

Semper Fi

"THE SCUTTLEBUTT"

<http://www.mcltraecoheedet115.org/>

March 2020 Edition



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SSgt Walter F. "Trae" Cohee III
Detachment # 115
Salisbury, MD

DETACHMENT OFFICERS

2019 – 2020

Commandant: Ed Elder

Senior Vice Commandant: Andy Bouma	Junior Vice Commandant: William Jones
Judge Advocate: Thomas Kellar	Junior Past Commandant: Bob Miller
Paymaster: Clifford Fridlind	Adjutant: Richard Hyson
Sgt-At-Arms: Jeff Merritt	Chaplain: Rhuel Goslee
Web Sergeant/Scuttlebutt Editor: Don Elseroad	

Original Charter Date May 10, 1970

MEETING TIME & PLACE

Meetings are always held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 15th, 2020 at 1900 (7:00 P.M.) at the American Legion Post 64, 1109 American Legion Road, Salisbury, MD 21801.

Please make every effort to attend.

Upcoming Holiday's & Events



Department of Maryland

2020 Convention

May 7, 8 & 9, 2020

Link to Princess Royal Hotel

<https://princessroyale.com/>

The following link will take you to all the printable forms necessary to register for the convention

<http://deptofmdmcl.org/Conventions/default.htm>

2020 Mideast Division Conference - Hosted by the Department of Virginia June 19, 20 & 21, 2020
Holiday Inn, 5655 Greenwich Rd, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/virginiabeach/orfgr/hoteldetail>

1-757-499- 4400, once answered hit O to get reservations. Toll Free 1-800-567-3856 Code-MED \$138.00 a night total 15% discount on breakfast, Parking included. If ADA type of room is required, make sure you mention it when making reservations

97th National Convention

August 9 through 15, 2020

Hosted by Department of Florida

Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront 100 N Atlantic Ave, Daytona Beach, FL

<https://www.daytonahilton.com/>

More info will be provided when it becomes available

"Sick or in Distress"

MCL Members and/or family members Richard HYSON, Paul TOMKO, Rhuel GOSLEE, Ed ELDER, Gloria HOWARD, Don ELSEROAD, and Jeanne COHEE are having or have recently had various health problems. Please keep these folks and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

"Membership Happenings"

(Please advise the Editor of any errors or omissions)

<u>APRIL "HAPPY BIRTHDAYS"</u> 19th Richard HYSON 27th Ed ELDER 29th Jeanne COHEE	<u>APRIL ANNIVERSARIES</u> 19 th Tina & Ric LINDSTROM (4 yrs)
<u>APRIL MCL ANNIVERSARIES</u> 'Josh' KELLEY (15 yrs) Danny PARSONS (9 yrs) Paul TOMKO, Sr. (17 yrs)	<u>MEMBERSHIP RENEWED</u> None reported to your editor <u>WELCOME ABOARD</u> None reported to your editor

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP LAPSE

ALL DETACHMENT MEMBERS THAT ARE NOT "LIFE" MEMBER'S NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NLT AUGUST 31 EACH YEAR

Make your check for \$24.00 payable to "MCL Det 115" and send it to our paymaster

Clifford Fridlind, Paymaster
26267 Evesboro Lane
Eden, MD 21822-2112
410-742-7505
plcmlind@juno.com

Two-dozen US Marines were discharged after an investigation over their alleged involvement in drug crimes and a human trafficking operation along the border

Read more here: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/two-dozen-us-marines-were-discharged-after-an-investigation-over-their-alleged-involvement-in-drug-crimes-and-a-human-trafficking-operation-along-the-border/ar-BBZNoQQ?li=BBnb7Kz>

OUR FOUNDING FATHERS WERE GENIUSES

Illustrates the very reason the Electoral College was conceived

"Subject: 319 Square Miles"

A 39 second read you will want to pass on.

In their infinite wisdom, the United States' Founders created the Electoral College to ensure the STATES were fairly represented. Why should one or two densely populated areas speak for the whole of the nation?

The following list of statistics has been making the rounds on the Internet. It should finally put an end to the argument as to why the Electoral College makes sense.

There are 3,141 counties in the United States.

Trump won 3,084 of them.

Clinton won 57.

There are 62 counties in New York State.

Trump won 46 of them.

Clinton won 16.

Yet Clinton won the popular vote by approx. 1.5 million votes!

In the 5 counties that encompass NYC, (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Richmond & Queens) Clinton received well over 2 million more votes than Trump. (Clinton only won 4 of these counties; Trump won Richmond)

Therefore these 5 counties alone, more than accounted for Clinton winning the popular vote of the entire country.

These 5 counties comprise 319 square miles.

The United States is comprised of 3,797,000 square miles.

When you have a country that encompasses almost 4 million square miles of territory, it would be ludicrous to even suggest that the vote of those who inhabit a mere 319 square miles should dictate the outcome of a national election.

Large, densely populated cities (NYC, Chicago, LA, etc.) DO NOT and SHOULD NOT speak for the rest of our country!

A TRIBUTE TO THE F.M.F. CORPSMAN



For those of us who heard and used the term "Corpsman Up," it is a term that remains everlasting in both our hearts and our minds. The truth is that we ask and expect far too much from these young men and women who are called Corpsmen, and who like most young Marines were first exposed to the horrors of war in ways most will never forget. Those assigned to the Fleet Marine Forces Marines (FMF) lived the way we did and that of the units to which assigned, and they endured and participated in every hardship and disappointment, as well as the praise and glory awarded their units.

The truth is many in Vietnam were 18 years old and upwards, and were just as fearful of being hurt or killed as the rest were and like the rest failed to receive mail for extended periods of time. Like every other Marine in the ground combat units, Corpsmen dug their foxholes with other Marines, ate the same C-rations as the rest, felt the stings of ants, leeches, bees, and scorpions, and they also dug their own toilets like the rest of us and they also buried their cans, papers, etc., after cooking and eating their meals. They were Just as tired as the rest and at times just as afraid of the unknown as was anyone else. However, Corpsmen still had to check on the sanitation of our locations, as well as tending to the minor and major injuries and ailments suffered sooner or later by all. And those ailments and injuries ran the gamut from diarrhea to coughs and colds, and from Elephant grass cuts which usually festered into very large and ugly sores, to the usual heat related issues such as heatstroke, and on to more serious mental and physical issues to include VD and other issues of that nature.

Our Navy Corpsmen did all that while still carrying the gear needed to care for a platoon or company sized unit as well as carrying their own gear and weapons. And often times they were told to help out the locals with their illnesses, injuries, or wounds, and that in turn meant using up precious bandages and medications, which the Corpsman had carried in his pack and medical bags for his fellow Marines. That then caused the

Corpsman to pray or ask help from somewhere that he would not run short of needed medications and supplies, and just in case and when the next firefight, or mine explosion, or enemy mortars or artillery might happen upon his unit.

To ask the above of a young 18-22 year old FMF Corpsman, is asking much more than many in the field ever realized until much later and after the fact. After all, that Corpsman is thought by many to be an "expert" on wounds, or how to handle other major injuries, in addition to which medication might be needed and requested to be used for everything from fleas or hair lice to trench foot or crotch rot or pink eye. While every Corpsman that our units had in Vietnam might not have been quite as astute, courageous, gifted, and the logically-minded individuals we make them all out to be, I would love to have just one more time to shake their hands and hug them all, and to thank them all for that which they did for so many over the years, and especially for those units I was honored to be a part of.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ZH3PsWBZsaU

For you DOC, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, BRAVERY AND CARING

The Great Escape Tunnel

Untouched for almost 7 decades, the tunnel used in the Great Escape has finally been unearthed. The 111 yard passage nicknamed 'Harry' by Allied prisoners, was sealed by the Germans after the audacious break-out from the POW camp Stalag Luft III in western Poland. Despite huge interest in the subject, encouraged by the film starring Steve McQueen, the tunnel was undisturbed over the decades because it was behind the Iron Curtain and the Soviets had no interest in its significance.

But at last British archaeologists have excavated it, and discovered its remarkable secrets.

Many of the bed boards which had been joined to stop it from collapsing were still in position. And the ventilation shaft, ingeniously crafted from used powdered milk containers known as Klim Tins, remained in working order.

Scattered throughout the tunnel, which is 30 feet below ground, were bits of old metal buckets, hammers and crowbars which were used to hollow out the route.

A total of 600 prisoners worked on 3 tunnels at the same time. They were nicknamed Tom, Dick, and Harry, and were just 2 feet square for most of their length. It was on the night of March 24 and 25, 1944, that 76 Allied airmen escaped through Harry.

1/3rd of the 200 prisoners, many in fake German uniforms and civilian outfits and carrying false ID papers, who were meant to slip away, managed to leave before the alarm was raised when escapee number 77 was spotted.

Tunnel vision: A tunnel reconstruction showing the trolley system.

Only 3 made it back to Britain. Another 50 were executed by firing squad on the orders of Adolf Hitler, who was furious after learning of the breach of security. In all, 90 boards from bunk beds, 62 tables, 34 chairs, and 76 benches, as well as 1000's of items including knives, spoons, forks, towels and blankets, were squirreled away by Allied prisoners to aid the escape plan under the noses of their captors.

NO Americans were involved in the operation. Most were Brits and Canadians, (all the tunnelers were Canadian personnel with backgrounds in mining) Poland, New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa.

The site of the tunnel, recently excavated by British archaeologists. The latest dig, over 3 weeks in August, located the entrance to Harry, which was originally concealed under a stove in Hut 104.

The team also found another tunnel, called George, whose exact position had not been charted. It was never used as the 2,000 prisoners were forced to march to other camps as the Red Army approached in January 1945.

Watching the excavation was Gordie King, 91, an RAF radio operator, who was 140th in line to use Harry and therefore missed out. 'This brings back such bitter-sweet memories', he said as he wiped Gordie King, 91,

made an emotional return to Stalag Luft III.

In a related post:

Many recent generations have no true notion of the cost in lives and treasures that were paid for the liberties that we enjoy in the U.S. today. They also have no idea of the lengths that the "greatest generation" went to in order to preserve those liberties. Below is one true, small and entertaining story regarding those measures that is well worth reading, even if the only thing derived from the story is entertainment.

Escape from WWII POW Camps — starting in 1940, an increasing number of British and Canadian Air men found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be crunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed and makes no noise.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk, and that was John Waddington Ltd. When approached by the govt. the firm was happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K. Licensee for the popular American board game Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of items qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under strict secrecy, in a guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass producing maps, keyed to each region of Germany, Italy, and France, or wherever Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny bits that they would fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

1. A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set – by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who escaped, an estimated 1/3rd were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Govt. might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail' Free' card!

Some readers of this email are probably too young to have any personal connection to WWII (Sep. '39 to Aug. '45), but this is still an interesting bit of history for everyone to know.

RAO Bulletin

Each month your editor attempted to review all RAO Bulletins and put articles deemed important to veterans into our newsletters.

However, what may be important to me may not be important to you and I may very possibly overlook something you as a veteran might like to know about, so I am providing a link below that will take you to the current bulletin so that you might look it over. The below bulletin is dated March 1st, 2020.

[http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20200301%20\(PDF%20Edition\).pdf](http://www.nhc-ul.org/Bulletin%20200301%20(PDF%20Edition).pdf)

EVERY DAY PRAYER REQUEST

“Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.”

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE
Support Our Troops



I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands,
One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

LINKS TO CHECK

Many of you if not all skip over these links. If you do you are missing out on some good stuff.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

If you are receiving this newsletter via “Snail Mail” and have email capability, please email me at 53usmc73@bvu.net so that I can add you to my address book and cut down on the postage.

Any comments or suggestion on what should be in our newsletter! *Articles/information you need! Let me know!* The newsletter will go to press on or about the weekend following each meeting. Don Elseroad, Editor

-- *Once a Marine, Always a Marine* –

OOORAHHH !!!!!

GOD BLESS AMERICA



Saepius Exertus, Semper Fidelis, Frater Infinias
Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever

Good night "Chesty" wherever you are

