



Catalina Mountains Patriot

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Interim Editor
Marlon Ruiz

PREAMBLE

"To cherish the memories and associations of the
World Wars waged for humanity;..."



Commander:

Jean Nelson



Adjutant:

Lt Col Richard Nelson



Treasurer:

CWO4 Robert Ozier



Asst. Treasurer:

COL Pedro Najera



Chaplain:

Jean Nelson



Judge Advocate:

COL Pedro Najera

Commander's Comments:

Looking back on the past year, we have dealt with quarantine, isolation, cancellations and many other difficult situations. With all the problems the order and our chapter have dealt with, it is easy to lose sight of what our order means to us. Some companions have walked away because they have forgotten who we are and what we stand for. Our Preamble lays out clearly what our goals and aspirations are. In my opinion, nothing is more important than teaching the young people growing up in this free country the value of patriotism and respect for our constitution. They must be made aware of the sacrifices of the service men and women who serve to protect and preserve the freedoms we enjoy. As we move forward in this very strange environment, let us keep this purpose in the forefront.

A Zoom meeting is scheduled for December 5. I look forward to the day when we can meet in person. In the meantime, stay safe.

Commander Jean



Chaplain's Corner

Psalm 111:1

"Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation."

Psalm 107:1

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever,"

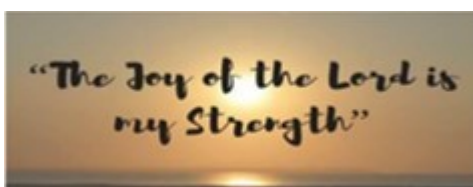
At this time of Thanksgiving, even with things in upheaval, we should always be thankful for the blessings in our lives.

It is a time to look for the good things God has for us. And as we give thanks for God's goodness, Christmas is just around the corner with all the joy and stress it brings. In this miraculous season of hope and love, may we be aware of the grace and mercy God has for all his people. Let us keep the spirit of giving and caring for others through all the seasons of our lives.

Isaiah 9:6

"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".

Blessings to you all,
Chaplain Jean



CM CHAPTER SUPPORTED VETERANS DAY EVENT



Fellow Catalina Mountains Chapter companion—LTC Ken Robinson assisted the placement of over 200 US Flags at the gravesites honoring our fallen veterans this past Veteran's Day at the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery grounds in Marana (west Tucson).

Ken Robinson also serves as a member of the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Foundation, Inc. in Marana, charged with the continued beautification and upkeep of the newest completely military veteran dedicated cemetery in southern Arizona. To find out more about this organization please go to the following website at: <https://www.avmc-foundation.org/>

To view the public media news report provided by Kansandra Lau from KVOA-TV on this activity and Ken's interview, please go to the following link or place your mouse pointer arrowhead over Ken's photo or the link and "click" the left button on your mouse once: <https://www.azpm.org/p/azillhome/2020/11/13/183963-veteran-reflects-on-honoring-fellow-service-members/>



The Major of Saint-Lo

by

Companion Joe Harris, Catalina Mountains Chapter

I well remember my first trip to Staunton, Virginia. Located in the breadbasket of the Old Dominion, the Shenandoah Valley is in any season of the year a beautiful section of the state. On my first visit the spring season was complete with new foliage. The air was clean following a light rain.

The 116th Infantry Regimental headquarters is stationed in the town's armory. Known as the Virginia Army National Guard's "Stonewall" Brigade, I knew about the "Stonewallers" and the regiment's lineage, but I was about to learn much more of its rich heritage and association with the valley.

Upon arriving I noted that the facility was named for Thomas D. Howie, of whom I had no knowledge. Walking down a hallway I encountered a bronze life-size bust of Major Thomas D. Howie. Who was this celebrated officer? I had to know.

My duty finished for the day, I changed into jogging clothes and joined several members of the regimental staff for a run. Several of us were long-distance runners, the first few miles were for warm up with little conversation. As we moved into a steady rhythm, I asked about Major Howie and was eagerly enlightened. The following is a little of what I learned on that late spring afternoon run.

Howie was born in the South Carolina midlands, a town called Abbeville. He enjoyed the virtues of small-town living. He attended The Citadel and was a star athlete in several sports. Graduating in 1929, Howie moved to Staunton, VA where he taught English, coached sports and was the athletic director for the Staunton Military Academy. Here he met and married Elizabeth Payne. In time, a daughter, Sally, was born. The family became a thread in Staunton's community fabric.

In 1934 Howie joined the VA Army National Guard and was stationed at the regimental headquarters in town. Howie drilled with the national guard in Staunton until the unit was federalized in 1941, his life forever changed.

The 116th Infantry Regiment was assigned to the 29th Infantry Division. In 1942 the division crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Once in the United Kingdom, it trained hard for a future invasion to push the Germans out of France. The "Stonewallers" were the spearhead for the famous D-Day amphibious attack on June 6, 1944.

With the beachhead secured, the division quickly moved inland. A month later, Howie was given command of the 116th's 3rd Battalion. Several days later his battalion was assigned the mission to break through German lines to rescue a sister battalion that had become surrounded and cut off from resupply. Howie instructed his commanders to fix bayonets. They launched an attack using only hand grenades and the spirit of the bayonet in a successful linkup with the 116th's 2nd Battalion.

““After resupplying his fellow soldiers he then left the 2nd Battalion to defend their position, reporting that they were “too cut up”, and planned to use the 3rd Battalion alone to push ahead and liberate Saint-Lo. On the morning of July 17, Howie spoke to the division commander saying, “See you in St. Lo!”; then issued orders for the attack. Moments later he was killed by shrapnel during a mortar attack.””

The loss was personal for the soldiers under Howie's command. The next day, men of the 3rd Battalion entered Saint-Lo. During the previous day's progress reports, the division commander ordered that Major Howie's body be the first to enter Saint-Lo after it was secured. On a gurney and draped with an American Flag, the body was placed on the hood of a jeep and was at the head of the column that entered the town. It was placed in the debris of the destroyed Saint Croix Cathedral in the heart of Saint-

-Lo.

Major Thomas Dry Howie was buried in the Normandy American Cemetery in France. For his actions he was awarded posthumously the Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Years following the war:

- The Staunton Military Academy unveiled a bust of Major Howie at Kable Hall.
- The Citadel erected the Howie Bell Tower next to its chapel and a mural of his body being carried into Saint-Lo is displayed in Daniel Library.
- Collier's magazine printed a story, "The Major of St. Lo" by Cornelius Ryan; it was made into an episode of the TV show Cavalcade of America.
- As part of the 25th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, the town of Saint-Lo dedicated a memorial to Major Howie at the Saint Croix Cathedral.
- The character of Captain John Miller in the movie Saving Private Ryan was largely based on Major Howie.
- Thomas Howie was enshrined in the SC Veterans Hall of Fame.
- A historical marker was placed in front of the Howie home in Abbeville, SC
- A granite monument in Abbeville's town square reads the inscription "Dead in France, Deathless in Fame."
- A South Carolina Army Reserve center is named for him as is the Virginia Army National Guard armory in Staunton, VA.

Sources:

1. Personal interviews with regimental staff members, 1985
2. Balkoski, Joseph (1989). *Beyond the Beachhead: The 29th Infantry Division in Normandy*.
3. Wikipedia



SAINT CROIX CATHEDRAL IN SAINT-LO

The Major of Saint-Lo

WORLD HIV/AIDS AWARENESS MONTH – DEC 2020



In 2017 in the United States, 38,739 were newly diagnosed with HIV, according to the CDC. iStock

December is HIV/AIDS awareness month, when organizations such as the Global Fund, the International AIDS Society, and the Kaiser Family Foundation spread awareness about the virus and try to reduce stigma, help those living with it, and advocate for an urgent response to reduce its global impact. The symbol associated with HIV/AIDS awareness is a red ribbon.

<https://nationaltoday.com/national-family-caregivers-month/>

December is Write a Friend a Letter Month

Ashley B | December 2, 2019 | 22 Comments

December is often seen as a time to connect with old friends and faraway family members. It's cold in many areas of the country, and of course several holidays fall within the course of the month. Did you know that December is designated as Write-a-Friend-a-Letter Month? Since people tend to batten down the hatches and enjoy indoor pleasures during the eleventh month, it's a great time to have a cup of tea, build a fire in the fireplace or light a scented candle, and touch base with someone non-electronically. It brightens up your day to receive a handwritten letter in your mailbox, doesn't it? It's so much nicer than an email, and a pleasant surprise in the sea of bills and junk mail. So this month, gather up your whole family and tell them it's letter-writing time! Here are some tips:



[December is Write a Friend a Letter Month - \(shopaholicmommy.com\)](https://shopaholicmommy.com)

Ted's Page

Better Than a Red Convertible



“We have sort of figured out when they are going to fire,” Porter said. This was in 1968 at Camp J.J. Carroll, within a few miles of the demilitarized zone (DMZ). In addition to attacks from other directions, Camp Carroll was subject to rocket attack and tube-artillery fire from the North Vietnam Army in their stationary sites across the DMZ. If they fired at Camp Carroll, they could expect American counterfire. Porter’s function, in fact, was to provide atmospheric corrections for outgoing rounds.



I was impressed with the thoughtful way Porter had answered my question. He and I were standing between his sandbagged GMD-1 radio direction finder (photo at left) and his bunker. Though one routinely avoided such thoughts, he had been answering my question: “How do you know if it’s safe for you and your men to leave the bunker, inflate the balloon, lock the Gmd-1’s receiver to the radiosonde signal, and release the balloon with its trailing radiosonde?” – all careful work that couldn’t be

hurried. Of course, we both knew no one could predict arrival of the next round.

Before landing there, I had visited CWO J.D. Witherington and his meteorology section at Camp Red Devil, 5/4th Mechanized Infantry, also close to the DMZ. From my XXIVth Corps base (at Phu Bai) I flew to Red Devil in a Loach. J.D. and I had much in common. Four years earlier, in 1964, as USAF sergeants, we met the Army warrant officer selection board at Ft. Myer, Virginia. We then enjoyed being instructors at the Artillery and Missile School. Perhaps because we two were the only meteorology warrants with college degrees of the 40 then in the Army, someone in the Pentagon selected us to be the first from the A&MS staff to take artillery meteorology sections to Vietnam, he with 1st Infantry, I with 1st Cavalry. After that tour, we had more instructor duties at Ft. Sill which in turn was followed by, you guessed it, the two of us being the first warrants to have a second Vietnam tour, this tour.

On this day in 1968, I asked my long-time friend if he wanted to join me in an LOH-6, or Loach,



On this day in 1968, I asked my long-time friend if he wanted to join me in an LOH-6, or Loach, on a visit to another of my seven sections, Camp J.J. Carroll. J.D. got into the Loach, squeezed into the small space behind the warrant officer pilot and I. We also called it “the generals’ chopper,” which, of



course, it was (we had two generals at Phu Bai). I often flew to those sections near the DMZ in the Loach when the distance was too far to go by jeep, always surprised at the rare privilege of using it. Unlike my tour in 1965, when meteorology, though respected as necessary to artillery operations, yet was looked on with some skepticism such as people naturally have when seeing new things; now, in 1968, it was more common and considered so important a Loach was freely made available to this meteorologist.

We stayed low, nearly always below tree tops, zooming down canyon walls or creek banks to their bottoms, zipping back up their other sides, skirting around trees on the way up, sometimes even down into and up from little ravines, ever so slight earth depressions, – all at what seemed to be 100 mile-per-hour speeds – a truly wild flight. Enemy units or their “civilian” spotters would have seen us, of course. The pilot tried every trick he knew of, and there were many, to make his Loach un-targetable. Often going to the seven sections was entirely my personal idea. Though we would come under rocket attack at Phu Bai, going to the sections was some additional risk and a decision my troops out there respected, it created a bond between us.



While zipping down to and up from one of the creeks I looked back at J.D., thinking he might be regretting going with me to Camp Carroll. In addition to the other Vietnam tour, J.D. had been in a previous war, the Korean War, and now was as calm as could be, his usual self. I knew he must have been thinking he was now doing a lot just for friendship’s sake. That wild ride did not stay long on my mind. At Carroll, we climbed out of the Loach into smoke.

An NVA round had exploded a second or two before we landed, killing a communication specialist in a foxhole. It could have been timed to hit as our Loach landed with the hope of hitting it. Smoke was erupting from a three-quarter-ton truck, the explosion having flattened its bed and sides as if from a sheet-metal press.

Porter’s answer comported perfectly with the methodical way he and his men produced data for artillery-trajectory corrections. They released the balloon-borne radiosonde in that open space between the sandbagged GMD-1 and the bunker and calculated winds and density data inside it. The bunker had

sandbagged walls, a roof made of layers: stacked logs, sandbags, perforated steel plate, concrete. [Good, but I doubted it could survive direct hits.](#) I was asking Porter if he had supply problems as J.D. sidled up and calmly asked, "Ted, how long are you going to be here?" The chopper pilot had just wisely (and perhaps nervously) motioned J.D. that it was time to leave, his sitting Loach a most tempting NVA target. Before leaving, I looked in the bunker. Nothing unusual, equipment for receiving radiosonde signals, a plotting board for wind computations, M16 fles.



Basketball Court. Four white objects behind foreground barbed wire are helium cylinders.

Two or three years after I had been there, John Ward, who became a geologist after leaving the Army and now lives in Tucson, was one of the meteorological crew at Camp Carroll. He has graciously provided photos of Camp Carroll. With the exception of the topmost photo above of the GMD-1, which I took at Camp Carroll on that day in 1968, all the photos are his, taken in 1971. He calls the third photo, of their sandbagged walkway, "J.J. Carroll Main Street." In the fourth photo, nighttime, the area is lit up to spot any infiltrating enemy. John doesn't make being based at Camp Carroll a big thing. But I know it had to rank high as the last place anyone would want to spend much time in.

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING

YOU CAN EITHER CALL IN BY PHONE OR LOGIN USING YOUR COMPUTER BY JUST PLACING YOUR COMPUTER MOUSE POINTER OVER THE BLUE LINK PROVIDED BELOW AND “LEFT CLICK” ONCE

Jean Nelson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MOWW Dec Meeting

Time: Dec 5, 2020 01:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82674327789?pwd=cVRkZkttbHZQZDVGVUVJNc0haeDZFZz09>

Meeting ID: 826 7432 7789

Passcode: 240511

One tap mobile

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+13462487799,,82674327789#,,,,,0#,,240511# US (Houston)

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 826 7432 7789

Passcode: 240511

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