



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.mowwestvalleyaz.org**



Bulletin No. 6

February 2024

The Preamble

- To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
- To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag;
- To promote and further patriotic education in our nation;
- Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the armed forces;
- To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of national security for the United States of America;
- To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
- To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars;
- And to transmit all these ideals to posterity; under God and for our Country, we unite to establish

**THE MILITARY ORDER
OF THE WORLD WARS.**

SPECIAL FEATURE (Page 6) **Ranger Raid in Mosul**



Commander's Message



**Linda Howry
Commander**

The Chapter 131 MOWW monthly meeting was held on January 13th at the Indigo Grill Bar in Sun City Festival. The speaker was Nel Tinker, a WWII civilian survivor of the Nazi invasion of her homeland.

The meeting at the Colonnade for February through May fell through due to the excessive cost of the breakfast meal. Our Saturday, February 10, 2024 monthly meeting will be held at Denny's Restaurant #9290, 14799 W Grand Ave, Surprise. The time for the meeting has changed with the staff meeting at 0800 to 0900 and the general meeting at 0900 to 1100. I will send more information by email about this meeting. Our speaker for the February meeting will be Chris Schmitd, MD whose topic is "William Schmidt, MOH - Two halves of the story".

We have received four applications for the essay contest as of January 18th and they will be reviewed by the essay committee. Remember,

Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for February 10th, 2024 at 0900 at the Denny's Restaurant.

Address: Denny's Restaurant, 14799 W Grand Ave, Surprise

Chapter dues for operational year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 are due and checks are payable to "MOWW Chapter 131". More information on the AZYLC tax credit can be found on our website moww131.org. This credit helps send students to the AZYLC summer conference.

MOC plans are well underway with the MOC scheduled for February 20, 2024 at 11:15 am at the Palm Ridge Recreational Center, Sun City West. We have 35 Flags as of mid-January and 7 cadet units scheduled for the MOC. A meeting to iron out the final details for the MOC will be held at 0900 February 5th at the Palm Ridge Center.

Jerry Jenson was presented with a certificate of appreciation from National MOWW for his recruitment of new members for our chapter. Sheri Jenson was given a certificate of appreciation for all the support she has given to Chapter 131.

I hope you will be at the MOC and invite your friends to attend as well.

Linda Howry, Commander 2023-2024

Email: lindahowry@aol.com or call 928-252-6340

Surgeon's Note

Surgeon's Note
By Chris W. Schmidt, MD

Significant Contributions by Military Physicians, #5 Jonathan Letterman

Every soldier who has ever cried out to a medic on the field of battle or civilian who dials 911 owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Jonathan Letterman. Modern emergency response: the appearance of EMT's, the transport by ambulance, and the evaluation on arrival at the hospital all had their origins in the Civil War. Letterman's genius was that he gathered pioneering ideas from a

variety of sources and skillfully directed their practical implementation, thereby transforming medical care for the ages.



Jonathan Letterman was born in Canonsburg, PA in 1824. He attended Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and received his MD degree in 1849. He entered the Army as an assistant-surgeon and served on the western frontier. He was assigned to western Vir-

ginia with William Hammond, under General Rosecrans, at the beginning of the Civil War.

When Dr. Hammond became Surgeon General, he appointed Letterman Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac with the full support of General McClellan. After the second battle of Bull Run, it had taken a full week to clear the wounded from the battle field. In addition, of the 100,000 men in the Army of the Potomac, nearly 30,000 were not fit to fight due to disease. McClellan tasked Letterman with addressing and solving these problems. Working closely with Hammond and drawing on the research and writings of several others, Letterman carefully began to develop what became known as the Letterman Plan.

Immediately, Letterman aggressively began to institute policies regarding hygiene. Camp layout, selection of appropriate water sources for drinking and cooking, positioning and rotation of latrines and livestock, daily sick call with removal and isolation of diseased soldiers, dedicated and trained cooks, improved diet with a variety of vegetables and fruit as available, inspection of meat sources, routine laundry of uniforms and bedding, and control of vermin and insects resulted in decline in disease among the troops.

At the onset of the war, the wounded that were able would ambulate to the rear. Those that were unable to move had to wait until a lull in the fighting allowed their comrades to evacuate

them. There were no dedicated stretcher bearers. If the Army advanced or retreated, the wounded could be left on the field untreated and without additional food or water for several days or even more than a week.



While stationed in western Virginia, Letterman worked on revising the military ambulance with General William Rosecrans.

Letterman was an engineer and Letterman an experienced frontier military surgeon. Their combined expertise resulted in what became known as the Wheeling ambulance, after the location in what is now West Virginia where it was developed. The design was extensively tested and modified before it went into production. The ambulance was light weight and could be pulled by only two horses. Up to four stretchers or 12 seated men could be transported. It had springs to somewhat cushion movement over rough ground and carried water, medical supplies, and emergency equipment. With modifications, the Wheeling ambulance saw service into the 20th century.

Letterman created a dedicated ambulance corps with teamsters, wranglers, farriers, harness makers, wheelwrights, stretcher bearers, and surgeons. They were organized, trained, and drilled to work as an efficient unit for maintenance, repair, and performance.

The wounded were sought out on the battle field by stretcher bearers who wore distinctive uniforms and were trained to transfer litters to awaiting ambulances. There accomplished drivers transported the patients to a dressing station out of range of small arms fire (usually 500 yards). At the dressing station bleeding was stopped, limbs were splinted, and wounds received an initial dressing by a hospital steward. Triage was performed by an assistant-surgeon.

The hospital stewards and assistant-surgeon utilized a medical field kit. The kit contained medication, instruments, and medical supplies. Each kit was standardized as to content, quantity, and location; the same way field medical kits are standardized in the modern medical corps. This greatly improved the efficiency of care delivery as well as resupply of kit contents.

The triage system perfected by Letterman remains in universal use today basically unchanged. Those with the most serious injuries, that could reasonably be expected to recover with prompt treatment, were transported up the system to a field hospital as quickly as possible. Those less serious wounds were treated as best possible and returned to battle or transferred to the field hospital less urgently. Finally, those with wounds that were judged to be mortal were made comfortable and observed. Triage proved immensely valuable in both preserving life and valuable medical resources.

Dressing stations remained within artillery range. Field hospitals



were located, as much as possible, beyond enemy fire. There a crew of surgeons was headed by a surgeon in chief chosen on the basis of skill, not seniority or rank. He was assisted by 3 operating surgeons, 9 assistant-surgeons, and 1 logistical surgeon. A standardized surgical kit was used. Anesthesia with chloroform or ether was available for 95% of surgeries. Detailed medical/surgical records were kept. These were later incorporated into the *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*, which has been a treasure of data for historical and scientific research. Surgical survival significantly improved as nearly all patients were able to receive appropriate surgery within 24 hours of wounding.

The effectiveness of the Letterman Plan is evident in the fact that after the battle of Gettysburg every wounded soldier was evacuated from the

field within 24 hours of the cessation of fighting. A dramatic improvement from the 7 days required after second Bull Run.



The final jewel in Letterman's design was the development of large Pavilion

Hospitals. These were very large regional hospitals for chronic and rehabilitative care. Patients were transported by specially designed railroad ambulance cars hundreds of miles to these facilities. There, the hospitals were designed with central administrative areas and satellite wards. These wards were well ventilated and patients with infections were isolated. Linens and wash basins were not shared. The facility had an ancillary kitchen, bakery, laundry, dairy, garden, and cattle herd. Patients could remain there for months while their amputations and other serious injuries healed.

In the Mexican War, deaths due to disease outnumbered those due to wounds nearly 4:1. During the Civil War that number fell to 2:1. With no knowledge of germ theory, Letterman and others had instituted hygiene standards and isolation guidelines that effectively reduced the spread of infectious disease.

General McClellan was relieved of command of the Army of the Potomac. Hammond became embattled with Secretary of War Stanton. Dr. Letterman had enjoyed carte blanche to reform and improve the Medical Department under their leadership. He could see that that level of support could not be relied upon going forward. He resigned as Medical Director in December 1863. The Letterman Plan became standard US Army policy in March 1864.

Jonathan Letterman died in San Francisco, March 15, 1872, at age of 47. Letterman Army Medical Center (since decommissioned) at the

Presidio of San Francisco was named in his honor.

<u>Letterman Plan, 1862-3</u>	<u>2024 Equivalent</u>
Hygiene and sanitation standards	Public health regulations
Stretcher bearers	Corpsman/EMT/ Paramedic
Horse drawn ambulance	Ambulance/ Helicopter
Triage	Triage
Chief surgeon	Trauma surgeon
Field hospital	Combat Support Hospital/Trauma Center
Pavilion hospital	Tertiary care hospital

Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
Treasurer



Financial Report

As of 19 Jan 2024

General Fund	\$9,454.52
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$9,504.52
Patriotic Savings Account	\$5,430.76
Endowment Fund	\$15,563.91
GRAND TOTAL	\$30,499.19

Chapter Dues Are Due. Thank you to those who have already paid. Please make checks payable to "MOWW Chapter 131" and mail your payment to our treasurer Michael Isban at 8980 W. Runion Drive, Peoria, AZ 85382.

AZ Tax Credit to Support AZYLC Delegates. We are still awaiting details on the Arizona Youth Leadership Conference (AZYLC) date,

location, length and price per attendee. When this is made available, you will receive an email with the details. Then you will find additional information located on our website (moww131.org). Please consider making a donation to support our sponsored delegates this summer. The tax credit is limited to \$400 filing jointly or \$200 filing separately. As you make your tax credit donation, please let Companion Buz Isban know ahead of time, so that he can track the use of funds in 2024. His contact information is buzisban@cox.net or phone 623- 512-.0765. You have until April 15, 2024 to take advantage of the tax credit for calendar year 2023.

***Heads Up
MOWW National Convention
5-11 August 2024
Valley Forge, PA***

Future Events

10 February 2024 – Chapter Meeting
20 February 2024 – ***Massing of the Colors***
9 March 2024 – Chapter Meeting
13 April 2024 – Chapter Meeting
11 May 2024 – Chapter Meeting

MOWW National Information

MOWW News and Information

Want to Become a MOWW Companion?

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

[Click for More Information](#)

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

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the March 2024 Bulletin is the 21th of February.

Email articles to carltonbjerkaas@gmail.com

SPECIAL FEATURE

Ranger Raid in Mosul

Rangers' yuletide strike

BY [DR. PATRICK R. JENNINGS, PH.D.](#) - DECEMBER 10, 2021



Rangers patrol a neighborhood in Iraq. USASOC photo

Since the dawn of gunpowder combat, every battle in every war has begun with an opening shot. Few, however, were as dramatic as the opening shots fired by America's Rangers that tore through the early morning darkness of Christmas 2007. The shots were fired as part of a raid that rapidly expanded into a battle that, once over, signaled an end to al Qaeda's control of their last stronghold in northern Iraq.

In the months prior to the raid, commanders in Baghdad realized that they were playing a game of "whack-a-mole" with al Qaeda cells. Coalition forces would push them out of Baghdad and they would move to Baqubah; clear Baqubah and they would slip to Samarra; reinforce Samarra and they would fall back on their support cells in the safety of Mosul. In order to manage a single effort, Multi-

National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) developed a corps-level operation designed to apply nationwide pressure on all al Qaeda cells. As 2007 drew to an end, MNC-I developed Operation Phantom Phoenix, a major nationwide offensive, in an attempt to build on the success of the two previous corps-level operations, Operation Phantom Thunder and Operation Phantom Strike. The offensive consisted of a number of coalition and Iraqi Army operations throughout northern Iraq as well as in the area surrounding Baghdad.

To Charles' surprise, the shower basin came up and revealed a passageway, secured by a large concrete block on rails, that led to a hidden bunker. As Charles rolled the block out of the way, gunfire ripped through the tiny opening.



A small element of Rangers during a night patrol in Iraq. The initial assault teams raiding the house itself totaled only 18 men. USASOC photo

In northern Iraq, Operation Phantom Phoenix required that U.S. Army Rangers conduct reconnaissance operations, gather intelligence, and launch direct-action missions in order to prepare the battlespace for follow-on conventional operations. In northern Iraq, this mission was critical. Throughout 2007 there were roughly 210 attacks on coalition troops each week in and around Mosul. There were fewer Americans operating in the city of 1.8 million than in Baghdad, and al Qaeda was ready to reassert their control over the area after being ousted from Tal Afar by H.R. McMaster and his 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. In short, the Rangers needed to root out the cells that continued to

destabilize the area, and they knew that Mosul was key to their success. Indeed, Rear Adm. Greg Smith, MNC-I's command spokesman, identified Mosul as "a key strategic crossroads for the al Qaeda both from a financing point of view and foreign-fighter facilitation networks. It is," Smith noted, "the one area in the north that al Qaeda wants to hang onto."

On Christmas Eve, the Rangers were operating in Mosul in search of intelligence when they were notified of a tip by a local man who reported seeing terrorists execute a man in public. The witness even identified which house the group was using as their base of operations. Acting on this intelligence, Maj. Brian Pickett, company commander, organized 60 of his men for a raid on the compound. Their objective was simple and was based on the mission statement outlined by Operation Phantom Phoenix:

"To kill/capture known terrorist cells affiliated with kidnapping and murder, to collect intelligence, disrupt terrorist information operations, and develop operations for the capture of senior terrorist group leadership."

With this in mind, the major's men spent their Christmas Eve poring over existing intelligence and preparing their gear for the raid.

The Rangers slipped out of their compound in the early hours of Christmas morning, working their way through the quiet streets of Mosul. Pickett developed a plan where 50 of his men, divided into two groups, would provide front, side, and back-side security, thereby isolating the objective. The assault team was organized into two teams of nine Rangers each. As the Rangers prepared for their mission, they continued to follow intelligence updates, and quickly discovered that at least two armed insurgents were in the house.

Aerial photos gave the Rangers a pretty good idea of the layout of the house, compound, and immediate area. Once the blocking forces were in place Pickett ordered his men in. The first team in had the difficult job of scaling a nearby building so that they could enter through an opening in the roof. They would slip down the stairs and assault the room that held the two armed insurgents. At the same time, the second team would breach the front of the compound and sweep through the house to clear it of any unidentified terrorists.

One of the Rangers, Staff Sgt. Paul Hegleth, later told *USA Today*, "You don't go into anything thinking the best-case scenario. Anytime you go through a door you are expecting someone there with a gun waiting on you. Or, someone with a suicide vest, grenade, or whatever their weapon of choice is at that particular time. You're always thinking for the worst." The worst is what the Rangers found. Slipping into the first room, thought to contain an armed force of at least two men, the assault team immediately identified their enemy and saw they were shielding themselves with an 11-year-old boy. Hegleth realized he had an opportunity and took it, firing twice and killing both insurgents, but leaving the

boy unharmed. These were the opening shots of what developed into a 17-hour battle in a very small place.

Rifle fire and grenade shrapnel tore through the air and the civilians had nowhere to run. Charles quickly gathered up the women and children, including one he carried over his shoulder, and made a dash for the courtyard wall.

With the two gunmen dead, the assault teams continued their search of the house and compound and found several local nationals, women and children, cowering in the corner. The terrified Iraqis tried to tell the Rangers how many terrorists were in the house, but their reports were confusing and conflicting. One of the assault team leaders, Sgt. 1st Class Laraun Charles, decided to conduct a more intense search, and put his men on alert as they moved through the house. While searching a bathroom, Charles saw something out of place – a heavy nylon strap protruding from beneath a shower basin.



U.S. Rangers and Iraqi Police Forces on a mission in northern Iraq in 2007. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class (Naval Air Crewman) Michael B.W. Watkins.

Charles called in Hegleth and told him to cover him as he pulled on the strap. To Charles' surprise, the shower basin came up and revealed a passageway, secured by a large concrete block on rails, that led to a hidden bunker. As Charles rolled the block out of the way, gunfire ripped through the tiny opening. Hegleth poured fire into the opening as Charles scrambled out of the small room. The opening

was a mere 2 feet by 2 feet, far too narrow for two Rangers strapped with the equipment of modern war to assault through, so Hegleth tossed a grenade through the opening. After the blast, Charles and Hegleth were moving back into the room to clear the bunker when they saw two grenades bounce out of the tunnel. Their retreat was met with the concussion of the grenades and a hail of enemy fire ripping from the tunnel.

Hegleth found himself cut off from Charles but in a good position to suppress the enemy. Another Ranger, Dan Asworth, was pinned down by insurgent fire. Although the terrorists couldn't hit him, they could keep him pinned down against the thin wall that provided him some cover. By this point, the women and children had started to panic. Rifle fire and grenade shrapnel tore through the air and the civilians had nowhere to run. Charles quickly gathered up the women and children, including one he carried over his shoulder, and made a dash for the courtyard wall. There Charles, according to Pickett, risked his life, "taking enemy fire while he's literally extending himself and pushing women and children over the wall." While other Rangers maneuvered to provide covering fire for Asworth and Hegleth, Charles slipped over the wall and quickly linked up with two other Rangers. Charles led his small force back into the house and set up another position to fire on the enemy hideout.

Almost as soon as Charles had his men in position an insurgent stormed around the corner. Charles' team killed him "right there on the spot." As the Rangers pushed closer to the shower room, Hegleth used a lull in their fire to move to Asworth and cover him as he climbed a ladder to the roof. Hegleth followed and both slipped to safety over the back wall of the compound. By this time, Charles' men had a direct view of the tunnel, and quickly realized more terrorists were in the bunker. One of the insurgents attacked out of the bunker and was killed, but both Charles and Pickett realized that they needed to get their Rangers out of such a tiny killing zone. Exactly one hour into the battle Pickett ordered his Rangers to withdraw and regroup, but he had more than one ace up his sleeve.

High over the Ranger fight an Air Force Special Operations Command AC-130U gunship orbited the compound. For the last hour, the crew had listened intently to their radios, monitoring the firefight raging below. The gunship was armed with a mix of rapid-fire Gatling guns and heavy artillery. Inside the AC-130, a complex array of sensors was capable of detecting laser target designators operated by ground forces and firing with pin-point accuracy. On this night, Pickett called for the airmen to fire 15 105 mm delayed fuse rounds into the terrorist bunker. Pickett asked for delayed fuse so the 19-pound, high explosive shells would penetrate the roof and explode near the bunker. As Pickett directed the fire, he observed that each round struck the designated target as precisely "as I've ever seen it."

Once the AC-130U had finished its work, the Rangers settled in to watch the site for enemy activity. By 9:00 am little had happened, so Pickett decided to send in one of his officers to recon the damage. That task fell to 1st Lt. L.P. Mitchell, accompanied by Hegleth, who by now, had intimate knowledge of the compound. As the two Rangers searched the house, they came across two dead insurgents, both wearing unexploded suicide-bomb belts. As they approached the opening to the bunker, they spied

another insurgent wearing an explosive-laden belt – this one alive and well. Mitchell and Hegleth opened fire on the man and backed away as the terrorist pulled the pin. “His vest detonated,” Mitchell recalled later, “clouding the whole area with dust.” As the dust settled, both Mitchell and Hegleth tossed grenades into the bunker, shattering the opening and filling it with smoke. Although they could hear nothing coming from the bunker, Mitchell tossed in one more grenade, and he and Hegleth left the house.



A 4th Special Operations Squadron AC-130U Hercules aircraft during target practice over the range at Hurlburt Field, Florida. An AC-130U called in for fire support during the raid placed 15 105 mm shells directly on target. U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock

After a short wait, Mitchell and Hegleth, this time accompanied by another Ranger, moved back into the house and decided to enter and clear the bunker. As they wiggled into the small opening, they found two dead insurgents and saw a third crawling away, tugging at a pin. Fearing another suicide attempt, the Rangers shot him dead. The three men slowly moved along the bunker’s walls until they heard voices and saw movement. Unsure how many men he faced; Mitchell ordered his team out of the bunker. Once clear he called Pickett.

The Christmas Day raid also led to ten follow-on raids that netted even more intelligence. This intelligence undoubtedly helped commanders plan Operation Iron Harvest that swept through Mosul and northern Iraq in January 2008

On receiving Mitchell's call, Pickett assessed the situation and came to a decision. "At his point," he reported, "we had eight enemy killed in action that we engaged. On four of those, we have confirmed the wear or use of a suicide belt." The Rangers knew there were at least three insurgents still in the bunker and perhaps more, farther back. At this point, Pickett recalled, he "needed a little bit more firepower." Pickett ordered the area cleared and called for his next move – a pair of F-16 Falcons armed with 500-pound JDAM satellite-guided bombs. At 11:15 a.m., the Falcons roared over the enemy compound and released their ordnance. In a matter of moments, the compound was reduced to a pile of rubble.

Although the fighting was done, the effect of the raid was not. Pickett's men led a sensitive site exploitation team to the area, where they scoured the shattered insurgent compound for intelligence. Estimates are the action killed 10 or 11 insurgents and crippled a critical al Qaeda assassination cell. The Rangers estimated they had destroyed more than \$1.6 million of explosives, bomb-making material, and weapons. The Christmas Day raid also led to ten follow-on raids that netted even more intelligence. This intelligence undoubtedly helped commanders plan Operation Iron Harvest that swept through Mosul and northern Iraq in January 2008. So effective were the Rangers that a military analyst from the London Times, who called Mosul al Qaeda's last redoubt, noted that the terrorists lacked "the strength to fight the army face-to-face and lost the sympathy of the most ordinary citizens who once admired its stand against the occupying forces and their allies in the Iraqi army." Clearly, even on Christmas Day, Rangers Lead the Way!

This article was originally published on July 22, 2010

Editor's Note: In accordance with USASOC policy the names of all military personnel have been changed. All information for this article was drawn from USSOCOM and USASOC PAO offices, and the 2008 AUSA presentation "Christmas Surprise: Ranger Raid in Mosul," part of the "America's Army: The Strength of the Nation" display. This article was first published in The Year in Special Operations: 2010-2011 Edition.

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