



MESSAGE FROM THE VEEP



Birth, Death, Remembrance

By Clarence M. Hatcherson

November 2013

THREE EVENTS of historic note take place in the month of November. This message is dedicated to those events and their relationship to the Marine Corps.

BIRTH

TUN TAVERN was a brew house built by Samuel Carpenter in 1685. It was located on Philadelphia's historic waterfront at the corner of Water Street and Tun Alley leading to Carpenter's Wharf near what is today known as "Penn's Landing."

Historically, it is regarded as the "First Brew House" built in Philadelphia in 1685, and among the very first in the country. Carpenters purpose in building the Tavern was to commence the development of the Philadelphia waterfront which he intended as a site for various businesses. The Tavern soon developed a reputation for fine beers in the City of Philadelphia and maintained that reputation for over a century.

During the years following the inception of the Tavern, several events occurred at the Tavern which are of historical significance:

In the early 1740's, the then proprietor expanded the Tavern into "Peggy Mullan's Red Hot Beef Steak Club at Tun Tavern," which was known to host **George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin** and on occasion the **1st and 2nd Continental Congress**.

In 1756, **Colonel Benjamin Franklin** organized the Pennsylvania Militia and utilized the Tavern as a gathering place to recruit the area's first regiment of soldiers to suppress Indian uprisings.

On **November 10, 1775, Robert Mullan**, the proprietor of the Tavern and son of Peggy Mullan, was **commissioned by an**

act of Congress to raise the **first two battalions of Marines**, under the leadership of **Samuel Nicholas**, the **first appointed Commandant of the Continental Marines** thus resulting in **Tun Tavern being acknowledged as the birthplace of the United States Marine Corps**. There are an estimated three million active and retired U.S. Marines worldwide who have been exposed in their military training to the historical significance of Tun Tavern. Each year on November 10th, around the world Marines toast the Marine's birthplace on the most significant date in the history of the Corps.

DEATH

SHORTLY AFTER NOON on **November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy** was assassinated as he rode in a motorcade through Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas, Texas.

Crowds of excited people lined the streets and waved to the Kennedys. The car turned off Main Street at Dealey Plaza around 12:30 p.m. As it was passing the **Texas School Book Depository**, gunfire suddenly reverberated in the plaza.

Bullets struck the president's neck and head and he slumped over toward Mrs. Kennedy. The governor was also hit in the chest.

The car sped off to Parkland Memorial Hospital just a few minutes away. But little could be done for the President. A Catholic priest was summoned to administer the last rites, and at 1:00 p.m. John F. Kennedy was pronounced dead.

Less than an hour earlier, police had arrested **Lee Harvey Oswald**, a recently hired employee at the Texas School Book Depository. He was being held for the

assassination of President Kennedy and the fatal shooting, shortly afterward, of Patrolman J. D. Tippit on a Dallas street.

Those of us that lived through this national tragedy are well aware of the circumstances that followed. There is a ominous footnote that many are not aware of.

On **26 October 1956 Lee Harvey Oswald reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego to begin Basic Training;** and he honed his shooting skills on the same rifle range that I and many of you did as well.

REMEMBRANCE

VETERANS DAY is an official United States holiday which honors people who have served in armed service. It is a **federal holiday that is observed on November 11**. It coincides with other holidays such as **Armistice Day** and **Remembrance Day**, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark **the anniversary of the end of World War I**. Major hostilities of World War I (the war to end all wars) were formally ended at the **11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918**, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.

Devil Dog is a motivational nickname for a **U.S. Marine**. It is said to be based on the apocryphal use of "Teufel Hunden" [sic] by German soldiers to describe **Marines fighting in World War I**.

According to United States Marine Corps legend, the moniker was used by German soldiers to describe U.S. Marines (*3rd Battalion 5th Marines (3/5)—commanded by Major Benjamin S. Berry, and the 3rd Battalion 6th Marines (3/6)—commanded by Maj. Tyler M. Meyer*) who fought in the **Battle of Belleau Wood** in 1918. The

Marines fought with such ferocity that they were likened to "**Dogs from Hell**."

The unit was activated on June 8, 1917, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the **5th Regiment of Marines**. They immediately deployed to France and were assigned to the 1st Infantry Division of the United States Army. Later that year, in October, they were reassigned to 4th Brigade of Marines under the 2nd Infantry Division.

In spring the regiment was involved in the fierce battle of **Belleau Wood**, gaining the respect even of the hardened German veteran front troops.

The Fifth subsequently participated in the offensive campaigns at **Aisne, Battle of Saint-Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne offensive**. They also participated in the defensive campaigns at **Toulon-Troyon, Château-Thierry, Marbache and Limey**.

The regiment's actions in France earned them the right to wear the **Fourragère** (seen in the outline of the unit's logo), one of only two in the Marine Corps (the other being the 6th Marine Regiment). The award was a result of being the **only regiments in the American Expeditionary Force to receive three Croix de Guerre citations**: two in the order of the army and one in the order of the corps—**Fourragère and Croix de guerre with two Palms and Gilt Star**. The **Fourragère** became part of the uniform of the unit, and all members of the organization are authorized to wear the decoration on the left shoulder of the uniform as long as they remain members of the organization.

Because I served with 5th Marines in 1968 and 1969 I had the honor of wearing that "little green rope" on my way back to the world.

To all veterans, thank you for your service; to all Marines, Happy Birthday.



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