

**THE PATRIOT****General J. P. Holland Chapter***The Military Order of the World Wars, North County, San Diego***Commander's Corner**

Another year has gone by quickly and it was both challenging and interesting! I have tried to operate the Chapter within the guidelines established by MOWW HQ. We have had the good fortune to have an excellent staff and diversified speakers thanks to Carl Sweptson (Speaker Chair). I want to thank them all. We now have participation by more High Schools in our Regional YLC Program thanks to Nick Herbka (YLC & JR ROTC Chair). Spring time is the period for election of new MOWW Officers across all Chapters. At the June Meeting, Col Dave Epstein returns as our MOWW Commander, Earl Wentworth as the Vice Commander, Don Hershberger and Dave Olivet continue as Adjutant and Treasurer, respectively. Chaplain Dave Korinek continues to inspire us all. We are in good hands. With the July issue, the publication of this Newsletter returns to Cdr. Tom Lettington with Col. Dave Epstein as the Editor. As past Commander, I thank you. Best wishes to all, and please support the new MOWW Officers. Andre LeCault.

*******7 June, 2014 Guest Speaker*********Lieutenant Junior Grade Samantha M. Leon****Incident Management Division Chief for Coast Guard Sector San Diego**

Lt. Leon will be presenting on the role of the Coast Guard in today's military and the role of Coast Guard Women. She is responsible for coordinating operations and logistics for pollution incidents, marine casualties, terrorism, natural and terrorist disaster relief and mitigation. In addition to this role, she also serves as a Boarding Officer and Command Duty Officer. In the role as Boarding Officer, LTJG Leon ensures boaters adhere to U.S. Federal Laws and suppress terrorist threats to the San Diego area. As Command Duty Officer, she manages the response to Search and Rescue and Law Enforcement.

We meet at the Rancho Bernardo Heights Country Club (16066 Bernardo Heights Parkway, San Diego, California 92128) on the 1st Saturday of each Month from 11am to 2pm. Contact Don Hershberger to reserve space (you can bring guests) at 858-538-2513 or email him at donald@san.rr.com.



Hats Off to Volunteers Ceremony Rancho Bernardo, 26 April 2014



MOWW's J. P. Holland's Chapter Past and Future Commander, COL. David Epstein, AUS (Ret) was recognized for coordinating past awards and recognitions with at least three Junior ROTC programs at local High Schools and helped secure funding to send students to our area's Youth Leadership Conference.



MOWW's Nick Herbka attended the 2014 Eagle Scout Recognition Dinner. Our MOWW Chapter sponsored Eagle Scout's Cory Flewellen, who was a member of the Westview NJROTC, and their Color Guard Commander for two years.



At the May 3rd MOWW luncheon, Lt Col. Richard Wandke, U.S. Army (Ret) was presented with a MOWW Certificate of Appreciation by J.P. Holland Chapter Commander Andre LeCault, for Richard's well received presentation on events that led him to join the ROTC in his early days before going to his Basic Course at Fort Benning. Lt Col. Wandke also talked about the significance of Memorial day and included remarks about his First Sergeant who was killed in Vietnam. Lt Col. Wandke, thank you for your service and years of dedication.



Captured!

by James F. Sansom

December 1944, our squad: ten riflemen, one Browning Automatic Rifleman (BARMAN) and one medic were assigned to a farmhouse, several miles south of Hosingen, Luxembourg.

For nearly two weeks we stayed on alert. The mess truck would bring us a hot meal along with our mail each day at noon. Other meals were mostly C-Rations. It had been rumored that when Christmas neared, we would be sent to Bastogne, Belgium for some R&R. We were all looking forward to that!

The farmhouse had 18-inch concrete block walls. We entered via a side door, then up a flight of stairs to a large room, approximately 30 feet square, with three smaller rooms along one side. The house had a wood-coal stove which kept the entire house warm. In addition to providing much-needed warmth, it was also used to heat coffee, hot chocolate, and food.

On the morning of December 16th at 0600 hours, Sgt. John Reardon was giving the morning report on the telephone when communications were broken. The lines had apparently been cut. Almost immediately there was incoming mortar fire, with explosions on the roof, coming from a wooded area about 800-1000 yards away. Machine gun fire quickly followed, with rounds hitting the house. Multiple rounds began penetrating the windows.

The men immediately took up positions (mostly in the barn), returning fire at some Germans spotted near the edge of the wood line. The BARMAN, Joe Glick, had taken up a position in the barn's loft, firing at the enemy near the wooded area. He was lying prone, shooting through an open window.

It seemed at first that the skirmish in which we were involved was just a German patrol. We observed several German tanks traveling up and down the nearby road, firing at random.

As the time drew close to noon, the men were still at their posts. Since I was the squad medic, I was kept busy preparing hot chocolate and food rations for those in positions.

At approximately 1300 hours, I was informed that Joe Glick had been hit. I immediately rushed to him, finding a gaping wound above his right ear. I dressed his wound, injected morphine and began artificial respiration. Within 30 minutes, he had no pulse. He never regained consciousness. One of the other men took over the BAR.

About 1600 hours, two Germans, who had crept within a hundred yards of the farmhouse, were wounded. A couple of our guys decided to go after them and to look for souvenirs. I gave them my Red Cross armbands and they took a litter to bring the Germans back. They were brought to the main house; their wounds were minor, in their arms and legs. I dressed their wounds and gave them hot chocolate.

(continued on Page 4)



Captured (continued)

About dusk, a German tank rolled into the yard. Someone in the tank called out something in German. Our prisoners called back in German, which I didn't understand. As I was coming down the stairs, some kind of concussion grenade detonated and I was thrown to the floor. The tank then drove away. I got up, ran to the barn where the others were, and told Sgt. Reardon what had occurred.

As darkness descended, we talked quietly in the loft, and then attempted to get some sleep.

Just before dawn, several Germans with flashlights entered the barn where we were hiding. We kept quiet and they left. There was a small room beneath the loft where we had hidden, closing the entrance with hay bales. Several times, three or four Germans would enter the barn, look around, then leave.

At approximately 1000 hours, several more Germans armed with machine pistols entered the barn and searched. One of the enemy soldiers pulled away a hay bale and found us. We shouted "Hier! Rause!" (Here! Out!). I was the first out, then the rest followed. We were lined up along a fence outside. We were told, "Hands Up!" and then searched. They took watches, jewelry, cigarettes, and chocolate bars. The German soldiers had a discussion with a lieutenant. We were very fearful for our lives. We were marched across a field toward some woods. Someone in our ranks whispered, "Surely we will all be shot now!" As we got to an area where several logs were stacked, we were ordered to sit. The lieutenant attempted to interrogate us. His English was very limited and we acted as though we didn't understand him. Then with our hands up, we were herded with other captured U.S. troops, totaling up to 2,000.

Late in the day, I was taken in a truck to work in a hospital along with several other medics. The others journeyed several days to prison camps. I worked six weeks in hospitals. Then for five weeks I was in Stalag XIIA and six weeks in IXB, where I was later liberated.

Our squad of the 110th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Division in December 1944 consisted of: Pvt. Melvin Braiser (POW) Chartley, MA; Pvt. Bernard Cohen (POW, Bridgeport, CT; Pvt. Frank DeLorenzo (POW), Norwich, NY; Pvt Joe Glick (KIA), Hudson, NY; Pvt David McCartney (POW), Oxford, PA; Sgt. John Reardon (POW), Chicago, IL; Pvt Francis Rozelle (POW), S. Glen Falls, NY; Pvt Fred Roth (POW), Medina, NY; Pvt Fred Roys (POW), Muskegan, MI; Sgt. Russell Schneider (POW), Pittsburgh, PA; Pvt Al Turek (POW), Brooklyn, NY; Pvt James Sansom (POW), Raleigh, NC.





"We're out of crayons ..."



"Okay, we'll meet back here at 1600 hours. Synchronize your BlackBerries."



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Trivia Questions

(Source: www.triviacountry.com)

1. What southeastern state was the last to return to the Union after the Civil War.
2. What president ordered the integration of America's armed forces?
3. Adolf Hitler called his country home Eagle's Nest. What name did Winston Churchill give to his?
4. What American billionaire tried to airlift 28 tons of medicine and Christmas gifts to American POWs in North Vietnam in 1969?
5. Where was the Battle of Bunker Hill actually fought in June 1775?
6. What was the Allies' password on D-Day?

(Answers on Page 8)



"How can you make so many mistakes when you only have two options: left or right?"



The Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain Major Dave Korinek

“Deeply Rooted”

Chaplain (COL) Ralph Gore, USAR

Reprinted from “The Army Chaplaincy”, Summer-Fall 2010

Ephesians 3:17-19 “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

The Seattle Space Needle was completed for the 1962 Seattle World's Fair. It rises 605 feet into the air and, at the time of its completion, was the tallest building west of the Mississippi. There is an observation deck 520 feet above the ground, which requires 848 steps to reach. Or, if you take the elevator, you travel at 10 miles per hour, approximately the speed of a falling raindrop. The observation deck provides a 360-degree panorama of the surrounding countryside, enabling visitors to see the Cascade Mountains to the east, the Olympic Mountains to the west, Mount Rainier to the South, and Puget Sound to the North-Northwest. There is a revolving restaurant at the top that weighs approximately 125 tons and is moved (rotated) by a one-and one-half horsepower motor.

The foundation for the space needle is 30 feet deep and 120 feet across. In the largest continuous pour of concrete ever attempted in the west, 467 trucks took 12 hours to place 5,850 tons of concrete. The Space Needle is fastened to its foundation with 74 bolts, each 32 feet long and 4 inches in diameter. The foundation weighs substantially more than the Needle itself, making the center of gravity for the Space Needle five feet above ground. The Space Needle was built to double the standards for the 1962 building code.

It regularly sustains gusts of wind up to 90 miles an hour and was built to withstand gusts of 200 miles per hour. An earthquake in 1965, measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale, did no damage to the structure. On the observation deck, a record player that was playing at the time of the quake did not even skip a beat. The reason the Space Needle is able to sustain such high winds and natural forces is that it has been deeply rooted, with foundations so wide and so firm that nothing moves it at all.

Paul (the apostle) prayed that the Ephesian believers would find themselves so deeply rooted in the love of Christ, that wide, deep, and firm love, that they would have the power to know the unknowable love of God. An interesting paradox, isn't it? To know that which is beyond knowing. Perhaps the reason we sometimes lose our center of gravity and find ourselves blown about by circumstances is our failure to learn better how deep, how wide, and how firm is the foundation that is God's love.



Israel's Sayeret Matkal

(Article from: SOFREP)



The Sayeret Matkal (General Staff Reconnaissance Unit) is the principal SOF (Special Operations Force) unit for Israel. Sayeret Matkal is also tasked with counter terrorism and hostage rescue beyond Israel's borders. The unit is modeled after the British SAS. In the IDF it is known as "the Unit."

The Israeli Army's Sayeret Matkal (General Staff Commando Unit) began life in 1957 as part of Aman (Military Intelligence Unit 154), designed to operate deep behind enemy lines. Masters of disguise, they originally consisted of Jews who spoke Arabic as a native language along with paratroopers, intelligence personnel and other experienced hands from the military. They adopted the British Special Air service motto of "Who Dares Wins," and often operated in Arab lands gathering vital intelligence for the nation.

In the 1960's Sayeret Matkal was transformed from a reconnaissance unit to a commando force. They began setting standards of excellence for the world's elite units and influenced combat tactics in the Israeli Defense Forces, along with a central role in some of the world's most famous Special Forces missions.

Chief among these was Operation Thunderbolt (later renamed Operation Jonatan) where they stormed the airport terminal in Entebbe, Uganda on July 4, 1976 to rescue 106 Jewish and French hostages of an Air France flight hijacked by Palestinian and German terrorists.

Another notable operation occurred in 1988, when the Unit dispatched P.L.O terrorist mastermind Abu Jihad after uncovering a plot to kidnap soldiers in the Israeli Defense Ministry. In the dead of night, the strike team eliminated Jihad's guards and entered his bedroom, shooting him dozens of times as he roused from sleep before making their getaway.

It was near this time the unit was first acknowledged to the world by Israel.

More recently, they are believed to have been involved in reconnaissance in Syria as an asset to Operation Orchard, the bombing of Syria's nuclear facilities.

Candidates wanting to join the unit are selected on "Yom Hasayarot" or commando day. Then they begin the Gibbush or "crystallization" day. Here begins evaluations for the next six days as they undergo grueling physical and mental challenges. Those who pass are invited to continue training. This will incur an additional twenty months consisting of the following:

- Four months of Paratrooper training.
- Two months of advanced infantry training.
- Three week parachutists course.
- Five week Counter Terrorism course.

Weaved among all of these are daily exercises of physical and mental conditioning, marksmanship, weapons knowledge, navigation, martial arts, and commando tactics and skills.

In the final months of the course, candidates must undergo tests in long range navigation, in pairs and alone, before graduation.

The final four days are the infamous 120 kilometer "Beret March" across harsh terrain. This brings all who complete the final exercise to the mountain fortress of Masada. to be greeted by cheering veterans of the unit, as well as receiving a visit by helicopter from the Chief of Staff. Now wearing maroon berets they become part of Israel's most elite unit, although due to its secrecy, no member is allowed to wear its emblem of a sword and wings in public.

Size of Sayeret Matkal remains classified, but is believed to number about 200.



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(Effective June 7, 2014)



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Calendar

3 June 2014 MOWW Chapter Meeting

8 June, Westview JR ROTC Ceremony

4 July, Independence Day

5 July, MOWW Chapter Meeting Dark
(so that we can all enjoy a long 4th of July)

2 August MOWW Chapter Meeting

Birthdays In June

2 June, Gary Carlson

2 June, Israel Narvaez

5 June, Wilbur Brothers

24 June, Catherine Fulton

Answers to the Trivia Questions

1. Georgia
2. Harry S. Truman, in 1948.
3. Cosy Pig, although it was formally known as Chartwell.
4. Ross Perot.
5. On Breed's hill, southeast of Bunker hill.
6. "Mickey Mouse"