



The 2/4 Association

Sea Horse

Fourth Quarter, 2005

The Newsletter of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

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President's message

Greetings, brothers and sisters of the 2/4 Association:

As this is the last Sea Horse that noncomputer geeks will get free, I thought that I should go ahead and explain what is going on and why we need a subscription fee. The board members of the association have discussed this long and hard with some members saying that "if they can't get the computer version, than they shouldn't have any" and others saying that "not everyone has been able to transition easily into the computer age."

If my memory serves me (and nowadays it doesn't very often), it was at the last reunion we had in Quantico where we discussed using the internet to publish the Sea Horse. Well, since that time most have gotten our newsletter online with no problem. Some, however, like me, would rather have something in my mailbox every so often telling me about our association. Of course I could just go to the 2/4 Association web page and play with a few keys on the keyboard and eventually print something out. Maybe. As I've said many times, I have never had a job that required me to learn about the computer, so I never have.

Anyway, it's just a pure and simple cost factor. Yes, your life membership was supposed to allow you to keep up with the association. But although many of our members have signed on for life, not all have, and the ones who haven't don't always pay their share.

"Not my problem," you say. You're right, but you may have noticed that in the last few years oil prices have gone up. The ink used to print the hard copy is oil-based, and its costs have gone up as well. Also, you may have noticed that the Postmaster General recently said that the post office will be getting higher prices for mail service in 2006 and 2007. Right now it costs 60 cents to mail a copy of the Sea Horse, plus about 45 cents for printing and another few pennies for labels, resulting in a price tag of about \$1.25 for each one mailed out. This adds up to \$5.00 per year.

So why charge \$10.00? Simple. We know the cost of printing and mailing will be going up in both 2006 and 2007, and we are trying to get prepared. Because much of our membership consists of life members, we have a very small income from annual dues. Our PX, over the last few years, has not brought in very much except at reunions. Let's face it: you can only have so many t-shirts, and you can buy the books at Amazon.com or Barnes & Noble.com for less than we can sell them. Each reunion has a shirt specific to it, but if you did not attend, then why would you want a shirt that said 2/4 San Diego, Quantico or Benld?

Our treasury is not a bottomless well, and we give two awards each year (the Malnar and Gorsage awards). I feel this is something that we must continue if we are to stay alive as an association. So please don't get upset about the cost, and don't think that we are trying to put something over on you. We are just trying to stay alive. If anyone has a problem with the subscription fee because you are on a fixed income or major projects have tapped you out, please notify me and I will work something out. I want everyone who was part of 2/4 to remain a part of 2/4.

Before I end this very long article, I would like to thank Ken Sympton for all the work he has done on the Sea Horse for all these years. After Q1 of next year, Ken will pass the baton to another Ken to carry on. I was kidding with Jim Mazy awhile back that all of his people were running out on me and I asked him if I should take it personally. Jim told me that Ken had only committed for a short time which probably should have been over many moons ago. Seriously though, Ken has done a fantastic job and I will miss his help.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season, however you and your loved ones celebrate it. And please put something into the Toys for Tots collection boxes and barrels you will see in your area. The Toys for Tots program represents the second best of what the Marine Corps does.

Semper Fi,

Jack and Peggy

2004–2006 2/4 Association Officers and Chairs

President	Jack Petrowsky, P.O. Box 7214, Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214. Phone: 505 382-0759. E-mail: <jackny@webtv.net>.
Vice President	Yahya A.A. Kariem, 7717 Reed Street, Jacksonville, FL 32208. Phone: 904 764-2241. E-mail: <ykariem50@aol.com>.
Secretary	Philip Skaggs, 9005 West 133d Avenue, Cedar Lake, IN 46303. E-mail: <skaggs99@msn.com>.
Treasurer	Dale Robinson, 3814 Jocelyn Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Phone: 703 590-7441. E-mail: <mrdalerobinson@comcast.net>.
Board of Directors	Ron Isaac, 2652 East Mullen Avenue, Post Falls, ID 83854. E-mail: <risaac6324@aol.com>. Ed Brummett, 10627 E 113th Street North, Owasso, OK 74055. Phone: 918 371-0744. E-mail: <edsfords@aol.com>.
Chaplain	Frank Valdez, 8221 East Birch Tree Lane, Anaheim Hills, CA 92808. Phone: 714 281-2846. E-mail: <valcone@hotmail.com>.
Historian	Bill Weiss, 6125 Beech Tree Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310. E-mail: <wwise2@aol.com>.
Membership	Jim Mazy, 6122 Shasta Street, Englewood, FL 34224-8161. Phone: 941 474-9431. E-mail: <Marine-2-4@comcast.net>.
Newsletter Editor	Ken Sympton, 303 Willowen Drive, Rochester, NY 14609-3235. Phone: 585 482-0717. E-Mail: <kens@www.2ndbn4thmarines.com>. Web page: <http://home.rochester.rr.com/kensympson/>.
PX Sales Manager	Jack Petrowsky, P.O. Box 7214, Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214. Phone: 505 382-0759. E-mail: <jackny@webtv.net>.
Roster Manager	Jim Mazy, 6122 Shasta Street, Englewood, FL 34224-8161. Phone: 941 474-9431. E-mail: <Marine-2-4@comcast.net>.
Webmaster	Jim Mazy, 6122 Shasta Street, Englewood, FL 34224-8161. Phone: 941 474-9431. E-mail: <headwebguy@www.2ndbn4thmarines.com>.
Health & Welfare Officer	Steven O'Shields, 3151 Lake Forest Drive, Apt #86, Augusta, GA 30909. Phone: 706 729-0043. E-mail: <chesty84@usmc.net>. Web page: <http://www.geocities.com.chesty84>.
Sergeant at Arms	TBD.

The 2/4 Association Sea Horse is published quarterly, and is the official newsletter of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association, Inc.

1st Marine Division Association 2006 reunion

The 2006 reunion of the 1st Marine Division Association is scheduled for August 21–27, 2006. It will be held in Denver, Colorado at:

Marriott Denver City Center
1701 California Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Phone (303)297-1300 or (800) 228-9290 for reservations. For more information, visit:

<www.1stmarinedivisionassociation.org/reunions/index.htm>

2d Marine Division Association 2006 reunion

We should have information in the next issue.

3d Marine Division Association 2006 reunion

At this point, the only information we have is that the 2006 reunion will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 16–20, 2006. We should have more information in the next issue. In the meantime, you may want to check:

<<http://www.caltrap.com/>>

2/4 Association 2006 reunion hotel information

Submitted by the 2006 reunion committee

The 2006 reunion of the 2/4 Association is scheduled for July 12–16 in Quantico, Virginia. The Command Post, PX and Hospitality Room will be at the Comfort Inn Hospitality Room located in Stafford, Virginia.

The Comfort Inn has blocked 70 rooms and five suites. Rooms are \$80, plus 10% tax which equals \$88.00. Suites with a kitchen are \$89.99, plus 10% tax which equals \$98.98. Suites with a Jacuzzi are \$99.99, plus 10% tax which equals \$109.98. When you make reservations, be sure you tell them that you are with the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association. These rates at the Comfort Inn are good for the entire week in the event someone wants to come in early. Their phone number is 540 659-8999.

If the Comfort Inn has run out of rooms, the Country Inn (540 659-4330), will have rooms available at special rates for those attending the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association reunion. The Country Inn will provide rooms from \$80 a

night, plus the 10% tax. This hotel did not have enough rooms for the reunion but can provide rooms as a backup. The hotel is next door to, and walking distance from, the Comfort Inn. When you make reservations, be sure you tell them that you are with the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association.

Both the Comfort Inn and the Country Inn will provide continental breakfasts until 1000 hours. The prices above will be honored at both hotels until June 14, 2006, so please make your reservations early.

The Cross Roads Inn on Quantico base did not have enough rooms but also will serve as a backup. Their phone number is 703 630-4444. They have not yet decided on a price. Their current price is \$53 for military, plus 10 % tax on a standard room. They will only take reservations six months in advance.

Hope to see you there.

Semper Fidelis

2006 Reunion Committee

2006 reunion schedule of events

Submitted by the 2006 reunion committee

Wednesday, July 12, 2006

Check in and registration at Comfort Inn in Stafford Virginia.

1800: Command post briefing in reception room.

Thursday, July 13, 2001

0730: Continental breakfast.

0900–1430: Tour of Dulles Air Museum.

1430–1530: Return to Quantico.

1600: Drive by of Marine Corps Heritage Center.

1800: Command post briefing in reception room.

Friday, July 14, 2001

0800: Continental breakfast.

0900: Depart for Iwo Jima Memorial.

1000: Arrive Iwo Jima Memorial.

1030–1100: Memorial service and wreath laying.

1130–1200: Iwo Jima picture taking.

1230–1330: Lunch at the food court of the Ronald Reagan Building.

1400–1630: The Wall; Korean War, World War III and Lincoln Memorials.

1700–1800: Dinner at the food court of the Ronald Reagan Building.

1815: Promptly depart for “8th and I” Marine Barracks.

Dusk: “8th and I” Evening Parade.

Return to Quantico after parade.

Saturday, July 15, 2006

0800: Annual business meeting and continental breakfast.

1000–1400: Picnic at Lunga Lake.

2/4 Association PX Merchandise	
General Items	Price
Logo patch. 2”.	\$3.50
Logo patch. 4”.	\$5.00
Logo pin.	\$5.00
Sweatshirt. Red with EGA on back and Sea Horse silhouette on front.	\$35.00
Polo shirts. Red, white, blue or maroon.	\$25.00
T-shirt. Black, green or gray, with full color logo on front.	\$15.00
T-shirt. 2004 reunion.	\$10.00
Coffee mug. Black with white logo	\$5.00
Thermal mug.	\$5.00
2/4 molded plastic tumblers. Various sizes (rocks, hot/cold). Logo patch between molded plastic. Sets and singles. Check with Jack for sizes and prices.	
Books	Price
<i>What a Life</i> , Randy Kington.	\$22.50
<i>Images from the Otherland</i> , Ken Sympson.	\$22.50
<i>The First Battle—Operation Starlite</i> , Otto Lohrack.	\$25.00
Videos	Price
Dai Do Memories.	\$25.00
2001 Reunion, Quantico, VA. Includes visits to The Wall, Iwo Jima Memorial, etc.	\$10.00
Ordering Instructions: Please e-mail Jack for sizes and item availability. We are looking for suggestions for additional PX items. I am looking at windbreakers, but am being put off by the price. Keep in mind that the PX is stocked by funds from the Association, so we must stock items that will go quickly, both at reunions and during the following year. Shipping and handling equal to USPS charges will be added to each order. 2/4 Association PX c/o Jack Petrowsky PO Box 7214 Las Cruces, NM 88006-7214	

1800–1850: Happy hour (cash bar) and picture taking at the All Hands Club.

1850: First call to dinner (Marine Corps bugler).

1900: Call to attention (Marine Corps bugler).

Presentation of the colors (Marine Corps drummer).

Chaplain's blessing.
Traditional presentation of the beef (Marine Corps drummer and fife).
Dinner.
Guest speaker.
Chaplain's closing.

Sunday, July 16, 2006

0800: Continental breakfast and farewells until we meet again.

Colonel Louis A. Rann, USMC (retired)

Submitted by Colonel Louis Rann, USMC (retired)

(Editor's note: This is the fourth in a series of articles on past commanding officers of the "Magnificent Bastards." Then LtCol Rann was the CO of 2/4 from May 6, 1968, to September 30, 1968.

When I first contacted Col Rann to solicit his biographical information, the Colonel seemed reluctant. It turns out that he had just packed away everything in his annual preparations for the hurricane season, and he would have to rely on his memory of his long career in the Corps. For some reason, he seemed to think that he wasn't much of a writer. I beg to differ. Col Rann not only provided his professional chronology, he interspersed the history with engaging personal observations. Thanks for a great story, Colonel. Semper Fi.)

Louis Rann was born June 23, 1923, the oldest of five siblings, in the farming community of Cologne, New Jersey. It was an interesting period.

"Most unique was watching the U S Navy dirigibles, Akron and Macon, launch and recover aircraft by a trapeze hanging from the belly of the airships."

He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on 12 November 1942 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the time he was enrolled as a student at what is now known as "The College of New Jersey." Called to active duty in May 1943, he was ordered to Princeton University as a member of the V-12 Unit.

"While participating in boxing instruction a number of us were infected with scabies. It was determined the floor mats were the culprits. The mats were disinfected and the area closed. At about 9:30 that evening, the word was passed that the gymnasium was on fire (spontaneous combustion). The first group to arrive tried to save the trophies in the lobby of the gym. Opening the front doors was catastrophic. The inflow of air resulted in an explosion that knocked people to the ground and flames to engulf the entire building. A total loss."

In June 1944, Lou was ordered to Parris Island to receive recruit training.

"I learned that I would never shoot expert with the M-1 rifle. As I had grown up in the country hunting small game shooting left-handed, I was allowed to continue doing so. Shooting for qualification, I always ended up with two or three rounds unfired, losing it reloading at rapid fire, so I

only fired sharpshooter. To the uninformed, at that time qualifying expert increased your monthly pay by \$5.00, or sharpshooter by \$3.00. Not much, but it did, however, pay for a beer a night at the slop chute."

Upon completion of recruit training, he was ordered to Camp Lejeune to attend Platoon Leader Candidate School. It was a kind of a preparatory school for attending the Platoon Leaders Class in Quantico.

"Besides learning to assault pillboxes every conceivable way and taking four mile hikes every evening, I learned the difficulty of removing an ink stain from a concrete deck. The stain was in the squad bay, and we had to scrub it down two to three times a week before we were allowed to go on liberty."



Col Rann and his wife Joanne

The Colonel and Mrs. Rann are shown here dressed up to celebrate the 2003 Marine Corps birthday at the New Sanno Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, with the embassy guards.

Lou was ordered to Quantico in December 1944 to attend the Platoon Leaders Class, graduating in March 1945.

"While Parris Island was primarily individual training, the training at Camp Lejeune was at the fire-team level, and Quantico was platoon-size unit training with all the weapons found in the infantry battalion. To this day I can release the lever on the gas pump on the exact amount I want. The result of hours of repetitive drills on the water-cooled ma-

chine gun, two clicks up or down, right or left, and bursts of two rounds.”

Upon graduation and appointment as a 2nd Lt, USMCR (temp), Lou was ordered again to Infantry Training Regiment at Camp Lejeune to train troops while awaiting assignment to a draft.

“The commanding officer was Colonel Lewis Puller. The Lord help you if you weren't following the training directive as to location, subject matter, at the assigned time or instructing with the sun at your back and in the face of the troops.”

Lou was assigned to a draft and traveled on a troop train to Camp Pendleton, thence to Hawaii on a troop transport with a shipload of Seabees. In Hawaii, he was finally assigned to a permanent unit, the Sixth Marine Division located on Guam. Reporting in, he was initially assigned as assistant platoon leader, 81mm Mortar Platoon, 2d Battalion, 29th Marines. The war had ended, and the division was ordered to China to facilitate the surrender and repatriation of the Japanese units on the Shantung peninsula. The division, minus the Fourth Marines, after an encounter with a typhoon off Okinawa, arrived in September 1945 at the port of Tsingtao.

“One of my classmates while at Princeton was assigned to the Division Civil Affairs Section. Among his duties was overseeing the confiscation of civilian cars from the Japanese and trying to return them to the rightful owners. Several times a month he would pick me up at our compound and we would go for a ride around the city in a chauffeur-driven Bentley, Lincoln or Cadillac. The expressions on the faces of senior officers (every officer was senior to us) seeing two rosy-cheeked Second Lieutenants in the car was priceless.”

Ordered back to CONUS in April 1946, he reported to District Headquarters in Philadelphia for discharge as a Platoon Sergeant and at the same time sworn in as a 2nd Lt in the Reserves (inactive). He returned to college, completing the requirements for graduation with a BS in Education in January 1948, and enrolled in a Masters Degree Program at Rutgers University, receiving a degree in 1950.

“I was hired as the physical education instructor for the Vocational High School in Atlantic City, with additional duties as a football and basketball assistant coach and as a head baseball coach.”

Recalled to active duty in Jan 1951, Lou was ordered to Quantico, Virginia, to attend the First Special Junior Course and upon completion was ordered via Camp Pendleton to Korea to join the First Marine Division. There, he was assigned as the platoon leader of the 81mm Mortar Platoon, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines and later as CO of the Weapons Company of the same unit.

“One day I received a message from an Army unit that observed the Antitank Platoon firing flame throwers in 20 below zero weather conditions. They wished to know how we mixed the napalm. The answer I got was C4 from the satchel charges. Needless to say we discontinued that particular method and I never responded to the message.”

In late March of 1952 the Division was redeployed from the east coast to positions in front of Seoul on the west coast. In May of that year Lou was ordered back to CONUS and assigned to the I & I Staff, 1st 90mm AA Gun Battalion, USMCR, located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

“I informed the Colonel in Philadelphia that I knew nothing of AA guns. He told me that their bores were only 9mm larger than those of 81mm mortars, so that shouldn't present that great a problem. He didn't tell me they were radar controlled.”



Golfing in Japan

Col Rann getting ready for a round of golf at NAS Atsugi, Japan.

Selected for integration into the regulars and promotion to Captain, Lou was ordered to Headquarters Battalion, HQMC and assigned as commanding officer of the Headquarters Company and later as S-3 of the Battalion.

“The G-3 HQMC decided the officers and men assigned to HQMC were not in the best physical condition, so he requested that the battalion issue an order directing the establishment of a physical fitness program culminating in a test of activities. The previous S-3 had started the process and it fell upon my shoulders to complete it. You all know the results after it was staffed through HQMC. It was published as a Marine-wide directive with the personnel of HQMC exempt from participation.”

Lou left Headquarters Battalion in March 1955 for duty with the 2d Marine Division in Camp Lejeune and was as-

signed to the 8th Marines. His initial assignment was as commanding officer 8th Marines (rear), as the regiment was in the process of loading out for a regimental training exercise on Vieques, Puerto Rico. Upon the return of the regiment to Camp Lejeune, Lou was assigned as S-3 of the 3d Bn, 8th Marines. Later he served as the Division Reenlistment Officer.

"While I was S-3, the battalion, reinforced with artillery, tanks, amtracs, etc., served as demonstration troops conducting amphibious operations for, and then the integration with, midshipman from the U S Naval Academy and NROTC units who acted in the various command positions throughout the battalion."

August 1958, he departed CONUS for duty as Assistant Operations Officer, S-3, Marine Air Group 11 stationed at NAS, Atsugi, Japan.

"As I was their "group grunt" and to make me feel at home, I was welcomed with a gift of a tray of gravel under my desk on which to rest my feet."

Upon completion of the tour, he was directed to attend the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia. On graduation was directed to report for duty with CG FMFLANT where he served as Ground Training Officer, Operations Section, G-3. During the Cuban flap Lou was sent TAD to CINCLANT to serve in the Operations Section to advise on Marine matters.

"The most difficult problem to solve was a request to provide to JCS in twenty four hours an overlay of the locations of the machine guns employed in the defense of GITMO and their fields of fire."

June 1964, accompanied by his family, Lou was ordered to report for duty on the staff of CINCSOUTH, Naples, Italy, serving as Assistant Operations Officer, and War Room Watch Officer.

"It was interesting trying to get the Italians, Greeks, Turks and Americans to agree on anything new."

Returning to CONUS with his family in August 1967, Lou proceeded as ordered to the 9th MAB on Okinawa via a stopover at Camp Pendleton. There he was assigned as XO, 26th Marines.

"Requesting information as to the location of the unit, since I had been out of the loop for three years at NATO, I was shown a map that answered the question—Khe Sahn, Vietnam. I thought of Custer and his last stand surrounded by Indians."

After the "Siege of Khe Sahn," Lou received orders to return to 9th MAB for reassignment. Two days after reporting in and upon notification of the wounding of Colonel Weise, he was ordered back in country to assume command of 2/4. Reporting to the CO Special Landing Force, Lou was taken to meet the colonel and most of his officers prior to proceeding to the unit located near Jones Creek. They were on the hospital ship as a result of wounds received during the battle of Dai Do. Lou assumed command of 2/4, then operating in and around Jones Creek. Later the battalion participated in closing down the Khe Sahn Combat Base and in a sweep of Alternate Route 9 (a camouflaged road paralleling Route 9

from the Laos border eastward toward the coast). On the sweep of Alternate Route 9, the unit found a large generator, a truck fitted out as complete machine shop, and a building that seemed to be the office of the engineer unit.

After numerous minor operations, 2/4 was ordered to occupy Combat Base Cates. Since Cates overlooked the Khe Sahn area, it became a necessary viewing spot for visiting dignitaries. Later on, the battalion conducted an eight-company, two-pronged sweep from Cates, discovering an NVA base camp. An estimated four tons of ordnance were destroyed in place.

In August, Lou was assigned as XO, 4th Marine Regiment until ordered back to CONUS for duty with the 2d Marine Division. He was reassigned as XO 6th Marines and later as Division Inspector, CO 32d MEU and G-2.

"While aboard the USS Guam (LPH 9) as MEU commander and sailing toward Panama for unit jungle training, orders were received to take the ship through the Panama Canal and assist the government of Peru in earthquake rescue operations. Operations were conducted from sea level to almost 10,000 feet on the mountain slope of the Cordilla Negro. One of the landing strips used was located on the beach near a molasses factory. Dregs from the vats were sprayed on the beach to keep the sand from being sucked into the engines. It smelled like an IHOP serving."

In June 1972, Lou was ordered to Quantico to the Requirement Branch, Marine Corps Development Center and later as Chief, Ground Branch, retiring 31 July 1974.

Colonel Rann's ribbons and decorations (not in order of precedence) include the Legion of Merit w/V, Bronze Star w/V, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Medal, China Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/Palm, Korean Service Medal w/Two Stars, National Defense Service w/Two Stars, Vietnam Service Medal with w/Four Stars, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and Peruvian Navy Cross.

"I married Joanne Lewis, formally of St. Paul, MN, in 1946. She wore a white silk wedding gown made of material sent home from China."

"We have three children, two sons and a daughter, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Our sons married girls they met while attending school in Naples, Italy."

Silver Star awarded to Marine for actions in Iraq

Submitted by: 31st MEU. Story by: Cpl Will Lathrop. Story Identification #: 2005699476.

CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan (June 9, 2005)—The Silver Star was awarded to 1st Lt Thomas E. Cogan, executive officer for Company E, Battalion Landing Team, 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, June 9 by LtGen Robert R. Blackman, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force, during an early morning ceremony held at the camp's West Chapel.

Cogan, a Philadelphia native, was presented the award for actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Ramadi, Iraq, while serving as the platoon commander, 3d Platoon of Echo Company during April of last year.



Silver Star for 2/4 Marine

First Lieutenant Thomas E. Cogan, executive officer for Company E, 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, shakes hands with LtGen Robert R. Blackman, commanding general, III Marine Expeditionary Force, after the general presented him with the Silver Star. . Photo by: Cpl Will Lathrop.

Blackman spoke to the Marines attending the ceremony about the award, hailing Cogan's deeds on the battlefield as great leadership under fire.

On April 6, 2004, 2d Platoon was ambushed by enemy forces while moving to reinforce a heavily engaged unit. With total disregard for his personal safety, Cogan led his platoon across a fire-swept field and directed fire. Though caught in the crossfire, he exposed himself to direct fire in order to cross an open field and position himself to direct fires on the enemy. His actions enabled the company command element to move to safety. After consolidating his platoon, Cogan led his men through a fierce, three-hour,

house-to-house assault that destroyed remaining enemy forces in his zone of action.

"Lieutenant Cogan displayed great tactical skill in a combat environment, leading his Marines and pursuing the enemy," Blackman said.

Cogan also spoke, giving a few short and humble words about his accomplishment, thanking those in attendance for their presence, but mostly attributing the award to his Marines who were involved in the action.

"I'm sure, at times, my Marines were wondering 'What is this guy thinking?'" Cogan said. "But they never hesitated, and it's because of their hard work and willingness that we were able to push through."

The Silver Star is the nation's third-highest award, after the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross, respectively.

* * *

The above article is from the Marine Corps web site at <http://www.marines.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/0/fed83881145e89c08525701b004bb981?OpenDocument>, June 9, 2005.

2/4 participates in riot control, evacuation

Submitted by: MCB Camp Butler. Story Identification #: 20059121111. Story by Lance Cpl Cathryn Lindsay.

CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan (Sept. 1, 2005)—More than 200 Marines with 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, serving as the Battalion Landing Team for the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, participated in a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation drill at Combat Town August 23.

During the training scenario, Marines evacuated people acting as panicked citizens and Americans in the American embassy on a small island overrun by insurgent forces. A building in Combat Town served as a mock embassy.

During the training, Marines practiced safely removing noncombatants from a hostile, chaotic environment. The drills were part of the unit's 10-day-long Battalion Landing Team training.

"It's important for Marines with the MEU to practice NEOs," said Capt John G. Lehane, the battery commander for Battery I, 3d Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, currently attached to 2/4. "This is the mission more MEUs have done than any other."

The training began with about 50 Marines from Company F securing the perimeter around the city while about 70 other Company F Marines acted as rioters.

The 2/4 Marines posted sentries and used Amphibious Assault Vehicles and concertina wire to block off all exits from the city, preventing confused citizens from running away into the hostile country and keeping insurgents from entering the city.

When the citizens stopped trying to cross the barricades, the Marines began processing eligible citizens for evacuation, checking their medical histories and giving them temporary passports.

Citizens who were found to be ineligible for evacuation began protesting. Rioters ripped signs from the ground and threw rotten fruit in fits of rage. To control the mob, Marines in full riot gear, armed with shotguns, batons and OC spray, marched into the area.



2/4 in Noncombatant Evacuation Operation training

Camp Hansen, Okinawa, Japan—Riot-control Marines file into a building before forming a human barricade at Combat Town Aug. 23. The Marines were called in when Marines acting as American civilians began a riot. The Marines from 2d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, were conducting a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation drill as part of their Battalion Landing Team Exercise. Photo by: LCpl Cathryn Lindsay.

The riot-control Marines threw smoke grenades before setting up a barrier with their shields. Some of the civilians tried to crash through the shields and were sprayed with OC spray and promptly restrained by the Marines.

More than 10 of the most aggressive rioters were handcuffed and detained in a small holding room. After the riot was suppressed, the Marines evacuated eligible citizens to the would-be helicopter pickup point.

"This is an important training event because we are able to bring together the security and evacuation units to practice

their interoperability," said LtCol James Glynn, 2/4 commanding officer. "As a result of this type of training, we will be more effective as a unit when we conduct a real NEO."

Even though the Marines with 2/4 have never participated in a real NEO, this training helps prepare them to handle these types of scenarios with minimal force, explained GySgt Kurt M. Martinez, the company gunnery sergeant for Company F, 2/4.

"This type of training helps prepare them to deal with hostile civilians, using the least amount of force possible," Martinez said. "It's possible we may have to (apply these techniques) during our upcoming deployment to the Philippines."

* * *

The above article is from the Marine Corps web site at <http://www.marines.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/main5/64AC949F609620448525706F0021FBD3?opendocument>, September 1, 2005.

Old Stubby

A nearly-true tale of quiet bravery

Submitted by Gene Breeze

(Editor's note: For those of you not familiar with Gene, here's a quick overview. He served with 3/3 in Chu Lai in 1965, participating in Operation Starlite in August of that year. He was transferred to Headquarters Company, 4th Marines in November 1965, serving as the company Gunnery Sergeant until March 1966. He returned to CONUS March 1966. Gene was commissioned a 2nd Lt in May 1966. He returned to Vietnam in May 1968 to serve as CO of H&S Company, 2/4, until May 1969, when he returned to CONUS. He has the distinction of serving with the 4th Marines as a Staff Sergeant, Gunnery Sergeant, 1st Lieutenant and Captain.)

Gene retired at Marine Barracks, Charleston, SC, in March 1971, having attained rank of Captain. He resides in Jacksonville, NC. From 1992–1994, Gene was the association vice president, and from 1994–1996, he served as the association president.)

He arrived in our small town on the tailgate of a rusty old farm pickup. In the days just after the war it was a lot easier for a fellow to hitch a ride. So many men were on the move. His only belongings were in an old tattered canvass bag. The empty sleeve of his shirt was mute evidence to a powerful left arm now gone. His clean but sweaty shirt was tucked into a pair of faded dungarees.

Our only town cop, Asa Powell, was parked in the shade of an old oak tree. Newcomers always sparked interest in Asa; little else did. Asa eased his khaki-clad, slightly overweight body out of his patrol car. He popped his hat on to give himself a little more authority and a couple of more inches.

"You got any identification, mister?" Asa asked without preamble. The stranger reached into his back pocket with his right arm, then expertly slid a card out of the old leather wallet. Asa looked at it longer than he had to and handed it back.

Notice to the Membership

Beginning with the Q1 2006, anyone who wants a hard-copy of the *Sea Horse* must pay a \$10 annual subscription fee. The fee for 2006 is due November 15, 2005. Checks should be made payable to the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association and sent to our treasurer:

Dale Robinson
3814 Jocelyn Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192

"You got any money?" Asa asked.

"Why, you sellin' something?" the stranger answered.

"Don't get smart, fella," Asa said. "I gotta make sure you ain't vagrant. We got ordinances around here."

"Yeah, sure, I got dough."

"Let's see some," Asa demanded. The stranger opened his wallet enough to satisfy Asa's curiosity.

"What business you got around here?" Asa continued.

"I got no business around here," the stranger answered.

"Say, you this friendly to everybody?" Asa was about to reply when Sam Burton spoke up from behind him. Sam had been in the first war and had left a leg at the Argonne. "You got nothin' better to do than bother cripples, Asa?" The stranger bristled a little at the word "cripple" until Sam took a couple of steps on his wooden leg.

"Just doin' my job, Sam."

"Well, just go do it somewheres else," Sam snapped, Asa gave the stranger an "I'll-be-watching-you" once-over and walked back to his car. Sam Burton gave the stranger a nod and returned to sweeping the front of his drug store. The man nodded back and strolled over to take a seat on one of the two benches in our small town park.

We didn't know where he spent the night but the next morning he had coffee at our only diner. It was said that he inquired about work. This is farming country though, and there was some doubt about what a one-armed man could do. It's all an able man can do to scabble a living out of our rocky, hilly farms. No one said this, though, out of politeness and pride.

On Sunday the stranger was seen at one of the three churches in town, the Methodist. He sat alone in one of the back pews subjected to the stares of the regulars. In those days it wasn't unusual to see church-goers in working clothes; nobody minded as long as they were clean work clothes. His presence was made more acceptable when he knew all the hymns without the hymnal and put money in the collection plate. Folding money no less.

At the conclusion of the service he was out the door and across the parking lot before Reverend Mann could shake his remaining hand and ask his name. No chance to welcome him to the flock.

In exchange for moving some things around in the feed store, Don Blass let the stranger sleep in the storage shed out

back. Don had lost a boy on Siapan and suspected the loss of the stranger's arm had been no childhood accident.

Leroy Block was in the store lamenting the cost of sending his son off to college in Columbus, more that he'd lost a farmhand, actually. Leroy would never admit the boy was worth his found, though, so he complained about the cost of tuition and board. Don suggested that he might need a suitable replacement when haying started. Leroy allowed that he might. Don mentioned that he had a right strappin' fellow living out in the shed that might work out. "Only has one arm though," he qualified.

"Hell, that boy of mine ain't been worth a damn since he first noticed girls anyway," Leroy grumbled. "Besides, I knowed a one-armed fella down to the tobacco warehouse in Haysville once that'd work a two-armed man into the dirt."

They found the stranger out in the shed oiling and arranging tools in neat lines on the inside shed wall. "Well, looka that! I been meanin' to get 'round to that," Don said, obviously pleased. "Say, this here's Leroy Block, uh, don't believe I ever got your name, son."

"You can call me Stubby," the stranger said, extending his right hand. There was an uncomfortable moment when Don and Leroy both glanced at the reason for his nickname; it wouldn't be hard for any of us to remember what to call him. The name spread through town in a day, quicker than the gripe.

Stubby became a regular at Sunday services at our town churches. Only the Presbyterians didn't seem to mind that he was also becoming a regular at Ben and Betty's Bar and Grill. In fact, a few times he spent a little too much time at Ben and Betty's. On those days Leroy would drive to town and pick him up. He never lay in the next morning or missed church. A bit of drinking was pretty common with the local boys who belonged to the "52-20 Club." Only the Baptist minister was brave enough to mention it and even then not in his sermon.

Stubby became quite popular in town, with the exception of Asa Powell, who suspected nearly everybody of something. When the Methodist church called for volunteers to help paint, Stubby was there. He had a little trouble with ladders, so Reverend Mann had him paint from the ground.

On Founders' Day everyone who wasn't housebound or in the cemetery was at the river for the celebration. Fireworks would be shot into the sky after sundown but it was a hot



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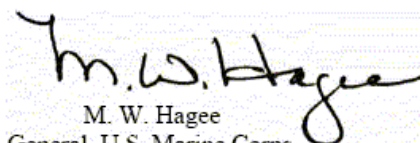
A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On November 10th, 1775, the Second Continental Congress resolved to raise two battalions of Continental Marines marking the birth of our United States Marine Corps. As Major General Lejeune's message reminds us, the ensuing generations of Marines would come to signify all that is highest in warfighting excellence and military virtue. Each November as Marines the world over celebrate the birth of our Corps, we pay tribute to that long line of "Soldiers of the Sea" and the illustrious legacy they have handed down to us.

This past year has been one of continuous combat operations overseas and distinguished service here at home – a year of challenges that have brought out the very best in our Corps. In Iraq and Afghanistan, Marine courage and mastery of complex and chaotic environments have truly made a difference in the lives of millions. Marine compassion and flexibility provided humanitarian assistance to thousands in the wake of the South East Asian Tsunami, and here at home, Marines with AAVs, helicopters, and sometimes with their bare hands saved hundreds of our own fellow Americans in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Across the full spectrum of operations, you have showcased that Marines *create stability in an unstable world*, and have reinforced our Corps' reputation for setting the standard of excellence.

The sense of honor, courage, and patriotism that epitomized those who answered that first call to arms 230 years ago is still indelibly imprinted on our ranks today. In commemorating our anniversary, let us strengthen our ties to the past by paying homage to those who have gone before us. As we honor the sacrifices of our wounded and fallen comrades, our commitment to one another remains unshakable. We take special pride in the actions of the Marines now serving in harm's way, and rededicate ourselves to the service of our Nation and our Corps.

Happy Birthday Marines, Semper Fidelis, and Keep Attacking!


M. W. Hagee
General, U.S. Marine Corps

"Mrs. Bowden said to thank you for what you done," Leroy said from the door. Stubby stopped for a minute or two, nodded, and went back to work. Leroy went into the house and turned on the radio. Old timey country music from a station over the river in Kentucky drifted out to the barn.

The next three years that Stubby worked for Leroy Block saw his esteem in the eyes of our town grow. The incident at the river was told over and over until everyone was sure he had seen exactly what had happened, and half the town had gone out into the river behind the one-armed man. Stubby never spoke of it himself. People tried to draw him out on it to no avail and there was some talk about sending his name up to Columbus for an award. We all got the feeling the whole thing made him uncomfortable, though, so eventually we dropped it. In that three years we were never able to get a firm handle on where he was from or how he'd lost his arm. Some said they doubted he lost it in the war but they were shut up one hot day when Stubby

day. Many of the townsfolk were in the river cooling off after their picnic lunch. Stubby sat with his shoes off cooling his feet in the Ohio. Suddenly, he stood bolt upright and splashed into the water. He swam awkwardly out into the current and disappeared for what seemed like an eternity. When he came back up he was holding a small, sputtering boy around the chest. Several men and older boys swam out to Stubby and relieved him of his burden. The boy's Mother wrapped him in a towel with a huddle of concerned people standing all around, but when she pulled herself together enough to look for Stubby to thank him, he was gone. When Leroy returned to the farm that night, he found Stubby in the barn dropping hay for the cattle in the morning.

took off his shirt to load feed in Leroy's truck. Scars like that only come from the implements of war. Our veterans exchanged knowing glances that day and there was no more talk about what had happened to Stubby.

It was a rainy night when the car struck Stubby from behind. He was walking home from Ben and Betty's because Leroy had fallen asleep by the radio. Asa determined that the car had to be from out of state, or at least up-state, because there were no damages cars anywhere in the county. He'd looked at every one. Leroy had found him the next morning where he'd fallen almost a hundred feet from the broken headlight glass. The car had never even slowed down and was long gone now. Our friend lasted three days in the hos-

pital at West Union but his body was tired and finally gave out on him. Leroy cried, a first in anyone's recollection.

Leroy came home and went to the small room in the barn that Stubby had made for himself. He'd never been in it. He respected a man's space. The room was spare but neat and clean. A tight bunk in the corner would bounce a quarter. Stubby's small tattered canvass bag hung on a peg.

Reverend Mann had come out to the farm to check on Leroy. "Is there anything in his things that might tell us who to contact?" the reverend asked gently.

"I dunno," Leroy said absently. "He didn't leave much, just this old bag. Do you think it'd be alright to look through it or should we wait for Asa?"

"Asia'll be up in West Union for a while yet, I guess it'd be alright."

Inside the bag under another shirt and pair of dungarees they found a few things: a broken watch; a photograph of an old couple, probably his folks; a lighter that had "Semper Fidelis" engraved on it. Nothing that could identify the man we only knew as Stubby.

In the lining of the bag, in a creased manila envelope was a faded blue ribbon with a star hanging from it. Inside was a document which began, "For conspicuous gallantry—though severely wounded in the left arm and side—while aiding other wounded—at the risk of his own life—saving several of his fellow Marines—the President of the United States...."

At the cemetery a brass plaque and neatly trimmed grass around a grave are all that we have to remind us of the hero we had with us for such a short time. A flag is moved in its triangular frame three times a year from church to church. Little boys sometimes ask about it and are told the story of our one-armed stranger.

2/4 donates artwork, Medal of Honor signatures

Submitted by: MCRD San Diego. Story Identification #: 2005729112242. Story by MCRD San Diego, Public Affairs.

(Editor's note: I received the following in an e-mail from BrigGen Weise. "Be sure to give Bill Muter credit for three years of effort in getting the 36 Marine MOH signatures. Sixteen of these men have died since signing. Bill was BLT 2/4 Recon Officer in 1967–68 and did one helluva fine job. Mr. Carl Grindle, a very patriotic WWII Navy vet, generously donated the money to cover the costs of shipping, framing, etc. Mr. Grindle also assisted Frank and Becky Valdez with our recent San Diego reunion. There are two other copies of the print with original signatures. We plan to give one to MCRD Parris Island and the other to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Semper Fi, Bill Weise")

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO, CA (July 29, 2005)—Representatives from one of the Marine Corps' most decorated battalions bestowed to the depot a

limited painting reproduction signed by more than 30 Medal of Honor recipients at James L. Day Hall July 15.

Second Battalion, 4th Marines Association veterans presented one of three prints to depot commanding general BrigGen John M. Paxton Jr., who once served with 2/4.

Medal of Honor recipient Robert E. O'Malley's wife, Lily, created the artwork, which displays images of World War II, Vietnam and Korea. The print will hang at the command museum. The other two prints are gifts for Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C.

Retired MajGen James E. Livingston—who received the Medal of Honor for actions in 1968 as a captain leading a company in Vietnam—opened with a brief oral history on the battalion.

The Marine Corps' 26th Commandant, Gen Louis H. Wilson Jr., also signed the print before he passed away June 21. Gen Wilson received the Medal of Honor for actions in Guam, 1944.

BrigGen Paxton told the association members he felt great to be back with the "Magnificent Bastards" of 2/4, and he assured them, "We will find a place of honor to hang this."

According to association officials, LtCol Joseph R. "Bull" Fisher coined the moniker "Magnificent Bastards" in June 1964 at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, as he assumed command and addressed the battalion.

The battalion has been deactivated, reactivated and moved around different regiments.

The long and illustrious history of 2/4 began in 1914 during World War I when it was activated as one of the three battalions of the Fourth Marine Regiment.

From WWI to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the battalion's lineage spans events from major conflicts to expeditionary duty in many nations, to include Mexico, the Dominican Republic, China, Korea, Philippines and Vietnam.

No other battalion has served in both the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments, which rate wearing the French Fourragere earned during the Battle of Belleau Wood in France, WWI.

* * *

The above article is from the Marine Corps web site at <http://www.marines.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/main5/3DF1FFB52FA7E1BA8525704D005479FD?opendocument>, July 29, 2005.

A thought on naked force

"Anyone who clings to the historically untrue—and thoroughly immoral—doctrine that 'violence never solves anything' I would advise to conjure up the ghosts of Napoleon Bonaparte and the Duke of Wellington and let them debate it. The ghost of Hitler would referee. Violence, naked force, has settled more issues in history than has any other factor; and the contrary opinion is wishful thinking at its worst. Breeds that forget this basic truth have always paid for it with their lives and their freedoms."

Starship Troopers, © 1959 by Robert Heinlein.

Membership Application, Second Battalion, Fourth Marines Association

Name: _____
Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Home phone: (____) _____
Work phone: (____) _____

Current rank if active duty or highest rank if discharged or retired: _____

Personal awards and decorations: _____

Period(s) of service (total): From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____

Period(s) with 2/4: From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____; From _____ To _____

Place(s) served with 2/4: _____

Unit(s) assigned to while with 2/4: Company _____ Platoon _____; Company _____ Platoon _____; Company _____ Platoon _____

Other military affiliations: _____

Married _____ Single _____ Widowed _____ Spouse or significant other's name: _____

Dues Information

Life membership can be paid in up to three installments over a period not to exceed nine consecutive months. Dues guidelines are the same for Regular Membership and Associate Membership. Please indicate below the type of membership you desire.

Membership Class:	Regular Membership: _____	Associate Membership: _____
Life Member	____ 54 and under:	\$175 (Lump sum or two payments of \$58.34 and one payment of \$58.32)
	____ 55 to 64:	\$125 (Lump sum or two payments of \$41.67 and one payment of \$41.66)
	____ 65 and over:	\$75 (Lump sum or three payments of \$25.00 each)
Annual Member	____	\$20

It is the applicant's responsibility to schedule payments, since the association will not send invoices. If the applicant fails to complete payment of life membership dues as set forth above, amounts paid and received towards life membership will be converted and credited as annual membership dues.

Please mail checks (payable to "2/4 Association") and application to:

2/4 Association
c/o Jim Mazy
6122 Shasta Street
Englewood, FL 34224-8161

If you have a picture of yourself, either as an individual or in a group setting, from your Marine Corps/Navy years (boot camp, cruise book, etc.) and/or a recent photo, please enclose with this form. Also, please identify all persons in each photo. The photos will be returned after scanning. The scanned photos, along with the identification information, will be assembled into a computer CD photo album for historical purposes of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines Association.

2/4 Association President
P.O. Box 7214
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