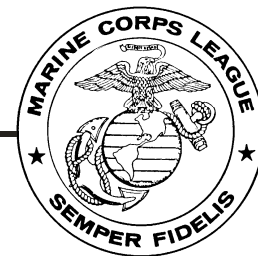




Scuttlebutt



General Smedley D. Butler Detachment

1914 1915



P.O. Box 184 • Newtown Square, PA 19073
Website • www.gensdbutlerdet.org

Commandant Earle Drake • 610.325.9065

Volume XIX, Issue 9
September 2009

Dan Luty, editor
Dan.luty@ricoh-usa.com

Commandant's Report September 2009

Just a little reminder that September's meeting is on Wednesday, September the ninth instead of the usual First Monday. This is because of the Labor Day Holiday that falls on our usual first Monday.

We have again lost one of World War II members. **C. Spencer Goldsborough** has gone home to meet the Lord. Spence was one of the seven League members that took the Eagles tour at Lincoln Financial Field and the Nova Care Center. He had a very good time and appeared to be in top physical condition. He was a regular at the Honor Guards and spent many Saturdays raising money for our community and veterans. We will miss Spence.

The Detachment and the Marple Newtown Combined Veterans Alliance took part in services that included the Brief Order for Deceased Marines.

On October 23, 1983 our Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon was viciously attacked by a suicide bomber. At 6:20 a.m. a yellow Mercedes Benz truck crashed through a barbed wire fence around the parking lot, passed between two sentry posts, crashed through a gate and drove into the lobby of the Marine Headquarters. The Marine sentries at the gate were operating under rules of engagement which made it very difficult to respond quickly to the truck. By the time the two sentries had locked, loaded, and shouldered their weapons, the truck was already inside the building's lobby. The murderous driver detonated his explosives, which were the equivalent of 12,000 pounds of TNT. The explosive force of this cowardly attack caused the four story building to collapse, killing 220 Marines, 18 Navy personnel and 3 Army soldiers. Sixty Americans were injured. It was the deadliest single-day death toll for our Marine Corps since the battle for Iwo Jima.

Our Detachment will have our Color Guard and Ceremonial Buglers present for the ceremonies which will take place at 1000 on Sunday, October 25th, at Foglietta Plaza, Columbus Blvd. and Dock Street. This is the site of the Vietnam and Korean War monuments. Detachments of the Marine Corps League from far and wide will be present for the ceremonies. We will car pool from Eldorado Carpets. You are invited to come and participate or to observe.

The 100 yard combined Marine Corps League Rifle match was held August 2, 2009. The shooting took place under monsoon conditions. Neither the shooters nor the spotters could see the targets or their sights.

Continued on next page ...

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6 & 7	Minutes

Commandant's Report continued ...

Even with those conditions, good scores were made by all. The Delaware County Detachment captured the first three places. We anticipate putting together a service pistol match later this year and in May of next year before the Department (State) pistol match.

Make 2009 the year you became more involved with your League.

Semper Fidelis,

Earle Drake

Jr. Vice Report

Help Our Heroes Campaign

Kudos to John Burfete! After a disappointing lack of activity from our campaign, John's personal solicitation efforts have brought in six contributions to date. Thanks for your efforts, John!

As a reminder, our Members are asked to present Help Our Heroes Contribution Kits to persons selected among relatives, friends or acquaintances. The Campaign will run throughout 2009.

Please contact me at 610-356-8893 if you have not received a kit or need additional solicitation letters.

"Help Us Help Others (HUHO)" Campaign

Our Campaign resumes the weekend of August 29/30 with events scheduled at Super Fresh, Havertown and Pathmark, Broomall. We will be at **both** stores on Saturday and Sunday.

Participating Members please review the adjoining schedule of Store Events. Our schedule has been revised to strengthen our activity in terms of the number of store visits. The numbers of weekends scheduled have not been changed!

If you have not been an active participant in the past, please consider serving a two to three hour shift on weekends convenient for your circumstances. I promise that you will enjoy yourselves! Please contact me at 610-356-8893 if you wish to participate.

Our Brother, Spence Goldsborough will be sorely missed by our participating Members. His smiling face and enthusiastic efforts were an anchor at our Store Events! God bless you, Spence; we know where you are!

Respectfully Submitted,

John B. McLeod

Junior Vice Commandant

"Help Us Help Others" Upcoming Schedule.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Store/Event</u>	<u>Address</u>
8/29	Super Fresh Havertown 610-446-4516 Pathmark Broomall 610-356-2845	1305 W Chest Pike Havertown, PA 50 Lawrence Rd Broomall, PA
8/30	Super Fresh Havertown Pathmark Broomall	1305 W Chest Pike 50 Lawrence Rd
9/05	Wal-Mart Eddystone 610-447-1860 Wal-Mart Boothwyn 610-494-2535	1570 Chester Pike Eddystone, PA 605 Conchester Hwy Boothwyn, PA
9/06	Wal-Mart Eddystone Wal-Mart Boothwyn	1570 Chester Pike 605 Conchester Hwy*
9/12	Wal-Mart Glenolden 610-583-2682 Pathmark Brookhaven 610-872-8855	50 N Mac Dade Blvd Glenolden, PA 5005 Edgemont Ave* Brookhaven, PA
9/13	Wal-Mart Glenolden Pathmark, Brookhaven	50 N Mac Dade Blvd 5005 Edgemont Ave*
9/19	Pathmark Folsom 610-886-8660 Shop Rite W Chester 610-696-4066	420 N MacDade Blvd Folsom, PA 115 W Chester Pk West Chester, PA
9/20	Pathmark Folsom Shop Rite W Chester	420 N MacDade Blvd W Chester PA
9/26	Pathmark Chichester 610-859-8920 ACME Glenolden 610-586-0557	643 Conchester Hwy Boothwyn, PA 503 S Mac Dade Blvd Holmes, PA
9/27	Pathmark Chichester ACME Glenolden	643 Conchester Hwy 503 S Mac Dade Blvd
10/03	Helicopter A. S. 610-436-9600 ACME Wayne 610-341-6073	1220 American Blvd Brandywine Airport 700 W Lancaster Ave Devon, PA
10/04*	Helicopter A. S. ACME Wayne	1220 American Blvd 700 W Lancaster Ave
10/10	ACME Paoli 610-240-0101 ACME Granite Run 610-891-0407	39 Leopard Road Paoli, PA 1067 W Baltimore Pk Media, PA
10/11*	ACME Paoli ACME Granite Run	39 Leopard Road 1067 W Baltimore Pk
10/17	ACME West Goshen 670-431-4726 ACME Media 610-565-5072	907 Paoli Pike West Chester, PA 527 E Baltimore Pk Media, PA
10/18*	ACME West Goshen	907 Paoli Pike

* Denotes Sundays

Underlined Store Dates are subject to Municipal Government approval

A Marine Hero Lived Nearby

Frederic Collins Wheeler

In late May, Bernie McGinley and I were participating in a fund raiser at the Paoli Acme. We met a very pleasant woman who took the time to chat with us and told a story of her grandfather, who, she told us, was a highly decorated Marine Officer who had served in the First World War. Her understanding of his awards were that he had all of the major U.S. and foreign awards available at the time and was the most highly decorated American Marine, not awarded the Medal of Honor.

We listened politely and did some independent research. We found that Captain Wheeler, then a First lieutenant, was a real Marine hero. He was awarded the Navy Cross for valor on June 5, 1918. During that engagement at Belleau Wood, he was wounded twice and refused to leave the battlefield. It was only after sustaining his third wound that he was compelled to leave his post. The French awarded him the Croix de Guerre, With Palm for Valor in action on July 19, 1918. His citation reads: On July 19, 1918, near Vieray, he led his company to an advanced position in spite of serious losses caused by machine guns and artillery of the enemy. Although severely wounded he continued his march under the fire of the enemy to indicate to his men the position to occupy. He refused the service of a runner knowing that this man would be exposed to the danger of certain death.

In addition to his Navy Cross and Croix de Guerre, Captain Wheeler was awarded The Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart w/ Oak Leaf Cluster, WW I Victory Medal and the WW I Occupation medal.

After the War to End All Wars, Mr. Wheeler served as Vice President of Fidelity Bank. He was laid to rest at 84 years of age at The Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA.

Submitted by E. Drake

Guidelines for Submission of Articles & Photos for inclusion in "Scuttlebutt"

- All submissions must be received by the editor no later than the 15th of the month for the upcoming issue.
- The preferred format for written articles is a computer file (such as MS Word, or an email). Non-computer files will be considered and included in Scuttlebutt only if the editor is able to transcribe the article in a timely matter for publication.
- The preferred format for photos is digital in a high resolution JPG file (other file formats will also be considered). Traditional photos may be submitted as well, and will be included only if the editor is able to scan the photo in a timely matter for publication.
- All submissions must be the original work of the person submitting the piece. If the submitter is not the author of the work, the submitter should obtain permission from the author and submit that as well. No copyrighted materials can be used without permission from the appropriate parties.
- The editor reserves the right to include or exclude submissions as necessary according to these guidelines and as space in the publication dictates.
- Items may be submitted to the editor via email to:

dan.lutv@ricoh-usa.com

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Officers

Commandant	Earle E. Drake
Sr. Vice Commandant	Robert Cosgrove
Jr. Vice Commandant	Jack McLeod
Adjutant	Jack Kelly
Paymaster	Bob Spano
Judge Advocate	Dan Luty
Sergeant-At-Arms	James D. Ross
Chaplain	Christopher Bush
Service Officer	Connie McGinley
Director	James Herbst
Director	Paul Ferguson
Director	Bernie McGinley
Jr. Past Commandant	Jerry Leon

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment Committee Chairmen

Adopt-A-Highway	John Burfete
Americanism	Jim Mulhern
Auxiliary Liaison	Tony Fusto
Awards	Harry Kaufman
Ceremonies	Jim Ross
Color Guard	Joe Conigliaro
Flag Collection	Barry Reese
Historian	Bob (Coz) Cosgrove
Home Association	Tom Kerrigan
Honor Guard	Wayne Barner
" Assistant	John J. V. Cook
Locker Box	Paul Ferguson
Marksmanship	Gene Kern
Membership	Robert Cosgrove
Newsletter (Scuttlebutt)	Dan Luty
Newtown Twp Vets Park	Earle Drake
Nominations	Jerry Leon
Property	Bob Spano
Public Relations	
Scholarships	Wayne Williams
Scouting	John Gingras
Toys-For-Tots	Dan Luty
V.A.V.S.	Connie McGinley
Young Marines	Robert Stanton
Web Master	Dan Luty

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

General & Healthcare Benefits

VA Hotline	800-827-1000
Veterans' Healthcare	800-222-8387
Education	888-442-4511
Grave Markers	800-697-6947
Life Insurance	800-669-8477
Website	<u>www.va.gov</u>

Looking Ahead

DETACHMENT EVENTS

Events – September/October, 2009

- August 30** Adopt-a-Highway. Meet on Bishop Hollow Road @ 0830.
- Sep. 9 *Wed** **General Meeting, KOC, 1930 report time.** (Due to Labor Day, meeting held on Wed.)
- Sep. 11** **PA National Guard, 56th Stryker Brigade** returns. Our members will help serve their first meal at Ft. Dix, NJ.
We would appreciate a strong showing of volunteers for this event.
- Sep. 12** Annual VA Picnic, Coatesville Medical Center.
- Sep. 14** VA Bingo, Coatesville Veterans Medical Center.
- Sep. 18** POW/MIA Recognition Day. Marple Veterans Memorial Park, Broomall, PA.
- Sep. 18-20** 30th Annual Department Service Rifle Match Reade Rifle Rang, Allemans, PA
- Sep. 26** **AN OLD FASHION CLAM BAKE...**
Starts @ 1300; VFW Post 928, Folsom.
Cost is \$25. Please bring a chair.
- Sep. 29** Staff Meeting @ 1930, American Legion Post 805
- October 18** Adopt-a-Highway. Meet on Bishop Hollow Road @ 0830.
- October 25** Beirut Remembrance Day Ceremony, Sunday date, at the Monument, Philadelphia, PA.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' EVENTS

OTHER VETERANS' & FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS' MEETING SCHEDULES

Regular Events

AmVets: Harold P. Saks Post #118, 211 N. Morton Ave., Morton, PA 19070. Meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 2000.

American Legion: Broomall Post #805, 2340 West Chester Pike, Broomall, PA. Meetings the second Wednesday of every month, at 1930.

American Legion Nunan-Slook Post #338, Meets the second Tuesday at 7:30 PM of every month at the corner of Ralston & Graslynn Avenues, Havertown, PA.

Upper Darby Detachment #884 MCL, 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2000, 1026 Providence Rd. Secane, Pa. 19018

Other Organizations' Events (Cont'd.)

Disabled American Veterans, Delaware County Chapter 113, meets the second Monday of the month at 7:30PM. Meetings are held at the Nunan-Slook American Legion Post #338. The Post is located at Ralston & Graslynn Avenues in Havertown, PA.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 67, AmVets, Harold P. Saks Post #118, 211 N. Morton Ave. in Morton, PA meeting is 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM - no meetings July or August.

Delaware County Detachment, Third Sunday of the month: Breakfast: 0800-1130, \$7.00/person. Delaware County Detachment at detachment home, Upland, PA. Every Month except: June-July-August.

M.O.D.D. "Devil Dogs" Triboro Pound #19, Pack of Penna., Growls (meetings) are the second Wednesday of the month at 1930. Growls are held at the Herbert W. Best Post # 928, VFW. Located at MacDade Blvd. and Sutton Avenue, Folsom, PA.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Broomall Post #7390, Meetings the second Thursday of the month at 1930. Meetings are held at the Marple Twp. Municipal Building, Sproul & Springfield Roads, Broomall, PA.

Veterans of Foreign Wars: Herbert W. Best Post # 928, meetings are the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month except in September, it will be the day after Labor Day, the 2nd (Tuesday and the 3rd Monday) Meetings are held at Herbert W. Best Post # 928, VFW, MacDade Blvd. and Sutton Avenue, Folsom, PA.

Knights Of Columbus: Mater Dei Council #4129, 327 N. Newtown Street Rd., Newtown Square, PA. Meetings the first Thursday of the month at 2000.

SICK CALL

Ralph LaMarra Dave Brimble	Matt Balfrey Tom and Bernice Kerrigan
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Please remember to notify Chaplain Chris Bush (610.353.5569) of an illness, or of a member or family member passing away.

The Legend Continues ...

HAITI Background

In order to understand U. S. involvement in that troubled land and the employment of U. S. Marines to a combat role there, some history of that country is needed to appraise the situation.

Formerly named Saint Domingue, it shares the western third of the island of Hispaniola with the Spanish speaking Dominican Republic. Christopher Columbus discovered the island in 1492, and from the wreck of his flagship, Santa Maria, founded the first Spanish settlement in the New World. France defeated Spain, in war, and took over the country and proceeded to annihilate the native Arawak Indians via massacre, overwork, European epidemics or despair. The colony became the richest French colony and furnished two-thirds of the overseas trade and also supplied half of Europe's consumption of tropical produce. Saint Domingue was also one of the world's greatest markets for the African slave trade. Most slaves died within a few years from hard labor. The slaves, here, were unlike their American counterparts in that they retained their languages, religion, tribal customs and culture values. They developed a French-African vocabulary known as Creole and also a spiritual type of religion called Voodoo. Slavery in French Saint Domingue also bred an element of mixed blood, French-African, White-Black called Mulattoes which created a society relationship that divides the people to this day.

The African slaves revolted to 1791 and defeated the French. Later, they defeated armies sent from Spain, England and France whose intent was to recapture and to rule the island.

On 1 January 1804, Saint Domingue proclaimed their independence and became the world's first Black Republic and also adopted the Arawak Indian name of HAITI.

Those blacks that rebelled against the hardships of the soil were usually illiterate and Public Service positions remained closed to them. Mulattoes, on the other hand, were usually literate and often highly educated, dominated the professions and civil service, controlled the economy and effectively governed the Black Republic. In 1843, revolt signaled the end of Mulattoe Presidencies and for 15 years, black generals ruled.

In 1849, Faustin Soulouque, an illiterate black general, declared himself to be Emperor and created a court of instant nobles and ruled until 1859 after destroying Haiti with corruption, debt, debased currency and a series of military defeats in attempt to capture the Dominican Republic. His legacy resulted in a ruinous class/caste structure, whereas, blacks dominated the powerful army and Mulattoes ran the country, owned and controlled the economy.

Continued on page 7...

"SCUTTLEBUTT" BOOSTER CLUB



Help support our newsletter and become a member of the Booster Club!

Any monetary contribution helps offset the cost of publication and mailing.

We wish to thank our current boosters. With their assistance, we are able to continue our award-winning newsletter!

SEPTEMBER BOOSTERS

John Burfete, Jr.	Hank Velardi
Jim Herbst	Gene Kern
Bob Matthews	Florence & Bob Spano
Pat & Joe Mensack	

Thank you boosters!

Bob Spano
Paymaster

If you are interested in being a "Scuttlebutt" Booster, please see Bob Spano.

Birthday Greetings for September

The Detachment staff sends best wishes to the following members who are celebrating a birthday this month:

Thomas Bishop
Leo Carlin
Benjamin Cope
Robert Cosgrove
Earle Drake
John Gallagher
Timothy Gilligan
Michael Horne
John Lister
Michael McGinley
Lloyd Spangler, Jr.
Richard VanLuvender



Happy Birthday...and many, many more!

*If your birthday was omitted,
please contact Adjutant Jack Kelly.
We apologize for any omissions.*

General Smedley D. Butler Detachment #741
Marine Corps League
General Meeting Minutes – 3 August 2009

Commandant: Earle Drake opened the meeting at 1930 and the regular opening ceremonies were conducted. Officers present were Commandant Earle Drake, Sr. Vice Bob Cosgrove, Jr. Vice Jack McLeod, Judge Advocate Dan Luty, Adjutant Jack Kelly, Paymaster Bob Spano, Chaplain Chris Bush, Sergeant-at-Arms Jim Ross, Service Officer Connie McGinley, Director Paul Ferguson, Director Jim Herbst, and Junior Past Commandant Jerry Leon.

Minutes: Joe Mensack made a motion to accept the minutes of the 6 July 2009 general meeting as published in the *Scuttlebutt*. George Boyajian seconded the motion and the motion passed.

New Member: Gerald (Jerry) Mc Guckin was sworn in as a regular member of the Detachment.

Commandant's Report: Commandant Earle Drake reported on a busy month for the month of July for the Detachment. He also reported that seven members had the opportunity to visit the NovaCare Complex and Lincoln Financial Field where the Philadelphia Eagles play. Leo Carlin, a Detachment member and ticket manager for the Philadelphia Eagles, was the guide for this tour. Earle Drake mentioned that the first annual one hundred yard rifle match had been conducted recently.

Officer Reports:

Jr. Vice: Jack McLeod reported on the Help Our Heroes Campaign, with no material progress since the prior general meeting. Only seven members have participated in the campaign so far. Jack McLeod also displayed two new signs that will be used at store events in the Help Us Help Others campaign. In the Help Us Help Others campaign, fourteen weekend events have taken place so far. Donations received year to date have significantly exceeded those collected last year. More than \$43,000.00 has been collected this year, compared to \$23,000.00 for the same time last year.

Paymaster: Bob Spano provided the Paymaster's report as of 31 July 2009. Due to expenses in two budget categories being more than originally anticipated, it was mentioned that increases in the budget for those two categories would be necessary. Bob Spano made a motion to increase the V.A.V.S. line item from \$500.00 to \$2,500.00. George Boyajian seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Bob Spano made a motion to increase the Meeting Expenses line item from \$600.00 to \$1,200.00. Bob Cosgrove seconded the motion, and the motion passed. George Boyajian made a motion to accept the Paymaster's report as received. Dan Luty seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Sr. Vice: Bob Cosgrove provided details on the upcoming Combined Veterans Alliance picnic, scheduled for 23 August 2009 at Drexel Lodge. A sign-up sheet was

circulated during the meeting to determine the number planning on attending. Bob Cosgrove also provided some details on the annual Marine Corps Ball to be held in November. Major Joe Featherstone, USMC, retired, will be the speaker.

Adjutant: Jack Kelly indicated that the Detachment had received thank you notes from two more of the recent scholarship recipients. Thank you notes were received from Julia Cutting and Amanda Andrews. In addition, letters of thanks were received the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund and the Philadelphia Stand Down organization. Both organizations had recently received donations from the Detachment. In addition, a thank you note was read received from a family member of a person buried in one of the recent military funerals, and the family's appreciation was extended to the Honor Guard.

Sergeant-at-Arms: Jim Ross read from a recent guideline from Headquarters Marine Corps, in reference to saluting the national colors when in uniform and when not in uniform. Commandant Earle Drake mentioned that our Detachment will follow this ruling.

Service Officer: Connie McGinley mentioned that the Auxiliary may need financial assistance to provide food for an upcoming picnic at the Coatesville Veterans Hospital. Connie McGinley made a motion to provide the Auxiliary with up to \$250.00 for expenses, as needed, for the picnic at Coatesville. Joe Hudson seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Director Paul Ferguson: Paul Ferguson mentioned that he had been in contact with the USO concerning returning troops from the war zone. There is a group from the 56th Stryker Brigade that is returning from Iraq on 11 September, and those interested can meet the troops at Fort Dix, NJ. Those members who are interested could assist in serving a hot meal to these returning troops. A sign-up sheet was circulated to determine which members would be interested meeting these returning troops.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: John Burfete indicated that the date for the next Adopt-a-Highway event has been changed from 16 August to 30 August 2009.

Flag Collection: Barry Reese reported that the collection of used or torn flags is ongoing. Used flags are being collected, and it will be necessary to schedule a date in the future for the burning of used flags.

Honor Guard: Wayne Barner reported that 142 military funerals have been conducted so far this year, and 19 were conducted during the month of July. There are several more funerals scheduled for this week.

Marksmanship: Gene Kern indicated that the members of the rifle team shot this past Sunday, and even though it was raining, individual members did well. He reported that there

will be another rifle match in September (18th, 19th and 20th), near Altoona, PA. Those interested in shooting should contact Gene Kern.

V.A.V.S.: Connie McGinley reported that the next bingo game is scheduled for Monday, 10 August 2009, at the Coatesville Veterans Hospital.

New Business: Bob Spano made individual motions to donate funds to several individuals or organizations. Several different members seconded the motions. The individuals or organizations and amounts are as follows: Kevin Harden (Army medic Iraq casualty) (\$250.00); Homes for Our Troops (\$1,000.00); Marines Helping Marines (\$1,000.00); Wounded Warrior Project (\$1,000.00); Annunciation BVM Parish Conference of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul (\$1,000.00); Chester County Detachment, Marine Corps League (\$1,000.00); PA Veterans Museum, Media, PA (\$250.00); The Marine Corps League Foundation, Merrifield VA (\$1,000.00); and Upper Darby Detachment, Marine Corps League – golf outing (\$150.00). These had been discussed and approved by the officers at a recent staff meeting and recommended for consideration by the membership. Each motion was voted on separately and each motion was passed.

Unfinished Business: Tony Fusto had delivered the check approved earlier to the Auxiliary and he mentioned that the Auxiliary expressed its appreciation for the funds.

Bob Matthews provided information on the annual John Basilone Parade to be held on 27 September 2009 in Raritan, NJ. John Basilone, USMC, was awarded the Medal of Honor for action at Guadalcanal in World War II. He later was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross after being killed in action at Iwo Jima.

New Business: No new business was raised.

Good of the League: No items were raised under Good of the League.

Announcements: Bob Cosgrove reminded the membership to sign up for the picnic. It was also mentioned to remember that the September general meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9 September 2009.

George Boyajian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the motion passed. After the regular closing ceremonies, the meeting was adjourned at 2040.

Frank Greiser won the 50/50. Thirty-four members signed the logbook.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Kelly
Adjutant

The Legend Continues (from page 5) ...

The U.S. also played a large part in ruining the economy of that country. Haiti found itself barred from world commerce just by having the audacity in freeing her own slaves and defying every notion of black inferiority by militarily defeating three European powers. This was an unpardonable sin! The U.S. received no Mulatto Consuls or Black Ambassadors from Haiti because the peace of eleven slave states might be in jeopardy because of Haiti's successful insurrection. There were also international alliances with France, England and the U.S. diplomatic treaties leaving Haiti the perpetual loser.

Haiti was in continuous turmoil. It was hopelessly in debt, for foreign governments lent money indiscriminately, enslaving Haiti economically, and then, demanding payment which could only be paid by borrowing again. American railroads claimed exorbitant sums for providing Haiti with a poorly built and operating railroad system.

The magnet that drew European powers towards small, impoverished Haiti was not its debts but the country's strategic position in the Caribbean. President Theodore Roosevelt declared in 1904 that only the U.S. alone, via the Monroe Doctrine, had the right to police the little countries of the western hemisphere, to protect property, maintain order and make sure that they paid their debts. By 1915, we had intervened in Columbia to create Panama for a future canal (1903), Honduras (1907), Nicaragua (1910-1912) and Mexico (1914). They would also take over the Dominican Republic from 1916 thru 1924.

In the 72 year period before the Marines came ashore in July 1915, Haiti had 102 civil wars, revolutions, insurrections, revolts and coups. Of 22 Presidents, just one served a complete term. Only four died of natural causes. Thirteen were ousted by coups. The others suffered violent deaths via civil unrest.

This temporary incursion by the U. S. Marines would last until August 1924.

John Cook

Historian





Marine Corps League
Smedley D. Butler Detachment
P.O. Box 184
Newtown Square, PA 19073-0184

*Honor-Courage-
Commitment*



Next Meeting
September 9, 2009 (Wed.)
1930 hours
Knights of Columbus
327 N. Newtown Street Rd.
(Route 252)
Newtown Square, PA 19073