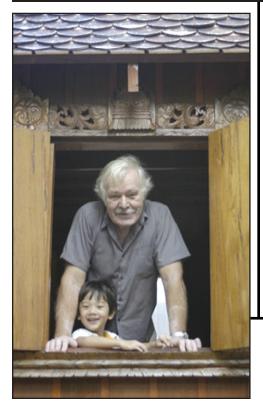


MYRTLE BEACH REUNION NEWS INSIDE ON PAGES 2 and 3



The Walls of Mabuni —Peace Memorial Park, Okinawa. The Walls carry the names of those known who died there during the battle, including Marines of the 6th Division. Our Historian Laura Lacey tells the story on Page 6.



Piper on a Hill — When I was there (Mabuni) with our guys, we all spent time looking for the names of those we knew. It was sad when we found them. We did return again for the Jim Day Ceremony in 2000. There were about 10 of us. We went to Mabuni and Joe McConville went out to one of the hills and played the Marine Hymn and then Amazing Grace on his bagpipes. The 100 or so individuals in the park at that time, they all stood still and silent and looking toward the hill where the sounds echoed from. It was very, very moving. — Bill Pierce, Wpns 29



Division of Writers — With all the writers we've turned out over the years, Hal Stephens stands out with more than 30 books published. Somehow he has made bumming around the world into an industry. Here, he and a grandson peer out of a window in his Bangkok home. See Page 9.



ELECTED OFFICERS

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PRESIDENT ELECT

SECRETARY

Tom M. Terpinas 8056 Shorewalk Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46236-9541 Tmt6md@comcast.net

TREASURER

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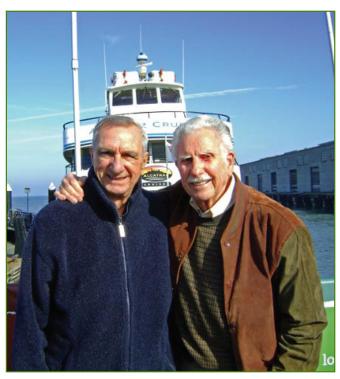
Volunteer Needed

PAST PRESIDENT

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

Tankers Reunited

— Sal Mistrata, left and Dixie Mitchell, both tankers and pals from way back, recently found each other for the first time since WWII service. Originally with the 22nd's Tank Co., which they joined right after the Marshall's Campaign, they both survived Guam and Okinawa. Dixie's comment on Sugar Loaf was that it was lucky they had so many spare tanks, the way they went through them.



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

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Florence Dornan

No Matter What, We Reunite At Myrtle Beach, SC

The nation may be in an uproar over recession/depression, health care yea or nay and the Near East, Middle East and Far East, but it looks like the Sixth Marine Division Reunion is going to come off as scheduled: Oct. 26 — Nov. 1. Everything is ready, the money is coming in, the only thing missing is being there. It's just not time yet.

It's off-season at Myrtle Beach SC, but that made the rate cheaper. It isn't that we're cheap, but almost every man Jack of us, once upon a time, had to live on enlisted man pay. Old habits are hard to break.

Anyway, Marydel Gaiser, our reunion honcho this year, says we're only a few days off the prime season and the weather may be as beautiful as the best of times. Check the schedule on Page 4. The Beach Cove Resort registration form is on Page 5. All the events are set. The Irish Tenor Show is sold out, but Marydel says there may be cancellations. The deadline for registration to get the special rate of \$79.52 is Sept. 25. cont. Page 3

The Myrtle Beach Reunion Will Decide A Lot; A Good Turnout Will Be Needed

Important doings will take place at the forthcoming reunion. As most know, we are missing a chaplain, a president elect and a new president. In addition, we have work to do preparing a methodology to bring our lineal descendants into the association as full members with all rights, including holding office and voting.

As of this writing, our president Andrew Sinatra will not be there. He has conflicts he cannot avoid. There is no president elect. A conversation with Sam Petriello, our judge advocate, informs us that the bylaws require the meeting to be chaired by the secretary, so unless Andy changes his mind, Tom Terpinas will be in charge until the last day when the new president, as yet unknown, will take over.

Anyone seeking to propose an agenda item should contact Tom. His number is (317) 823-1117. Anyone who can be immediately ready to handle chaplain duties

should put his name in the hat by calling Tom. Same for anyone wishing to be or to name a president elect should do the same. Likewise, if there is anyone from the back row who really, really wants to be a president, tell Tom. If we get a nominating committee activated, he can pass the information on to them. Otherwise, he will have to act on the information.

With Tom acting as president, we will need an acting secretary. Yes, you know already, call Tom. It won't be too tough if Miss Anita Benedetti will continue taking the minutes. Please!

Tom has had a recent illness that caused him great concern, but he says he will be up to the job. If he should falter, next in line is Treasurer Harold Williams. After, Harold it looks like it will go to anyone willing to stand up and take the oath. That's if we can find anyone to give the oath. — Singleton

No Matter What...continued

There are no day trips scheduled. This has proved to be a little disappointing to some. Marydel mentions a variety of things to do near the hotel, for example, Barefoot Landing is at the end of the street. It has many shops and attractions. There is a Garden Tour, she said, but she hesitated on making it an official event because of the walking required. It is possible that some of us are not up to a lot of walking, but don't forget we were an infantry division; we used to get paid for walking.

In any case, some of us are bent on day trips. Take the Benedetti sisters. Anita has done the talking for them this time. She says they are determined to at least consider some tours. They have been in touch with Grey Lines and other firms and are chock full of information, including rates, numbers of participants to a vehicle, everything that is needed to know.

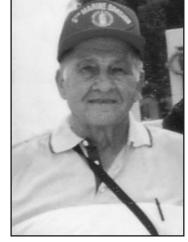
Anita or Lisa can be reached at (440) 442-0386. They are the daughters of Alio Benedetti, HQ-3-22. The pair also wants the Banquet to be a costume affair as it occurs on All Hallows Eve. Same phone numbers if you want to talk to them about that. — Singleton Summer 2009

This Year's Forthcoming Reunion May Be Time For Real Change in Lineal Descendants Status

Sam Petriello, as judge advocate, has looked after the bylaws and legal matters of the association for many years now. As such, he is the point man on easing the way for lineal descendents to become full members of the association. It is not only his duty, but he states that he "strongly favors" this change.

Sam has been getting support and lots of help from Bob McGowan, son of a squad leader in the third platoon of H-3-29 and a member of the association until his death in 1999. Bob was also a Marine. Here is his take on the matter:

"In the spring 2009 issue we wrote that Sam



Sam Petriello

Petriello is working with attorneys who believe the easiest way to grant lineal descendants full membership status is to change from a veterans' organization to a standard nonprofit. The change itself will be a matter of form, affecting only our legal relationship with the government. In order to do this, we have to file documents with NJ to close out the NJ Corporation and file with PA to open the PA Corporation.

"The lawyers will file with the IRS and PA Department of Revenue for us. Nothing has been settled yet. It's up to the membership. Sam wants Sixth Division Marines and lineal descendants to know what is going on even though it will take more time before all avenues have been explored. We have asked the lawyers to prepare all the documents by September 1 to allow plenty of time for review before the October Reunion." — Singleton

THE SIXTH MARINE ASSOCIATION 2009 REUNION BEACH COVE RESORT, N. MYRTLE BEACH, SC

October 26 – November 1, 2009

| ARRIVAL DATE: | DEPARTURE DATE: |
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| NAME: | |
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| CITY: | STATE: ZIP: |
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| Executive Suite: \$79.5 | 2 per night, <u>including tax and resort fees</u> |
| | one bedroom with 2 Queen Beds, Bathroom, 2 steps down to a per sofa, Kitchenette with utensils and a private balcony. le and parking. |
| Please note if Handicap executSmokingNon-Smoki | tive suite without stairs is requireding |
| lodging\$79.52. By check or credit card to: | urn it to the hotel with a deposit in the amount of one night's . Ocean Blvd., North Myrtle Beach, SC, 29582 |
| Credit card # | EXP date |
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| 9 | (This is the hotel 800 number) <u>Be sure to say you are</u> |
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| taken on availability basis only. less \$20.00 administrative fee per | ON IS <u>September 25, 2009</u> . After that date, reservations will be Cancellations will be accepted up to 14 days before arrival date reservation. One night's lodging (\$79.52) will be CHARGED if o-shows on the date of arrival will be charged for that night |
| | st-come, first-serve basis. Send in your reservations early to assure 0pm - check-out is 11:00am. Confirmation will be provided by the |
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Sixth Marine Division Association 2009 Annual Reunion – Tuesday October 26 – Sunday November 1 Beach Cove Resort, North Myrtle Beach, SC

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| OF EVENTS | | |
| Time | Event | Cost |
| 9 am – 4 pm | early arrivalsenjoy all the amenities of the resort. | |
| noon - 5 pm | Registration open Member (spouse free) Guests (Nos:@\$25.00 each | \$ <u>25.00</u> \$ |
| Noon | Hospitality Room open | |
| 7 am 10 am – 5 pm 4:30pm | Hospitality Room open Registration open Depart to Dixie Stampede (\$49.00/person X's #) | \$ |
| 7 am 10 am – 5 pm 4:30 pm | Hospitality Room open Registration open Depart to Irish Tenor Show (\$34.00/person SOLD OUT, Dinner on your own | wait list available |
| 7 am 10 am – 5 pm 11:30 am | Hospitality Room open Registration open Ladies Luncheon (\$20.00/per person X's #) | \$ |
| 12:30 pm 7 PM | Executive Board Meeting Steve and Alyce Show (\$10.00/person X's #) | \$ |
| 7 am 9 am – 12 pm | Hospitality Room open Memorial Service followed after a 30 minute break, by the General Meeting. | Men's |
| 5:30 pm | Cash Bar – Dinner – Installation of Officers | |
| ice & No: Beef_ | ChickenFish(\$35.00/per person X's #) | \$ |
| 11 am | Check out see you next year!!! | |
| | Pan OF EVENTS Time 9 am - 4 pm noon - 5 pm Noon 7 am 10 am - 5 pm 4:30pm 7 am 10 am - 5 pm 4:30 pm 7 am 10 am - 5 pm 11:30 am 12:30 pm 7 PM 7 am 9 am - 12 pm 5:30 pm 5:30 pm | ### Proof of the content of the cont |

Fill in this form with your check payable to: 6th Marine Div. Assn. 2009 Reunion

5

<u>SEND TO</u>: Ms. Marydel Gaiser...125 Dolphann Drive Tonawanda, NY 14150-4629

Phone 716-693-0178 E-mail.... militaryreunions@roadrunner.com

Summer 2009

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Laura Lacey

Historian's Corner By Laura Lacey

It has been a long and often hot day by the time participants on a tour of the Battle of Okinawa

reach Mabuni Ridge. They have encountered the horrors of war in many stories, sites and visual displays. However, nothing conveys the tragedy of war more than the second most visited spot and the largest war memorial on Okinawa-the Peace Memorial Park.

As the battle came to an end in June of 1945, a mass of humanity— Japanese, Koreans, Okinawans, Brits and Americans became compressed on the southern tip of Okinawa. On that southern end, the senior leaders from both sides died, along with countless other combatants and civilians. The battle will come to an end around an area known as Mabuni Ridge.

Visitors walk up Mabuni Ridge and pass over fifty memorials from different groups and organizations in honor of those who died in the "typhoon of steel." A monument that hundreds come to pay reverence to is "a tomb of the unknown" for Japanese and Okinawans. At the peak of Mabuni Ridge General Ushijima committed seppuku (ritualized suicide) and a memorial marks the spot. One can also see the entrance to the Thirty-second Army's last headquarters. The area has become known as "Suicide Cliffs;" not necessarily because

of the general's suicide but for the civilians who threw themselves to their deaths off the limestone cliffs in the area.

According to an Okinawan friend, for some while after the war this spot was avoided, but eventually people began making trips to worship lost loved ones and to pay their respect to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice. In May 1972, the area was designated as the Peace Memorial Park. At that time there was the walkway up the ridge with a growing number of monuments, a Memorial Hall and eventually a museum. The museum is divided into five areas and is thought-provoking.

In 1995, in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa, the Cornerstones of Peace were opened to the public. The cornerstones are black stone plates etched with the names of everyone who died on Okinawa. As of June 2008 there were 240,734 names. It is incredibly sobering to see so many lives memorialized in such a way; people often stop to touch a name or to make a pencil etching to take a way. A final impressive memory is to walk up to the eternal flame. It allows visitors the chance to look back at the thousands of names on the rows of walls, then out across the jagged and majestic cliffs, and then finally out to sea. It is a time to solemnly remember an eighty-two day battle when so many lives were lost and to pray for peace.

— Laura Lacey, Division Historian



Okinawa was originally closely tied to China. Japan didn't take over until after Perry's visit to Japan opened that country up to a world view in the 19th Century. The Peace Park, as I understand it, was an Okinawan venture. Some accounts have it that there was originally more bitterness toward Japan than the United States after the battle. That may have changed in recent years. Much anger toward the Japanese military, it has been reported, was the result of Japanese soldiers aiding, abetting and forcing the deaths of civilians at the abutting Suicide Cliffs.

The Japanese commanders weren't the only senior officers to die in the area. Our own 10th Army commander Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr. was killed nearby. Buckner, son of the losing Confederate general at the defense of Ft. Donelson in the Civil War, died from shrapnel wounds just four days before the island was declared secured. He is shown here watching the 8th Marines in action around Mabuni Cliffs with Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, 6th Division commander.

Suicide Cliffs gained the name as the battle came to its inevitable conclusion.

— Singleton

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 16



Suicide Cliffs, Today



Suicide Cliffs, 1945



Shepherd, Buckner

6

Marines to Get Their Due In Speilberg's 'The Pacific'

"The Pacific" — For a long time rumors have circulated that Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg were collaborating on a World War II: Pacific Theater/Marine Corps HBO mini series in the same spirit of their highly respected "Band of Brothers." This is no longer a rumor. In 2010, "The Pacific" will air on HBO as a 10-part mini series.

That said, it's very different from "Band." It's as different as World War II in the Pacific was from World War II in Europe. It's much darker and more brutal but that was the nature of fighting on those Pacific islands. Just ask any veteran for confirmation of that. Tom Hanks who is one of our Executive Producers likes to say it will take the audience on a brutal journey to hell and back; the same sort of journey that was experienced by the men who fought the real battles. I think he's right on the mark with that. —Capt. Dale Dye

"The Pacific" is based on the books "With the Old Breed," by Eugene Sledge, which was hailed by historian

Paul Fussell as "one of the finest memoirs to emerge from any war," and "Helmet for My Pillow," by Robert Leckie (recipient of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Annual Award), as well as original interviews conducted by the filmmakers. Continuing the World War II oral history

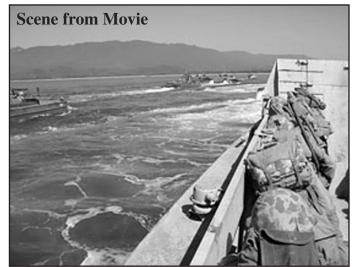
work begun by his father Stephen E. Ambrose (author of the book *Band of Brothers*), Hugh Ambrose serves as a consultant on the miniseries, as does Captain Dale Dye, USMC (Saving Private Ryan, Band of Brothers and Platoon).

The miniseries follows Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. Specifically, it tracks the intertwined odysseys of three U.S. Marines: Robert Leckie (played by James Badge Dale), Eugene Sledge (played by Joe Mazzello) and John Basilone (played by Jon Seda) across the vast canvas of the Pacific. The extraordinary experiences of these men and their fellow Marines take them from the first clash with the Japanese in the haunted jungles of Guadalcanal, through the impenetrable rain forests of Cape Gloucester, across the blasted coral strongholds of Peleliu, up the black sand terraces of Iwo Jima, through the killing fields of Okinawa, to the triumphant, yet uneasy, return home after V-J Day. Watch the Official HBO Trailer at: http://www.hbo.com/ events/ pacific/video. html

For more information, see: http://www.pacificf ans.com/

Visit the series fan site at: http://www.pararese archteam.com/ThePacific.html

Semper Fi, Joan Willauer



Why Reunions? This Offers Reason Why

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of my comrades drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades...such good men. From "These Good Men" by Michael Norman (Courtesy of Dick Whitaker, F-2-29)

Raider Reunion on Tap

The Raiders will meet this year in Washington, D.C. Dates are Aug. 20-23. For more information, contact Kenneth O'Donnell, president, 7726 Shreve Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043-3301, (703) 560-4920.

Summer 2009 7

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From the Webmaster By Lucy Young

I have a confession to make....I'm addicted......to knitting that is! Don't bother emailing me any 12-step programs to break my addiction, I don't want to be cured. Knitting is relaxing, productive and enjoyable.

Normally when people nowadays see me knitting in public they look at me as if I had two heads; however, the popularity of knitting and crocheting has soared in the last few years so you can expect to see more public knitting!

Knitters and crocheters are, I have found, some of the most charitable people there are. It is not unusual for them to knit more for others than themselves and thus, there is many a charity for which to knit. There are chemo cap knitters, shelter animal blanket knitters, hat knitters for charities such as premature babies, and many more.

I have recently learned that there are also many charities focusing on veterans and soldiers serving our country. One can knit a soldier a hat, scarf and even socks for veterans, and they SO appreciate it. I recently joined the Yahoo Group called Socks For Soldiers (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SOCKFORSOLDIERS or http://socksforsoldiersinc.com/). If you knit or crochet, this is a wonderful way to show love and support to our troops. If you are a wife of a Marine, you might be paying it "backward" as it were, as your own loved one might have been a recipient of just such a gift so many decades ago.

The National World War II Museum has a Knit Your Bit campaign for knitted items made for and in appreciation of WWII veterans. You can read about it online at http://www.nationalww2museum.org/education/for-general-public/knit-your-bit.html.

To contact Andy & Lucy Young E-mail: lucy@texasnova.com





Sgt. Red Lewis Leaves China—

We can't guarantee who is who in this photo or even when it was taken, except that it is clearly winter. In addition, what is Red's first name? Here's the best we can do, starting from the left: Lewis, Trotta, Twigger, Sessions, Linton, Schultz, Mangano, Ittman, DiMartino, Staton, McAndrews, Snyder, Saggiotes, Dragovich, Humphrey, Wilson, Keller.



Sea Duty — Fox Company, 29th Marines received the enviable orders for a winter sail aboard this LST in the winter of 1945. They were to protect downed U.S. aircraft that had run into too much weather. If possible the planes were to be flown out or otherwise destroyed. As it turned out, flying them was impossible, so they were destroyed. This portion of the hardy crew was, from left, back row Bill Sanner and Clyde Myers; middle row, Alex Honyak, John Sosa and Russ Strohecker; front row, Fred Roe, unidentified Marine and Levi Worley.

Goldsborough Featured — Spencer Goldsborough, HQ-3-22, was featured in the Delaware County Sunday Times after he donated his WWII uniform, a Japanese flag and his sea bag to a Pennsylvania veterans museum. He could "no longer get it (the uniform) on," he said.

"Now Listen Up, If You Want to Write"

THE EDUCATION OF A TRAVEL WRITER

So You Want to be a Writer

By Harold Stephens

233 pages

ISBN: 978-0-9786951-2-7

Wolfenden Publishers: printing June 2009

\$14.95

It's a long lonely road to become a writer, says Harold Stephens (F-2-29), and although the getting there is difficult, he insists it¹s not impossible. Stephens is prolific. He has written more than 30 books (travel, adventure, biographies and novels) and over four thousand magazine and newspaper stories, TV and video scripts, movie documentaries and just about anything else someone might purchase.

In the beginning, when he had the dream, he was told to give it up. "You'll never make it as a writer," editors told him, as did most everyone else.

Stephens must not have listened. He began writing travel for the Bangkok Post (Thailand) and for 10 years he and his *continued on page 15*



The Folks Back Home — thought we were repatriating Japanese troops to their home islands or perhaps protecting freedom from Communism. Well, we were, but Jettie Rucker, left, and Jack Stephenson, both of Fox-29, found time for an innocent flirtation on a Tsingtao sand pile. The lady's name has been lost to posterity. **(Picture from the Stephens on line photo files.)**

The Division and Its Writers

There have been many published writers from the Sixth Marine Division. Some have written about the war, others have dealt with other topics.

The most famous has been William Manchester, 2-29, whose biography of Winston Churchill *The Last Lion* and *American Caesar*, which dealt with Douglas MacArthur, were highly acclaimed. His treatment of Okinawa *Goodbye Darkness* was considered by many to be uneven but gripping.

Laura Lacey has written *Stay Off The Skyline*, a fine treatment of personal histories.

Tim Joyner, also of 2-29 wrote a biography of the first round-the-world mariner, *Magellan*, who didn't finish the trip but did get the credit. (Tim wrote an account of his return to Okinawa for this newsletter, which hit home. Circumstances prevented publication here, but fortunately, Glenn Moore ran it in his Marine Family Newsletter, so it wasn't lost.)

There have been unit histories, the 22^{nd} comes to mind, and individual stories. Though not published, there are interesting accounts of the Raiders and the 4^{th} Marines on line.

Other books have covered events in China and around the world. A list of titles and publishers would be handy but none are available to this writer.

It is believed Hal Stephens is ahead of all when it comes to words on paper. His output has been amazing. If you're not an Ernest Hemingway making a fortune, but you are determined to make your living writing, you have to keep at it. It's tough, but as Hal says, "It beats working on the farm."

Hal has covered a lot of ground on his travelwriting odyssey. Writing of his sailing adventures in the South Seas and fighting off bandits in Asia makes him the Richard Halliburton of our time. The only differences are that Hal has never gotten rich and famous or been lost at sea. Wikipedia does have his bio, though.

Some of Hal's books are listed on his publisher's web site: Wolfendenpublishing.com. Google can find him; Amazon has him.

I have read a couple of his books and have found them entertaining, good clean fun. While I haven't read this latest one on being a writer and don't want to be presumptuous, I would like to add the obvious requirement to his point that you have to write to learn how. You also have to read. If you don't read, you can't write, at least not successfully.

— Singleton

From: John Hutchins@faa.gov To: GYRENE629@aol.com Subject: Re: Lathan Carson Hutchins Date: Mon, 18 May 2009 09:37:34-0400 Dear Mr. Pierce, Thank you very much for your quick response. My mother said she would very much like to have the brass marker. Her address is Linda C. Hutchins, 6365 E. Rector St., Inverness, FL. 34452. Also, thank you for all that you do. I am forever grateful for what you all did for our great nation. Respectfully, John Hutchins NASTEP Center A, 200 Tradeport Blvd. Suite 201, Atlanta, GA 30354, office: 404-968-7976 Cell:678-859-0135

Florence, Here is my \$10 for the newsletter. The other \$10, do what you want. I see we lost two good ones, Frank and Buzzy - sure is too bad. They will be missed. George Taylor, 17106 Kenley Way, Birmingham, AL 35242-8061

Enclosed is my check for \$10. I believe my subscription to the "Striking Sixth" had expired - sorry - I also enclosed a photo of me carrying a cane (results of a basketball accident). I was the "Brig Warden" for the 22nd Marines located in the Shantung University - Tsingtao. I hope you can enlarge it so you may print it. Maybe someone would recognize and remember me. I was there from Aug 45 - May 46. The Marine to my right was Cpl Baake, also a guard at the "Brig." I'm 87 yrs old and in good health. Theodore Horton-Billard, 1042 Pauma Valley Rd, Banning, CA 92220-5367. Ed's: Note: We ran this picture in the summer of 2007.



Dear Florence, Hello! I'm enclosing a check for my brother's upcoming dues 2010. I have enclosed a picture of my brother, Peter, and his friend Bill Hollis of Lowell, MA. Bill survived a bullet, which went through his helmet on Peter Hasomeris! Okinawa, but has

passed away since. When they arrived in San Diego, CA in 1945, they were invited to the "Long Horn Bar" by the owner. I hope some of the buddies will

recognize them. I also hope you and the association have a beautiful year. I still volunteer at the Brockston VA. I'll be there today. I just love my country. Connie Hasomeris, sister of Peter, 36 Juniper Rd, Avon, MA 02322. Ed's Note: We salvaged Peter's picture but lost Bill's when we got rid of the bar owner.

(To Flo) Enclosed please find check for \$20, \$10 for the newsletter and \$10 to be used as needed for the association. I did enjoy coming to all the meetings but, old age has curtailed my travel. Keep up the good work. Herbert A. Spearman, 40021 Corte Calanova, Murrieta, CA 95262-5563

Dear Mrs. Dornan, Enclosed is my check of \$20 - I believe it will be for 2009 and 2010. I am glad "check your label" is in each newsletter. I enjoy the Newsletter even though my Marine husband passed away 4 years ago. He frequently said "Once a Marine, always a Marine. Faye Cross, 3424 Evans Rd, Huntingtown, MD 20639-9228



Glen and Carol Staples — wrote they can't go to reunions. Nevertheless, they believe in them enough to donate \$100 for their continuance. They say, "God bless all of you. Glen served with H&S-15.

Bill Pierce: Oh, my gosh, what a thrill to receive the print of the Final Flag at Okinawa! Thank you so, soooo much!! It just means the world to me. I will definitely have it framed. I see an article by you in one of Dad's old newsletters from 2006, so he still got the newsletter after he was gone. I will plan to join the division, but I should wait until I am working full time, as I've been part-time for months now. Thank you again! Jody Mitchell Davison jodym.davison@gmail.com

Does anyone remember John (Jack) A. Sulzmann? He was a forward observer in WWII and was in the 6th Marine Division. He had a presidential unit citation and also a citation signed by Admiral Nimitz. He passed away in 1989 and I am trying to get additional information. He did attend reunions. Paul Sulzmann, sulzma@valley1.com

I am writing a book about my grandfather's group of US Navy gunboats called LCI (G)'s. I recently received the deck log for my grandfather's ship and noted a list of over 40 names of Marines of 4th platoon, "K" Company, 22nd Marines who were assigned a special mission to mop up the lesser Marshall Island atolls such as Wotje, Likiep, Ailinglaplap etc... My question is, Do you have a current list of men who were in the unit mentioned above? It was quite a remarkable job they did, with the gunboats providing cover fire. The Marines would stay on the LCI's at night and the LCI sailors refused to allow the Marines to eat c-rations so they had hot chow for them every night. Also, the Marines in turn brought a lot of souvenirs to these LCI men. The men on my grandpa's LCI remember someone they nicknamed, "Bloody Sarge" who would tell stories of the mission they completed and Bloody Sarge was such a good story teller that the LCI guys would all sit on the deck and gather around him like it was some sort of a boy scout camp fire. Amazing! The book I am writing is called, "Sitting Ducks" and though about the gunboats a goodly portion will be about the Marines so I would appreciate any help you can provide. Thank you! Dennis Blocker, National LCI Assn. Historian, Pacific War. Lci449@hotmail.com

Joe, I was browsing online tonight looking for info on the 6TH Marines in Okinawa when I came across the Winter 2008 Striking Sixth News Letter. I see that there is an email I sent to (I think) Ed Marsalek in the Mail Call Section requesting info from anyone who may have been stationed with my dad, Robert E. Madlem, on Okinawa, Bougainville, Guadalcanal, or Guam. Unfortunately it says that there is no address for me. Is it possible that you can

Recon Marine's Son Plans Documentary

From Bob Zimmerman: After my dad passed away in 1998 I got his military records and found out a lot. He just didn't talk too much about the war. He told me the same three or four stories.

Then last year I asked my Mom if I could see his old Marine uniforms and in the bottom of the trunk were all these letters he wrote home from before, during and after Okinawa in 1945. They started in March of 1945 and went through Sept. They had been in there for 63 years unread.

So I'm going to do a documentary about the letters, my Dad and the battle of Okinawa. The plan is to make this into a feature film at some point. I really hope I can talk to some Okinawa vets, too

It is hard to read some of the writing on the records but I think I can get most of it. My dad's name was Al Zimmerman and he was born and raised in Ohio.

So it looks like from Sept 25, 1944 through March 13, 1946 he was with Recon Co., HQ Bn, 6th Marine Div. I see the 29th Marines listed in a few spots too. Another page said on April 1, 1945 he disembarked and participated in the operations against the enemy on Okinawa Shima, Ryukyu Islands. Then later he went to Tsingtao, China. Bob's web address is www.razfilms.com

run that email in the mail call again and put the following contact info in it for me? Respectfully, Philip Peter Madlem, Email: ppem1956@yahoo.com, Phone number- 503-895-2631 or 503-544-6760, Address- 1137 SE Wenlock AV, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

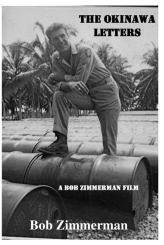
 \star

Letters that never got in — A.J. Carlson wrote in 2007 that a combat correspondent wrote a piece on him after an incident on Okinawa. While serving with B-1-4, he and his BAR were on the side of a foxhole when he got hit square in the chest. Flopping down into the hole, he searched for the wound but couldn't find it. Only then did he notice that his bandoleer was smoking. The Japanese round had struck a magazine, and A.J. was still alive and well. This missive was lost in the shuffle.

*

Another from 2007 — Rebecca Roberson of Byars, OK wrote of her grandfather, Roy Lowell Hill Jr., who served with





the 15th Marines on Okinawa. He died in 1994. She sent a photo of several men, including her grandfather, who, she said, were with the Third Defense Bn., perhaps on Bouganville, earlier in the war. I couldn't make head or tails of the photo, so didn't run the letter. I meant no slight to Miss Roberson or her grandfather.

Lost Photo — Jim Harwood, HQ-1-4, wrote Flo Dornan in Jan. of '09 that he sent in a photo of Bloody Ridge on Guadalcanal he would like back. She didn't have it. I'm still looking. Don't give up hope, Jim. If I have it, I'll get it back to you, hopefully while we're still here.

50 Years Later: What Happened? — This letter, or letters, I'm not sure which, came in a year ago. I have been puzzling over it or them ever since. Finally, I think I am beginning to understand. Monte Shawver, D-1-29, heard from Falkins wounded on Sugar Loaf, 50 years later.

and who didn't after he was hit. These are Monte's answers as he gave them in 1995. The first platoon of Dog Company was digging in for the night. Sgt. Smith came running, grenades were needed on Sugar Loaf. Shawver, Falkins, Smith, Brinks, Dunsford, others (?) answered the call. Grenades delivered, they began taking casualties back. Cpl. McClendon is reminded of Sugar Loaf by the shrapnel in his back. Gary Henderson died on Sugar Loaf. Lt. Smith was badly wounded. Penn Evans was wounded. C.V. Henderson was "really torn up." Fremster (sp?) died as the 4th was coming in to replace the 29th. Then there was the Oroku Peninsula. Cpl. James La Cook died there along with Lt. Peterson and Dodderio (sp?). Irvin was wounded. J.D. Saunders was buried until he was dug out with helmets. I do not know why Monte stopped on June 8. By then all the original officers and noncoms were gone, he said. Maybe that was when he picked up the shrapnel in his leg. He ends by saying, "Only those who were there would understand."

— Singleton

New Records Site On Line for Vets

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for: http://vetrecs.archives.gov/

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

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He wondered who in the platoon lived

Hello, you all or y'all if you are from my part of the country where summer has arrived with a vengeance. We are now looking for a reprieve already.

As your Membership Manager I keep the records and collect the checks for the Treasurer. For some reason Joe Singleton, our editor, is receiving checks which he should not receive and have to deal with. Joe is busy putting the newsletter together and his desk gets piled high with paper, letters, photos, etc. and checks are easily misplaced. Joe gives us a great newsletter and we want nothing to interfere with his time - and I am set up to handle checks. Also, once again I want to remind everyone who knows of a deceased member, please send me the information - by mail, telephone or e-mail. I will change the record and add his name to our Taps list so we can memorialize those fallen Marines at our Reunions.

You will notice that our new member list includes addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses available for your use. Take a copy of the New Members page and add it to your directory. If you remember a name from years ago, give him a call and welcome him to the Association.

Thanks to Vince Mathews I received information that Edward Brooks, one of our "missing" in the last newsletter, had passed several years ago. The following is a list of those we are trying to find and need your help:

Brown, Marcus B. - 6th Engineer Bn-A

Brutcher, Russell G. - 22nd MAR-2-F Buckingham, John E. – III Amphib Corps

Bunting, Gerald - 6th Tank Bn-A Busone, Jerry - 29th MAR-3-K Buss, Julian A. - 22^{nd} MAR-HQ-Band

Cantella, Samuel - 29th MAR-HQ-Band

Cardarelli, Leo P. - 4th MAR-3 Carney, E. Frank - 4th MAR-2 Carney, Ewart G. - 4th MAR-1-B Carpender, Albert J. - Unit unknown Carr, William D. - 4th MAR-1-C Camp, William H. Sr. - 4th MAR-1-C Cedergreen, Eldon L. - 6th Tank Bn-B

Membership Status as of 7/01/2009

Regular Members1,619Associate Members*645Lineal Descendants*138Honorary Members8TOTAL MEMBERSHIP2,410

(*Dues current since 2006)

What a pleasant surprise! Although the number of regular, associate and lineal descendants members changed, the total of members since the last newsletter has not. REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR LABEL FOR DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION!

Semper Fi, Flo Dornan



EARL McCURDY — has left us, but his widow Ida has joined the association.

New Members

Franzoi, Mark G., ID #6047 Associate Annual Son of Larry C. Franzoi 1244 Addison Drive St. Louis, MO 63137-2114 Franzoi@charter.net

KINNEY, Herbert, ID #6054 22nd MAR-1-A, Annual Member 109 Country Club Dr Jacksonville, NC 28546-8143 910-347-2802

LEMMING, Charles S., ID #6055 6th Tank Bn - Annual Member RR1, Box 312-01 Vian, OK 74962-9441 918-773-5401 Chuckbuster1@yahoo.com

McCURDY, Ida, ID #6056 Widow of Earl G. McCurdy 15th MAR-2-D, Associate Annual 5731 E MEDOR RD, PO BOX 4 HARRISVILLE, MI 48740-0004 989-724-5217

ROUSE, Kelley J., ID #6058 Daughter of Marvin Skeath Associate Annual 416 Winder Street Salisbury, MD 21801-5349 Kjr1@verizon.net

SCHAUB, Fred W., ID #6057 Son of Oscar Frederick Schaub Associate Life 84 Meadow Walk Place Walnut Creek, CA 94598-5407 (925) 930-8470 Fschaub@pacbell.net

SHASHY, Paul M., ID #6048 4th MAR-HQ-HQ, Life Member 2038 Myrtlewood Dr Montgomery, AL 36111-1023

New Members cont... on next page New Members continued...

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

| NAME | UNIT | DATE OF DEATH |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| ANDERSON, Howard H. | 6th Engineer Bn (Corpsi | man) 0/00/2002 |
| BATEMAN, James F. (NM) | 4 th Marines | 5/04/2009 |
| BROOKOVER, Robert S. | 29th MAR (Pioneer) | 6/22/2009 |
| BROOKS, Edward Jr. | 4th MAR-3-I | Unknown |
| BROWN, Harry H. | 22 nd MAR-3-L | 6/21/2009 |
| DRAKE, Emmet (NM) | 22 nd Marines | 4/03/2009 |
| HUDAKY, William J. | 4 th MAR-3 (Pioneer) | Unknown |
| HUTCHINS, Lathan C. | 29th MAR-2-D (Corpsm | nan) 5/17/2009 |
| LANG, Raymond C. | 4 th MAR-2-C | Unknown |
| MILLER, Walter H. (NM) | 22 nd Marines | 9/17/2004 |
| MARZ, John (NM) | 6 th Marine Div. | 4/18/2009 |
| PECK, James R. | 6 th Pioneer Bn-A | 2/27/2009 |
| RATTICAN, Thomas V. | 15 th Marines | 4/17/2009 |
| RECHTIN, Joseph W. | 22 nd MAR-2-H | 5/14/2009 |
| REED, Dolores | Wife of James H. Reed | 4/01/2009 |
| ROBINSON, Emory James (N | M) 6 th Tank Bn | 5/05/2009 |
| SAMPSON, Ronald E. | 22 nd MAR-1-HQ | 12/25/2008 |
| SCHAUB, Oscar Frederick (N | M) 29 th MAR-3-I | 9/01/1977 |
| STELZEL, Kenneth E. | 29 th MAR-2-F | 4/26/2009 |
| STONE, Peggy | Wife of Lanford H. Sto | ne 5/31/2007 |
| WAIT, Leon E. | 6 th MAR Div-HQ-MP | Unknown |
| WALTER, Joseph | 6 th Marine Division | 6/01/2009 |
| WATERS, Wade H. | 29 th MAR-2-F | 6/03/2009 |
| WETZEL, Rosemary | Wife of Francis Wetzel | 1/30/2009 |

SUMMERSGILL, Don, ID #6049 Associate Annual Son of W. L. Bill Summersgill 4213 Shepard Dr S SaraLand, AL 36571-9123 251-675-1419

SUMMERSGILL, Keith, ID #6050 Associate Annual Son of W. L. Bill Summersgill 3755 N Heritage Dr Mobile, AL 36609-4537 251-343-7866

SUMMERGILL, Ken, ID #6051 Associate Annual Son of W. L. Bill Summersgill 108 Ford Rd Grady, AL 36036-7722 334-584-9275

SUMMERSGILL, Shelton, ID #6053 Associate Annual Grandson of W. L. Bill Summersgill 108 Ford Rd Grady, AL 36036-7722

334-584-9275

WALDING, Luke, ID #6052 Associate Annual Grandson of W. L. Bill Summersgill 3711 Traveler Dr SaraLand, AL 36571-9555

Death Notices Should Be Sent To Flo Dornan The membership manager handles all notices of this type. Mrs. Dornan then notifies the chaplain and any others who should be contacted. Her address, phone number and E-Mail address are on the last page of this newsletter. Those who wish to publish biographical or other additional information in the Striking Sixth should additionally notify the editor, whose address is on Page 2.

Donations from Caring Members, Families & Friends:

DIRECTORY:

SCOTT, George A. STULTS, Marion B.

GENERAL FUND:

DEGREGORIA, Morris DERRICK, Joanne HILL III, Bryce F. (Above and beyond) LESTELLE, June P. MATTERA, Vincent O'HARA, James F. SAKOWICZ, William J. SCOTT, George A. (Above and beyond) SOCKOLOSKIE, Edward SPEARMAN, Herbert A.

LIFE CARD DONATION:

SPEDDEN, Roy E.

TITUS, David

MEMORIAL MARKER FUND:

PHIPPS, Ralph G. SCOTT, George A,

REUNION DONATION:

STAPLES, Glen E.

WWII Registry Available

Hit this link, WWIIMemorial. com, Go to Registry. You can get a printout of any service member killed in the war. You do have to type in the name and state. If the service member was buried overseas, the site will offer location, grave number and date of death. You can also add your name with some information. Many live veterans have done this. I have used this site to find hundreds of people. This information came from Bill Pierce, PR Chairman.

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I've Been Called Home

Don't Cry my friends that I am gone for I am not alone, I've stood my watch, I've done my best and now I've been called home.

I must admit it went too fast my earthly time in grade, So I hope and pray in some small way, a better world I've made.

Remember what our DI's said as we climbed the rocky mounts, It's not who you are in life, but what you do that counts.

And so we chose the tougher road, the few, the proud, the Corps, And earned the pride and name "Marine" for now and evermore.

So do not weep for me good friends, I'm where I want to be, Surrounded by a few good men, my soul and spirit free.

And now I'll get to meet them all, the heroes of our Corps, O'Bannon, Puller, Basilone, Foss and Shoup and more.

Daly, Butler, Vandegrift, the names go on and on, Who fell at spots like Belleau Wood, at Iwo and Khe Sanh.

Those at the Chosin Reservoir and Hagaru-ri, And I'm standing next to them, yes sir, just li'l old me.

Now I walk among the men who kept our country free, And gave all their tomorrows to preserve our liberty.

Baghdad, Burma, Lebanon, Chapultepec, Gulf War, The Marines who fell at the Argonne, or died on Saipan's shore.

Well, the duty roster just came 'round and how lucky can one get, For of all the posts I've ever stood surely this is the best one yet.

You see it says at 0400 even though that's late, I get to stand the morning watch just outside the gate.

So look for me when your time comes you'll find me standing tall, Squared away in blues and spit-shined shoes, awaiting the CO's call.

And remember me when you look up and see a clear blue sky, We'll see each other again, my friends, God bless and Semper Fi.

John R. Swanberg, USMCR

NY Times Wakes Up

Leathernecks have long found it irksome heck, they've downright hated the fact that The New York Times has refused to capitalize the m in Marine. Its a point of pride, Marines always argue, to which the Times has routinely replied, "Yeah, but we don't capitalize the s in soldier."

Well, the Old Gray Lady has finally come to her senses. In a Feb. 18 blog post it was announced that The New York Times has at last decided to join the ranks of Marine Corps Times and countless other publications that adhere to The Associated Press longstanding guidance on this matter: A Marine is a Marine, capital M, case closed.

Victor Krulak Dies

SAN DIEGO - Lt. Gen. Victor Krulak, who headed all U.S. Marine forces in the Pacific during part of the Vietnam War, has died. He was 95. Krulak



commanded about 100,000 Marines in the Pacific from 1964 to 1968 - a span that saw the United States dramatically increase its forces in Vietnam.

Krulak, nicknamed "Brute" for his direct, nononsense style, was a decorated veteran of World War II and the Korean War. Before assuming command of Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Krulak served as principal adviser on counterinsurgency warfare to then-Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and the joint chiefs of staff.

During World War II on the island of Choiseul in the Solomon Islands, Krulak led his outnumbered battalion during an eight-day raid on Japanese forces, diverting the enemy's attention from the U.S. invasion of Bougainville. Krulak's troops destroyed hundreds of tons of supplies, burning both camps and landing barges. He was wounded on Oct. 13, 1943, and later received the Navy Cross for heroism along with the Purple Heart.

Krulak is remembered by Sixth Division veterans for his service on Okinawa. He served as 6thmardiv Asst. Chief of Staff, Operations. This report originated with the Associated Press.

A Marine and a sailor were sitting in a bar one day arguing over which was the superior service. After a swig of beer the Marine says, 'Well, we had Iwo Jima.' Arching his eyebrows, the sailor replies, 'We had the Battle of Midway. 'Not entirely true', responded the Marine. 'Some of those pilots were Marines, in fact, Henderson Field on Guadalcanal was named after a Marine pilot killed at the Battle of Midway.' The sailor responds, 'Point taken.' The Marine then says, 'We Marines were born at Tun Tavern!' The sailor, nodding agreement, says, 'But we had John Paul Jones.' The argument continued until the sailor comes up with what he thinks will end the discussion. With a flourish of finality he says, 'The Navy invented sex!' The Marine replies, That may be true, but it was the Marines who introduced it to women.'

Ed's Note: Joke courtesy of Joan Willauer.



Stamp Reissued — With the reissuance of the *Purple Heart* stamp, the Postal Service honors the sacrifices of the men and women who serve in the U.S. military. The stamp features a photograph by Ira Wexler of one of two Purple Hearts awarded to James Loftus Fowler of Alexandria, VA, who was commander of the Third Battalion, Fourth Marines serving in Vietnam. This stamp was first issued in 2003.

Book Review from page 9 continued... wife had the weekly travel page. He is a travel correspondent for Thai Airways with weekly on-line travel stories.

This is his story of how he became a writer. His intent is not to advise those who want to write or tell anyone how to be a writer. He merely tells readers how he did it. But be warned! Those who might want to follow his example must take care for his approach is not orthodox.

Stephens adheres to Ayn Rand¹s philosophy: The process

of writing cannot be taught, not because it is mystical but rather because the process is so complex that a teacher cannot supervise it for you. You must practice to learn.

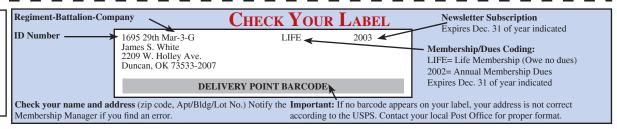
Stephens gives us some revealing information on how writing has evolved into what it is today. He tells us about some well-known writers, from James Michener to James Clavell, whom he knew personally. He firmly believes: "We learn mostly from our mistakes as well as the mistakes of others."



Sherer Family — Bob Sherer, F-2-29, formerly major USMC, but only a lieutenant and company commander on Okinawa, may be setting some Reunion records. You are seeing his immediate family at the Oklahoma City Reunion, less his wife Maxine, who couldn't make it. Was it the biggest family there? Is it a record? Was Bob the oldest Marine there at 94? Is that a record? If not, he and the family must be close. Having had a birthday, he is 95 now!

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Striking Sixth Newsletter

Summer 2009

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Friends of the Division — There have been numerous Friends of the Division, all well valued. Among the most tried and true has been Chris

Majewski, curator of the Marine Museum on Okinawa. Here he is found raking leaves and trash at the Mabuni Peace Park by the Marine section of The Walls. Others helped him, but he was the organizer and most likely the hardest worker. We do not know the name of the soldier cleaning Marine names on the wall, but he, too, is a Friend of the Division. Most of the Marine names are from the First and Sixth Divisions with a lesser number from the 10th Army Reserve Second Marine Division. The three Divisions constituted the Third Amphibious Corps. No doubt there are Corps and other FMF troops' names there. Most of the names, of course, are Japanese and Okinawan with a smattering of Korean and British.

Free Name Rubbings Are Available At okinawamemorialrubbings.org