



Catalina Mountains Patriot

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Interim Editor
Marlon Ruiz

PREAMBLE

“To inculcate and stimulate love of our
country and flag;...”



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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:

Happy New Year!!

With the possibility of a vaccine, we are hoping to start in person meetings this spring.

I am aware that is optimistic, but that is what hope is. I look out our window at the American flag we fly every day and feel great pleasure. I am very proud to call the United States of America my home. We are a nation that strives to be fair, just, and honorable. We have not always succeeded. My New Year's wish for 2021 is for all Americans to accept all people in our country regardless of religion, color, orientation, political party, whatever. My hope is that those in leadership roles will see the need to work together to further the needs of our country and to work with other countries for the benefit of all.

Our first meeting in 2021 will be on Zoom on January 9th at 1:00PM. I hope to see you there.

Commander Jean



Chaplain's Corner

Psalm 46:1-3,10

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble."

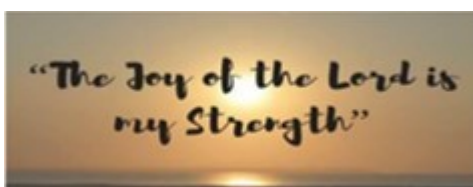
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

"Be still, and know I am God! I am exalted among the nations. I am exalted in the earth."

We are nearing the end of the strangest year I have ever experienced. It seems we have all been running in circles trying to avoid the virus.

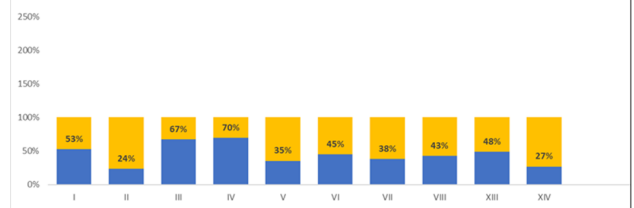
We seem to be caught up in the stresses that abound in our lives at this time. While things have looked bleak for a long time, there seems to be a glimmer of light at the end of this very long tunnel. The Lord God speaks and tells us to quieten our minds and hearts and listen to his voice. Sometimes we get so caught up in the chaos of the times in which we are living that we forget to stop and wait for God's direction. We know God is watching over us and guiding us. When we recognize this we find a wonderful peace nothing can replace. So, as we wait for the vaccine, keep aware of God's love and faithfulness. God will never abandon us.

Chaplain Jean



MOWW CINC SOLICITATION CAMPAIGN

OY 2020 CINC Donations by Region vs. Goal



The Order is below pace on donations so far and individual donations this year are smaller in amount than in past years (see the chart above). Your Order needs your support. You will each be receiving a reminder letter in January asking for a generous donation. *Please donate as you are able.*

I urge all companions to consider contributing to the annual CINC Solicitation campaign. The proceeds fund many of the things in which the Order is involved.

These include all of the awards, medals, certificates, Officer Review Magazine, MOWW's national website and more.

Your tax deductible contributions supports patriotic education programs and activities only MOWW provides. It is good to support the Order in all our worthwhile efforts.

Commander Jean



The Indomitable Betty Lou Oliver

by

Companion Joe Harris, Catalina Mountains Chapter

Before the World Trade Center existed, another spectacular crash occurred in New York City on the morning of July 28, 1945. This incident, though the nation was still at war with Japan, was not an attack by the enemy. On a flight from Bedford, Massachusetts to Newark, a U.S. Army Air Forces B-25 bomber flew into the north side of the Empire State Building crashing between the 78th and 80th floors.

There was heavy fog over Manhattan and the pilot made a wrong turn that put his aircraft on a collision course with the world's tallest building. Impact occurred at 9:40 creating a twenty-foot wide hole in the building at the 79th floor. One of two engines smashed through and out the south side landing on top of another building's roof a block away. The other engine and a portion of the landing gear fell down an elevator shaft. Both engines created fires. Fourteen souls including the flight crew were lost.

Twenty-year old elevator operator Betty Lou Oliver was ejected from her seat at the 80th floor. She was badly burned by the time rescuers arrived. Betty Lou was quickly placed on another elevator for evacuation. This was when her ordeal was about to take a turn for the worse. Not realizing that this particular elevator was damaged by the terrific impact, her descent was short lived. Upon dropping several floors, the cable snapped, and she fell approximately one thousand feet (75 stories) to the basement.



Betty Lou survived the ride! Discovered in the debris, this was supposed to be her final day on the job, however, it took about eight months to recover from her broken bones and burns. Betty Lou and her husband moved to Arkansas where they parented three children. At the time of her death, she had seven grandchildren.

Betty Lou Oliver's amazing story remains a world record for the longest survived elevator free-fall. Unfortunately her fame was soon overshadowed by the atomic bomb that ended World War II.
Lo.

Ordinarily Howie's story would end here had it not been for a photographer. Graves registration would have processed the major's body for burial. A replacement commander would have been identified and the 29th Division in France would continue to fight the Germans. But a photograph of Howie's flag-draped body lying in repose became widely circulated in the United States and ultimately was one of the most iconic images in the European Theater of WW II. Wartime security prevented Howie's name from being released. The photograph immortalized him as The Major 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:

Personal interviews with regimental staff members, 1985

Balkoski, Joseph (1989). *Beyond the Beachhead: The 29th Infantry Division in Normandy*.

Wikipedia

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month – JAN 2021



During January, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is marking Cervical Cancer Awareness Month with a series of tweets, videos, and infographics.

In 2018, an estimated 570 000 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer worldwide and about 311 000 women died from the disease.

Persistent infection with high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV) types is the main cause of cervical cancer.

Find out more below about cervical cancer, how it can be prevented, and the global initiative to eliminate this disease as a public health problem.

Ted's Page

Christmas 1947 to 1968



During two Christmases in Vietnam my mind would wander to memory of a book, *Adventures in Contentment*, by David Grayson. Way back in January Of 1947, as an 18-year-old I found that book in the dayroom of the 8th Weather Squadron at Westover Field, Massachusetts. It was just after the 12 days of Christmas over which I had been on furlough, home in Michigan and what was then a long way from home – 600 miles. In the only passage of his book still recalled, Grayson wrote that one day he opened his front door to see new-fallen snow and, seeing his neighbor, shouted “Merry Christmas!”



Of course, Vietnam, also a long way from home, 8000 miles, had no snow. That didn't matter. Thinking of snow seemed good.

On Christmas of 1968, I snapped a photo of Dennis Pritchard, a meteorology tech, and Jerry Tabb, the S2 typist, who were opening presents sent from their homes. I had entered the van that morning intent on doing more work on a study of meteorological data perishability, but seeing them there with their presents I quickly left, leav-

ing them to enjoy Christmas in the way they wanted to, without interfering comments from the chief. In the photo above they are leaning against a sloping wind-plotting table. Dennis (left) looks on as Jerry adjusts his camera. They had hung one of their gifts from the van's ceiling to accommodate getting it in a photo, not wanting to clutter my desk (in the lower right corner) with their gifts.

Outside of the van, a passerby snapped my photo. I walked around the compound, thinking of my last Vietnam Christmas when, on operations in the Central Highlands, our 3/18th Battalion sergeant major gave me the day's password, *Magic Night*.





Martin, who became a good friend long after Vietnam, gave me one taken of his gun section on that day. Charles is second from right in the photo of his gun-section men. They stand in front of their A-battery 8-inch howitzer in the Pleiku area. In that Christmas time of 1965, it had rained off and on for several days. My 3/18th meteorology section (called "Metro" in the artillery) was on Operation Clean House in Binh Dinh Province,

operating with the 8-inchers of Battery B and Battery C. Your helmet, a good rain deflector, had an annoying way of channeling water down onto your nose.

In the Christmas Day of 1968, I wished Dennis and Jerry a "Merry Christmas" before walking back to the make-believe patio area, an open-air place near our hootches. I found a group engaged in talk at a table.



I don't remember for certain if I took the picture (at right) on that Christmas Day, but I think it quite likely was that day. Three in the photo were good friends: At extreme left, Jim Moody, a lawyer, next to him Bengtsen, an artilleryman with whom I often talked tactics. Jack Spears, another lawyer, is holding a dog that had also found friends. This was a picture of pure contentment in a war zone, before we began taking rockets at that site.

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 Jan 2021 Meeting

Time: Jan 9, 2021 01:00 PM Arizona

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89213787676?pwd=dkk5OHRZTFhZWFrRkR6ZUhrT3dTQT09>

Meeting ID: **892 1378 7676**

Passcode: **988405**

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Meeting ID: 892 1378 7676