



# POST SOLANT AMITY

With Former Members of "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment



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## The Trying Times of Christmas Past

*(Despite the efforts of the press, the Democratic Party, secular humanists, the anti-Christian league of department store owners, the haters of all things Christian and American amongst us, Christmas is once again upon us.*

*And, as former servicemen, we should reflect upon the sacrifices of so many over two hundred years of our nation's history, so that Americans can spend their Christmas safe from harm.)*

**World War II – Between 1941 and 1945, there were 292,131 Americans killed and 671,278 wounded.**

We've read much of what combat zones were like. But a great many servicemen and women were, otherwise, unfortunate enough to have been prisoners of the Japanese during WWII. Taken from the tropics and transported via the suffocating, filthy holds of ships, some soon faced the terrible winters of Japan. Still in light clothes, they endured subzero barracks temperatures and snow that was as much as sixteen feet deep. They were forbidden to wear topcoats of any kind. Lice and fleas infested the prison camps, bringing both

discomfort and disease.

*Kawasaki* was such a camp. With no medical treatment, 120 prisoners died from illness and injuries. Prisoners worked in the shipyards of *Kobe*. There, some were *lucky* to be taken to the local hospital. Others were admitted to the hospital at *Osaka*, notorious for extreme cold and cruel treatment. Patients commonly died in additionally unnecessary numbers from exposure and starvation.

**Trivia Question 1:** When flags from two or more nations are arrayed, the Flag code forbids the display of any nation's flag in a position superior to another in time of peace. Where in the U.S. does there exist an exemption to this provision? (See answer on page 4.)

However it was not only the Japanese who were, through disregard and violence, killing them. Allied bombings took their fair share of lives as well. Frequent air raids made everyone jumpy. No one slept much. Fear of Japanese reprisals for the bombings became palpable. In evidence of their in-

creasing paranoia, the Japanese began to enforce evermore ridiculous regulations to impress upon their victims that it was *they* who were in command.

Elsewhere in the Pacific theater, from May 1944 until the Japanese capitulation on 15 August 1945, exhausted POWs were forced to construct a 215 kilometer railway through a Sumatran jungle.

"It was worst at night," explained one prisoner, "the rats ran all over you, but...made a tasty meal. They had marvelous white flesh, even whiter than rabbit pieces. I saw chickens grubbing round the latrines and quickly getting fat from the maggots. And I thought: 'What's good for chickens is good for people.' So, fetching maggots by the bucketful out of the latrines, we washed, cooked and gave them with sambal (sauce) to the sick, who markedly improved with the protein enhanced diet. Then, I made another discovery.

"As there was no disinfectant for treating tropical sores, we soon learned that maggots provided a solution. I wound an old sheet with maggots in it round a wound and after a few days it was nicely healed."

On the other side of the world and

**Trivia Question 2:** The name of the product used to refinish chevrons and Marine Corps emblems was called what? (See answer on page 4.)

in a far different climate, Europe offered some horrors of its own. Such was the case in a place called Bastogne, Belgium, the venue for the Battle of the Bulge:

"On Christmas Eve of 1944, the Germans provided an ultimatum. We'd laughed at General McCauliffe's response of 'NUTS!' but knew things would get worse.

"That evening's Christmas vigil began badly, with two bombing raids, compliments of the German Luftwaffe. Still, religious services were held in town where wounded Airborne soldiers shed tears at the singing of "Silent Night" and German POWs were visited by Gen. McCauliffe himself, as they sang "Stille Nacht" and "O Tannenbaum."



Breakfast in the Snow

Bastogne, Belgium—Christmas 1944

(Continued on page 3, column 4)



## Hurricane Victims Need Your Help!

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## "Jarhead:"from text to the big screen still sucks, but sells.

"Jarhead: A Marine's Chronicle of the Gulf War and Other Battles," written by Anthony Swofford in 2003, provided the drivelt for what has become the 2005 semi-hit movie.

This piss-ant of an author, under the guise of being a patriot because he spent 12 weeks in boot camp and took a very short and personally non-productive walk in the sands of Iraq, suggests that he...a barely 19 year old mutt...and so many others of his unit were "Oh, so aware" of their being used for geo-political and economic reasons having nothing to do with the best interests of the

United States. Bullshit! At what point did the balance of power in the middle-east, the balance being to OUR advantage, become an issue not in OUR best interests.

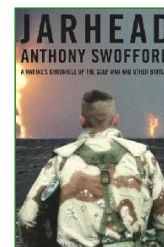
Swofford, now in his youthful thirties, was the classic disgruntled teenager the Corps has always attracted. A troubled youth from a dysfunctional family, he was enamored of the Corps' history and, wanting to become part of it, was swept up, remolded into the image of an acceptably behaved Marine and thrown into a situation he had longed for most of his brief life.

Now, as a college instructor, sup-

ported by the minions of an Ivory Tower establishment, he badmouths the U.S. Marine Corps, conservatism, militarism and the policies of the United States.

Lacking, however, is evidence of his having since acquired knowledge of these things beyond that understood by the average grunt of the time or any liberal minded professor today. And, most dramatically, independent of his philosophizing about things he *claimed* to perceive and still knows little about, I found major exaggerations about boot camp, barracks life and behaviors that would NEVER be tolerated in the Marine

Corps. Things his mentors must love to read but, nonetheless, remain inaccurate.



This guy has none of the credentials of a Smedley Butler, nor Butler's rational prejudices, he has only "feelings." Simply stated, he has prostituted what little writing talent

he has to buy the accolades of the unworthy and life's mostly UN-accomplished, living dull lives on even duller campuses: *Teatchers*. (See page 2, mid-column 2)

## Marine Utility Uniform First Issued during WWII

The United States Marine Corps entered World War II wearing essentially the same summer field uniform that it had worn during the "Banana Wars." The Marines defending America's Pacific outposts on Guam, Wake Island, and in the Philippines in the late months of 1941 wore a summer field uniform consisting of a khaki cotton shirt and trousers, leggings, and a M1917A1 steel helmet. Plans to change this uniform had been underway for at least one year prior to the opening of hostilities.



As had the Army, the Marine Corps had used a loose-fitting blue denim fatigue uniform for work details and some field exercises since the 1920s. This fatigue uniform was either a one-piece coverall or a two-piece bib overall and jacket, both with "USMC" metal buttons. In June 1940, it was replaced by a green cotton coverall. This uniform and the summer field uniform were replaced by what would become known as the **utility** uniform. Approved for general issues on the Marine Corps' 166th birthday, 10 November 1941, this new uniform was made of sage-green (although "olive drab" was called for in the specifications) herring-bone twill cotton, then a popular material for civilian work clothing. The two-piece uniform consisted of a coat (often referred to as a "jacket" by Marines) and trousers. In 1943, a cap

**Trivia Question 3:** What percentage of WWII military personnel do you believe were draftees? (Answer on page 4.)

made of the same material would be issued.

The loose-fitting coat was closed down the front by four two-piece riveted bronze-finished steel buttons, each bearing the words "U.S. MARINE CORPS" in relief. The cuffs were closed by similar buttons. Two large patch pockets were sewn on the front skirts of the jacket and a single patch pocket was stitched to the left breast. This pocket had the Marine Corps eagle, globe, and anchor insignia and the letters "USMC" stenciled on it in black ink. The trousers, worn with and without the khaki canvas

leggings, had two slashed front pockets and two rear patch pockets.

The new uniform was issued to the flood of new recruits crowding the recruit depots in the early months of 1942 and was first worn in combat during the landings on Guadalcanal in August 1942. This uniform was subsequently worn by Marines of all arms from the Solomons Campaign to the end of the war. Originally, the buttons on the coat and the trousers were all copper-plated, but an emergency alternate specification was approved on 15 August 1942, eight days after the landing on Guadalcanal, which allowed for a variety of finishes on the buttons. Towards the end of the war, a new "modified" utility uniform which had been developed after Tarawa was also issued, in addition to a variety of camouflage uniforms. All of these utility uniforms, along with Army-designed M1 helmets and Marine Corps-designed cord and rubber-soled rough-side-out leather "boondocker" shoes, would be worn throughout the war in the Pacific, during the postwar years, and into the Korean War.

*Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas*

### "Jarhead" (Cont' from page 1)

Then, in mid-November '05, came the film version directed by Academy Award winning director Sam Mendes.

Here, the director dropped nearly all of the author's anti-military-industrial-complex polemic and concentrated on the creation of a warrior-class citizen, but then implying they are but the simple-minded products of manipulation.

Over-dramatized: a perception of pervasive loneliness aggravated by "Dear John" letters from unfaithful wives and lovers back in "the world;" frenzied [and unsuccessful] masturbation efforts, while holding the most recent photo of *Suzy-rotten-crotch* in hand...the other hand; alleged USMC leg brandings with wire coat hangers; and the idea that all these young studs were force-fed war movies to get them in the mood to kill. The young Marines are made to appear as though they're part of some doped-up high school football team, with a [too] highly developed killer instinct.

However, to the chagrin of the Hollywood and media "left", I suspect the movie will only enhance the Corps' recruitment prospects. Camaraderie, a sense of belonging and being able to do something both special and adventurous never loses its appeal, except to the brain-dead elites of the world, unable to grasp their significance.

For the greatest impact, see it with another Marine. *Ed Shea*

## Bush to help Fraaaance

On 11 November 2005, in remembrance of America's WWI and II efforts to save *Fraaaance* and *zee Fraaanch* peoples [despite their more recent and despicable lack of support for our efforts to suppress world-wide terrorism], President Bush announced he "might send up to 5 Marines to assist *zee Fraaanch* during Islamic riots spreading throughout their bankrupt, corrupt and 'very-old-world' homeland." To wit the Whitehouse Press Secretary, Scott McClellan, provided the media with a prepared announcement later summarized in the *Beltway Bull* section of the New York Times:

"President Bush has authorized the Joint Chiefs to begin drawing up a battle plan to pull France's ass out of the fire again. Facing an apparent overwhelming force of up to 400 pissed off Islamic teenagers, Mr. Bush doubts France's ability to hold off the little piss-ants. 'Hell, if the last two world wars are any indication, I would expect France to surrender any day now', said Bush.

"Joint Chiefs' head, General Peter Pace, warned the President that it might be necessary to send up to 5 Marines to get things under control. The general admitted that 5 Marines may be overkill but he wanted to get this thing under control within 24 hours of arriving on scene.

"He stated he was having a hard time finding even one Marine to help those ungrateful bastards out for a third time but thought that he could persuade a few women Marines to do the job before they went on pregnancy leave.

"President Bush asked Gener-

al Pace to get our Marines out of there as soon as possible after order was restored, 'as we do not want to be seen as occupying France any longer than necessary.'

"He also reminded General Pace to make sure the Marines did not take soap, razors, or deodorant with them, 'lest they stand out even more than usual in France's old-world environment.'" *Anonymous*

**Trivia Question 4:** Eighteen million were examined for WWII induction. What percentage were rejected? (Answer on page 4.)

## Product Blast from the Past

For however many years you served in the Marine Corps, M-nu remained an essential part of your barracks, bivouac or shipboard uniform maintenance kit. Without it, those metal chevrons and USMC emblems would have lost their stark contrast on collars, barracks caps and piss-cutters.



It was indeed, the one product "you never left home without it."

## So, it's now a Fraaanch prob-blem, eh Clousseu?





**Troops exposed to toxic chemical tests, 1962-1974**

The extent of secret chemical and biological tests conducted 30 to 40 years ago on U.S. service members is just now coming to light.

Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Calif., and Rep. Denny Rehberg, R-Mont., recently introduced the Veterans Right to Know Act to create a commission modeled after the one that investigated the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Between 1962 and 1974, the U.S. government carried out tests on land and sea measuring dispersal patterns of toxic or deadly agents, spraying devices, the vulnerability of ships to such attacks, and other related issues. The tests were conducted under the name "Project 112," with the tests conducted at sea known as Shipboard Hazard and Defense, or SHAD.

The materials used in the tests were mostly considered harmless *at the time*, but would disperse like real chemicals or germs. However, other tests involved live nerve agents, such as VX nerve gas and the germ tularemia.

Some service personnel knew they were involved in the tests, though provided limited information. Others were apparently totally unaware of their involvement.

Under pressure from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Pentagon has released information about those tests and medically relevant information. But not enough. Of growing concern to many, given the perceived failure of the government to acknowledge the impacts of Agent Orange in Vietnam and, more recently, what has come to be known as the Gulf War Syndrome, is a desire to have data on the dosage levels of the agents they were exposed to.

The bill, HR 4259, calls for a commission to examine both classified and unclassified material regarding the tests, including safety plans and test results.

Members would be appointed by the president and both parties in Congress. The committee's final report would be due within three years of its first meeting.

The commission would review information on tests between 1954 and 1973. Although "Project 112" did not begin until 1962, the commission would be able to review information that led up to that program.

**Trivia Question 5:** Which of the following was NOT a Marine? a) Bob Mathias, b) Leon Spinks, c) Gene Tunney, d) Lee Travino (See answer on page 4.)

**Oh yaaa, size does matter.**

It might be of some comfort to our overweight readers to learn that the Dutch gal on the left is 320 pounds.



But to hide all that "blubber," her parents insisted she grow to a height of 84 inches. Which, should you be poor at math is, uh, 7 foot - 4 inches and proves beyond ANY doubt that this nation needs a great deal more parental supervision.

Ab-so-lute-ly, amazing.... 😊

**Attitude is the Difference**

*"The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, how they could fight!"*  
Major General Frank E. Lowe, USA; Korea, 26 January 1952.

*"Come on, you sons of bitches! Do you want to live forever?"*  
Gunnery Sergeant . Daniel J. "Dan" Daly, USMC near Lucy-'le-Bocage, as he led the 5th Marines' attack into Belleau Wood, 6 June 1918.

*"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem."*  
Ronald Reagan, President of the United States; 1985

**Who was that guy, anyway?**

The actor was born in 1921 and died in 1997. His first film appearance was at the age of three.

He served as a Marine machine gunner before making his adult film debut in 1953.

Brian Keith is most often recognized as the father on TV's "Family Affair."



**Brian Keith**

In Ted Turner's television history presentation on Teddy Roosevelt's "Rough Riders," a memorial message to the man was provided at the movie's end, the last line of which read:

"...Actor, Marine, Raconteur."

What a wonderful epitaph! Don't you think?

**Trivia Question 6:** Who was it that said "The Marines I have seen around the world have the cleanest bodies, the filthiest minds, the highest morale, and the lowest morals of any group of animals I have ever seen. Thank God for the United States Marine Corps!" (See answer on page 4.)

**Have you been staying up late at night wondering about what ever happened to Philadelphia's Tun Tavern?**

Well, now you can get some sleep.



Here you see the marker dedication ceremony for the Tun Tavern site, held on 11Nov05, where the first Marine officer, Captain Samuel Nicholas, recruited the first Continental Marines in 1775. The marker reads: "Tun Tavern. Near here stood Tun Tavern. 1693-1781, which is regarded as the traditional birthplace of the United States Marine Corps, authorized by a resolution of the Continental Congress, November 10, 1775. Semper Fidelis."

**Christmas Past ( Cont' from page 1 )**

"He wished them a Merry Christmas!

"That very night, on the opposite side of our lines, enemy activity increased.

"The Germans launched a major attack against the northwestern sector; defended by the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

"Around 0300, the first of many artillery barrages crashed into our positions. Their planes bombed the regimental headquarters. Wearing snow suits, the first of many German grenadiers to come crept forward against our lines, supported by tanks. The fire-fight to our left intensified. The Germans were determined to break through. Champs and Hermouille being their objectives. It was a major assault.

"The ground shook under the heavy shelling. The night-sky of the snow covered battlefield filled with bright flares, deafening explosions and an unmatched array of machine-gun tracers. Mortar rounds exploded fore and aft. Longchamps and Champs had been reinforced and our machine-gunners were delivering flanking fire against the attacking infantrymen.

"Personally, this was a defining moment in my life as a soldier and as an American, to see well disciplined courageous fellow soldiers well motivated to follow



orders under the most hellish of circumstances yet, without hesitation, at that very trying moment everyone seemed to know what had to be done and they DID IT!

"The enemy attack ended in failure. The assault force had suffered heavy casualties and withdrew. Then too, there were American casualties, lying in grotesque forms, their images frozen into memory's eternity." [From "BASTOGNE: December 1944 White Christmas Red Snow!," Journal by Prof. Eduardo A. Peniche, Combat Veteran 101st Airborne Division.] (See page 4, Column 1)

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See the whole story at  
[SolantAmity.com](http://SolantAmity.com)

## The First Marines to Land in Monrovia

### The Trying Times of Christmas Past (continued from page 3)

#### Trivia Question 7:

The barracks water cooler was more commonly called what? (See answer below.)

**Korean War:** Between 1950 and 1953, there were 36,516 Americans killed and 92,134 wounded.

Only one of history's examples of the mayhem and madness that made for the Korean War's [near] Christmas experience could be found at the Chosin Reservoir, beautifully summarized in one of at least two poems written about and entitled "Chosin Few." [See the insert to the right]

**Vietnam War:** Between 1961 and 1973, there were 58,202 Americans killed and 304,704 wounded.

*Khe Sanh, 1967:* "Where could such a large number of enemy fighters find shelter?"

Michael Herr, author of "Dispatches," spent time in and around Khe Sanh and in his book describes the area as follows: "The Highlands of Vietnam are spooky. Unbearably spooky, spooky beyond belief. They are a run of erratic mountain ranges, gnarled valleys, jungled ravines."

"The media latched onto the story and began comparing the tragic battle for Dien Bien Phu to a future battle for Khe Sanh Combat Base. The feelings of posted Marines ranged from uneasy to 'let them come; we're ready.'

"In spite of the increasing tension, life went on as usual at the base. Troops continued to go on R&R as scheduled. Married Marines usually chose Hawaii, where they met their wives. Single Marines chose more exotic locations, such as Bangkok. Mail from home increased as family and friends remembered the troops

with Christmas packages of candy, cookies and photos from home.

"Dick Camp Jr., commander of L-3-26, has vivid memories of Christmas Eve '67. The 3-26th had just returned to Khe Sanh, after several days spent sweeping the adjacent jungles. "L's Gunnery Sergeant approached him and asked where he should put the packages. Busy getting his company settled in, Captain Camp impatiently told the "Gunny" to put them anywhere. Several minutes later Camp saw Marines stacking box after box of Christmas packages near his CP foxhole.

Girl Scouts from his hometown had collected hundreds of boxes of cookies.

"Some Marines had received baby bottles, containing alcoholic beverages. The battalion provided half-frozen eggnog, *non-alcoholic* of course, and each Marine and corpsman were provided a box of cookies plus other goodies, as available.

"The sounds of battle came from

#### Trivia Question 8:

What were the ragtag busses used during standby operations called? (See answer below.)

Here is a story that must be told,  
Of Marines who fought in the bitter cold  
These veterans, though not too old,  
Had one thing in common, all were bold!  
Always outnumbered, but never outfought,  
Fulfilled the lessons they were taught,  
The Division was cut off, constantly hounded,  
Then "Chesty" was heard to chime,  
"They've got us surrounded.  
The bastards won't get away this time".  
Frozen hands and frozen feet,  
The landscape covered like a great white sheet.  
Still, they fought through the wintry breeze,  
And destroyed eight divisions,  
Of the encircling Chinese.  
Grunts on the ground will always share,  
A special kindred for the Marine Corsair.  
Their close air support left no doubt,  
Of devastated Chinese along the route.  
From Yudam-ni and Toktong pass,  
Then Hagaru and Koto-ri,  
First Division Marines fought their way to freedom,  
To Hungnam and the Sea.  
Now, truly a band of brothers,  
We honor those Marines we never knew,  
Hereafter, they will share with us in spirit,  
we are the Chosin Few. (Boyce Clark, USMC E/2/7)

Hill 950, occupied by the 3rd Platoon of C-1-26 under the command of 2nd Lieutenant Marshall Skip Wells, as they repelled an enemy attempt to overrun the hill position. The days around Christmas had been designated a cease-fire period by both sides.

"Following their usual procedure, the NVA, trying to catch the enemy off-guard, launched an attack on Hill 950.

"On Christmas Day, Col Lownds hopped on board a UH-34. He had the crew tie a green smoke grenade on one side and a red smoke grenade on the other. The pilot circled each hill outpost, then circled the Special Forces camp at Lang Vei. While green and red smoke streamed from the helicopter, the Colonel stood at the door waving a Christmas greeting to all the valiant troops who, in less than 30 days, would fight in one of the most epic battles of the war."

(From "All Is Calm, All Is Bright" For the Last Time at Khe Sanh, By LtCol James B. Wilkinson, USMC-Retired)

Edited by Ed Shea

Mailed as a black on white copy to those without computers, a colorized version can be found at our website, where on page one you will find a link to a down-loadable version.

I hope you've enjoyed this effort. Send us your thoughts to make for an even better next issue.

Merry Christmas and Semper fi:  
Ed Shea

## What's been happening with our G-2-6 members since last we published

**Trevor Davies** annually serves as part of his community's Marine Corps League delegation on behalf of the Toys-for-Tots Program.

In an unrelated matter, on November 15th, Trevor filed for a veteran's disability. After years of enduring a constant ringing in his ears and ever increasing inability to hear, a Gunnery Sergeant with the Marine Corps League persuaded Trevor to "STOP TALKING SO LOUD and pursue the disability."

Trevor, you may or not recall was part of a Fire Team injured during an unanticipated explosion of demolition charges during training operations on Vieques, PR in December of 1960.

**Ken Kollai, Charlie Wilson and Ed Shea** raised their glasses in celebration to the Marine Corps B-day, this past November 10th, during a luncheon meeting in Naples,

Florida. None had seen the others since 1962. The time went all too fast.

Tentative plans were discussed for a further "gathering of the flock" and their wives in early '06, to include any and all other former G-2-6 members in Florida at the time.

**Dick and Diana McGibbeny**, started their North Carolina to Lehigh Acres, Florida relocation on 10Nov05 and should be fairly well settled into their new surroundings by Christmas. Diana wants to thank those of you providing the many prayers she'd asked for on behalf of her sister, who passed away on November 15th after a prolonged illness. [May she rest in peace.]

In early October, our solo-circumnavigator, **Ed Hart** met with me in Annapolis, Maryland Together, we looked at a 41 foot Bristol sailboat I was thinking of buying.

Well, Ed gave me a list of the boat's failings so great, the near-deal was

sensibly nixed. That aside, it was so great to see him after so many years. Next: Thanks Ed, for the input and saving what have been more than just money. Lastly: To all of you, the man was able to get into areas of that boat I might not have been able to when I was twenty. The man's as lithe as a cat.

**Jim McCarthy** reached out to us on 8Dec05. "Welcome aboard," Jim.

**SolantAmity.com** has 142 megabytes of information. That's a LOT.

**Answers to Trivia Question:** 1) Not surprisingly, the UN Headquarters Building in NYC. Though not a nation, its flag may be displayed superior to all others!!!, 2) still used M-nu, 3) 61.2%, 4) 35.8%, 5) ALL were Marines, 6) Eleanor Roosevelt, in 1945, 7) scuttlebutt, 8) cattle-cars).

**Closing Thought:** Please, contact one other member before Christmas.