

THE SCUTTLEBUTT

ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL



The Official Publication of the
Stanly County Detachment 1021
Marine Corps League
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Editor
L. D. Roush

April, 2018

2017-2018 OFFICERS

Paul Hummel, Commandant
Senior Vice Commandant William T. Pressley
Junior Vice Commandant Russell T. Arronis
Judge Advocate John M. Smith
Adjutant/Paymaster Gary L. Bryan
Chaplin Eli E. Galloway
Sergeant-at-Arms Larry L. Shoe
Historian Lawrence D. Roush

COMMANDANT'S COMMENTS

MARINES and ASSOCIATES, the Golf tournament is on the Horizon, red sky in the morning sailors take warning. Red sky at night sailors delight or in our case Marine delight. I had flyers printed with new information and pertinent info on the back of the flyer and they are ready for distribution and solicitation of hole sponsors.

We have 3 months plus to acquire the most ever sponsors for this tournament. This should be another successful fundraising effort by our Troops if we all support the cause. I realize that some of you may feel that your selling talents are lacking but you may surprise both you and the Commandant by trying. Flyers and Packets were handed out at our Quarterly Breakfast on the 14th; if you did not get yours be sure to get one at our 30 April meeting. 4/30 meeting.

Hopefully the winter has passed and better weather is upon us.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

SEMPER FI

Paul Hummel
Commandant

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE STANLY COUNTY DETACHMENT 1021 MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING 26 MARCH 2018

OPENING – Commandant Hummel called the meeting to order and appropriate customs and form were carried out.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS – Members in attendance 22 and DVC D. Mathias. Junior Past Commandant

Watson was absent.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP – A prospective new associate member, Aspyn Hummel, was proposed for Membership by Commandant Hummel.

BALLOTING ON APPLICATIONS - Ms. Hummel was not available, but her membership was unanimously approved.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the last meeting as published in "The Scuttlebutt" and seconded. The motion passed.

PAYMASTER'S REPORT – Paymaster Bryan presented the following report.

RECEIPTS:

50/50	\$	-
New Associate Membership dues (Stone & Hummel)	\$	75.00
Parking Signs (City of Albemarle)	\$	75.00
Parking Signs (Hummel)	\$	50.00
Parking Signs (Way Side Restaurant)	\$	35.00
Parking Signs (B. J. Drye)	\$	25.00
Parking Sign (Hardees)	\$	70.00
Sale of Life Member Patches	\$	33.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$	363.00

DISBURSEMENTS:

Administrative Supplies	\$	4.73
Dept. of NC (Parking Signs 5PH and 10 Vet.)	\$	300.00
National Dues (Stone & Hummel)	\$	50.00
Department Dues (Stone & Hummel)	\$	10.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$	364.73

Certificate of Deposit (Bank of North Carolina)	\$	10,000.00
Checking Account Balance	\$	14,791.30
Cash on Hand	\$	11.87
Due from Members	\$	257.99
Due from Parking signs	\$	50.00
Outstanding Checks	\$	55.00
TOTAL	\$	25,157.89

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$ 0
CONTINGENCY FUND	\$ 6,255.54
MARINE CORPS BALL	\$ 0

A motion was made to accept the report, it was seconded and passed.

Paymaster Bryan reported to the membership that the dues for new members have gone up \$5.00 at National. A new member who joins will require a payment of \$40.00. Annual dues thereafter will be \$35.00 per year due on August 31st of each year.

MEMBERS/FAMILIES IN DISTRESS - The Commandant reported that Mr. Bureson who had cancer that is associated with the water contamination at Camp Lejeune has died. He described the steps he took to arrange for a Marine Honor Guard for the family and the quick response from Marine Corps Headquarters and the Charlotte Marines. Both he and Senior Vice Commandant also attended representing the Detachment.

Marine Aronis reports that his grandfather is on his death bed and he will be leaving right after the meeting for New York.

Marine D. Burris is down with some kind of bug and can barely speak. Hope you feel better soon Danny.

Junior Past Commandant Watson is performing nursing duties for his brother who had a knee replacement. While he was changing some bedding he tripped himself and took a nose dive into a shelf. Following five hours at the ER he is expecting to make a full recovery.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Marine Corps Ball - Members are reminded to suggest alternate locations for this year's Ball.

Toys for Tots - Marine Pressley reported that Stanly County Detachment 1021 has been approved for 2018.

Scholarship - Marine Bryan reported that he had discussed the Scholarship program with Marine Watson and if he could have been here Marine Watson would have recommended that the Detachment authorize three \$1,000.00 scholarships. The applications are prepared and ready to be distributed so that candidates can start their submissions. Following discussion from the floor the membership agreed that the amount to be awarded should be authorized before applications were distributed. A motion was made to authorize three, one thousand dollar (\$1,000.00) scholarships for 2018. The motion was seconded and passed. Marine Roush will provide a mailing of the Scholarship Applications to all members.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Golf Tournament - Marine Bryan described a conversation he and Marine Burris had with Roger Dick of Uwharrie Capital. Mr. Dick promised \$500.00 as sponsorship from the Bank toward our Golf Tournament, and also provided the names of several local businessmen who he suggests we solicit. Mr. Dick said we could use his name and the Bank's when we contact them and say the Bank would match their donation.

Commandant Hummel is developing flyers to be placed around the area announcing the Tournament.

Building - Marine Wooten has built shelves in our new/old Container under very unpleasant weather conditions to store Detachment supplies. Thanks Johnny a job well done. Now we need to get some suggestions on painting the container. Several thoughts on the color were made and DVC Mathias offered the name of a Marine (Charles Wilson) in the Charlotte Detachment who does work like this and contact will be made to see if a logo or some other signage might be possible.

NEW BUSINESS - We have received an application to appear at Troyfest. It was decided to appear, but we have no raffle items so we are going with donations and a 50/50 drawing. It will be June 30th.

Commandant Hummel introduced the subject of the election of Detachment Officers at our next meeting. There have been no nominations for the positions, so the current slate of officers will run unopposed, with one exception. Senior Vice Commandant W. Pressley will be the Toys for Tots Coordinator, and Marine D. Burris will run for the Senior Vice Commandant position. The appointed officers will also remain the same with the Adjutant/ Paymaster position being split between Marine Bryan and Marine Batten; therefore the slate of officers to be elected/appointed at the next meeting will be;

- Commandant - Paul Hummel
- Senior Vice Commandant - Danny Burris
- Junior Vice Commandant - Russell Aronis
- Judge Advocate - John Smith
- Adjutant - Gary Bryan
- Paymaster - David Batten
- Chaplain - Eli Galloway
- Sergeant at Arms - Larry Shoe
- Historian - Larry Roush

Marine Shoe asked if the membership was satisfied with the nominations, and since there were no members being opposed, would he have to go through the full process of calling for nominations for each position three times. Members were in agreement that the ritual was time consuming and had little relevance to our situation. DVC Mathias, the Department Judge Advocate, noted that with the membership concurrence the election ritual could be bypassed with a motion for a simple vote on the proposed slate. The election and installation of officers will take place at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS -

GOOD OF THE LEAGUE - The Commandant reported that the VFW financial difficulties is continuing and as a cost cutting measure they are no longer paying the bartender. One bartender had to be removed and it is a tips only operation. A motion was made to donate the Detachments share of tonight's 50/50 to the bartenders. The motion was seconded and passed. NOTE: from the Paymaster: \$60.00 was donated.

Commandant Hummel continued with the VFW theme by asking about the "rent" we pay the VFW to hold our

meetings here and when it should be paid. Following a discussion it was decided that we will pay the VFW \$500.00 annually each June for the privilege of holding our monthly meeting in the Post and to have our Container on their property. A motion to that effect was made, seconded, and passed.

Marine Jordan asked about the next Quarterly Breakfast. It was determined that we will meet at the Parkway House on April 14th at 0900.

Marine Clontz reported that she had sent out Valentine Cards to the Veterans in the local Nursing Homes and distributed blankets provided by Marine Pressley to the Veterans. Good Job Marine.

A discussion was held regarding the level of help the Detachment felt was appropriate for local veterans in distress. Commandant Hummel described a local veteran (not Marine) who had suffered a brain injury and was faced with hospital bills as well as others and couldn't work. The Stanly Veterans Council had provided some help, but what was our position on helping veterans between meetings. Following a discussion period a motion was made that if the Commandant and at least two other elected officers agreed, a donation of up to \$200.00 could be made. The motion was seconded and passed.

Remarks from DVC Mathias: DVC Mathias provided information on burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Any member interested in considering Arlington as their final resting place, contact Adjutant Bryan for further information and to evaluate your options.

Closing – The appropriate customs and form were carried out and the meeting was closed until April 30th.

Addresses and Phone Numbers; Members are reminded to notify the Adjutant if your address or phone number changes. Address changes need to be reported to National to keep the record straight and ensure you continue to receive the Semper Fi and Scuttlebutt. Same goes for email.

THE BATTLE FOR OKINAWA

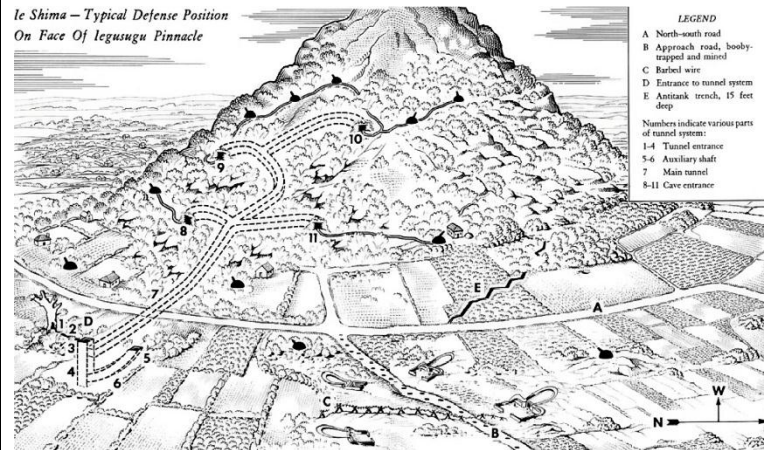
The Battle of Okinawa, also known as Operation Iceberg, nicknamed the "typhoon of steel" in English, and *tetsu no ame* ("rain of steel") or *tetsu no bōfū* ("violent wind of steel") in Japanese, was the biggest amphibious assault in that theater. The battle resulted in victory for the Allies, with huge casualties being inflicted on the Japanese army despite substantial losses for the Americans as well. This proved to be almost the last serious defense of Japanese territory before the end of the war in August.

Lying at the extreme southern tip of Japan. Okinawa, only a few miles wide and around 60 miles in length, was one of the most strategically important locations in the whole country. Under the command of Lt. General Ushijima, Okinawa had four air bases, defended by more than 130,000 Japanese troops.

The American plan for final victory in the Pacific had several aspects, but the capturing of Okinawa was at the plan's core. The main strategic objective, apart

from gaining territory from the Japanese, was twofold. First, the capture of the island's airfields would allow U.S. planes to use them as bases from which they could bomb the industrial centers of Japan. Second, the remnants of Japan's merchant shipping fleet were to be destroyed in order to cut off supplies to the enemy.

Preparations for the Battle



A US military diagram of typical Japanese hill defensive tunnels and installations



A Japanese Type 89 150mm gun hidden inside a cave defensive system

The Japanese under Ushijima resolved to concentrate their men at the southern end of Okinawa, with troops stationed in a number of secure fortified posts throughout the area. The idea was that only a dangerous frontal assault by the American attackers would have a realistic hope of capturing the forts.

Four Army Divisions (7th, 27th, 77th, and 96th) and three Marine Divisions (1st, 2nd, and 6th) totaling 180,000 troops were ordered to land along the western coast of Okinawa. Influenced by lessons learned at Iwo Jima a few weeks earlier, the Americans commenced heavy bombardment in mid-March, 1945.



The battleship *USS Idaho* shells Okinawa on April 1, 1945 and on April 1, American forces landed.



US Marine reinforcements wade ashore to support the beachhead on Okinawa, April 1, 1945.

By nightfall, Hagushi bay had seen 60,000 military personnel come ashore. Many of these pushed north, where the lightly defended countryside was easily taken; by April 20, the northern half of Okinawa was effectively secured.

The southern portion of the island, where the bulk of the Japanese defensive forces had been stationed, proved to be a much harder nut to crack. The XIV Corps, made up of four infantry divisions, reached the Machinato Line on April 4, and this brought about a halt in their previous steady advance.

It took almost three weeks to breach the line, after which the secondary Shuri Line also caused severe delays. The time that it took the Americans to break through these lines resulted in heavy casualties.

Ushijima, seeing that things were going badly for his men, ordered them to counter-attack on May 3, but the assault was repulsed by U.S. soldiers. On May 21, he was forced to order a retreat from the Shuri Line, although at this point morale remained reasonably high and resistance continued. As the battle wore on, however, and further losses followed, the Japanese lost heart and in late June, Ushijima committed suicide. On July 2, the Americans declared Okinawa secure.

THE BATTLE AT SEA: The United States force for the invasion itself consisted of almost 1,500 ships, of which only a fifth were warships, the rest being used for transport of personnel and supplies. 368 Allied ships—including 120 amphibious craft—were damaged while another 36—including 15 amphibious ships and 12 destroyers—were sunk during the Okinawa campaign.

The US Navy's dead exceeded its wounded, with 4,907 killed and 4,874 wounded, primarily from *kamikaze* attacks, which began April 6. Although the large majority of the kamikaze attacks – nearly 200 of them in all – were destroyed by American fire, around two dozen succeeded in hitting their targets. Nevertheless, the difficulty caused to the American fleet was less than it might have been, thanks to the low proportion of the planes that made it through at all.

On 6 April the Japanese super battleship Yamato, commanded by Admiral Seiichi Itō, set sail, with orders to fight through enemy naval forces, then beach itself and fight from shore, using her guns as coastal artillery and her crew as naval infantry.

The force was spotted by submarines shortly after it left the Japanese home waters, and was intercepted by US carrier aircraft. Under attack from more than 300 aircraft over a two-hour span, the world's largest battleship sank on April 7, 1945, long before she could reach Okinawa. Of Yamato's screening force, the light cruiser *Yahagi* and 4 of the 8 destroyers were also sunk. The Imperial Japanese Navy lost some 3,700 sailors, including Admiral Itō, at the cost of 10 US aircraft and 12 airmen.



Death of the Yamato

The Battle of Okinawa proved to be a colossal military defeat for Japan, one of its worst of the entirety of World War Two. Well over 100,000 Japanese troops were killed, with another 7,000 taken as prisoners of war. Japanese aircraft losses totaled over 4,000. Despite its victory, the U.S. had also suffered substantial losses: The Americans suffered over 82,000 casualties, including non-battle casualties (psychiatric, injuries, illnesses), of whom over 12,500 were killed or missing. Battle deaths were 4,907 Navy, 4,675 Army, and 2,938 Marine Corps personnel.