



Second Battalion, 4th Marines Association, Inc. The Magnificent Bastards



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Aug. 2013

SeaHorse

Presidents Letter

Once again, I would like to thank and congratulate the membership for turning out for another "Magnificent Bastard" reunion in Valley Forge, Pa. Thank you also to Gen. Weise and Jay Brown, our hosts, for making this reunion one to remember.

Highlights that shall remain with me and for all: the memorial ceremony at Valley Forge Park and Doc Jay Brown's presentation, the Belly Rub, actor Ned Hector patriot bombardier, cocktail parties, reuniting with fellow Bastards, the POW table, three Generals bantering at the podium, and General Al Gray, superior leader of Marines and men, 29th Commandant and stellar speaker.

Significant tidbits during reunion dinner: Gen. Gray purchased coupons for the color guard and they won the first prize; GG is a huge Giants baseball fan/historian; he texts on his phone following dinner hour; his unusually smart camo sport coat presented to him by "The Commandant;" his comments, spoken like a Marine, about the political/leadership theater with which he is still working today and his continuous up-to-date command knowledge of our Marine Corps today.

Your BOD continues to work toward improving membership opportunities and seeks your approval through identification of membership classification. We will be forth-coming with new improved and simplified membership classifications. Bringing home additional Magnificent Bastard members that are lost or are in need is at the head of John Hembrough's list as he continues to seek your help in searching throughout our historical past.

Areas of opportunity include identification of all 2/4 Marines and Corpsmen KIA's and the placement of a brick with their name at the Marine Corps Memorial Museum. Additionally, we are working with Wally Nunn and Missy Farkouh of the Freedoms Foundation in Semper Fidelis Park at Valley Forge to create a monument plaque of our six Medal of Honor recipients at Valley Forge.

I have solicited for a battalion chaplain per some of your suggestions. I have pleaded to fill this necessary void and continue to seek your assistance. As we all age and some go forward to additional "guard duty" we need to fulfill this spiritual need. Recognizing and communicating with those during the most serious of times is one we need to address as an Association such as ours. We, the BOD, continue to listen and seek your comments, so write and speak up. I believe we can always serve you "better" and improve the best Association in the Marine Corps.

Again, I ask for your continued prayers for the 31st MEU, Colonel Weiler, battalion commander, our brothers and sisters of Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, Chaplain and Corpsmen alike, and for their safe return home once the job is done.

As Always, Semper Fidelis, Steve Wilson President

From the Battalion Commander

Dear Families and Friends,

BLT 2/4 will soon participate in Exercise Talisman Saber. For information regarding the exercise see www.aurecongroup.com/talismansabre2013 www.facebook.com/talismansabre www.31stmeu.marines.mil www.facebook.com/31stMEU

The BLT visited Brisbane and Darwin, Australia to prepare our equipment for the exercise and enjoy a bit of liberty - did not see a Blooming Onion anywhere. Now it is time to land the landing force. During Exercise Talisman Saber, we will be fighting an opposing force in Australia while slogging through swamps and dodging venomous snakes and hungry crocodiles (literally). The Marines and our Corpsmen are ready to get off the ships and stretch our legs in the outback. It should be exciting fighting a different force in unusual terrain. Later in the cycle after the opposing force surrenders, we will conduct several live fire training evolutions and a Squad Competition - Best of the Bastards. Wish us the best. We will be in the field for about three weeks. I am pretty sure we will stink up the ships for a few days when we re-embark, but the men will get cleaned up as quickly as possible.

Fox Co and CAAT1 will be joining us a bit late but will have plenty to do when they arrive in about two weeks.

While in the field we will make mail deliveries of letters when possible. We will not be pushing packages out to the field because the Marines already have enough weight to carry. I hope you understand. The fastest way to get a message to a Marine or Corpsman is through Moto Mail. See <https://www.motomail.us/login.cfm?CFID=6223556&CFTOKEN=ec99c4519b600b7f-F04E35F9-9ADB-01D3-28A6C427A287C4BC>. Our Moto Mail system was broken, it is fixed and we have printed off and delivered over a hundred letters. As always, if there is an emergency contact the BLT 2/4 Family Readiness Officer.

I understand there has been a great deal of difficulty getting postage mail and packages to BLT 2/4. We are finding and combating the problems and will have it solved as soon as we can. We are working with postal experts across the Marine Corps. The Secretary of the Navy has directed that all letters have the appropriate 9-digit zip code or the letter/package will be returned effective immediately. Please ensure you use all nine digits. For most of the letters and packages that were returned, the families wrote the addresses correctly. Trust me, I know your frustrations and there are good people working to fix the problem. The Marines did receive quite a bit of mail today (see pictures below), but we are working to ensure ALL of the mail gets through.

Thank you for your continued support of the Magnificent Bastards. Your men are doing a great job.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Rob Weiler, Bastard-6

Membership Chairman John Hembrough

To the Membership Life and Annual, and former members,

Having just recently returned from the Reunion in the Philadelphia I must say it was a great one. It was nice to visit with many of you that I had just talked to on the phone. We had a good response in new members and renewals while there, Thank You.

I am in my second year of being your Membership Chairman and working the roster to get it updated and renew the Annual Membership and have talked to many Life Members getting updates with changes in addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. I have truly enjoyed talking with all of you and thank so many for renewing, many taking Life Memberships. We have that have served with "The Magnificent Bastards" or are serving now.

Life members please do not take this to be any billing for you.

We started sending an early billing system the end of April for all annual members, this has resulted in great results having well over 50% of the Annual Members paid for the 2013-2014 Membership. Thanks to Manuel Travassos for sending out the billing.

I thank you for the very valuable input you have shared with me. We are still in search of many more.

Now that billing is uniform in the future years, always starting 1st billing the last part of April each year as the year runs from 06/30/13-to 06/30/14 for this particular year as should always be the same every year with regards to year changes. A billing reminder will be sent in sent in September.

At this time I will give you a breakdown of the Membership:

Life Members paid: 396

Annual Members paid for 2013-2014: 26

Total paid for current year at this time is 422

Annual Paid in the 2012-2013 year 49

Names listed on the Roster total: 571

Of these listed on the 571 figure we have 20 annual that we have no information to go on other than a name leaving 149 on the Roster that no doubt some of the information listed is not correct.

I might add that we have 11 Life Members as you will see on the roster that we have no information as well both being listed on the roster as ****LOST - NEED HELP FINDING****

The annual dues are still \$20 at this time, if on Active Duty E-1 E-5 are \$5, SNCO/Officers are \$10.

If interested in a Life Membership the dues are as follows: By age 65 and over is \$75, 55-64 are \$125, 54 and under are \$175.

Active duty Life Membership are 10% off the price and can be made in 3 installments but must be paid in total in nine months.

Dues can be sent to:

Treasurer, 2-4 Association
455 Concord Parkway North # 6511
Concord, NC 28207

Membership questions contact me:

John Hembrough
401 Halifax Dr.
Dothan, AL 36305-301

E-mail johna24@aol.com the web site is www.2-4association.org

Phone 334-673-4959 Cell 309-825-0314

We strongly encourage you to ask a friend that you know in 2/4 to join if not already a member.

If you would look at your web site it is www.2-4association.org and look at the Membership Roster and see the last date as ????. That means we have no information on those members, if you see earlier years of last contact and know them please contact me as the addressee-mail or phone numbers are possibly incorrect and I am updating the roster every day I get new information.

I have been notified by some of you that a member has passed away, this information is important as well as they are moved to the Memoriam section.

Annual members that are not current, your membership expired June 30, 2013, former members we encourage you to renew your Membership. I have truly enjoyed talking with many of you and thanks so much for renewing. We that proudly served with "The Magnificent Bastards" or are serving now. Many have upgraded to Lifetime Memberships as well. A special thanks to those that are serving now and all that served in Iraq and Afghanistan and other places as well, we are Proud of You!

Semper Fidelis & Anchors Aweigh

Valley Forge Military Academy

Regarding a new Valley Forge Military Academy scholarship program for the sons of disabled or deceased U.S. veterans. This is truly a great deal for eligible veterans' children.

Valley Forge Military Academy has partnered with NewDay USA Foundation to provide scholarships to the sons of 100% disabled or deceased U.S. veterans. The scholarships are need-based and will cover most of the cost of attending VFMA for new or returning students who qualify.

NewDay USA and Valley Forge Military Academy are committed to our nation's wounded warriors and to those families of our fallen service men and women. Many of our nation's veterans' families are living well below their honor and dignity, and a gift of tuition to these families from NewDay USA provides the opportunity for their sons to obtain a top-notch education at a prestigious, private military school.

Please help in getting the word out about this unique opportunity for middle school age sons of disabled or deceased U.S. veterans, whom you may know. These scholarships are available now, and will be applied to the applicants' 2013-14 tuition. Our admissions counselors are available to speak with prospective applicants and their families to help determine if they are eligible for this scholarship, and to assist them with the application process. Please contact the Office of Academy Admissions at 1-866-923-VFMA (8362) or academy_admissions@vfmac.edu if you have any questions, or for more information about the scholarship program visit our website at <http://www.vfmac.edu/academy-financial-aid/academy-paying-for-the-academy-scholarships/>.

Feel free to contact me at 610-989-1201 or jdoyle@vfmac.edu.

Respectfully and Regards,

James J. Doyle
Colonel, USMC (Ret.)
Valley Forge Military Academy & College
1001 Eagle Road
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www.vfmac.edu

2ND BATTALION 4TH MARINES ASSOCIATION REUNION 26—30 JUNE 2013 PHILADELPHIA/VALLEY FORGE

A reunion to remember? You bet it was. Who can forget seeing the Liberty Bell that “proclaimed liberty throughout the land”, or visiting Independence Hall where our founding fathers debated and created a declaration of freedom and a constitution for a country where all men and women are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – where the people rule and the government serves.

There were so many highlights. Here are but a few:

The camaraderie of Association members and their guests and their expressions of happiness seeing each other.

The spiritual memorial service conducted by Jay Brown next to the Medal of Honor Memorial Park where more than 350 names (including six Magnificent Bastards) of those who received this grateful nation’s highest award for valor in combat.

The hospitality and support of the Valley Forge Hotel Staff.

A very fine address by General Al Gray, 29th Commandant of our Corps.

The magnificent support received from so many patriotic local organizations.

Note: most of these were obtained by Melissa “Missy” Farkough, daughter of our MGen Jim Livingston.

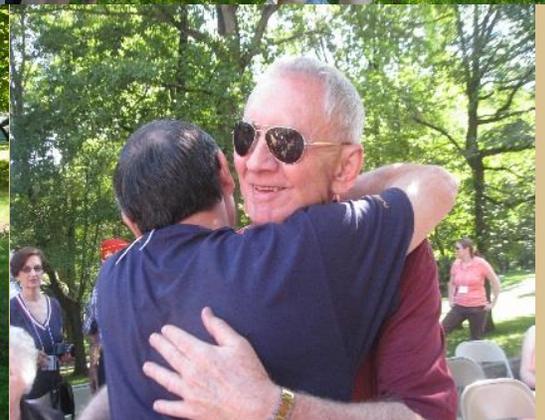
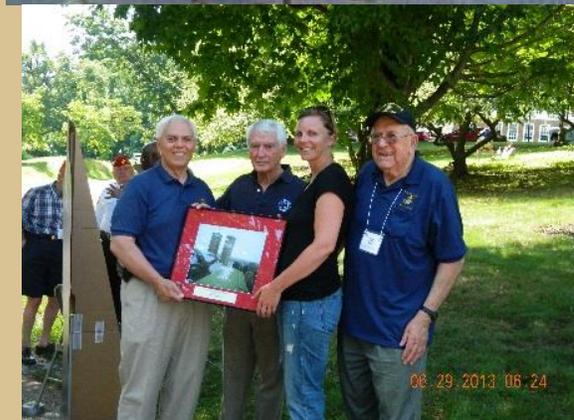
The smooth working of the 2/4 Association Staff under the able leadership of our President, Steve Wilson.

The very hard work by so many, especially Membership Chairman John Hembough and Treasurer Jim Swann.

The demonstration of life in General Washington’s Army by Actor/Historian, Noah Lewis (Ned Hector), dressed as 1777 Bombardier (Artillerymen) complete with musket and bayonet.

In all, the reunion was a great success. There were 135 dinner reservations and about 150 total members and guests who participated in one or more reunion activities.

QUITE A TURNOUT AND QUITE A REUNION!!



Interview with Scott Laidig

Check the link below to see the wonderful interview with Scott Laidig regarding his book about Al Gray.

www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck/author-interview-scott-laidig-his-book-al-gray-marine-early-years-1950-1967-vol-1

www.amazon.com/author/algraymarine

Please visit the official 2/4 website memorial section for updates as there are several people who have recently passed away. To include Col Bud Day

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bud_Day

From 1stSgt Casey T. Bazewick

A museum built on the former site of a prisoner of war camp run by the Japanese during the Second World War, has opened in north China's Shenyang city. As well as exhibiting belongings of the allied...

My father's prisoner-of-war camp in northern China (Manchuria) has opened as a museum.

"Allied POW museum opens in north China"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYTz8gAA3OI>

In his time, the city Shenyang, where the camp is located, was called "Mukden." The Japanese called the camp "Hoten." He was interned there from November 1942 until August 1945. Throughout the war, the prison camp had incarcerated altogether some 2,244 captives.

Upon their arrival, the Japanese camp commander greeted the men with these words: "I will not rest well until the last one of you dies." In winter, temperatures plunged to thirty and forty below zero. On perhaps the coldest day, guards reported fifty-three below zero. Temperatures inside the so-called hospital were as low as twenty below. As punishment, men were ordered to strip naked outdoors and stand at attention for long periods. Others were put in unheated cells for weeks at a time. On a starvation diet, my father and others killed and ate dogs straying into camp. His lowest weight was 86, down from his enlistment weight of 132. In just the first of three winters, 235 perished.

My father was nearly beaten to death repeatedly for not bowing to the guard house. He told me, "Marines don't bow or curtsy to anyone!" He used to say, "No one bothers me. I was tortured by experts in prison camp."

Staff from the atrociously notorious Unit 731 -- which was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of adults, children, babies, and fetuses in experimentation, including vivisection -- performed medical experimentation on large numbers of POWs at this camp, testing pathogens for the development of weapons of mass destruction.

Most POWs were forced to work in a large war armaments factory, including in the manufacture of parts for Mitsubishi's Zero fighter planes -- the same planes that had attacked Pearl Harbor and

were used in suicide kamikaze attacks with devastating effect on American ships. Every day, at great peril, the men sought to sabotage the Japanese war effort. Their motto was: "No part will leave this factory in working order." In one particularly brazen act, all but one of ninety expensive lathes were rendered inoperative, and a very large one was hoisted and lowered into a pit of concrete and completely covered up. Tokyo sent a war production specialist to investigate, who furiously said, "This is the worst piece of sabotage I have ever seen in Japan!" As a researcher noted, "There are more sabotage stories from Mukden than almost any other facility."

In captivity, the men continued to wage war against the enemy in any way they could. Their daily acts of sabotage, which could have cost them their lives, frustrated and slowed Japan's war effort in the production of weapons being used against America and her allies. These courageous men never stopped fighting the enemy. Yet, for their valor in committing continual and widespread acts of sabotage, the Mukden POWs have not been formerly recognized or decorated by the United States, China, or ally.

In December 1944, the third anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, squadrons of American B-29 bombers attacked this industrial area. The men had not seen these new, enormous planes before. Their camp, not marked as a POW facility, was hit. Nineteen POWs with my father on the parade ground were killed within feet of him; dozens more were injured, many very seriously. (The POWs had not been permitted to dig air raid shelters.) Despite this, the men welcomed the sight of their planes, knowing the tide in the war had turned.

My father was one of 2,274 U.S. Marine Corps prisoners of war in World War II.

Note from Ed Garr

Interesting to note that only two Navy Crosses were awarded to Vietnamese members of the armed forces. One a VN Seal in the rescue of BAT 21 in 1972 and the other awarded to Pfc. Tran Van Bay 3d Co 51st ARVN Regt Feb 19 1967 in support of Golf Co 2/4. Google the citation and you will see where the Viet Pfc. saved a Golf Co troopers life.

Ed is still going to VN and working on trip 5 in 2013 with MHT. He is happy to say that he has four 2/4 troopers including himself, John Hembrough, Ken Ward from Echo and Morgan White from Golf.