



Pass the Word

The Official Newsletter of Detachment 14 - Fresno, Marine Corps League

June 2011

Your Commandant Strictly-Speaking

We have celebrated Memorial Day, by paying respect to those who died in the service of this country. They continue to remind us that the price of freedom is not "Free". July fourth is coming. This date is also very

important; as it reflects on the bravery and courage it took to be free from tyranny. We must be diligent not to become unaware of the current political situation in this country today. I fear the general population is content to allow the government to run every aspect of our lives. It has been said the more the government gives us, the more they can take away, including basic freedoms. I challenge you to stand and protect the freedoms our ancestors gave us.

In closing an update on my situation, I am taking an indefinite leave of absence. To fulfill my contract with the VA I am required to live in my home in Hawaii for the first year. Dick Holliday has accepted to fill my position in my absence. I am sure that with your support the staff will do a great job running the detachment.

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Our next general Meeting will be June 25, 2011 at 0900 (9:00am). Please visit our website for information and pictures.

Your commandant
Bob Strickland

Flag Day

What do you feel when our flag goes by,
A spine tingling chill, a tear in the eye?
To me it means the freedom we all crave,
In this land of the free, home of the brave.
It is truly our symbol, the red, white and blue,

Yet some people may burn it, but very few.
We honor our symbol on this Flag Day;
Let us pause, reflect and, of course, pray.

Pray that our nation remains ever strong,
Maintains our vigilance, so nothing goes wrong.
We can always rely on a reliable source,
They are U.S. Marines; our 911 force!

If called to action on a foreign shore,
The red, white and blue will accompany the Corps.
We must always be a ready force from the sea,
If we are to protect and defend democracy.

So, let us always remember, the red, white and blue
Is the symbol of four freedoms,
Obtained by those Marines we never knew.
It is true, some will still burn our flag.
And they will never be contrite.
They live in freedom, yet unearned,
They feel that it is their right.

Still, each time I hear "The Marines' Hymn,"
My heart is filled with pride,
And I'll say a silent "Thank You" prayer,
For my country and for those Marines who died.

Semper Fedelis, these two words ring true,
U.S. Marines shall always be on guard
For the red, the white and blue!

Boyce Clark

*** CHAPLAIN'S CORNER ***

Colleen Wilson (559)307-1422; colleenwilson007@gmail.com

If you have any need the chaplain is available for prayer, comfort etc. You can call, text, or Email. I am also on Facebook.

✚ **Pray for healing and restored health go out to all MCL Detachment members who are ill with respiratory infections!**

✚ Please continue your prayers for Louise Ramsey. She fell recently and broke her hip. She is at Willow Creek; Room 100; Bed 1

✚ MCL Member William E. Crumpacker passed away on Sunday, May 29, 2011. Please see announcements for details on his funeral date, time and place.

✚ Please keep our courageous warriors who are in harm's way in your daily thoughts and prayers.

*** THANK YOU'S IN ORDER ***

Mess Personnel - Great Job

*** HISTORY ***

June 1st 1942 – Recruiting of black Marines began.

1965 - MAG-12 begins combat flight operations at Chu Lai with A-4E aircraft from VMA-311 and VMA-225.

June 4th 1942 - VNSB-241, VMF-221 and the 6th Defense Battalion began the Battle of Midway.

June 5th 1944 - LTGEN H.M. Smith was designated the first FMFPac Commander.

June 6th 1944 - WWII, D-Day, Allies land at Normandy, France for invasion of Europe.

June 8th 1995 - Marine TRAP Team, 24th MEU rescues Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady from Bosnia.

June 11th 1927 - Marines held back crowds welcoming Charles Lindbergh home from Paris.

June 12th 1948 - President Harry Truman authorized the first women Marines in the regular corps.

1991 - Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted; III MEF and Marine Barracks, Subic Bay rendered assistance.

June 13th 1991 - Marines from Okinawa and Marine Barracks, Subic Bay, Philippines, evacuated 20,000 Americans after Mount Pinatubo erupted. HMH-772, MAGTF 4-91, MAG-36, 15th MEU and other Marine units assisted.

June 14th 1999 - 26 MEU entered Kosova in support of Operation Joint Guardian.

June 15th 1944 - The 2d and 4th Marine Divisions made an assault landing on Saipan.

June 16th 1941- The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was activated for duty in Iceland.

June 17th 1979 - Col Valeria Hilgart became the first woman Marine to assume duty as chief of staff of a major command (Albany, GA).

June 18th 1945 - Army LtGen Simon Bolivar Buckner was killed and Marine MajGen Roy S. Geiger assumed command of the 10th U.S. Army on Okinawa.

June 21st 1945 - The Battle of Okinawa ended as LtGen Roy S. Geiger raised the American flag..

June 22nd 1954 - President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized the use of the first official Marine Corps Seal.

June 24th 1900 - The American Legation Guard joined the Allies to repulse a heavy Chinese Boxer attack.

June 25th 1918 - The 4th Marine Brigade secured Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, France.

1950 - Korean War began.

1981 - HMH-464 at MCAS, New River (NC) received its first CH-53E "Super Stallion."

June 27th 1916 – The 4th Marine Regiment defeated Dominican rebels in a stand-up bayonet attack.

June 29th 1918 – Marines landed at Vladivostok, Russia, to protect the American Consulate.

1963 – VMF(AW)-314 received the first F4B “Phantom” Jets

WELCOME TO DETACHMENT 14 *

*** NEWSLETTER STATUS ***

***ANNOUNCEMENTS ***

**ANNOUNCEMENT – HONOR A FORMER MCL MEMBER
A MCL MEMBER, BILL CRUMPACKER PASSED AWAY ON SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2011.
A SPECIAL MILITARY MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT BOICE FUNERAL
HOME, 308 POLLASKY AVENUE IN CLOVIS, FRESNO COUNTY, ON SUNDAY, JUNE
12, 2011, AT 5:00 P.M.
PLEASE ATTEND IF YOU CAN FIND THE TIME.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT - BAND CONCERT
FREE FREE FREE
JUNE 8TH AT 1830 (6:30PM)
AT THE CLOVIS VETERANS BUILDING
FOR THE 6 YEAR OLD CHILD WHO WAS KILLED BY HER BROTHER (A 2 YEAR
OLD)
DONATIONS HIGHLY ACCEPTED
DONATIONS WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED DIRECTLY TO CHASE BANK FOR EMILY
LAVANDOR (ACCOUNT # 29952-05826)**

**ANNOUNCEMENT - SCHOLARSHIPS
FROM BOB BRESHEARS
JUNE 15TH DEADLINE (ANY RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED)**

**ANNOUNCEMENT - JUNE FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY
JUNE 12 @ 1200 (12:00 NOON)
CLOVIS VETERANS BUILDING**

**ANNOUNCEMENT - RECRUITMENT
IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MCL MEMBER
PLEASE INVITE THEM FOR BREAKFAST.**

STAFF MEETING

The next Det 14 Staff & Officer meeting is Thurs, 7 July 2011 at 1800 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Bldg.

The August Staff & Officer's meeting is Thurs, 4 August 2011 at 1800 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The next general meeting will be held Saturday, 25 **June 2011 at 0900** the Clovis Veterans Memorial Bldg.

The Korean War: It Started on a Sunday in June

By R. R. Keene

In the early morning hours of Sunday, 25 June 1950, Sergeant George V. Lampman and two other Marine security guards were the duty watchstanders at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul's Bando (Peninsula) Hotel.

In the June 2000 issue of *Leatherneck*, Lampman wrote in his article, "Without So Much As a Bloody Nose," that the embassy security phone began ringing at 0530 and he "started receiving inquiries from people asking, "What's going on?" Sgt Lampman had no idea.

At 0830, Jack James a correspondent with United Press International, came in saying: "The North Koreans have crossed over the parallel in force." Watchstander Sgt Paul Dupras said, "So what? That is a common occurrence." James nodded in agreement, and then added the real kicker: "Yeah, but this time they've got tanks."

As always, with hindsight, it seemed bound to happen. Korea – "The Land of the Morning Calm," "The Hermit Kingdom," and home to the mythical Arirang mountain pass storied in folk song – is ruggedly beautiful with similarly rugged and fascinating inhabitants believed to be descendants of Altic-speaking tribes linked to the Mongolians who started populating the Korean Peninsula in the Bronze Age.

Since then, Korea, by virtue of its geography, often has been a pawn of war in that conquerors saw the nation – roughly the size of Minnesota – as a means to and not necessarily the object of their quests. Self-preservation drove Koreans to become a north Asia military power symbolized by their 15th to 19th – century *Geobukseon*, or turtle ships.

As a nation, Korea preferred isolation and was loathe to welcome foreigners, often discouraging trade delegations with cannon. The United States, although a relative novice in Asia, had sent Marine expeditions to Korea three times since 1871 and, on the fourth mission in 1905, established a legation guard in Seoul. Eventually, with its turtle ships outdated and its military prowess fading, Korea was occupied and declared a Japanese protectorate in the 1905 Elusa Treaty and officially annexed in 1910. Japan exercised iron-fisted policies and sent Koreans as laborers throughout its ever-expanding empire.

When Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere ended in total disaster and utter defeat in 1945, it left the 25,000,000 inhabitants of the Korean Peninsula, who could only endure, woe-fully unprepared to assume the mantle of their own independence.

The foreign powers, however, had their own ideas about how to deal with the Korean problem. As far back as 1943, it was determined at the Cairo Conference by American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Nationalist China's Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek that Korea should be free and independent. At the Potsdam Conference of 1945, convened at the end of WWII in Europe, the 38th parallel was designated as the line dividing the country into Soviet and American occupation zones.

In 1948, the lower peninsula became the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Seoul was chosen as the capital, with Dr. Syngman Rhee as president. In June 1949, American occupation troops were withdrawn from South Korea. Only a cadre of Advisors remained.

The north, or Democratic People's Republic of Korea as it came to be known, was another story. For decades since WWI, more than a million Koreans had found refuge from Japanese bondage on Russian or Chinese soil. The price of their self-imposed exile was indoctrination with communist principles and mandatory military training.

In 1948, the Soviets announced the withdrawal of their military forces, but not before providing the North Korean Prime Minister, Kim Il Sung, with a military perceived to be better equipped and better trained than the ROK forces, mentored by Americans to be strictly defensive. In June 1950, only one regiment of the four ROK divisions was near the North Korean border and a third of them were on leave helping with the harvest. Early in the morning of 25 June, scattered but heavy rain was falling along the 38th parallel. All was quiet. Kim Il Sung believed the time to reunify Korea under the red banner of communism was at hand.

Thus, on the morning of 25 June, calling it the “Fatherland Liberation War,” Kim Il Sung ordered the attack. An armored division of Russian-made North Korean T-34 medium tanks coughed diesel fuel and clamored at speeds of up to 30 kilometers an hour in advance of eight North Korean infantry divisions (231,000 men) moving south across the 38th parallel down the west end of the peninsula. The main thrust took the ancient invasion route down the Uijongbu Corridor to Seoul. Overhead, 150 Russian-made Yakovlev (Yak-9P) fighters, 110 attack bombers and 78 Yak trainer aircraft strafed Seoul and other strategic centers.

Marine historians Lynn Montross and Captain Nicolas A. Canzona, USMC wrote in their 1954 “Volume I: U.S. Marine Operations in Korea,” “The Americans, who leaned backwards to avoid any suspicion of creating an instrument of offense (offensive) internecine warfare” had neither enough tanks nor aircraft to stop them. South Korean forces, approximately 65,000 combat troops with 33,000 support troops, began defecting en masse.

U.S. Ambassador John J. Muccio told Sgt Dupras to recall all 20 Marine embassy security guards. Marines quartered in the Capitol Apartments were told to bring any weapons they had with them and that a jeep already was on the way.

The jeep was painted bright orange to distinguish it from Army vehicles. It caught the attention of two Yak fighters, who made two strafing passes. Sgts Augustus E. “Gus” Siefken and Lampman, the jeep’s only passengers, and their Korean driver all survived with only wounded pride.

The strafing of Seoul was blatantly indiscriminate, causing civilian casualties and panic. The streets became jammed as civilians fleeing south ran into young recruits of the Korean Army Second Division heading north from Taejon.

By midnight, Deputy Ambassador Everett F. Drumright reported that it was clear the North Korean advance to Seoul was unstoppable. The decision was made to evacuate American dependents.

Marines were sent to alert embassy families, and embassy vehicles “dead lined” in the embassy motor pool were destroyed to prevent their possible use by the invaders. The embassy staff screened and burned classified material. The amount of material was enormous. The Marines used furnaces in the embassy basement, but it took eight Marines working around-the-clock until Tuesday, 27 June, to burn it all and destroy the code machines.

Meanwhile, other Marines ensured that a group of 682 women and children were taken to the port of Inchon and placed on board a Norwegian fertilizer hauler, “Reinholt.” They also escorted a bus of embassy employees to Kimpo aerodrome to be evacuated in several C-54 transports.

The last plane out was attacked by Yak fighters. Some of the few American P-51 Mustangs and F-82 Twin Mustangs knocked down one of the North Korean planes, and the rest scattered. Still, as always, there were others, including the Marines, who needed to get out.

According to Lampman, the Marines figured to head south toward Pusan and then, if the situation warranted, start swimming. Master Sergeant John F. Runck, the Marine detachment noncommissioned officer in charge, had been a “guest” of the Emperor of Japan during WWII and let it be known that none of the Marines were going to be captured. In the end, they caught

the last plane out of Kimpo. It was dangerously overloaded, and as it lumbered down the runway. Suitcases, boxes, bags and weapons were jettisoned, but they made it.

In the United States, Secretary of State Dean Acheson telephoned President Harry S. Truman, informing him, "The attack is in full force all along the parallel."

John Toland, in his book "In Mortal Combat, Korea, 1950 to 1953," wrote: "The President exclaimed, "We've got to stop those sons-of-b----- no matter what!"

On 27 June, the President met with his Vice President and 14 congressmen. After Dean Acheson presented a summary of the Korean crisis, the President announced: "I have ordered United States air and sea forces to give the Korean government troops cover and support." Toland wrote: "There was no criticism of the actions taken by the President."

Things started happening fast, perhaps too fast for the cumbersome bureaucracy of the Soviet Union. It is important to note that United Nations Secretary General Trygve Lie advised Soviet Union U.N. Ambassador Yakov A. Malik that it would be in the best interests of the Soviet Union to attend a meeting at the U.N. that afternoon.

Much to the relief of American Delegate to the Security Council Ernest Gross, Ambassador Malik replied, "No, I will not go there." (He was boycotting the presence of a Nationalist Chinese representative.) According to Toland, Gross recalled thinking that "for the first time in recorded history, a world organization (by unanimous vote) had voted to use force to stop armed aggression."

General Clifton B. Cates was the 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps. A note penned on his desk calendar the day after the news of the invasion reached Washington, D.C., reads: "SecNav's (Secretary of the Navy) policy meeting called off. Nuts,"

The next day he wrote: "Recommend to CNO (Chief of Naval Operations) and SecNav that FMF (Fleet Marine Forces) be employed."

When the communists attacked Korean and U.S. forces on the peninsula, the United States Marine Corps had 74,279 leathernecks on active duty (97 percent of authorized strength). The FMF that Gen Cates volunteered for Korea had a strength of 27,656, with 11,583 assigned to the First Marine Division (Reinforced) and First Marine Aircraft Wing of the FMF Pacific.

In truth, all the armed services had taken heavy cuts in appropriations since WWII. Gen Cates pointed out that in reality, the Corps could muster not much more than a regimental combat team (RCT) of combat-ready troops with supporting air.

On 2 July, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Commander in Chief Far East, requested immediate dispatch of a Marine RCT with supporting aviation elements to the Far East. There was considerable talk of forming an entire Marine division after mobilizing the Reserve. Gen Cates prudently sent a warning order to the 1stMarDiv at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to get ready and prepare to go to war.

On 7 July, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was activated. Word went out to regular Marines everywhere: Get to Pendleton now!

Captain Francis I. "Ike" Fenton Jr., then-executive officer of company B, 1st Battalion, fifth Marine Regiment, later told historians: "These men were shipped from the posts and stations by air, most of them arriving with just a handbag. Their seabags were to be forwarded at a later date. They didn't have dog tags and had no health records to tell us how many shots they needed. Their clothing generally consisted of khaki only, although a few had greens.

"They had no weapons and their 782 equipment was incomplete. We had a problem of trying to organize these men into a platoon and getting them all squared away before our departure date." But there was something else about these men, many of whom were veterans of the Pacific campaigns of WWII. Author T.R. Fehrenback described them in his book "This Kind of War": "In 1950, a Marine Corps officer was still an officer and a sergeant behaved the way good sergeants behaved since the time of Caesar, expecting no nonsense, allowing none. And Marine

leaders had never lost sight of their primary—their only—mission, which was to fight. The Marine Corps was not made pleasant for men who served in it. It remained the same hard, brutal way of life it had always been.

“In 1950 ... these men walked with a certain confidence and swagger. They were only young men like those about them in Korea, but they were conscious of a standard to live up to, because they had had good training, and it had been impressed upon them that they were United States Marines.”

The Korean War that started on 25 June 1950 took the lives of 5,528 Marines, and has never ended. There was a ritualized armistice declared at 1000, 27 July 1953 on the 38th parallel, which crosses the Korean Peninsula for 150 miles and is buffered in the center by a meandering 2 ½ mile-wide swath bristling with military hardware known as the Demilitarized Zone, the world’s most fortified border.

It is fitting to remember it started over 60 years ago this month.

◀ May 2011		~ June 2011 ~					Jul 2011 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2 1800 Staff meeting	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 0900 General Meeting	
26	27	28	29	30	Notes:		



**Marine Corps League
Detachment 14
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-RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED -