



# Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL  
PUBLICATION  
of the  
5TH MARINE  
DIVISION  
ASSOCIATION

**60TH ANNUAL REUNION - HOUSTON, TEXAS  
SEPTEMBER 21 - 27, 2009  
MARRIOTT NEAR HOBBY AIRPORT**

## Meet new president Ivan Hammond

I was born on a 40-acre farm near a small town in Louisiana on Aug. 12, 1925. The 1927 flood removed all the good top soil and left nothing but clay, so my father traded the farm for a McCormick-Deering tractor. He then went back into the lumber and logging business.

I attended 11th grade in Morrow, La. and graduated at the age of 16. The next day, I went to Texas and did not return for four years.

One of my jobs when I was 8 years old was to shoot squirrels for food for our family with my .22 caliber rifle. Another was bringing in firewood for cooking. I began assembling radio kits at age 12, and all this background was useful in the Marine Corps.

In September 1942 a friend and I went to an Army Signal Corps Radio School in San Antonio, Texas. I completed the three phases of the program, constructing radios and transmitters, with three months of math and theory at the University of Texas.

In August 1943 I turned 18 and, because of a Catch-22 situation, I was booted out of the program. The next phase would have been Radar School in Pittsburgh.



**Aline and Ivan Hammond**

So I went to Houston and, knowing I would be drafted, signed up for the Marines, effective Oct. 26, 1943. I went to San Diego and was a member of Platoon 1014. After graduating in early 1944, I went on a 10-day leave to Port Arthur, Texas, to visit my brother and sisters. I was able to remain for three days, as the rest of the travel was on the Southern Pacific.

Upon return to San Diego in less than 24 hours, I was headed back to Texas to the Naval Radio


School at Texas A&M University. Twenty-five of us graduated and nine of us returned to Camp Miramar (Aviation) across from Camp Pendleton.

After about nine days, a truck came from Camp Pendleton and deposited us in front of the 5th Joint Assault Signal Co. Our careers in Marine aviation were over before they began.

The JASCO had three groups. One was shore fire control with a Navy gunnery officer attached who called in the fire from the ships on designated targets. Another group was a 20-man communication team. There were

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**TED OVERGARD**  
Secretary  
Fifth Marine Division Assn.

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Harrison, AR 72602-1775  
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10 of these teams. They had radio men, messengers, switchboard and runners to deliver messages. The third group was the 13 Air Liaison teams. Our team was ALP#13 attached to the 3rd Battalion, 28th Regiment.

I was a 19-year-old sergeant at Iwo Jima. Our team called in the air requests to a support air controller (SAR network). There were 22 battalions on this net, plus the division and regimental teams.

It was crowded and very difficult to get into the radio net to initiate a request for an air strike. Our ALP called one air strike on the base of Hot Rocks late on D-Day. We called a couple of strikes on D+1. One of these is featured in many of the books about Iwo. The plane shown is "Tailend Charlie," the last plane in a five-plane air strike on a machine-gun nest at the base of the mountain.

On D+2, we called in a 40-plane strike on the crater of Suribachi using Napalm. All the bombs actually worked, somewhat unusual, because only 50 percent of the Napalm bombs worked during our 36 days on Iwo Jima. This air strike is also mentioned in many of the books about Iwo.

Upon our return to the Big Island, we began training for Operation Olympic. I thank the good Lord for Harry Truman, who had the fortitude to use the atomic bombs that saved many lives, American and Japanese. I participated in the occupation of Japan, left in May 1946 and was discharged at San Diego on the 16th.

I graduated in 1951 with a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Houston. I then worked for 35 years for Union Carbide in Texas City, Texas, retiring in 1985 at age 60. I did 10 years of electrical consulting and more than 30 years of home and commercial building.

I met Aline Bartosh in 1947, and we were married in February 1951. It was my last semester, and I carried 20 hours with five labs, and I had a part-time job for \$1 an hour. Aline had a full-time job and typed all of my lab reports to help me graduate.

We have five children, 10 grandchildren and two great-granddaughters (who live next door).

We have been blessed every day of our lives. I am here today only because the good Lord, for some reason, chose me to live and took some of my buddies, who were much better than me, to heaven. Every day my thoughts are of them and the sacrifice they made for our freedom.

**- Ivan Hammond**  
**President**  
**5th JASCO**

**SPEARHEAD NEWS**  
Editor - Ray Elliott

*Published four times annually in the interest of the 5th Marine Division Association*

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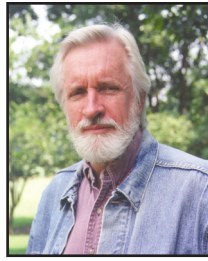
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## THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



*I have eaten your bread and salt,  
I have drunk your water and wine,  
The deaths ye have died I have watched beside  
And the lives ye led were mine.*

*Departmental Ditties [1886]. Prelude, st. 1*  
Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

Kipling knew the territory. And attending a reunion with the Fifth Marine Division Association at the Crystal City Marriott across the river from the nation's capitol makes you realize just how well he knew the territory.

With more than 450 Iwo Jima and Vietnam Fifth Marine Division veterans, their families and friends at the 59th annual association, the stories were a plenty – scheduled lectures and stories about the Iwo Jima campaign and visits to memorials and the museum that tout Marine Corps history.

But the stories the men and women tell when they gather on the buses to various points of interest, at tables in the hospitality room or in correspondence after the reunion are ones you don't hear from the podium. As Kipling said in *Plain Tales for the Hills*, "That is (or those are) another story."

I'd met members of E/2/27 at other reunions. Some of those I first met at the 59th Iwo Jima Survivors reunion in New Orleans had passed on. And Bill Madden, the main source and inspiration to the writing of my novella, *Iwo Blasted Again*, had had some arterial blockage near his heart and had told me that he thought this "would be his last Marine reunion."

Seeing him talk and laugh with men like Walter O'Malley, John Scarfo and Al Pagogoa that he'd landed with in the first wave on Feb. 19, 1945, made that difficult to imagine. Bill had been Al's assistant BAR man until being wounded on March 6. And Madden gives Pog credit for saving his life after a nearby mortar explosion knocked him unconscious and covered him with volcanic ash.

Pog later gave a foot and part of his leg up near Kitano Point near the end of the campaign. Madden repaid his friend for saving him from certain death, buried in the ash, by smuggling in some whiskey Pog

had asked for in the hospital at Mare Island Hospital in Oakland, Calif. Pog and a buddy in another bed drank much of the booze during the night and were found a bit under the weather. The bottle was under Pog's pillow.

During his interrogation, Pog denied knowing how the bottle got under his pillow and refused to tell who might have brought it onto the ward. His refusal cost him a night in the hospital brig.

"I never did tell them it was Bill," Pog said, laughing, his eyes sparkling.

Bill, a long time Chicago Cubs fan was in the hospital at Great Lakes Naval Hospital during the fall of '45 when the Cubs and the Detroit Tigers were playing in the World Series. The Cubs offered tickets to wounded veterans. But the hospital ordered working parties for anyone who wanted to go.

Bill had been hit in the arm; others were more seriously wounded. And many refused to go on the working parties, Bill among them. He figured he'd be able to see the Cubs in many World Series games during his lifetime.

But of course in the more than 60 years since, the Cubs are still looking for another World Series. The prospect looked good this year, and I was hopeful that I could get Bill a ticket to the Series. But after so many years of disappointment, he was quite pessimistic. I tried to assure him not to worry, that the 100th anniversary of the last time the Cubs won the World Series was the year of the Cubs.

Obviously I was wrong. After the Cubs choked again, Bill e-mailed me, "I've had it. I gave them 78 years of loyalty. It started for me when I would listen to the Cubs on the radio with my dad when I was a little kid. I stayed with them through the debacle in 1945, also when they won the division and won the first two games and then went to Giants Park and lost three in a row. I stayed with them when they lost because a fan reached out and caught a ball, and now when they were the best team in the league this year. I stayed with them through heartbreak after heartbreak.

"I half expected it because it always happens. I still couldn't get the history out of my craw. And it happened again. Our best pitchers blew up. Our infielders all made serious errors, and our hitters stayed home. For poor (Rich) Harden they got only one run. I don't understand it, unless the curse (of the billy goat) is really still working, but whatever it is, I quit. I resign as a fan – 78 years are enough to give to a team that treats me and the other diehard fans this way. I will not be a

*Continued on page 6*

## Hopeful for future growth of Association

Your column, "The Editor's Desk," in the Summer 2008 *Spearhead News* really put it in my backyard, since I had served with the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, 9th Comm. Bn., 3rd Marine Division, FMF Pac., and Hq. Co., Comm. Plt., Regimental Landing Team 26th Marines, 5th Marine Division, FMF Pac., 1966-1967. There has been much controversy over the years concerning this matter. It is my greatest wish that, with all the official documentation and confirmation, those of us who served will receive the recognition for service during that time.

Also, that the 5th Marine Division Association will not be shutting down is really good news. I'm sure that if those Marines of the 26th, 27th and 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division, apply, with proper documentation, for membership in the 5th Marine Division Association, they will be welcomed with open arms, and our numbers will increase and the Association will remain activated.

– George M. Fogel  
Bensalem, Pa.

## Pilot gives first-class treatment to vet and spouse on flight home

What a way to end our trip to the reunion! On Sunday, Aug. 31, my wife, Eleanor, and I were sitting in the boarding area for our return flight to Florida. I had the Iwo Jima cap on the top of my head as usual. The pilot glanced our way while walking to the aircraft.

When the flight started to board, the pilot returned to the area, walking straight toward us. He inquired if I was an Iwo Jima veteran. When I replied in the affirmative, he stated that he was in the Corps during the 1970s. The pilot then said it would be his pleasure if we would fly in the first-class section during our trip home!

– Tom Roland  
Ocean Ridge, Fla.  
1/3/13 (WIA with G3/2/28)

## Good ideas for Association's future

The new summer issue is great! I've read it all. Thanks

for including excerpts of my Iwo memoirs and the other stories by Iwo vets, families and others.

With time running out for surviving Iwo vets, it's urgent that we make public old memoirs, letters and other writings about our experiences, and even emotions, at the time. Those who don't have any old writings to offer should write down those events they do remember – without getting into imaginative "sea stories," if possible.

I think it's appropriate that "the torch be passed" gradually to 5th Division Vietnam vets. It's good that you and others are promoting this.

Regarding continuing the 5th Division Association, by all means, we should for the reasons given in [the Summer 2008] issue. I like the options given by Ralph Simoneau, especially items 2 and 3. If it comes to the point where no one is able to sponsor or organize the conventions, then "outsource" the dirty work.

However, I especially like his idea of joining forces with the 3rd and 4th Marine Divisions, if they would be interested, for the annual conventions. Each division could have its own internal meetings and retain its own identities, but combine banquets, field trips and other convention costs and preparation efforts. As suggested, this would be more efficient, and it would also allow attendees to get acquainted with Marines of other combat operations and other eras.

As an OLD Marine, I – and I'm sure others – appreciate your efforts and the efforts of others to keep the 5th Marine Division Association intact – even after we OLD Marines are long gone.

– Bill Montgomery  
Jacksonville, Fla.  
HQ/2/26

## Looking for information about Charles W. Stuart, H/3/26

I would like to hear from anyone who remembers this Marine who was killed on Iwo on March 7, 1945, while serving with H/3/26. [See the initial letter received below and my response.] My e-mail address is [lemann@onid.orst.edu](mailto:lemann@onid.orst.edu).

My dear sir:

After almost a year, I finally received the military records of my great-uncle who was killed on Iwo Volcanic Island on 07 March 1945. He served in

Company H, 3rd Battalion, 26th Marines, 5th Marine Division.

I was able to contact his high school buddy, Pvt. Fred Eugene Henley, this morning (age 83) and he said that a guy by the name of Evans stopped and drank coffee with him about six months ago. He was WIA and Bill Stuart helped get him back to the beach. Bill was hit by sniper fire on his way back from the beach and killed. The official USMC record only states: "STUART, CHARLES WILMON WAS KILLED IN ACTION AGAINST THE JAPANESE FORCES ON IWO VOLCANIC ISLAND ON 07 MARCH 1945."

Everyone of Bill's family is dead now, and I was wondering if you could give me an idea of the mission Company H might have had on 07 March 1945. Anything would be most grateful.

Respectfully,  
Lou Formby

LTC. LOURIE N. FORMBY III  
Assistant Chief of Staff, Personnel  
184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command

Dear Lt. Col. Formby:

I am responding to your message to my friend Mark Flowers seeking information about your grand-nephew Charles Wilmon Stuart who was killed in action at Iwo Jima on March 7, 1945.

I had joined H Company as a replacement rifle platoon leader on March 3, having landed as a member of shore party on February 19 and worked on the beach unloading supplies.

H Company had taken heavy casualties and lost all but one of the original platoon leaders (he was killed the next day), and I took over first platoon, which was down to 22 men and had lost all its NCOs except one corporal. We were in the front lines until I was hit on March 8 when my platoon was down to eight men. (Three were still going when the island was secured.) Except for the front-line units, I had no contact with most of the men of H Company while I was on the island, and I do not recall meeting Stuart.

After I got out of the hospital on Guam, I rejoined H Company and eventually went to Japan with them, but only about 50 of the original personnel were able to return to duty after Iwo. Nearly all of them are

gone, but I will do what I can to find someone who remembers serving with your great-uncle.

The Marine Corps issued a division history, titled "Spearhead," right after the war, and I found your great-uncle's name in the Killed-in-Action section and in the unit roster of the 26th Regiment. I have a group photograph of H Company taken before Iwo which has a clear picture of Charles Stuart along with some 200 others. I am not in it, since I was a replacement, but I feel a special bond with some of the men in it. If you would like to have it, I will send you a copy of it.

March 7 was a terrible day for H Company. We had been stalled for four days by a strong Japanese defensive position in rough terrain at the northern end of Iwo, made a surprise dawn attack without preliminary bombardment, overran a fortified position in a sharp firefight, and then were caught in a tremendous explosion that killed or wounded about 30 men from H and the adjacent company. Most of the rest of H Company came up to the front line to help us dig out the men who had been buried by the explosion. We combined the remnants of my platoon with 3rd platoon and then were able to advance about 500 yards until we again encountered a fortified line. I was hit the next day and evacuated.

The men of H Company were outstanding; I honor their memory. Some had served with the parachute battalions in the Solomons; one had been a raider, and all knew their jobs and did their best to help each other. I hope we can find someone who knew Charles Stuart.

– Craig Leman  
Corvallis, Ore.  
H/3/26

## **Daughters experience camaraderie at reunion**

On the last weekend of August, the three Noe sisters – daughters of John Noe Jr., D/2/26, had the pleasure and honor of joining the 5th Marine Division reunion in Washington, D.C.

Although we went with some hope of finding Marines who knew our father, and we did, it was more of a wonder to just be in the presence of the humor,

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laughter and groans of the men and their supportive families. We are sure this was the same comradeship our father had talked about to us.

– The Noe Sisters (Deborah, Diana and Joanna)  
Holland, Mich.

## Rebstock remembered

Thank you for my copy of the *News* – especially to read about the eulogy to Jay Rebstock by his daughter, Corky. George Paulson and I were Jay’s best friends (even though I am a continent away), but I (we) support his daughter’s and family’s loyalty to their father – a hero to all and our hero!

– Phil Haake  
Kihel, Maui, Hawaii

## BAR on the Beach getting closer to reality

The on-hand assets of our BAR on the Beach Project have now reached \$40,000. At our business meeting in Washington on Aug. 30, members voted by ballot, 46 to 26, to match that amount. We are beholden to the Association for its support.

In addition, they voted to cover \$15,000 of the \$20,000 promised to Col. Charles Waterhouse for his permission to use his painting of the subject as the sculptor’s model for the statue. This leaves us only with \$25,000 to raise to meet our established goal.

I was asked by several at the reunion what the result of the questionnaire was that we mailed out to the field in early February. I’m pleased to report that of the 153 queries returned, 142 (93 percent) were in complete support of the project. Only 11 (7 percent) voted against it. Also, 58, 41 percent of the 142, checked the second question hoping that the Association would also support the program. Fortunately, they have seen fit to meet that challenge, and generously.

I had the 153 completed questionnaires with me at the reunion for anyone who wished to see them.

Friends, the goal is in sight. Unfortunately, more than 90 percent of our total membership have remained silent on the issue. We realize that several of you may simply be unable to support the project financially. We’ve received messages from members who are unable to contribute for various other reasons. Others have said they intend to send a second donation later. Believe me,

## The Editor’s Desk

Continued from page 3

Cubs fan again. Not next spring or any spring in the future. They wouldn’t go anywhere, anyway. Why should I waste my time any longer! My life is too short for that.”

I felt terrible for Bill. There would be no Cubs World Series for him. But Pog went from his Idaho home to Bill’s in Indiana for the Notre Dame-Purdue football game and time to remember the days of Kipling’s verse they shared and survived.

“He’ll come a couple of days before the game and stay a day or two afterward,” Bill e-mailed me. “This may be our last visit, so we’ll make it a good one. I really love that guy.”



Sculptor Rob Eccleston took this photo of his BOTB statue at the WWII memorial in Warren, Ohio.

we are committed to seeing this project through.

We are informed that the BAR statue intended for the World War II memorial park in Dayton, Ohio, is now being fabricated at the foundry. Only two of the full-size statues will be created, according to Robert Eccleston, the sculptor, theirs and ours. We’ve also learned from him that this is a careful, time-consuming, tedious process that takes upward of six months to complete.

With your help and encouragement, we’ll get it done. As before, send your contributions to me at 1714 Deer Run Dr., Harrison, AR 72601-3936. Make checks payable to “BAR on the Beach Fund.”

– Bert Clayton  
Ad Hoc Committee Secretary

# Reunion journals available for purchase

*Featured article depicts the Battle for Japan and what might have been*

Have you ever wondered what we would have faced if the plans to invade the Japanese islands had become a reality? An eight-page “what might have been” article by William J. O’Neill on the subject (including an 11-inch-by-17-inch, full-color centerfold by Col. Charles Waterhouse, suitable for framing) was reprinted in this year’s reunion journal to give you a better idea. Waterhouse’s *First Flag on Iwo* painting also adorns the journal’s front cover depicting the 28th Regiment’s assault on Mt. Suribachi.

There were 500 of the journals printed, with 300 dispensed at the reunion. Two hundred issues remain for members, widows or associates who were unable to attend the reunion but might like to receive a copy. They might even like an issue for other family members.

About 1,500 members were unable to attend the Washington reunion and missed getting this publication. John Huffhines, reunion committee member in charge of the journals, is making the surplus journal issues available to you at \$12 each, \$23 for two copies, or \$35 for three. **Postage is included. First come, first served. Get ’em while they’re hot.** Send checks to John at 3229 Heatherbrook Lane, Richardson, TX 75082.

In June and July of 1945, with the memory of the bruising, gut-wrenching casualties of the battle for Iwo Jima still fresh in our minds, Fifth Division Marines at Camp Tarawa had a damned good idea of what awaited them next time around. O’Neill, in print and photos, walks us through it.

The Second, Third and Fifth Divisions would have made up the major elements of Operation Olympic, the largest invasion force in history – larger even than

the colossal invasion of Europe at Normandy. With casualties estimated to be much worse than on Iwo Jima, how many of us would have survived to return home, marry and raise families?

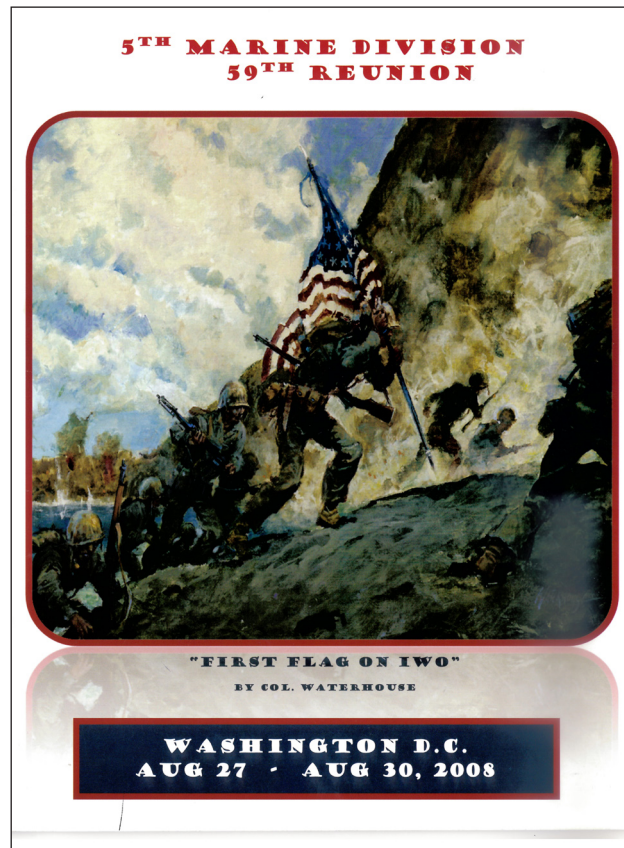
It portrays what Marines, Army troops and Naval shipping afloat would have faced had Emperor Hirohito not reluctantly broadcast his surrender message to the Japanese people by radio transcription following the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

O’Neill’s original article included photos showing a Japanese Oka flying bomb, of which there were plenty remaining; one of 2,000 suicide boats mounting large bombs for ramming ships; multitudes of midget submarines in dry docks to be used against invasion shipping; thousands of sake bottles containing gunpowder and triggered to serve as

grenades, just for starters. The Japanese were ready for us.

In Volume 2 of John Toland’s blockbuster, *The Rising Sun*, he revealed how Emperor Hirohito agonized over the decision of agreeing to end the Japanese war effort, even after the Air Corps had dropped their A-bombs. We didn’t know until much later that many hard-line, high-ranking Japanese officers, in a palace revolt, were scheming to steal the record transcription Hirohito had made to broadcast his message of surrender to the Japanese people. They planned to resist to the very end. Operation Olympic would have actually taken place, rather than just being an archived footnote to history.

**– Bert Clayton  
5th Sig. Co.**





# Iwo Jima

By Brandon Berry, 2001  
Grandson  
of Wes Plummer  
H/3/28

An island in the sea  
Foreign to you and me

After the Japanese bombed the bay  
Iwo Jima was needed by the USA

The Marines landed in 1945  
6,000 of our men would not survive

A bloody battle fought with pride  
On an island only two miles wide

The Japanese hid by digging caves  
Which turned out to be their fiery graves

My Grandpa was one of those Marines  
For 36 days he fought in many scenes

We raised a flag that will forever stand  
On an island of black sand

Uncommon valor was a common virtue  
American freedom will forever be true

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Iwo Jima Survivor or Association shirts, various colors and sizes, most with a pocket. (Note: At this time, Association shirts are only available in Red, with pocket, size L. Inquire with your size and colors, and we'll get back to you ASAP.) Inquire about embroidery on your favorite shirts.



**Baseball Hat** ..... **\$22** net shipped priority mail  
USA-made, twill, adjustable. Embroidered on front: 5th Marine Division, USMC-Logo-WWII, Iwo Jima Survivor. Available as of Oct 2008: Red (3 ea.); White (2 ea.); Black (1 ea.); Dark Green (4 ea.)



**Baseball Hat** ..... **\$22** net shipped priority mail  
USA-made, twill, adjustable. Embroidered on front: 5th Marine Division, WWII-Logo-Vietnam, Association. Available as of Oct 2008: Red (10 ea.)

- 5th Marine Division Hat Pin/Lapel Pin** ..... **\$5** postage paid
  - Crossed Flags Hat Pin/Lapel Pin** ..... **\$5** postage paid
  - 5th Marine Division Outside Decal** ..... **\$3** postage paid
  - 5th Marine Division Sew-On Patch** ..... **\$5** postage paid
  - 5th Marine Division T-Shirt** (size L or XL) ..... **\$15** postage paid
  - Iwo Jima Bumper Sticker** ..... **\$4** postage paid
  - Iwo Jima License Plate** ..... **\$10** plus \$3 shipping
- Red background with gold design and lettering

[ Payment via check or money order, made out to Stan Blake ]



## NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME ABOARD!

BEGGS, Joe C. **C-1-28**  
1 Del Mar Lane, Bella Vista, AR 72714

CHILDERS, Sean **ASSOCIATE**  
6275 Gaines Ferry Rd., Flowery Banch, GA 30542

COATS, Dr. Terri L. **ASSOCIATE**  
4612 Oak Brook Place, Harrison, AR 72601

DIRCKSEN, Henry A. **5TH SERV**  
45 Eddy Heights, Apt. 2, Eddington, ME 04428

GROPE, Matthew Jr. **5TH PION**  
461 Meadowbrook Ave., Youngstown, OH 44512

LOWE, Gerald **C-5TH MED**  
532 Labor Dr., Jacksonville, IL 62650

MEDUNA, Frank W. **ASSOCIATE**  
605 Hardy St., Amite, LA 70422

O'BRIEN, Cyril **ASSOCIATE**  
3632 Gleneagles Dr. 8-2F, Silver Spring, MD 20906

PAULETTO, Peny **ASSOCIATE**  
3213 Jack Dr., Prescott, AZ 86305

RICHARDSON, Brad **ASSOCIATE**  
2322 Bearskin Lane, Monroe, SC 28110

ROBERTS, John **ASSOCIATE**  
540 Woodland Dr., Gainesville, GA 30501

RUFF, Charles E. **A-1-28**  
14591 Begonia Way, Oregon House, CA 95962

SHELLEY, A.J. **C-1-28**  
2005 Saddlewood Trail, Dothen, AL 36301

SPRINGER, Florence **ASSOCIATE**  
1717 W. 12th St., Lorrain, OH 44052

STRATTON, Keith **HQ-2-28**  
3625 Pine Oak St., Wyoming, MI 49509

### LIFE MEMBERS

CALLAHAN, Francis T. **B-5TH ENGR**  
(from annual membership)

MEYERS, Bonnie S. **ASSOCIATE**  
(from annual membership)

MONTGOMERY, William P. **ASSOCIATE**  
(from annual membership)

MCGLYNN, Colin **ASSOCIATE**



## Secretary's Corner

### NOW HEAR THIS!

Annual membership dues have been raised to \$25, as of 2009.

Also, Life membership dues have been changed as follows: Those 80 years old or more = \$50; age 65 through 79 = \$100; age 64 or younger = \$150.

All of the above changes were approved at the annual business meeting on Aug. 30, in Arlington, Va.

If you are an annual member and haven't paid your 2009 dues by March 31, 2009, you will be dropped from the membership rolls.

Please report any change of address immediately so that you will receive your copy of *Spearhead News* on time.

Although the news is saddening, please report any Final Muster information in a timely manner.

– Ted Overgard  
Secretary

## FINAL MUSTER (“Roll Call of the Reef”)

BINAZESKI, Paul M. **K-4-13** 08/13/08

BOHRER, Paul **B-1-13** 08/09/08

BROWN, Roy **E-2-27** 07/18/08

COMMINS, William **C-1-26** Unknown

FECANIN, John **5TH ENGR** 07/08/08

FIFIELD, William A. **E-2-13** 10/21/08

GENTRY, Robert N. **B-1-26** 08/28/08

HARRISON, H.W. “Bill” **E-2-27** 03/12/08

JETT, William B. **F-2-28** 07/03/08

KOMNENICH, Louis **E-2-27** 08/05/08

LARSEN, Leif **G-3-27** 10/06/08

LLOYD, Harry G. **G-3-28** 02/07/07

MCNULTY, Raymond J. **D-2-27** 06/21/08

PRETTYMAN, Kendal B. **HS-2-26** 06/28/08

RANOUS, William A. **E-2-28** 07/08/08

SMITH, Kenneth L. **I-3-28** 08/12/08

TOWNER, Joseph W. **H-3-26** 11/27/06

YORK, James D. **I-3-28** 07/12/08\*

\* Nephew of WWI Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin York



# INSIDE THE SIEGE

## *A Personal Story of the Siege of Khe Sanh*

**By Bill Martin**  
**Gunnery Sergeant (Ret.), USMC**

I arrived at Khe Sanh on 26 July 1967 and was assigned to Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 13th Marines, 5th Marine Division. The 26th and 28th Marines were there also and had already been busy with what were called the “hill fights” involving Hills 861, 881 and 881 North.

While I was at Khe Sanh, I was operations chief of the Fire Direction Center. The FDC operated all fire missions.

Over the next few months, the 26th Marines had occasional contact with the enemy. The reconnaissance unit – “B” Recon – of our regiment frequently had contact with the enemy, and sometimes they required fire support from us to be extracted from their positions.

The Siege of Khe Sanh began on 21 January 1968. I flew out of Khe Sanh on 19 January for five days of R&R in Bangkok, Thailand. On my second day of R&R, splashed across the front page of a Bangkok newspaper were the words “Khe Sanh Under Siege.” My initial reaction was, “This can’t be. I just left there; how can this be?” However, upon reflection, I remembered that as I flew out of Khe Sanh, I noticed troops just a few

kilometers west heading in the direction of Khe Sanh, and I had wondered who they might be.

Needless to say, I was feeling high anxiety until I returned to Vietnam. I boarded a C-123, which was known for its quick descent and short landing need. These were important qualities as all aircraft arriving at Khe Sanh came under mortar, rocket or artillery fire. The crew chief advised us to leave our luggage on board as they would lower the ramp, and we were to hit the ground running. I was the only person without a helmet or flak jacket. The other Marines aboard were replacements. At least I knew where I was headed – the others did not.

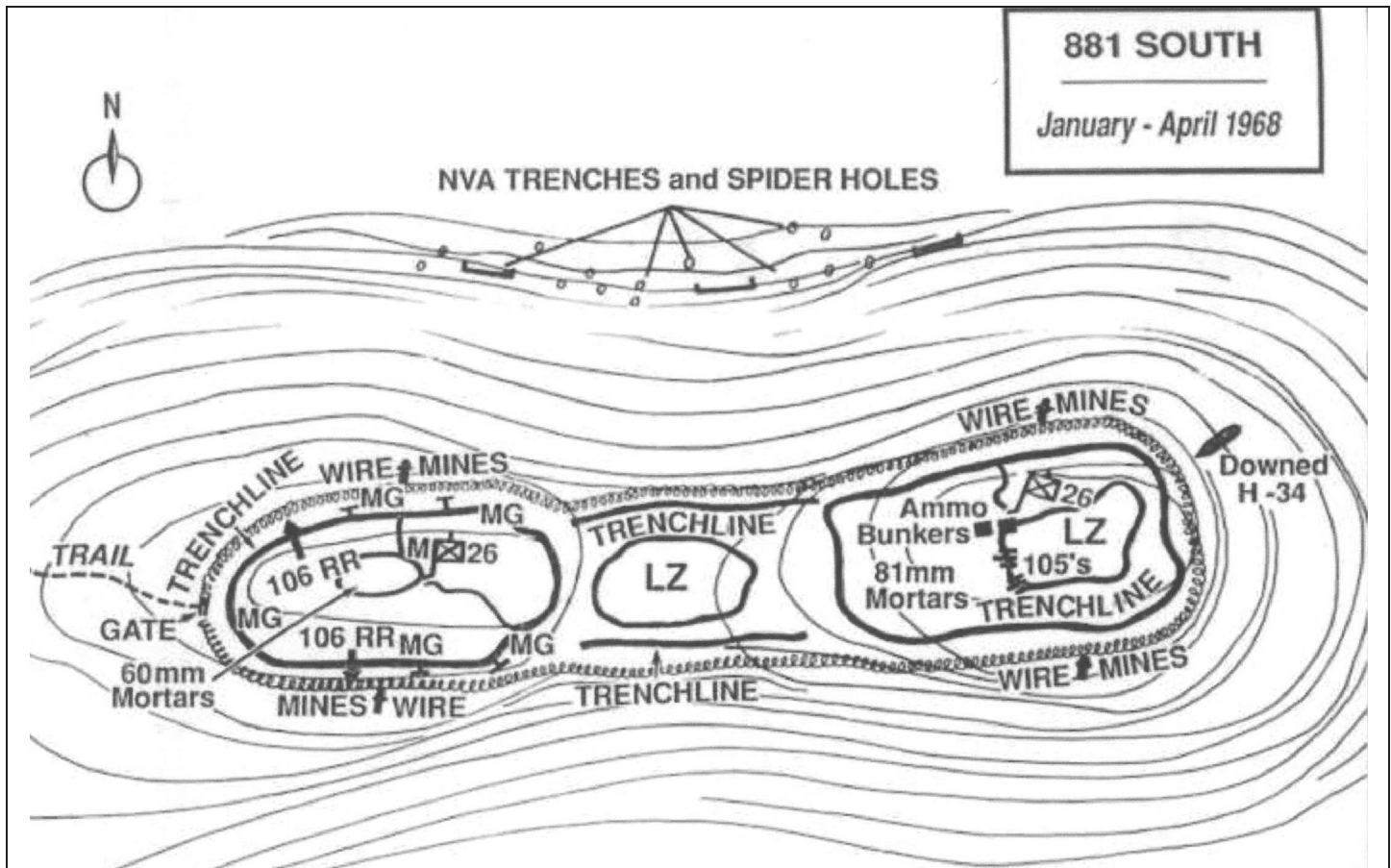
I ran to the Fire Direction Center to find that the native timber with which it was built (termite infested, by the way), had collapsed in places but remained functional. We eventually got a really nice bunker which was built by the Seabees. It was 50 feet by 30 feet and was supported with 10 x 10 beams supporting six to eight feet of rocks and dirt. We took two direct hits by 152mm fuse delay. One of these hits cracked one of the roof beams but did not destroy it.

Shortly after my return from Bangkok, the ammunition dump was hit again, and we became



Hill 881 S, Khe Sanh, during the siege.

<http://www.hmm-364.org/dworsky-r09.jpg>



**An aerial view of Khe Sanh**

engulfed with tear gas. We operated fire missions using gas masks. I greatly admired the radio operators who operated and functioned well under these difficult conditions.

The siege lasted 77 days. It seemed a lot longer.

Initially, we were supplied by C-130s, which landed on our air strip, but that method of supply ceased after one of the planes was hit and burned on the runway. After that, our supplies came by parachute drops or pallet slide drops. Bullets and beans were the order of the day.

The night Lang Vei fell was a long night. This was the first appearance of North Vietnamese tanks in combat, and one shut off our communication with Lang

Vei shortly after midnight. We continued fighting through the night. Some American soldiers got out the next morning, although most were captured and spent time in prison camps.

We lost a platoon (3rd Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines) that was allowed to go out on patrol late in February – a very sad day for us all. We could not support them because we had no communications, and it was foggy. Therefore, they had no air support. They

became known as the “Lost Patrol.”

The morale of all the troops that I encountered was basically good. It was a very tense and trying time, and I was heartened by the extremely high rate of excellence in which the FDC was able to function throughout the siege.

Early in April, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade opened Route 9 into Khe Sanh, which enabled convoys to be used for supplies and allowed the 13th and the 26th Marines to leave Khe Sanh for Phu Bai.

My replacement arrived, as I was due for rotation, and I left Vietnam for the United States, via Okinawa, on 23 May 1968.

*Reprinted for the Reunion Journal.*

## Aug. 27-31, 2008, Reunion in Washington, D.C.



*Photo by Kay Plummer*

Marine Corps Commandant James T. Conway (left) speaks with Wes Plummer (H/1/28) at the Reunion Banquet on Saturday night..



From left, Marine Corps Commandant James T. Conway poses for a photo with Association Trustee Chairman Mike Dietz (5th JASCO) and Association President Ivan Hammond (5th JASCO).



Standing from left: Walter O'Malley (E/2/27); Russell Mencke (USMC veteran); and Mike Dietz (5th JASCO and Association trustee chairman). Seated from left: Bill Madden (E/2/27); Al Pagoaga (E/2/27); and Menard "Bull" Brouillette (B/1/27).

## **Minutes of the 59th Annual Business Meeting of the Fifth Marine Division Assoc., Crystal City Marriott Hotel, Arlington, Va., Aug. 30, 2008 (Pending Approval)**

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The meeting was called to order by Ken Watterson at 10:35 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the USA followed.

Ken Watterson asked that the Secretary's minutes of the last meeting be read. Joyce Overgard read the minutes of the Aug. 25, 2007, Business Meeting, held at the North Hilton Hotel in Raleigh, N.C. They were approved as read. She then read the Treasurer's report, which showed a balance of \$172,606.26. Report accepted.

Ken Watterson explained that our funds will go to the Marine Museum when the Association is dissolved. He believes that as an association, we should begin contributing funds to such groups as Semper Fi, Young Marines, the Charles Waterhouse Museum and the BAR on the Beach statue fund. However, he suggested that the motion made in Raleigh in 2007 that we contribute \$125,000 to the BAR statue, and which was defeated by the membership, be rescinded. Motion made, seconded and carried.

Ken Watterson proposed that we contribute \$25,000 to Semper Fi, \$20,000 to Young Marines, \$10,000 to the Waterhouse Museum and \$40,000 to the BAR statue. Donald Pero asked that we amend the motion to give an extra \$5,000 to the Waterhouse Museum because of what Waterhouse has done for us. The members are now asked to vote to contribute as follows: \$40,000 for the BAR statue, \$25,000 for Semper Fi, \$20,000 for Young Marines and \$15,000 to the Waterhouse Museum. Motion was seconded and approved.

Ken Watterson asked that the members approve his appointments of Philip Wade as Sgt. at Arms and Frank Caldwell as our legal adviser. Voted and approved.

Ken Watterson said that the Secretary's salary had been increased from \$375 to \$500 per month at the 2007 meeting of the Board of Trustees. He asked that a vote of approval be given at this time. Approved.

He then said that at the 2008 Trustees meeting, an increase of \$100 per month was approved for the editor of *Spearhead News*. Motion made and approval given.

Ted Overgard stated that the secretary's job entails many hours of work each week and asked approval for the raise granted at the trustees meeting yesterday. \$100 was approved unanimously.

Ted Overgard stated that our yearly membership fees are too low to keep up with the expenses. Each

issue of *Spearhead News* costs approximately \$3,000 to print and mail. He has checked with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions as to their yearly dues. Two of those three charge \$25 per year, and the other one charges \$30. He suggested that we go from \$10 to \$25. Motion made, seconded and carried unanimously.

He then proposed that the Life membership fees be changed as follows: 80 years of age and over – \$50; 65 through 79 years of age – \$100; and under 65 – \$150. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Ted also stated that he has discussed with Ray Elliott and Mike Dietz the idea of publishing four smaller and more timely issues of *Spearhead News* per year. Members accepted the idea.

Ken Watterson stated that a two-thirds vote is necessary to pass the next order of business. He suggests that we do more to make Vietnam veterans more a part of our Association by increasing our number of Trustees to six members with three from Iwo Jima and three from Vietnam. It was moved that there be a four/three split with four Trustees from the Iwo Jima group and three coming from the Vietnam group. It was seconded and passed by a vote of 60 YES & 32 NO votes.

Ken Watterson asked for nominations of Trustees. The seven nominated and approved, one at a time, were Warren Musch, Mike Dietz, Tom Kalus and Ivan Hammond from the Iwo Jima group and Bill Martin, James Carmer and Ken Watterson from the Vietnam group. Mike Dietz was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Jim Frado expressed concern about the comments being made about disbanding the Association. It was decided to continue yearly reunions. Tom Kalus spoke about the plaque at the Hawaiian Punch Bowl. The \$5,000 approved last year will not be called for until the design and language are finalized and other considerations which are required have been met.

Ivan Hammond was then called upon to inform us of some of the plans for the 2009 reunion in Houston. It will be held at the Bobby Marriott Hotel. Room prices will be \$79. Among the highlights will be visits to a battleship, a monument and the Space Center. Free parking will be available.

Mrs. (Thomas) Begay sang the Star-Spangled Banner and the Marine's Hymn in the Navajo language. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



# THE SPEARHEAD

THE FIRST MARINE DAILY NEWSPAPER ON KYUSHU, JAPAN

4TH DAY  
OF  
OCCUPATION

VOLUME V NUMBER 41

WITH THE 5TH MARINE DIVISION, SASEBO, KYUSHU

4 NOVEMBER, 1945

**Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from Nov. 4, 1945, Spearhead during the occupation of Japan and was supplied by the daughter of Oral "Smokey" Correll, A/1/28.**

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SHANSI PROVINCE  
AS CHINESE GOVERNMENT MAKES NEW BID  
(Chungking)

In an eleventh-hour bid to avoid further strife, the Chinese Government offered the Communist a new peace plan today. Chinese information Minister K.C. Wu

The new plan reportedly involved control of vital railways connection North and Central China, the most important of which are now controlled by the Communists. A reply to the proposal is being awaited from Yunan, Communist center, but it seemed likely it would be rejected.

Meanwhile the government and Communist troops are scaling the walls around Chungyang, southwest of Shansi, with wooden ladders, in a concentrated attack on the city. the report said that Red reinforcements from Northern Shansi had gained access to the Yellow River to support the attack. ...

MEMORIAL FLAGSTAFF RAISED ON SURIBACHI  
(Iwo Jima)

A memorial flagstaff, designed and constructed by provided the 31st CB's on Iwo's Mount Suribachi, was dedicated October 2 by Army Garrison Forces on the island.

The flagstaff commemorates the raising of the American flag on Suribachi on February 23, 1945, by Marines of the 28th Regiment. It is located on the exact spot the original flag was put up.

The forward to the dedication program said: "This memorial is a tribute to the valor of the Americans who fought and died on Iwo Jima.

Their sacrifices denied the enemy the use of this island, and provided a powerful base for operations that immeasurably speeded the final capitulation of the Japanese Empire."

ICKES URGES NEW OIL DEVELOPMENT (Wash.)  
Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes said the continuance of the U.S in its role as a world power may well depend on the creation of a great oil reserve from resources locked in the submerged land of the Continental Shelve. ...

INDONESIAN CLASHES BREAK OUT  
IN BATAVIA AFTER MALEGANG QUIETS DOWN  
(Batavia)

Sharp encounters with Indonesian extremists broke out in Batavia Friday after heavy fighting at Malegang was halted under a temporary truce negotiated with the aid of President Soekarro of the Indonesian Republic. ...

CARIO FIGHTING RESUMES AFTER LULL  
(Cairo)

Crowds resumed their anti-Jewish rioting in Cairo today after an 18-hour lull. One mob of more than 100 men began smashing shop windows in the center of the city shortly after noon. Both Jewish and Arab stores suffered. A force of 500 steel-helmeted police, armed with wooden nightclubs, quickly cordoned off the main trouble area. As panic broke out in the surrounded district, shops immediately closed their doors. ...

YAMASHITA LINKED DIRECTLY WITH CRIMES  
(Manila)

The war crimes trial of General Tomoyuki Yamashita linked him directly for the first time with brutalities committed by his

men. A Japanese, who was an interpreter in the headquarters of the dreaded Jap military police, said Yamashita had commended police for their fine work. These are the police whose brutality brought a reign of terror to Manila last February. ...

NAZIS GO ON TRIAL NOVEMBER 20  
(Nuernberg)

Twenty-four Nazi leaders go on trial in Nuernberg, Germany, on November 20. ...

AUTOMOBILE WORKERS WARN INDUSTRY THEY WILL FIGHT PRICE INCREASES (Wash.)  
The United Automobile Workers (CIO) served notice on the automotive industry they would fight price increases just as hard as they would fight for a 30 percent wage increase. ...

19 SOLDIERS DIE OF POISONED LIQUOR  
(Tokyo)

The Provost Marshal of the Eighth Army reported that 19 American soldiers and a merchant seaman died last month on Hunshu as a result of drinking poisoned liquor. There were others who were poisoned, including one who was blinded, but they will recover.

Five of the men were stricken in a cabaret while celebrating their final night in Japan before sailing to the United States for discharge.

MOSCOW RADIO ATTACKS U.S. ON ATOMIC BOMB  
(N.Y.)

Radio Moscow in a broadcast to the North American Atom Bomb Conference, said the atomic bomb was an offensive weapon only and no value for defense. Therefore, the broadcast said, the reactionary insistence on preservation of the atomic bomb secret is motivated by a desire to pursue power diplomacy by threatening other nations with armed action.

The broadcast added that it "may be certain that other countries by independent research may evolve the technical design of the industrial methods of atomic power which is presently limited to the United States

and Canada. Before many years they may also produce an atom bomb which may be a hundred or a thousand times more powerful than those which caused such devastation at Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

Reference was made to President's Navy Day address in which he said the U.S. should keep the atom bomb a secret as long as possible as a means of keeping the peace. At the time he asserted that the motives of the U.S. have been and always will be to remain a force for peace.

FOOTBALL JUMPS BACK INTO SPORTS PICTURE WITH NAVY-NOTRE DAME GAME DAY TOPPING LIST

Football enters one of its most exciting weekends of play with the nation's top teams risking their records and reputations in games throughout the country.

A crowd of 80,000 is expected to witness the Navy-Notre Dame clash in Cleveland Stadium. Both teams are undefeated and untied. Pre-game betting odds gives Notre Dame the edge but some observers are pointing to the fact that the Irish have had weaker opposition than the Middies this season and anything is likely to happen.

A storm of criticism has been raised against Navy after each one of its games for sloppy play. So far, the Midshipmen have managed to lose everything but the game.

The nation's top team, Army, goes up against Villanova. Army is favored to win but Blanchard, Davis and Company may have a rough time against a strong Villanova eleven. Columbia will risk its unbeaten, untied record against Cornell and is expected to come out with the same kind of record. ...

MOVIES FOR TONIGHT: Division Theatre: "Talk of the Town"; 5th Pion Bn: "Together Again"; 27th area: "Four Jills in a Jeep"; 13th area: "Conflict"; 5th Ser Bn: "The Very Thought of You"; 5th Eng Bn: "Mazie Goes To Reno"; 13th 1st Bn: "Dr. Gillespie's Criminal Case"; 28th area: "Wilson."

THE SPEARHEAD THIS PAPER MAY BE MAILED HOME. PAGE TWO:  
FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL ONLY. PLEASE PASS THIS NEWS ALONG.

# *64th Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima*

**Educational & Historical Symposium: 26 Feb - 1 Mar 2009 in Fredericksburg, Va.**

**Reunion of Honor Tour: 13 - 20 Mar 2009 to Guam and Iwo Jima**

## **ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

At our last general membership meeting of the Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima, we recognized that it was time to change the name of the organization in order to open our doors to a larger membership and emphasize that we belong to all who served at Iwo Jima - on the ground, air and sea. We invite not only veterans of the battle to join us, but also those who recognize the many sacrifices made by our comrades and desire to help perpetuate their memory ensuring that, long after the last Iwo Jima veteran has gone, future generations will remember Iwo Jima.

What we started as a veterans' reunion organization over 20 years ago has now evolved into an organization that seeks to educate future generations and to keep the memory of Iwo Jima alive, especially as our veteran ranks become thinner. Iwo Jima will remain one of the most awe-inspiring battles in history.

However, we need more than a simple name change. To accomplish our mission, we must restructure by forming a new organization that will promote the historical and scholarly study of the Battle of Iwo Jima and help veterans, descendants of veterans and the public learn and better understand the battle and its place in history. The new Iwo Jima Association of America is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes and will fund, support and sponsor activities to further its educational mandate, such as symposiums, lectures, tours and gatherings of Iwo Jima veterans.

The Iwo Jima Association of America is incorporated in the state of Virginia. To receive the most favorable tax treatment for our corporation and donors, IJAA is structured to be classified with the Internal Revenue Service as a public charity with 501(c)(3) entitlements.

## **EDUCATIONAL & HISTORICAL SYMPOSIUM ITINERARY**

**Thurs., Feb. 26** – Check in at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House & Conference Center, 2801 Plank Road, Fredericksburg, Va. Social hour and informal dinner at the Globe & Laurel Restaurant in Stafford, Va.

**Fri., Feb. 27** – Breakfast with Marines in one of dining facilities on the Quantico Marine Corps Base. Tour of the base, including visits to various commands and displays. Lunch on base. Private after-hours event at the National Museum of the Marine Corps – informal dinner, social hour, tours and special exhibits.

**Sat., Feb. 28** - Educational & Historical Symposium speakers and presenters will include veterans, noted authors and historians. Formal banquet and entertainment by the Marine Corps Band and Color Guard.

**Sun., March 1** – Memorial Breakfast dedicated to our comrades and all those who served and sacrificed at the Battle of Iwo Jima. Optional trolley tours of historic Fredericksburg and Fredericksburg Battlefield.

For further information:

**Jim Adams, Executive Director**

**Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc.**

**4600 Duke Street, Suite 416 • Alexandria, VA 22304-2517**

**Phone: (703) 212-8128 • Fax: (703) 212-8567**

**E-mail: [Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org](mailto:Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org) • Web: [www.IwoJimaAssociation.org](http://www.IwoJimaAssociation.org)**





# ***A guide for donating personal papers to the Marine Corps Archives***

Letters, diaries, photos, military personnel papers that you have accumulated offer vital and unique information regarding your experience as a Marine. And while these papers obviously matter to you, they may be important to the Marine Corps as well. Whether or not you have attained a degree of fame, you have contributed to the heritage of a certain place and time in Marine Corps history. When you donate your papers to the Marine Corps Archives, your experience while in the Corps becomes a part of the Marine Corps' collective history.

The personnel at the Archives ensure that these personal papers will be available for research by generations to come. If your papers are deemed appropriate for the Marine Corps Archives, and you agree to donate those papers, you stand to gain many benefits. The Archives carefully preserves its collection of written, visual and audio material providing your papers with environmentally controlled, secure storage and can oversee their proper handling and use. Equally important, it can provide research access to the contents of the papers, to you and to the scholarly public, as well as the Marine Corps. In future years, researchers – including students, professors, genealogists and journalists – may find your papers both interesting and of value to their work.

## **What to preserve**

The Archives can accept a donation of as little as a single item and as large as dozens of boxes. Material need not be organized; it need not be “old”; however, identification is key – photos, tapes and films should be identified. Do not mail or drop off materials without first consulting with the staff; the Archive staff must evaluate all material offered and ask the donor to sign a donation agreement.

## **Examples of historically valuable material**

While it is important that the Archives staff be permitted to survey papers or records in order to

determine which materials have enduring historical value, listed below are the types that are collected:

- Letters
- Memoirs/reminiscences
- Diaries
- Scrapbooks/photo albums
- Military personnel records
- Minutes/reports
- Brochures and flyers
- Photographs (labeled)
- Films/videos/audio tapes (labels)

## **Will the Archives take everything offered?**

Although a repository cannot accept everything that may be offered (because the papers may not be within the collecting mission of the Archives), it welcomes the chance to review material. Some material, though, may be of more sentimental than historical value and should be kept by the individual or family.

## **Access to the Collections**

Once material is donated to the Archives and processed by staff, the public can access the collection.

## **Monetary appraisals for tax deductions**

In certain circumstances, it may be possible for a donor to take a tax deduction for the donation. Anyone considering a donation is encouraged to speak with a tax accountant or attorney about the possibility. *Archives staff cannot give tax advice, nor are they permitted to appraise the monetary value of a collection or recommend an appraiser.*

## **Contact information:**

Archives and Special Collections  
Library of the Marine Corps  
2040 Broadway St.  
Quantico, VA 22134  
703-784-4685

**By Cyril O'Brien**

*USMC combat correspondent on Iwo Jima*

## The Lions of Iwo Jima

**By Maj. Gen. Fred Haynes & James A. Warren**  
**Henry Holt & Co., 262 pages**

It was the 28th, 5th Division that crossed the island on the first day, fronted all the way to the last to what could be the fiercest battle of Iwo Jima at Bloody Gorge, and now you can follow it – the people, the nuances and whys – in the book recently released called, *The Lions of Iwo Jima*.

Intense, it can even make you feel you are there again. The first-hand account focuses on Combat Team 28, 4,500 Marines. Author and then-Capt. Fred Haynes was tactical control officer of the landing team and later was instrumental in forming tactics and strategy for the battle on the far north of the island. Bringing it to a boiling point with him is co-author James Warren, veteran military writer.

You'll want to read why, critics say, Col. Harry Bluett Liversedge has been acclaimed as one of the great commanders in Marine Corps history, about Bloody Gorge and its place as a historic engagement of the whole Pacific war.

It's about the Japanese and Baron Nishi – details you never, though could have, imagined – how water could mean a fight to the death among surviving Japanese.

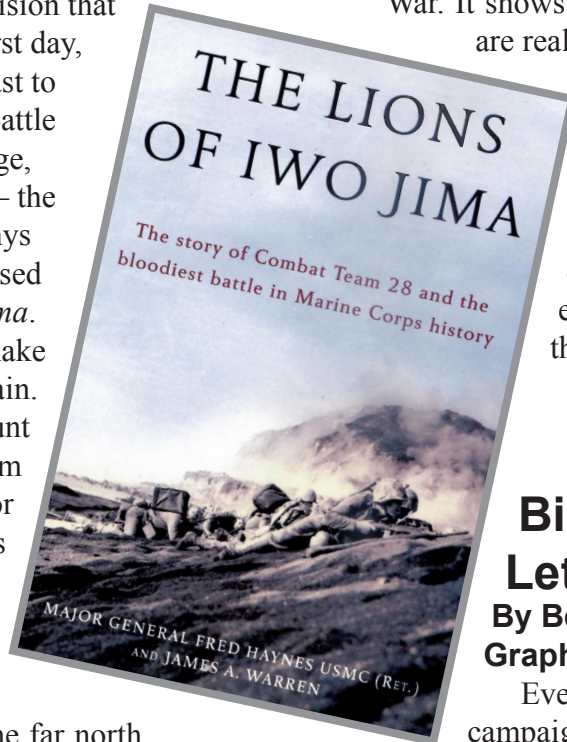
What others are saying about *The Lions of Iwo Jima*:

“This riveting and memorable account of the horrors and heroics of Iwo Jima is much more than another war story. It is about courage, grief, sacrifice, and most of all, about honor.”

– Tom Brokaw, *NBC News*

“*The Lions of Iwo Jima* is, above all, a story of the indomitable resolve of Marines in battle.”

– Gen. James L. Jones, 32nd Commandant of the Marine Corps and Supreme Allied Commander Europe



“*The Lions of Iwo Jima* captures in stark detail the incredible trial by fire of Combat Team 28 in the Marine Corps’ most challenging battle of the Pacific War. It shows what Americans can do when the chips are really down.”

– Dan Rather, *Dan Rather Reports*

“*The Lions of Iwo Jima* tells the full story of the unit that raised the flags on Mount Suribachi in powerful, brooding detail. Certainly one of the best books ever written about Iwo Jima – and about the experience of war at ground level.”

– Clint Eastwood, director of *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Letters from Iwo Jima*

## Bisita Guam:

### Let Us Remember

**By Ben Blaz**

**Graphic Center, Inc., 230 pages**

Even if you fought the whole Guam campaign, you could hardly understand the brutal occupation of fellow Americans on that island by a vengeful enemy and how your rescue in the nick of time put you as a liberator at a level in their hearts just below worship.

It's told in a heartfelt book about Guam by an author who was 13 when he peered through the high brush adjacent to chonito as you came ashore on July 21, 1944, and he cried. He grew up to be a Marine Corps general and U.S. Congressman representing his homeland.

It's an easy read, inexpensive and has more heart, courage, loyalty and even warmth than a non-Chamorro could ever gather. It's called, *Bisita Guam: Let us Remember Nihi Ta Hasso*, a remembrance of the occupation years of World War II.

It's about living under arrogance, privation and psychological and physical siege by a suddenly unfamiliar enemy. It's about how two boys escape a concentration camp at the risk of death. One was captured, tortured and beheaded.

The environment of occupation – “I saw Japanese in the city everywhere” because most people had fled to the outskirts. “There was eeriness, no children, no old

men, no chickens scratching, no future.”

Blaz tells about the remaining American refugee, Tweed. How your coming brought such hope but intensified enemy brutality with beheadings and rape.

The author bears memories, but no bitterness.

## Tours of Duty

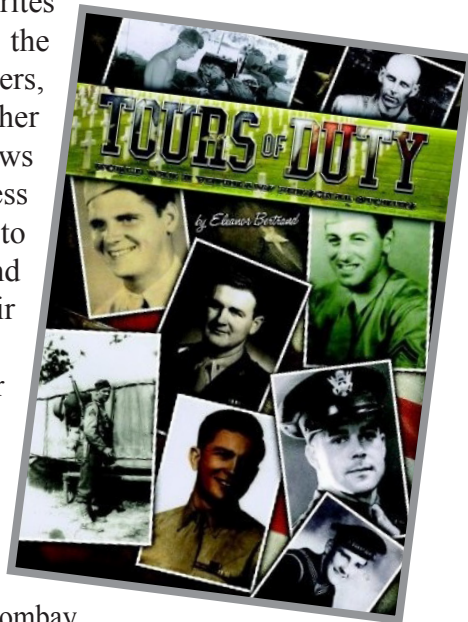
By Eleanor Bertrand

You'll want to read a delightful book called, *Tours of Duty* – it's warm, personal, full of flavor and a tribute to all of you. It's by a nurse who is red, white and blue and writes personally about the Marines, soldiers, sailors and other veterans she knows through friendliness and many trips to the battleground overseas and their reunions.

She is Eleanor Bertrand of Baton Rouge, La., daughter of a Texas oil executive and familed everywhere from Bombay, Manila, Ceylon to Tokyo. In the last six years, she's accompanied vets to battlegrounds because Military Historical Tours wanted a medical professional to accompany them.

It's about veterans you know and will know. Each person is an easily read chapter. There's George Gentile, retired dentist, who went back to Iwo, found where his buddy Izzy had been blown away and when, with another, he tried to gather black sand from the spot, “our throats were full, our eyes closed, we couldn't speak.”

Or Danny Thomas, the Navy corpsman who, seeing a Marine's intestines on the beach yelled, “Damn! ... Damn! ... Please God damn them. ...” Or Williams Boggs Tosline, a wire man who wired with the enemy looking right at him. Some said he was “the bravest man I ever saw.”



## Now you can opt to read the newsletter online

During the business meeting at the reunion last August, I suggested sending the *Spearhead News* out electronically as an alternative to the print version to save on postage and printing costs. Two other benefits would be that you would receive it sooner, and you would be able to view it in color.

Essentially, the page layouts of each subsequent issue of the newsletter will be posted on a Web site as an Adobe PDF file. Your computer will need to have Internet access, as well as Adobe Reader, which is the free software to read the file. (A link will be available on the Web site where you can download Adobe Reader, if needed. But it is a commonly used file format these days.)

After the meeting, Jim Shriver communicated that it should be made clear that “should the Member or Associate take that option, no hard copy will be mailed to them.”

So, if you would like to read an electronic version of the *Spearhead News*, instead of receiving a printed copy in the mail, please do the following:

1. E-mail your request to Editor Ray Elliott at [talespress@comcast.net](mailto:talespress@comcast.net).
2. Please be sure to include the following four pieces of information: 1) your name; 2) e-mail address; 3) mailing address; and 4) phone number.

*(Note: If you select this option, you are also giving permission to have e-mail reminders sent to you about your membership renewal.)*

When the next newsletter is published, those who opt for the electronic version will receive an e-mail with a link to the newsletter on the Web.

Since the Fifth Marine Division Association does not currently have an official Web site, I am happy to post the newsletters on my Tales Press Web site at [www.talespress.com](http://www.talespress.com). I have already archived the last two issues there, so you can see what it would be like to view them online. See what you think and let me know.

– Ray Elliott  
Editor

### *Spearhead News Deadlines*

Fall — Sept. 20

Spring — March 20

Winter — Dec. 20

Summer — June 20

**FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

Ted Overgard, Secretary  
 P.O. Box 1775  
 Harrison, AR 72602-1775

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*All annual memberships expire on 31 December. Please renew on time.*

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 Harrison, AR 72602-1775

Date of birth (for Life Membership): \_\_\_\_\_

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- ( ) Lifetime ..... \$ 150.00  
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- ( ) Lifetime ..... \$ 100.00  
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- ( ) Lifetime ..... \$ 50.00  
     *age 80 and over*
- ( ) General Fund ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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*(Make checks payable to: 5th Marine Division Assn.)*