

**NJ 206
OFFICERS
2017 ~ 2018**



Eddie Neas*
Commandant



Norman Nutt*
Senior Vice
Commandant



John Andrews*
Junior Vice
Commandant



Bob Stalzer*
Judge Advocate



James Loizides
Adjutant/Paymaster



Dan Danzi
Chaplain



**Anthony
Ozmianski**
Sergeant at Arms



Artie Williams
Quartermaster

* = Detachment
Trustees

Slattery Sidelines

Welcome To Your OnLine Newsletter - Mar 2018

Volume #6

Issue 3

Links: [Slattery Detachment 206](#) ~ [Marines Care Foundation](#) ~ [Legacy of a Hero](#) ~ [Dept NJ MCL](#) ~ [MCL National](#)
This newsletter is interactive while online, highlighted links work & sometimes open a new screen. You can print each page separately or all, the page number is at top right of page. Officers & members wishing to post in the newsletter, please send info to [Pete Gallo](#).
Feel free to forward this newsletter & web site. Editors: Don Patterson ~ Pete Gallo



www.marinescare.org

L/CPL Robert J. Slattery
Marine Corps League, Detachment #206
Marines Care Foundation, Inc.,
In Memory of L/CPL Chris Cosgrove, III
Whippany, New Jersey
P.O. Box 566, West Caldwell, NJ 07007-0566



www.mclslatterydet.org

Detachment Monthly Meetings

1st Wednesday of the month - starts 1930 ***UPSTAIRS HALL*** at Post #155 American Legion Home
13-23 Legion Place Whippany 07981 phone# 973- 884- 2494

2018 Schedule

Mar 7th - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp

Apr 4th - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp

Apr 14th - Flag day flag retirement ceremony at Legion post home starts at dusk we participate with the Legion, VFW, boy scouts and other service organizations in the very impressive brief ceremony light refreshments follow at the conclusion of the ceremony

May 2nd - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp

May 26th - Flag placement at the Veterans grave sites meet at the Legion at 0800 we then car pool to the Gate of Heaven cemetery in East Hanover when the detail is complete we come back to the legion for light refreshments

May 28th - Memorial Day Parade full details on det. web site*

* Monday Memorial Day Parade info: meet for Breakfast at the Hanover Twp. Rec Center 7:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. followed by a Ceremony at the Veterans Monument at the Town Campus at 8:30:AM. at conclusion of the ceremony A bus will transport you to the Parade assembly area that forms up on East Fairchild by the High School at 9:00:AM. It begins at 9:30 AM and ends at Post 155 for the service. After the service, hot dogs, ice cream, beer and soda will be served. uniform MCL Cover detachment red shirt black pants, black high gloss shoes for those that can not march cars are available for you to ride in.

Jun 6th - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp

July 4th - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp, also holiday

Aug 1st - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp, nomination of officers

Sept 5th - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp, election of officers

Oct 3rd - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp, installation of officers

Nov 7th - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp

Nov 10th - USMC Birthday

Dec 5th - meeting - 1930, Legion home Whippany, note regular meetings start at 1930 sharp

Dec 7th - 1900 - Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony we join with Legion & VFW members, guests at the legion for a very nice candle lighting ritual &, taps with light refreshments to follow the conclusion of the ceremony

Chucky Blazures Lunch Bunch Skuttlebutt!

Chucky Blazure's Lunch Bunch Luncheons for 2018 3rd Thursdays of each month at 1200

2018

15- March at Charlottes Web, Dover

19- April at Charlotte's Web Dover

17- May at Black Horse Pub Rte. 24 Mendham

21- June at Charlotte's Web

SUBMIT PHOTOS and ARTICLES to publish in the Newsletter

MARINES, you are welcome to submit photos to go along with your articles about your experiences in the Marine Corps. Scan it as a jpeg and send to me This is your Newsletter,

We know you have some interesting stories and photos to share with us and our readers.

When you submit a photo please name left to right who is in it, Also a description of what the photo represents.

Pete.

This Month in USMC History

MARCH

- **2 March 1867:** Jacob Zeilin, Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps from 30 June 1864, was this date promoted to the rank of Brigadier General Commandant, the first time Congress authorized this rank for the Marine Corps. The statute, however, was repealed in June 1874 so that the rank of Commandant would again revert to colonel upon Zeilin's retirement.
- **8 March 1965:** The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to that conflict. The 3,500 men arrived both across the beach with Battalion Landing Team 3/9, and at DaNang Airfield with Battalion Landing Team 1/3.
- **11 March 1778:** Marines participated the action when the Continental Navy frigate BOSTON, enroute to France, sighted, engaged, and captured the British merchant ship MARTHA. As the drum of the BOSTON beat to arms, John Adams seized a musket and joined the Marines on deck until the frigate's captain, Samuel Tucker, sent him below for safety.
- **13 March 1943:** The first group of 71 Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. The Navy's willingness to share training facilities enabled the Marine Corps to begin training Marine Corps Women's Reserve officers just one month after the creation of the MCWR was announced.
- **17 March 1967:** The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon. MSgt Dulinsky and the other officer and enlisted Women Marines that followed were assigned to the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) based in Saigon. Most worked with the Marine Corps Personnel Section providing administrative support to Marines assigned as far north as the DMZ, but two Lieutenant Colonels, Ruth Reinholz and Ruth O'Holleran, served as historians with the Military History Branch, Secretary Joint Staff, MACV.
- **25 March 1945:** After 35 days of bitter fighting, the amphibious assault on the rocky fortress of Iwo Jima finally appeared over. On the night of 25 March, however, a 300-man Japanese force launched a vicious final counterattack in the vicinity of Airfield Number 2. Army pilots, Seabees and Marines of the 5th Pioneer Battalion and 28th Marines fought the fanatical Japanese force till morning but suffered heavy casualties --more than 100 killed and another 200 American wounded. Nearly all of the Japanese force was killed in the battle.
- **27 March 1953:** The 5th Marines, supported by the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the first full day of fighting after the Chinese assault the previous evening of Outpost Vegas on Korea's western front, counterattacked to regain enemy-held positions. Companies E and F of 2/7, down to only three platoons between them, managed to regain partial control of Outpost Vegas that day.
- **31 March 1801:** On this date, LtCol Commandant William W. Burrows rode with president Thomas Jefferson to look for "a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on." President Jefferson was a personal friend of the Commandant, and deeply interested in the welfare of the Corps and accompanied Burrows on horseback on the morning of 31 March. They chose a square in Southeast Washington, bounded by 8th and 9th streets, and a & I streets, because it lay near the Navy Yard and was within easy marching distance of the Capitol.

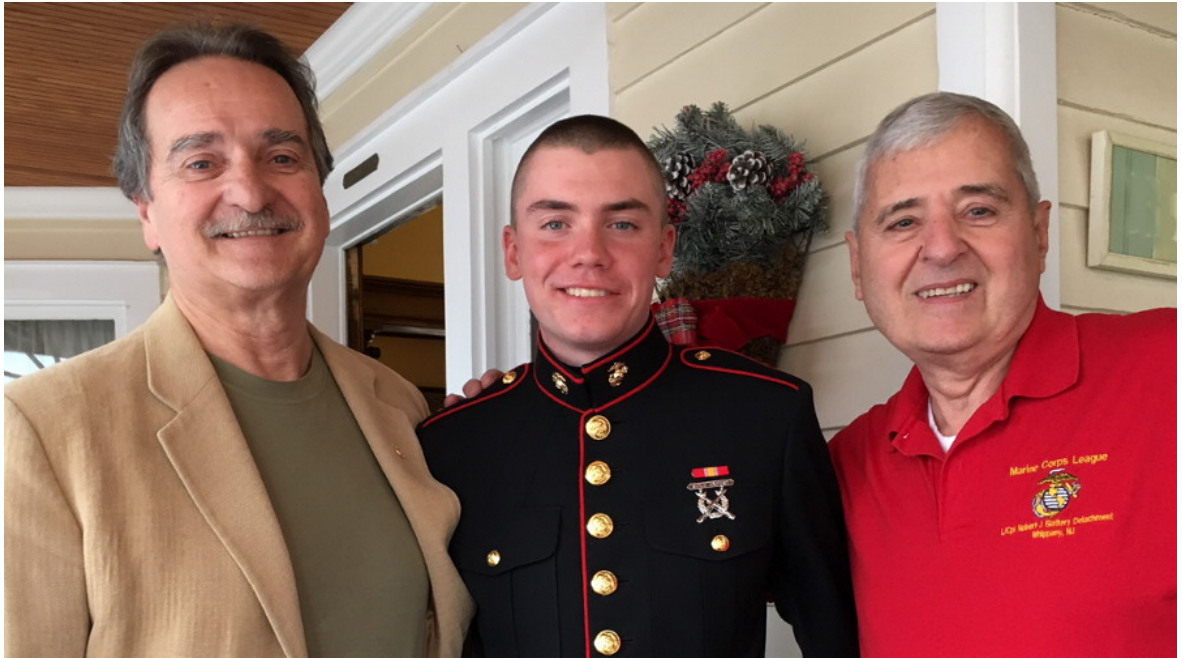
ATTENTION ON DECK

ATTENTION Marines, YEARLY DUES Effective January 1st 2018 will be \$40.00.

Obituary: Virginia Ginny Mini

Virginia Ginny Mini, 80, passed away on January 25, 2018 at Compassionate Care Hospice Dover. Ginny was the wife of Marine member Tony Mini.

Marine Recruit Brian Dougherty



On January 19 2018 at Parris Island Marine Dougherty graduated from boot camp where he qualified as an expert marksman.

Recruit Dougherty was also promoted to PFC. Congratulations Marine! We are proud to welcome you into the Corps.

Brian came home for 9 days before reporting to his next duty station at Camp Geiger.

Obituary: Member Ann Marie Schreck, wife of Marine Dick Schreck

On: January 21 2018 Ann Marie Schreck passed away. Ann was 74 & a former resident of Wharton.

Ann & Dick Shreck retired to Aikens So Carolina in 2006. Ann was a two term Past President of the LCPL Robert J Slattery detachment Marine Corps League Auxiliary 206.

A library in the bigger sense

Please go to our National Marine Corps League main website and look at the library link. It will go to: www.mcleaguelibrary.org/

Sea Stories

New feature starting in this months newsletter issue, Sea Stories section, send us your sea stories to publish in newsletter.

EDITORS Don /Pete

FIELD GALLEY TENT!

These are the field stoves we cooked on when we prepared the meals for the Marines of the 1st signal Battalion 1st Mar Div. Korea 51-52.

We had no mess hall working on the field stove preparing a meal and facing the camera is Chief Cook Sgt. Pete Gallo.



Pete

In the other photo Pete is filling one of the burners with fuel. Our troop sister ships the Menard and the Menefore, docked at Pusan where we boarded trucks and were transported to and dropped off at Headquarters Company on the West Coast for duty assignment.

They asked for volunteers, to be cooks. There were no cooks in this replacement draft or the in the last few replacement drafts, so they had no cooks to replace the ones being rotated home.

We were part of the 8th replacement draft. I volunteered even though I didn't go to cooks or bakers school. It turned out to be a good decision.

NOTE:: On our way to our destination we drove through what was left of the city Seoul. We traveled during the evening hours To the West Coast. So our view looking out of the rear of the truck was not the best.



Tom Cuningham, Commander, Operation Jersey Cares

"Another amazing packing. 8000 pounds of needs have been delivered to the Somerville Post Office today, which will soon be on the way to our deployed service men and women! Many thanks to DJ, Deb and all those who helped to create the Valentine cards that were packed into each box. Very honored to be a part of such an incredible organization. Operation Jersey Cares will always lead with a compassionate heart as they support our military both near and far".

Good job today, OJC!!!

This is from Pam Gale Guzzi a mother whose son is a freshman at the Naval Academy and who attended her first Packing with OJC.

"The season of Lent it is not only about what you give up or sacrifices, yet just as important is the work you can do to help others. Emma, Addi and I have committed to doing as many acts of giving back as possible during these 40 days.

Today we helped out a fantastic group of individuals who are dedicated to supporting our troops near and far, Operation Jersey Cares.

We packed boxes large and small filled with generous donations of snacks, essentials like TP, dental care and body wash etc., not to mention coffee and gum, antibacterial gel and sunscreen.

There were 45 boxes going directly to this'd aboard ships and 43 more to an Army installation in Iraq. That was only the tip of the iceberg.

Thank you to Eddie & Linda for getting us involved last year and to the U.S. Naval Academy Mom's and MidSibs who came out to help. This is only a sampling of all the volunteers. Can't wait to do it next time".

FYI, in talking with Tom Cuningham about the increase in shipping costs which now is almost doubled. Last year they had about \$45,000 in shipping, if the volume continues, it could be \$90,000 this year. All shipping costs are made possible by donations, He told me, that the Distribution Center in NJ where the boxes used to be shipped from is now in Chicago. No idea why this was done.

Five Slattery Detachment members and their families helped today. Overall it was a good day and there will be a few more Smiles on the faces of the Men and Women who serve in our Armed Forces who will receive a box or two from Operation Jersey Cares.

Tom Cuningham

FLU epidemic cancels 2 monthly visits

FLU epidemic cancels 2 monthly visits & coffee socials at the VA hospital Community Care Center Lyons Campus for January & February.

Dan Danzi Chairman

My first 2 Christmases in the Marine Corps

#1 1950. Boot Camp Platoon 231 1st recruit Battalion at Parris Island . Christmas Eve. We were on mess duty. I was part of a work detail that had to remove the black eyes from the freshly peeled potatoes. They had some type of machine that peeled them but it couldn't remove the black eyes.

#2 Korea 1951 Christmas Eve. I had the pleasure of having a private audience with Cardinal Francis Joseph Spellman known as the Prince of the Military, who was visiting the troops for Christmas. I can still feel my nervousness as I walked into the tent with the Cardinal waiting for me. I kissed his ring. We then spoke briefly. He asked me how I was and how it was going. Not bad for a 19 year old Italian kid from Irish (Southie) South, Boston, Mass.

Pete Gallo.

Commandant's Corner



It's now March of 2018 and before you know it, Saint Patrick's Day will be here on Saturday the 17th. Right before, on March 15th, is "The Ides of March". Here is some information on that: The Ides of March is a day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to March 15. It was marked by several religious observances and was notable for the Romans as a deadline for settling debts. In 44 BC, it became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar. The death of Caesar made the Ides of March a turning point in Roman history, as one of the events that marked the transition from the historical period known as the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire. History lesson is over for now.

In the month of February, we had the Super Bowl won by the Philadelphia Eagles and South Korea will host the 2018 Winter Olympics. It is the first time in Olympic history that South Korea hosted an Olympic. Pyeongchang is the host city, and don't ask me to pronounce it.

The warm weather is around the corner and hopefully we can all look forward to a good spring. Two Detachment members lost their wives recently. Ann Schreck who was a Detachment member and the wife of Dick Schreck. Tony Mini's wife, Virginia passed away after a long illness. Let's keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

I represented the Slattery Detachment and attended a ceremony on February 4th in Kearny, NJ. It was the 75th anniversary that the USAT Dorchester, a transport ship, carrying 902 people, was hit by a German U-boat torpedo about 100 miles from the coast of Greenland. During all the chaos, hundreds of sailors feared for their lives, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Father John P. Washington and the Revs. George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling gave up their life jackets and looked to help calm down the men on the sinking ship. Within about 20 minutes, the four chaplains and 670 others went down with the ship.

The Marine Corps League looks for deserving Detachment members and persons who support us to be nominated for the "LEGION OF HONOR" award. Many of our Detachment members have received this award over the years.

And don't forget to keep in your thoughts and prayers all those Men & Women who wear the uniform of our Military Services who are away from home in another state or some country around the globe; and don't forget those who are deployed all around the world protecting our Freedom and for those countries that cannot do it alone.

Let's continue to support our Detachment and make it even better. Look to bring in new members so we can grow. We all should be thankful for what we have and to enjoy, our Family, Friends and the Camaraderie of serving our Country and Corps.

Semper Fi, Neas Out

Our boat ride over

We got ready for Vietnam by heading to San Diego on May 21st, 1965 on a truck and bus convoy trip down from Camp Pendleton. We would spend the following several days on the naval pier avoiding work parties wherever and whenever we could.

The ship we would be taking over to first Hawaii (although we didn't know it yet) was on the USS Pickaway (APA222). The Pickaway was an older WWII transport ship and soon to be the home for the approximately 1800 Marines and sailors of the 2nd Battalion 7th Marines.

On the morning of the 22nd of May, after a day on the pier or near it, we were told we would be boarding that evening. We boarded the USS Pickaway on May 23 in the evening and told where we would be berthed. Most went down to claim their bunks in the hold. I was no exception. Many of our H&S Company didn't remember the "Rules to Boat Rides".

Never take a bottom bunk! Try not to get a lower bunk! The higher you go the less you will be "puked on".

I took the third up in the five bunk high tier. I figured that yes, there were two above me but I was higher than the splashes when those above me would "puke" on the deck if they would.

Most of it didn't matter as I spent the majority of my evenings up "topside" on the main deck due to the stench (not only the heaving but the B.O. of a few days without a shower by some. Smelly feet didn't help either. Besides, the deck was in the fresh air and I didn't feel confined. We finally boarded the ship to get our living arrangements squared away. Many of the Marines charged down the gangways in to the deep recesses of the lower holds and proudly claimed the lower bunks. Others wanted the upper or top bunks.

The bunks were 4 or 5 high depending on which "hold" you were in. In our hold the bunks were 5 high. I took the middle and told most of the rest of our 12-man team to do the same. Some chose to follow my lead while others wanted the lower bunks.

We stowed away the gear we had brought along as well as our personal gear. Most of our belongings we didn't need had remain behind and been stored at Camp Pendleton during the days before our mount out. We still had our duffel bags full of utilities and the 782 gear (canteens, cargo belt, knap sacs, etc).

When we finished in the hold, we went back "topside" and then off the ship. For the remainder of that day we did very little except keep out of the way of Sgt. Sheldon or one of the corporals who were looking for people to go on a "work party." Some of us started treating this time like we were in combat already with "lookout" stationed watching for the "enemy of the work party."

That night, on the pier, there was a lot of talk about where we were going. Everyone assumed that it would be Vietnam. Some still had only a slight idea of where Vietnam was. Someone had the Look Magazine of late 1964 with the HMM-363 article in it. This did not exactly cheer any of us up. The article showed a week in the eyes of a corporal who was a crew chief aboard a H-34 helicopter in Vietnam. It ended with one of the corporals friends dying during an assault while moving the troops of the Republic of Vietnam Army (ARVN). It was a sobering story and a prelude to what was about to happen to our Marines of 27.

We were issued C-rations before leaving Pendleton to eat during the 1st day on the pier at San Diego This was to last us as the departure of the Pickaway wasn't scheduled until May 24 but, we didn't know this as none of us knew exactly which day we would debark. That night the choice was either board the Pickaway and sleep there or sleep on the pier. Several of us chose the pier figuring we would be aboard ship for several weeks and didn't need extra time on board. The following morning dawned to find some of the Marines venturing out to the local McDonalds to get something to eat and to buy "carryouts" back to those who were fortunate enough to order them.

We stayed out of the way of Sheldon most of that day but getting food to eat was a challenge. I figured if I went to get C-rations as soon as I could I would have a better chance to "skate" the duties. Each of us was to draw 3 boxes for that day's needs on the pier.

As this distribution point "held a captive audience" one might say it was a good place to fill up any needed people for any work parties. I waited until about 1100 to get mine. When I finally got my C-rations, Sgt. Sheldon was nowhere to be seen. I was however approached by someone in supply to help out with some moving. I told him I was "PM'ing (Preventive Maintenance) the radio gear. He left mumbling but didn't bother me anymore. This was a particularly boring day and by early afternoon we were looking for something to do. Grabbing "ZZZZs" was about all we could do that afternoon. This was no easy choir as it was in the high 80s and there weren't an abundance of shaded spots to lie down in on the open pier.

That evening we were all ordered to board ship. There we found any open place to rack out but there wasn't a whole lot of sleep as the excitement and anticipation of leaving kept many of us up most of the night

There were card games and money lost and made that night but finally about 0200 most had found a spot to rack out. I slept under one of the large lifeboats and semi-hidden from the work party NCOs.

There was question about where PFC Tom Wardrop III was as no one had seen him since the previous afternoon. Several questioned if he got emergency leave while others joked that he just plain left. Now, that would not have been Tom as Tom was all Marine. One Marine said he saw Tom getting into a little red sports car about 1600 hours the afternoon before. "Yea right, getting into a little red sports car. He probably went to the races," was the return sarcastic comment on that statement.

On the morning of May 24th, about 0700 the morning, we had an inkling that this was going to be the day that we would leave. The actions around ship and the fact that we could no longer leave the ship to go on the pier were early indications our hunches were to come to fruition. Most of us were up by 0630 and cleaned up by 0645 (didn't take us long to clean up). All we could do was just hang out having one big "smoking lamp is lit party" and looking over the rail of the ship at the pier we were tied up to. By 0730 that morning there was a bit of excitement as Sgt. Sheldon looked for Tom. We didn't give him any answer, as we didn't know.

We were about to leave the harbor and looking over the port side of the ship about 0830 when a bright red two-seater sports car came roaring up to a screeching halt. The top was down and there in the passenger's seat was Tom. Next to him driving was a beautiful and very shapely blond in sunglasses. Tom jumped out, ran around and opened to door for her to get out. He got the nod and as he was about to board he planted a big kiss on the blond as we cheered. He looked up and gave a small wave and then planted another one as she walked him up to the gangplank and talked to the OIC. The discussion lasted for a few minutes as Tom stood nearby. He saluted asked permission to come aboard and was granted permission. Tom then boarded without any further problem. We later found out she was the wife of some big Naval officer who was on an extended tour in the Pacific.

Continued next page.

Our boat ride over continued

Poor Tom, I guess had been comforting her on his last night before shipping out.

About 1030, we heard over the speakers "Make ready to be underway," which meant that we were leaving. It was then that we heard the second call over the speakers, "Prepare to get underway." After a few minutes the ship's engines were revving up and tugs were pulling the huge ship away from where we had been moored for the last few days. The tugs pushed and pulled and swung the ship 90 degrees and pointed it out of the shipping channel the pier was located on.

Now, as we were headed west the engines kicked in and the ship slowly began to pick up speed and head up the channel towards the mouth. It was then that we heard the third call over the speakers, "Now hear this, now hear this, all Marines fall in." You could hear all the commanding officers (COs) of the various companies giving their commands. "H&S Company fall in over here" was Lt. Grosz command as he pointed to the spot he wanted us to fall in on. The other COs repeated basically the same message to their companies.

After a few minutes the loud speaker erupted with another, "Now hear this, now hear this." Then silence as we looked up at the speakers. One would have thought that the speakers would magically change into a person the way we looked at them. Heck, they were a new entity that we hadn't seen before and I guess that these speakers fascinated us.

As we gazed at the speakers, a Lt. Colonel took his place in an area that was out of my sight but within the gaze of several of the COs. There was a loud, "Attention" by one of the COs followed immediately by twin responses by most of the other COs and NCOs. So there we were, aboard ship and the ship was moving standing in formation at attention. "Good morning Marines, my name is Lt. Colonel Leon B. Utter and I am your battalion's new commanding officer." You could have heard a pin drop and the only other new thing aboard ship were the grins of a bunch of happy Marines as we welcomed the news of a new CO.

Colonel Utter told us, "At easy and smoke them if you have them." He went on to tell us that he was an enlisted man during the Second World War and in fact he walked guard duty around the powder keg area off our starboard side as we passed the weapons complex he referred to. We were informed that we would be some of the first combat Marines to enter Vietnam and that several battalions had landed several months before. He went on to say that our task would not be an easy one but knowing of our training, we would perform the job in a satisfactory manner. The colonel voice then got sober, "Men, look to your right at the Marine next to you, now look to your left at that Marine. Now remember this, one of you three will not be returning with us." There wasn't a sound nor would one have been heard had there been one.

He went on to tell us that when he was first in the Marine Corps, they would venture out to Lookout Point on the far tip of the channel that was accessible then. They would watch the ships as they departed the channel heading over to fight the early battles during WWII. "Today, as we pass 'Point Lomas' the farthest you can get is the cemetery which you can see off our port side. The viewing point we had is 'Off Limits' to most people." Colonel Utter then told us, "Go a head and take a look at it as it will be the last glimpse you will have of the Mainland for many months." The Marines acted like a herd, all moving at one time towards the port side for the 'last look'.

"I'm sure we will have a good relationship together as I'm well aware of your leadership and I've watched you perform in the past few weeks. I know that you'll make me proud. That is all." With that he left the microphone and "Company commanders take charge of your companies." were the last orders heard prior to the COs saying, "H&S Companies, Echo, Companies or whichever company, fall in, company attention, dismissed." And before one could hide the NCOs were issuing orders for this and that.

It was a sobering speech that Colonel Utter made. Later in life I would be reminded of this 45 minute talk (during 2001 or 2002, Mel Gibson would read a similar one in the script of "We Were Young Once" about the 1st Cavalry and their IIDrang battle of November 1965). We continued on to the west as we watched the American landscape fade into the eastern sky. There wasn't a lot of talk about the "Look to you right" part of the speech as we were young and nothing could stop us. We would soon find out different.

We made it to Hawaii and got a 36 hour "Liberty" so we booked a room on about the 8th floor next to the beach. Note: When I say beach I say it only because that is what Honolulu calls it. There are places along the beach where there isn't a beach but an elevated walkway and other places where the beach is a foot or two wide. We had a good time and the 36 hours passed fast. Several of our communications section got a hotel room down by Waikiki Beach. The beach really didn't impress me at the time. In fact there were parts that you had to walk a 4 x 6" plank to get to the next beach section. Then it was back on the Pickaway and heading west to Okinawa for several weeks of advanced training and off loaded our supplies. We spent a week or 10 days at Camp Schwab which was mostly uneventful. I did get a massage and steam bath. The girl walked on my back and all in all I enjoyed it.

So, I'm sitting on the transport ship in the middle of the Pacific when I get a copy of late June, 1965 edition of Stars and Strips. As I read the publication I noticed an article about a Green Beret in Saigon. In the story I found out he wouldn't fulfill his orders to go up to the Central Highlands. The headline read "Demonstrators Back Steinke" - hey, I my neighbors name is Steinke. Reading further was the story about him and I couldn't believe it. He was the "darling" of the neighborhood to many there as he went to West Point and became a "Green Beret". I always thought he was a horses butt who thought his ---- didn't stink. The article went on to state, "Early in the war, in June, 1965, Green Beret 1st Lieut. Richard R. Steinke was convicted by a courtmartial of refusing to obey orders and expose himself to "hazardous conditions" and "hostile elements" when ordered to join a Special Forces unit in a Vietnamese village of Gia Vuc. Well, He was dismissed from service and forfeiture of pay. I guess our hero got hit by his bad karma. I chuckled many times for the rest of the trip.

Then on June 30 we loaded our equipment and boarded the ship and headed south. We arrived off "Green Beach" (the military always has a colorful name for the beaches) at Qui Nhon, Vietnam on 06 July 1965. The following morning it was over the side with a full pack and radio and down the cargo nets to waiting landing crafts that were bobbing up and down in the water. At about 0700 we hit the beach and took up defensive positions with rifles and pistols at the ready. In front of us were beautiful girls riding by on the main drag in colorful dresses and laughing.

We stayed on the beach for three days in 100+ degree heat before moving west to what would be our new battalion command post (CP). This was located at Phu Tai (4) (named after a string of villages all given the name Phu Tai. It was about 12 miles west of Qui Nhon in the rolling hills. The area we were in, occupied by the French a dozen years prior, was used as an artillery post. There was a huge pit where the gun emplacements were and low hills all around. A few rice paddies and a stream of not so fresh water.

Semper Fi
Tom Miller