

STRIKING SIXTH

1st Provisional Marine Brigade Newsletter



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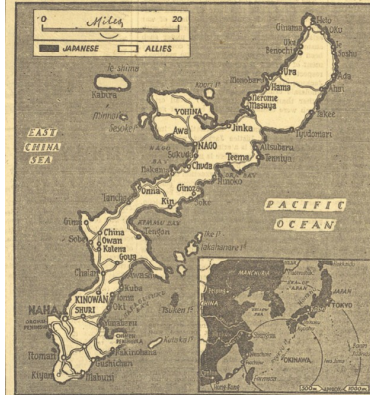
Summer 2020

75th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa

For...81 days, Okinawa was to witness the biggest single land-air-sea battle of all time, a brutal campaign which would see savagery and brutality that surpassed anything that had come before in the Pacific War. At sea, naval casualties were higher than at any point in the war, with Japan unleashing almost its entire kamikaze effort against the joint American and British task force around the islands. On land, the scale of killing was even worse. Okinawa was to witness a blood bath of barbaric savagery, in which more than a quarter of a million people were killed. Okinawa was to be the last and one of the costliest battles of the Second World War.

from *The Battle for Okinawa: One Marine's Story*, historyextra.com
 (Note: the "One Marine" is the Sixth's Bill Pierce (29th Mar-Wpns))

Okinawa Is Won After 82 Days Of Costliest Fighting of Pacific; Japanese Dead Placed at 87,000



Nimitz Announces End Of Organized Resistance On Foe's Strategic Isle
Navy Lost 31 Ships, With 54 Damaged
Miscalculation of Enemy Power Prolonged Fight

All but a few hundred square miles of Okinawa's sixty-seven square miles lie now in the hands of United States forces, which now control the island's airbase, particularly that at Naha, in the old blockade of Japan. Last shown Okinawa's commanding position.

100,000 Dutch Will Train in Australia Soon
Will Prepare for Invasion of East Indies; Planes Hit At Japanese on Borneo

Stilwell Named Commander of Okinawa Army
Backner, Killed in Action, Will Be Succeeded by Ground Forces Chief



above: aerial view of Okinawa beachhead in April 1945
 upper right: International Herald Tribune after the fighting ended in June

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Jan 20 — FDR sworn in for 4th term
 Jan 27 — Red Army liberates Auschwitz
 Feb 4-11 — Yalta Conference
 Feb 19 — Marines land on Iwo Jima
 Mar 3 — American & Filipino troops take Manila
 Apr 1 — Invasion of Okinawa begins
 Apr 12 — FDR dies suddenly

Academy Award for Best Picture — Going My Way
Top Grossing Movie — Bells of St. Mary's
Top Song — Sentimental Journey by Les Brown & Doris Day
Top Selling Books:
Fiction - Forever Amber by Kathleen Winsor
Non-Fiction - Brave Men by Ernie Pyle
Top 5 Baby Names:
Girls - Mary, Linda, Barbara, Patricia, Carol
Boys - James, Robert, John, William, Richard



1945

Apr 28 — Mussolini executed by Italian partisans
 Apr 30 — Hitler commits suicide in his bunker
 May 8 — VE Day
 Jun 26 — UN Charter signed in San Francisco
 Aug 6 — Atomic bomb "Little Boy" dropped on Hiroshima
 Aug 9 — Atomic bomb "Fat Man" dropped on Nagasaki
 Aug 15 — VJ Day
 Sep 2 — McArthur signs official Japanese surrender document
 Nov 30 — Nuremberg trials begin



Time Magazine's Man of the Year — Harry Truman
Miss America — Bess Myerson
Most Popular Christmas Gift — Slinky
World Population — 2.5 billion
US Population — 139 million
Gallon of gas — 15 cents





1



6



2

Battle of Okinawa

April 1 - June 22, 1945



5



3



4



7

- 1) Marines wade ashore on Okinawa
- 2) Sixth Marine Division blasts Japanese position
- 3) Sixth Division Marines rest near Naha
- 4) Sixth Division Marines with Japanese soldier
- 5) Marine carries child found in caves
- 6) Marines hunt Japanese sniper at Shuri Castle
- 7) Marine rifleman looks over ruins of Naha
- 8) First Division Marines and Seventh Division soldiers cheer victory atop Hill 89 after the official flag-raising ceremony marking the end of the battle



8

Remembering Jack Magnuson and the Battle of Okinawa

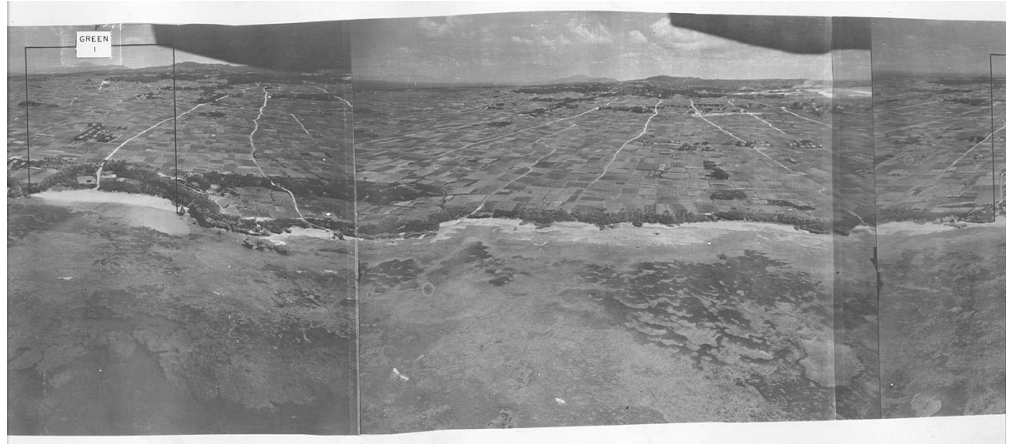
by Paul Kirst, 30 March 2020

It is a cool, pleasant, sunny day in the woods of Wisconsin. My father-in-law, Jack Magnuson, is very much on my mind today. He has been gone for nearly nine years, taken after an eight-year battle with Alzheimer's.

My personal journey to explore Jack's Marine Corps experience began as I was writing the eulogy for his funeral. In it, I speculated that his World War II experience in the Pacific had played an important role in shaping the man he would become. Like many other combat veterans, Jack did not share much with his family about that part of his life, so I knew nothing about his service. I began a several-year exploration through books, articles, documentaries, military records, and personal letters to better understand the person he was.

I'm remembering Jack today because at this moment, 75 years ago, he was a 19-year-old Marine Pfc machine gunner aboard the USS *Monrovia*, a troop transport ship sitting in the East China Sea, awaiting the commencement of a different battle he would fight. The *Monrovia* was just one ship in a fleet of more than 1,500 vessels carrying 548,000 men of all arms assembled for Operation Iceberg, the invasion of the Island of Okinawa. On board the *Monrovia* at 04:45 on 31 March, Jack was likely asleep in a cramped, stacked bunk surrounded by his fellow 22nd Marine Regiment buddies.

Although Jack may have been at rest, in a little more than 24 hours he would be in an amphibious landing craft preparing to head onto the Hagushi Beaches. Today this beach, known as Toguchi Beach, is a beautiful tourist attraction with pristine sand beaches, comfy cabanas, inviting restaurants, and well stocked shops filled with people enjoying the comforts of modern life. On April 1, 1945, it was a wide stretch of white sand 20 or so yards deep backed with a solid rock sea wall front-



Hagushi Beaches, Okinawa, October 1944 (*Naval History and Heritage Command*)

ing a landscape that had been blasted by the heaviest concentration of naval gunfire in history.

History records that it was a pleasant day, a balmy 75 degrees, with a gentle breeze out of the north-northeast that put gentle ripples in the water. Perfect weather for an amphibious landing. The cold spring rains that would soon make their lives miserable were a month or so away.

It was feared that behind the sea walls were thousands of Japanese troops ready to engage. The Marines probably knew something of the nightmarish scenes that had played out months earlier on the beaches of Normandy and Iwo Jima. Jack himself had fought on Guam nine months earlier, so he had firsthand experience of what might be waiting for him. What was Jack feeling and what was he thinking as he stood cramped, shoulder to shoulder, inside the LTV with its powerful engine roaring in his ears as it approached the beach?

As it turned out, there were only a few scattered Japanese troops at the beaches that day, not the thousands feared. The Marines were able to land, wade ashore, and proceed inland with little resistance from the veteran Japanese 32nd Army of 155,000 that they knew was on the island.

In a short letter Jack wrote to his mother dated 15 April 1945, with the censor's stamp in its upper left corner, he penned:

(continued on next page)

Jack Magnuson and Okinawa

(continued from prior page)

Dear Mom & all

Just a line or two to let you know I am still all right.

As you know by now, we landed here April 1st – D-day – it was also Easter Sunday – I don't think I need to tell you what was going thru my mind when we were coming into the beach in the assault boats.

The operation hasn't been too bad this far – but it isn't over yet. This is my second major operation.

How is everyone back home? I hope you are all fine. I hope I get home soon, but I know I can't. I have 9 more months to spend out here before I can get back. How about sending me a couple of cans of cocoa – ? – .

See you soon --- .

Love, Jack

Jack was accurate in the letter when he said "...it isn't over yet." A day later and for the following three days, Jack's 22nd Regiment, along with the 29th and 4th Regiments, encountered very heavy fighting as they cleared out the Japanese defenses concentrated on the thickly wooded Mount Yae-Dake in the North of Okinawa.



Jack Magnuson (22nd Mar-1-A)

In December 2018-January 2019, I visited the Island of Okinawa with my nephew, Dan, and his Okinawan wife, Shima. I saw Mount Yae-Dake and witnessed firsthand the incredibly thick jungle growth that surrounds and covers the mountain. When I was in my late 20s, I lived in the jungles of Eastern Bolivia, and even then, I never encountered such thick, dense jungle

as I saw in the area around Mount Yae-Dake. I can't imagine how grueling it must have been for those Marines as they fought their way up that heavily fortified mountain.

On 2 May 1945, Jack wrote to his family:

Dear Mom & all,

Just a few lines to let you know I am still O.K. Right now, we are having a few days rest before going back in the lines. We were on the go for 29 days with hardly a rest.

I got a letter from you yesterday, also one from Nelly and Dick McKnight. It sure was nice to get a few letters.

The fighting here isn't really too bad – nothing like Iwo – the terrain is really rugged.

Hills, hills, and more hills. I could tell you a few things about the battle but you probably wouldn't understand what I was trying to say anyhow. Besides the more you think about these things the worse they seem.

How is everyone at home? Is dad losing his ponch – HA! – I am always expecting a picture of you and him in one of your letters. Hope I get one soon. Well I will close now so say hello to all and I'll write again soon.

*Your son
Jack*

It would be 6 weeks before Jack could write his mother again. The last letter home, dated 19 May 1945 and written on American Red Cross letterhead, was sent from a Navy field hospital on the Island of American Samoa.

In the two letters he wrote from Okinawa, Jack tried to reassure his mother that the fighting was not too bad. His reassurances were premature. The 6th Marine Division, along with the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions, were put into trucks and moved south to join the Army divisions that were already engaged in fierce fighting in the south of the island. The young Marines in the 6th learned the name of a place that

(continued on next page)

Jack Magnuson and Okinawa

(continued from prior page)

would forever define how their Division would be remembered as a fighting unit...Sugar Loaf Hill.

Historians have argued that the fiercest and most brutal fighting experienced by any American military unit during World War II occurred during the Battle of Okinawa. A number of factors contributed to that opinion: extremely miserable weather conditions that turned the battlefield into a stinking, sucking quagmire; astoundingly unfavorable battlefield positions held by the Americans through the worst part of the fighting; nearly impregnable defensive positions held by the Japanese; and of course, the ferocious suicidal battlefield tactics practiced by Japanese soldiers during the 82-day battle. Some historians have also opined that the worst of the worst, the most ferocious of the most ferocious, was experienced by the 6th Division Marines during the week-long struggle to secure Sugar Loaf Hill.

The Japanese had a name that they gave to the newly formed 6th Marine Division – “The Young Tigers.” What these Young Tigers faced at Sugar Loaf Hill was, in reality, three hills: Sugar Loaf, The Horseshoe, and Half-Moon, each named after its shape. The three hills were in close proximity to each other and roughly formed a triangle, which allowed each hill to provide supporting fire to the others. Each was composed of concrete-hard coral. Each had secure caverns carved out deep inside them with many tunnels leading to the surface. The hills were interconnected by deep underground tunnels that allowed Japanese troops to shuttle back and forth among them, completely safe from artillery bombardment or small arms fire. They formed a single fortress impervious to naval or land artillery support fire and aerial bombardment. In addition, this fortress was connected by a deep, mile-and-a-half-long tunnel running to the Japanese main headquarters and supply base at Shuri Castle on the other side of the island. This allowed for safe resupply and reinforcement of the three hills.

Pictures taken during the battle show that the ground leading up to the three hills, which the Ma-

rines had to cross to reach them, was a denuded landscape that afforded no cover for the Marines as they advanced forward. Put simply, the Japanese had all the advantages, and the Americans had all the disadvantages. This accounted for the vicious struggle and punishing losses that the 6th experienced during the week-long battle.



Paul Kirst on Sugar Loaf Hill, 2019

Most books on the battle acknowledge that the 29th Regiment bore the brunt of the fighting at Sugar Loaf, but they also record how all three of the regiments totally exhausted themselves in the ferocious fighting. I scoured numerous books and articles to glean as much information as I could on what was happening with Jack’s unit – the 1st Battalion of the 22nd Regiment – during the fight for Sugar Loaf Hill. Jack was wounded on May 15th, and his unit was pulled off the line after what he described as a fight that “shattered” his Company. On the 50th anniversary of the April 1st landing, he described to his wife, Mary Louise, a fight that “nearly wiped out his Company,” a fight that left him as one of the last remaining machine gun crew members in the Company. Fortunately for my research, she wrote down notes of his brief comments that day. All I could find in all my other studies was a small mention of 1st Battalion coming under very heavy machine gun and artillery fire during an assault attempt on May 15.

Two days later, on May 17, Jack was flown to a naval hospital on American Samoa.

(continued on next page)

Jack Magnuson and Okinawa

(continued from prior page)

When I visited Okinawa a year and a half ago, I went to Sugar Loaf Hill several times hoping, I suppose, to catch some feeling of what the 6th Division Marines felt and experienced during that terrible week in May 1945. The hill is now topped with a large, attractive water tower. The west side of the hill, where Jack's unit fought, has a paved service road that winds to the top. The east side, where the men of the 29th Regiment repeatedly threw themselves against its barren slopes, is now graced by a finely-aged stone stairway that runs up to a small historical marker at the top. Inscribed on the marker in Japanese and English is a brief story of the battle, the only remaining evidence of the mighty struggle that took place there. Next to the historical marker is a small wooden observation tower that affords a view of the office buildings, luxury shopping malls, restaurants, and hotels that now surround the hill. Where there was once a blasted, barren no man's land shrouded in death, there is now a vibrant city filled to the brim with life. The hill is no longer a place where men in arms struggle against each other. It is a place where high school couples go to hold hands and look out over their city.

As I said, I was looking for some feeling, some sense of what happened at Sugar Loaf Hill. I had studied long and hard concerning Jack's experiences in the Marine Corps, and Sugar Loaf Hill was a huge, possibly defining event in his life. I had hoped I would sense something of the great struggle that had taken place at Sugar Loaf Hill. But I did not.

I was grateful for being able to visit the site, for sure. Ultimately what struck me deepest was how time had changed everything. As Jack himself often said, "Life goes on." Life indeed had moved on. How very, very hard those Marines had fought and struggled to get up that hill, only to be repeatedly pushed back off. How unbelievably simple and easy it was for me to walk up a set of stone stairs to get up the same hill.

Seventy-five-years is a long time. The open- and closed-mouthed Shisa Dogs that grace many of the

buildings in the modern city of Naha are meant to protect the homes and buildings from intruding "spirits." The "spirits" of those who fought and died on Okinawa have long since gone. But the memory of the sacrifices they all made – all of them, American, Japanese, and Okinawan – should be honored and not forgotten.

During my visit there last year, what turned out to be one of my most memorable moments happened when I visited the Peace Memorial Garden on the far southern tip of Okinawa. It's the location of a huge assemblage of black stone monuments, each monument containing the inscriptions of the names of all who died in the battle. Japanese, Okinawan, Korean, American, all who died – 250,000 names in total. I took a picture of a little Okina-

wan boy by the name of Now, the nephew of my niece-in-law Shima, pointing to a name inscribed in Japanese on one of the monuments. It was the name of his Okinawan great-grandfather who had been a teacher before the war. At age 45 he was conscripted as a laborer for the Japanese army, and his family never saw him again. His then 4-year-old daughter survived the war to become Shima's mother.



Okinawan boy points to the name of his great-grandfather who was killed on Okinawa

All of us who hold a special place in our hearts for the 6th Marine Division can take time, in our own way, to honor those Marines, especially those we love and loved, and honor those who they loved and left on that field of battle so long ago.

2020 Reunion — Updates

Virginia is Opening Up

At press time, COVID-19 cases in the Fredericksburg area are trending downward. The hotel is open with some restrictions, such as reduced seating capacity in the restaurant and bar. We are happy to report they have implemented stringent new cleaning procedures using hospital-grade disinfectants.

The Governor of Virginia has issued an executive order requiring facial masks indoors where people are in close proximity (excluding homes) and outdoors when social distancing is not possible. Exceptions can be made for children under ten and those with health conditions that prohibit wearing face coverings. Social distancing (six feet apart) is strongly encouraged.

We cannot predict conditions in late September, but we suggest packing a face mask.

Airport Transportation

The wonderful and generous McCalmonts have offered to provide transportation to and from the airport for Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows. With multiple airports a good distance from the hotel, this seems like a tall order. But Bob tells us he did transportation planning operations all over the world when he was in the Army. This included arranging airlift, sealift, rail, and convoy for hundreds of troops and cargo everyday. So he is the man for the job! He and Jane consider it an honor.

Given the challenging logistics, we request that you only ask for Bob and Jane's assistance if you are not traveling with younger family members.

Field Trips Are Up in the Air

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is currently closed. The Fredericksburg Trolley Tours are not running. We are hoping they will both be open by the time we arrive in late September.

The feedback we have received from Sixth Division Veterans and widows is that the field trips are not important. They are looking forward to getting together first and foremost. If we spend the entire time in the hotel, that's fine with them.

While we think a couple of optional field trips would be fun (and we will do them if we can), we aren't going to worry about it. And neither should you. **If we have to cancel a field trip after you have paid for it, we will refund your money.**

Is the Reunion Definitely a Go?

We sure hope so! We're definitely optimistic.

After investigating the status of the virus in Fredericksburg and surveying Sixth Division Veterans and widows who have attended recent reunions, the Planning Committee met in early July. We were encouraged to keep moving forward.

We plan to make the final GO/NO GO decision at the end of August. Look for the final decision on our website by September 1. You can also call Sharon Woodhouse at (503) 799-4455 after September 1 for an update.

Please note that **if we have to cancel, we will refund every penny you have sent us.** Also, the hotel does not require a deposit, and reservations can be cancelled without penalty up until the *day before* your arrival date.

Please check our website — sixthmarinedivision.com — for changes to and updates about the reunion

2020 Reunion — Holiday Inn

Fredericksburg Conference Center

20 Sanford Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22406

For reservations call **540-368-8000** and mention code **MD6** to get the special room rate.

Room Rate: \$99 + 10.3% tax

- for singles and doubles
- available 3 nights before and 3 nights after the reunion
- free cancellation up to 6:00 pm the night before

Amenities

- newly renovated
- refrigerator, microwave, Keurig coffeemaker, and smart TV in every room
- free parking
- free high-speed internet
- heated indoor pool & fitness center

Dining Options:

- Toast to Toast Sports Bar and Restaurant — a fast casual, counter service restaurant concept only at Holiday Inn. The menu features a delicious selection of small bites, bowls, and big bites along with local beer drafts and local wines. You'll also find fresh grab-and-go meals to enjoy in your room, as well as premium coffees and espresso. Serves breakfast and dinner. Daily happy hour 5:00-7:00.

Note: \$5 breakfast vouchers will be provided to Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows.

- A dozen nearby restaurants (most just a 5-minute walk) including Panera, IHOP, Subway, and Dunkin'
- Drive or take a cab, Uber, or Lyft to historic downtown Fredericksburg where you'll find a number of highly-rated restaurants including Brock's Riverside Grill, Capital Ale House, Castiglia's, and Ristorante Renato.



King room at the Holiday Inn Fredericksburg Conference Center

Transportation Options

- right off route I-95, minutes from historic downtown Fredericksburg
- Reagan National Airport — 49 miles
- Washington Dulles Airport — 56 miles
- Richmond Int'l Airport — 67 miles
- Fredericksburg Rail Station — 5 miles

Due to the distance, the hotel does not have an airport shuttle and we are unable to provide airport transportation, except for Sixth Division veterans and widows — see page 8. We suggest taking a taxi, Uber, or Lyft. A taxi from Reagan to Fredericksburg normally runs about \$110 in normal traffic. Uber or Lyft could be as low as \$65-70 unless surge pricing is in effect. Taxis, Ubers and Lyfts from the Dulles and Richmond airports will cost more due to the additional miles.

Reservation Deadline

You must make hotel reservations and return your registration form by **Saturday, August 22**

Questions???

Call or email Sharon Woodhouse:
phone: (503) 799-4455
email: sjwoodhouse@gmail.com

2020 Reunion — Registration Form (page 1)

Please complete **both sides** of this form and send it with
a check made payable to 6th Marine Division Assn.
to Sharon Woodhouse at the address on the reverse side
by August 22.

Name _____ Spouse/Guest Name _____

If Lineal Descendant, of whom _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone (____) _____ Cell phone (____) _____ Email _____

Company _____ Battalion _____ Regiment _____

Check all that apply to you:

_____ Attending my 1st Reunion _____ I will NOT be staying at the Holiday Inn

_____ Use cane or walker _____ Use wheelchair _____ Use motorized wheelchair

_____ Will take wheelchair on field trips

_____ Special dietary needs: (please specify) _____

_____ Other special needs: (please specify) _____

_____ Will bring auction item _____ Willing to help as needed

YOUR TRAVEL PLANS

Will be arriving in Fredericksburg by _____ on _____
(Mode of Transportation) (Arrival Date)

**For Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows who are flying
with no younger family members to assist you:**

Do you want us to pick you up at the airport? _____

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

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

Cell phone # while traveling: (_____) _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO

Contact Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____ Phone: _____

Please complete the reverse side

2020 Reunion — Registration Form (page 2)

Registration Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows -- FREE # _____ (for planning)
 All others -- \$25 per person # attending _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Tuesday, September 22

6:00 pm-8:00 pm **Meet and Greet Reception** # attending _____ x \$15 = \$ _____
 (including hors d'oeuvres)

Wednesday, September 23

2:00 pm-5:00 pm **Trolley Tour of Fredericksburg** # attending _____ x \$27 = \$ _____

Thursday, September 24

9:00 am-3:00 pm **National Museum of the Marine Corps by bus** # attending _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Friday, September 25

7:00 pm-10:00 pm **Annual Meeting and Auction** # attending _____ (for planning)

Saturday, September 26

10:00 am **Memorial Service** # attending _____ (for planning)

6:00 pm-10:00 pm **Reception and Dinner Banquet (buffet)** # attending _____ x \$49* = \$ _____
 **Note: dinner is free for Sixth Division Marines and their wives/significant others and widows*

Total due for all events..... \$ _____

Make check payable to: 6th Marine Division Assn.

Please mail completed form with your check by August 22 to:

Sharon Woodhouse
 14150 SW Hart Road
 Beaverton, OR 97008

Questions? Contact Sharon Woodhouse -- sjawoodhouse@gmail.com or (503) 799-4455



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Striking Sixth Newsletter

This newsletter is an official publication of the Sixth Marine Division Association and is published three times each year.

The subscription rate is \$10 per calendar year.

Subscription checks — as well as dues, donations, address changes, death notices, and record changes — should be mailed to:

Patty Payne
439 Chalfonte Drive
Catonsville, MD 21228

Please make checks payable to:

Sixth Marine Division Assn.

For more information, please contact Patty at:

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

**Be sure to check
www.sixthmarinedivision.com
for updates about the reunion**

Letters to the editor, materials for publication, suggestions, and feedback can be sent to:
Carroll McGowan, chm1423@aol.com, 1423 Pueblo Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228, (412) 341-9219

Chaplain's Report



This is a story inspired by Thomas Jefferson. He once said, "There is a debt of service due from every man to his coun-

try, proportioned to the bounties which nature and fortune have measured to him.

The story is about four World War II Chaplains on the troop ship SS Dorchester that sank on February 3, 1943:

- Father John Washington (New Jersey, Catholic)
- Reverend Clark Poling (Columbus, OH, Dutch Reformed)
- Rabbi Alexander Goode (Brooklyn, NY)
- Reverend George Fox (Lewistown, PA, Methodist)

The SS Dorchester was carrying 900 military passengers and crew in route to Greenland when it was torpedoed by the German

submarine U-223 off Newfoundland. A total of 675 people died in the disaster.

The Four Chaplains, as they became known, helped the soldiers board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. They joined arms, said prayers and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

Each of the Four Chaplains was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart. They were nominated for the Medal of Honor, but were found ineligible as they had not engaged in combat with the enemy. Instead, Congress created a medal for them, with the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor. The Post Office issued a commemorative stamp in their honor.

My own Chaplain service began when our Association Chaplain died and I was selected. I was raised as a Methodist and grew up in the Shepherd Methodist Church in Columbus, OH. Our Sunday school teacher smelled

of whiskey. My mother was very active in the Lady's Aid.

Years later, I met Barbara at Ohio State. She was a real good looking girl. We had a class together and I learned her name when the teacher called roll. I would go to the library to study, and Barbara would be there too. She asked me how she should study for the final, but I was more interested in getting her phone number. I asked her if she wanted to go for a hot-fudge sundae, and she agreed. That was the beginning of our life together. We married in her Presbyterian church.

Later, I began investigating churches. We ended up being baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. I served as Sunday School President, Bishop Counselor, Bishop, and High Priest Group leader on High Council. Now with Covid19, we are lucky to be able to watch church services on TV.

Your friendly Chaplain,
Harry McKnight

From the Editor



When I was growing up in the 50s and 60s, my parents would tell me stories about the depression and World War II. It seemed like ancient history to me — the "olden days." It wasn't until many years later that it finally dawned on me that the war ended only eight years before I was born.

Now it's been 75 years since the Battle of Okinawa and end of World War II, and I am a senior citizen. I have grandchildren who believe — correctly! — that I grew up in the olden days.

I enjoy telling them stories about what life was like when I was their age. Mostly I tell them about the things we didn't have back then, like car seats and smart phones and movies on demand. They are amazed!

I'm afraid the stories of my childhood and early adulthood

are nowhere near as compelling as the stories my parents told me. We had it easy; they did not. They had to endure many sacrifices that we never did.

It's no wonder they are called the Greatest Generation. I am in awe of what they accomplished! I often reflect on the war, especially the battle of Okinawa, and I am forever grateful for the men who fought it. When my grandchildren are older, you can be sure they will learn all about it.

~Carroll McGowan

Record an Oral History About Your WWII Service

One of the goals of the National World War II Museum in New Orleans is to preserve the legacy and lessons of World War II through the stories of those who experienced it. The museum currently has roughly 13,000 personal narratives, of which approximately 5,000 were recorded in high definition video. This Oral History Collection is the heart of the museum.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic currently prohibits conducting face-to-face interviews, the Museum's oral historians continue to conduct interviews online.

World War II veterans who are interested in possibly being interviewed by one of the Museum's oral historians can contact the Oral History Section at:

phone: 504-528-1944, ext. 516

or

email: oral.histories@nationalww2museum.org.

Find Your Veteran's Story with the Help of the National WWII Museum

Are you searching for information about your father or grandfather's service in World War II? It's a daunting and time-consuming task. But help is available: the National World War II Museum in New Orleans offers WWII Research Services. **For a fee, expert researchers will comb through military personnel files and other sources that are not easily accessed through the internet to put together your veteran's WWII service history.**

The largest source of information on World War II veterans is in a climate-controlled facility in St. Louis run by the National Archives and Records Administration. This vast collection includes billions of pages of information in boxes on six acres of shelves stacked 29 feet high! The files include payroll records, medical screening forms, photos, letters, medal citations, and more.

Tragically, a fire in 1973 destroyed millions of documents representing approximately 80% of Army records. Some have been reconstructed from other sources, but many were lost forever. Fortunately, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard records were not damaged.

The museum outlines the three levels of research services they offer on its website. They range from the \$99 File Package to the \$2,499 Premier Package. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/research-veteran/wwii-research-services>

If you prefer to do it yourself, the museum offers a free guide that covers the types of records available and where to find them. You'll find the request form here: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/research-veteran>

Please note the research service is currently suspended due to the pandemic.

New Members

George Escobedo

Associate Member

Son of Julian Escobedo (H&S 1st Armored Amphib FMF 4th Mar)

1545 Cherry Glen Way

San Jose, CA 95125

decotruck@aol.com

Ruth H. Lawrence

Associate Member

Daughter of William H. Harris (29th Mar 1st Battalion)

217 Marthas Way

Dover, NH 03820

Ruth.lawrence48@gmail.com

Randall E. Page

Life Associate Member

Nephew of Felix Glen Page

5131 S. Red Bud Place

Sand Springs, OK 74063

Page157@sbcglobal.net

John Quadtone

Associate Member

Son of John Quadtone (29th Mar 3rd Battalion)

510 Florida Street

Orlando, Florida 32806

Jvq7@aol.com

Donations — Thank You!

General Fund

Forrest Goodrich

Ruth Lawrence

John Quadtone

Charles Schneider

Join the Sixth Marine Division Association! Just go to:

www.sixthmarinedivision.com

Click on 6th Div Assn, then Join the Association to get an application.

St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church

by Bob McCalmont, 3 June 2020

As we watched with amazement of as our cities and towns were tested with protestors and looters, we particularly noticed the demonstration activities at the White House. Jane and I have visited Washington DC for pleasure and for work. My military job took me to the Pentagon and other offices in and around the city. Frequently, I would get off the Metro and walk by St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church in Lafayette Park next to the White House. The Church stood there in all of its historical glory!

Rev Donald W. Mayberry, Chaplain of the 6th Division

The Church became so much more to us as we did research last year and learned that the Rector of the Church from 1957 to 1968 was Rev Donald Williamson Mayberry. He was assigned as the Division Chaplain for the Sixth Marine Division, Lieutenant/Chaplain, U.S. Navy, and ministered to our Brave Heroes during the Battle of Okinawa! So when we saw the fire in part of the Church this past week, we were shocked and



Rev. Mayberry's headstone



St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church in 1815

speechless! Thank God the fire was contained in the nursery in the lower part of the Church.

Chaplain Mayberry died in 1998. He is buried in the National Cemetery in San Francisco. My Dad, a USAF Chaplain, officiated many services at the cemetery Chapel and gravesites in 1957-1960 and 1969-1973. The latter burials were mostly active duty personnel killed in Vietnam. That is a story for another time.

Church of Presidents

Since its founding as a parish in 1815, St. John's Church has been a powerful symbol of faith in the heart of our nation's capital. It was designed by noted architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe and is now a National Historic Landmark.

The cornerstone of St. John's was set on 14 September 1815.

Its first service was held on 27 October 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every President of the United States has attended a service at St. John's. Several were members. As a result, it is often called the Church of the Presidents. Pew 54 is the President's Pew and is reserved for the

President's use when in attendance.

Significant Features

The bell in St. John's steeple weighs nearly 1,000 pounds. It was cast by Paul Revere's son, Joseph, at his Boston foundry in August 1822, and installed 30 November 1822. President James Monroe authorized a \$100 contribution of public funds toward its purchase. St. John's bell is one of two Revere bells in Washington. Both were cast and installed in 1822; however, only St. John's bell has been in continuous service since its installation.

St. John's Church also features 25 historic stained glass windows designed and produced by Lorin Stained Glass Windows of Chartres, France. They were

(continued on next page)

Striking Sixth

St. John's

(continued from prior page)

commissioned in 1883, and installed from 1883-1885. They depict scenes from the life of Jesus and scenes from the Gospel of St. John, for whom the church is named.

The Parish House adjacent to the church at 1525 H Street, N.W. was built in 1836. It also is a National Historic Landmark. It was the residence in 1842 of Alexander Baring, Lord Ashburton, who negotiated a treaty that year with U.S. Secretary of State Daniel Webster.



St. John's today

The treaty established the final boundaries between Canada and the United States from Maine to Minnesota and helped avert a possible war between Great Britain and the United States. The building, also known as Ashburton House, later served as the site of the British Legation to the U.S. prior to the Civil War.

Sixth Marine Division Chaplains on Okinawa

Headquarters Division

LT Donald W. Mayberry, USNR, Division Chaplain, Episcopalian
Chaplain School Class 3-43, 8 Feb—4 Apr 1943

LT Morton M. Berman, USNR, Assistant Division Chaplain, Jewish
Chaplain School Class 11-43, 7 Jun—1 Aug 1943

Fourth Marines

LT William Larsen, USNR, Lutheran
Chaplain School Class 9-43, 10 May—4 Jul 1943

LT William F. O'Neil, USNR, Roman Catholic
Chaplain School Class 11-43, 11 Oct—5 Dec 1943

Twenty-Second Marines

LT George A. Creitz USNR, Evangelic/Reformed
Chaplain School Class 9-43, 10 May—4 Jul 1943

LT Eugene B. Kelly, USNR, Roman Catholic
Chaplain School Class 27-43, 6 Dec 1943—30 Jan 1944

Twenty-Ninth Marines,

LT Joseph Lorenz, USNR, Roman Catholic
Chaplain School Class 27-43, 6 Dec 1943—30 Jan 1944

LT Paul J. Forsythe, USNR, Southern Baptist
Chaplain School Class 28-43, 20 Dec 1943—13 Feb 1944

Fifteenth Marines

LT Andrew L. Slafkosky, USNR, Roman Catholic
Chaplain School Class 18-43, 16 Aug—10 Oct 1943

LT Charles M. Robinson, Jr., USNR, Presbyterian USA
Chaplain School Class 28-43, 20 Dec 1943—13 Feb 1944

Service Troops/Service Battalion

LT John L.A. Hammerson, USNR, Presbyterian USA
Chaplain School Class 27-43, 6 Dec 1943—30 Jan 1944

LT Joseph F. Varden, USNR, Roman Catholic
Chaplain School Class 21-43, 27 Sep—21 Nov 1943

Sixth Medical Battalion

LT Lee J. Flynn, USNR, Roman Catholic
Chaplain School Class 17-43, 2 Aug—26 Sep 1943

LT Paul S. Sanders, USNR, Methodist
Chaplain School Class 2-44, 17 Jan—12 Mar 1944

Note: US Navy Chaplain School was located at the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA



TAPS

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

Cheeseman, Joseph S.	29th Mar-3-HQ	06/22/10
Dornan, Florence	wife of Jack Dornan	05/28/20
Hepting, William Albert	22nd Mar-2-K	11/24/19
Hesslink, Glenn Howard	6th Marine Division	05/26/20
Hoag, Jayne	wife of Jack Hoag	01/06/20
Lasch, John G.	4th Mar-3-K	07/13/19
Mahar, Joseph J.	22nd Mar-2-G	12/17/19
Mahar, Rhea Maas	wife of Joseph Mahar	05/18/20

Reporting Deaths
Deaths should be reported as soon as possible to:
Patty Payne
Membership Chair
(410) 978-2979

AND

Harry McKnight
Chaplain
(614) 866-3456
barbandht6321@aol.com

Flo Dornan, Long-Time, Much-Loved Membership Manager

Have you ever heard anyone in the Sixth Marine Division Association say an unkind word about Flo Dornan? Why would they? She was unfailingly friendly, polite, and helpful. No wonder she was beloved by members of the Association.

Flo was Membership Manager of the Association for 17 years. She also served as Membership Secretary for the Marine Raider Association. From what we hear they loved her as much as we did. She was a dream to work with — always pleasant and always providing what was needed for the newsletter when it was needed. Usually *before* it was needed! She enjoyed the job immensely, primarily because it gave her the opportunity to talk to so many members of the Association.

Flo was a member of the Daughters of the American

Revolution, and she enjoyed researching her family history. She also loved her church, painting with water colors, and traveling. She attend reunions of the Sixth Marine Division and the Raiders whenever she could, and she always had a good time.

Flo's beloved husband John "Jack" Dornan (4th Mar-2-F) preceded her in death in 2011. She is survived by five children, six grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Thank you, Flo, for everything you did for the Association. We will truly miss you. We take comfort in knowing you are reunited with so many of the Sixth Division Marines and Raiders you missed when they passed on, especially your beloved Jack.

~CHM



Flo Dornan with daughter Doreen Walker at the 2019 Reunion in Philadelphia

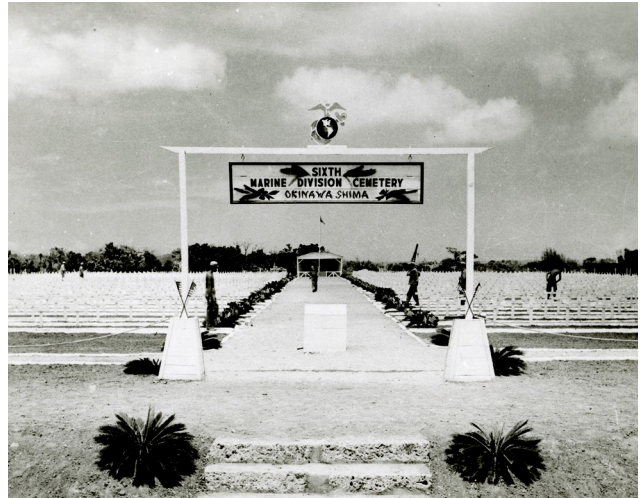
Remembering Those Who Never Came Home

Fifty years have passed since the final chapter of the greatest conflict in our world's history. The flower of our youth passed into obscurity. Thousands upon thousands, in endless columns, marched into eternity. They never grew old, never aged into maturity, never fathered a future generation. In their youthful exuberance they were destined never to feel the developing infirmities of age.

Their passing from our scene was generally quick and sudden. Their youthful brilliance illuminated our world but for a moment and then, as quickly, faded. And in the darkness of their passing, over these 50 years, our river of tears has ebbed and flowed. The mothers and fathers, the wives and sweethearts, the sisters and brothers, and all the countless friends and comrades have swelled the torrent of our grief. The price we have paid can never be measured. For every experienced loss there are countless other losses. It has been said, "It is easy to die, but it is never easy for those of us left behind."

The chimes of our clocks continue to whisper the gentle message: A generation is winding down. Our freedom, our honor and our dignity is the legacy our fallen comrades have left to us.

~ Frank H. Haigler (22nd Mar-3-L)
2 September 1995



Sixth Marine Division Cemetery, Okinawa

The cemeteries of the Pacific were removed after World War II, including the Sixth Marine Division Cemetery on Okinawa. Many were returned home to the family plot, others to a nearby National Cemetery. Many were moved to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as "The Punchbowl" since it occupies a dormant volcano in Honolulu, Hawaii.

A few years ago, I visited the Punchbowl and found the headstones of several 29th Marines that I knew. It was very emotional reading one name after another, remembering, in some cases, the moment the Marine was killed.

These are the men that Memorial Day is all about. Although mostly forgotten, they lie in a place of honor among others who lost their lives so long ago, capturing an island called Okinawa.

~ Watson Crumbie (29th Mar-1-C)
19 May 2020

below: headstones of 29th Marines KIA, the Punchbowl, Honolulu



Watson Crumbie found and photographed headstones for the following Sixth Division Marines:

Michael Cziva
- KIA 9 Jun 1945

Frank Greska
- KIA 13 Apr 1945

Joseph Lengyel
- KIA 18 May 1945

Vincent Marentette
- KIA 16 May 1945

Harold Parson
- KIA 16 May 1945

Stanley Rebut
- KIA 17 May 1945

John Salamanca
- KIA 14 Apr 1945

Thomas White
- KIA 28 May 1945

He also found Ernie Pyle's headstone.

Sixth Marine Division Association

439 Chalfonte Drive, Catonsville, MD 21228



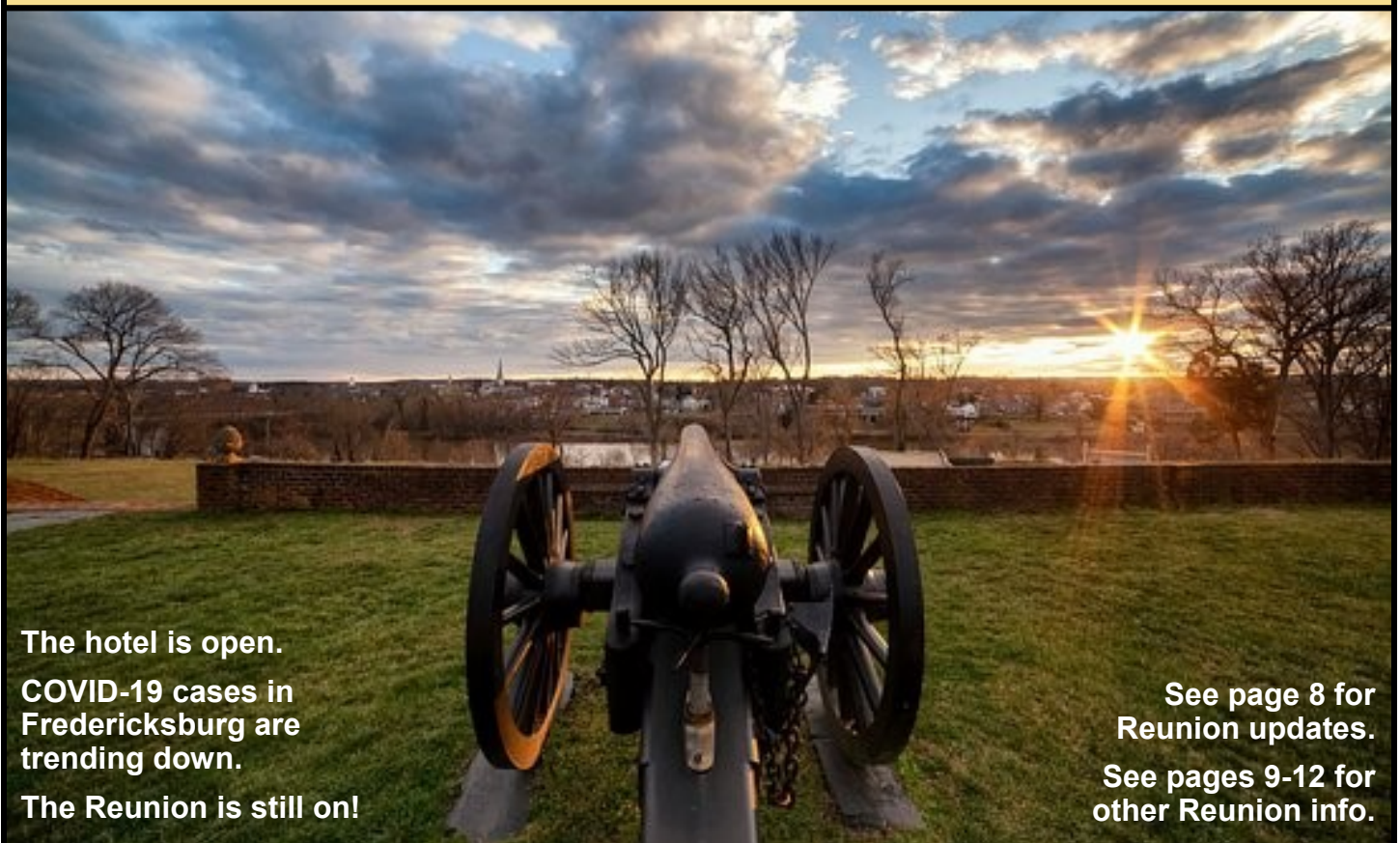
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Striking Sixth Newsletter

Summer 2020

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Reunion 2020 — Fredericksburg, Virginia



The hotel is open.
COVID-19 cases in
Fredericksburg are
trending down.
The Reunion is still on!

See page 8 for
Reunion updates.
See pages 9-12 for
other Reunion info.