



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

5334 Wolf Run Drive
 Gahanna, Ohio 43230-1509
 614-478-1703

Volume M1, Issue 3

May 2008 • Call To Meeting

The next three meetings of Belleau Wood Detachment are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 1900

Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 1900

Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at 1900

All meeting start promptly at 1900 and seldom last more than one hour. Just 60 minutes of your time one night each month can make a difference. Please come out and help us fill those meeting room seats. An active Detachment is a healthy Detachment.

All meetings are held at Linden AMVETS Post 89 at 3535 Westerville Road, Columbus, Ohio.

Anytime severe weather is a factor, call AMVETS Post 89 at 614-475-9007. If the Post is closed or about to be closed we will not meet.

If you would like to attend a meeting but do not have transportation, please feel free to call a Detachment officer for assistance. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Future Activities and Events

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Every Saturday | Breakfast social hour at AmVets Post 89. Members gather to exchange war stories about 0800. Everyone is welcome. |
| May 16 | 1700—OSU ROTC Color Parade and Awards Ceremony, French Field House |
| May 19 | Governor's Wreath Ceremony open to public at 1200, Veteran's Plaza, Statehouse |
| May 24 | Belleau Wood Flag placement at Eastlawn Cemetery. Meet at 0800 for the AmVet Post 89 breakfast free. |
| May 26 | Memorial Day ceremonies at the Broad Street Bridge (0900) and Eastlawn Cemetery (1000). |
| June 12-15 | 69th Ohio Department Convention. Double Tree Cleveland South, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence, OH 44131 |
| September 10-13 | Belleau Wood Detachment trip to Camp Lejeune, NC |

Detachment Officers

- **Commandant**
John Maurer
614-262-9002
- **Sr. Vice Commandant**
Mike Muncy
614-267-5194
- **Jr. Vice Commandant**
Philip Garrett
614-793-2417
- **Judge Advocate**
Joe M. Hart
614-889-2687
- **Adjutant/Paymaster**
Richard Rozzell
614-478-1703
- **Chaplain**
Earl Bailey
614-429-0601
Asst—John Myers
614-268-0926
- **Sergeant-at-Arms**
Jack Wolff
614-783-4191
Asst—Dave Baran
614-505-0185
- **Trustees**
Harry Lewis
614-764-2706

Stanley Kinney
614-262-4930

David Sheeley
614-885-4731

Steve Stiverson
740-815-8231

James Weant
740-893-2169

A word from the Commandant



Marines...I ask that you check out www.mcleague508.com to see our new detachment website. I put up the cash for a 90 day trial, and member--now Web Sergeant--Dave Baran has donated his time and efforts to doing the tech work. I hope you find it of interest, and perhaps of value to the detachment. I would like to have feedback, and you can send it to the Commandant's email address found on the site commandant@mcleague508.com. Let me know what you think of this idea, and whether

you feel it will be worth about \$120 a year for the detachment to maintain it's own website.

I feel, as do some other members, that this link may attract young marine veterans, who are all computer literate. In the Corps these days, almost everything formerly done with paperwork or face to face meetings is done by using the computer.

Each member of our detachment can have an email address set up and linked through this site. If you wish

to do so, send the department Web Sergeant an email, and let him know. Use your first initial and last name @mcleague508.com, and have a private link through this MCL website. His email address is found at the site under the Contact dogtag.

Semper Fi.

Detachment Meeting

Wednesday

May 21, 2008

1900

AMVETS Post 89

3535 Westerville

Road

Columbus, Ohio

Camp Lejeune Trip--Update

Remember that our May 21 meeting is the last opportunity for submission of your \$10 to participate in this excursion. The motel has been selected and everyone attending should make their reservations as soon as possible. The information is listed below.

Motel:
Best Western, Courtyard
Resort
603 N. Marine Blvd. (Rt. 17)
Jacksonville, NC 28540
Phone

910-455-4100
When making reservations mention that you are with Marine Corps League—
Belleau Wood Det. 508,
Columbus, OH

If you wish to get on base with your personal vehicle, a visitors pass is required. To

get one visit the main gate. You will need the following documents:

Driver's license

Registration

Proof of insurance

All of these documents must be current and valid. A pass for our entire stay can be issued.

Our schedule for this trip is:
September 10

Arrive and check in at Motel.

September 11 & 12

0600-0730 Free breakfast at motel.

0730 Muster at motel

0745 Bus ride to Camp Lejeune

0800-1130 Planned events

1130-1230 Lunch at USMC mess hall

1230-1600 Planned events

1600 Return to motel

September 12 only

1800 Dinner at MCAS New River "O" Club

September 13

Check out and departure

More information will be provided as it becomes available.



Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, the Marine Corps' top fighter ace of World War II.

USMC Colonel Boyington was a lot of things --- a Sioux Indian, a college grad with an engineering degree, a Marine Corps fighter ace, a member of the legendary Flying Tigers, an abused Japanese POW, a recipient of the Congressional Medal Of Honor, and a single parent raising three children --- but most of all he was a human being dealing with life as best he could.

Consider his last war-time flight. Boyington and his wingman see a flight of 10 Japanese fighters and charge them, wrongly thinking the rest of the Black Sheep Squadron is behind them to support them. Boyington and his wingman then discover that the 20 planes coming up behind them aren't Americans, but are more Japanese. The two Marines are facing 30 Japanese fighters.

Boyington shot down a plane (from his wingman, "Gramps, you got a flamer!"). His wingman got another enemy plane. Boyington splashed yet another. Then Boyington's wingman's plane started smoking before crashing into the Pacific Ocean, followed all the way down by firing Japanese planes.

Boyington's description of what happens next is priceless. He had shot down his 28th Japanese plane of his career and seen his friend killed --- now he was next: "I could feel the impact of the enemy fire against my armor plate, behind my back, like hail on a tin roof," he writes. "I could see enemy shots progressing along my wing tips, making patterns."

Diving to sea level in a smoking warplane, Boyington's plane burst into flames (he writes, "The sensation was

much the same as opening the door of a furnace and sticking one's head into the thing"). Barely a hundred feet from the ocean, he was forced to bail out. Parachuting from such a low altitude, he hit the water hard. Above him, four Japanese planes strafed (machine-gunned) the water around him hoping to kill this American who could no longer be a threat to them (he ducked under water whenever the Japanese fired on him).

Later a sub surfaced. A Japanese sub. And Boyington became a prisoner of war. A Japanese sailor says to him in English, "You don't have to worry about anything as long as you're on this boat" --- causing Boyington to think to himself, "That made me feel about as comfortable as the old turkey does before Thanksgiving."

Boyington's life as a Japanese prisoner of war began. The U. S. Marine Corps considered him dead. Knowing the stature of the Marine Corps' greatest ace now in their possession, the Japanese didn't notify the Americans that they were holding him as a prisoner, perhaps hoping to use him in some future deal with the United States.

Boyington's is a tale of abuse and torture. Blindfolded. Forced to march with a dozen Japanese riflemen who clicked their rifle bolts to assure him they were a firing squad. Being forced to walk barefoot on coral reefs. Interrogations. He found that he could "play the game" by making up a story and sticking to it everytime he was questioned --- as long as the Japanese thought he was "a good prisoner," the

torture was less and he might get fed once in a while.

He also found that some Japanese soldiers were decent fellows, curious about the United States and willing to share alcohol and cigarettes sometimes in exchange for tales of Boyington's native land. Boyington's tales of his time as a POW are priceless, told matter-of-factly. He never seemed to feel sorry for himself or his situation.

After the war, when he made his way home, he pondered things. He seemed, 13 years after the end of World War II, to have made peace with his enemies, hoping his fellow Americans could also find peace with their former enemy. "...I do hope we can show as much sportsmanship in our victory as the Japanese have shown in their defeat," he wrote.

His post-war years were difficult. No doubt suffering from what we now call post-traumatic distress disorder, Boyington got a "medical discharge" from a "grateful" Marine Corps (due to his wounds during the war). In his book Baa Baa Black Sheep, Boyington noted, "I have learned that it is good for me to be criticized, right though I think I may be. Others have a right to their opinions. This is the only way any of us can progress."

He also concluded, "Some are going to doubt the author's sanity. They shall be partially correct, for, God knows, I have practiced insanity on numerous occasions for twenty years. But the most beautiful part of it all - I am the guy who knows it."

Boyington died January 11, 1988 and is buried Arlington National Cemetery.



*Freedom is not free,
but the
U.S. Marine Corps
will pay most of
your share.*

Ned Dolan

Membership

There was one new member last month and we need to keep on recruiting. It is imperative that we continue to work toward getting new members. Every member should continue working to recruit

two additional members this year.

Remember that dues have increased, as of January, so anyone joining now will have to include \$35 with their application.

March membership:	
Life	153
Regular	77
Honorary	3
Total	233



Welcome Aboard

SHANE ROSENTHAL--SPONSOR UPPER was the only new member in April.

Detachment Bylaws being Rewritten

This committee is still working so be sure to get any suggestions into the members. Pass any concerns on to Bill Eberly, Roger Bock or Jim Upper.

Zip+ Four Requested

National Headquarters has requested that Zip + 4 be used in all correspondence. Members are requested to provide this information on all communications.

Uniform Purchases take time

Anyone want uniform items for July 4 or the Camp Lejeune trip should get their order in as it can take two or three weeks for delivery.

New Detachment Web Site

Check out www.mcleague508.com to see our new detachment website

2008/2009

Committee Assignments for Belleau Wood Detachment

The Commandant serves on all committees. To have your name added or removed from a committee, contact the Commandant or Adjutant.

Awards

Rozzell 478-1703

Birthday Ball

Volunteers needed

Burial

As needed

Membership

All members

Fund Raising

All members

Parades & Observances

Volunteer needed

Nominating

TBA

Rifle & Pistol

Maurer 262-9002

Muncy 267-5194

Bowman 208-6223

Public Information

Earl Bailey 429-0601

Telephone

Deegan 775-9166

Toys for Tots

As needed

Web Site

Baran 505-0185