

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



Vol. 51 No. 1

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Spring 2026

We're Doing it Again — 2026 Mini-Reunion!

OCTOBER 13 - 16 ~ QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

We had such a good time in Quantico last fall with four Sixth Marine Division Veterans (plus the brother of one KIA on Okinawa) that we thought: Let's do it again!

We booked the same hotel — they were so accommodating, plus it is close to the museum and the only one in the area with a meeting room large enough to accommodate our group.

We're going with a similar agenda, allowing plenty of free time to socialize and get to know people. Two dinners in the hotel will make it easy for everyone. We'll make another trip to the National Mu-

seum of the Marine Corps. Fingers crossed there will be no government shutdown this year, so we can stay as long as we like. And new this year — a trivia contest! With prizes!

If you were there last year, we hope to see you again! If you missed it, we hope you can make it this time.

We promise a warm welcome, friendly people, interesting conversation, and an opportunity to honor the Sixth Division Marines, who never fail to inspire us and fill our hearts with gratitude.

Please see pages 13-15 for more details.



Spring 2026

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Okinawa Today — More Discoveries from Steph Pawelski

FROM STEPH'S FACEBOOK PAGE — OKINAWA BATTLE SITES

Just Off Base

January 14, 2026

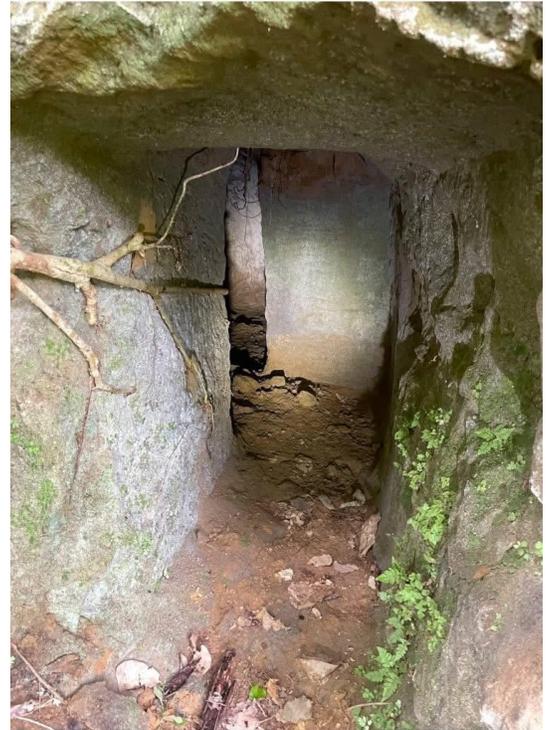
There is a patch of jungle close to Camp Kinser with numerous dug outs that were used during the Battle of Okinawa.

inside to watch movement outside while remaining concealed.

Exploring these areas is a reminder of how deeply layered Okinawa's his-



Pockets carved into the earth



Designed to stop what came straight in

The openings were quick to find even though they blend naturally into the landscape.

These dug outs look like scaled-down versions of the larger tunnel systems found elsewhere on Okinawa. It's almost as if portions of those networks were shrunk and tucked into the center of the island.

The entrances turn at a 90-degree angle shortly after opening. This was intentional, and the bend helped protect those inside by preventing direct gunfire or shrapnel from traveling straight into the tunnel.

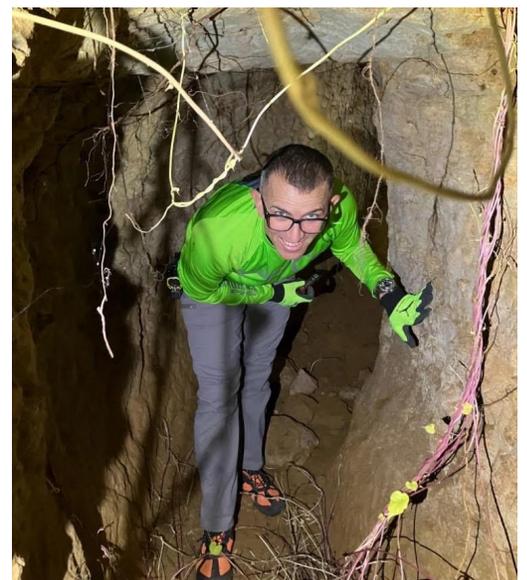
Some dug outs also include small observation holes, allowing those

tory is. What stands out the most is how closely these traces of the past sit to modern life.

It's a contrast I'm still struggling to put into words, and one I continue to reflect on.



All that remains



Jeff Pawelski heads in

Okinawa Today — More Discoveries from Steph Pawelski

FROM STEPH'S FACEBOOK PAGE — OKINAWA BATTLE SITES

Evidence of Flamethrower, Okinawa 1945

January 22, 2026

For the first time, Jeff and I came across what we believe to be a ridge showing evidence of flamethrower use. Far more than the scattered signs I've seen before, this area was impacted in the beginning of the Battle of Okinawa.

A river runs through the center of the site, now modernized with concrete slabs and steps. Along both sides of the river are openings. Some openings are larger than others, but they are shallow, rough entrances that extend only a few feet into the rock. Given their size and exposure they likely offered little concealment unless they were once covered with vegetation or temporary flaps.

During the Battle of Okinawa, U.S. forces relied on flamethrowers because of the island's jungle. The growth concealed cave and tunnel entrances, this allowed the Japanese to remain hidden,



above: Steph Pawelski in her happy place

left and below: Flamethrower evidence still visible decades later



protected, and difficult to dislodge. Traditional weapons often couldn't reach the enemy.

Today, trees and vegetation have reclaimed much of the area, softening the landscape and making it peaceful again.



It's a powerful reminder of how the terrain shaped the fighting and why these sites continue to tell their stories.



Historian Scott Davis Is Looking for Letters and Artifacts From Sixth Marine Division Veterans

My new book, “The Last of the Old Breed” is set for release on May 19, 2026. It features nine Sixth Marine Division veterans! [See more about the book at right.]

I’m working on another book project regarding the Marine Corps in World War II. If anyone has any memoirs, letters, or related material on a Sixth Marine Division veteran, I would love to see them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

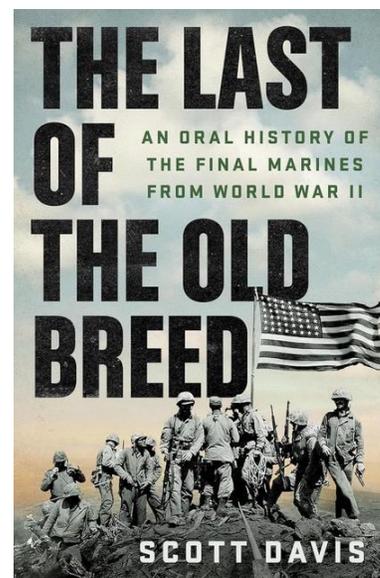
Best,
Scott Davis
(509) 944-1553
Scottd221@gmail.com

“The Last of the Old Breed, an Oral History of the Final Marines from World War II by Scott Davis

This new book can be pre-ordered (in hard cover or on Kindle) from Amazon. **It’s an oral history of some of the final living U.S. Marines from World War II and features more than 130 veterans, including nine Sixth Division Marines.** According to Amazon, these last witnesses “opened up about the war like never before, determined to leave an honest account for future generations. For many of the veterans, this was the first — and final — time telling their stories.”

The Sixth Division Marines with stories included in the book are:

- Eldon Cedergreen (6th Tank Bn-B)
- Joe Harrison (4th Mar-Wpns)
- Charles Meachum (4th Mar-3-K)
- James Palmieri (22nd Mar-2-E)
- Lester Penny (29th Mar-2-HQ)



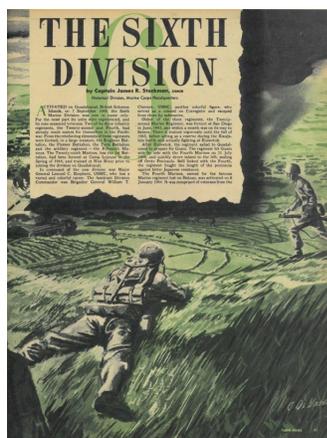
- Robert Rakestraw (22nd Mar-HQ-Band)
- Thomas Shields (4th Mar-2-G)
- James White (29th Mar-3-G)
- Faris Yuohy (Sixth Service Bn)

Sixth Marine Division in Leatherneck, October 1946

Special thanks to Max Santiago for sending us the article about the Sixth Marine Division that was in the October 1946 issue of Leatherneck. Max’s father-in-law and his wife Marilyn’s father, Sergeant Milo J. Loveless (22nd-Mar-2-G) was wounded in action at Sugar Loaf Hill during the Battle of Okinawa.

Our favorite quote: **“One Army officer said that the Sixth was the most professional fighting outfit he had ever seen.”**

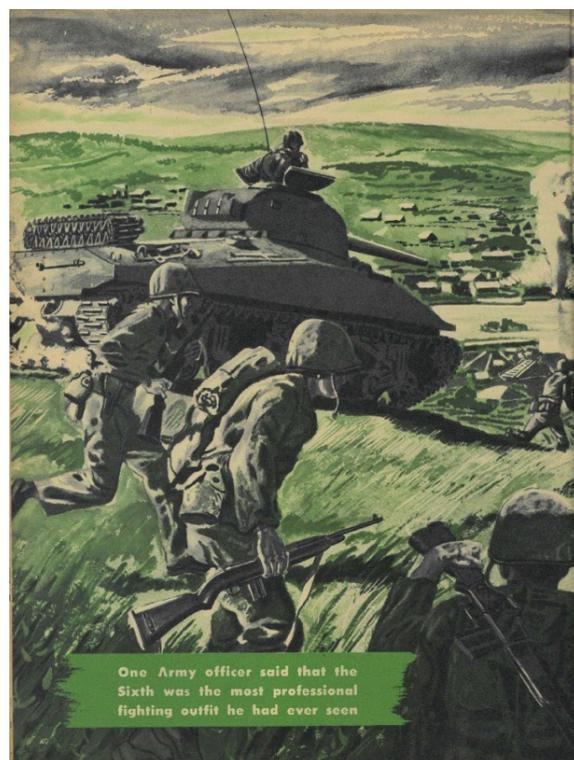
We have a pdf copy of the article. It’s a bit blurry (It’s 80 years old



for heaven’s sake!), but it’s a great read.

If you would like a copy, please email me.

Carroll McGowan
chm1423@aol.com





Charles Morley

My Step Father, Charles R. Morley of Gloversville, NY, fought in the Battle of Okinawa with the Sixth Marine Division. At age 17 he begged his Mother to sign for him so he could join. She did, but only with his promise to finish high school when he returned.

Charles signed up for the Marines with his best friend. Two weeks after they arrived in Okinawa, his friend was killed. Another friend, Nicky Canizzo, lost his foot on board a ship after it got wrapped up in the anchor chain. Since Charles was so small — he was only 117 pounds — he was sent into the caves. Once the battle was over, he went on to serve in China.

After the war, Charles finished high school, keeping his promise to his Mother. He married a beautiful woman, had children, built his own home, raised fox hounds, had an organic blueberry field, and became a postman. After his wife died, he married my Mother. He took wonderful care of her and was an amazing man. He passed away in 2020 that the age of 94.

I am sharing three pictures. In the first one, you can see how small and young-looking he was before he went overseas. He was so happy to join the Marines. In the second photo, taken after he returned, he still looks young, but the innocence and happiness are gone. He grew up quickly. The third picture is late in life.

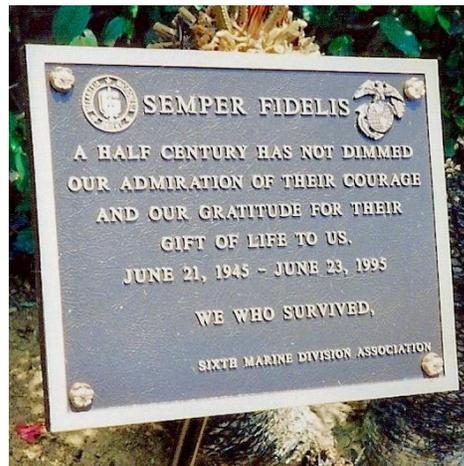
I would love to know if any of his friends are still alive. He was such a good man in every way.

Thank you,
Wendy Oaksford Howard
whoward1@nycap.rr.com



Charles Morley before and after his service with the Sixth Marine Division and later in life

50th Anniversary Plaque



Thank you to Lynn Setzer who sent us the photo above, which she found with her Dad's belongings (Charles W. Setzer, 29th Mar-3-H). She guesses he took the photo when he visited Okinawa for the 50th anniversary of the battle.

The text reads as follows:

SEMPER FIDELIS

A HALF CENTURY HAS NOT DIMMED OUR ADMIRATION OF THEIR COURAGE AND OUR GRATITUDE FOR THEIR GIFT OF LIFE TO US.

JUNE 21, 1945 — JUNE 23, 1995

WE WHO SURVIVED,

SIXTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

We understand the plaque is located at the Peace Memorial Garden in Okinawa.

If anyone has more information, please contact me.

Thank you,
Carroll McGowan
chm1423@aol.com



Seeking Permission to Post Sixth Marine Division Veterans' Interviews on YouTube

Hershel McCorkle and I have interviewed members of the Sixth Marine Division at reunions and homes across the country. We've made some dear friends along the way and have appreciated the many acts of kindness and hospitality you have shown us.

Recently, we established a YouTube channel to make these interviews available after we are gone. This is a public channel that will allow anyone access to see these interviews. We've already received thank you notes from people who were moved to be able to "visit" with their loved ones again. Three youngsters have been excited to see their great-grandpas for the first time since they were too young to remember them.

This channel can be found by typing **NVHA** in the search box on YouTube.

We have been given permission to post the interviews with John Albanese, John Speheger, Ken Wells and Dick Whitaker. You can see them on our "NVHA on YouTube" channel.

We are seeking permission to post the following interviews:



Harvey Anderson (6th Medical Bn-E)

Delmer Asbury (29th Mar-2-F)

Buzzy Fox (22nd Mar-2-G)

Frank Mack (22nd Mar-3-K Corpsman)

Vincent Mathews (6th Amphib Motor Trans)

Glenn Moore (29th Mar-2-HQ)

Carmine Polo (29th Mar-2-D)

Jack Rice (6th Medical Bn-C)

Bob Sherer (29th Mar-2-F)

Carl Sproatt (29th Mar-2-F)

We are asking the veterans or their surviving family members to contact us to give us permission to post these interviews.

Please email us at: nvha01@hotmail.com

God Bless all in our Sixth Marine Division family, Don and Hershel

Robert Mitchell is 100!

While everyone else was ringing in the new year, Robert Mitchell (22nd Mar-1-C) was celebrating his 100th birthday! He is pictured below with his daughter Casey and son Michael on December 31, 2025.

Happy 100th Birthday, Marine!



100





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.

Walter LaSota

22nd Mar-2-I

01/30/26

Reporting Deaths

Please report deaths as soon as possible to:

Patty Payne

Membership Chair

(410) 978-2979

pjpayne1984@verizon.net

Walter LaSota Makes a Grand Entrance in Heaven

We are very sorry to report that Walter LaSota, who did a star turn at our mini-reunion last October, has passed away. Everyone who was fortunate enough to attend the reunion will never forget him entering the meeting room in his brand new dress greens on our last evening. It was truly the highlight of the three-day affair. PFC LaSota also looked sharp at the Marine Corps Ball he attended in November. It was our fond wish to see photos of him in uniform celebrating his 100th birthday on February 23, but sadly, it was not to be. Our loss is heaven's gain as we imagine him guarding the pearly gates in his uniform!

PFC LaSota joined the Marine Corps at the age of 17. Before long, he found himself in the Battle of Okinawa where he was injured twice.

After the war, he married Dorothy Nowotarski and together

they raised four children. He worked as a foreman for the American District Telegraph Company (now ADT) for 35 years. Walter and Dorothy also owned and operated the Oriental Gift House and Eng's Laundry for five decades.

Walter was a devoted member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Reading, PA, and he held a number of volunteer positions, many in a leadership role. He loved golf, cruising, travel and spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Last year, at age 99, PFC LaSota returned to Okinawa to pay his respects to his fallen comrades. Now he is with them.

May he rest in peace.

Walter LaSota: left, before the war, and right, at the 2025 mini-reunion



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**Get together with other fans
of the Sixth Marine Division
in Quantico this fall!**

See pages 13-15 for more information.

Unit Directors

4th Marines	Vacant
15th Marines	Vacant
22nd Marines	Vacant
29th Marines	Neal McCallum
6th Motor Trans Battalion	Vacant
6th Medical Battalion	Vacant
6th Engineering Battalion	Vacant
6th Tank Battalion	Vacant
6th Pioneer Battalion	Vacant
6th Headquarters Battalion	Vacant
6th Recon Company	Vacant
6th JASCO	Vacant
1st Amphibs	Vacant

Striking Sixth Newsletter

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Subscription checks, address changes, donations and death notices should be mailed or emailed to:

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**Please make checks payable to:
Sixth Marine Division Assn.**

For more information, please contact Patty:

(410) 978-2979 or
pjpayne1984@verizon.net

Message from the President



We're going to do it again!
October 13-16.
Comfort Inn
Near Main Gate
North in Quantico (same as last year).

Come early and stay late. Our special room rate is good four days before and four days after the mini-reunion.

Be sure to call and make your reservation. The phone number is 703-445-8070. Tell them you are with the Sixth Marine Division to get the special room rate for our group.

We had a great time last year. We hope to see everyone back, and we'd love to see lots of new people this year.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and in this newsletter for updates. You can also check our website:

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

More than ever, I am looking forward to seeing old acquaintances and making new friends.

God bless, good health and be safe,
Connie



Donations — Thank You!

GENERAL FUND

Jonathan Lynch

Robert Pringle

Sallie Shepherd

Editor's Note



Laura Lacey's articles about America in the 1940s (pages 10-12) got me thinking...

I'm a big fan of email — it's easy, it costs nothing, and it arrives instantaneously. For families with someone serving in the armed forces overseas, it's a god-send. I can't imagine waiting weeks — or even months — for a letter from a loved one serving overseas.

But there is something about a letter... You can hold it, you can analyze the handwriting, you can feel the sender's personality leaping off the page.

Letters were a big part of my life growing up. I wrote to my cousins and grandparents and to friends who moved away. I had pen pals from around the world. How fun it was to find one of their letters in my mailbox with an unfamiliar stamp. I loved comparing their lives to mine.

My biggest burst of letter writing came in college. When Bob went to OCS in Quantico the summer after we started dating, I wrote to him every single day. His commanding officer made the candidates do pushups every time they got a letter. He famously told Bob he'd be a physical stud by the time he graduated!

Bob still has all the letters his father wrote to his parents dur-

ing the war. What treasures they are! I know many lineal descendants have letters like these. Some are in scrapbooks which they've brought to reunions. They are fascinating and touching, sometimes funny and sometimes heartbreaking.

If you have letters like these, make sure your children know where they are, so they can be preserved.

Although Bob's and my letters to each other have no historical value, I keep thinking I should pull them out and read them again. But I still haven't done it. I know — What am I waiting for?

~ Carroll McGowan

From the Historian's Corner

HISTORY RECOLLECTED

Have you ever mentioned something to the younger generation only to be met with a look of total unfamiliarity? Each of us has probably had that experience. History's events and words shape a generation, but each generation's common understanding of how or what something was eventually changes. The men of Sixth Marine Division taught me little snippets of their life that may be lost over time. Sharing their life realities can give us a perspective into who they were and how they thought.

After seeing hundreds of photos of "salty Marines" with their covers perched at the same jaunty angle, it was a big shock to learn that most of them, unless they continued to serve after the war, had never owned dress blues. These photos have become integral to our imagination of World War II Marines. Yet they were taken in a photographer's shop around a base with borrowed Marine Corps dress blue uniforms before they deployed overseas. These pictures were then often sent to Moms, wives, and sweethearts.

Speaking of communications with loved ones, mail was a valuable part of the World War II experience. Studies show that mail bolstered spirits and provided a connection with loved ones at home. However, mail during the war was often delayed, piled up, or even lost. This, in turn, led to poor morale among the troops and on the home front. Today, when communication is almost instantaneous, it is hard to imagine going months without mail. The reality is that World War II service members often went for long periods without word from home.

The bulk and weight of mail proved

to be a true obstacle in the war. In an effort to improve the situation, the Americans borrowed the Airgraph service idea from the British. This technology used microfilm capabilities to help deliver mail. In June 1942, "the Post Office announced a partnership with the War and Navy Departments to provide V-Mail" for letters¹ between military personnel and family and friends. The letters were copied onto microfilm, shipped overseas, reproduced at one-quarter of the size, then delivered. The films were usually sent by airplane rather than ship, which also made it quicker.

Another interesting mail trick I discovered was one I would never have thought possible. However, I had access to Bill Sams' (15th Mar-3-I) letters. There were many V-Mails from home, which were interesting. However, even more interesting was that in his letters, especially the ones he wrote when he was waiting to go to Okinawa, he wrote about having these wonderful meals from home –



Packaging for V-Mail Stationary¹



fried chicken, biscuits, and gravy. This was puzzling. Was he imagining the meals of his youth? Fortunately, I was able to ask him about this. He told me his family would literally have Sunday dinner, then go to a local canner, who would can the food and send it to him!

Marine training also supported the war effort. Training went through several evolutions. Before WWII, training for recruits lasted eight weeks, compared to thirteen weeks today. For a time after Pearl Harbor, training time for recruits was expedited as the US worked to increase its numbers. "An increase was authorized on 16 December 1941 to bring the Marine Corps strength up to 104,000 troops. This required the depots to train an average of 6,800 troops between December and February. On 1 January 1942, the recruit depots instituted a five-week training."² During this time in boot camp, the emphasis was on combat readiness, primarily rifle training and physical fitness. Enlistments and needs declined, and by July 1944, training returned to the eight-week cycle. Then, as now, enlisted men trained at either Marine Corps Recruit

(continued on the next page)

From the Historian's Corner (continued)

HISTORY RECOLLECTED

(continued from prior page)

Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, or San Diego, California, or after 1942 for blacks at Montford Point at Camp Lejeune.

Officers were not always trained at Quantico either. In fact, the future leader of the Sixth Marine Division, Colonel Lemuel Sheperd Jr., was selected to head the training of additional officer candidates in July of 1940. "This unit became the OCC and received the mission to train potential officers" in the fundamentals of military discipline, and in the school of the soldier, squad, and platoon, and to select those qualified for commission in order to provide capable and well-fitted officers for the Marine Corps Reserve." On 1 November 1940, OCC-1 became the first class to graduate in Quantico.³

Different parts of World War II history seem to be well known, yet there are hidden pieces of information that can shape what we think we know about a Marine's time in service. Keeping this history alive also helps us understand the war and the men and women who fought during this pivotal time. How many of these facts did you know? Are you sharing your nuanced history with your children?

~Laura Lacey

¹<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/victory-mail-introducing-v-mail/resizing-lifelines-planning-v-mail>

²<https://www.usmcu.edu/Outreach/Marine-Corps-University-Press/MCH/Marine-Corps-History-Summer-2021/Marine-Corps-Boot-Camp-during-World-War-II-The-Gateway-to-the-Corps-Success-at-Iwo-Jima-MCH-Vol-7-Number-1-Summer-2021/>

³<https://www.facebook.com/USMCOCS/posts/77-years-ago-today-officer-candidate-class-occ-1-graduatedin-july-of-1940-colonel/1744057835896217/>

"HEY SUGAR, ARE YOU RATIONED?"¹

A question from the forties may not make sense to us today, yet to the people back then, it made complete sense. They used slang we no longer use and may even find offensive. For example, the term *BAM* (broad-assed Marine, referring to a female Marine) would be highly offensive today, but it was common in 1944. A person interested in that era, whether a historian or a casual observer, must be aware of the language of the time and accept that it was a different time with different standards. A man calling a woman a *dame* or a *dish* could be criticized in 2026, yet in the 1940s, this was considered a compliment.

Dreamboat, meaning a very attractive man or woman, is a term you don't hear today. We don't hear terms like *clams*, meaning money, originally derived from the Native American use of shells for exchange of goods. You would be looked at quizzically if you said *hot diggity dog* instead of WOW!² Every generation has their unique speech and mannerisms, which become part of their voice. To ignore the voice is to not really understand the people of that time.

The "greatest generation" was unique in that the media connected the country in ways that had not been possible before. There was a rise in pop culture, including music and dance, that was different from that of their parents' generation. (The term teenager, for example, was first used during this time.) Radio and movies influenced this generation, and a shift in traditional norms occurred,

allowing new slang to develop in their daily lives.

The war would also expedite this as it brought people from all over the country together who shared a unique experience. In *Words of the Fighting Forces*, the authors argue:

"Our fighting men are makers of slang because they are adventurous individuals and they are not restricted by decorum and their taste is unlimited. Their hunting ground for new terms is in their native tongue as well as foreign. They adopt traditional devices of similitude, making attributes work for the whole. They use hidden resemblances, they know no limitations and have no boundaries. They have substituted far-fetched figures for a hundred literary descriptions, using abbreviations most freely, compositions, formations of words to resemble the sound and picturesque synonyms. Their transfer of proper names into common usage has been so much "duck-soup" (that which is done with ease)... They have enriched the national vocabulary with many new verbs and verb phrases. It must not be forgotten that our fighting men have come from all walks of life, that all sections and divisions of a free social order are represented and each man has brought the peculiar and colorful language of his section of the country with him. Ours is a fighting force of a hundred races and as many creeds speaking a language called American."³

(continued on the next page)

From the Historian's Corner (continued)

HEY SUGAR, ARE YOU RATIONED?

(continued from the prior page)

Then there is the slang of the Marine Corps itself. What Marines call each other and even what it means has changed over time. *Semper Fi Mac*, at times was a greeting, but it was also the equivalent of the Southern “*Bless Your Heart*.” *Gyrene*, which may have had its roots in the gyroscope, came from the Marines' sailing days and the Royal Marines. It was originally a derogatory name. *Jarheads* was first used in World War II, again in a derogatory fashion, by sailors. It referred to how Marines looked in their uniforms, and eventually it was also tied to the Marine haircut, the high-and-tight. *Grunt* (an infantryman) appeared in World War I, referring to the men who were doing the “grunt work.” It continued into World War II along with *mud Marine*. By Vietnam, the term grunt was often replaced with “boonierat.”⁴ Today you might hear a Marine referred to as a crayon-eater, so the traditions of mocking what can't be understood continues.

Another type of slang is curse words. Today, when cursing is unfortunately a part of everyday life, it is hard to imagine a time when it was more constrained. The portrayal of the fighting men of World War II in movies made directly after the war captured an idealized version of the times. However, as Neal McCallum (29th Mar-2-F) reminded me, even Eleanor Roosevelt was worried about reintroducing Marines back into polite society. Neal also admits, “Marines did use sordid language at times, but they kept it among themselves.” Cursing, during this era, was a man's thing and not done in polite society. Many Marines who were not used to hearing

foul language revealed that they were shocked by their D.I.'s use of expletives. However, they learned fast. Cursing, some believe, was just another version of slang unique to the men at war, and it helped them connect. It was also a pressure valve for men in intense situations. The “f” word became used for almost everything.⁵

However, when the servicemen returned from the war, the cursing did not last or become a major societal problem. Many of them dropped their foul language once they returned and reverted to their pre-war styles of speech and vocabulary. Nevertheless, the Second World War had destigmatized the use of the “f” word and insidiously integrated the word into the American vernacular, so that World War II veteran and historian Paul Fussell believed that the word had become common and even boring by the Vietnam War.⁶

Understanding the nuances of an era's language (what was said, and what was not said) gives us a much better understanding of the people of that time. If we ignore this part of history, much can be missed and even worse...lost.

~Laura Lacey

¹https://www.smokyhillmuseum.org/file_download/inline/08b39082-47b9-42ec-8782-151e272b3f74

²<https://diangreenwoodauthor.substack.com/p/lost-words-of-the-1940s-slang-that>

³*Words of the Fighting Forces*, by Clinton A. Sanders and Joseph W. Blackwell, Jr., 1942 WWII Slang From the Front | *The Art of Manliness* <https://www.artofmanliness.com/character/military/wwii-slang/>

⁴<https://www.usmcmuseum.com>

⁵<https://tomharperkelly.com/>

⁶Fussell, *Wartime*, 95-96

EXAMPLES OF 1940s SLANG

How man of these do you know?

Ack-ack — anti-aircraft fire

Alligator — swing dancer or fan

Are you rationed? — Are you going steady?

Butter bar — a new Second Lieutenant

Cheesy — cheap

Cooking with gas — doing something right

Dead hooper — poor dancer

Dogface: — US Army soldier

Doll dizzy — girl crazy

Ducky shincracker — really good dancer

Flat-hatting — military pilot flying lower than regulations allow

Flip your wig — lose control

Hep cat — male swing music fan

Hep kitten — young female swing music fan

Killer-diller — positive or outstanding

North Dakota rice — hot cereal

Rug cutter — dancer

Sparky — radio operator

Stompers — shoes

What's buzzin, cousin? — How's it going?

2026 Mini-Reunion — Our Hotel

COMFORT INN NEAR QUANTICO MAIN GATE NORTH



16931 Old Stage Road, Dumfries, VA 22025
(703) 445-8070

Make your reservation ASAP!

To get the special \$110* room rate, use this link:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/EO36N1>

Or call (703) 445-8070 and ask to book under the Sixth Marine Division.

Free cancellation until 4:00 pm on 10/12/26.

Please note there are only four accessible rooms.

**The room rate including tax is \$125.40. It is available 4 days before October 13 and 4 days after October 15.*



Choose a room with 2 Queen beds or 1 King bed. Rooms are 3100 square feet.

Amenities

- Free hot breakfast 6am-9am
- Refrigerator
- Microwave
- Tea/coffee maker
- Free WIFI in all areas
- TV with cable channels
- Indoor pool & hot tub
- Fitness room
- Free parking
- Non-smoking
- 24-hour front desk
- Several restaurants within walking distance
- Check in from 4:00 pm
- Check out until 12 noon



top: breakfast area, bottom: pool

Distance from DC Airports

Reagan Washington National Airport

30 miles, allow at least 1 hour

Dulles International Airport

35 miles, allow at least 1 hour

Please note the hotel does not have a shuttle. We suggest renting a car or using Uber or Lyft.

QUESTIONS???

If you have any questions, please call, text or email Sharon Woodhouse (503) 799-4455 sjwoodhouse@gmail.com

2026 Min-Reunion — Tentative Itinerary

Tuesday, October 13

Arrival

Look for everyone to be socializing in our meeting room. And be sure to pick up your name tag.

Wednesday, October 14

Trivia Contest

Here's your chance to show what you know about the Marine Corps, World War II and the 1940s. We'll play in teams, and members of the winning team will get a prize. So start studying now!

Buffet Dinner at the Comfort Inn Catered by Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que

The meal will include beef brisket, chicken, several sides — and lots of barbecue sauce, of course. We'll make sure there is plenty to eat for vegetarians. And plenty of napkins! The dinner cost is to be determined and will depend on any donations we receive.

Thursday, October 15

Visit to the National Museum of the Marine Corps

If this doesn't fill you with pride and admiration for our Marine Corps, nothing will! Please note you will be responsible for getting to the museum on your own. We feel certain those without a car will be able to find a ride with someone, because we are a friendly and helpful bunch! And of course, there is always Uber and Lyft.

Pizza Dinner at the Comfort Inn

This will be a fun and casual meal to afford maximum time for socializing on our final night. The cost is being donated by Sallie Shepherd on behalf of her grandfather, General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr, in honor of his beloved Sixth Division Marines. Thank you, Sallie!

Friday, October 16

Departure after Breakfast

Time to say good bye until we meet again.

IMPORTANT — IF YOU ARE COMING TO THE MINI-REUNION, PLEASE READ THIS!

We need to order food ahead of time, so if you want to eat dinner with us, you gotta let us know!
We also need your contact information so we can let you know if there are any changes.

Please complete the Registration Form on page 15 and mail it to Sharon Woodhouse.
If that seems archaic, or just too much work, call Sharon and give her the info over the phone.
Or email it to her. Or take a picture of the form and text it. Whatever is easiest for you.

Please do it by September 23. Better yet — do it now!

2026 Mini-Reunion — Registration Form

Please complete this form and send it by September 23rd to:
Sharon Woodhouse 12598 SW Dickson Street Tigard, OR 97224
– or – you can email, call or text Sharon with this information at:
sjawoodhouse@gmail.com or (503) 799-4455

Name _____ Spouse/Guest Names _____

If Sixth Division Marine, Regiment: _____ Battalion: _____ Company: _____

If Lineal Descendant, of whom _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell phone (____) _____ Email _____

Hotel Information (please check the correct box):

_____ I have made a reservation at the Comfort Inn Near Quantico Main Gate North

_____ I am staying somewhere else

Dinner Information (please tell us how many will attend):

Wednesday, October 14 at 6:00 pm – Famous Dave’s Bar-B-Que Dinner at the Comfort Inn

_____ number attending

Price is to be determined and depends on donations. You can pay Sharon at the hotel by cash or credit card..

Thursday, October 15 at 6:00 pm – Pizza Dinner at the Comfort Inn

_____ number attending

Thank you to Sallie Shepherd for donating the cost of the pizza dinner on behalf of her grandfather, General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr, in honor of his beloved Sixth Division Marines.

Emergency Contact Information

Contact Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____ Phone: _____

This section is ONLY for Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows who are flying in with NO younger family members and need help with transportation:

Do you want us to pick you up and return you to the airport? _____

Please provide your airline, flight # and arrival date and time:

Please provide your airline, flight # and departure date and time for your flight home:

Sixth Marine Division Association

439 Chalfonte Drive, Catonsville, MD 21228



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Striking Sixth Newsletter

Spring 2026

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Hats Off to a Great Group of Kids!

These Sixth Marine Division fans wear Marine Corps hats that were owned by their great-grandfather, Walter LaSota (22nd Mar-2-I). They posed at a lunch following his funeral in February.

Although we were greatly saddened to learn of PFC LaSota's passing, we are heartened that a new generation is growing up knowing all about the Sixth Marine Division.

See page 7 for more on PFC LaSota's passing.