



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.moww131.org**



Bulletin No. 6

May 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)

Command Failure: Lloyd Fredendall and the Battle of Kasserine Pass



Commander's Message



**Linda Howry
Commander**

April 13 found our MOWW meeting at Kimbles Kitchen with 22 individuals in attendance. Our speaker for this meeting was John P. Hale, PhD, who is the Luke base historian. The topic was "Luke Airbase during WW II". His presentation was informative and enjoyed by all. We will have our next meeting at Kimbles Kitchen and we will install new officers.

The winners of the essay contest were JROTC Francisco Torres Carbajal from Apollo High School and AFROTC cadet Kyle L. Davidson from Embry Riddle. I want to send a special thanks to Fred Garnett and his committee for the diligent work in the selection of these recipients. JROTC cadets award ceremonies are underway.

The AZYLC summer conference will be July 8th to 12th at the Papago Park Military Reservation in Phoenix. Information on the AZYLC tax credit can be found on our website moww131.org. This credit helps send students to the AZYLC summer conference.

Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for **May 11th, 2024 at 0900 to 1130 at Kimbles Kitchen.**

Address: 7300 N Sun Village Pkwy Unit D, Surprise, AZ 85374.

Finally, the MOWW National Convention will be in Valley Forge, PA from August 5-11 2024.

Linda Howry, Commander 2023-2024

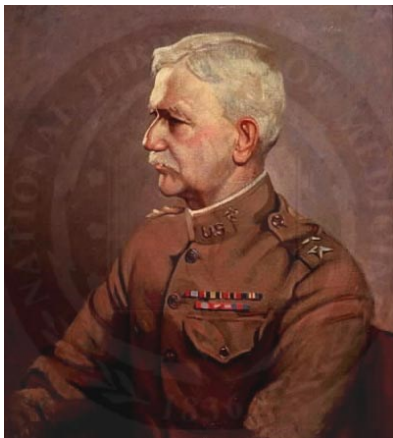
Email: lindahowry@aol.com or call 928-252-6340

Surgeon's Note

Surgeon's Note
By Chris W. Schmidt, MD

Significant Contributions by Military Physicians, #7 William Gorgas

The scientific research of Walter Reed and others on yellow fever and malaria was of little benefit unless someone was willing to do the dirty and sometimes dangerous work of applying that knowledge to practical solutions. William Gorgas was that man.



Born in 1854 in Mobile, Alabama, William Gorgas was the son of a Confederate General and the grandson of an Alabama Governor. He graduated from Bellevue Hospital Medical College in New York City with

an MD and joined the Army as an assistant-surgeon. When he arrived at Ft. Brown, TX in 1882, a yellow fever epidemic was raging. Dr. Gorgas contracted the disease, but fortunately survived. He was thus "blessed" with lifelong immunity to the disease and was determined to combat yellow fever for the remainder of his life.

Posted to Cuba following the Spanish-American War, Gorgas knew the role of mosquitos in the spread of the disease. His goal was to destroy mosquito breeding grounds and restrict mosquito access to infected patients. He employed

gathering of yellow fever patients into isolated clinics, insect screens on the clinic buildings, covering of cisterns, and draining of stagnant water. It was no easy task to perform these projects on a countrywide scale, but Gorgas prevailed. After 150 years of widespread yellow fever in Cuba, new cases virtually disappeared. Similarly, cases of malaria declined. Gorgas had proven the effectiveness of his techniques.

Construction of the Panama Canal thrust Gorgas onto the world stage. The French had failed primarily due to the decimation of their work force by yellow fever and malaria. Now the Americans were facing the same situation and Gorgas was enthusiastic about applying the methods he had used in Cuba. Unfortunately, he ran into political opposition in the US from forces that adhered to the old idea of these diseases being caused by "bad air". Gorgas requested a budget of a million dollars to implement the needed changes. He was given \$50,000. Workers continued to become ill at an alarming rate and progress on the canal progressed at a snail's pace. Finally, President Theodore Roosevelt intervened. Gorgas got what he needed. All buildings received screens. Breeding grounds for mosquitos were sought out and drained. Those that could not be drained received a layer of oil. Yellow fever was eradicated by 1906 and Malaria was contained. Prior to control of these diseases, one government source had estimated that the canal would take up to **80 years** to complete. A healthy work force employing many engineering and construction innovations completed the canal by 1914. There are many heroes in the construction of the Panama Canal. William Gorgas earned a place near the top of the list.

Dr. Gorgas served as President of the American Medical Association in 1908 and was appointed Surgeon General of the Army in 1914. In that capacity, he guided the medical corps through all the challenges of the First World War. He retired from the Army in 1918 and joined the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation as director of the yellow fever control projects.

William Gorgas, MD died in 1920 enroute to Africa to aid with yellow fever control projects there. It is a testament to his life's work that most physicians today will never encounter a case of yellow fever.

MOWW Chapter 131 Leadership
 Commander: Linda Howry
 Junior Vice: Randy Meyer
 Adjutant: Mel Howry
 Treasurer: Buz Isban
 Marshal: Ken Blanchard
 Surgeon: Chris Schmidt
 Chaplain: Tom Troxell
 Bulletin Editor: Carlton Bjerkaas
 Web Master: Ken Coffman
 Historian (Archivist): Ken Coffman
 Membership Chair: Ann Garnett
 AZYLC: Fred Garnett
 Immediate Past Commander: John Hannan



Chapter members listening to Dr Hales presentation.

April Meeting



Commander Linda Howry presenting Certificate of Appreciation to Dr Hale.



John P. Hale, PhD, Luke Air Force Base historian speaking on "Luke Airbase During WW II". Dr Hale talked about the construction of pilot training facilities in the Phoenix AZ area and pilot training at Luke AFB before and during World War 2.

Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
 Treasurer



Financial Report
 As of 28 Apr 2024

General Fund	\$10,066.41
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$10,116.41
Patriotic Savings Account	\$2,671.71
Endowment Fund	\$15,676.31
GRAND TOTAL	\$28,464.43

Happy Birthdays - May

6 May	Terry Tassin
7 May	Melvin Howry
15 May	John Lewis
18 May	Robert Branton
23 May	Jerry Wojtas
30 May	Donna Dudley

Happy Anniversaries - May

29 Year	John Lewis
16 Year	Tom McClain

Future Events

11 May 2024 – Chapter Meeting

Coming Soon
MOWW National Convention
5-11 August 2024
Valley Forge, PA

Did You Know

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was, "How many steps does the guard take during their walk across the Tomb of the Unknowns?" All three missed it.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1. How many steps does the guard take during their walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long do they hesitate after their about face to begin their return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

3. Why are their gloves wet?

Their gloves are moistened to prevent losing their

grip on the rifle.

4. Do they carry their rifle on the same shoulder all the time and if not, why not?

They carry the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb.

After their march across the path, they execute an about face and move the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, they must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and their waist size cannot exceed 30." Other requirements of the Guard:

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty.

They cannot swear in public and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only a little over 600 presently worn.

The guard must obey these rules while serving as guards or for the rest of their lives if they choose.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform.

Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV.

All off-duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they

are interred.

Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis (the boxer) and Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy, (the most decorated soldier of WWII) of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting their uniforms ready for guard duty.

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.



In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment.

They respectfully declined the offer, 'No way, Sir!' Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson.

The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

Chapter Wins MOWW Membership Award

Well sometimes good news comes our way. Mike Farrell just sent this and notification that our chapter earned \$250.00. Thanks for all the good work you do.

We won!

Linda Howrey, Chapter Commander

In part the letter reads:
Linda,

Congratulations to the West Valley Chapter for winning the Small Chapter Bracket during the MOWW March Madness Membership Drive. Since there was a tie in the small chapter bracket you will be receiving a check for \$250.00 donated by the BG Bultman Chapter Commander. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Mike Farrell
Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer
The Military Order of the World Wars
(703) 683-4911

<https://moww.org/>



Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the June 2024 Bulletin is the 16th of May.

Email articles to carltonbjerkaas@gmail.com



SPECIAL FEATURE

Command Failure: Lloyd Fredendall and the Battle of Kasserine Pass

BY [DWIGHT JON ZIMMERMAN](#) - FEBRUARY 14, 2022



A U.S. Army M3 Grant of the 1st Armored Division moves forward during the Battle of Kasserine Pass. Inferior equipment and poor leadership led to a U.S. defeat, but also resulted in invaluable lessons for the U.S. Army. U.S. Army photo

Like [Maj. Gen. George S. Patton](#), Maj. Gen. Lloyd Fredendall was “over the hill” – an exception to the cut-off age [U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall](#) had for senior commanders. Like Patton, Fredendall was an excellent trainer of men. And, like Patton, Fredendall was a Marshall man of whom great things were expected, with Marshall describing

Fredendall as “one of the best.” On Nov. 12, 1942, [Lt. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower](#), supreme commander of [Operation Torch](#), for whom Fredendall commanded the Central Task Force landings at Oran, wrote to Marshall, “I bless the day you urged Fredendall upon me and cheerfully acknowledge that my earlier doubts of him were completely unfounded.” But by February 1943 at Tunisia, Fredendall’s reputation was in ruins, described by historian Carlo d’Este as “one of the most inept senior officers to hold a high command during World War II.”

“According to Harmon, Fredendall is a physical and moral coward.”

— [Maj. Gen. George S. Patton Jr.](#), **March 2, 1943 diary entry**

What went wrong? The short answer is: everything. Historian Steven L. Ossad’s study of Fredendall’s actions in Tunisia included a five-point condemnation:

- Fredendall “failed to understand his mission”
- He “violated several basic principles of command embodied in American doctrine”
- He “ignored the profound benefit that comes from the leader’s appearance of personal bravery”
- He “forgot that self-control is an absolute prerequisite for command”
- Finally, “a commander cannot make fundamental tactical mistakes in the field and expect to survive.”

Fredendall was a Francophobe and an Anglophobe ill-suited to wage coalition warfare; a micromanager who bypassed the chain of command – giving orders as far down as company level; a coward, he allowed animus with subordinates to affect his judgment and undercut their authority; and finally, staring defeat in the face at Kasserine, he tried to pin the blame on others.



Maj. Gen. Lloyd Fredendall has the look of leadership in this photo, but his command failures during the Battle of Kasserine Pass resulted in disaster. U.S. Army photo

The Allied Tunisian campaign in the west got off to a bad start. A fragmented command structure, [a poorly equipped French corps](#), and American inexperience contributed to German ground success in January 1943. Eisenhower had a chance to set things right, and he fumbled the opportunity. Though he fixed the command situation by having Fredendall and French Gen. Alphonse Juin report to British First Army Lt. Gen. Kenneth Anderson, he did not order a concentration of the scattered armored units of the American 1st Armored Division. Eisenhower suggested they be used to conduct raids in the south. He also failed to take action regarding the poor defensive placement of units even after being told of such concerns by commanders in briefings at 1st Armored Division and Combat Command A headquarters and inspections of the front lines.

Meanwhile, instead of paying attention to what was happening on his front, Fredendall focused on the construction of his headquarters located at least seventy miles (some accounts claim one hundred miles) from the front. A battalion of engineers was blasting a series of tunnels deep in the rock face of a ravine to construct a bombproof headquarters. Called Speedy Valley, troops referred to it as “Lloyd’s very last resort” and “Shangri-la, a million miles from nowhere.” Unlike Eisenhower, Fredendall never visited the front, content to direct deployments based on map readings. His orders, issued over the radio, were a combination of slang and obscure phrases designed to baffle any enemy monitors. Unfortunately, subordinates were equally baffled. The following was a typical example:

On February 14, three hours after Eisenhower had inspected American positions at Faïd and Maizila passes, German forces, including 140 tanks attacked. In the resulting Battle of Sidi Bou Zid, Patton’s son-in-law, Lt. Col. John Waters, was captured.

“Move your command, i.e., the walking boys, pop guns, Baker’s outfit and the outfit which is the reverse of Baker’s outfit and the big fellows to M, which is due north of where you are now, as soon as possible. Have your boys report to the French gentleman whose name begins with J at a place which begins with D which is five grid squares to the left of M.”

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U.S. Army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment march through the Kasserine Pass and on to Kasserine and Farriana, Tunisia, Feb. 26, 1943. After Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon stabilized the front, the U.S. Army pushed on. U.S. Army photo

Fredendall collapsed, blaming others for the growing disaster. On February 20, Eisenhower ordered Maj. Gen. Ernest Harmon, commander of 2nd Armored Division, to be Fredendall's deputy corps commander. When Harmon arrived at Speedy Valley, Fredendall handed Harmon a note authorizing him to take charge. Then he went to bed.

Harmon stabilized the front, a situation aided by the fact the Germans were retreating, though he didn't know it at the time. Upon returning to Eisenhower's headquarters, he told Eisenhower that Fredendall was "no damn good" and should be relieved. After Harmon rejected the offer of II Corps command, [Eisenhower chose Patton](#).

To keep home front morale high, Fredendall returned to a hero's welcome and a third star. He spent the rest of the war in stateside training assignments, retiring in 1946.

This article was originally published on February 13, 2013

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