



POST SOLANT AMITY

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



Volume 7, Issue 1

March 2009

Trivia Question 2: Shipboard watch is measured by the ringing of up to 8 bells. How much time does the sound of each bell indicate since the end of the last watch? (See answer on page 4.)

The "Rocks and Shoals," renowned predecessor to the UCMJ

One Sunday morning of each month, before compulsory Chapel services, our Battalion of Midshipmen was marched to Memorial Hall for the required reading of the *Articles for the Government of the Navy* better-known as "Rocks and Shoals." There, under those wonderfully inspiring paintings of bygone sea battles, we heard the dire consequences to those who "suffered any vessel of the Navy to be stranded or run upon rocks and shoals, or improperly hazarded;" or who, "when engaged in battle, treacherously yields or pusillanimously cries for quarter." We were enjoined to "guard against and suppress all dissolute and immoral practices." Court-martial punishment was provided for any person "who is guilty of profane swearing, falsehood, drunkenness, gambling, fraud, theft or any other conduct tending to the destruction of good morals. We learned that any officer "who absents himself from his command without leave may be sentenced by a court-martial to be reduced to the rating of seaman second class."

This wonderful prose and those thundering admonitions made a strong impression on this young Midshipman despite the fact that our Battalion Adjutant was expected to read as many of the

Articles as he could within his allotted 15 minutes. This didn't leave much time for their provisions to sink in, although its more stirring ones still remain in my memory. Nowhere else would you hear such rarely-used and interesting words and phrases as "pusillanimous," "dissolute and immoral practices" or "scandalous conduct tending to the destruction of good morals."

Justice under the *Articles for the Government of the Navy* was speedy and fair, with the rights of the accused properly safeguarded. Speedy justice was enhanced by the nonavailability of peremptory challenges of members of the Court by the accused, and challenges "for cause" based on prejudice, prior knowledge or investigation of the case, etc were rarely invoked. Only a simple majority vote was required for a guilty finding in all but capital cases, where a two-thirds majority was required. Unlike civil law, there were no mistrials based on hung juries. In reaching a sentence, the Court was enjoined by Article 51 that it was its duty "to adjudge a punishment adequate to the nature of the offense."

Trivia Question 1: Both the Rocks & Shoals and the UCMJ call for the provision of something derisively called "piss & punk." What is it? (See answer page 4.)

With the enactment of the Uniform Code, the *Articles for the Government of the Navy* together with the Army's Articles of War faded into oblivion. For the Navy, those wonderful words "treacherously yielding and pusillanimously crying for quarter;" "scandalous conduct tending to the destruction of good morals" and "suppression of all dissolute and immoral practices" were lost forever. More mundane and less spectacular wording was introduced into its punitive articles. The administration of justice took on more of the characteristics of civil law; not surprising since it was drafted by members of Congress, many of them lawyers who had served in the Armed Forces during the War. Under the Uniform Code, greater latitude was given to peremptory challenges, and the finding of guilt required a two-thirds majority in all but capital cases.

One happier provision of the Uniform Code eliminated the requirement that it had to be read to the troops every month.

[Captain Donald I. Thomas USN (Ret.) for the Naval Academy's *Shipmate* 54, number 7 (September 1991): 31.

Reprinted Courtesy of United States Naval Academy Alumni Association]

HBO's *Taking Chance* proves to be a stunningly emotional presentation

On 21Feb09, HBO presented its long awaited: *Taking Chance*.

The film is based on the first-person account of Lt. Col. Michael Strobl who, in 2004, escorted the remains of Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps...killed in Iraq combat operations...to the Marine's Wyoming hometown.

After taking Phelps' remains to his hometown, Strobl wrote in his journal of both the emotional experience and the gratitude shown to him and the deceased Phelps, for their self-sacrifice and service.

It's late in the presentation when



a safe and secure administrative assignment stateside...though he was scheduled for Iraq deployment...because he wished to remain with his family. The vet

Strobl announces his reason for accompanying Phelps' remains: GUILT. He explains to a Korean War veteran that he'd sought and accepted

admonishes him for beating on himself and tells him outright "you done the right thing."

Overall, the production was outstanding. And, however crusty a character you *think* you are, be sure to bring tissues. **But**, you must ask, "Why would Hollywood's elite make this seemingly patriotic movie?"

Well, once passed the wonderfully depicted efforts spent in preparing Phelps' remains, consider all of the following: First, EVERYONE loves and respects the fallen hero and his

(See page two, mid-column 2)

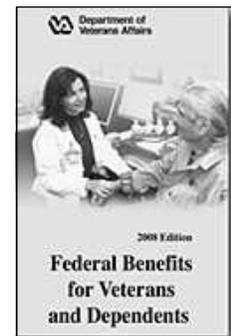


The above proposed sculpture is to be erected on the grounds of the National Marine Corps Museum at Quantico. It is to be the first ever done to honor one of the greatest Marines to ever wear the uniform, Lieutenant General Lewis "Chesty" Puller. It is a testament to all who have ever expressed the immortal words, "Good night Chesty, wherever you are."

Contributions may be made at <http://www.seagoingmarines.com/ChestyPuller/Chesty.htm>

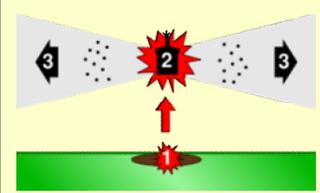
VA Benefits

The 170 page Acrobat version of the 2008 Department of Veteran's



Affairs "Federal Benefits for Veteran's and Dependents" is available on our website, listed on the left side of the first page

Trivia Question 3: What sort of land mine is best represented by the following illustration?



(Answer 3 on Page 4)

Surviving the “kill zone.”

You’re a 19 year old kid. You’re critically wounded, and dying in a jungle LZ of the Ia Drang Valley, Vietnam 14Nov65. Your infantry unit is outnumbered 8 - 1. Enemy fire is so close-in and intense that your unit Commander has ordered the MediVac helicopters to stop coming in.

You’re lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns. You *know* you’re not getting out. That your family is 1/2 way around the world and you’ll never see them again. Though your thoughts fade in and out, your confident “this is the day” that you’re going to die.

Then, over the din of machine gun fire, you first hear the faint sound then see an un-armed Huey, absent any MediVac markings.

Huey pilot Ed Freeman is coming for you. He’s not MediVac, so it’s not his job, but he’s flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire. Despite the grounding of all MediVacs, HE’s coming anyway! Landing, he sits there amidst the MG fire, as they load you and two more wounded on board.

Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire, to the doctors and nurses.

And, he kept coming back...13 more times. And took about 30 of your buddies, who would never

have gotten out otherwise Medal of Honor Recipient Ed Free-



man died last Wednesday at the age of 80, in Boise, Idaho.

May God rest his soul.

Oh yeah, Paul Newman died that day as well. Guess who received the press coverage.

(Courtesy: Charlie Wilson-2nd Plt.)

Taking Chance (Cont’ from page 1)

live companion. There’s not a single *Cindy Sheehan* to be found during their cross-country venture. Thus, *everyman* “feels the anguish” No, no... not for a New York moment.

Secondly, the story is ALL about the terrible loss and emotional pain endured by Phelps’ comrades, family, friends and all depicted onlookers. LOSS and PAIN absent context: For what reason did the young man die? Implied: “For no really GOOD reason...” There are, after all, no Nazi concentration camps to liberate, except of our nation’s own making. “That Damn Bush.”

Lastly, Strobl’s abandonment of his responsibility to go to war because of some presumed greater good... “being with my family”...risked the life of another Marine who had to go in his stead. In another time, and unmarried, he might have gone to Canada. Thank God, the Corps and our nation lost this p...k to retirement shortly after this tragic but otherwise heartwarming story.

Ed Shea

Mending a Broken Heart

Ron Smith - 3rd Platoon

(18Feb2009--Baltimore Sun) I got my heart fixed on Valentine's Day. It was unplanned, believe me, but when I woke up Saturday with tightness in my chest, a visit to the hospital became urgent business. I called my internist, Mark Kaplan, who said, “Chew two aspirin, Ron, and swallow them with water, then have June take you to St. Joseph Medical Center. The Heart Institute there is terrific. They’ll take good care of you.”

Off we went to St. Joe’s emergency room. Within two hours, Dr. Mark G. Midei and his “Cath Team” had worked at warp speed to determine the extent of arterial blockage and then to insert a stent into my right coronary artery, which was 95 percent occluded as determined by a coronary angiogram, also known as a heart catheterization. A catheter is inserted into the groin or arm and pushed into position at the beginning of the arteries that supply blood to the heart. A fluid called contrast dye is then injected through the tube to visualize the blood vessels on X-Rays so pictures, called angiograms, can be taken, allowing the doctors to see any blockages and how severe they might be.

Clearly, mine was severe. However, the left was clear and the stent alone “opened” the right coronary artery. There was no need for bypass surgery of the kind performed last year on Baltimore County Executive James T. Smith Jr. The reason I mention Mr. Smith is that I saw him at WBAL shortly after he returned to work, and when I asked how he felt, he said, “I’ve never felt better.” It’s amazing how much finer one feels when the blood flows through the heart freely. I can vouch for that today.

Another thing Jim said to me was that he went to the hospital after three mornings in a row in which he experienced chest tightness. This was the same phenomenon that struck me. We were both lucky to avoid potentially lethal heart attacks (myocardial infarction) — lucky because we *should have* heeded the first warning and sought medical help then, not two days later.

Here’s the annoying sermon from the recently converted: If you have heaviness in your chest or shortness of breath, you may well be suffering from a reduced blood flow to your heart muscle. Don’t delay seeking help or treatment. If you have pain [Continued page 3, column 1]

Who was that guy?

Born 3Jul56 in Baltimore, he is an television talk show host and sometime actor.

Enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1974 and was, after PI, assigned to Twenty-nine Palms. There, he was selected for training at the Naval Preparatory School and, a year later, accepted into the Naval Academy. In 1980, he graduated with a degree in engineering and a minor in international security affairs. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an ensign.

Over two decades of service, he accumulated the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two Navy Expeditionary Medals, two Humanitarian Service Medals, a Navy Achievement Medal; two Navy Commendation Medals and two Meritorious Service Medals. He retired after 22 years as a Lieutenant Commander.

In 1991, he began hosting his own syndicated television show. In 1996, he received a Daytime Emmy Award for Outstanding Talk Show Host. He was again nominated for Outstanding Talk Show Host in 2002.

He also guest-starred in episodic television and off-Broadway plays. Among others, he portrayed a Navy SEAL lieutenant in several episodes of the television series *JAG*. And both produced and starred in a short-lived television series called *Matt Waters*, in 1996, where he portrayed an ex-Navy SEAL turned inner-city high school teacher.

Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, he revealed in 2004 that he had at one time considered committing suicide. Relenting, he later established a foundation to raise money for research and authored several books about MS and related topics.

So, why would I have so much to say about a sailor with 22 years of service. Well because it reminds me of the story about the outstanding graduating paratrooper who, when asked “To what do you attribute your success amongst so many good men, sergeant?” said to the Army General, “Three years in the Marine Corps, sir.”

[His name & photo are on page 4]

Trivia Question 4: What three 20th century military techniques is the United States Marine Corps credited with having developed? (Answer on Page 4)

Will this soon apply to domestic tranquility???





With a straight face, the sergeant announced that "...though there are many like it, this one is *mine*."

A Mended Heart (Cont. from Pg 2)

in the neck or the jaw, persistent heartburn, heavy sweating or nausea, get medical help. Recent research has shown that women may experience different symptoms of cardiac disease than men, being less likely to report chest pain during a heart attack. Instead, women may notice events such as unusual tiredness or sleep disturbances. Again, get help. The people most at risk for coronary heart disease - not surprisingly - are those over 65, a man or a post-menopausal woman. Oh, and if you smoke, stop. If you eat a high-fat diet, change it. If you don't exercise, start. End of sermon. Amen and Semper fi.

Attitude is Everything

Thirty-nine years ago I was shot in an ambush while a Marine on a night patrol in Vietnam. I had potentially fatal wounds to my chest and a serious wound to my right leg. The doctors told me that my days as a Marine were over. To put matters bluntly, I had never been more terri-

Trivia Question 5: What's wrong with this picture? (Answer: page 4.)



fied in my life.

My history is relevant only because there are at least two huge differences between those days and now, vis-à-vis our Wounded Warriors. I know they exist because, in recent years, I've had the privilege of witnessing the proof at Fort Bragg's Womack Hospital. First, the Army acts as if the individual is going to remain forever a soldier. Second, the attitude of these kids is amazing. No matter how badly wounded, they believe that they will soon be back with their units fighting.

Recently, I received a widely distributed email from a trauma surgeon in Iraq. He wrote: "If I ever hear (anyone) griping and complaining, I jump into them pretty quickly, now. Most people over here have nothing to gripe about compared to Marines. Marines are different. They have a different outlook on life

"One Marine Private was here for several days as he was a lower priority evacuation patient. He insisted upon displaying proper military courtesy every morning when I came through on rounds. He was in a great deal of pain, and it was a stressful to watch him work his way off the bed and onto his crutches. I told him he was excused and did not have to come to attention while he was a patient. He insisted that as a good Marine he WOULD address 'Air Force colonels standing on my feet, sir.' I had to turn away so he would not see the tear in my eye. He did not have *feet* because we amputated his right leg below the knee on the first night he came in.

"I asked a Marine Lance Corporal if there was anything I could get him, as I made rounds one morning. He was an above the knee amputation after an IED blast, and he surprised me when he asked for a trigonometry book. 'You enjoy math do you?' He replied, 'Not particularly, sir. I was never good at it, but I need to get good at it, now.' 'Are you planning a return to school?' I asked. 'No sir, I plan to a transfer to the artillery. I'd slow an infantry platoon down with just one good leg, but I am going to get good at math and learn how to shoot artillery.' I hope he does.

"I had the sad duty of standing over a young Marine sergeant when he recovered from anesthesia. Despite our best efforts there was just no way to save his left arm, and it had to come off just below the elbow.

"Can I have my arm back, sir?' the sergeant asked.

"No, we had to cut it off.'

"But can I have it back' he asked again. 'I know you had to cut it off, but I want it back. It must be in a bag or something, sir.' 'Why do you want it?' I asked. 'Well, I am going to have it stuffed and use it as a club when I get back to my unit.' I must have looked shocked because he tried to comfort me, 'Don't you worry now, colonel. You did a fine job, and I hardly hurt at all; besides I write with my other hand anyway.'"

How really incredible is that for attitude? *Joseph Kinney 24Jul08*

[Courtesy: George Bitsoli-3rd Plt.]

A Darn Fine Explanation

A wife came home early to find her husband in bed with a young woman.

Furious, she exclaimed, "You pig! Why would you do this to a faithful wife and the mother of your children? I want a divorce !"

Carefully choosing his words, the husband replied, "Whoa! Hang on love. Let me explain what happened." "Fine, go ahead," she sobbed, "but they'll be the last words you'll say to me!"

"Well, said he, "I was getting into my car and she asked me for a lift. She looked so down, out and defenseless that I took pity on her and let her into the car.

"Then, I noticed she was very thin, not well dressed and very dirty. She told me that she hadn't eaten for three days. So, being a compassionate person, I brought her home and warmed up the enchiladas I

Trivia Question 6: Recognize the following Caribbean hilltop?



(Answer 6 on page 4.)

made for you last night. You know, the ones you wouldn't eat in fear you'll put on weight. The poor thing devoured them in moments.

"Since she needed a good clean-up, I suggested she shower. And while she was doing that, I saw that her clothes were dirty and full of holes, so I threw them away.

"Then, as she needed clothes, I gave her the designer jeans that you have had for years, but don't wear because you say they are too tight. I gave her the underwear that was your anniversary present, which you don't wear because I don't have good taste.

"I also gave her the sexy blouse my sister gave you for Christmas that you don't wear only to annoy her and those boots you bought at some expensive boutique and don't wear because someone at work has a pair just like them."

Pausing, taking a quick breathe, he continued: "Then, so grateful for the help she'd received, as I walked her to the door, she turned to me with tears in her eyes and a voice filled with emotion said, 'Please ... do you have anything else that your wife doesn't use?'

"Why, yes," said he, "as a matter of fact, I do...."



Officers & Staff NCOs — Solant Amity I — G - 2 - 6

Solant Amity I — G-2 6 Association

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See the whole story at
SolantAmity.com

The First Marines to Land in Monrovia

Enlightening Odds and Ends:

Check out our website. There you will find a recently posted full sized and clearer photo of the Company's Officers and Staff NCOs, shown on page 2 of this newsletter. Test your memory against the personnel roster.



In addition, you'll find several new and interesting aerial photos of the Santa Maria's capture, a posting of those long ago forgotten "General Orders" and a copy of the "Rock's and Shoals" [precursor to the UCMJ] regulations. You might get a kick out of learning the number of things you could have received the "death sentence" for. 😊

And, lastly, should you not have realize it, most of what was "G" Company in 1960 joined the Marine Corps 50-51 years ago. Happy "Holy Crap" 50th!

Now for membership updates:



Delwin "Bill" Bailey-3rd Platoon remains well in Florida. He spoke at length about the *abuse* he took from the VA when living in New York. [Recent media stories have indicated a deliberate—decades long—VA denial of benefits to deserving individuals in New York.]

Reapplying in Erie, PA he was in 2004 finally provided an 85% disability for loss of hearing, the result of a land mine incident in Vietnam and written about on our website.

Arthur Busbee, 3rd Platoon is well. He's been in touch with **Bill Driggins** and **Ken Kollai** in recent months and loves being able to do so, after so many years of "separation."

Doug Carver, 2nd Platoon Commander was pleased to receive a photo of "G" Company's Officers & Staff during Solant Amity I. Said he, "A fine, handsome and happy group they were...."

Trevor Davies, 3rd Platoon and his wife of better than four decades are well after a recent medical emergency and especially happy about spring's arrival.

Ruth was hospitalized on 21Mar after a prolonged bout with walking pneumonia, a diminished immune system and three distinct viral infections! Dangerously dehydrated, when examined it was near impossible to detect a pulse. Now home and "putting back" gallons of Gatorade, bronchial decongestant and antibiotics, Ruth has prevailed.

STAY well, Ruth.

"Ammo" DiBuonoventura-3rd Platoon is well though thoroughly frustrated with New Jersey's outrageous real estate taxes. Looking to sell, he plans a *return* to Philadelphia where a 10 year tax abatement program is offered to new home owners.

He wishes our membership a fine summer and will keep us advised when he moves.

Billy Driggins, 3rd Platoon is well. He and his wife, Elaine, are enjoying though still adjusting to their new and rambunctious puppy after losing what Bill insists was the most intuitive dog he'd ever owned.

Both Bill and Elaine say hello and provide their very best wishes to "All Hands."

"Albee" Sears, 1st Platoon met with **Ed Shea** of the 3rd Herd for a great and extended non-alcoholic lunch in Huntington, New York back in December '08.

Sears and Shea were part of PI Platoon 220-59, then "Echo" Company before joining G-2-6 in November of 1960.

Amazingly, Albee had had his *most recent* of five "stent" operations only weeks before he and Ed got together.

Kenneth Skipper, Retired Major and former CO of "G" Company is well after his own battle with heart disease last year. With regular exercise, aspirin and only two mild prescription medications "The Man," at 84, is back to playing golf four times a week!

Ron Smith, 3rd Platoon is well after a heart attack in February. A history of its occurrence and lessons learned from the experience can be found on page 2. All hands stand to benefit from reading it.

He and June wish all members the very best and safest of summers.

Here are some reactions to Ed Hart's internet "SPOT" display, which provided his step-by-step journey south by sail:

"How frigg'n cool is that. All I can do is be jealous, but wish him all the best and a good and safe jour-

Trivia Answers:

1. Water & bread. [Now, likely, Perrier & pumpernickel.] 😊
2. Thirty minutes.
3. Bouncing Betty.
4. Integrated amphibious assault, close air support, vertical envelopment.
5. Nothin'!!!
6. You shouldn't. It's not in the Caribbean. It's Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima.



7. The "Mameluke" sword, though now used only ceremonially.

Trivia Question 7: Our military has seen a fair share of weapons. Which one has seen the longest continual service since it was first put to use? (See answer below.)

ney.

"Just love the technology that lets us do things like "SPOT".

"By the way, what's the chance of getting the Solant Amity Newsletter on a regular basis?"

Viktor von Mertens-SoLant Amity III

Then:

"The update on Hart's sailing trip is very interesting. When last I'd looked he was in South Carolina, now he is in the Florida Keys.

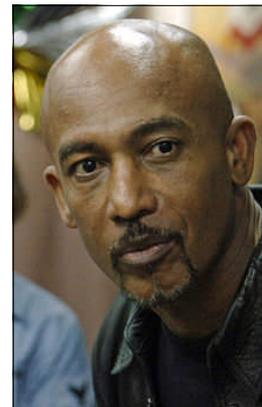
"I also wanted to let you know that I have been recalled to active duty in the Army, for 12-18 months."

Jeffrey Port, son of Weapons Platoon's Bill Port.

Finally, some closing remarks.

First: it's evident that the years and cumulative affects of personal abuses are having their impacts on us all. Thus, I ask that you read and heed CLOSELY Smith's advice. Take good care of yourselves.

Second: I thank all who have sent articles, cartoons and their thoughts about how to make our newsletter what it is.



Montel Brian Anthony Williams

Mailed as a black on white copy, a fully colorized version can be found at our website, where on page one you'll find a link to a downloadable version.

I hope you've enjoyed this latest effort. Send in your stories by e-or-snail mail to make for an even better next issue.

Semper Fi; *Ed Shea*