



# The Grunt

Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment 744

JUNE 2018 NEWSLETTER



Editor: Ken Gysbers 201-895-3358 krgysbers@yahoo.com

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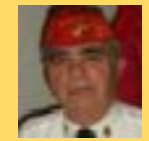
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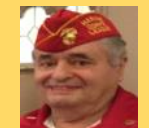
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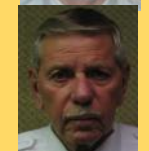
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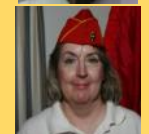
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## COMMANDANT'S CORNER

Marine Corps League  
Lakeland Detachment—744  
June, 2018

### "OLD GLORY"

I am the Flag of the United States of America. My name is OLD GLORY.

I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's Halls of Justice.

I fly majestically over Great Institutions of Learning.

I stand guard with the Greatest Military power in the World.

LOOK UP! See ME!!!

I stand for Peace, Honor, Truth and Justice.

I stand for Freedom!!

I am confident, I am strong, I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is held a little higher - my colors are a little truer.

I BOW TO NO ONE!

I am recognized all over the world.

I am worshipped - I am saluted - I am respected - I am revered - I am loved - I am feared!!

For more than 200 years, I have fought in every battle of every war; Gettysburg, Shiloh, Appomattox, San Juan Hill, The Trenches of France, the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome, The Beaches of Normandy, the jungles of Guam, Okinawa, Tarawa, Korea, Vietnam, in the heat of the Persian Gulf and a score of other places.

Long forgotten by all except by those who were there with me?

I was there.

I led my Sailors and Marines,

I followed them, I watch over them, they Love Me.

I was on a small hill on Iwo Jima.

I was dirty, battle torn and tired but my Sailors and Marines Cheered Me!!!!

I WAS PROUD!

I have been soiled, burned torn and trampled on the streets of countries that I have helped to set Free.

It does not Hurt for I am invincible.

I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my own country.

When it is done by those for whom I have served in battle. IT HURTS!!!

But I shall Overcome for I am strong!!

I have slipped the bounds of earth and, from my vantage point on the moon; I stand watch over the New Frontiers of Space.

I have been the silent witness to all of America's finest hours.

But my finest hour comes when I am torn into strips,

To be used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the Field of Battle or when I fly at half-mast to Honor my Sailors and Marines or when I lie in the trembling arms of a Grieving Mother - at the graveside of her fallen son or daughter.

I am proud!

My Name is "Old Glory". Long May I Wave, Dear God, Long may I wave.

May God Bless the Marine Corps League, The United States Marine Corps and may God Bless

**The United States of America**

Semper Fidelis,

Charlie

**HONOR---COURAGE---COMMITMENT**



The Pledge of Allegiance by Red Skelton originally aired on June 14<sup>th</sup> 1969

When I was a small boy in Vincennes, Indiana, I heard, I think, one of the most outstanding speeches I ever heard in my life. I think it compares with the [Sermon on the Mount](#), [Lincoln's Gettysburg Address](#), and Socrates' Speech to the Students.

We had just finished reciting the [Pledge of Allegiance](#), and he [Mr. Lasswell, the Principal of Vincennes High School] called us all together, and he says, "Uh, boys and girls, I have been listening to you recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester, and it seems that it has become monotonous to you. Or, could it be, you do not understand the meaning of each word? If I may, I would like to recite the pledge, and give you a definition for each word:

I -- *Me; an individual; a committee of one.*

Pledge -- *Dedicate all of my worldly good to give without self-pity.*

Allegiance -- *My love and my devotion.*

To the Flag -- *Our standard. "Old Glory"; a symbol of courage. And wherever she waves, there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts "Freedom is everybody's job."*

of the United -- *That means we have all come together.*

States -- *Individual communities that have united into 48 great states; 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided by imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common cause, and that's love of country --*

Of America.

And to the Republic -- *A Republic: a sovereign state in which power is invested into the representatives chosen by the people to govern; and the government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.*

For which it stands

One Nation -- *Meaning "so blessed by God."*

[Under God]<sup>1</sup>

Indivisible -- *Incapable of being divided.*

With Liberty -- *Which is freedom; the right of power for one to live his own life without fears, threats, or any sort of retaliation.*

And Justice -- *The principle and qualities of dealing fairly with others.*

For All -- *For All. That means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.*

*I pledge allegiance, to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

<sup>1</sup>The phrase "Under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954 -- alluded to in the last paragraph above -- at the request of President Eisenhower, among others.. Mr. Skelton's story refers to events that took place prior to 1954.



Semper Fi and God Bless,

Les Derbyshire & Dave Elshout

Please Note: Dave was unable to submit a Chaplains Report due to conflicts with work and his personal life. He reviewed this page and approved it for publication.



## ***Service Officer's Report***



***This year we are scheduling only 6 Rose Events for the year.***

***Our first Rose Event is on Sunday June 10 at the Super Stop and Shop, located at 327 Franklin Ave, in Wyckoff. This is our biggest and most lucrative Rose event for the Year. The Event will start at 9AM and last till 5PM. As has been said in the past we will need all hands on deck. We will have a tent set up at both entrances manned by 5 to 6 marines at all times which always impresses the folks that are shopping at Stop and Shop. It gives them the opportunity to stop and talk to us and at the same time donate to the Rose Program. It also gives them the opportunity to stop and purchase something for Fathers Day which will occur on June 17th. See you there.***

***Our Next Bingo at the VA Nursing Home in Paramus will be on Tuesday June 12th. The Bingo starts at 2 PM.***

***As always, if anyone has questions about these events or your Veterans Benefits, you can call me at any time. My Cell is 1-201-317-1678, my home number is 1-973-835-4388.***

***Edward Korek***

***Service Officer***

**[www.lakelandmarinecarefund.org](http://www.lakelandmarinecarefund.org) is the website for the LAKELAND MARINE CARE FUND. This fund is used to support Marines, Marine Families, Veterans and their Families and other Veteran Service Organizations in our joint efforts to provide assistance to Veterans.**



## Editor's Page



OCS Graduation 2015

Hi Everyone,

Did anyone look at the calendar lately? Its June so that means we are almost at the halfway point of our calendar year. We have our First Rose Event on Sunday June 10th, so please make every effort to help out at Stop & Shop in Wyckoff (Details follow on a later page).

Although we are in June now, I would be remiss in not touching on Memorial Day and what the day means to me. I was raised in the 1960's and with my father being a WWII veteran, it was important for my brothers and I to understand what Memorial Day was all about. It meant going to the ceremonies at the soldiers monument in town above all else. One of my baseball coaches was also a WWII Veteran. Between my mother, my father and that one baseball coach, I was being taught what it meant to volunteer. I attribute all that I volunteered for (including becoming an United States Marine) to the life lessons I learned from all three of these influential people. (BTW, both of my brothers served in the Navy.)

I think we as a people have lost sight of the true meaning of this day. On this day, we set aside time to remember 1,354,650+ United States citizens who signed a blank check written to the United States of America for a cost up and including their lives. These citizens gave their last full measure of devotion for our freedoms and rights during the battles and wars that our country has fought in to gain and preserve our American way of life since July 4th 1776. Congress saw fit to set aside the last Monday of May as our day to remember and honor our dead from all of our wars. Below is a rather famous speech that each of us should recognize.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. **It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.**

As President Lincoln states above our work is not done. Our country is under attack from both external and internal enemies and it is our duty as Marines to continue following the oath we swore upon our swearing in ceremony.

The oath for enlistment is as follows: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God." The Oath of Office (for officers): "I, \_\_\_\_\_ (SSAN), having been appointed an officer in the \_\_\_\_\_ (Military Branch) of the United States, as indicated above in the grade of \_\_\_\_\_ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservations or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office upon which I am about to enter; So help me God."

We've earned the title United States Marine through either boot camp or OCS, it is ours for life. Even if you served during war and given your due measure, your country, your corps, your detachment still needs you. Without you, there isn't a MCL Lakeland Detachment 744. A while ago I read something on social media regarding what makes a veteran. Essentially, if you took either of the oaths above and served honorably for any length of time, you are a veteran. Being a non—combat veteran, I sometimes have a personal conflict as to my veterans status. However as Liz will remind me on occasion, I did serve as a Marine and was able, willing and ready to lay down my life if I had been so called to do so. I know that there are many "tween" veterans out there that have similar feelings. And the one thing I can honestly say about MCL Lakeland Detachment 744 is how welcoming we are as a group to any Marine, FMF Corpsman or Chaplain.

Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Editor

## Quartermaster's Report



Oath of Enlistment RS Lansing

Ted Wurster and Ben Cascio set up an opportunity to attend the Power in the Pines Airshow at Joint Base McGuire —Dix—Lakehurst on May 4th, 5th, & 6th. Ted, Ben, Mike, Kevin and myself represented the detachment along with Ted's L19 and Jeep. Sales were not as much as we expected for the Friday and Saturday dates. Attendance was down overall and neither the Thunderbirds or the Blue Angels performed. The weather was very cool and we probably would have sold a bunch of sweat shirts if we had them. We turned in over \$600 in sales plus about \$40 in Rose Donations. Location does make a difference as we were tucked away in a back corner of the flight line and away from most of the other displays. I think there were supposed to be other displays near by, but they were no shows. Ted is going to work on getting us set up behind the Marine units that were in the front line of the flight line for the next airshow. Some reactions were that it was a waste of time and effort. If we didn't sell anything, it would have been a waste of time and effort. I was going to the Air Show one way or another so if I spent several hours and some effort while earning something back to support the detachment it was worth it. I also learned about something else. I know that there are mixed feelings about us selling items with the Eagle Globe and Anchor on them. One elderly gentleman, told me that he once witnessed a Marine yelling at some one wearing a tee shirt with the emblem silk screened on the front. He basically said that they had no right to wear the emblem as they hadn't earned the right (the wearer then proceeded to tell him that in fact he had the right and proceeded to give his date of enlistment, graduation from Parris Island and what he did in the Corps to which he received a humble apology). However, it was because of this, the gentleman refused to purchase anything with the emblem on it out of respect. However, Mike put it differently. If you are wearing anything we sell at the breakfasts or a rose event, you are helping the MCL support our brother and sister Marines. By wearing the products we sell, you can proudly state that you are supporting the Marine Corps League and in turn wounded Marines, Veterans and active duty Marines. Look for new items soon.



Semper Fi,

Ken Gysbers

Quartermaster



# MCL Lakeland Detachment 744

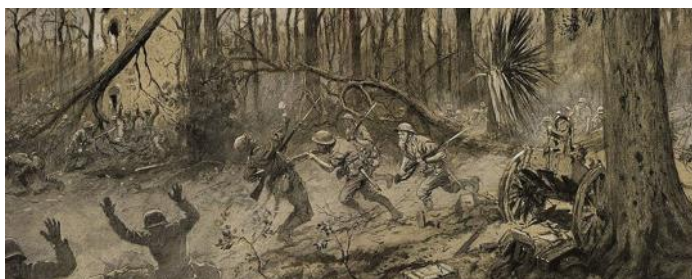
## Calendar of Events



Invasion of Saipan

### June

- 6/1/2018: State Convention--Seaview--Galloway, NJ
- 6/2/2018: Eagle Scout Court of Honor----Troop 49--Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Oakland--1300 Information was not received in time;
- 6/10/2018: 1st Rose Event Stop & Shop Wyckoff 0900 to 1700
- 6/12/2018: Executive Board Meeting--1900
- 6/14/2018: Flag Day (Look for local events)
- 6/16/2018: 3rd Saturday Breakfast--0800-1200
- 6/28/2018: Detachment meeting--1930



Marines in combat during Belleau Wood

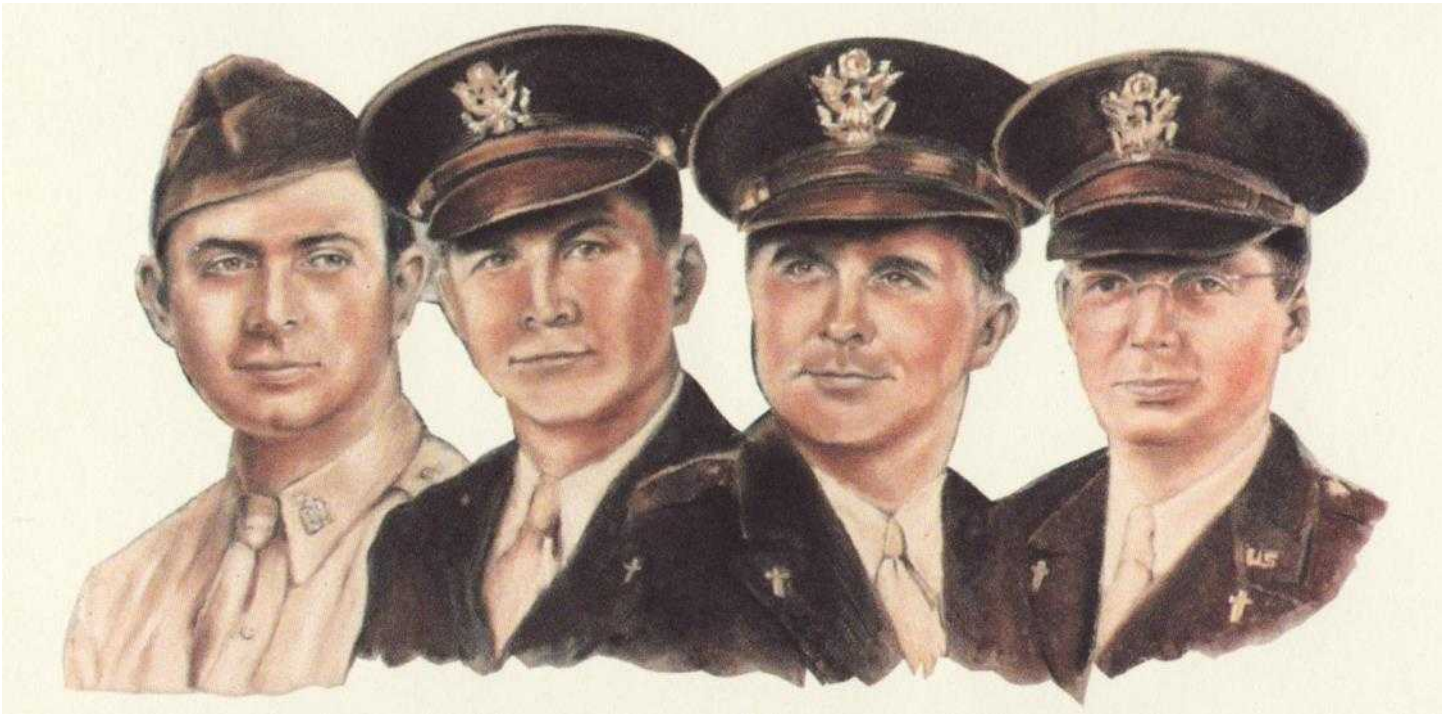


Marines in combat during Belleau Wood



Operation Jay June 1966





On May 19th, Commandant Charles Huha and Service Officer Ed Korek were awarded the  
2018 Legion of Honor of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains

Congratulations  
To Both Charlie and Ed





MCL Lakeland Detachment 744  
1st Rose Event of 2018 SUNDAY JUNE 10  
Stop & Shop Boulder Run Wyckoff, NJ  
0900 to 1700  
“All Hands On Deck”  
327 Franklin Ave, Wyckoff, NJ 07417



### **History of the Marine Corps Rose**

In 1778 during the War of Independence the **Marine Corps Rose** was dedicated to those Marines who made the Ultimate Sacrifice for their country. This tradition was continued by the French during **World War One** when the Marines attacked the **Germans in the trenches at Belleau Wood**. Roses were planted by the grateful French people at the graves of the Fallen Marines. When you see members of the Marine Corps League distributing these remembrances, take one and wear it proudly.

### **MCL Rose Program**

### **IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO SERVED FOREVER REMEMBERED**

Started by Marine Eddie Gallagher from New York, designed to parallel the VFW “Poppy” program to provide funds for detachments to assist veterans and youth and provide other services to the community.

Support programs such as bingo or holiday parties for hospitalized or retired veterans in retirement homes:

- Assist Wounded Veterans
- Scholarships
- Humanitarian Aid
- Health and Comfort items for Hospitalized Veterans
- Assist Local Youth Programs



Mariner Corps League  
Lakeland Detachment 744  
Important Dates for 2018

**Executive Board Meetings**

7 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month

Tuesday February 13th, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12, July 10th, August 14th,  
September 11th (subject to change), October 9th, November 13th & December 11th

**MCL Lakeland Detachment 744**

**Breakfast Dates**

**3rd Saturday of every month**

**0800 to 1200 Hours**

**February 17th, March 17th, April 21st,  
May 19th, June 16th, July 21st, August 18th,**

**September 15th, October 20, November 17th & December 15th**

**MCL Lakeland Detachment 744**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

1930 Hours (except for Oct Meeting which is at 1900 hours for installation of officers)

4th Thursday of the month

February 22nd, March 22nd, April 26th, May 24th, June 28th, July 26th, August 23rd,  
September 27th, October 25th, November 22nd & December 28th

Please mark your calendars accordingly!



Desert Storm by Jake Hayes



Marine Hornet Flyover Kuwait



Desert Storm First Offensive Ground Attack





*Marine Corps League Lakeland Detachment #744*

*Invites you to our Third Saturday Monthly Breakfast*

*At The American Legion Hall*

*65 Oak Street, Oakland, NJ 07436*

**SATURDAY JUNE 16th 8AM-12NOON**

*Come have an Outstanding Breakfast and a Good Time*  
*Father's Day Special : Prime Rib*

*Enjoy Fresh Eggs Made to Order*

*Eggs Benedict*

*Omelets; Scrambled Eggs & Sausage Gravy*

*Pancakes; French Toast & Waffles*

*Bacon; Sausage; SOS & Corned Beef Hash*

*Home Fries & Biscuits*

*Donuts; Bagels & English Muffins*

*Coffee; Orange Juice & Pastries*

*Adults \$10.00*

*\$9.00 Seniors & children under 10 free*

*Bring your family and friends*

*Most Important Support Lakeland Detachment #744*



**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
**LAKELAND DETACHMENT 744**  
P.O. Box 8, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008  
Phone (973) 839-5693  
[www.usmcl744.org](http://www.usmcl744.org)



**Dear Members:**

## **FRIENDLY REMINDER**

### **IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR**

As we have discussed at the Detachments monthly meetings, Marine Corps League National Headquarters has changed: **All Members Yearly Renewal Date "To 31 August" of each calendar year.** By paying on or before 31 August of 2018 members will be due on August First of 2019 and each year thereafter.

Please remit your check for \$50.00, payable to MCL # 744 and mail to MCL P.O. Box 8, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442-0008.

Please put your six (6) digit ID number on the bottom left side of your check. (Memo Section)

**Please take note:** Marine Corps League National Headquarters will no longer be sending out annual renewal notices said notices will come from the Detachment Paymaster.

Any questions to the above please feel free to call me at 973-839-5693.

Semper Fidelis

Marine Peter J. Alvarez  
Paymaster / Adjutant  
Marine Corps League  
Lakeland Detachment 744





**MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 744**  
 Mailing Address for Ads: Trudi Derbyshire 181 Lakeshore Dr., Oakland, NJ 07436  
 Email: [trudiderbyshire@live.com](mailto:trudiderbyshire@live.com) (subject:Ballbook)  
 Phone 201-390-5932



**2018 SOUVENIR PROGRAM  
 243rd UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS BALL**

ADVERTISING RATES	CHECK ONE
Inside front cover	\$125.00 [ ] SOLD
Inside back cover	\$125.00 [ ] SOLD
Outside back cover	\$150.00 [ ] SOLD
Full page	\$100.00 [ ]
Half page	\$ 65.00 [ ]
Quarter page	\$ 40.00 [ ]

**PLEASE DO NOT USE PAPER CLIPS OR STAPLES TO ATTACH ADS**

**ALL ADVERTISEMENTS MUST BE PRINT READY  
 AND THE CORRECT SIZE  
BUSINESS CARDS CAN ONLY BE ENLARGED FOR  
½ PAGE ADS**

**ALL ADS MUST BE SUBMITTED  
 NO LATER THAN SEPT. 07, 2018**

Advertiser: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Solicited by Detachment Member: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS AGREEMENT**  
 Please make check payable to: MCL, Lakeland Detachment 744  
 and mail to  
 Trudi Derbyshire  
 181 Lakeshore Drive  
 Oakland, N J 07436

**LIST BOOSTERS ON REVERSE SIDE**



## This day in Marine Corps History for June

2 June 1918: At dawn on this date, the crack German 28th Division attacked along the axis of the Paris-Metz road hitting the American 2d Division, including the 4th Marine Brigade. The Marines opened with deadly rifle fire and helped hand the German troops a setback which set the stage for Marine victory at Belleau Wood which would soon follow, although at great cost.

8 June 1995: A Marine tactical recovery team from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit stationed on board the USS Kearsarge rescued a downed U.S. pilot, Captain Scott O'Grady, USAF, from Bosnian-Serb territory in Bosnia.

10 June 1898: The First Marine Battalion, commanded by LtCol Robert W. Huntington, landed on the eastern side of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The next day, Lt Herbert L. Draper hoisted the American flag on a flag pole at Camp McCalla where it flew during the next eleven days. LtCol Huntington later sent the flag with an accompanying letter to Colonel Commandant Charles Heywood noting that "when bullets were flying, ...the sight of the flag upon the midnight sky has thrilled our hearts."

12 June 1961: President John F. Kennedy signed a Presidential Proclamation calling for the American flag to be flown at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, "at all times during the day and night." Discussions between the Attorney General's office and Marine Corps officials earlier in 1961 on improving the visibility and appearance of the monument led to the proposal to fly the Flag continuously, which by law could only be done by Congressional legislation or by Presidential proclamation.

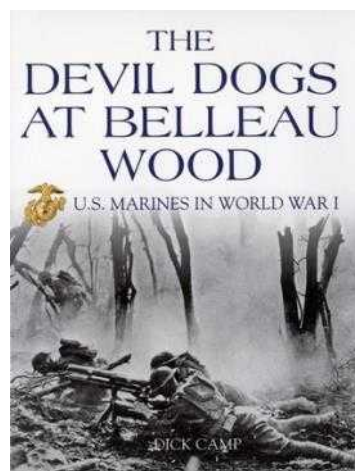
15 June 1944: Preceded by naval gunfire and carrier air strikes, the V Amphibious Corps assaulted the west coast of Saipan, Marianas Islands. By nightfall, the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions, moving against heavy opposition, had established a beachhead 10,000 yards wide and 1,500 yards deep.

20 June 1993: The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit returned to Mogadishu, Somalia, to stand ready to assist United Nations forces in maintaining peace in the war-torn country. Earlier that month, the 24th MEU had been ordered to cut short Exercise Eager Mace 93-2 in Kuwait to respond to possible contingency operations in Somalia.

25 June 1950: Shortly before dawn, eight divisions of the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. Within three days, the South Korean capital city of Seoul had been captured. On 30 June, President Harry S. Truman ordered a naval blockade of the Korean coast and authorized the sending of U.S. ground troops to Korea. Two days later, General Douglas MacArthur, the Commander in Chief Far East, formally requested that a Marine regimental combat team be deployed to the Far East.

25 June 1966: In Vietnam, Operation Jay began about 30 kilometers northwest of Hue, and lasted nine days. The 2d Battalion, 4th Marines landed north of the North Vietnamese 812th Main Force Battalion, and the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines landed south of the enemy's position. Caught in between the two Marine units, the enemy suffered over 80 dead in nine days of fighting.

26 June 1918: BGen James G. Harbord, the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Brigade, notified American Expeditionary Force Headquarters that Belleau Wood was "now U.S. Marine Corps entirely." After 20 days of combat, and at a cost of over 4,000 casualties, the 4th Brigade of Marines had proven its fighting heart. The grateful Commander of the French Sixth Army would soon decree that in all official correspondence, Belleau Wood would henceforth bear the name, "Bois de la Brigade de Marine."



## 100th Anniversary of the Battle for Belleau Wood in WWI

The Battle for Belleau Wood began on June 1st 1918 according to official historical accounts. It was primarily the result of the infusion of 50 German Divisions from the Russian Front and started after the Allies held the German advance at the north bank of Marne River near Chateau Thierry at the end of May, This caused the German attack to pivot into the area known as Vaux and Belleau Wood. On June 1st, Chateau Thierry and Vaux fell to the German advance and the Germans moved into Belleau Wood. The US 2nd Division including a brigade of Marines, was brought up to the Paris-Metz highway. The 9th Regiment was placed between the highway between the Marne River and the 6th Marine Regiment was deployed to their left. The 23rd Regiment and the 5th Marine Regiment were placed in reserve.

On the evening of 1 June, German forces punched a hole in the French lines to the left of the Marines' position. In response, the U.S. reserve—consisting of the 23rd Infantry Regiment, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and an element of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion—conducted a forced march over 10 km (6.2 mi) to plug the gap in the line, which they achieved by dawn. By the night of 2 June, the U.S. forces held a 20 kilometres (12 mi) front line north of the Paris-Metz Highway running through grain fields and scattered woods, from Triangle Farm west to Lucy and then north to Hill 142. The German line opposite ran from Vaux to Bouresches to Belleau.

### **German advance halted at Belleau Wood**

German commanders ordered an advance on Marigny and Lucy through Belleau Wood as part of a major offensive, in which other German troops would cross the Marne River. The commander of the Marine Brigade, Army General James Harbord, countermanding a French order to dig trenches further to the rear, ordered the Marines to "hold where they stand". With bayonets, the Marines dug shallow fighting positions from which they could fight from the prone position. In the afternoon of 3 June, German infantry attacked the Marine positions through the grain fields with bayonets fixed. The Marines waited until the Germans were within 100 yd (91 m) before opening deadly rifle fire which mowed down waves of German infantry and forced the survivors to retreat into the woods.

Having suffered heavy casualties, the Germans dug in along a defensive line from Hill 204, just east of Vaux, to Le Thiolet on the Paris-Metz Highway and northward through Belleau Wood to Torcy. After Marines were repeatedly urged to turn back by retreating French forces, Marine Captain Lloyd W. Williams of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines uttered the now-famous retort "Retreat? Hell, we just got here". Williams' battalion commander, Major Frederic Wise, later claimed to have said the famous words.

On 4 June, Major General Bundy—commanding the 2nd Division—took command of the American sector of the front. Over the next two days, the Marines repelled the continuous German assaults. The 167th French Division arrived, giving Bundy a chance to consolidate his 2,000 yards (1,800 m) of front. Bundy's 3rd Brigade held the southern sector of the line, while the Marine brigade held the north of the line from Triangle Farm.

### **Attack on Hill 142**

At 03:45 on 6 June, the Allies launched an attack on the German forces, who were preparing their own strike. The French 167th Division attacked to the left of the American line, while the Marines attacked Hill 142 to prevent flanking fire against the French. As part of the second phase, the 2nd Division were to capture the ridge overlooking Torcy and Belleau Wood, as well as occupying Belleau Wood. However, the Marines failed to scout the woods. As a consequence, they missed a regiment of German infantry dug in, with a network of machine gun nests and artillery.

At dawn, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines—commanded by Major Julius Turrill—was to attack Hill 142, but only two companies were in position. The Marines advanced in waves with bayonets fixed across an open wheat field that was swept with German machine gun and artillery fire, and many Marines were cut down. Captain Crowther commanding the 67th Company was killed almost immediately. Captain Hamilton and the 49th Company fought from wood to wood, fighting the entrenched Germans and overrunning their objective by 6 yards (5.5 m). At this point, Hamilton had lost all five junior officers, while the 67th had only one commissioned officer alive. Hamilton reorganized the two companies, establishing strong points and a defensive line.

In the German counter-attack, then Gunnery Sergeant Ernest A. Janson—who was serving under the name Charles Hoffman—repelled an advance of 12 German soldiers, killing two with his bayonet before the others fled; for this action he became the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor in World War I. Also cited for advancing through enemy fire during the counter-attack was then Marine Gunner Henry Hulbert who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The rest of the battalion now arrived and went into action. Turrill's flanks lay unprotected, and the Marines were rapidly exhausting their ammunition. By the afternoon, however, the Marines had captured Hill 142, at a cost of nine officers and most of the 325 men of the battalion.

On the night of 4 June, the intelligence officer for the 6th Marines, Lieutenant William A. Eddy, and two men stole through German lines to gather information about German forces. They gathered valuable information showing the Germans were consolidating machine gun positions and bringing in artillery. While this activity indicated an attack was not immediately likely, their increasing strength was creating a base of attack that raised concern about breaking through to Paris.<sup>[7]</sup>

At 17:00 on 6 June, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (3/5)—commanded by Major Benjamin S. Berry, and the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines (3/6)—commanded by Major Berton W. Sibley, on their right—advanced from the west into Belleau Wood as part of the second phase of the Allied offensive. Again, the Marines had to advance through a waist-high wheat field into deadly machine gun fire. One of the most famous quotations in Marine Corps history came during the initial step-off for the battle when Gunnery Sergeant Dan Daly, a recipient of two Medals of Honor who had served in the Philippines, Santo Domingo, Haiti, Peking and Vera Cruz, prompted his men of the 73rd Machine Gun Company forward with the words: "Come on, you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?"

The first waves of Marines—advancing in well-disciplined lines—were slaughtered; Major Berry was wounded in the forearm during the advance. On his right, the Marines of Major Sibley's 3/6 Battalion swept into the southern end of Belleau Wood and encountered heavy machine gun fire, sharpshooters and barbed wire. Marines and German infantrymen were soon engaged in heavy hand-to-hand fighting. The casualties sustained on this day were the highest in Marine Corps history up to that time. Some 31 officers and 1,056 men of the Marine brigade were casualties. However, the Marines now had a foothold in Belleau Wood.

### **Fighting in Belleau Wood**

The battle was now deadlocked. At midnight on 7–8 June, a German attack was stopped cold and an American counter-attack in the morning of 8 June was similarly defeated. Sibley's battalion—having sustained nearly 400 casualties—was relieved by the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines. Major Shearer took over the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines for the wounded Berry. On 9 June, an enormous American and French barrage devastated Belleau Wood, turning the formerly attractive hunting preserve into a jungle of shattered trees. The Germans counter-fired into Lucy and Bouresches and reorganized their defenses inside Belleau Wood.



In the morning of 10 June, Major Hughes' 1st Battalion, 6th Marines—together with elements of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion—attacked north into the wood. Although this attack initially seemed to be succeeding, it was also stopped by machine gun fire. The commander of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion—Major Cole—was mortally wounded. Captain Harlan Major—senior captain present with the battalion—took command. The Germans used great quantities of mustard gas. Next, Wise's 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines was ordered to attack the woods from the west, while Hughes continued his advance from the south.

At 04:00 on 11 June, Wise's men advanced through a thick morning mist towards Belleau Wood, supported by the 23rd and 77th companies of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, and elements of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Engineers and were cut to pieces by heavy fire. Platoons were isolated and destroyed by interlocked machine gun fire. It was discovered that the battalion had advanced in the wrong direction. Rather than moving north-east, they had moved directly across the wood's narrow waist. However, they smashed the German southern defensive lines. A German private, whose company had 30 men left out of 120, wrote "We have Americans opposite us who are terribly reckless fellows."

Overall, the woods were attacked by the Marines a total of six times before they could successfully expel the Germans. They fought off parts of five divisions Germans, often reduced to using only their bayonets or fists in hand to hand combat.

On 26 June, the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, under command of Major [Maurice E. Shearer](#), supported by two companies of the 4th Machine Gun Battalion and the 15th Company of the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, made an attack on Belleau Wood, which finally cleared that forest of Germans.<sup>[8]</sup> On that day, Major Shearer submitted a report simply stating, "Woods now U.S. Marine Corps entirely",<sup>[9](p3)</sup> ending one of the bloodiest and most ferocious battles U.S. forces would fight in the war.

Aftermath:

United States forces suffered 9,777 casualties, included 1,811 killed. Many are buried in the nearby Aisne-Marne American Cemetery. There is no clear information on the number of German soldiers killed, although 1,600 were taken prisoner.

After the battle, the French renamed the wood "*Bois de la Brigade de Marine*" ("Wood of the Marine Brigade") in honor of the Marines' tenacity. The French government also later awarded the 4th Brigade the Croix de guerre. An official German report classified the Marines as "vigorous, self-confident, and remarkable marksmen ..." General Pershing—commander of the AEF—even said, "The deadliest weapon in the world is a United States Marine and his rifle." Pershing also said "the Battle of Belleau Wood was for the U.S. the biggest battle since Appomattox (Court House) and the most considerable engagement American troops had ever had with a foreign enemy."

Legend and lore has it that the Germans used the term "Teufelshunde" ("devil dogs") for the Marines. However, this has not been confirmed, as the term was not commonly known in contemporary German. The closest common German term would be "*Höllenhunde*" which means "hellhound".

Regardless of the term's origin, ten years after the battle, Lieutenant Colonel Ernst Otto, from the Historical Section of the German Army, wrote of the Marine Corps; "Their fiery advance and great tenacity were well recognized by their opponents."

Legacy:

Marines actively serving in the Fifth and Sixth Marine regiments are authorized to wear the French Fourragere on the left shoulder of their uniform to recognize the legacy and valor of their regimental predecessors.

*Preceding is from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BattleofBelleauWood>*

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Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)	1-800-733-8387
Dept Management Center (Collection of Non-Medical Depts)	1-800-857-0648
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Call Center for Homeless Veterans Hotline	1-877-424-3838
eBenefits (General Questions & Technical Issues)	1-800-983-0937
Education (GI Bill)	1-888-442-4551
Federal Recovery Coordination Program	1-877-732-4456
Foreign Medical Program	1-888-820-1756
Gulf War Veterans Hotline	1-800-749-8387
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National Call Center for Homeless Veterans	1-877-424-3838
National Cemetery Scheduling Office	1-800-535-1117
National Personnel Records Center	1-314-801-0800
National Resource Directory	<a href="https://www.nrd.gov/">https://www.nrd.gov/</a>
Pension Management Center	1-877-294-6380
Presidential Memorial Certificate Program	1-202-565-4964
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VA for Vets	1-855-824-8387
VA Inspector General	1-800-488-8244
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Veteran's Employment and Training Service (VETS)	1-866-487-2365
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Marine Corps League  
Veterans Service Officer  
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Marine Corps League  
Information

**Marine Corps League  
National Website**

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