



The Military Order of the World Wars

The Association of All Military Officers
Chapter 131, West Valley, Arizona
P. O. Box 7938, Surprise, AZ 85374
WEB SITE-www.moww131.org



Bulletin No. 5

April 2023



Commander's Message

John Hannan
Commander

Companions, The March meeting was well attended even though several folks were not in attendance. A really nasty cold bug was the big culprit. We started at 8:30 with a staff meeting - not enough for a quorum, but we addressed several issues and will produce minutes to be voted on at our next meeting. Lots of positives were discussed. We reviewed the MOC and looked for ways to improve our efforts for next year. It was agreed that again this year this ceremony was a big hit for all attendees; the length of the event was an issue. Our chapter isn't unfamiliar with putting together a quality, patriotic remembrance program, so fine tuning will take place.

Our most encompassing issue was the remarkable results of the recruitment team. What can I say except this is the largest incoming number of new companions we have had in my memory and perhaps since the day this chapter was established. Congratulations G.O. Jenson and team - extraordinary results.

SPECIAL FEATURE (Page 7)

How the Marines ripped through the Iraqis in Operation Desert Storm



Breakfast Meeting

An in-person chapter meeting is planned for April 8, 2023 at 0930 at Chef Peter's Bistro, 17300 N. Village Parkway, Surprise AZ 85374. Staff meeting at 0830.

The breakfast meeting was a success as we had a very informative speaker from Congresswoman Debbie Lesko's office. Mr. Michael Tree, her military liaison officer, did a really good job of informing us of his role and capabilities in his function. I, for one, did not understand the effort made by him through Congresswoman Lesko. He spends a great deal of his time helping veterans and guiding them through the bureaucratic regulation maze one has to deal with in order to navigate the VA process. It's comforting to know that we have dedicated people to ensure veterans are awarded the benefits they deserve. Thank you, Michael and Congresswoman Lesko.

Perhaps, in our last two meetings, we'll coordinate the breakfast a little better. It's a little awkward trying to get our orders taken and served while simultaneously trying to have a meeting. The dilemma is when to stop the meeting so folks can eat in peace and the speaker isn't struggling to be heard and the meeting flows more professionally. We're working on it. While the current arrangement needs improvement, we certainly owe Chef Peter and his staff a very big appreciative "THANK YOU".

I look forward to having a full house in April. Our speaker will be, Lee Bradley, a financial planner. His subject will be how to use your IRA for charitable contributions and, if time permits, how to transfer your standard IRA to a Roth IRA.

I look forward to seeing all of you. Please make use of our web site, constructed and maintained by Ken Coffman, for updates and details. The web site address is: <https://WWW.MOWW131.ORG> . (Doesn't need all caps.) This website and our bulletin are terrific ways to be informed and up-to-date.

Thank you for the privilege to serve.
 John F. Hannan
 Commander MOWW West Valley 131

Surgeon's Note

By Linda Howry RN MS

Antibiotic Resistant to Bacteria

In the last ten years, more and more bacteria have become resistant to the antibiotics which previously killed these organisms. This is due in part to the over usage of antibiotics in humans and in animals. Examples of this are when antibiotics are taken when they are not needed for an illness, or when patients have not taken the dosages correctly (not taking dosages as required or not taking the full prescription amount as ordered). Antibiotics have been given to animals that are used for food to prevent them from becoming sick, especially those raised in close quarters. These types of behaviors led to more and more resistant bacteria. Thus, the following diseases are more resistant, tuberculosis, gonorrhea, pneumonia, and salmonellosis.

This is important because bacteria affect all races, ages, and people all over the world. If an antibiotic cannot stop the resistant organism, people can die from these infections. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has just issued a health advisory for drug resistant Shigella bacteria. Shigella infects the intestines and colon and causes the disease called shigellosis. This bacterium is spread by fecal to oral, person to person, or through contaminated food and water.

In about two days after contact with the bacteria, shigellosis causes abdominal cramping, feeling of a need to empty your bowels, and bloody diarrhea. This disease was most often seen in

MOWW Chapter 131 Leadership

Commander: John Hannan
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 Adjutant: Mel Howry
 Treasurer: Buz Isban
 Marshal: Ken Coffman
 Surgeon: Linda Howry
 Chaplain: John Hannan
 Bulletin Editor: Carlton Bjerkaas
 Web Master: Ken Coffman
 Historian (Archivist): Ken Coffman
 Membership Chairman: Jerry Jenson
 Immediate Past Commander: Buz Isban

children under 5 years but now it is seen at an increasing rate in all ages. A minimal amount of contact with contaminated feces can cause the disease. This disease can range from mild to severe illness.

The most important prevention though is careful handwashing when in contact with feces or contaminated food. Do not self-medicate with antibiotics and seek medical attention if you suspect you have the disease. Prepare foods correctly and avoid uncooked food contaminating other dishes.

Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
 Treasurer



Financial Report

As of 20 Mar 2023

General Fund	\$15,054.29
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$15,104.29
Patriotic Savings Account	\$5,242.01
Endowment Fund	\$14,330.52
GRAND TOTAL	\$34,676.82

Chapter Dues Are Due

Thank you to those who have already paid.

AZ Tax Credit to Support AZYLC Delegates.

It is not too late to consider the Arizona tax credit for your 2022 Arizona taxes. Please let Companion Buz Isban know ahead of time, so that he can track the use of funds in 2023. His contact information is buzisban@cox.net or phone 623- 512-0765. You have until April 15, 2023 to take advantage of the tax credit for calendar year 2022.

This Day in History in Viet Nam

April 1, 1965 - At the White House, President Johnson authorizes sending two more Marine battalions and up to 20,000 logistical personnel to Vietnam. The President also authorizes American combat troops to conduct patrols to root out Viet Cong in the countryside. His decision to allow offensive operations is kept secret from the American press and public for two months.

April 7, 1965 - President Johnson delivers his "Peace Without Conquest" Speech at Johns Hopkins University offering Hanoi "unconditional discussions" to stop the war in return for massive economic assistance in modernizing Vietnam. "Old Ho can't turn that down," Johnson privately tells his aides. But Johnson's peace overture is quickly rejected.

April 15, 1965 - A thousand tons of bombs are dropped on Viet Cong positions by U.S. and South Vietnamese fighter-bombers.

April 17, 1965 - In Washington, 15,000 students gather to protest the U.S. bombing campaign. Student demonstrators will often refer to President Johnson, his advisers, the Pentagon, Washington bureaucrats, and weapons manufacturers, simply as "the Establishment."

April 20, 1965 - In Honolulu, Johnson's top aides, including McNamara, Gen. Westmoreland, Gen. Wheeler, William Bundy, and Ambassador Taylor, meet and agree to recommend to the President sending another 40,000 combat soldiers to Vietnam.

April 24, 1965 - President Johnson announces Americans in Vietnam are eligible for combat pay.

April 12, 1966 - B-52 bombers are used for the first time against North Vietnam. Each B-52 carries up to 100 bombs, dropped from an altitude of about six miles. Target selections are closely supervised by the White House. There are six main target categories; power facilities, war support facilities, transportation lines, military complexes, fuel storage, and air defense installations.

April 13, 1966 - Viet Cong attack Tan Son Nhut airport in Saigon causing 140 casualties while destroying 12 U.S. helicopters and nine aircraft.

April 6, 1967 - Quang Tri City is attacked by 2500 Viet Cong and NVA.

April 14, 1967 - Richard M. Nixon visits Saigon and states that anti-war protests back in the U.S. are "prolonging the war."

April 15, 1967 - Anti-war demonstrations occur in New York and San Francisco involving nearly 200,000. Rev. Martin Luther King declares that the war is undermining President Johnson's Great Society social reform programs, "...the pursuit of this widened war has narrowed the promised dimensions of the domestic welfare programs, making the poor white and Negro bear the heaviest burdens both at the front and at home."

April 20, 1967 - U.S. bombers target Haiphong harbor in North Vietnam for the first time.

April 24-May 11, 1967 - Hill fights rage at Khe Sanh between U.S. 3rd Marines and the North Vietnamese Army resulting in 940 NVA killed. American losses are 155 killed and 425 wounded. The isolated air base is located in mountainous terrain less than 10 miles from North Vietnam near the border of Laos.

April 24, 1967 - General Westmoreland condemns anti-war demonstrators saying they give the North Vietnamese soldier "hope that he can win politically that which he cannot accomplish

militarily." Privately, he has already warned President Johnson "the war could go on indefinitely."

April 30-May 3, 1967 - The Battle of Dai Do occurs along the Demilitarized Zone as NVA troops seek to open an invasion corridor into South Vietnam. They are halted by a battalion of U.S. Marines nicknamed "the Magnificent Bastards" under the command of Lt. Col. William Weise. Aided by heavy artillery and air strikes, NVA suffer 1,568 killed. 81 Marines are killed and 297 wounded. 29 U.S. Army are killed supporting the Marines and 130 wounded. For the time being, this defeat ends North Vietnam's hope of successfully invading the South. They will wait four years, until 1972, before trying again, after most of the Americans have gone. It will actually take seven years, until 1975, for them to succeed.

April 9, 1969 - 300 anti-war students at Harvard University seize the administration building, throw out eight deans, then lock themselves in. They are later forcibly ejected.

April 30, 1969 - U.S. troop levels peak at 543,400. There have been 33,641 Americans killed by now, a total greater than the Korean War.

April 20, 1970 - President Nixon announces the withdrawal of another 150,000 Americans from Vietnam within a year.

April 30, 1970 - President Nixon stuns Americans by announcing U.S. and South Vietnamese incursion into Cambodia "...not for the purpose of expanding the war into Cambodia but for the purpose of ending the war in Vietnam and winning the just peace we desire." The announcement generates a tidal wave of protest by politicians, the press, students, professors, clergy members, business leaders, and many average Americans against Nixon and the Vietnam War. The incursion is in response to continuing Communist gains against Lon Nol's forces and is also intended to weaken overall NVA military strength as a prelude to U.S. departure from Vietnam.

April 1, 1971 - President Nixon orders Lt. Calley released pending his appeal.

April 19, 1971 - 'Vietnam Veterans Against the War' begin a week of nationwide protests.

April 24, 1971 - Another mass demonstration is held in Washington attracting nearly 200,000.

April 29, 1971 - Total American deaths in Vietnam surpass 45,000.

April 30, 1971 - The last U.S. Marine combat units depart Vietnam.

April 2, 1972 - In response to the Eastertide Offensive, President Nixon authorizes the U.S. 7th Fleet to target NVA troops massed around the Demilitarized Zone with air strikes and naval gunfire.

April 4, 1972 - In a further response to Eastertide, President Nixon authorizes a massive bombing campaign targeting all NVA troops invading South Vietnam along with B-52 air strikes against North Vietnam. "The bastards have never been bombed like they're going to be bombed this time," Nixon privately declares.

April 10, 1972 - Heavy B-52 bombardments ranging 145 miles into North Vietnam begin.

April 12, 1972 - NVA Eastertide attack on Kontum begins in central South Vietnam. If the attack succeeds, South Vietnam will effectively be cut in two.

April 15, 1972 - Hanoi and Haiphong harbor are bombed by the U.S.

April 15-20, 1972 - Protests against the bombings erupt in America.

April 19, 1972 - NVA Eastertide attack on An Loc begins.

April 27, 1972 - Paris peace talks resume.

April 30, 1972 - U.S. troop levels drop to 69,000.

April 1973 - President Nixon and President Thieu meet at San Clemente, California. Nixon renews his earlier secret pledge to respond militarily if North Vietnam violates the peace agreement.

April 1, 1973 - Captain Robert White, the last known American POW is released.

April 30, 1973 - The Watergate scandal results in the resignation of top Nixon aides H.R. Halde- man and John Ehrlichman.

April 9, 1975 - NVA close in on Xuan Loc, 38 miles from Saigon. 40,000 NVA attack the city and for the first time encounter stiff resistance from South Vietnamese troops.

April 20, 1975 - U.S. Ambassador Graham Mar- tin meets with President Thieu and pressures him to resign given the gravity of the situation and the unlikelihood that Thieu could ever nego- tiate with the Communists.

April 21, 1975 - A bitter, tearful President Thieu resigns during a 90 minute rambling TV speech to the people of South Vietnam. Thieu reads from the letter sent by Nixon in 1972 pledging "severe retaliatory action" if South Vietnam was threatened. Thieu condemns the Paris Peace Accords, Henry Kissinger and the U.S. "The United States has not respected its promises. It is inhumane. It is untrustworthy. It is irrespons- ible." He is then ushered into exile in Taiwan, aided by the CIA.

April 22, 1975 - Xuan Loc falls to the NVA after a two week battle with South Vietnam's 18th Army Division which inflicted over 5000 NVA casualties and delayed the 'Ho Chi Minh Cam- paign' for two weeks.

April 23, 1975 - 100,000 NVA soldiers advance on Saigon which is now overflowing with refu- gees. On this same day, President Ford gives a speech at Tulane University stating the conflict in Vietnam is "a war that is finished as far as America is concerned."

Future Events

8 April 2023 – Chapter Meeting

13 May 2023 – Chapter Meeting. Last meeting until the fall. Enjoy the summer.

20 February 2024 – Massing of the Colors

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the May 2023 Bulletin is the 20th of April. If it is possible to get articles earlier, it would be very much appreciated. With all that is going on we will be flexible.

Email articles to: carltonbjerkaas@gmail.com

Thank you.

Carlton Bjerkaas, Editor

MOWW News and Information

Want to Become a MOWW Compan- ion?

MOWW chapters provide opportunities to support veterans of all ranks and service, youth patriotic education, college ROTC and high school JROTC, Scouting, monu- ments and memorials, public safety/law & order, national and homeland security pro- grams, and stimulate love of our country and flag.

[Click for More Information](#)

“It is nobler to serve than to be served.”



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Based on Mike Tree's presentation at our last Chapter meeting, the below information is forwarded for consideration.

Veterans History Project

These amazing stories are disappearing as those who served in America's wars pass on. In an effort to save these treasures, the [Library of Congress' Veterans History Project \(VHP\)](#) was designed by Congress to record, preserve, and make accessible the first-hand accounts of American war veterans from all our past wars. These will be made available to future generations so they may hear directly from veterans about the realities of their wars.

Our veterans have served this nation bravely and heroically. We owe these men and women an enormous debt of gratitude and respect. In honor of our veteran's service, my office will be continually recording histories from veterans in our community throughout the year in my Surprise District Office.

Who can participate?

Veterans who served in the United States military during wartime, in any capacity, from World War II through the present and are no longer serving, are eligible to participate, regardless of branch or rank. Civilians who served in support of a United States war effort in a professional capacity also are welcome to participate.

Why should you participate?

As a primary source, researchers, scholars and educators rely upon VHP collections. These oral histories, photographs, manuscripts and other original materials are a rich supplement to historical texts and a valued cultural resource. Veterans' family members treasure the memories that are permanently preserved at the Library of Congress for future generations.

How can I participate?

There are two ways to participate. The first is to sit down with one of our volunteers and have a conversation about your military service. This will be a videotaped interview and must be a minimum of 30 minutes. The other way is to submit a collection of original photographs or documents that tell your story. We are able to use photographs or documents from a deceased veteran so that their perspectives of their military service are not lost.

For more information on the Project and an explanation of the oral interview and materials gathering process, go to:

[Veterans History Project](#)

[Download VHP Brochure](#)

[Download the Field Kit](#)

You may also contact Congresswoman Lesko's office at <https://lesko.house.gov/services/veteran-history-project.htm> for additional information using the form on her site. You may also submit your completed interview or collection to Congresswoman Lesko at her District Office and they will forward it for you.

SPECIAL FEATURE

How the Marines ripped through the Iraqis in Operation Desert Storm

James Elphick

Updated March 08, 2023 06:17:35

When Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion of Kuwait, the Marines were one of the first units to respond. By Feb. 23, 1991, I Marine Expeditionary Force was controlling two reinforced Marine Divisions poised to strike Iraqi forces in Kuwait.



Facing the Marines were two massive minefields and some ten Iraqi divisions.

In the lead up to the invasion, the Marines worked furiously to find gaps in the minefield that they could strike through. They also frequently clashed with Iraqi forces when conducting artillery raids and during the pre-emptive **Battle of Khafji**.



Marines from Company D, 2nd Tank Battalion, drive their M-60A1 main battle tank over a sand berm on Hill 231 while rehearsing their role as part of Task Force Breach Alpha during Operation Desert Storm. (Dept. of Defense photo)

That battle convinced the Marines that maybe the task ahead was not as formidable as they might have assumed. **The Marines realized** the Iraqis lacked aggression and coordination, and if hit hard they would back down.

But before that could happen, they still had to find a way through the minefields. The commanders of the two Marine divisions had their own ideas of how that would happen.

The 1st Marine Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Mike Myatt, was divided into four task forces – Ripper, Papa Bear, Taro, and Grizzly. Two task forces would clear lanes through the minefields before allowing the other two to pass through to spearhead the attack.

The 2nd Marine Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. William Keys, had a different plan. Keys ordered the Division to breach the minefields before storming across Kuwait to meet the Iraqis.



An Iraqi T-55 main battle tank burns after an attack by the 1st United Kingdom Armored Division during Operation Desert Storm. (Creative Commons photo)

Before the ground war even started, the Marines of Task Forces Taro and Grizzly were infiltrating into Kuwait and through the minefield in order to take up blocking positions when the invasions started.

Then, on Feb. 24, 1991 at 0430 local time, the invasion officially began. The 1st Marine Division's two task forces, Ripper and Papa Bear, began their assaults through the gaps provided by Taro and Grizzly.

On their flank, the 2nd Marine Division, augmented by the U.S. Army's 2nd Armored Division's 1st Brigade, began breaching operations at the minefield. Mine-clearing line charges and plow-equipped tanks blasted a path through the mines.

As the Marines cleared the minefields, they prepared to engage Iraqi forces. However, instead of an immediate fight, they were confronted with waves of surrendering Iraqi soldiers.

Unable to handle the large numbers of POWs, and with objectives to meet, they simply pointed the Iraqis towards the rear and drove on.

On the first day, the Marines only encountered light resistance and captured all of their objectives.

Oil well fires rage outside Kuwait City in the aftermath of Operation Desert Storm. The wells were set on fire by Iraqi forces before they were ousted from the region by coalition force. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. David McLeod)

However, the next day, Feb. 25, the Iraqis launched counterattacks in force against the Marine positions.



Using the burning Burqan oil fields as concealment, the Iraqis were able to infiltrate very close to the Marines before launching their attacks.

The sudden appearance of an Iraqi brigade to the Marine's flank caused quite a stir. The 1st Tank Battalion of TF Papa Bear bore the brunt of the Iraqi advance. [The Marine commander reported](#), "T-62s everywhere, scattering like cockroaches from the Burqan oil field." As the Marine's M60 Patton tanks engaged the Iraqis, daring Marine aviators came in low under the smoke to blast Iraqi tanks with Hellfire missiles. In three and a half hours of hard fighting, the Marines drove off the Iraqis while destroying 75 armored vehicles.

On TF Papa Bear's other flank, another Iraqi force was massing to attack the 1st Marine Division's forward command post. A platoon of infantry and another of LAV-25s commanded by Cpt. Eddie Ray were all that guarded the CP. When artillery rounds began raining down around the Marines Ray raced forward to assess the situation. What he found was a numerically superior Iraqi force of tanks and armored personnel carriers approaching their position.

Ray's small force immediately began engaging the Iraqi's as they made a move for the CP. Seeing the attack developing, Brig. Gen. Draude, the assistant division commander, [quipped](#), "If I die today, my wife is going to kill me."

Another officer quickly called for reinforcements from TF Ripper and I MEF headquarters. He was told everyone was in a fight and there was no available air support.

He responded by simply holding the radio headset in the air for a few seconds before [vehemently stating](#), “We are in a REAL fight at division forward!”



M1 Abrams during [Desert Storm](#). (Photo: US DoD)

I MEF sent two Cobra gunships to support the beleaguered Marines. With the gunships on station, Ray made a bold move — he counterattacked. Despite overwhelming odds, Ray’s small force hammered the Iraqis and drove them from the vicinity, destroying 50 vehicles and capturing 250 prisoners. Ray was awarded [the Navy Cross for his actions](#).

In the 2nd Marine Division’s sector, the Iraqis were fighting just as tenaciously. B Company, 4th Tank Battalion — a reserve unit and the only Marines armed with the new M1 Abrams — awoke on the morning of Feb. 25 to see a massive Iraqi armored column moving in front of their position.

In what became known as [the Reveille Engagement](#), the men of B Company, despite being outnumbered 3-to-1, maneuvered on line and engaged the Iraqis. In just 90 seconds, the Marine tankers wiped out the entire Iraqi force of 35 tanks and APCs. After defeating the Iraqi counterattacks, the Marines continued their drive north the next day. They took the vital Al Jaber airfield and made it to the outskirts of Kuwait City and the international airport. While the 2nd Marine Division cut off the Iraqi’s retreat, the 1st Marine Division attacked and secured the airport with support from two battleships firing from the gulf.

The 100-hour ground war cost the Marines five killed and 48 wounded. In that time, they fought over 100 miles through occupied territory, crushed seven Iraqi divisions, destroyed over 1,600 tanks and armored vehicles, and took over 22,000 prisoners.



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TO: