



Spearhead NEWS

"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

**65TH ANNUAL REUNION - TAMPA, FL
SEPTEMBER 8 - 13, 2014**

SAVE THE DATE

Little-known POWs buried in Peleliu cemetery

SgtMaj Hubert "Bert" Caloud, USMC (Ret.) assistant superintendent for the Manila American Cemetery, has long been a valuable resource for helping American families and those who survived the War in the Pacific find the final resting place of a loved one or a buddy who never made it home.

Spearhead readers may remember my column in the Winter 2010-11 issue after I'd visited the cemetery in Manila for the Veterans Day ceremony. Bert later took me and a photographer to the grave of a Marine who'd served with a member of the Marine Corps League to which I belong and to the graves of three other Marines killed on Iwo Jima. He later located the grave of a family member for a sailor's niece who never knew where her uncle had been buried.

Recently, Bert emailed Fifth Marine Division Association member Dr. Craig B. Lemman (H-3-26) about a JPAC researcher working in Nebraska on some Peleliu casualties, and "while doing some background



The Indian Armed Forces' burial plot at Peleliu Cemetery in 1947. (Signal Corps photo)

research, came across some photos of 'Indian Military Personnel' buried in a separate plot next to the Marines and Soldiers in the U.S. Peleliu Cemetery."

A friend of the researcher at JPAC in Nebraska found a photo (and sent it to Caloud) that shows "India Armed Forces" at a temporary cemetery on Peleliu, not with the other burials but off to the side on their own,

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SPEARHEAD NEWS

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of the 5th Marine Division Association*

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IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please notify me of your forwarding address if you move or when a member passes away. Widows are eligible to continue as Memorial Members, and other family members are encouraged to join the Association.

Several newsletters from the last issue were returned with postage due of \$2.25 per newsletter. If you know any more information about the following people, please let me know because they have been dropped from the rolls for no forwarding address.

Please send all address changes, updates, obituaries and membership renewals to:

FMDA Secretary Ray Elliott
2609 N. High Cross Rd.
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talespress@talespress.com

Donald D. Mayberry (D-2-27), Newberry Springs, CA (Marked deceased.)

Kenneth V. Hunley (6THWDPLT), Winslow, IN

Isidore Finkelstein (Associate), Woodmere, NY

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Ruth Craft (Memorial Member), Colleyville, TX

Lorraine Poteet (Memorial Member), Santa Fe, NM

John L. Brown (5THMED), Greenville, RI

William. J. Smith (C-1-28), Bonne Terre, MO

Mrs. William C. Wilson (Memorial Member), Kansas City, MO

Cleveland E. Ardis (C-1-26), Hartsville, SC

B.G. Garrison (5THPION-PHMS2C), Madison, MS

James H. Hendricks (5THLASCO), Lenexa, KS

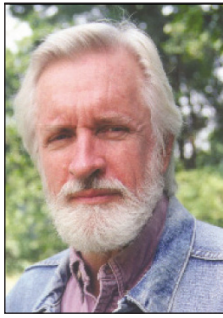
Charles Rosales (F-2-26), West Covina, CA

SgtMaj Jeff Williams (Ret.), San Antonio, TX

E. L. "Bud" Gott (A-1-28), Corning, CA

THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Ray Elliott



A lasting connection to Iwo Jima

After a wreath-laying ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial awhile back, a man I'd known for some time turned to me and asked what was my connection with Iwo Jima. Since he belonged to the Association, I was a bit surprised. I'd mentioned the connection in past issues of *Spearhead* and in other places several times.

Now I realize that not everybody reads *Spearhead* from cover to cover or that everybody reads everything I write. But I thought I'd made my connection with Iwo Jima pretty clear. Not everybody gets the word, though, so I'll give it another shot.

None of my relatives fought on Iwo Jima. The closest Marine to being a relative who fought there that I know is Col David Elliott Severance, USMC (Ret.), company commander of E-2-28. The first time I spoke with him, he told me his mother was an Elliott. No direct relation, but the clan spread out around the world from the Borders area of Scotland. He reminds me of my relatives and often calls me Cuz.

My initial connection with Iwo Jima came from Oral "Ben" Correll, or "Old Smoke(y)" as some of his buddies in A-1-28 called him — at 26 years old, they also called him "Pops." I'd heard all the nicknames but never knew where Smoke came from until I met Al Hughes, a man in A Company, at the 59th Iwo Jima Survivors' Reunion in New Orleans. Al knew Ben and told me that Smokey was a popular cartoon character of the time, Fireman Smokey Stokes. I'd written a piece on Ben in the Spring 2008 issue of *Spearhead* and mentioned that account. See www.talespress.com/Spearhead_Spring2008.pdf for the story.

Like me, Ben was an old farm boy who grew up on a farm in Southern Illinois a few miles from where I did. I first remember him not long after he came home from the Marine Corps and had started barbering. He told me later that he'd wanted to write but had a

family and needed to make a living. He'd cut hair in the company and went to barber school and right to work in a basement barbershop on the corner of the four-way stop in Oblong, Ill.

I'd wait for him to cut my hair, if my turn came for the other barber.

Sometime after I became aware that he'd been a Marine on Iwo Jima, I went to town with my father on Saturday to have a truck serviced. While he was playing pool, I went to the barbershop and could hardly wait to climb up in the chair.

"How'd you want 'er, Sedwick?" Ben asked, using my father's nickname for me.

"I want a boot camp haircut like you had in the Marines," I said.

Ben laughed, his eyes sparkling through his horn-rimmed glasses. "Your dad know you're goin' do this?"

"Oh, yeah," I said, lying. "He said it was fine."

I never got a quicker haircut until I hit MCRD several years later. Ben took a few swipes with the clipper, eyes still sparkling, untied the apron, shook the hair out on the floor and laughed. "Tell you dad you told me it was okay."

"I will," I said, sort of startled at how I looked and gave him a 50-cent piece.

He gave me a dime back instead of the usual nickel and said, "You'd better get two scoops of ice cream today."

I got the ice cream, then ran over to the poolroom and waited for my dad. He looked at me but never said a word until we were in the truck and about a mile north of town. Then he looked over and said, "You look like a striped-assed ape."

He and Ben laughed about it the next time we went to the barbershop. In high school when all the basketball team had flattops, Ben was the only one we went to for a haircut. You could lay a level across the cut, and the bubble would be spot on.

If you'd go into the shop in an afternoon when business was slow, you'd often find him sitting in his chair reading a book. He kept two baskets, one for magazines and one for books, that customers used as a library of sorts. You took what you wanted to read and brought others in. In the days before television, my father read quite a bit and exchanged books. I always had plenty of books to read.

Years later after I had been in the Marine Corps and

Continued on page 5

Consider back-to-back reunions to reduce attendance costs

I am a Life Member of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th Marine Division Associations. The divisions hold their reunions in different places around the same time of the year. For example, [here are] reunion dates in different locations:

1st Div. 08-11-14 to 08-17-14

2nd Div 08-5-14 to 08-09-14

3rd Div 08-12-14 to 08-17-14

5th Div 09-08-14 to 09-13-14

6th Div 10-7-14 to 10-12-14

Has anyone tried to do back-to-back reunions in August to September in the same city and at the same hotels? If you try this, maybe the room rates would be less than \$100, plus taxes. Could even be less than \$70 per night.

It would take a little time for this to work – maybe two years of planning from now.

Keep in mind that more members may attend the reunions if the cost is less for the rooms, and you might get the meals for less, also.

– Charles Luhan
11TH ENGR
Chicago, Ill.

Humbled to support the 5th Division

I volunteer with Honor Flight Chicago, so was busy at Chicago Midway one morning helping to send our second flight of the year to D.C. I had the honor and pleasure of meeting a veteran of 2/27 who spent 34 days on Iwo.

I mailed my application, check for a life membership and a business card yesterday. My interest in the Association stems from the service of my father's cousin, Cpl Charles Dewey Atchley, G Bty/3/13. I guess that, technically, Charles would be my cousin, as well, but given that I was born in 1962, it does not seem proper to say I had a cousin KIA on Iwo. Charles was one of the artillerymen who went forward as infantry to fill the gaps and was killed on 14 March 1945.

I am humbled by the opportunity to submit my application and will do all I can to support the Marines of the 5th Division and their families, the Association, and

the Corps as a whole. My best friends in the world are Marines, and they mean everything to me.

Thank you again. If I can be of service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

– Mark Atchley
Franklin, Wis.

Editor's Note: It is with the attitude and help of people and legacy family members like Mark Atchley that the Fifth Marine Division Association will continue on to honor and remember the service and sacrifices of those in the division.

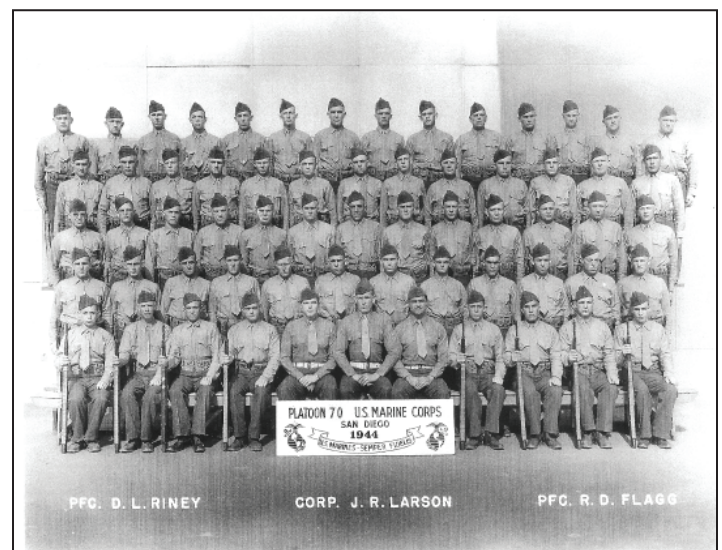
Sharing pictures of a time long ago

I was a young boy when I landed on Iwo Jima and saw war for my first time. I came home for a short time, then I went back into the Marines to serve in Korea. I was never so scared and cold. I still find it hard to believe we survived.

I am now 88 years old and am sending you these pictures of my service time. It would be nice to see them in the newsletter.

– Clarence A. Schutt
5TH PION
Hixon, Tenn.

Editor's Note: Every Marine who ever was graduated from boot camp remembers his or her platoon photo. Thanks for sending it, Clarence.



EDITOR'S DESK

Continued from page 3

was home from college on break, I walked into the shop on a winter afternoon in the middle of the week. Ben was sitting in the chair laughing and talking with three men I knew, all farmers, sitting in chairs along the wall facing him. One was a World War II Marine who had been relieving the guard on Ford Island a little before 8 a.m. on Dec. 7, 1941, when he looked over his shoulder and saw some airplanes headed through the pass.

Another was an Army tanker who had landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. The other one was a Marine veteran who had spent parts of 1952-53 in Korea. They told stories, laughed and enjoyed each other's company. And through the years, I often stopped in to talk with Ben, sometimes about the Marine Corps, sometimes about writing, but always about life and his perspective of it.

"I've had a lot of bonus years since Iwo," he said one day in a reflective mood. Not long afterwards, he had a heart attack, never recovered and died at age 60. I stopped by his home to see him a couple of days before, then helped carry him to his grave and wrote a column of tribute in the paper I wrote for at the time.

On that last visit with him, he said, "Not goin' to be much time left to talk about the Marine Corps."

He was right about that. But he was my everlasting connection to Iwo Jima. And it is because of him that I've gone on to have connections with a large group of other Iwo Jima veterans through the Fifth Marine Division Association and the Iwo Jima Association of America. Like Ben, they're some of the greatest people I've ever known. It's been my honor to work with them, attend reunions across the country and visit the Island where so many of them didn't have all those bonus years Ben was thankful for and shared with me through the years. That all sticks with me.

Association notes from the secretary

If you already know President John Butler, you know he's working hard to make the 65th annual reunion of the Fifth Marine Division Association at the Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport Westshore in Tampa, Fla., on Sept. 8-13 one to remember. If you don't know him, or don't know much about this Marine veteran, you're in for a treat with the activities he's arranging and the food and drink that will be available throughout the week.

Don't take my word for it. Just look at all the activities on the registration form and the reunion update included in the newsletter. John is a man of his word.

Also, if you know Vice President Kathleen "Kathy" Painton, you know she's already got some great ideas for a potential reunion on the Big Island of Hawai'i next year and an attainable museum in the old Fifth Marine Division Slop Chute. Her plans are tentative for a reunion, contingent upon a vote of acceptance of the members at the business meeting. She does a "boots-on-the-ground" tour of the island now where her father and the division trained.

If a reunion is accepted, it certainly will give the veterans who are able to attend a look at where they spent months in training from the perspective of 70 years, and it will give the legacy members of the Association the opportunity to see first-hand where their fathers and family members trained for the invasion of Iwo Jima.

The future of the Association is in the hands of John and Kathy and other legacy members who are of the mind to keep the memory alive of the sacrifices and achievements of a generation who gave so much for the war effort that earned a special place in the blood-soaked annals of world history and the quest for a free society. A museum on that site would help guarantee that effort in conjunction with the society.

New members from those legacy sons and daughters, family members and others indicate that the future of the Association is brightening. Veterans are encouraging or paying for their sons and daughters to join. And Kathy's work with the Camp Tarawa Foundation, which she writes about in this issue, is sound.

What we need is a resounding attendance at the reunion, members willing to dig in and work to preserve an organization that is worth preserving. And that always takes people with a passion for the work being done. I know it's out there in many of you.

And finally, on a somber note, it has been suggested that family members request contributions be made to the Association in the memory of the veteran when he joins the ranks for the Final Muster. Those contributions may be sent to Warren R. Musch, (HQ-3-28) Treasurer, Fifth Marine Division Association, 17A Eisenhower Drive, Jacksonville, IL 62650-1734.

– Ray Elliott, Secretary

PELELIU POWs

Continued from page 1

and asked Caloud if he had ever heard of it or knew anyone who might know.

“Knowing that you had served there and most likely visited the Peleliu Cemetery,” Caloud wrote Leman, “I wonder if you remember this plot of Indian servicemen, or perhaps saw their repatriation from Babelthuap (the largest island among those making up the nation of Palau)? [The researcher] later sent this comment (below) that solved the mystery for him, but still has my curiosity as to what you might have seen or remembered.”

The comment referred to a report that indicated: “In the Peleliu Island Command War Diary, September 1945: ‘Liberated 539 Indian and Javanese POWs from the Palaun Island of Babelthuap. 5 died in the care of the Americans when they were brought back to the naval hospital at Peleliu.’”

Caloud attached pictures from the report.

Leman replied: “I’m really glad to be able to shed some light on the mystery of the Indian servicemen who are buried in the Peleliu U.S. Cemetery. My unit (26th Regiment of the Fifth Marine Division) occupied Sasebo on Kyushu, Japan, from Sept. 22, 1945, until about Oct. 21 when we were detached and sent by ship to the Palau Islands, where we landed at Peleliu and, a day or two later, went to Koror a few miles from Peleliu. The Japanese forces had been withdrawn to the northernmost island, Babelthuap. Our mission was to secure the area, dismantle fortifications, hunt down Japanese deserters, and repatriate their forces.

“I remember hearing from Army and Naval personnel, who had been there before we arrived, that a number of Sikhs and/or Gurkhas – thought to have been captured in the early days of WWII and used as slave labor by the Japanese Army – had been evacuated before we arrived. They were said to have been in the last stages of starvation and near death, but I heard no more about them at that time.

“Your letter reminded me that my fellow student at the University of Chicago (Richard V. Bovbjerg) had been the skipper of YMNS 353, the first minesweeper to sweep the Northern Palaus after WWII ended. In fact, I took some of his shipmates on a night patrol on Koror, went aboard his ship for coffee after midnight, and recognized his picture on the wardroom bulkhead. He had left his ship that morning to return to the States;

on such short notice, he didn’t have time to pack his family photos. Postwar, we compared notes about our Palau experiences. He became a professor of zoology at the University of Iowa. He died a few years ago.

“He wrote an excellent account of his wartime experience: ‘Steaming As Before,’ 1994, International Scholars Publications. 7831 Woodmont Ave., #345, Bethesda, MD 20814. (First edition, paperback, pp. 245-47; exact date of this incident is not specified; it was early September 1945; YMS 353 had just located and removed 20 Japanese mines from the approach to Malakal Harbor). I will quote from his book:”



“A remarkable event occurred the first morning we were moored alongside the quay at Malakal Island. The gangway watch came to get me, and I went out on deck. He pointed towards Koror town. And there, slowly winding down from the causeway to Koror was a formation of men. Looked like maybe a hundred. They were, in fact, marching in columns, and they had a British-style arm swing, that exaggerated parade-ground march. They had a military bearing, eyes forward, no smiles. They were led by about four officers. This was a small army. They were in ranks.

“Then I realized that these were very tall soldiers from India. They had turbans, or attempts at turbans. All were over six feet tall. They were, in fact, the Imperial Singapore Guards, an elite unit captured four years ago and held here as POWs. They were completely emaciated. I don’t think most of those guys weighed a hundred pounds. They came on, marching to a silent metronome and an occasional bark of a non-com. The precision of the march eroded at the tail of the column; here men were staggering, crutches, canes. They were dragged; they were carried; they were clinging to life, and to honor.

“No one had any idea that these POWs were here at Palau. I was reminded of this many years later, seeing the movie, ‘The Bridge Over the River Kwai’ and the rag-tag British Army marching to the bridge site. Same cadence, rags and bearing.

“This unit marched up to our ship in brave malaise; they halted on the quay, and they formed up. Pitiful to see the stragglers pull up. The commands were barked. They came to ramrod attention and saluted the colors of the YMS 353. I had had the intuition to put on a shirt and cap, thank God. I returned the salute, and asked the major (he was in a remarkably preserved uniform) to stand the men at ease and fall out. There was no shade here at exactly 7 degrees north of the equator.

When I first saw these ranks approaching and recognized them for military POWs, I ran up to the radio shack and wired Peleliu, then ran into the galley and told the cook to make soup. 'Make soup for a hundred; no pork. Quickly.' And all the tea he could make. And the Exec organized the crew to gather up all the edibles from fruit to bread, boxes of cereal, candy, everything. We looted our lockers.

"I invited the major into the wardroom. And we heard the gory and malevolent details, spoken with eyes filmed with tears. Again, the sick Jap view of prisoners. These were not soldiers; these were not men. So they were not fed; they were not clothed; they were not sheltered. They lived in a compound, and they ate mollusks from the sea, anything they could catch. They boiled grass leaves and algae for soup. Almost all were sick. So many died. No medical care; this was apparent to us, just looking at them.

"I went back up to the radio, called Peleliu again, suggested that an LCI be sent to transport these people to the hospital. I said, 'They're in terrible shape,' and suggested sending a doctor and a crew from the hospital. Our pharmacist's mate was giving first aid. Pitiful. Morphine for the dying. These silent bundles of men just sat there, slowly chewed and sipped. We had soup in cups and bowls, we had soup in glasses. And

bread. And tea. And sugar."

"That was all he wrote about the Indian POWs. Evidently, the contingent made it to Peleliu, where the dead were buried and the survivors presumably treated and repatriated. There are probably records of the USN hospitals on Angaur and Peleliu somewhere in the archives," Leman wrote in conclusion.

He called and emailed Viktor Bovbjerg, Richard's son, about securing permission to quote from the book.

"Your dad's account describes it well," Leman wrote. "The incident is important to military historians. Your dad's account is the only eyewitness report I know of. I hope you have no objections to circulating this information, with proper attribution, among my fellow Marine veterans. I have always regretted that your dad never made it back to Malakal."

Bovbjerg wrote back that he saw no reason not to "share this as widely as you wish. I can't imagine anyone would object legally at this point. No one is making any money from the book anymore, and my father would never have objected in any event."

- Ray Elliott
with major contributions from
Bert Caloud and Craig Leman

FINAL MUSTER

("Roll Call of the Reef")

ALDEN, George B. Sr. A-1-27 1/9/2014	JOHNSON, Charles M. "Runko" H-3-28 4/19/2011
ALTPETER, Eugene T. H&S-4-13 2/13/2014	KAREGEANNES, Peter K. HQ-2-26 4/4/2014
BARNETT, Douglas O. 26th MARINES 4/16/2014	PACE, Arthur V. Jr. F-2-27 2/26/2014
BARTLETT, Lewis F-2-28 5/18/2014	PAULSON, George C-1-28 8/6/2013
BELL, Kenneth F. 5th MED 5/2/2014	REEKES, T.E. "Tommy" M-4-13 8/25/2010
CARLSON, John W. B-1-28 8/26/2012	ROSS, Benjamin A. "Ben" 5th ENG 11/11/2013
DOOLEY, Raymond A. D-2-28 1/24/2014	SHELTON, Fred L. H-3-26 6/3/2010
ERB, James T. "Brother Kevin" 5th TANK 1/13/2014	SNELL, David B. F-2-27 1/14/2014
GALLAGHER, Richard C. 1-3-26 12/11/2013	SPIESE, Paul A. 5th ENGR 12/17/2013
GALLEGOS, Richard 1-3-26 (VN) 4/13/2011	STEIGER, George C. M-4-13 12/22/2013
GETZ, Edward J. E-2-28 12/30/2013	SWENSON, Clint H. HS-3-13 7/19/2013
JARSTAD, Melford K. WPNS-27 3/6/2014	TRAINOR, Leon Sr. HQ-26 4/13/2014

Correction: Lester A. Walters, HS-2-13, died 5/16/2012. His company was listed incorrectly in the last issue of The Spearhead.

Send Final Muster notices (including name, unit and date of death) by email to talespress@talespress.com, by USPS to Association Secretary Ray Elliott, 2609 N. High Cross Rd., Urbana, IL 61802, or by calling 217-384-5820.

5TH MAR DIV MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

FMDA life member and Korean War veteran Stan Blake has an online eBay store called Semper Fi Enterprises that includes several 5th Marine Division/Iwo Jima Survivor Polo/golf shirts for sale in a variety of colors and sizes. There are also other USMC-related items available.

Here are the eBay ID numbers for the shirts:

281324250856
271471772364
271472774234
281324254923
271472777910
281324257494

No tax, no charge for packing or handing. Please inquire. Payments by cash, check or money order made payable to Stan Blake.

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EMAIL: SEMPERFIENT@AOL.COM
PHONE: 302-737-3868

OTHER UPCOMING REUNIONS

USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization

69th Anniversary Reunion

July 24-27, 2014

Indianapolis, IN

Contacts:

Peggy McCall Campo, pcampo4@yahoo.com
or Elko Perchyshyn, elko@ukrainiangiftshop.com

USS Iwo Jima Shipmates

4th Reunion

Aug. 27-31, 2014

Jacksonville, FL

Contact:

Bob McAnally, ihavlabs@verizon.net

Subic Bay Marines

22nd Annual Survivor Reunion

Sept. 2-7, 2014

San Diego, CA

www.subicbaymarines.com/reunion.html

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7 – 19 Jun VN I Corps "Chu Lai to the DMZ"

★ 8 – 16 Jun WWII 70th Liberation Saipan, & Tinian

2 – 14 Jul Russia "WWII Eastern Front" Kursk, Moscow & Stalingrad Post Tour: St. Petersburg

18 – 24 Jul WWII 70th Guam Liberation Saipan & Tinian

★ 1 – 12 Aug Battle for Guadalcanal "Turning the Tide in the Pacific" & Post Tour: Munda "Up the Slot"

3 – 13 Aug Special I Corps Return (airfare included)

23 Aug – 4 Sep VN I Corps "Chu Lai to the DMZ"

23 Aug – 6 Sep VN Saigon to Hanoi I, II, III & IV Corps

★ 3-14 Sep 100th Anniv of WWI "The Great War-1914"

6–19 Sep VN Tanks, Ontos & Tracs in I Corps

12–19 Sep WWII 70th Anniversary Invasion of Peleliu

14 – 27 Oct U.S. Military in China 1835-1949

10 – 19 Nov WWII in Burma "CBI Theater"

25 Jan – 4 Feb '15 WWII in the Philippines

28 Jan - 10 Feb '15 Tet Offensive & Hue

5-17 Mar '15 VN War 50th Anniv 65 Landing

★ 9 – 16 Mar '15 70th Anniversary Iwo Jima





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Ste 202 Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
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mhtours@miltours.com



With iconic Mount Suribachi in the background, Kevin Painton walks Green Beach, where his grandfather, George A. Dunn (F-2-18), died nearly 70 years earlier. (Photo by Kathy Painton)

Lunch with Grandpa

My grandfather, George Addison Dunn, was in the 5th Marine Division, (F-2-28). His regiment landed on Green Beach, and their assignment was to proceed to the top of Mount Suribachi.

Unfortunately, my grandfather never made it off the beach. He was killed when a sniper bullet pierced his helmet and hit him in the head.

Fast-forward 69 years and one month to the day when I had an opportunity to visit Iwo Jima. The charter flight from Guam landed on Iwo Jima just after 8:30 a.m., and I immediately headed for Green Beach.

As a tribute to my grandfather, I ran up Green Beach and then hiked to the top of Mount Suribachi, where I left his dog tag next to the memorial. Later in the day, I returned to Green Beach, where I spent some quiet moments having lunch with Grandpa and reflecting on the sacrifice he and others made for our country.

My trip to Iwo Jima was a memorable and rewarding experience, and I am thankful for the brief time that I was able to connect with my grandfather.

– Kevin Painton
Kamuela, HI

Website helps locate graves

If you'd like to find someone's grave, Paul Merriman (F-2-28) provides the following resource:

www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=whois
American military cemeteries throughout the world have find-a-grave websites.

NEW MEMBERS: WELCOME ABOARD!

Annual Members

ATHERTON, Sarah - Amarillo, TX
 BUTLER, Clint - Lynchburg, TN
 CLICHE, Doreen Peters - East Montpelier, VT
 COREY, Marla - Rancho Palos Verde, CA
 HAMMOND, Bruce - Alvin, TX
 HAMMOND, James - Dickinson, TX
 HAMMOND BROWN, Claudia - Santa Fe, TX
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 BINFORD, Lou, **ASSOC**, San Diego, CA
 DEVEREAUX, Max, **B-5th PION**, Hurst, TX
 FORD, Barry, **K-BTRY-13**, Silver Spring, MD
 HAYNES, Bonnie Arnold, **ASSOC**, Hackettstown, NJ
 JETT, William A., **ASSOC**, Waynesville, AR
 JOHNSON, Bill, **B-1-27**, Wimberley, TX
 LEE, Horace, **5th JASCO**, Hayden, AL
 MACH, Cheryl, **ASSOC**, Bellevue, NE
 MILLER, Gerald, **H-3-27**, Scottsdale, AZ
 OPTIZ, Donald, **E-2-26**, Sarasota, FL
 PERRY, Bob, **3rd MAR DIV**, Manhattan Beach, CA
 ROCHFORD, Thomas L., **5th JASCO**,
 Willoughby Hills, OH
 RUSSELL, Gerald, **HQ-1-27**, State College, PA
 RYAN, Anne, **ASSOC**, Harleysville, PA
 SCHUMACHER, Edward G. Jr., **ASSOC**,
 Westchester, IL
 STEWARD, Edward, **C-MED**, Virginia Beach, VA
 VARNEY, Norman, **5th ENGR**, Waterbury, CT
 VARON, Jack, **E-2-26**, Melville, NY

Memorial Members

CARLSON, Elverta - Rice Lake, WI
 GETZ, Lyvonne - Tallmadge, OH
 HIGGS, Lillian - Clovis, NM
 PETERS, Peggie - Effingham, IL
 PRACTH, Bonnie L. - Akron, IA
 SHELTON, Juanita - Eucha, OK
 SWENSON, Mrs. Clint H. - Rochester, MN
 WHITEHEAD, Theresa - Long Beach, CA

Update of 'Slop Chute' status on the Big Island

The status for the "Slop Chute" as a possible site for the Camp Tarawa Museum is unchanged, but I'm still working on acquiring it. In March, when I was "off island," the people at Parker Ranch put some additional material over the front and side to prevent further deterioration of the building, but the roof is beginning to show more damage. I'm taking that as a good sign because they could have just demolished the building.



The 5th Marine Division 'Slop Chute' could be the future home of the Camp Tarawa Museum. (Photo by Kathy Painton)

There was never any commitment from the Ranch to lease it to the Camp Tarawa Foundation at any price, and we have not reached that stage in our negotiations. Leasing the land for the museum for a minimum amount was an idea I had because actor Richard Smart, then-owner of the Parker Ranch, had done that for the U.S. government in 1943 when about 91,000 acres of the approximately 250,000 acres of the ranch was leased to the U.S. government and Camp Tarawa was established as a training base when the 2nd Marine

Division came directly from the bloody Battle of Tarawa to prepare for the invasion of Saipan. Then the 5th Marine Division moved in preparation for the assault on Iwo Jima. By November 1945, the base was closed and reverted back to the Parker Ranch.

I have to present a marketing plan, and I'm waiting to get an estimate on renovation and operating costs before I do. And I still need to find a contractor who is willing to take on the project.

I have held back on fundraising until we have a contract with Parker Ranch, but I don't think I'll have much trouble getting donations. There is a lot of support from the community, and I'm pretty sure I can get people to provide some materials and labor at a reduced rate. While I'm not ready to ask for anything at the moment, I do hope to be able to make a presentation at the reunion in Tampa in September.

A local who regularly walks his dog past the memorial (Camp Tarawa Memorial at one entrance to the Parker Ranch at South Kohala, Hawai'i) commented that he was disappointed that the monument area was looking shabby and not in keeping with the Marines' "spit and polish" image. Another Marine who moved to the island last August is really gung-ho about the history of Camp Tarawa and plans for the museum. Just the other day, he spent six hours with his weed-eater cutting the tall grass around the memorial, and the area is looking good now. He has offered to maintain the grass surrounding the memorial and to help to keep the area up to Marine standards.

I am working to get things lined up before I forge ahead with actually building the museum. However, I thought it would be helpful to update you on where the museum project stands, and I welcome your input.

- Kathleen "Kathy" Painton
Secretary, Camp Tarawa Foundation
kathypainton@hotmail.com

History of the 'Ruptured Duck'



The World War II honorable discharge was originally designed by American sculptor Anthony de Francisci. Ironically, one of de Francisci's early teachers was the designer of the discharge button for veterans of World War I. Ex-GIs gave the "Duck" its nickname, but the how and why seem to depend on which veteran is telling the story.

- Submitted by James Kelly
5THSER

Possibilities for a Camp Tarawa Museum & Educational Center

The Camp Tarawa Foundation is dedicated to preserving the memory of the men who lived and trained in the Waimea area with the 2nd and 5th Marine Divisions during WWII.

Of the 55,000 men who made Waimea their home during this crucial time in our nation's history, 5,145 men were killed-in-action or subsequently died of their wounds, and 18,029 men were wounded-in-action.

The Camp Tarawa Foundation is interested in acquiring and renovating the quonset hut located near the Memorial on Mamalahoa Highway. This structure served as the "Slop Chute" or enlisted men's beer hall during WWII and would be an appropriate site for the Camp Tarawa Museum and Educational Center.

Museum exhibits would include:

- * Use of the Waimea area by Native Hawaiians prior to the arrival of Captain Vancouver
- * The establishment of the Parker Ranch and the development of the cattle industry
- * What life was like in Waimea before WWII
- * The importance of Camp Tarawa as a training area to prepare Marines for decisive battles in the Pacific Campaign during WWII
- * The post-war development of Waimea town

To assist in honoring the memory of these men who sacrificed so much, and to also acknowledge the contribution made by the citizens of Waimea in support of these men, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Camp Tarawa Foundation.

Veteran returns items during trip to Iwo Jima

Back in early in March before the annual Military Historical Tours "Reunion of Honor" on Iwo Jima later in the month, I received an email from Owen Agenbroad (F-2-27) from Dayton, Wash., that he would be on the tour and would be returning some personal items to the son of a Japanese soldier.

"I picked them up as souvenirs from a by-passed gun emplacement," he said, "as I was walking past to set up a new CP for the company. They consisted of a straight razor, sharpening stone, a small aluminum cup and a medium sea shell."

Marine Sgt Lisa Tourtelot, a journalist for Stars & Stripes, had learned that he was going to return the items and had asked for an interview. Not knowing I was also going to be on the tour, Agenbroad wondered if I would be interested in an account of the event for *Spearhead*. I had let his son, Stephen, and him know I would be there for the exchange.

Prior to the formal ceremony on Iwo Jima, where dignitaries from the United States and Japan note the significance of the bloody battle and the two countries' now-long-standing friendship and lay wreaths at the Reunion of Honor Memorial, a smaller ceremony was held at the front of the American tent. The ceremony hadn't been announced, but members of the media swarmed in front of Agenbroad holding a shadowbox with the items to present to Yoshikazu Higuchi, the son



Owen Agenbroad (F-2-27), left, returns items to Yoshikazu Higuchi, right, that belonged to his soldier father who died on Iwo Jima. (Photo by Ray Elliott)

of the Japanese soldier who fought and died on Iwo Jima and to whom the items had belonged. The exchange was made with the help of translator Dan King.

For nearly 70 years, Agenbroad had kept the items in his home, then had the writing on the razor translated. With the help of Japanese government officials, the younger Higuchi was located. The retired school principal thanked Agenbroad for bringing his father's possessions home in the beautiful shadowbox.

For Agenbroad, it closed a chapter in his life with a sense of satisfaction.

– Ray Elliott

Get ready to reunite in Tampa this September

My wife, Kathleen (Kath) and I welcome all to Tampa for our 65th Reunion. The necessary registration information is included in this issue of *The Spearhead News*.

Note that the hotel registration information is different than what's been done in the past, but it's what was provided by the hotel manager. Attendees can register directly by telephone or online, so please follow the instructions provided.

The Sheraton Suites is downtown and close to the airport and a number of exceptionally good restaurants, including a highly rated steakhouse just next door. The hotel also has in-house dining for all meals.

They provide free shuttle service to and from the airport; however, if any attendees require special assistance, please advise me as early as possible on the date and time of your arrival. I will arrange a special pick-up at no charge to you. It should also be noted that the hotel has a limited number of handicapped suites available, as well.

This Sheraton has hosted military reunions in the past, and I'm confident they'll be an excellent host for ours.

You will receive a reunion packet from the front desk when you arrive and register. The packets should include: event transportation tickets, meal selection tickets, reunion book, nametags, and info sheets on local activities. There is a nearby International Plaza mall, Tampa's finest. Transportation to and from this mall is a courtesy for hotel guests, as is another nearby mall with dining and movie theaters.

The Hospitality Room will open Monday afternoon and remain open throughout the reunion. Beer, wine, soft drinks and bottled water will be available. Cold and hot snacks will be available from 1800-2300.

Charges for excursions cover the transportation only; they do not cover any gate fees or food and

beverages. However, I am trying to negotiate passes to all events, but I have not yet had confirmations. I feel confident that these organizations will accommodate us. If not, we may have to alter plans. Any fees paid for transportation not used due to weather or event cancellation will be refunded.

***This Sheraton
has hosted military
reunions in the past,
and I'm confident
they'll be an excellent
host for ours.***

Some of the excursions will have in-house food at a reasonable cost, and the hotel will provide boxed lunches at \$18 each upon request. I will solicit other food vendors for more affordable options. For example, the Amtrac Battalion may require that we bring boxed lunches since there is no on-site messing facility. I will have the logistics and costs worked out prior to the event.

For you history buffs, the original Amtrac was a tracked vehicle known as the alligator, which was originally built by a Mr. Roebling in nearby Dunedin, Fla., for civilian work in the Everglades. It was used extensively to recover bodies from the disastrous 1928 hurricane, in which nearly 2,000 people drowned who lived near Lake Okeechobee. Discovered by USMC officers in the late '30s, it became the Amtrac that took you into Iwo. Through many years and wars it has evolved with increased size, range, speed and protection, but has remained the essential amphibious assault vehicle for the Marine Corps to this day. At the 4th Amtrac Bn, you will see the current model and recent models. We might see the original at the Armed Forces Museum.

Bring you raingear. Tampa is the thunderstorm capital of the U.S., so if tropical weather gives us a pass you will likely see a good thunderstorm.

We anticipate a great reunion in Tampa and hope you can join us. If you have any questions, please contact me at 813-985-0657 or jbutler813@verizon.net. Semper fidelis.

– John & Kath Butler

REGISTRATION FOR 5TH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION 65TH REUNION

Listed below are total registration, tour and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many attendees will be participating in each event and the total cost for each activity. Send your check or money order to the **5th Marine Division Association**. Credit cards will not be accepted and there is no provision to register online or by phone. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Tel # _____

Spouse/Guests _____

Registration forms must be **received no later than August 1, 2014**. After that date, registrations will only be accepted on a space-available basis. It is suggested that you make a copy of your completed form prior to mailing. Checks or money orders should be made payable to “5th Marine Division Association.”

DATE	EVENT	COST PER PERSON		# OF PERSONS	TOTAL
Monday, September 8	Registration	\$15.00	x		\$
	Ladies Auxiliary Dues (if applicable)	\$15.00	x		\$
	Hospitality Room Fee	\$25.00	x		\$
Tuesday, September 9	Memorial Breakfast and Roll Call	\$28.00	x		\$
	Excursion: Channel Side (Florida Aquarium, American Victory ship and port tour) <i>Fee covers transportation only.</i>	\$25.00	x		\$
Wednesday, September 10	Excursion: 4th Amtrac Battalion <i>Fee covers transportation only.</i>	\$25.00	x		\$
Thursday, September 11	Excursion: Busch Gardens <i>Fee covers transportation only.</i>	\$25.00	x		\$
Friday, September 12	Excursion: Armed Forces Museum <i>Fee covers transportation only.</i>	\$30.00	x		\$
Saturday, September 13	Reception and Banquet <i>Indicate meal choices below:</i>	Cash Bar	--	--	--
	<i>Grilled Chicken Mojito</i>	\$40.00	x		\$
	<i>Marsalla Flank Steak</i>	\$40.00	x		\$
	<i>Cajun Salmon – broiled with corn and black bean relish</i>	\$40.00	x		\$

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

**Mail this form with payment to: 5th Marine Division Association
P.O. Box 16004
Tampa, FL 33687**

Notes:

- Excursion schedules are subject to change.
- Box lunches for excursions may be available for purchase from the hotel.



Sheraton Suites

TAMPA AIRPORT

4400 West Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607

Welcome, 5th Marine Division Association!

Monday, September 8 – Saturday, September 13, 2014

HOTEL RESERVATION METHODS

1. **Phone:** Please call 1-888-627-8261. **Tell the reservations team the full name of the group**, “5th Marine Division Reunion,” and give the dates, and the room type. The different room types are listed below. They will ask for a valid credit card to secure the reservation.
2. **Internet:** Reservations can also be made online at:
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1402127976&key=867F0>
(Group leader John Butler can also forward you this link directly.)

RATES

The Sheraton Suites is proud to offer the 5th Marine Division Association the following suite options, all for **\$99 plus 12% taxes**:

1. Deluxe King Suites: One king-size bed, living room, bedroom, microwave, refrigerator.
2. Deluxe Queen/Queen Suites: Two queen-size beds, living room, bedroom, microwave, refrigerator.
3. Accessible King Suite: This suite is a handicapped accessible suite. Limited number.

Reservations must be made no later than Aug. 9, 2014. Requests made after Aug. 9 are subject to different rates and based on availability.

Once an individual reservation has been made, any changes should be made directly with the Group Reservations Department. A credit card number or one night’s advance deposit will be required to secure a room out of this block. Cancellations must be received 24 hours prior to arrival or one night room and tax will be assessed.

Airport shuttle service is available.

4400 WEST CYPRESS STREET, TAMPA, FL 33607 PHONE: (813) 873-8675 FAX: (813) 879-7196

ADVERTISING CONTRACT FOR 5TH MARINE DIVISION REUNION JOURNAL

- To be published in the 5th Marine Division 65th Annual Reunion Journal, Sept. 8-13, 2014.
- Distributed to all members of the Association and solicitors.
- The 5th Marine Division Association is a tax-exempt organization, and your ad is tax deductible.
- Advertiser agrees to make immediate payment by check or money order payable to 5th Marine Division Association with submission of the ad and understands that the Association will pay no commission to any agency or individual.

Name (Firm/Individual) _____ Co _____ Bn _____ Regt _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Email _____

Phone (Home) _____ Cell _____

All ads are black and white

ADVERTISING DEADLINE: July 15, 2014

<u>Advertising Rates</u>	<u>Specifications (trim size 8.5" wide x 11" deep)</u>
---------------------------------	---

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Full Page | \$250 | Full Page Ad : 7" wide x 10" deep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Half Page | \$150 | Half Page Ad: 7" wide x 4 7/8" deep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Quarter Page | \$100 | Quarter Page: 3 3/8" wide x 4 7/8" deep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Eighth Page | \$50 | Eighth Page: 3 3/8" wide x 2 3/8" deep |

I am submitting:

- Camera-ready ad (must be actual size and ready to scan with **NO** changes.) Any ad submitted as camera-ready but proves not to be camera-ready will be adjusted at the discretion of the publisher to fit the size ordered. Ads will not be returned.
- Suggested layout, but please alter as needed to fit space.
- What I want my ad to say. Please use your creativity to make it look good.
- Photo(s) # _____ (Black-and-white photos preferred. Please put name and address on a label on the back of each photo. Photos will not be returned.)
- Other artwork _____
- Other _____

**Mail checks and ad form to:
Fifth Marine Division Association
P.O. Box 16004
Tampa, FL 33687**

* *Must be received no later than July 30, 2014* *

FIFTH MARINE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Ray Elliott, Secretary
 2609 N. High Cross Rd.
 Urbana, IL 61802

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Forwarding Service Requested

**5th Marine Division Association
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

New member () Renewal () Associate ()

Served with: _____
 Co. Bn. Reg.

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Mail to:
 Fifth Marine Division Association
 Ray Elliott, Secretary
 2609 N. High Cross Rd.
 Urbana, IL 61802

or email talespress@talespress.com

Date of birth (for Life Membership): _____

Office Use Only

LGR		LF	
DB		NM	
CRD		FM	
ADS		NL	

Dues (please check):

- () Annual \$ 25.00
- () Lifetime \$ 150.00
 age 64 and under
- () Lifetime \$ 100.00
 age 65 through 79
- () Lifetime \$ 50.00
 age 80 and over
- () General Fund \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

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