

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 35, No. 2

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Summer 2010

65 Years Ago - First the Battle Ended, Then the War Was Over



The Lights are back on in Naha

We Got Home In Time To Bring in the Future

We take a peek in this newsletter at the last days of the war, the days of peace and some of the changes. It's just a look back. People might say those who have aged as we have spend too much time in the past. Not us! We just look back sometimes at the things we did. We fought America's biggest 20th Century war. Those of us who were lucky went home to build on the great work done before us. We participated in the massive changes ahead.

Life has been good for most of us. We do think of our friends who didn't make it back. We can and sometimes do remember the misery. War may be hell, as they say, but many a Marine said after the fighting stopped, "I don't think I would want to do it again, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Tom Terpinas In Nursing Home

Association President Tom Terpinas is gravely ill in a nursing home. Though suffering from lung cancer, he is conscious at the time of this writing and able to receive cards and letters. He has no telephone.

There is a telephone (317) 898-1515) at the Lawrence Manor nursing station for condition updates. His gracious sister Mrs. Elena Lea ((317) 293-2473 keeps in close touch. The nursing home address is 8935 E 46th St. Indianapolis, IN 46226.

More information is available on Page 2.

Couple Works Out Reunion Kinks for Savings



Cirque du Soleil

Here is another good word from the 2010 Reunion Chairmen, Martin and Marilyn Essex. Things are moving pretty smoothly now that we have all the kinks worked out. There was a change in how the hotels here in Las Vegas do business, and it wasn't communicated to us earlier. You should have received a letter in the mail updating you on the changes along with a new hotel registration form.

The hotel is not accepting the reservations; we are

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SIXTH MARINE DIVISION
ASSOCIATION
2009-2010
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**ELECTED OFFICERS
PRESIDENT**

Tom M. Terpinas
8056 Shorewalk Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46236-9541
(317) 823-1117

Tmt6md@comcast.net

PRESIDENT ELECT

Edward H. Marsalek
1108 W. Wellington Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657-4338
(773) 472-0225

marsalek@urbancom.net

SECRETARY

Lisa Benedetti
6039 Wilson Mills Rd.
Cleveland, OH 44143-2102
(440) 442-0386

lisabene@sbcglobal.net

TREASURER

Harold E. Walters
143 N. Jefferson Rd.
Wooster, OH 44691-3209
(330) 264-5451

CHAPLAIN

Harry McKnight
6321 Alissa Ln.
Columbus, OH 43212-3456
(614) 866-3456

harrym1677@aol.com

EDITOR

Joe Singleton
251 S Green Valley Pkwy #4813
Henderson, NV 89012
(512) 695-4295

joe.semperhorn@gmail.com

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Sam Petriello
3016 Hemlock Dr.
Norristown, PA 19401-1541
(610) 279-4979

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

James S. White
2209 Holly Ave.
Duncan, OK 73533-2007
(580) 255-2689
Jsw116@aol.com

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Bill Pierce
2020 Arundel Pl.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464-6200
(843) 884-5785

Gyrene629@aol.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Andrew Sinatra
144 Barbuda St.
Berkeley, NJ 08757-4635
(732) 505-2998

PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Andrew Sinatra
144 Barbuda St.
Berkeley, NJ 08757-4635
(732) 505-2998



Okinawa Battle Museum—

Located at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, Chris Majewski's collection of relics and information from the battle continues to gain status. This photo was taken from an internet site, OkinawaRelics.com, a labor of love by former Marine Bob Wilke. Another photo on facing Page 3 is also from Wilke's site. the museum is popular with Marines and former Marines, and with tourists. Chris also fills in as a Battle Field Tour Guide.

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Suggestions are welcome. Submissions should be sent to the editor, Joe Singleton, 251 S Green Valley Pkwy #4813 Henderson, NV 89012, phone: (512) 695-4295, email: joe.semperhorn@gmail.com

**President's
Report
(2nd-Hand This
Time)**



President Tom Terpinas can turn a phrase when he wants to, far better than I can. Nevertheless it is up to me this time to write his message to the troops. When I talked to him on the telephone early in July, his voice sounded weak.

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Unit Directors

Walter Heuer	4 th Marines
James McWalters	15 th Marines
Andy Sinatra	22 nd Marines
Henry B. Kemp	29 th Marines
Vince Matthews	6 th Mtr. Trns. Bn.
Jack Rice	6 th Med. Bn.
Leonard Israel	6 th Engr. Bn.
Albert Stoel	6 th Tank Bn.
Louis Spillone	6 th Pioneer Bn.
Augie LePore	6 th Hq. Bn.
Fred Westphal	6 th Recon. Co.
Dick Roberts	6 th JASCO
George Tremblay	1 st Amphibs

Directory Committee

Joe Singleton, Chairman
Tom Terpinas
Membership Manager
Florence Dornan

Naha Is Thriving Today

Naha, the capital of the Ryukyu Islands prefecture, was a prewar city of about 70,000 at the time of the battle in 1945. By the end of that struggle it was empty and barren with only a few shattered buildings remaining. Southern Okinawa generally suffered an equivalent fate. The destruction of property was equaled by the loss of life.

The effect was so great that in all of World War II, it has been estimated, only Stalingrad in the Soviet Union, scene of the epic defeat of German forces there, was comparable. The numbers at that city on the Volga were greater, but the relative destruction is believed by some to be similar.

By this century, Naha's population has been reported at more than a million. Marines who have been there since the war say that it is modern and busy.



Fighting in Naha



Flattened



Left Standing



Modern Amenity



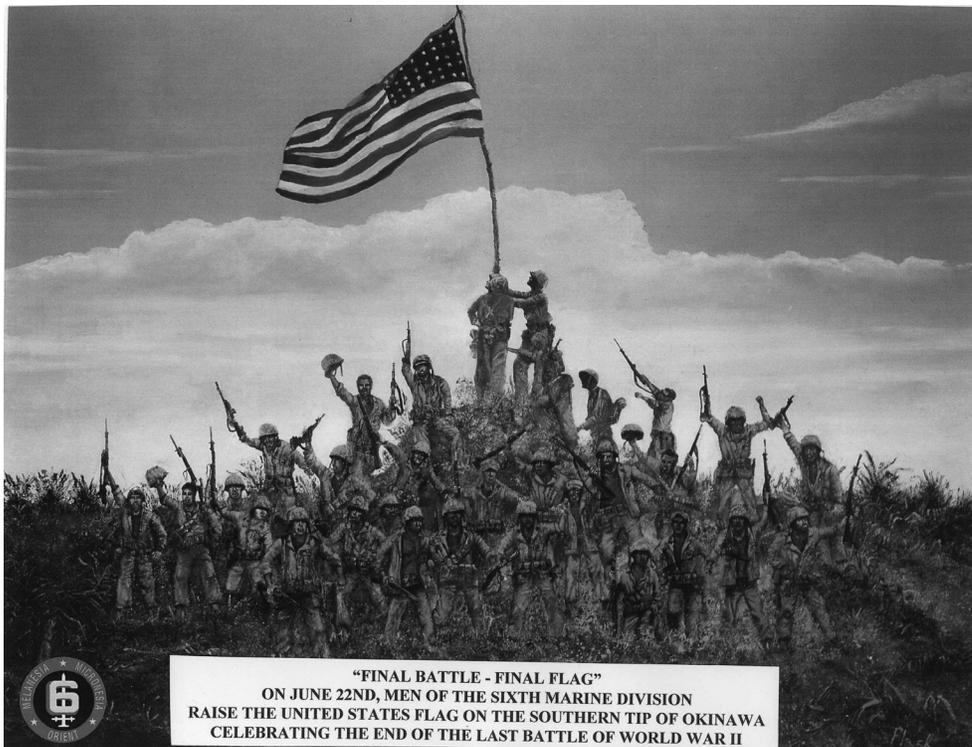
Naha Shikinaen



Plenty of Shopping



Two for Two — Both the Iwo first effort at a flag-raising photo on Mount Suribachi (shown at top) and the Okinawan Arisaki Point try (underneath) didn't suit someone, so they did it again. The second Iwo shot became iconic and ended up representative of the whole Pacific War. It is top right. The 6th Division photos ended up in a composite painting residing in a shed somewhere in Quantico, we think. The two events were similar, but there were differences. In the Suribachi shot, which was early in the battle, the Marines don't look quite as ragged or as shop worn as the 6th guys after 82 days in combat. The Iwo pole looked a lot better, also.



Second Iwo Jima Shot



The Army Version (Below) — You might have known there would be a band and everyone looking spiffy. The site was the 10th Army's HQ on Okinawa. Probably, the only Marines knowing where that was were the 5th Corps' Lt. Gen. Geiger and his staff.



The 6th Division Flag Raising Was Unique

There was a time when flags were popping up all over the Pacific. Just about every hard-earned island victory in World War II resulted in an American flag flying in the breeze. They gave the troops a lift and the photographers something to do. It seems the first flag up on Okinawa's Shuri Castle represented the Confederacy.

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Striking Sixth

THE SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSN
2010 REUNION
ORLEANS HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NV
October 10-14, 2010

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Single, Double, Occupancy: \$69.00 + tax per night (includes 2 free breakfasts per room per day)

\$69.00 + \$8.28 (room tax) + \$5.00 (resort fee) = **\$82.28** X _____ nights = enclosed \$ _____

Each additional person \$10.00 + taxes \$6.20 = \$16.20 X _____ nights = enclosed \$ _____

Weekend Rate: \$72.00 + taxes (13.64) = \$85.64 X _____ nights = enclosed \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please check your preference ___King Bed ___Two Beds___ Smoking___Non Smoking___HANDICAP

Please complete this form and return it with the full amount of your hotel stay. Pay by check, money order or cashiers check. Make check payable to: 6th Marine Division Association 2010 Reunion.

Mail Payment and Reservation Form to:

Robin Essex Starr
4225 N. Tee Pee Lane
Las Vegas, Nevada 89129
702-368-7662
SixthReunion2010@aol.com

Rooms not guaranteed unless paid in full prior to September 1, 2010.

Special Requests: Every effort will be made to accommodate special requests, however they are not guaranteed: _____

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS SEPTEMBER 1ST. After that date, reservations will be taken on availability basis only. Cancellations will be accepted up to **72 HOURS** before arrival. One night's lodging (\$69.00) will be CHARGED if cancellation is after that time.

Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Hotel check-in is 3:00 pm- check-out is noon

Don't wait until the last minute. Send in your reservation NOW to ensure availability!

**Sixth Marine Division Association
2010 Annual Reunion
Sunday 10/10/10 – Thursday 10/14/10
Las Vegas, Nevada**

Name: _____ Guest/Spouse Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 E-mail: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 Company _____ Battalion _____ Regiment _____

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Register Early and Save \$5.00 – Must be postmarked By June 30, 2010: \$20.00–early
After June 30, 2010: \$25.00

Day	Time	Event	Amount
<u>Sunday</u>	12-5 pm	Registration (Member) (Spouses are free)	\$ _____
10-10-10		Guests (No: ___ x \$ ___ ea.)	\$ _____
	10am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	6pm-9pm	Meet and Greet (appetizers and drinks) # _____	\$No Charge
<u>Monday</u>	8am-10am	Complimentary Breakfast	\$No Charge
10-11-10	10am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	9am-5pm	Registration Desk	
	9:30am-5:30pm	Gray Line Deluxe Red Rock Tour \$70.00x _____ = (Buffet Lunch included at Marriott Hotel)	\$ _____
	10am-2pm	Las Vegas Outlet Mall Shopping \$12.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
<u>Tuesday</u>	8am-10am	Complimentary Breakfast	\$No Charge
10-12-10	10am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	9am-5pm	Registration Desk	
	7:30am-4pm	Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) (Box lunch included) Must be 14 yrs of age (No wheelchairs) Some walking Available to the first 57 sign ups \$20.00 x _____ = Full Name, incl. middle initial _____ Date & Place of Birth _____ Home Address _____ Citizenship _____ (Above is needed for AEC – use additional paper if necessary)	\$ _____
	10am- 1pm	Atomic Energy Museum \$20.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
<u>Wednesday</u>	8am-10am	Complimentary Breakfast	\$No Charge
10-13-10	10am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	9am-5pm	Registration Desk	
	12:30pm-2:15pm	Board Meeting	
	12-2pm	Ladies Luncheon \$25.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
	2:30-4pm	Sons and Daughters Meeting	
	4:30- until	Marine Corps League BBQ \$20.00 x _____ = (Buses will be staggered – sign up for the bus at Registration Desk)	\$ _____

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM – Page 2

Thursday	8am-10am	Complimentary Breakfast	\$No Charge
10-14-10	11:30am-11pm	Hospitality Room	
	Closed	Registration Desk (All information moved to Hospitality Room)	
	10am-11:30am	Memorial Service	
	1pm-3pm	General Meeting	
	6pm-11pm	Grand Banquet-Dinner-Guest Speaker-Installation of Officers-Dancing-Entertainment \$49.00 x _____	\$ _____

Grand Total Enclosed for Registration and Activities \$ _____

Mail this form with your check payable to 6th Marine Division Association 2010 Reunion to:
Martin or Marilyn Essex, 2712 Lotus Hill, Las Vegas, NV 89134 Phone: 702-243-9603

May we suggest that you make a copy of the registration for your records & bring it with you to the Reunion.

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOU:

_____ Attending my 1st Reunion _____ I am a Son/Daughter _____ Wheelchair Bound (will need a lift)

_____ Mobility Impaired (cane/walker) Special Needs (specify) _____

Special Dietary Needs (specify) _____

_____ Will be helping out _____ Will bring Door Prize (donors will be announced-please label)

Your Travel Plans for Our Records

Will be arriving to Las Vegas, Nevada by _____ (mode of transportation)

If traveling by air: _____
Airline Flight # Departure City Date/Time of Arrival

***PLEASE NOTE:** There will be no pickup service by the Reunion Committee for arrivals later than 10:00 pm. You will have to make bus arrangements.

If you have a name badge holder from the 2008 reunion in Oklahoma, please bring it.

HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY TO AND FROM THE REUNION.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

President's Report

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In fact, it ended with his words trailing off into silence.

You see, Tom says he has lung cancer and his time may be drawing short. He is fully aware of this but determined to hold on until the end of his second presidency at the Reunion in October. Tom has not only been an outstanding physician, as I understand it, he has been a dedicated and supportive member of this association for many years and president twice. His part in the war was as corpsman for C Company of the 29th Marines during a time of hard going.

He is not exactly a Marine, but maybe a cut above in the minds of the many Marines whose last glimpse of life was a corpsman bending over them to offer help and hope. They will welcome him to that guard company (that we all will join some day) as a corpsman or as a doctor at the battalion aid station.

Tom wants everyone to know how "honored and privileged I feel to be a member of this unique body of Marines." He added that to be elected president was more than he had any right to expect. He is pleased to have been a part of "the unparalleled transition of the association from a military body." He expressed his deep appreciation to Sam Petriello for the work he did to facilitate this process.

Finally, he averred that there is more to be done, and input from the membership for future changes is "vital and expected."

Editor

6th Division Flag Raising

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First Division commander Gen. Del Valle got a lot of phone calls on that one.

The second flag raising after the win at Iwo Jima was the most famous.

It is known to the membership that a somewhat less well-known flag was raised in the south of Okinawa at Arisaki Point to mark the end of the Battle of Okinawa. It is also known that the same flag was used after our occupation of the northern two-thirds of the island at Hedo Misaki on April 13, 1945.

This flag is mentioned only twice in a search of the Internet, once on our site and again at the Halls of Montezuma site, which sells the photo. The flag may be unique in that it was flown at both ends of a pretty big island. To top that, it was flown by the same unit, George Company of the Second Battalion of the 22nd Marines.

It's possible, but not known to this writer, that the First Platoon, which did the job at Arisaki Point, was the same platoon that raised the flag in the north. Was it the same Marines? That raises an intriguing question. Jesse Thomas of that platoon insists that he was one of the flag raisers. He's been claiming it for years.

Also, for years the flag raisers

Sixth Division Gets Satisfaction

Marines of the Sixth Division have believed they came out a little short on recognition since the Okinawa battle followed so closely to the Iwo Jima struggle and because of the death of President Franklin Roosevelt while the fight was going on. There was a little satisfaction, however, when news got out that First Division Marines were miffed that their fight to take Shuri Castle was overshadowed by the attack on Sugar Loaf.

at the south have been known to be Corpsman Joe Bangert, Sam Semestis, Dan Dereschuk and Noralin West, all deceased. They are in the prints of the painting, a composite of two photos. Where are the photos now? Who knows? Where is the flag? Who knows?

It is speculated that the flag may be VMI or with some family member related to Lt. Col. Chauncey Woodhouse, Jr., 2nd Battalion commander, who was killed on May 30. The painting, according to the Halls of Montezuma web site is at the Quantico Museum.

Information for this article came from Ben Ware, Bill Pierce, Chris Majewski, Jesse Thomas, Marion Bangert and John FitzMaurice. Thanks to all of them.



SPECIAL - SPECIAL - SPECIAL!!!!
65TH ANNIVERSARY PRINT OFFER!!!
FLAG RAISING PRINT REDUCED TO \$35.00!
PURCHASE ANY SIZE SUGAR LOAF PRINT
ALSO AND THE FLAG PRINT WILL BE ADDED
FOR ONLY AN ADDITIONAL \$10 PER PRINT!!!

PHONE ORDERS CALL: 1-888-456-1926
NEED ADD BOTH ITEMS IN SHOPPING CART AND NEW
BARGAIN PRICES WILL BE SHOWN.



Hotel & Dates Chosen For 2011 Reunion

The reunion committee is pleased to announce the hotel and dates for the 2011 gathering. We will be using the lovely Hyatt Regency Cleveland in the historic 1890 Arcade as the base of operations for the 6th Marine Division Association 2011 Reunion.

Surrounded by the splendor of a bygone era the Hyatt at the Arcade is a grand hotel situated in the heart of the city in an elegant National Historic Landmark building, complete with onsite boutiques and restaurants. The Hyatt is also conveniently located near many of Cleveland's largest attractions which should make for a very pleasant stay for our Marines and friends.

After many responses from our little e-mail "what date?" survey, we chose the week of Labor Day, Sept. 5 to 11. At that time, we will be almost certainly the sole guests of the hotel, thus assuring us of the utmost care and consideration for our comfort. We also felt it was a bonus to those members who work to only have to take four days off with the holiday on Monday. And, those who wish may arrive early for the traditional Cleveland Air Show held over Labor Day Weekend.

Respectfully submitted by the Hosts & 2011 Reunion Committee: Alio, Angela, Anita, Melinda & Lisa Benedetti

Comrades — There's a Reason We Come Together

TO MY COMRADES IN ARMS — I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of my comrade's drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades... such good men. (From "These Good Men" by Michael Norman via Jack Rice, Corpsman, F-2-29)

If You Were Navy Check This Out

The USMC is not the place to check for your awards records. If you were a Corpsman or other medical personnel attached to the Corps, request verification from Navy Personnel Command, Retired Records Section (pers-31202), 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132.

Include full name, serial number or SSN copy of DD 214/15 return address.

Couple Works out Reunion

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taking the reservations ourselves, so please send your registration to the address on the new form. The hotel worked with us by lowering the rate of the rooms so we were able to pass a \$10.00 per night savings on to you. We sincerely apologize to all of you that were so prompt getting your reservation in to hotel, and then had to do it all over again. We appreciate your understanding and support.

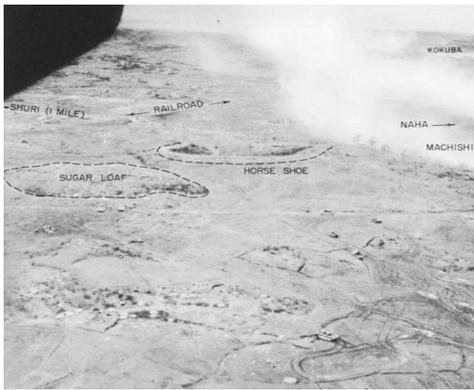
We will be providing transportation to and from the airport during the scheduled reunion time. If you arrive before the reunion begins there will be no transportation available by the reunion committee. You will have to make your own arrangements. Please don't forget to provide us with your flight information so we can have someone there to greet you.

We have a great reunion planned for you with some special features. In addition to our programs there will be a number of very good shows at the casino hotels. Cirque du Soleil has seven to offer and there are many others.

Semper Fi, Martin and Marilyn Essex

Realize Limitations

You are not supermen. (Freshly graduated recruits from Marine boot camp and all fighter pilots, especially, take note.)



THE FINAL CAMPAIGN: Marines in the Victory on Okinawa

by Colonel Joseph H. Alexander,
USMC (Ret)

Ed's Note: The colonel begins by discussing the First Marine Division's travails in forcing Wana Draw and Ridge despite extremely heavy casualties. Next he discusses the Sixth Division and its difficulties. He relies considerably upon the observational abilities of Medal of Honor winner Jim Day.

To the west, the neighboring 6th Marine Division's advance south below the Asa River collided against a trio of low hills dominating the open country leading up to Shuri Ridge. The first of these hills — steep but unassuming — became known as Sugar Loaf. To the southeast lay Half Moon Hill, to the southwest Horseshoe Hill and the village of Takamotoji. The three hills represented a singular defensive complex; in fact they were the western anchor of the Shuri Line. So sophisticated were the mutually supporting defenses of the three hills that an attack on one would prove futile unless the others were simultaneously invested. Colonel Seiko Mita and his 15th Independent Mixed Regiment defended this sector. Its mortars and antitank guns were particularly well sited on Horseshoe. The western slopes of Half Moon contained some of the most effective machine gun nests the Marines had yet encountered.

Sugar Loaf itself contained elaborate concrete-reinforced reverse-slope positions. And all approaches to the complex fell within the beaten zone of heavy artillery from Shuri Ridge, which dominated the battlefield.

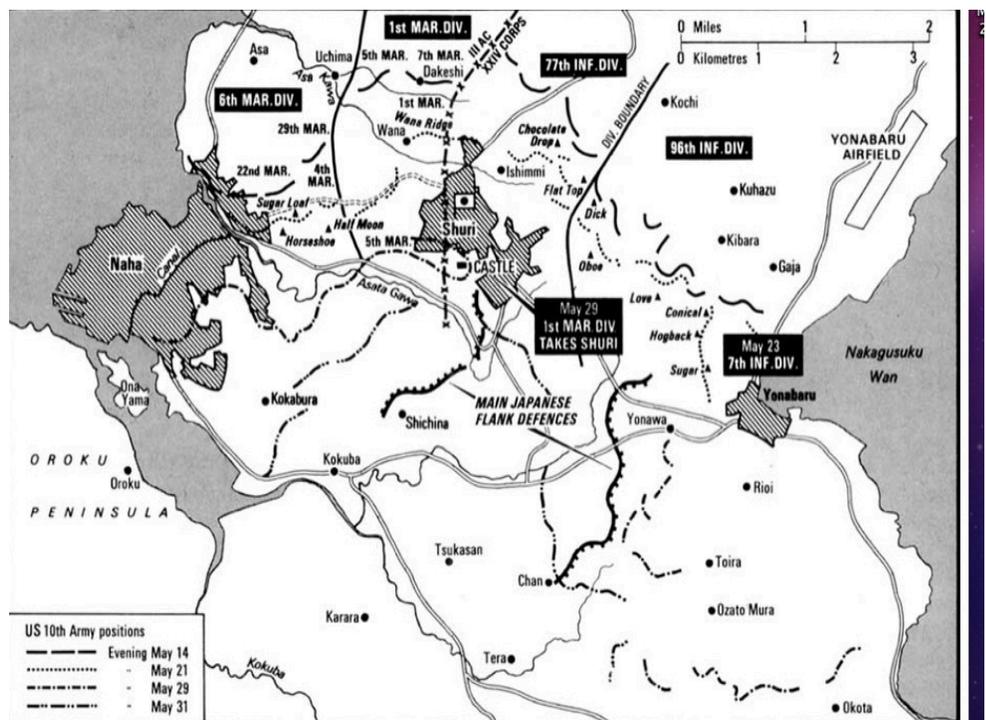
Battlefield contour maps indicate Sugar Loaf had a modest elevation of 230 feet; Half Moon, 220; Horseshoe, 190. In relative terms, Sugar Loaf, though steep, only rose about 50 feet above the northern approaches. This was no Mount Suribachi; its significance lay in the ingenuity of its defensive fortifications and the ferocity with which General Ushijima would counterattack each U.S. penetration. As a tactical objective, Sugar Loaf itself lacked the physical dimensions to accommodate anything larger than a rifle company. But eight days of fighting for the small ridge would chew up a series of very good companies from two regiments.

Of all the contestants, American or Japanese, who survived the struggle for Sugar Loaf, Corporal James L. Day, a squad leader from Weapons Company, 2/22, had indisputably the "best seat in the house" to observe the battle. In a little-known MAR aspect of this epic story, Day spent four days and three nights isolated in a shell hole on Sugar Loaf's western shoulder.

This proved to be an awesome but unenviable experience.

Corporal Day received orders on 12 May to recross the Asa River and support the assault of Company G, 2/22, against the small ridge. Day and his squad arrived too late to do much more than cover the fighting withdrawal of the remnants from the summit. The company lost half its number in the daylong assault, including its plucky commander, Captain Owen T. Stebbins, shot in both legs by a Japanese Nambu machine-gunner. Day described Stebbins as "a brave man whose tactical plan for assaulting Sugar Loaf became the pattern for successive units to follow." Concerned about the unrestricted fire from the Half Moon Hill region, Major Henry A. Courtney, Jr., battalion executive

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The Final Campaign

continued from page 10...

officer, took Corporal Day with him on the 13th on a hazardous trek to the 29th Marines to coordinate the forthcoming attacks. With the 29th then committed to protecting 2/22's left flank, Courtney assigned Day and his squad in support of Company F for the next day's assault.

Day's rifle squad consisted of seven Marines by that time. On the 14th, they joined Fox Company's assault, reached the hill, scampered up the left shoulder ("you could get to the top in 15 seconds"). Day then received orders to take his squad back around the hill to take up a defensive position on the right (western) shoulder. This took some doing. By late afternoon, Fox Company had been driven off its exposed position on the left shoulder, leaving Day with just two surviving squad-mates occupying a large shell hole on the opposite shoulder.

During the evening, unknown to Day, Major Courtney gathered 45 volunteers from George and Fox companies and led them back up the left shoulder of Sugar Loaf. In hours of desperate, close in fighting, the Japanese killed Major Courtney and half his improvised force. "We didn't know who they were," recalled Day, "because even though they were only 50 yards away, they were on the opposite side of the crest. Out of visual contact. But we knew they were Marines and we knew they were in trouble. We did our part by shooting

and grenading every [Japanese] we saw moving in their direction." Day and his two men then heard the sounds of the remnants of Courtney's force being evacuated down the hill and knew they were again alone on Sugar Loaf.

Representing in effect an advance combat outpost on the contested ridge did not particularly bother the 19-year-old corporal. Day's biggest concerns were letting other Marines know they were up there and replenishing their ammo and grenades. "Before dawn I went back down the hill. A couple of LVTs had been trying to deliver critical supplies to the folks who'd made the earlier penetration. Both had been knocked out just north of the hill. I was able to raid those disabled vehicles several times for grenades, ammo, and rations. We were fine."

On 15 May, Day and his men watched another Marine assault develop from the northeast. Again there were Marines on the eastern crest of the hill, but fully exposed to raking fire from Half Moon and mortars from Horseshoe. Day's Marines directed well-aimed rifle fire into a column of Japanese running towards Sugar Loaf from Horseshoe, "but we really needed a machine gun." Good fortune provided a .30-caliber, air-cooled M1919A4 in the wake of the retreating Marines. But as soon as Day's gunner placed the weapon in action on the forward parapet of the hole, a Japanese 47mm crew opened up from Horseshoe, killing the Marine and destroying the gun. Now there were just two riflemen on the ridge top.

Tragedy also struck the 1st Battalion, 22d Marines, on the 15th. A withering

Japanese bombardment caught the command group assembled at their observation post planning the next assault...

The night of 15-16 seemed endless to Corporal Day and his surviving squad mate, Private First Class Dale Bertoli. "The Japs knew we were the only ones up there and gave us their full attention. We had plenty of grenades and ammo, but it got pretty hairy." The south slope of Sugar Loaf is the steepest. The Japanese would emerge from their reverse slope caves, but they faced a difficult ascent to get to the Marines on the military crest. Hearing them scramble up the rocks alerted Day and Bertoli to greet them with grenades. Those of the enemy who survived this mini-barrage would find themselves backlit by flares as they struggled over the crest. Day and Bertoli, back to back against the dark side of the crater, shot them readily.

"The 16th was the day I thought Sugar Loaf would fall," said Day. He and Bertoli hunkered down as Marine tanks, artillery, and mortars pounded the ridge and its supporting bastions. "We looked back and saw the whole battle shaping up, a great panorama." This was the turn of 1/3/22, well supported by tanks. But Day could also see that the Japanese fires had not slackened at all. "The real danger at Sugar Loaf was not the hill itself where we were, but in a 300-yard by 300-yard killing zone which the Marines had to cross to approach the hill from our lines to the north . . . It was a dismal sight, men falling, and tanks getting knocked out . . . The division probably suffered 600 casualties that day. In retrospect, the 6th Marine Division considered 16 May to be "the bitterest day of the

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Greenery on Sugar Loaf



On Top of Sugar Loaf



Tower on Sugar Loaf

The Final Campaign

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entire campaign.”

By then the 22d Marines was down to 40 percent effectiveness and General Shepherd relieved it with the 29th Marines. He also decided to install fresh leadership in the regiment, replacing the commander and executive officer with the team of Colonel Harold C. Roberts and Lieutenant Colonel August C. Larson.

The weather cleared enough during the late afternoon of the 16th to enable Day and Bertoli to see well past Horseshoe Hill, “all the way to the Asato River.” The view was not encouraging. Steady columns of Japanese reinforcements streamed northward, through Takamotoji village, toward the contested battlefield. “We kept firing on them from 500 yards away,” still maintaining the small but persistent thorn in the flesh of the Japanese defenses. Their rifle fire attracted considerable attention from prowling squads of Japanese raiders that night. “They came at us from 2130 on,” recalled Day, “and all we could do was keep tossing grenades and firing our M-1s.” Concerned Marines north of Sugar Loaf, hearing the nocturnal ruckus, tried to assist with mortar fire. “This helped, but it came a little too close.” Both Day and Bertoli were wounded by Japanese shrapnel and burned by “friendly” white phosphorous.

Early on the 17th a runner from the 29th Marines scrambled up to the shell-pocked crater with orders for the two Marines to “get the hell out.” A massive bombardment by air, naval gunfire, and artillery would soon saturate the ridge in preparation of a fresh assault. Day and Bertoli readily complied. Exhausted, reeking, and partially deafened, they stumbled back to safety and an intense series of debriefings by staff officers. Meanwhile, a thundering bombardment crashed down on the three hills.

The 17th of May marked the fifth day of the battle for Sugar Loaf. Now it was the turn of Easy Company, 2/29, to assault the complex of defenses. No unit displayed greater valor, yet Easy Company’s four separate assaults fared little better than their many predecessors. At midpoint of these desperate assaults, the 29th Marines reported to division, “E Co. moved to top of ridge and had 30 men south of Sugar Loaf; sustained two close-in charges; killed a hell of a lot of Nips; moved back to base to reform and are going again; will take it.” But Sugar Loaf would not fall this day. At dusk, after prevailing in one more melee of bayonets, flashing knives, and bare hands against a particularly vicious counterattack, the company had to withdraw. It had lost 160 men.



The difficult — and shell-pocked terrain of Okinawa is seen here in a view from the crest of Sugar Loaf toward Crescent Hill and southeast beyond the Kokuba River. This photograph also illustrates the extent to which Sugar Loaf Hill dominated the Asato corridor running from Naha to Shuri and demonstrates why the Japanese defended the area so tenaciously. USMC Photo

The 18th of May marked the beginning of seemingly endless rains. Into the start of this soupy mess attacked Dog Company, 2/29, this time supported by more tanks, which braved the minefields on both shoulders of Sugar Loaf to penetrate the no-man’s land just to the south. When the Japanese poured out of their reverse-slope holes for yet another counterattack, the waiting tanks surprised and riddled them. Dog Company earned the distinction

of becoming the first rifle company to hold Sugar Loaf overnight. The Marines would not relinquish that costly ground.

But now the 29th Marines were pretty much shot up, and still Half Moon, Horseshoe, and Shuri remained to be assaulted. General Geiger adjusted the tactical boundaries slightly westward to allow the 1st Marine Division a shot at the eastern spur of Horseshoe, and he also released the 4th Marines from Corps reserve. General Shepherd deployed the fresh regiment into the battle on the 19th. The battle still raged. The 4th Marines sustained 70 casualties just in conducting the relief of lines with the 29th Marines. But with Sugar Loaf now in friendly hands, the momentum of the fight began to change. On 20 May, Lieutenant Colonel Reynolds H. Hayden’s 1/4 and Lieutenant Colonel Bruno A. Hochmuth’s 3/4 made impressive gains on either flank. By day’s end, 2/4 held much of Half Moon, while 3/4 had seized a good portion of Horseshoe. As Corporal Day had warned, most Japanese reinforcements funneled into the fight from the southwest, so 3/4 prepared for nocturnal visitors at Horseshoe. These arrived in massive numbers, up to 700 Japanese soldiers and sailors, and surged against 3/4 much of the night. Hochmuth had a wealth of supporting arms: six artillery battalions in direct support at the onset of the attack, and up to 15 battalions at the height of the fighting. Throughout the crisis on Horseshoe, Hochmuth maintained a direct radio link with Lieutenant Colonel Bruce T. Hemphill, commanding 4/15, one of the support artillery firing battalions. This close exchange between commanders reduced the number of short rounds which might have otherwise decimated the defenders and allowed the 15th Marines to provide uncommonly accurate fire on the Japanese. The rain of shells blew great holes in the ranks of every Japanese advance; Marine riflemen

continued on page 13...

The Final Campaign

continued from page 12...

met those who survived at bayonet point. The counter attackers died to the man...

...The 6th Division slipped westward. Colonel Shapley's 4th Marines crossed the Asa River, now chest-high from the heavy rainfall, on 23 May. The III Amphibious Corps stood poised on the outskirts of Okinawa's capital city.

There's More to Do in Las Vegas

Than You Can Ever Get Done

Prepared by Robin Essex Starr

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Nathan Burton's Comedy Magic - 702.932.1818

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New York/New York Hotel and Casino

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Bite - (800) 998-6937

Treasure Island Hotel and Casino

Mystere - (702) 796-9999

The Sirens of TI - (702) 796-9999

Tropicana Hotel and Casino

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Phantom of the Opera - (702) 414-1000

Wynn Las Vegas

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LD's Plan Reunion

Help as Always;

Shadows Needed

Once again it's that time of year where we start to think about the upcoming reunion where we are looking forward to new acquaintances that we met at the last reunion or are looking forward to seeing and enjoying the company of the many friends we have made over the years.

Hi everyone. Just a note from the Lineal Descendants. We will be there to help in every instance at this year's reunion. Whether it is in the hospitality room or at the registration tables.

On another note Marty Essex has asked me again for volunteers to shadow the officers to keep the Sixth Marine Division perpetuated. On my own personal note. We as Lineal Descendants should feel honored that the Division would want us to carry on as they have over the years. We should be very proud of what our fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles etc had done during WW11. We should carry on as they have done. I would appreciate all of your help in this matter.

Am looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Semper Fi, Connie Housewart

May 25, 26

US Navy ships at Okinawa hit by kamikazes:

Destoryer Stormes... 21 kia, 6 wia, repairs completed after the war.

Destroyer O'neill...0 kia...6 wia, repaired after the war.

Destroyer Butler...0 kia..15 wia, scrapped due to damages.

Mine Sweeper Spectacle...29 kia...6 wia, scrapped.

Destroyer Barry..0 kia...30 wia, ship scuttled

Destroyer Bates..21 kia..35 wia, ship scuttled

Destroyer Roper..0 kia ..10 wia, scrapped.

LSM-135...11 kia...10 wia, ship scuttled

Transport William A. Allison...8 kia..2 wia, ship continued in action.

Mail Call

Dear Sirs and Ladies: I got your email addresses from the Raider Patch and Striking Sixth newsletters. I'm writing on behalf of my father, Junior Herold Montgomery who was a member of the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines, 6th Marine Division in the field and in the 3rd Raider Battalion, I Company in the South Pacific during WWII from Jan, 1943 until Dec, 1945. Toward the end of the war, Dad was told that he was being recommended for the Bronze Star because he dragged a comrade to safety under enemy machine gun fire. We have a copy of the Muster Roll, which states that he was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic actions against the enemy from Apr 1 to June 21, 1945.

We have gone through our state representatives since 2005 trying to get this award for my Dad. They have gone through the National Personnel Records Center. To date we have received two different reasons for my Dad not getting the Bronze Star. The Marine Corps Headquarter at St. Louis says that he was recommended for it, but the Division Commander decided that my Dad's "heroic actions did not warrant the award of a Bronze Star." Another response from the Department of the Navy in Washington states that there is no evidence that Dad was recommended for the Bronze Star, but that he was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for actions during Nov 1, 1943 to June 21, 1945 (different dates from the original Muster Roll) and that regulations state that only one award can be given for the same act, achievement or period of service. I'm writing to several of you for advice in pursuing this for my Dad. Do you know of anything else that we can do? Are we wasting our time? Any help or advice would be greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Deborah Montgomery Lee, **Debbie and Mike Lee** <teen11@comcast.net

★

Singleton: I would like to know if there are any former members of L-3-22 (later the 4th Marines) from the fall of '44 to the spring of '46. I would like to hear from them. I also would like to find out where Marines are buried at Okinawa Cemetery and later returned to the States for reburial were reburied. Thank you. Karl W. Brothers, PO Box 66, Bath, OH 44210.

★

Dear Veteran: I am a historian researching three areas of interest regarding veterans. First, I would like to correspond with any who remember WWII at war or on the home front. I also need to talk to any veteran with an animal story to tell. Finally, I am interested in any psychic or unexplained happenings. My name is Robert Clark and I can be reached at PO Box 685, Collinsville, IL 62234

★

Subj: Sgt. Robert Arnold - Striking Sixth
Dear Mrs. Dornan: Thank you so much for your note. Am trying to get organized w/re to bills to be paid so when I've posted all I've done and other data will get a \$10 to your address asap. Mr. Arnold enjoyed the reunion in San Diego a few years back. His guest was our daughter Catherine who was so impressed w/how well she was treated by everyone. Bob told me he got up from the table for a few minutes came back and there was no place for him to sit; everyone had gathered around Catherine. Made him proud. BTW, brother Russell had been a Marine, too. He died of cancer in 2000. If possible I would like to attend the reunion in October if not too late to register. And maybe some of our children/grands will be able to attend. Is there a format for the memorial service. Since 9/11 I do

not travel by plane; resent having to prove my citizenship when there are those employed by "security" who are not. So, I drive. Takes longer and is a bit more tiresome, however...see more of our beautiful country. Mrs. Robert Arnold, carej@sbcglobal.net

★

My name is Duane Hare and I recently stumbled across the website for the 6th Marine Division. More specifically, I looked at an article for the Spring 10 Newsletter. In that article were two pictures titled "Taking a break." One of the men mentioned in the caption is Willie Hare. My grandfather was Clarence William Hare. I don't know much about his time in the Marines as he never talked about it. All we have is an old book about the history of the 6th Marine Division that my grandmother just sent me. Anyway, just coming across the name and picture has me wanting to find everything I can about this part of my grandfather's life. Anything you may have or come across, please let me know.

Thank you, Duane Hare, E-Mail da_hares@charter.net'

★

Dear Joe, Hope this finds you well. I have been under the weather lately, but I feel o.k. now. I wanted to get this off to the women's auxiliary and you. So here goes. We will be meeting again in Las Vegas. I need to thank Marilyn and Marty Essex plus their wonderful family for all they have done to make this reunion possible for all of us. The new Chaplin, Harry McNight, has asked to address the Auxiliary at the meeting. I gave my whole-hearted consent to him. Marilyn has planned entertainment for us after a very short meeting. New officers are to be voted in. I will say its about time to relinquish the position as your President. Till we meet in Las Vegas. God Bless and keep you in His care. Semper Fi, Marion Bangert

Mail Call

Hello Joe: Until recently I never had a chance to know what a great man my father, Private Joseph Lee Hooker, was. He was fighting in the 4th battalion 15th Marines and then was combined and part of the 6th div. My father was an singer, told jokes, and according to the Marine Records requested recently, before he joined the Marines he was part of the Russell Brothers Circus! He grew up in St. Augustine, FL. My father was 17 at the time of joining but said he was 18. My father died of a rare type of leukemia, and was the eighth reported case in the world. He was judge of Markus Hook, PA. He owned a gas station there also. If anyone knew him, has pictures that might be him, or anything like that contact us at Bhylak@gmail.com Telephone 610 869 2864.

★



Frank Dickinson — on the 'Canal. Frank is on the left.

Flo: I have mailed my membership application for a Life Membership (Associate) for the 6th Marine Division Association. Frank M. Dickinson, my grandfather, was a Private in the Engineers for the 6th Marine Division. He was from East St. Louis, Illinois. He spent six months on Guadalcanal as the

Division was being formed. I ask for help in finding out his correct company and battalion. Frank was in the first wave of the landings on Easter Sunday, 1945. He was present at the battle of Sugar Loaf Hill. Even in his early 80s, he was still emotionally affected by the memories of the Marines moving forward to the battle and witnessing the few who returned from the attack. Due to the heavy casualties from Sugar Loaf Hill, Frank was assigned to the front lines and was part of the operations conducted by the division after Naha (Oroku Peninsula?). He remembered pulling Japanese civilians from a large cave. The cave is shown on page 170 of the History of the 6th Marine Division. He is in the image, in the middle with helmet and a hand holding a small Okinawan civilian. He remembered the Marine interpreter trying to get the Japanese doctors and nurses to leave the cave. After hours of trying to get them to escape to no avail, the Marines had to seal the cave. He remembered the singing of the Japanese inside the cave through the night. No sound came from the cave in the morning. After the end of the war, Frank Dickinson went to Tsingtao, China for the Japanese surrender. Frank Dickinson passed away in November, 2002. He is survived by his son Frank M. Dickinson, Jr. His daughter (my mother) passed away in November, 2001. He was proud to be a member of the 6th Marine Division. His son was very proud of the Marine Honor Guard at the funeral. I would also like to make special mention of Merce T. Avina, Private, 6th Marine Division. He was wounded on Okinawa. I purchased, through an auction, Private Avina's 6th Marine Division dress uniform. May he be remembered also. Tom Gonzalez

★

From: John.Hutchins@faa.gov

Dear Mr. Pierce, My mother, Linda Hutchins, received the marker you sent her and the pictures also. She is in Inverness FL as you know and I am in Atlanta GA. I got a voice mail on my cell phone this morning from her and I wish you could have heard her voice as she told me how proud she is of what you sent her. She said it was just beautiful and she wanted to make sure that I thanked the person who sent her this marker. She also marveled at the pictures and I am going to have one framed for her. Thank you so much Mr. Pierce. You made my mother very happy with this 6th Marine Division emblem and the pictures. She said in her message that she was going to see how to display it on my Dad's grave. Again, my Mother, I and my entire family thank you from our hearts for the uncommon valor that you all displayed in defending our great country. Thank you for the marker, the pictures and most of all, thank you for remembering all of America's greatest generation's Marines and Corpsmen as they pass from this world to the next. Most Gratefully and Sincerely, John R. Hutchins, NASTEP Center A, 200 Tradeport Blvd., Suite 201, Atlanta, GA 30354, office:404-968-7976 Cell:678-859-0135

Mail Call

Sir, I am the niece of Harold E. Richardson, who was in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. My father was 15 when his only brother, Harold, was killed in WWII. The family grew up in the Pawnee City, Nebraska area and lived there most of their lives. Since my father has passed away, I am searching for any information that I can find regarding my Uncle Harold. Can you give me some ideas of where to search? Are there any members of his Company I, 3rd Battalion, 29th Marines, 6th Division still alive? I remember my father talking about him when I was a younger child and I am not sure that my father ever got over his death, as his name came up often. Any help that you can give me will be greatly appreciated by all of our family. Thank you so much for your time. Jean L. Kwiatkowski, 71913 607 Avenue, Virginia, NE 68458 <jean.kwiatkowski@gmail.com>

★

Mr. Pierce, I had been in touch with you some time ago about finding some information about my grandfather, Martin Kelly who served in the 6th. I got the poster you sent me framed, and it is now hanging in my living room, (a friend of mine was jealous when he saw it.) I was able to get his military records from the National Archives and was pretty amazed and happy with what they sent. The real reason I am writing this email is to let you know that my younger brother and I, recently visited the 6th Marine Division Memorial at Quantico National Cemetery. I had found out about it through the 6th's website, so I decided after our visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps to surprise him with the memorial, which he had no idea about. I must say the memorial is

amazing and is in a beautiful spot. It truly is a great lasting memorial to a group of amazing men. Kieran Kelly kierankelly1981@yahoo.com

★

Dear Mr. Pierce, My name is Ricky Mast and I am the grandson of R.K. Mast of the 6th Marine Division. In the Spring 2010 issue of Striking Sixth he is listed as a new member on page 21 and his telephone number is listed incorrectly. It is listed as (549) 348-5407, but it is actually supposed to be (540) 348-5407. I am contacting you on his behalf as he does not have an e-mail account nor does he use a computer. We would greatly appreciate if you could correct this information in the next issue. Thank you so much for your time. Sincerely, Ricky Mast <mastrk222@yahoo.com>

★

Does anyone know JOHN (JACK) A. SULZMANN? He was a forward observer in WWII and was in the 6th Marine Division. He had a presidential unit citation and also a citation signed by Admiral Nimitz. He passed away in 1989 and I am trying to get additional information from anyone who knew him. He did attend previous reunions. He grew up in Willoughby, Ohio. Paul Sulzman <sulzma@valley1.com>

★

Ms. Dornan, please enter me as a member once again for the 2010 year as I see that I am behind. Please also send me the newsletter. Although I recognize no names in it and it hurts me to think of oh so many of those kids we left on Okinawa. And the world is still such a mess!!

Faris M. Tuohy, 7372 Kirklington St, Lewis Center, OH 43035

★

Edward Lee Roy Wainwright, 6th Marine Division, 4th Regiment, G Company, passed away December 9, 2009. He was a well loved Christian man, very kind and loved God, family and country. He leaves his wife of 60 years, 1 daughter/son-in-law, 2 granddaughters/2 grandson-in-law, 1 great grandson. He was born August 21, 1926 and was 83 years old. He is buried at National Cemetery in Biloxi, MS. Our family will still be supporting Striking Sixth because our loved one loved this Association. Thank you, From the Loving wife of Edward Lee Roy Wainwright (Frances Wainwright), Married June 26, 1949 - 13500 Highway 613, Moss Point, MS 39562

★

Pvt. William
Niader, KIA June 12,
1945
7th Reg., H&S Co
Kunishi Ridge,
Okinawa

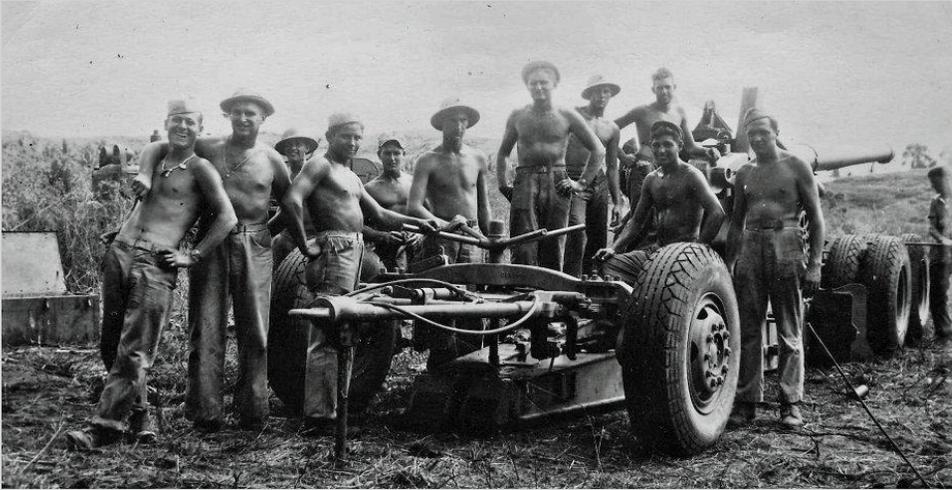
WERE YOU THERE?

Were you his friend, did you see him there? Did you talk to him, wipe his fevered brow, wet his lips, or comfort him somehow? Was there someone there to ease his pain? Did you hold his hand or say a prayer - Did my son cry out, or call my name? Did you stay with him until the end? My heart keeps searching for this someone, who might have been to him a friend.

Frank Niader

Mail Call

Robert Miller — Does Anyone Remember This Artilleryman?



From left, Husky, Miller, Lomg, Cota, Houser, Dale, Marquette, Bowers, Spencer, Maiola, Million and Allen.

Hi Joe, I got your email address from Bill Pierce, Sixth USMC DIV, after visiting the Sixth's Website. My late uncle, Sgt. Robert Miller, USMC, left a "war diary" I'm researching and it seems Uncle Bob was most likely in the 15th Marine Artillery Regiment, Sixth Marine Division during the Okinawa invasion (Bob was called "Pappy" as he was 32 years old when he enlisted in

Syracuse, NY in January 1943.). He also had stored some old photos, one copy of which I am sending, also the names of the Marines on the back (from left to right). I was wondering if you are able to place this message and photo in the newsletter? It would be wonderful if any vet, or family member recalls my uncle. Thanks so much. Ralph Miller
ramille@bellsouth.net

For Jay and Kelly Jamieson, by Nancy Boutin: Dear Mr. Singleton, please print this letter and attached photos in your next "Striking Sixth" newsletter's Mail Call: The surviving family of Cpl. John **Harold** Williams is trying to find any fellow Marines who may have known him and could share any memories about him including the circumstances regarding his death. John went by his middle name Harold. He was from Portland Oregon. His serial # was 338756. He served as a carpenter and rifleman in Company B, 1st Bn, 4th Marines, 6Mar Div. He was K.I.A. on June 11, 1945, by GSW (perhaps a sniper) somewhere between Hill 58 and the town of Tomigusuki , south of Naha on the Oroku Pennisula. He was temporarily laid to rest in Okinawa and then his final resting place is at the Punchbowl on Oahu. His closest buddy was Cpl. Jimmy Garver, now deceased. Cpl Garver was probably not in the same Marine Company as Harold. If anyone is out there that can relay information about our Uncle Harold including his final days, our family would be most appreciative. Thank you and Semper fidelis, Nancy Boutin, MD (niece) nancyboutin@comcast.net 16338 White Oaks Drive, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035, 503.539.7986 Photos are attached. #1 is Harold (L) and friend Jimmy Garver (R) #2 is Cpl. Jimmy Garver at graveside in Okinawa.



Jimmy at Harold's Grave



Jimmy and Harold



Historian's Corner by Laura Lacey

Service to Our Troops

The well-being of our troops has always been an American concern, and numerous organizations have supported our military in war time. During the American Revolution and Civil War such groups tended to be orchestrated locally and run by women. Over time the scope and make-up of such organizations changed, but the mission never did; they are there to look after the morale and welfare of our young men, and now, women in uniform.

One such organization is the Unites Service Organization or USO. Since the founding of the USO it has worked to make the lives of military members easier when they are deployed or traveling far from home. The USO was founded in 1941 and expanded to meet the growing needs of the military during World War II. The organization was given an honorable discharge by Harry Truman in 1947, but like the troops, was reactivated in 1951. In the early 1960's it was decided that there was a need for a peace- time organization to serve American troops.

The USO has been a "home away from home" and as their website states, "the USO represents the best in the American people—compassion, magnanimity, selflessness, service." (<http://www.uso.org>) The USO has provided servicemen many bits of respite over the years; donut dollies in USO centers and concerts in faraway venues.

The USO currently offers many different services to the military, from internet accessibility, tours, (inexpensive opportunities to tour and explore cultures and places) and places to "hang out" in the likes of Okinawa or Germany. They also provide support to servicemen and women and their families in airports throughout the world. Often they are staffed with volunteers who remember a kind word or a cup of coffee when they were in uniform. Today the USO delivers its programs and services to 1.4 million active duty service members and

1.2 million National Guard and Reserves as well as their families at more than 130 centers located worldwide. (<http://www.uso.org/whatwedo/usoservices/>) In February 2010 the USO will celebrate its sixty-ninth anniversary..."Thanks for the memories"!

Since 9-11 many other organizations have been started to support our troops in numerous ways. One such group is the Freeport Flag Ladies. As noted by Bridget Nelson of the *Reader's Digest*, they are the "Best of America". These women from Maine, drive, in some cases, two and three hours to the Bangor International Airport (the last American stop for many service men heading to the Middle East) and meet the young men and women deploying; they stay with them until they depart for overseas. They take countless pictures and then make them available online so the military member's families can see them as they depart the United States. When my son left for Iraq last March, these women were there. To know that the last civilians that my son met before going into harms way were true Americans was a real comfort to me and I know it is to countless wives and parents around the nation. You can see the good work they are doing by going to www.freeportflagladies.com. If you would like to find an organization that assists our servicemen one of the most

comprehensive list is on the website www.troopsupport.com.

Historian Laura Lacey Keeping Division Alive

All of my research, pictures, interviews and anything any one has given me is housed at the Grey Research Center (the Marine Corps Archives at Quantico). This is a part of Marine Corps University, therefore any Marine going to school has access of that information for research.

Within the collection are individual files on the guys I interviewed, knew or knew their families. There is all the info on reunions and anything that Jack gave me from when he was the historian. There is a separate section on the Quantico Memorial at the cemetery. I think there is also a copy of every Association newsletter. I had just taken him a bunch of new stuff that different individuals had sent me.

My thought has always been, if I had to write a research paper or thesis (like at the War College at Quantico) and I had access to a very complete collection, would I not pick that? Therefore, perhaps over time, it will be just another way to keep the 6th alive.... By the way several of the new authors writing on the topic have accessed the collection. **Ed's Note: This was in answer to a query based on some recent official attention given her work. "What is happening to your research?"**



29th Marines Corpsmen — This photo apparently was taken in China.

Marinestan

By Victor Davis Hanson

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Reprinted From National Review
OnLine

HBO's 10-part series on the Pacific campaign of World War II just ended. That story of island-hopping was mostly about how the old breed of U.S. Marines fought diehard Japanese infantrymen face-to-face in places like Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Peleliu, Iwo Jima, Guam and Okinawa.

We still argue whether it was smart to storm those entrenched Japanese positions or whether all those islands were strategically necessary. But no one can question the Marine Corps' record of having defeating the most savage infantrymen of the age, thereby shattering the myth of Japanese military invincibility.

Since WWII, the Marines have turned up almost anywhere that America finds itself in a jam against supposedly unconquerable enemies -- in bloody places like Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir in Korea, at Hue and Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War, at the two bloody sieges of Fallujah in Iraq, and now in Afghanistan.

Over the last two centuries, two truths have emerged about the Marine Corps. One, they defeat the toughest of America's adversaries under the worst of conditions. And two, periodically their way of doing things -- and their eccentric culture of self-regard -- so bothers our military planners that some higher-ups try either to curb their independence or end the Corps altogether.

After the Pacific fighting, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson wanted to disband the Marines Corps. What good were amphibious landings in the nuclear age? Johnson asked. His boss, President Harry Truman, agreed and didn't like the cocky Marines either.

Then came Korea -- and suddenly the Pentagon wanted more Marines. The fighting against hard-core North Korean and Communist Chinese veterans was as nasty as anything seen in three millennia of organized warfare. The antiquated idea of landing on beaches proved once again a smart way of outflanking the enemy.

The Marines survived Korea, Louis Johnson and Harry Truman -- and continued to carve out their own logistics, air-support and tactical doctrine. Marine self-sufficiency was due to lingering distrust of

Summer 2010

the other services dating back to the lack of air and naval support in World War II, and to Marine paranoia that the other services liked their combative spirit but not their independence.

We are once again seeing one of those periodic re-examinations of the Corps. This time, the old stereotype of the lone-ranger, gung-ho Marines supposedly doesn't fit too well with fighting sophisticated urban counterinsurgency under an integrated, international command.

After all, America is fighting wars in which we rarely hear of the number of enemy dead, but a great deal about the need to rebuild cities and infrastructure. In Afghanistan, there have been rumors about a new medal for "courageous restraint" that would honor soldiers who hesitated pulling the trigger against the enemy out of concern about harming civilians.

The Marines are now starting to redeploy to Afghanistan from Iraq and are building a huge base in Delaram. They plan to win over southern Afghanistan's remote, wild Nimruz province that heretofore has been mostly a no-go Taliban stronghold. While NATO forces concentrate on Afghanistan's major cities, the Marines think they can win over local populations their way, take on and defeat the Taliban, and bring all of Nimruz back from the brink -- with their trademark warning "no better friend, no worse enemy."

So once again, the Marines are convinced that their own ingenuity and audacity can succeed where others have failed. And once again, not everyone agrees.

The U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, retired three-star Army General Karl W. Eikenberry, reportedly made a comment about there being 41 nations serving in Afghanistan -- and a 42nd composed of the Marine Corps. One unnamed Obama administration official was quoted by the Washington Post as saying, "We have better operational coherence with virtually all of our NATO allies than we have with the U.S. Marine Corps."

Some officials call the new Marine enclave in Nimruz Province "Marinestan" -- as if, out of a Kipling or Conrad novel, the Marines have gone rogue to set up their own independent province of operations. Yet once again, it would be wise not to tamper with the independence of the Marine Corps., given that its methods of training, deployment, fighting, counterinsurgency and conventional warfare usually pay off in the end.

The technological and political face of war is always changing. But its essence -- organized violence to achieve political ends -- is no different from antiquity. Conflict will remain the same as long as human nature does as well.

The Marines have always best understood that. And from the Marines' initial mission against the Barbary Pirates to the battles in Fallujah, Americans have wanted a maverick Marine Corps -- a sort of insurance policy that kept them safe, just in case.

Next Marine Commandant

Must Fix Things With Navy

By Loren B. Thompson, Ph.D.

Initial reaction to the selection of aviator James Amos as the next Commandant of the Marine Corps has been almost entirely positive. There is also much support for the apparent decision to make the charismatic Joe Dunford Assistant Commandant. Some insiders suspect that Amos will serve for two years and then the younger Dunford will move to the top job.

Policymakers are openly questioning the relevance of amphibious warfare to future strategy, and trying to water down the requirements of "forcible entry" -- capabilities that are at the core of the modern Marine identity. The cover story for these changes is that Iraq and Afghanistan have taught the joint force lessons that the Marine Corps must assimilate, but the real story is that the Navy doesn't want to spend all the money needed to field a robust expeditionary warfare capability. Among other things, the Corps wants about 38 amphibious warships, more robust surface fire support, greatly enhanced vertical agility in its air wings and a more versatile landing vehicle.

The Navy doesn't want to buy hardly any of this. It's handy to have the Marines around when politicians question the relevance of the Fleet to future warfare, but that doesn't mean that admirals are willing to give up a couple aircraft carriers to keep them happy. So General Amos will have his hands full trying to defend Marine Corps against a Navy Department leadership that would prefer to spend increasingly scarce budget dollars in other ways. <<http://www.lexingtoninstitute.org/main.asp?page=1241>>

VEGAS Strip Top Attractions

<p>Bally's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee! All Access Backstage Walking Tour <p>Bellagio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fountains • Gallery of Fine Art • Conservatory • The Art of Richard MacDonald Presented by Cirque du Soleil • The Tuscany Kitchen <p>Caesars Palace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fountain shows and aquarium <p>Circus Circus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adventuredome • 4-D Special FX Theater • Canyon Blaster • Chaos • Disk 'O • Inverter • Motion Rides • Rim Runner • Sling Shot • World's Largest Permanent Circus <p>CityCenter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CityCenter Fine Art Collection • The Gallery at CityCenter • Water features at Aria <p>Excalibur</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion Rides 	<p>Fashion Show Mall</p> <p>Fashion shows</p> <p>Flamingo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Habitat <p>Imperial Palace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Auto Collections • The King's Ransom Museum <p>Luxor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodies...The Exhibition • Titanic: The Artifact Exhibit <p>Mandalay Bay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shark Reef • The Lion King Exhibit <p>MGM Grand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBS Television City Research Center • CSI: The Experience • Lion Habitat <p>Mirage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat • Volcano <p>New York - New York</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roller Coaster at New York-New York <p>Paris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eiffel Tower <p>Rio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show in the Sky 	<p>Sahara</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Las Vegas Cyber Speedway • Speed - The Ride <p>Showcase Mall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GameWorks • M&M's World <p>Silverton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Aquarium <p>Stratosphere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Shot • Insanity-The Ride • SkyJump Las Vegas • Stratosphere Tower • X Scream <p>Tropicana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Las Vegas Mob Experience (opening Dec. 2010) <p>Treasure Island</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirens of TI <p>Venetian</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gondola • Madame Tussauds Las Vegas • Streetmosphere at the Grand Canal Shoppes <p>Wynn Las Vegas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penske Wynn Ferrari Maserati <p>Also on the Strip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FastKart Speedway • Vegas Indoor Skydiving • Welcome to Las Vegas sign
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Attractions Off the VEGAS STRIP

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic Testing Museum • Dinner in the Sky • Ethel M Chocolate Factory • Fiesta Ice Arena • Fremont Street Experience • Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix • Las Vegas Natural History Museum • Las Vegas SportsPark • Liberace Museum • Lied Children's Museum • Marjorie Barrick Museum • Neon Museum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nevada State Museum • Old Mormon Fort • Pinball Hall of Fame • Pole Position Raceway • Planetarium and Observatory • Race car rides • Red Rock Climbing Center • Sky Zone • Springs Preserve • Sunset Stampede • The Gun Store • Zero G • Zoological - Botanical Park 	<p>Membership Status as of 7/13/2010</p> <table> <tr> <td>Regular Members</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,565</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Associate Members</td> <td style="text-align: right;">662</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lineal Descendants</td> <td style="text-align: right;">161</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Honorary Members</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>8</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2,396</td> </tr> </table>	Regular Members	1,565	Associate Members	662	Lineal Descendants	161	Honorary Members	<u>8</u>	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	2,396
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Saucy Jack! Just Sitting in the Dirt And Dodging Scorpions by the Hindu Kush

From Afghanistan — From the Sand Pit — it's freezing here. I'm sitting on hard, cold dirt between rocks and shrubs at the base of the Hindu Kush Mountains, along the Dar 'yoi Pomir River, watching a hole that leads to a tunnel that leads to a cave. Stake out, my friend, and no pizza delivery for thousands of miles.

I also glance at the area around my a__ every ten to fifteen seconds to avoid another scorpion sting. I've actually given up battling the chiggers and sand fleas, but the scorpions give a jolt like a cattle prod. Hurts like a b____. The antidote tastes like transmission fluid, but God bless the Marine Corps for the five vials of it in my pack.

The one truth the Taliban cannot escape is that, believe it or not, they are human beings, which means they have to eat food and drink water. That requires couriers and that's where an old bounty hunter like me comes in handy. I track the couriers, locate the tunnel entrances and storage facilities, type the info into the handheld, shoot the coordinates up to the satellite link that tells the air commanders where to drop the hardware. We bash some heads for a while, then I track and record the new movement.

It's all about intelligence. We haven't even brought in the snipers yet. These scurrying rats have no idea what they're in for. We are but days away from cutting off supply lines and allowing the eradication to begin.

OK, enough. Snuffle will be up soon, so I have to get back to my hole. Covering my tracks in the snow takes a lot of practice, but I'm good at it.

Saucy Jack, Recon Marine in Afghanistan, Semper Fi.

Summer 2010

Navajo Nation mourns Passing of Code Talker

By: The Associated Press

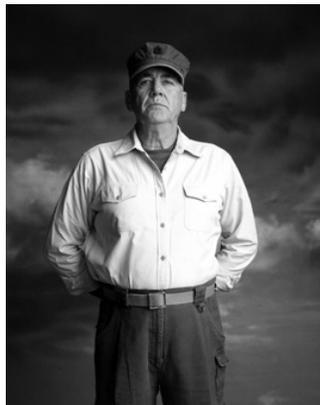
WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. (AP) - Lemuel Bahe Yazzie, a member of the Navajo Code Talkers who confounded the Japanese during World War II by transmitting messages in their native language, has died. He was 91.

Tribal President Joe Shirley Jr. ordered flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff from June 3-6 in honor of Yazzie. Yazzie joined the Marines in September, 1944. He served with the 4th and 6th Marine divisions as a radio telephone operator until March, 1946. He returned to northern Arizona and was a machinist, rancher and ordained minister.

Yazzie is survived by six children, 26 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren along with his two brothers and three sisters.



Celebrating Your Victory — It's VJ Day in New York City.



R. Lee Ermey — died recently. A former Marine, he played that role to the hilt in such movies as Full Metal Jacket and Siege of Fire Base Gloria. As an actor and personality, Ermey was the very real personification of a Marine gunnery sergeant to the public.

Rifle Companies Truly Points of the Spear.

By Ken ILong (rip) - a member of this valiant company.

In a photo I have of I Company men, 3rd Bn, 29th Marine Regiment, 46 are shown. Of the 46 shown only 5 made it through the battle without being wia or kia, or transferred.

There were 57 marines killed during the battle. Some shown as wia could have eventually died and of these we do not have any records. .

The company strength on April 1, 1945, the landing day, was 252 officers and men. During the 90 day battle the company received 218 replacements. Some Marines were wounded twice, and one of those is shown as being kia later in the battle. It is difficult to say who suffered from battle fatigue, but the company roster lists many men sick.

Of the 252 officers and men, only 53 made it through the battle who were not kia/wia. Twenty three received decorations which included the Navy Cross, Silver Stars, Bronze Stars and letters of commendation.

The statistics shown above can be applied to almost all of the companies of the Sixth Marine Division during the Battle of Okinawa.

A Semper Fidelis to all of these fine men."

Ed's Note: Received from Bill Pierce.

R. J. "Jack" Walker Sr. Dies

BURLINGTON - Marine Robert Jackson "Jack" Walker Sr., 85, of Burlington, and on guard at the gates, is being serenaded by angels to his place beside the Heavenly Throne. Mr. Walker died at his home on Tuesday, July 6, 2010. He was a native of Alamance County and the husband of 55 years to Mary Jeanette.

Mr. Walker was a World War II veteran, serving with the U.S. Marine Corps' 6th Division on Okinawa in the Pacific. He was the first local veteran to be featured in Jay Ashley's "Winter of Our Warriors" feature in the Burlington Times-News. He was a charter and life member of the Lance Cpl. Alan D. Lam, Detachment #1209 of the Marine Corps League. Mr. Walker is survived by his wife, his daughter and three sons.

TAPS:

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

NAME	UNIT	DATE OF DEATH
ARNOLD, Robert	29 th Mar-1-C	5/21/2010
AUST, Louise	Wife of Kenneth Aust	5/26/2010
CAHOON, Francis T. (NM)	6 th Marine Division	12/01/1999
COOMBE, William F. (NM)	4 th Mar-3	2/20/2010
DARWIN, William G. (NM)	6 th Marine Division	11/01/1989
EARLY, Charles Maurice (NM)	6 th Marine Division	12/15/1998
FELIX, Keith Gordon	6 th JASCO	6/08/2010
FIELDS, Walter	29 th Mar-2-HQ	Unknown
FOLKS, Eugene	29 th Maqr0-2-HQ	1/22/2010
GARBER, George M.	29 th Mar-3-HQ	2/02/2010
GREENE, Hartley M. (NM)	4 th Mar-3-A	1/16/1994
ITTMAN, Louis A.	29 th Mar-2-F	5/04/2010
KURDZIEL, Edward	22 nd Mar-1-HQ	Unknown
LACEY, James C.	22 nd Mar-2-F	7/05/2010
LIPSIUS, Hugh C. (NM)	29 th Mar-2-E	10/04/2000
LOWE, Charles E., Jr.	22 nd Mar-2-F	Unknown
MAC RAE, George	4 th Mar-3-K	6/07/2010
MORSE, SR., Kenneth E. (NM)	6 th Marine Div. (Corpsman)	6/18/2010
NEAULT, Keith F.	4 th Mar-Weapons	3/31/2010
NOVOTNY, Raymond E. (NM)	6 th Tank Div.	9/05/2009
STAPLES, Glen E.	15 th Mar-H&S	Unknown
SWINBANK, Joseph C.	22 nd Mar-Wpns	4/26/2010
WALKER, Robert Jackson	29 th Mar-2-F	7/06/2010
WARD, Charles W. (NM)	Corpsman	6/12/1994
WOLKENS DORFER, Clarence (NM)	29 th Marines	11/27/2003
YAZZIE, Lemuel Bahe (NM)	4 th Mar-Navajo Code Talker	5/31/2010

(NM) designates non-member.

DIRECTORY:

PIMENTAL, John

GENERAL FUND:

ASCHE, Eva L.

HARRIS, JR., Donald

LAMBERT, John (Above and beyond)

LESTELLE, June P.

MALINOWSKI, Theodore (Above and beyond)

TWIGGER, William J.

WESSELLS, Ruth

WHITE, Richard (Above and beyond)

MEMORIAL MARKER FUND:

WESSELLS, Ruth

NEWSLETTER FUND:

ALBANESE, Nicholas

HASOMERIS, Peter

LEAR, Shirley

NEW MEMBERS (SUMMER 2010)

CARVER, Robert, ID #6093

Grandson of Isaac E. Morrell

6th Pioneer Bn., -B, Associate LD

685 Dodge Avenue

Jefferson, LA 70121-1209

(504) 975-5777

FRIEDRICHS, Lee Roy A., ID#6097

4th Mar-2-M&S, Regular

PO Box 416

Princeton, TX 75407

(972) 736-3848

Jfried@vnt.net

LIPSIUS, Cynthia, ID #6092

Daughter of Hugh C. Lipsius

29th Mar-2-E, Associate LD

11 Homer Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14216-2370

(716) 605-4368

Cindylips58@hotmail.com

MAHARIDGE, Dale, ID #6095
Son of Steve Maharidge
22 Mar-3-L, Associate LD
Columbia University
Graduate School of Journalism
2950 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
(212) 854-3854
Dmaharidge@yahoo.com

MAST, R. K.
Phone # correction: (540) 348-5407

McCOMBS, JR., Vincent, ID #6094
Son of Vincent J. McCombs
29th Mar-1, Associate LD
67 Park Ave
Poughkeepsie, NY 12613-3101
(845) 485-7157
Vmccombs@aol.com

MORGAN, James ID #6090
Son of Richard E. Morgan
29th Mar-HQ, Associate LD
44 Poole Circle
Holbrook, MA 02343
Morgan11987@verizon.net

PIMENTAL, Alan J., ID #6096
Son of John Pimental
29th Mar-2-E, Associate LD
23134 N Loreto Drive
Sun City West, AZ 85375

REESE, Richard, ID #6091
Brother of Matthew J. Reese
22nd Mar-3-K, Assoc. LD
17425 Jersey Way
Lakeville, MN 55044-7769
(952) 435-6288
Daddio@FrontierNet.Net

SANDLAUFER, Harry J., ID #6098
29th Mar-3-Mortar, Regular
1 Kenilworth Drive
Short Hills, NJ 07078
(973) 564-9083
ESands23@aol.com



Sixth Division Flag Flies in Buffalo, NY

Dear Mr. Pierce — Just wanted to let you all know the men of the Sixth Marine Division were remembered and honored on Memorial Day in Buffalo, NY. The attached picture is of the Striking Sixth's flag flying from my porch (I apologize for not being able to get the full view of the flag - the wind was not cooperating with me). There were several people who stopped and asked me about the flag, so I briefed them on the history of the division. Semper Fi and God bless you all! Sincerely, Cynthia Lipsius (daughter of Hugh C. Lipsius of E-2-29)

Membership Application and Change of Address

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____ Spouse 1st Name _____
 Street Address _____ Apt/Bldg/Lot _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
 Phone ()- _____ E-mail Address _____
 Company _____ Battalions _____ Regiment _____ Other _____
 If Change of Address, your 4 digit ID# _____ (On mailing label - top/left above name)
 Old Address _____ Apt _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
 If applying for membership as an Associate Member, provide name of relative who served with the Sixth Marine Division:
 _____ Relationship _____
 His unit within Division, if known _____
 Annual Dues (\$10/year) _____ *Member _____ *Associate _____ \$ _____
 Life Membership (\$75) _____ *Member _____ *Associate _____ \$ _____
 Subscription to Striking Sixth newsletter of the Sixth Marine Division (\$10) _____ \$ _____
 Additional copies of newsletter: \$3.50 each
 Optional Donations *Subscription and annual dues are based on calendar year.*
 Membership Directory Contribution..... \$ _____
 Memorial Medallion Fund Contribution..... \$ _____
 General Operating Fund Contribution..... \$ _____
 Make check payable to the Sixth Marine Division Association Total \$ _____
 Mail to: Florence R. Dornan, Membership Manager, 704 Cooper Court, Arlington, TX 76011
 Email: Sxthmardiv@aol.com Phone: 817-275-1552

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6th Marine Division Association

704 Cooper Court Arlington, TX 76011



Striking Sixth Newsletter

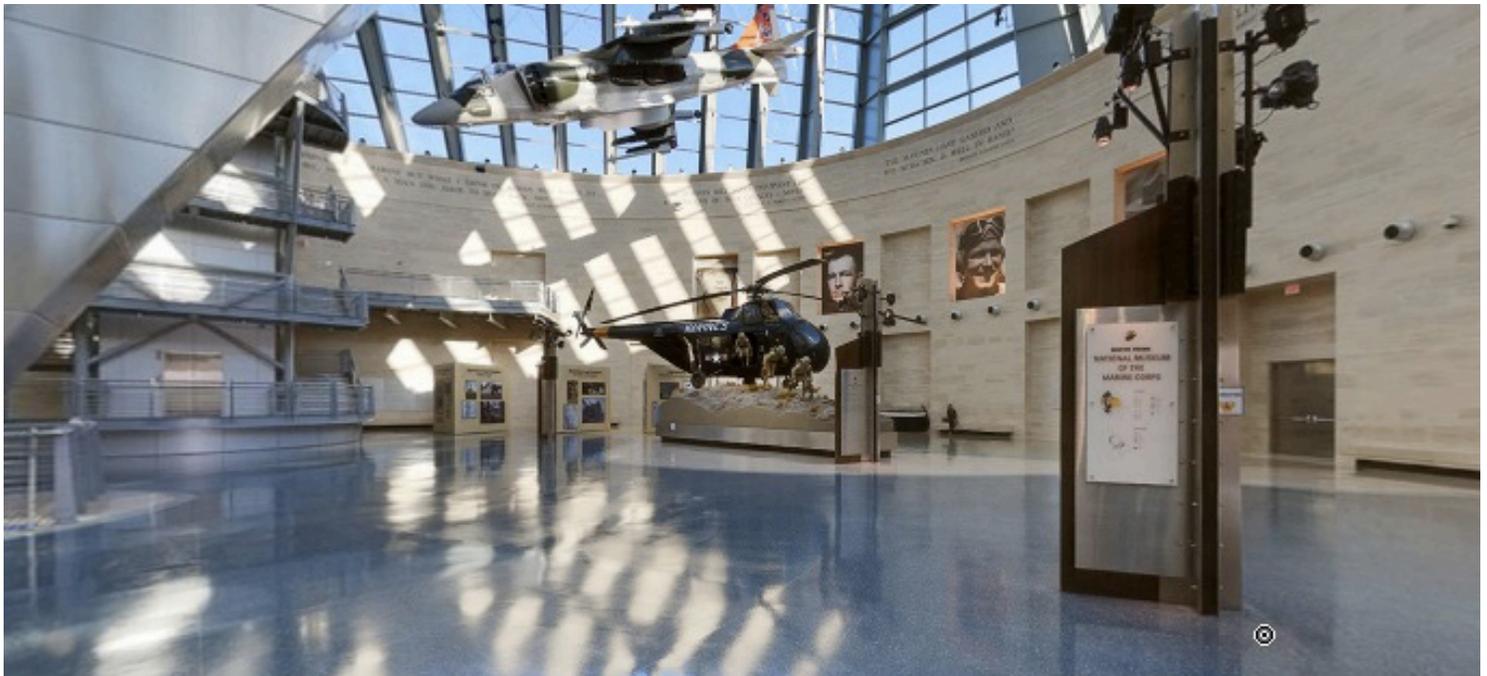
Summer 2010

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Jack Rice on the USMC Museum: — I have visited this Museum three times. It highlights the contribution the USMC has made to the history and freedom of the U.S. Everyone should see it if they are in the DC area. It is about 1/2 mile off I95 at the Quantico exit. Admission is free and there is plenty of free parking. This is a great way to review our history. He adds, the virtual museum is also of value. www.virtualusmcmuseum.com

Museum of the Marines on the Web

By Lance Cpl. Jacob D. Osborne, Headquarters Marine Corps

QUANTICO, Va. — Corps history and tradition are now only a mouse click away. The National Museum of the Marine Corps launched an interactive website June 23, allowing historians and high schools around the world to tour

the installation in any place that has an internet connection.

“The National Museum of the Marine Corps has one simple mission, to preserve and showcase the material history of the Corps,” said Gen. James

T. Conway, 34th commandant to the Marine Corps. Marine Corps veteran Steven Wallace, Beverly Hills, Calif., came up with the idea for the online experience because he wasn’t able to visit the museum in person.