembered a cave that had been closed by demolitions. They believed it went all the way through the hill. They dug out the entrance despite enemy fire.

Emerging on the other side, they came under fire from a machine gun nest. Clifton, a BAR man, and a sergeant killed the Japanese gunners. Others retreated, and another ridge belonged to the Marines.



Editor:

My father Ernest Kemps from Wisconsin served in the Sixth Marine Division. Unfortunately, he died when I was 9 years old. This is a long shot at best, however, I will take a shot anyway. Does your organization have a forum for seeking out members that may have known my father?

I have reviewed old pictures and other things was able to determine the following. He was a member of "L 301 INF" company and participated in action at Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands April 1 - June 21, 1945.

Thank you,

Steve Kemps
E-mail: sjkemps@new.rr.com

Editor's Note: There seems to be some confusion here as to the right unit, but if it was the Sixth, someone may remember.



Semper Fi. My dad served with the Sixth division, 22nd Regiment, 56th replacement draft, shipped to the Pacific. He was aboard the USS Tuscaloosa. He landed on the beaches of Okinawa on April 1, 1945.

He was one of seven that came down from Sugarloaf Hill. His name is Louis Mariano. Does anyone remember him? I would like to find some of his buddies. Does anyone know where I can get a picture of the plaque that is in Naha, Okinawa that has the names of the survivors of the battles? Anxious to hear from you.

Semper Fi

David Philbrick
E-mail: tazdp42@msn.com

Editor's Note: A similar appeal came from Louise Philbrick but without a return address.



Jack Dornan:

The enclosed picture was taken on Guadalcanal prior to the embarkation to Okinawa. The photograph includes members of the First Platoon of K Company, Third Battalion, Fourth Marines. "Stormy" Sexton was our company commander.

Also enclosed is my second check for \$25 for the Directory Fund. I didn't know who to send this letter to, but I know you will take care of this as you usually do.

I do really look forward to the next issue of the 6th newsletter.

Thanks,

Vic "Snafu" Vasu, Cpl. K-3-4

Editor's Note: The above letter and the photograph were mailed to Watson Crumbie and aimed at Jack Dornan, but were published in the Striking Sixth anyway. As long as it ends up where it needs to go, we'll print it. It will be easier and quicker, though, to mail to the editor, address on Page 2.



K-3-4, Guadalcanal. Left to right (standing): Danahay, Powers, Gonzalez, Gomez, Orcutt, Biggers, and Slocum; (kneeling) Dickey, Schoch, Lowe, Duncan, and Vasu. Crawford lying in front

Heritage Center and National Museum of the Marines



This is an artist's rendition of the proposed Heritage Center and National Museum of the Marines. The \$25,000,000 Center is to be paid for by donations and located at Quantico. Groundbreaking is to take place in April, 2003, according to retired Commandant Charles Krulak. The drawing comes to us courtesy of Dewitt Joralemon, H&S-3-15, and association secretary.

The Museum's supporters say the soaring atrium may remind visitors of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima and... aircraft's powerful takeoff, bayoneted rifle on attack, drawn sword at apogee, howitzer firing close-in, rifleman coming ashore.

Memorial Marker Fund

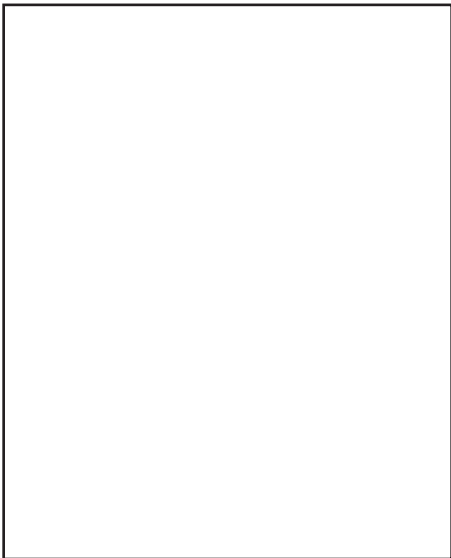
To make a donation (in any amount) to assure this Memorial Marker program will continue to provide a Memorial Marker to next of kin, please make your check to Sixth Marine Division Assn. and in lower left corner indicate "Memorial Fund." Mail to Carl Sproatt, Service Officer, 103 Lake Shore Circle, Leesburg, FL 34788.

I would like to make a donation in MEMORY of _____ or

I would like to make a donation in HONOR of _____

Your name _____

Post to honor Emil Wroblicky



Emil Wroblicky received the Palisadian-Post Lifetime Achievement Award

Emil Wroblicky, well-known and well-regarded citizen of Pacific Palisades, CA, recently received its Lifetime Achievement Award from the local Palisadian-Post newspaper. This is only the second time in the history of the newspaper that it has so honored a resident.

Wroblicky, who was chosen for his community service, served with Sixth Division Marines by landing them on Okinawa as a member of the Third Amphibian Battalion. He is a member of the association.

Charlie Two Shoes Thought He Was a Marine all Along, But Now That They've Made It Official, He'll Be Sorry!

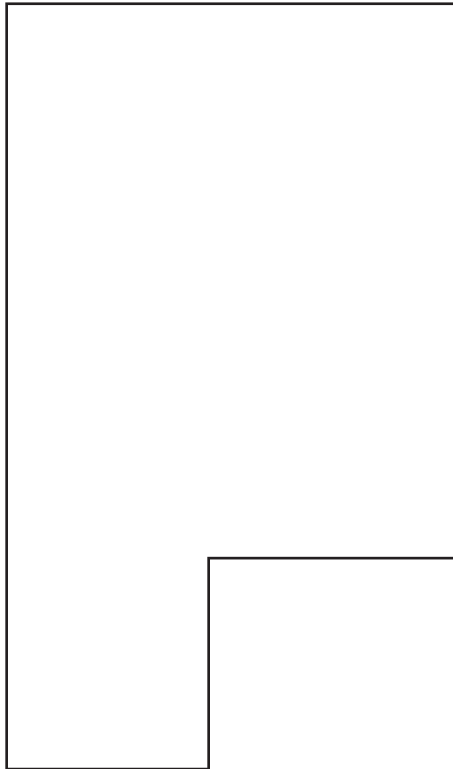
Remember how it was. You were dragging your sea bag along a dusty street with thousands (it seemed like) of howling idiots screaming, "You'll be sorry!" at the top of their lungs. But, maybe Charlie won't have to go to Boot Camp.

After all, Charlie Two Shoes was already an unofficial Marine with overseas service when they made him an official honorary Marine at Camp Lejeune this Spring and besides he's 67 years old.

The Marines knew what they were doing. There won't be a more faithful Leatherneck in all the Corps. He'll make Pfc in nothing flat.

The Sixth Division knows Charlie and his story. How he looked after and lived with Love Company of the Fourth in Tsingtao at the tender age of 11. How he was left behind when it came time to skeddaddle. How the Communists tried to break his back and his spirit. How a few Sixth Division Marines got him out of China and into this country.

His real name is Tsui Chi Hsii. He is an American citizen, a successful restaurateur in Chapel Hill, NC. He is resilient, resourceful and brave, just what a Marine is supposed to be. For 20 years he remembered a few stateside addresses of his Marine friends. He was already out of re-education camp and able to write, that got him out of China.

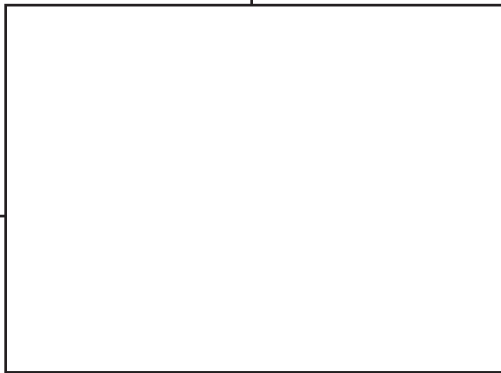


Above, Charlie and Don Sexton, 1946 and on the right, Charlie and Don, 1999

tion. The only thing missing was a 21-gun salute.

A proclamation was read: "The Commandant of the US Marine Corps takes pleasure in presenting the title Honorary Marine to Tsui Chi Hsii for his unyielding devotion to Corps and country. Allow me to be the first to welcome you to our Marine family."

A Charlotte Observer team was there to cover the story and take photographs. (Parts of this article came from them.) There were various dignitaries, including retired Brigadier General Charles Robertson, once a captain in command of Love Company.



There were a number of other Sixth Division Marines on hand with McKinney and Robertson. Dennis McGrath, 22nd Marines Corpsman, was one. Don Sexton, Charlie's former squad leader, who helped him get to

Not long ago, a man walked into his restaurant, a man he hadn't seen in 40 years. "Hello, Tom McKinney," he said without a pause.

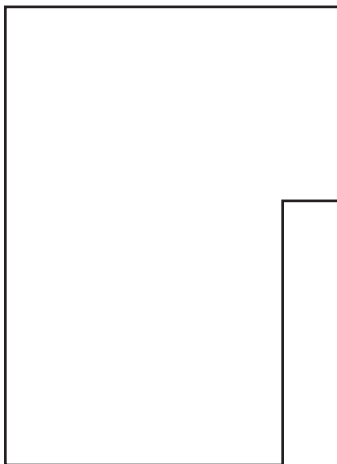
this country and win his new status as Honorary Marine, was there, naturally.

When the band stopped playing and the proclamation was read, Charlie was handed the microphone. As the silence grew, he spoke, "My fellow Marines..."

That was it. He's come all the way now.

The Second Marine Division rolled out the band with all the fanfare a general officer might command. The troops stood at atten-

Past President Tom Terpinas (below) has also been getting around. He spoke at the James L Day memorial



Past President Tom McKinney (above) was at Charlie's ceremony and has made several unit reunions.



Charlie with the mike, "My fellow Marines..."

Last Battle Photo Never Made it to Prime Time

Last edition, the Striking Sixth reprinted a letter from Division Historian Jack Hoag, 6th Jasco, to *Leatherneck* magazine complaining that the periodical had recently written of the 3rd, 4th and 5th Divisions' victory at Iwo Jima but ignored the 1st, 2nd and 6th on Okinawa. His last paragraph stated:

"The flag that was raised on Guam after the retaking of the Marine Barracks July of '44 was the same flag that the 22nd Marines raised at the north end of Okinawa, April '45 and on the south end June '45. And we didn't get our picture took."

Referring, of course, to the well-known riveting photograph of the flag raising on Iwo, Jack got the theme right but was corrected on the details. It would have made a good sound bite on TV, but the editor of *Sound Off* replied:

"Leatherneck and all Marines revere the deeds of those who fought in the Battle of Okinawa. The photo of the flag raising on the southern tip of Okinawa appears in the 1948 edition of 'History of the Sixth Marine Division' by Bevan G. Cass."

Actually, there were at least two photos taken of flag raisings at Ara Saki in June to mark campaign's end at the south end of Okinawa, where the island drops off into the Pacific and the East China Sea.

Thermopylae had its "messenger of defeat," the Alamo had its legend, Iwo Jima had its famous photograph, but Okinawa got lost in the shuffle of atom bombs and war's end. The 6th Division's flag raising didn't make the magazines, the news reels or any monument anywhere

The painting of the flag raising at the south end of Okinawa, prints of which are owned by many members of the association, was taken from one (or more) of two photos. Commissioned by Past President Tom Terpinas, C-1-29, painted by Okinawa veteran and *Leatherneck* artist Sergeant John Chalk and managed by Bill Pierce, Wpns-29, it was taken from a photo shot June 22, Pierce said.

The photo in the history was taken June 21, but the June 22 version was more dramatic, according to Pierce, and more suitable for an historic art work.

Dan Dereschuk, retired school teacher, who lives in Santa Rosa, CA., avers that the painting is a composite of more than one photo. He was one of the flag-raisers, "the one with the tommy gun," he said.

Like other rifle companies in the division, G-2-22, was pretty well shot up by the time it reached Ara Saki. Dereschuk, whose name was misspelled in the history, said there were eight or nine riflemen and machine gunners left in the company of those who landed April 1. "The worst night of my life" was on Sugar Loaf Hill May 14, he said. He was the last man off the hill the next morning.

He made it to Ara Saki despite two Purple Hearts, along with Platoon Sergeant Sam Semetsis, Hospital Apprentice Joe Bangert and Sergeant Narolian West, now deceased, all from G Company. They raised the flag. Others tried to get in the picture, but most weren't quick enough, Dan said.

Regardless of what photos the painting may be based upon, it reflects history made by the members of the Sixth Division and others. Every Marine who was on that island is represented by that




Thermopylae had its "messenger of defeat," the Alamo had its legend, Iwo Jima had its famous photograph, but Okinawa got lost in the shuffle of atom bombs and war's end. The 6th Division's flag raising didn't make the magazines, the news reels or any monument anywhere

reproduction.

There are 40 to 50 prints remaining, according to Pierce, 2020 Arundel Place, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464, for \$15. All proceeds go to the Sixth Marine Division Assn. It is possible to get a free print. All you have to do is frame it and present it to an appropriate venue, such as a museum, military college or a veterans' group.

That's what Martin Essex is doing in Las Vegas. He is presenting a print to the Marine Corps League there as part of Reunion activities in September. Pierce and Dick Whitaker, F-2-29, are planning to give one to the Citadel in Charleston and another to the Recruit Depot at Parris Island.

Pierce added that the painting was free to the division because Chalk will not take money from Marines, but that printing and associated costs were paid with borrowed money, all of which has been repaid.



If you plan to move before the next "Striking Sixth" is due or if there is a mistake in your name or address, please fill out and submit the form provided on the back page of the newsletter. By doing this, you will receive your next "Striking Sixth" on time. Remember, the USPS will not forward Standard mail (3rd Class) and the Association must pay for each piece returned.

On the Point of the Spear

Experiences of a Marine Rifleman During the Battle of Okinawa

by James S. White

James S. White, Corporal USMC, G Company, 3rd Battalion, 29th Marines, Sixth Marine Division, submitted his experiences as a Marine rifleman during the Battle for the Island of Okinawa in April, May and June of 1945.

Continued from Vol. 28, No. 2 of the "Striking Sixth" newsletter, April, 2002

On June 4, 1945 the 4th Marines and the 29th Marines made a landing on Oroku peninsula, which is across the bay south of the city of Naha. We were ferried around Naha to the west end of the peninsula in LVT's (Landing Vehicle, Tracked; a sort of bulldozer boat that could travel on land as well as water). We usually called them "AMTRACS" (Amphibious Tractors), but I know today that the official name was LVT.

There was a sea wall where we landed. The top of an LVT was less than half a foot below the top of the sea wall. I don't know if someone had established the time of the landings so that the tide would be right for this to happen. Or even if each LVT rode at about the same level in the water regardless of load. It was probably just a fortuitous coincidence.

The landing ramp was in the rear of an LVT. The coxswain (pilot, driver ?) backed his LVT up so that the closed ramp was against the sea wall and held it there by revving the engine with the tracks turning in reverse. Long range fire from a machine gun was hitting the vicinity of the sea wall. The modus operandi for getting ashore was to stand facing the sea wall with your rifle held with both hands at port arms. Two men would then grab you by the elbows and the seat of the pants. As you bent your knees and then jumped, the two men added to your momentum to lift and toss you up and over the sea wall. You rolled over, got to your feet and vacated the area quickly. This procedure reduced exposure time to the machine gun fire. No one in our platoon was hit getting over the sea wall.

The Oroku beachhead was also exposed to fire from Japanese "Screaming Meemie" rockets which were launched from fixed wooden troughs. The rockets would scream like a banshee when they were first

launched, becoming silent after the rocket fuel had burned out. Then they would coast until they impacted the ground and exploded. I never saw one from close up, but they were over a foot in diameter and about five feet long. It was possible to spot them in flight. They looked like flying seabags. It was noticed that they repeatedly hit the same part of the sea wall area. That area, several hundred yards across, was roped off and very few casualties resulted from those unguided missiles.

On June 5, I had just returned to the platoon area from company headquarters when I saw the platoon leader being carried on a poncho. He had been shot through the neck and later died. I don't remember his name, but he was a Good Guy.

Later that day, the Third Platoon was moving up to attack a hill. We were moving southeast in single file next to a ridge which was northwest of the hill which was our objective. There was some shrubbery and a few trees, but no real cover between us and the Japanese. The new platoon leader was Lt. McNulty. I was immediately behind him, followed by the rest of the platoon. The platoon sergeant, Loren Mitchell, was at the rear of the file.

A Japanese 47 Millimeter dual purpose

cannon (anti-aircraft or anti-personnel) fired at the platoon from some distance away. This gun normally fired three round bursts, shots being at about half second intervals.

Three shells hit near the front of the platoon. The farthest shell hit about 10 yards away, the closest about 10 feet from me. Lt. McNulty was hit. The three men behind me went down. I was hit in the right thumb, the left forearm, the left knee and left hip. The fragment that hit my thumb was the biggest piece that hit me and caused me to drop my rifle. I quickly wrapped a handkerchief (really more of a rag) around my hurt thumb. The other three fragments were small and the wounds from them only about as bad as a shot from a big hypodermic needle. (The small piece in my left forearm went all the way through, but it took five years to do it. It had migrated to the opposite side of my arm by the time I extracted it in April of 1950.)

When Sgt. Mitchell realized that the platoon leader was down, he ran up to the front of the file. I was still on my feet, so when he ran by me he said "Let's go, Whitey". I picked up my M1 and followed him across a road in an open valley about a hundred yards wide, to the base of the hill which we were attacking.

Sgt. Mitchell went straight up the hill and apparently went over its crest. I angled over to the right side of the hill. To the right of the hill, and at a lower elevation than where I stopped, was a small wood frame building, little larger than ten feet square. A Japanese Nambu machine gun, easily recognizable from its high rate of fire, began firing from inside the building toward the Marines behind me who were coming across the valley.

I don't remember if the gun had shot at Loren and me when we crossed the valley.

Three shells hit near the front of the platoon. The farthest shell hit about 10 yards away, the closest about 10 feet from me. Lt. McNulty was hit. The three men behind me went down. I was hit in the right thumb, the left forearm, the left knee and left hip.

I couldn't see the gun or the Japanese who were firing it, but I fired several clips from my M1 through the walls of the building and the firing from it stopped. This kept me occupied for a few minutes. One of the others who had arrived on the hill a short time later said that Loren Mitchell was dead. This was a shock to me. Some men seem indestructible. Sergeant Mitchell was such a man.

I went to the top of the hill and looked over it. Intermittent machine gun fire came just over the top of the hill, but I was able to sneak quick peeks. About 100 feet from the crest and slightly down hill was a Lewis Gun on a bipod. The gun was resting on a ridge which came into the southeast side of the hill at a right angle. There were no Japanese, alive or dead, visible near the gun.

The body of Sgt. Mitchell was lying just past the crest. We found out when we recovered his body that the Japanese firing the Lewis Gun had hit Sgt. Mitchell several times in the chest.

Maybe the reason that Sgt. Mitchell went over the crest of the hill was that he saw the Japanese and went after them.

Or, maybe he arrived at the top of the hill, was hit and fell over the crest. But, for whatever reason, he went over the top of the hill and was killed. Our country had lost one of its stalwarts. The Marine Corps lost a hoss. I had lost someone who was more than my sergeant. He was my friend. He was a friend to a lot of people.

The Lewis Gun was still there when we left that hill to attack another one.

I'm a rifleman. I liked the M1 and had little regard for a carbine. I wound up with a carbine anyway.

When Lt. McNulty had been wounded, and I had been hit in the right thumb by a fragment from the same 47 millimeter shell, the lieutenant was evacuated because the wound in his arm made him unable to grasp his carbine. My hurt thumb made it hard for me to hold an M1 rifle with my right hand, as I frequently did while running. So, I asked the lieutenant for his carbine, which was lighter than an M1, and he gave it to me. It was loaded with a full 15 round magazine. There were two full magazines in a pouch on the butt and he gave me another couple of loaded magazines which I carried in a pocket of my dungaree jacket.

About 200 yards to our front was a nar-

That afternoon, I was right behind the lieutenant when he was hit in the head by a rifle bullet as we rounded a small hill. Gunnery Sergeant John Quattrone took over as the leader of the Third Platoon.

row gap between two hills. Periodically, Japanese would run past this gap. Gunny Quattrone told us to keep looking and shoot at them when they ran past it. This was very difficult to do because of machine gun and rifle fire that came over the top of the hill. I shot at some once, but I don't think I hit any of them with that carbine.

A new lieutenant became the platoon leader. He led an attack which caused the platoon to again be the target of that 47 Millimeter gun. The lieutenant had reached the top of a small embankment at the start of our advance and was about to start down it. I was at his side, slightly behind him, with my good sense turned off. I was going to follow wherever he went. The 47 Millimeter gun fired three shots which hit at the base of the embankment. The lieutenant backed up and we went down the side and around the embankment. This gave the 47 Millimeter gunner time to reload and shoot three more shells at us. None of the six shells hit anyone in the platoon and after a few more yards we were masked off from the gun by an intervening hill.

That afternoon, I was right behind the lieutenant when he was hit in the head by a rifle bullet as we rounded a small hill. Gunnery Sergeant John Quattrone took over as the leader of the Third Platoon. (Gunnery sergeants are called "Gunny" in the Marine Corps. In the Marine Corps at that time, gunnery sergeant was a much more exalted rank than it is today. Or, maybe it was that gunnery sergeants were more exalted to me than they are now.) I believe that Gunny Quattrone was platoon leader number seven for the third platoon. That is, he was the seventh man officially designated as platoon leader. We had several others who acted as platoon leader for short periods after the regularly appointed one had been wounded or killed. And usually the man who took over was himself killed or wounded. Sgt. Mitchell was in this catego-

ry. Gunny Quattrone was also wounded while acting as the Third Platoon leader.

About 500 to 600 yards from one hill that our platoon had just taken, was another hill which was about the same height as the one we were on. It had almost no vegetation, having been denuded by artillery fire. We called it Flat Top, although I have never seen that designation on any map. Maybe it looked as if it had a flat top as a result of all of the shelling that it had absorbed, although the top was undoubtedly pock marked with shell craters. The direction of the hill from us was at about a sixty degree angle from our front.

An FO (forward observer), a lieutenant from the 15th Marines, was with the platoon. With his binoculars, the FO spotted three Japanese lying on top of Flat Top. He didn't think he would be able to hit them with the first shells fired if he were to call a fire mission, and they could slip away before corrections could be made. We had no machine guns with the platoon.

Gunny Quattrone and I decided to try to hit them using BARS. He and I were each carrying a carbine at the time so we each borrowed a BAR. With no bipods on the BAR's, we got into prone positions using loop slings, just like on a rifle range except that the nineteen pound BAR was really heavy on my left hand. Since it was off almost to our left, we were able to shoot at Flat Top while being behind cover from our front. The BAR sights were not zeroed for that specific distance.

I knew a lot about rifle shooting before I entered the Marine Corps. I was on a high school rifle team and belonged to a rifle club which was affiliated with the National Rifle Association.

The junior program was run by a former World War I soldier who had fought in France. He had shot Springfield rifles a number of times at the National Rifle

Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. From that shooting experience, and the knowledge of how to zero a rifle that the old gentleman had given me, finding the zero of that BAR held few mysteries for me.

The Gunny and I each zeroed by firing at marks at the base of Flat Top. The impact area was out of the sight of the three Japanese and probably 40 feet below them. The FO spotted the bullet strikes for us with his binoculars. With the front side of Flat Top as steep as it was, we were able to fire at marks that were within a few yards of the same distance from us as the Japanese were.

The BAR had a leaf rear sight similar to a M1903A1 Springfield rifle, except that the sight was located on the back of the receiver, closer to the eye, not up on the barrel like the '03.

A slide with a sight aperture in it could be moved up and down on the rear sight leaf. The lines on the sight leaf meant nothing to me, so I raised the slide up a small amount from where it was and used point of aim. My zeroing shots hit low, about two feet low, according to the FO. I laid there doing mental gymnastics as to how much to raise the rear sight. I figured that I was about 4 or 5 minutes low. (A minute of angle subtends approximately an inch per 100 yards of distance, I.E. an inch at 100 yards, two inches at 200 yards, etc.)

From my experience in building model airplanes, I knew how much was a 64th of an inch. On an M1 rifle a 64th of an inch is about two clicks (minutes) of elevation. The distance between the front and rear sights on the BAR was about the same as that of an M1 rifle, so, I raised the rear sight what I thought was TWO 64ths and got lucky. My next burst was centered on the place I aimed at on the base of Flat Top.

I didn't know how the Gunny was doing, but he was an old time Regular Marine, and probably knew how to zero a BAR.

Two of the Japanese were lying within a foot of each other and another was lying a short distance from them to their right. They were not looking at us (according to the FO) and probably didn't know we existed. We were looking at them from almost straight to their left. The Gunny and I couldn't actually see the Japanese, but several small bushes still remained on the top of Flat Top and they were easily visible references. The FO told us where to aim relative to one of

We fired together at a verbal signal from the FO, with him watching through his binoculars. I fired two three-round bursts. The trigger on that BAR was strange to me, so I couldn't get off two-round bursts. I don't remember how many times the Gunny fired.

the bushes. We both shot at the two Japanese who were lying side by side.

We fired together at a verbal signal from the FO, with him watching through his binoculars. I fired two three-round bursts. The trigger on that BAR was strange to me, so I couldn't get off two-round bursts. I don't remember how many times the Gunny fired. The FO told us to cease firing. He said that he could see one of them still lying there. There was no way to tell which of us had hit him. (See NOTE, below.)

(NOTE: In April of 1995, I met a man at a 6th Marine Division reunion whom I hadn't seen since 1946. On Okinawa, Don Honis had been in I Company, which was on the left of G Company on Oroku Peninsula. At the reunion, during a conversation, Don happened to mention "Flat Top". That designation is not on any maps I have seen, and I thought only men from my company called it by that name. I queried Don about it, asking him if he had been on Flat Top. He said that I Company had taken that hill. I asked him if there was a dead Japanese on top of Flat Top. Don said there were THREE dead Japanese on Flat Top. The Gunny and I evidently got all three of them.

Don Honis was hit above the left knee by a machine gun bullet on May 16, 1945. He was hit while helping carry another man away from Half Moon Hill. At the Sixth Marine Division Hospital, after the initial first aid, the treatment used was rolled up gauze, soaked in vaseline, inserted in and left in the wound channel, but changed on a regular basis.

A week or so after Don was wounded, the doctor told him, "You're just doing splendidly. I'll have you back with your outfit in no time".

Don's reply was probably a tongue-in-cheek, "Thanks a lot, Doc." Don still had a

bandage on his hurt leg, but he was back with I Company by at least June 7, less than a month after he was hit by the machine gun bullet.)

The three Japanese were either officers, on the hill observing the situation first hand, so they could better control their troops; or they were spotting for artillery or mortar fire. In either case we probably saved a few Marine lives by getting them off of the top of Flat Top.

When I think about that occasion, I believe that if we had used M1 rifles we might have been able to hit all three of them. (See preceding note). We surely could have zeroed more easily. The sights on an M1 (And on an M14, which has the same type of sight) are the best non-optical sights, and the most easily and positively adjusted, of any military rifles ever made, including the current service rifle, the M16, which was a step backward. With a BAR, the first round of a burst went where the weapon was aimed. The succeeding shots of the burst went wherever the recoil of the previous shot had caused the barrel to point. There was also a delay from the time the shot was squeezed off until the round fired. With bipods on the BARs, we could have done a little better, but probably not much. The bipods clamped to the barrel. I now know that resting its barrel on something when firing it can make a rifle shoot erratically.

One pitch black, rainy night I was dug in with a new man. He complained that the BAR he was armed with kept malfunctioning. I asked him when was the last time he had cleaned it and he told me he didn't know how to field strip it so he could clean it. So, I cleaned it. Or, rather, I stripped it and put the pieces in my pockets, and we cleaned them and oiled them before I reassembled the BAR. We did this by feel, since it was raining and we worked under a poncho which made it too dark to see any-

thing. Luckily, we didn't drop any parts into the mud on the bottom of the hole. The next morning that BAR operated like a sewing machine.

I'm not sure on just which hill this occurred, but it was on Oroku peninsula in early June. A wire on a pole on the very top of a large hill was suddenly severed by a machine gun bullet.

I don't know whether it was a Marine bullet or a Japanese bullet that hit it. The wire fell down from the pole and began to rewind itself into three foot diameter coils, all the while coming down the hill at high speed. Several of us had to duck out of its path. The pole the wire was trying to reach was quite a distance away so a large quantity of wire was involved. I saw the wire when it finally came to rest. It was uninsulated copper, about 5/16 inches in diameter. A bullet had hit it dead center and had sliced right through it on a slight angle. If the sharp end of the wire had struck someone, at the velocity it was traveling and as heavy as the wire was, it might have done them some hurt.

Also on Oroku Peninsula, and again I'm not certain on which hill this happened, one of our 37 Millimeter guns wheeled up and started firing directly over the foxhole occupied by West and me. They sited the gun about 30 yards to our rear, firing at something to our front. We heard the first shot (it almost deafened us) and raised up enough to see behind us. One of the gunners on the 37 Millimeter gun noticed us and signaled us to get down. They kept firing for about a half dozen rounds and we stuck our fingers in our ears after the first shot. We were pretty peeved. West wanted to throw a grenade in their direction so they could hear some noise too, but I talked him out of it.

We should have been warned so we could have vacated the hole. That might have disturbed our rest, but it might have been less harmful to our hearing.

The .30 caliber carbine was not then, nor is it now, one of my favorite rifles. While it is .30 caliber, it fires a short, underpowered cartridge with a light bullet which is not too lethal. The optimum maximum distance for a carbine lies somewhere between 100 and 200 yards. 300 yards is a long distance for a carbine.

Having said that, let me continue by stating that more Japanese were shot using carbines than with any other rifle. Most of the

Japanese were shot at night using carbines equipped with a night sight.

The night sight was called a "Sniperscope". This was a device with an independent infrared light source and an infrared light detector. It was capable of being mounted on a carbine and projected an electronically intensified image onto a screen with a reticle (cross hair) for aiming. No carbines equipped like that were in our company and I never saw one, but in early March of 1945 I may have guarded some in an area on Guadalcanal where "secret weapons" were stored.

The Sniperscope had a relative, called a "Snooperscope", which was used for observation at night. It had no provision for being mounted onto a rifle.

Both devices employed relatively fragile vacuum tubes. The Sniperscope could withstand the recoil of a carbine, but would not have held up too well on an M1 rifle.

The Japanese were usually very active at night. The infrared light source was not visible to human eyes. When the Japanese came out at night to work on their emplacements, many of them succumbed to shots from sniperscope equipped carbines.

A man with the title of "Corpsman" was regarded with great affection by all the Marines in the unit to which that man was assigned. He was usually called "Doc". The Marine Corps has no medical personnel. A Corpsman was a "Navy Hospital Corpsman," a sailor with a medical specialty who thought he had joined the Navy. Instead, he had been assigned to a Marine unit. Each rifle platoon had a corpsman assigned. He went wherever the platoon went.

A corpsman held the Navy rank of Hospital Apprentice if his rank was lower than petty officer and Pharmacist Mate if he was a petty officer. It was the corpsman's job to give first aid to Marines who had been wounded. All of them had been to Navy schools to learn their skills. The instruction probably assumed that their work would be done aboard ship in clean operating rooms.

On the front lines, with the Marines, they had to work in unsanitary, often extremely hazardous conditions. It was a difficult job (to me a distasteful job) that they did extremely well. Corpsmen saved the lives of countless Marines.

The corpsman who had bandaged my thumb had been wounded himself soon after that, and was replaced by another corpsman the next day. He was an older man who told me he had a son who was a Marine. He was nervous about being on the front lines. We had just taken another hill and the new corpsman and I dug a foxhole together as dusk was approaching. At his suggestion we recited the Lord's Prayer together when night overtook us.

Our platoon was dug in on the forward slope of the hill. Usually, after I had completed my runner's chores, going back to company headquarters, bringing up wiremen et al, I didn't get the choicest of locations for a hole. The corpsman had been busy bandaging some wounds, so the hole that he and I dug that evening was on the platoon's left flank in a relatively exposed position. The sun was setting behind us and might have made us hard to spot as we dug in. The hole overlooked a valley and a much larger hill that ran alongside the valley in the direction of the enemy. We were several hundred yards from Oroku Village, which was at the southern base of the hill. I Company occupied the forward slope (to them) of the hill across the valley from us. The Japanese made a habit of moving around at night, retreating here, moving up there.

Three of us had patrolled in that valley the day before. We had not used good judgement. We had walked up through the middle of the valley, way out in front of the platoon, in the open and in broad daylight until someone had shot at us, probably from the hill we were on now, but farther to the east. We couldn't see them but we shot in their general direction and then ran for cover behind a low stone wall that was on the outskirts of Oroku Village. By the time we started back from the valley, a Nambu had picked us up, and maybe a couple of riflemen, but they couldn't have been any closer than 250 yards. We followed the wall and stayed in some trees as long as we could, but eventually we had to run for the cover of a ravine where the platoon was located. As I jumped into the ravine just ahead of bullets from the Nambu, my picture was taken in mid-leap by a Marine combat photographer. I never have seen that photo. Maybe taking my picture damaged the man's camera.

The Japanese occupied Oroku Village

and the hill it adjoined sometime after we had walked up the valley. As I said before, I Company was on the forward slope of that hill.

After we had occupied our hill, I went back to company headquarters and brought three men back up to the hill with me. One of the three men was Captain Tomasello, the company commander. The route had several places where it was necessary to run across open spaces to places where there was cover. Part of the way ran through the ravine. While we were walking in the bottom of the ravine, the company commander climbed up the side of the ravine for a look-see. When I noticed him I yelled at him to get down from there. He came down with a sheepish look on his face. I hurried us along in the ravine and apologetically explained to the captain about the mortars and the Nambus that had the area pinpointed. It was the first and last time that I ever commanded a captain in combat.

After his visit to the hill, I accompanied the captain back to company headquarters so I could bring some wire men and some people with water and supplies back to the hill where the platoon was. On the way back we stopped in the ravine and watched several tanks in action. The tanks were in the valley slightly forward of the left flank of the hill occupied by the Third Platoon. The tanks were firing flamethrowers and machine guns toward the base of the hill to our left and toward Oroku Village with the stone wall where I had been*the day before. The flamethrowers were mounted in the tubes (cannon barrels), so the tanks were unable to shoot artillery shells. The flamethrowers shot a thumb-sized stream of fire for nearly 100 yards. Where we were in the ravine was about 50 to 100 yards from the tanks. One of the tanks was hit by fire from the village and lost a track. Three men got out of it safely and ran to the ravine where we were. One of the men was an Army lieutenant. He wore his bars, his insignia of rank, something that no officer in our company would do. Insignia of rank could draw sniper fire. The lieutenant was peeved at losing his tank. As he passed us in the ravine he shot several bursts from his grease (sub-machine) gun into the side of the ravine until the magazine was empty.

..to be continued in an upcoming issue of the "Striking Sixth" newsletter.

Dragon honored for Toys-for-Tots effort



Photo & medals



Certificate

John Dragon, Wpns-4, who lives in Bradenton, FL, has been awarded the Military Volunteer Service Medal by the Fourth Marine Amphibian Battalion for organizing and leading the Southwest Florida Toys for Tots program, part of the annual Marine effort to help disadvantaged children at Christmas time.

USMC School of Infantry Names Rifle Range After General Day



Mrs. James L. Day

Four Sixth Division Marines were at ceremonies celebrating an anniversary of the Corps' School of Infantry and the dedication of the

school's rifle range as Camp Day. They were Len Cotten, C-1-29; Jack Hoag, 6th Jasco; Leon Johnston, A-1-29, and Bert Matthews, 6th Pioneer Bn.

"In the Marines – everyone, sergeant, mechanic, cannoner, supply man, clerk, aviator, cook – is a rifleman first."

General Day, as most association members know received the Medal of Honor for his actions as a 22nd Marines' corporal at Sugar Loaf Hill on Okinawa. Commissioned during the

Korean War, he ended up wearing two stars before his retirement in 1986. He died in 1998 at 73.

The USMC School of Infantry is unique in US military circles as it is designed to teach infantry routines and tactics to non-infantrymen, adding validity to the long-time Corps tradition that "every Marine is an infantryman."

"What makes Marine infantry special? Asking the question that way misses the most fundamental point about the United States Marine Corps. In the Marines – everyone, sergeant, mechanic, cannoner, supply man, clerk, aviator, cook – is a rifleman first. The entire Corps, all 170,000 on the active rolls, plus the reserves, are all infantry. All speak the language of the rifle and bayonet, of muddy boots and long, hot marches. It's never us and them, only us. That is the secret of the Corps."

Colonel Daniel F Bolger

Membership Chairman Report

Watson Crumbie



Watson Crumbie
Membership Chairman

Important

This will be my last report to you as membership chairman.

I have enjoyed serving our association both as Service Officer and Membership Chairman over the

past four years. The association now needs a volunteer to serve my vacated office. Unfortunately many members believe in allowing "someone else" to do the job but what happens to our association when there are no more volunteers? Not owning a computer is not reason enough. If you do not have a computer the association will provide one for you to use. Without a candidate for this office, the association may be forced to hire a Membership Manager or Business Manager at a cost estimated to be \$4000 annually. The association has no viable source of income because 98% of the members are life members who years ago, paid a one time fee of \$50.00, (the lowest of all associations) or the equivalent of five years annual dues. It may be a struggle for our association to afford hiring a professional manager! If you cannot contribute your time and talent then consider making a monetary donation.

Important

I hope all members will take time now to fill out the request for updated membership information for publishing in the upcoming membership directory. If your address, area code, telephone number, marital status or any other information has changed since the last directory was published in 1996, you must take time now to fill out and mail the form found elsewhere in this issue. I had rather receive the information twice than to publish incorrect information. Take the time to do so now, why put off until tomorrow what needs to be done today? Otherwise do not blame me if your girl friends name and phone number is published instead of your spouse!

Important

A simple thing such as zip + 4 can be

The association has no viable source of income because 98% of the members are life members who years ago, paid a one time fee of \$50.00, (the lowest of all associations) or the equivalent of five years annual dues.

the reason a newsletter may not be delivered. Without the four digits following your zip code, the post office does not consider it a complete address and may not bar code it correctly. Most important, the post office does not forward third class mail but considers it "junk mail" and discards your newsletter.

Unfortunately, members with seasonal addresses must remember to send "Change of address" card to association each time you move. I know of no affordable software to change an address by date. Remember there are three thousand (3000) membership records for your membership chairman to maintain and many do not understand, I do not have an office staff.

Not so Important

Your unit was left off your address on the last newsletter mailing, it serves no purpose for the post office to deliver your newsletter but I receive many complaints. The reason is the printer does not include a unit name on other military publications and inadvertently left it off. I will remind the printer and hope it is included in your address in this issue.

Farewell

Although I will no longer be serving you as a director, I will assist in pursuing publishing a membership directory. The sooner I receive membership information from you, the sooner the directory will be published.

What better way to close than the way one member does..

Semper Fi and God Bless

Watson Crumbie

Note: If you plan to change your seasonal address you must notify the Membership Chairman by the next publicatin deadline of October 5, to receive the December issue.

Terror on Sugar Loaf

■ There was Terror on Sugar Loaf – Then the Artillery Began to Fire

The following story was written by reporter Paul DeGaeta and published in the Port Charlotte (Florida) *Herald Tribune*.

The pleasant sweet-sounding name given to a small hump of ground that lay on the island of Okinawa is very deceiving. Men of the 6th. Marine Division, who saw that hill for the first time in May of 1945, will never forget it.

And for many Marines and particularly the 29th. Marine Regiment, Sugar Loaf Hill would be their last sight. Sugar Loaf Hill was the western end of the Japanese Naha-Shuri-Yonaburu line, which stretched across the island and protected Naha, the capital of Okinawa.

Japanese General Mitsuru Usijima knew he could not let the Marines take this well fortified-hill or they could turn his flank. The issue would be decided within a week.

But for those who were there, every second had its own brand of anguish attached to it. Harold Henry Tayler, Jr., of Lake Suzy, Florida, was a 19-year-old private first class in C-Company, 1st. Battalion of the 29th. Marines. C Company had gone into action with 252 men. Two days into the fighting for Sugar Loaf Hill there were only about 50 C Company Marines still alive.

As nightfall approached, Tayler found himself in an abandoned Japanese trench with a few other Marines. As darkness fell, Japanese reinforcements began massing a short distance away for a ban-

Five hundred and fifty-one men of the 29th Marines died at Okinawa, considered the highest number of dead for a single battle by any Marine regiment during WWII.

zai attack.

The Japanese screamed and yelled to get their courage up. Tayler and a few other terrified Marines began accepting what they believed would be their fate, which had already claimed most of their company in the bloody fighting.

To Break the death grip of fear, Tayler tried some humor with Cpl. George Scott. Tayler explained to him, in official military manual-style jargon, that as a "pfc" he was the highest ranking individual on the right flank. Scott, replied in a similar fashion, that Tayler was now in command of his flank.

The lighthearted exchange provided only momentary relief as the howling Japanese reminded the Marines they were massing for an attack. The best that the few cut-off leathernecks, huddled in the trench could hope for was to briefly slow the Japanese attack at the potential cost of their lives.

It was then that fate smiled on the small group as a Marine jumped into their trench. Tayler asked who he was and he replied he was a forward observer and wondered if he had arrived at the front lines. Astonished, Tayler, thinking this too good to be true, asked the Marine if he had communication to the rear to an artillery battery.

When the observer replied he did, Tayler told him to immediately call in the coordinates and have them open fire. The observer's captain asked to talk to Tayler.

When he found he was only a private first class, the captain became irate. Tayler told him, "The officers are all dead. I am in command of the right flank." When the captain asked what all the noise was he was told by Tayler, "That's the enemy."

Captain: "Who?" Tayler: "The Japs—they're going to Banzai us." The captain suddenly understood the situation and said he would fire a round for effect.

Tayler argued if he did that, the Japanese would only take cover back in their caves and wait out the barrage.

The captain worried that if he let loose with with his entire barrage he might "kill our own men." It was then that Tayler replied, "Were dead anyway."

As if to stress the point, a Japanese sniper fired at the men from behind the trench. As a star shell burst in the sky, Tayler got the sniper with his M-1 before he could fire his next round at the Marines.

The barrage from 12 artillery battalions finally began and proved to be on target. It wiped out the major Japanese reserves who were intent on pushing the Marines off Sugar Loaf Hill.

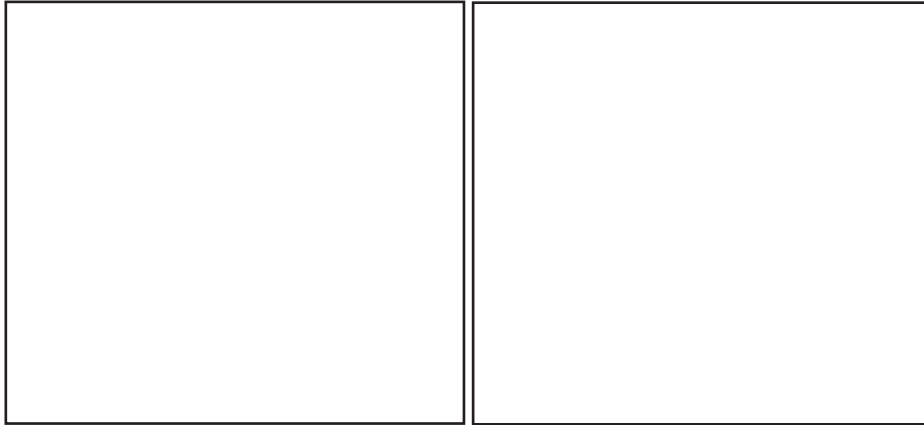
Tayler never received a medal for his actions because all of his superiors were dead. He was actually in command of that section of the front lines in Okinawa as a private first class.

Five hundred and fifty-one men of the 29th. Marines died at Okinawa, considered the highest number of dead for a single battle by any Marine regiment during WWII. Tayler still thinks about that awful night, and he recently reflected, "The terror of it is what sticks out in my mind. You could not stay up there and not crack up unless you convinced yourself you were going to die. Back then I wished that if I could only live to 35, they could take me out and shoot me on my birthday.

"The anniversary, May 15th of the day we began that attack, is more profound to me than my wedding anniversary, my birth date, or anything else—so many of our men died there. The Japanese had their Banzai troops; in my opinion, the United States Marines were our Banzai troops. No quarter was asked and none given

*Semper Fi,
Pfc. Harold H. Tayler, Jr.*

Before and After.....



LEFT: Before — From left, Don Valkenaar, Emil Wroblicky and Keith Tingley trained together at Camp Pendleton in 1943, where this picture was taken.. Valkenaar and Tingley were in Jasco together with the 22nd Marines at Eniwetok. Valkenaar stayed with Jasco for Okinawa while Tingley transferred to the 15th Marines. Wroblicky served elsewhere.

RIGHT: After — All three men, Valkenaar, Wroblicky, Tingley (They're in the same order here.) returned to the States together after the war. This picture was taken in 2002.

Harry Kizirian Honored Again



Special Honor for Special Man: Harry Kazirian, center, receives an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from Rhode Island College President John Nazarian, right, and John Salesses, vice president of academic affairs, at his home in North Providence, May 19, 2002.

Harry Kizirian, famous son of E-2-22, center, has received another award. He is now an honorary Doctor of Public Service at Rhode Island College. The decorated former Marine BAR man and Providence, RI postmaster was honored for distinguished community service. (Photo from Providence Journal)

Military Axioms

- ❖ Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography. — Paul Rodriguez
- ❖ Aim towards Enemy - Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher
- ❖ If it's stupid, but it works, it isn't stupid.
- ❖ Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the ground.
- ❖ If the enemy is in range, so are you.
- ❖ It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.
- *Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons.
- ❖ When in doubt, empty the magazine.
- ❖ If God had meant for us to be in the Navy, we would have been born with gray, baggy skin.
- ❖ Incoming fire has the right of way.
- ❖ Tracers work both ways.
- ❖ Five second fuses only last three seconds.
- ❖ Who cares if a laser guided 500 lb. bomb is accurate to within 9 feet?
- ❖ The easy way is always mined.
- ❖ If your attack is going well, you have walked into an ambush.
- ❖ Push to test... Release to detonate.
- ❖ No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection.
- ❖ Make it too tough for the enemy to get in and you can't get out.
- ❖ Any ship can be a minesweeper... once.
- ❖ Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.
- ❖ Don't draw fire; it irritates the people around you.
- ❖ The enemy invariably attacks on one of two occasions: When you're ready for them - OR - when you're not ready for them.
- ❖ Combat will occur on the ground between two adjoining maps.
- ❖ When you're short of everything but the enemy, you're in combat.
- ❖ Mines are equal opportunity weapons.

Al Queda Celebration

David Letterman.... Top 10 Ways the Taliban is Celebrating their 10th Anniversary:

- 10:** Wet-burqa contest;
- 9:** Goat jumping out of a cake;
- 8:** Ticking "Congratulations!" bouquet from Donald Rumsfeld;
- 7:** Raffling off a busted TV;
- 6:** Dinner at their favorite restaurant "Thank-Allah-It's-Friday";
- 5:** With the traditional tenth anniversary gift, sand;
- 4:** Flying in Don Rickles to roast Osama;
- 3:** Lively game of "Pin the Beard on the Deranged, Cave-Dwelling Madman";
- 2:** Serving a special dessert called "Death To America By Chocolate";
- 1:** Running for their lives.

A Tribute to Lloyd "Forrest" Townsend

By His Wife Upon His Untimely Passing

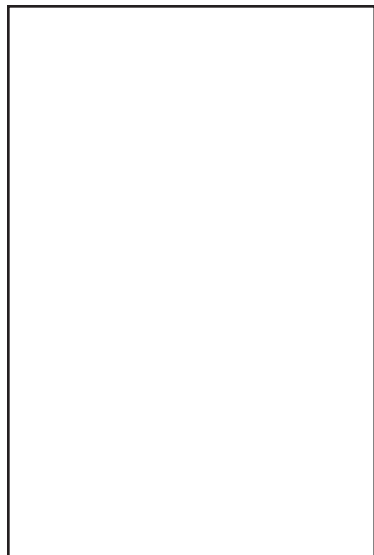


Forrest Townsend enjoying the good life as husband, father and grandfather.

Lejeune, North Carolina. Then he was sent to war in the Pacific area on December 14, 1944 and participated in action at Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands. Forrest was a rifleman and a very good marksman. He knew he was fighting for God and his Country, even though he was scared, he wanted to keep fighting. "I'd joined the Marines to fight and win, and I did.,,

As a replacement Forrest was uneasy, like almost all replacements, because he hardly knew anyone in his squad and he was "scared to death" by the intensifying artillery fire as the company he had just joined pushed south on Ryukyu Island. "Any man who said he wasn't scared had to have something wrong with him. You just can't live through those shells raining down on you without fear.". Still, Forrest knew he'd been well trained and was doing what had to be done, surrounded by the best fighting men in the world.

On May 24, 1945, five and a half weeks into action, Forrest's squad had to cross an open field on its way to leveled Naha. Two



men made it to cover on the far side, but an enemy soldier popped up from a hole in the ground when Forrest was halfway across with his heavy BAR. The Japanese whipped his light nambu gun around and fired it at him. Forrest's BAR fell from his hands as the bullets spun him around and down.

An inner voice had time to comment that this was the way it was when you were

Forrest Townsend before shipping out in 1945.

hit. Find cover fast, any cover don't let him finish you off. He saw a shell hole only a short distance away, slid into it and was shocked again by rain water from the recent deluges rising to his waist, his bleeding chest, his armpits. When it stopped at his chin, he reckoned he wouldn't drown if he could keep his head up. But the eighteen year old had already seen stacks of American bodies and knew he'd been hit very badly.

"Am I going to die here? Well, if I have to," he thought, "Momma wouldn't want it, but she and Poppa will be proud of me. Very sad, but also very proud, the whole family would be very proud, so its really okay."

Thousands hurt as badly as Forrest, but their composure helped medical personnel to save them despite their massive wounds. Being hospitalized for eleven months, with bullet wounds to the chest, just missing his lungs and heart, Forrest was honorably discharged on April 25, 1946.

He was awarded two purple hearts. Other medals received include the American Campaign, Asiatic Pacific Campaign and World War II medal. He served with the 4th Marines, 6th Division. When discharged Forrest was a Corporal, weapons qualification, rifle marksman.

For the past 31 years he looked forward to going to the 6th Division Reunions. Every year they were in a different part of the United States. The men always stayed in touch with one another through the years. Two years ago Forrest found a Navajo Code-Talker who served in the Marines and got in touch with him after 57 years.

At the reunions each year they would always have a memorial service and Forrest looked forward to singing and being part of the service. He would sing the song that he would be singing for the service, and ask "is this one okay? And any Christian song he sang was fine. He had a great voice.

His wife Ethel, was a life member of the Ladies Auxiliary. She passed away in 1992. Forrest and I were married eight years and when we said "I do," he said "I do" to one wife, two in-laws, three step-children, and four step-grandchildren. I said "I do," to one wonderful husband, a fine family of brothers and sisters, and the United States Marines' 6th Division.

How soon our world fell apart, but a big "Thank you" goes to the 6th Marine Division. We appreciated the telephone calls, cards, visits and prayers, during the most difficult time of our life. Forrest was a good Christian man, a very kind and caring person.

My beloved husband Lloyd "Forrest" Townsend, C-1-4, was a lifetime member of the 6th Marine Division Association. He passed away on April 30, 2002. He was a strong Marine right to the end. I'll miss his lovely voice, singing to me personally and he will be deeply missed at the memorial Service.

Forrest was very proud to be a Marine and of the 6th Marine Division Association. "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."

When Taps was played, I knew in my heart, he was with his Marine buddies that he had fought beside, laughed with and enjoyed the many reunions with in the States.

Forrest lived life to the fullest and if you look back, he

enjoyed his friends whether it was singing, golfing or just in conversation.

Forrest loved each one of you very much.

Semper Fidelis

Jannet Townsend

Life member 6th Division Ladies Auxiliary

Bangert's Twin Dies

The association joins Marion Bangert, president of the women's auxiliary, in mourning the death of her twin brother, Harold Cross, who joined her on many division activities.

Services For Raider Gus Zurawski

Military Funeral Services held for Marine Raider Gus "August" Zurawski

October 27, 2001.

The theme/focus of services from the entrance hymn at St. Juliana's Church in Chicago, IL to the closure commentary at the cemetery were Marine dominant.

Under a sunny October sky, with presence of a Marine Honor Guard, Marine Raider pall bearers carried the casket, placing it at the open grave.

Following the prayers by two priests, the Marine Honor Guard retrieved the flag from the casket, folded it with care, and presented it to his wife, Cassie Zurawski.

In closure, tile following words were spoken by a Marine Raider pall bearer:

"Gus, your fellow Marine Raiders have brought you here to your final place of rest...from here we dispatch you to heaven's scenes to duty with the Marine Guard."

Semper Fi and Gung Ho!

Pallbearers for Gus included Bob O'Donovan, Brian Quirk, Steve Klos, Ed Ricker and Mike Burazin.

Filed by Mike Burazin

Sergeant Ike Wanamaker, USMC dies

Warren R. (IKE) Wanamaker died at a hospital facility in Palm Springs, CA, June 1, 2002 as a result of complications following April 26 heart surgery. He was 77.

Ike entered the USMC in June of 1942. After completing Boot Camp he became a Rifle Coach at the PI Rifle Range. He was an original member of the Fox Company Machine Gun Platoon, 29th Marines. He landed on Okinawa on April 1 and was wounded on May 19th.

Details concerning a USMC Memorial Service, to be held at Quantico VA, were not available. Reported by Dick Whitaker, F-2-29.

Former Editor Wesley Bush Dies

Wesley Bush, H&S-22, who served faithfully as our editor of the Striking Sixth for years, passed away June 11 at his home in Utah, where he never recovered from the massive stroke he suffered while attending our Buffalo reunion.

He was hospitalized in Buffalo N.Y. for a month after the reunion before being allowed to return home. He never recovered

from the stroke.

Our sincere sympathy to his wife Bette. Cards may be sent to Bette Bush, 126 S Green Valley Ln., St George, UT 84770-6859

From Chaplain Claud H. Wilkins

Services held for John Luther

Services for John Luther, C-2-22, of Los Angeles were held at St. Barnabas Church in Eagle Rock. John, his widow Bina said, died after a lengthy and debilitating illness.

A veteran of numerous association reunions, John went back to Okinawa in 1995. Four of his five children were at his bedside with his wife through the night before his death early in the morning, (Reported by Bobbie Norman, husband Robert, 6th Engineers.)

Reverend Andrew Stafkowsky

The Reverend Andrew Stafkowsky died at 88 in Florida and was returned to his Pennsylvania roots for interment. He was chaplain of the 15th Regiment and was the last of the division chaplains to serve at the July 4 ceremonies on Okinawa.

The chaplain was born at Pittstown, PA and buried there.

Reported by Buzzy Fox, G-2-29

We've Lost Robert J. McBride



Robert J McBride, formerly of the 6th Motor Transport Battalion, was cremated recently in St. Petersburg, FL. His ashes were placed in a USMC machine gun ammunition box for interment.

Memorabilia Wanted

Memorabilia is needed from veterans of the U.S. Navy, Army, Marines, Air Force and U.S. Coast who served in World War II. With this "greatest generation" steadily dwindling in numbers, a research project at the Florida State University, Dept. of History, has made a plea for any World War II memorabilia.

The university has set up the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience to preserve the memories of those in the armed forces and defense industries during this extraordinary period. Prof William Oldson is looking for donations of letters, diaries, photographs and other wartime items. Call 850-644-9033 or visit fsu.edu/-ww2 for more information.

Why I like the Marines

Subject: Why I like the Marines speech by Rear Admiral J. Stark, USN, President of the Naval War College, made in Newport, RI

■ The first reason I like Marines: They set high standards for themselves and those around them, and will accept nothing less.

■ I like the way Marines march.

■ I like the way Marines do their basic training whether it's Quantico, Parris Island, or San Diego.

■ I like the idea that Marines cultivate an ethos conducive of producing hard people in a soft age.

■ I like the fact that Marines stay in shape.

■ I like the fact that the Marines only have one boss - the Commandant.

■ And I like the directness of the Commandant.

■ I like the fact that Marines are stubborn.

■ I like the way Marines obey orders.

■ I like the way Marines make the most of the press.

■ I like the wholehearted professionalism of the Marines.

■ It occurred to me that the services could be likened to different breeds of dogs.

• The Air Force reminds me of a French Poodle.

• The poodle always looks perfect... sometimes a bit pampered and always travels first class. But don't ever forget that the poodle was bred as a hunting dog and in a fight it's very dangerous.

• The Army is kind of like a St. Bernard. It's big and heavy and sometimes seems a bit clumsy. But it's very powerful and has lots of stamina. So you want it for the long haul.

• The Navy, God bless us, is a Golden Retriever. They're good natured and great around the house. The kids love 'em. Sometimes their hair is a bit long.... they go wandering off for long periods of time, and they love water.

• Marines I see as two breeds, Rottweilers or Dobermans, because Marines come in two varieties, big and mean or skinny and mean. They're aggressive on the attack and tenacious on defense. They've got really short hair and they always go for the throat. That sounds like a Marine to me!

So what I really like about Marines is that first to fight isn't just a motto, it's a way of life. From the day they were formed at Tun Tavern 221 years ago, Marines have distinguished themselves on battlefields around the world.

From the fighting tops of the Bonhomme Richard, to the sands of Barbary coast, from the swamps of New Orleans to the halls of Montezuma, from Belleau Wood, to the Argonne Forest, to Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima, and Okinawa and Inchon, and Chosin Reservoir, and Hue City, and Quang Tri, and Dong Ha, and Beirut, and Grenada, and Panama, and Somalia, and Bosnia, and a thousand unnamed battlefields in godforsaken corners of the globe.

Marines have distinguished themselves by their bravery, and stubbornness and aggressive spirit, and sacrifice, and love of country, and loyalty to one another. They've done it for you and me, and this country we all love so dearly.

They asked for nothing more than the honor of being a United States Marine.

That's why I like Marines.

Editor's note: Thanks to Jack Pankratz, Marine, for E-mailing this to us.

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As of 01 July 02

* Special recognition

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Photo file...



Major General Lemuel Shepherd, left, observes the action on Okinawa with Lt. General Simon Bolivar Buckner. Marine Corps Photo courtesy of Watson Crumble, C-1-29.

TAPS

All of us in the Sixth Marine Division Association extend our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of those listed below. May they rest in peace.

Name	Unit	DOD	Reported By
J. A. "Umpy" Olson	22-3-H&S	12-23-01	Charles L. Staten
Vemard L. Oxewnreider	22-3-K	2-06-02	Annie Wilkins
Edwin G. Osborn	6th Recon	3-09-02	Sharlene Osborn
John M. Capezza	22-2-E	2-12-02	F. W. Abbott
Odell Stautzenberger		5-05-02	Blair Stautzenberger
Robert Kennedy	22-3-K	5-16-02	Fredrick R. Miller
Leo G. Gattoini	29-1-A	11-13-01	Leo Gattoini(Son)
Russell Jansen	6th Jasco	4-18-02	Donald Valkenaar
Anthony Stea	4-2-	3-23-02	John Foley
Edgar A. "Tex" Ritter	6th Jasco	3-24-02	Joseph H. Hall
Hugo Donatelli	29-2-D	3-24-02	Alan Donatelli
Robert A. Goodenough	29 H&S	4-09-02	Robert C. Goodenough, Sr.
Donald Rhatigan	15-4-H&S	1-09-95	Pat Rhatigan (wife)
Forrest Townsend	4th Marines	4-30-02	Andy Horvath
Wilson R. Wise	22-1-A	2-14-02	Walter Hever
Joseph D. Kinane	4-3-K	4-21-02	Gladys Kinane
John F. Genis	29-3-HQ	1-13-02	Jennie Genis
Hubert H. Welch	29-3-I	5-23-02	Kenneth Aust
Wayne Falch	4th Marines	1-03-80	Wayne Falch (Son)
Harold Cross	Associate		Tom Terpinas
Robert F. Davie	3-4-HQ	3-25-02	Robert F. Davie II (Son)
Warren Wannamaker	29-2-F	6-01-02	Watson Crumbie
Steven Aleksich	4-3-I	10-01-00	Watson Crumbie
Donald Anderson	HQ		Watson Crumbie
Raymond Bauer	6th Eng.	6-14-96	Watson Crumbie
Donald Chance	4-2-E	7-26-01	Watson Crumbie
Claude Walker	22-H&S	12-16-01	Watson Crumbie
Freddie D. Smith	29th Wpns	2-28-02	Watson Crumbie
Francis V. McGuire	6th Med.	6-13-02	Watson Crumbie
Henry Gardner	4-1-C	8-18-01	Watson Crumbie
Harold J. Parker	22-2-G		Watson Crumbie
Clyde J. Crilley	29-2-D	5-19-01	Watson Crumbie
Alvin B. Hannan	22-3-L		Watson Crumbie
Harold W. Stultz	29-3-L		Watson Crumbie
Ganville W. Longersbeam	29-3-I	4-06-02	Watson Crumbie
Oliver F. Woodruff	9th Amphib B	2-18-00	Watson Crumbie
John R. Luther	22-2-C	6-30-02	Bobbie Norman
Belva Crumbie		6-30-02	Wife of Watson Crumbie

122 members have been reported as deceased since September 2001

January 2002

Roll Call

New members of the
6th Marine Division Association

- 5743 BRADT, George M
2ND SEPERATE TANK CO
- 5742 CAPORALE, Don
ASSOCIATE LIFE
- 5748 CHALK, John
ASSOCIATE ANNUAL
- 5747 CROCKETT, David W
22ND MARINES-2-E
- 5751 FORGIT, Lorenzo
HQ 29/ BAND
- 5741 FREI, Terry
ASSOCIATE ANNUAL
- 5750 GARCIA, Albert
15TH MAR-I-3
- 5746 HEATH, Sylvester
22ND MARINES-3-I
- 5746 HEATH, Sylvester B
22ND MARINES-I-3
- 5740 MARTINS, Anicet
2ND SEPERATE TANK CO
- 5749 PANKRATZ, Jack
ASSOCIATE ANNUAL
- 5744 REINKEN, Tom P
ASSOCIATE ANNUAL
- 5745 RUSSELL, Maj. Robert A
22ND MARINES-1-B

Submissions to TAPS

Recently a member was incorrectly reported deceased. The member was extremely upset and I cannot blame him. To prevent such occurrences from happening again, when reporting a death to be published in "TAPS," please include not only the name of the deceased but next of kin, their relationship and address, date of death and the unit the member served with in the 6th Marine Division. Death of a spouse or widow should also be reported.

Please include your name, especially if reporting by E-Mail, as the name of the person reporting the death will also be published.

Watson Crumbie
Membership Chairman

Check your label

Company-Battalion-Regiment

ID Number

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 0000 = Life Membership
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■ **ANNUAL DUES** FOR 2003 ARE NOW DUE. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE about your dues status, look for "check your label" found elsewhere in this edition. Annual dues are \$10.00. Make check payable to 6th Marine Division and mail to: Watson Crumbie, Membership Chairman, 4964 Shady Oak Trail, Grand Prairie, TX 75052-4197

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6th Marine Division Association

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