

# DRAGON'S BREATH

*Dhahran Memorial Division Newsletter*

November/December 2011

No. 38



## China Post 1 Officers and Board

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In 1993, to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1918 armistice, the Australian Government exhumed the remains of an Unknown Australian Soldier from the Adelaide Cemetery, near Villers-Bretonneux in France and interned him in the Hall of Memory at the Australian War memorial in Canberra on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Prime Minister, Paul Keating said "We will never know who this Australian was. Yet he has always been among those we have honoured. We know that he was one of the 45,000 Australians who died on the Western Front, one of the 416,000 Australians who volunteered for service in World War One and one of the 100,000 Australians who have died in wars this century. He is all of them. And he is one of us"

As the coffin was lowered in the crypt, World War One veteran Robert Comb, who had served in battles on the Western Front, sprinkled soil from Pozieres, France, over the coffin and said, "Now you're home, mate".

## Commander's Corner



Hi All,

We just had a great dinner/meeting on Wednesday eve. Thanks to our host and thanks to those that attended and supported CP1 DMD thru generously participating in the raffle! At the 2011 American Legion Convention, CP1 DMD donated \$12,000.00 to the American Legion Legacy Fund. Donations such as that are directly from the money raised at the meetings and raffles here in Dhahran. **THANK YOU** for your generosity to the charities that support active duty, vets and their families.

We were fortunate to have several first time veterans and some active duty members attend, it was a pleasure to meet them and have them join us. As with all our meals, **Active Duty are always free** – so please pass the word on to them to come and join us!

Due to the holidays, and travel plans of much of the community, we observed Veterans Day, and in deference to our many UK, Canadian and Australian supporters, Remembrance Day, during our Weds meeting. Both are observed on November 11<sup>th</sup>. In support of these, we passed out poppies to all that attended. I still have some remaining, so should anybody desire one to wear for Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, please feel free to contact me. Americans can save those Poppies to wear at our 2012 Memorial Day Observance as well.

A couple of our members announced that their children had recently joined the services or had recently completed their preparatory training in the services. They were given a round of applause in a show of appreciation and support from the audience. We also asked that veterans and active duty members be recognized and they too, were given an appreciative round of applause from all in attendance. On a more somber note, one family shared with me that they had just recently lost a loved one serving in Iraq.

This brings me to my last thought for this Commanders Corner. Freedom is bought at a heavy price. We, the recipients and beneficiaries of a protected and free life must never take it for granted.

It is so easy for many people to jump on the bandwagon and say; "I support the troops". But to be honest, those are just words and they do not mean much when not followed by **ACTIONS**. What are you doing as our President and Congress cut military benefits and military healthcare, while leaving their own pay/benefits and the pay/benefits of unionized Federal workers alone?

Do you honestly believe the hardships, and placing life on the line to protect us, which are the expectations of those that serve in the military are less deserving of protected pay and benefits than a federal desk job?

We do a disservice to our servicemen and women and their families when we are placated by add campaigns and TV commercials done by politicians, first ladies, spots stars, musicians and Hollywood etc. They are merely paying lip service.

Have we increased the pay and benefits of the lower ranks to be above poverty level? Have we supported the military healthcare system with enough resources to care for the troops and their families? Have we given them scholarships and job priorities instead of felons and illegal aliens? Have we ensured that the force manpower is large enough so that the troops do not have to stay on continuous and repetitive deployments in hazardous environments? Have we funded the VA health systems, so that they can provide sufficient and quality care? The answer is **NO**. We say we support the troops but the actions of our leaders do not match their words.

In a country where we are bailing out the rich, pouring good money after bad to political cronies, and pouring benefits on foreign governments, foreign companies, welfare abusers, illegal aliens, etc, -

“support the troops” slogans and campaigns without any substance are meaningless. What are you doing about it when it comes time to vote and make a difference?

It is our troops and their families that should be receiving these benefits, they are the ones defending us and laying their lives on the line for us!

Thank you for your support of CP1 and its fundraising efforts, but I also implore you to become politically active and support legislations which help our troops and oppose those that continue to cut their benefits. We are entering the political season where we choose our leaders, please be aware and actively support those that by their actions and voting records demonstrate an honest support of Active Duty, veterans and their families. You can access an excellent report card at [http://media.iava.org/iava\\_action/IAVA\\_Action\\_2010\\_Congressional\\_Report\\_Card.pdf](http://media.iava.org/iava_action/IAVA_Action_2010_Congressional_Report_Card.pdf) some of the actual rabid opponents and avid supporters of veteran benefits might surprise you. Make sure to check out the 2011 score card when it becomes available.

I wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season, may it be filled with Peace and Love. Enjoy the freedom to celebrate the holidays that has been provided by those that serve and have served in uniform.

Take a moment to donate to any one of many charities sending holiday care packages to the troops and their families— **do it now, so they get it in time for the Holidays!!**

I look forward to seeing you in 2012!

DAN

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## Missing Members We Goofed!

It's become obvious that the Dhahran Memorial Division and the national office have, due to a series of administrative mishaps, royally messed up the memberships of some qualified veterans who joined through us in late 2010 and the first part of this year. If you filled out the paperwork and submitted a copy of your DD214 but never heard back, please let us know.

We really **do** want you as members but sometimes our clerical skills don't pass muster.

So – give us a second chance and the Dhahran Memorial Division will pay your first year's enrollment due as a way of saying “Sorry and welcome home.” Contact Randale Rushing, [randale.rushing@ngmsa.net](mailto:randale.rushing@ngmsa.net) to follow-up.



## The Selection and Burial of the Unknown

*David W. Tschanz*

This story begins in some battle, when some soldier fell. It ended on a hill in Arlington, Virginia within the confines of the National Cemetery. Here, facing the pillared portico and marbled sweep of pediment and frieze of the amphitheater is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. How this soldier and his fellow Unknowns was selected.

In the aftermath of the Great War, the nations involved sought to find a fitting tribute to mark the millions of war dead. The United Kingdom first came up with the idea of a memorial for the unknown soldier as a tribute to all its fallen and other nations, including the United States and France, quickly adopted the idea.

The American Graves Registration Service in France made a thorough search of all the burial forms of unknown soldiers in the four cemeteries at the front. From these were picked only the records of those soldiers who gave no clue to, nor evidence of identity. Then the original papers and books showing the interment of these bodies were gone over and from them four bodies were selected which represented the remains of soldiers of which there was absolutely not the slightest indication as to name, rank, organization or date of death. In other words, these bodies had been picked up from isolated graves, hastily dug on the battlefield, and afterwards buried in the permanent cemeteries. No recourse to any record could possibly solve the mystery of their identity.

To make absolute assurance, four other bodies were selected as alternates. This was in case the exhumation of any unknown might at the last moment reveal some evidence of his identity, at least a clue worth following up. Then the alternate could be substituted. But there was no need for such meticulous care.

On October 22, 1921, one body of an unknown was disinterred from each of the four cemeteries. Tenderly the four were convoyed under guard of honor by an officer to Chalons-sur-Marne. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> they were conveyed to the Hotel De Ville, four catafalques and a major of the Quartermaster Corps of



**Sergeant Younger**

the Army was waiting to receive them. As each officer in charge of a body turned it over to the major he also handed in the form pertaining to its burial. Another officer, in the presence of the receiving major, solemnly destroyed the papers by fire. In addition, at headquarters in Paris all other records pertaining to these four bodies were likewise destroyed, so that today we have no record on file either in Paris or Washington showing from whence they originally came or from what cemetery they were later exhumed from their journey to Chalons-sur-Marne. .

Early the morning of October 24<sup>th</sup> the Quartermaster with some French and American soldiers, rearranged the caskets, placing them in different positions around the room. The bodies reposed now in different order than they had during the night, by this method there could be no opportunity for any one, even the employees of the American Graves Registration Service, to recognize through the order of arrangement which casket came from each cemetery.

Then came the moment for selection of the "The One Unknown." Each of the four caskets rested on a catafalque draped with an American flag. Palms and potted trees, and the intertwined colors of France and the United States made the mortuary a beautiful one for the simple ceremony to follow. Outside a French guard of honor stood at the "Present." One American soldier entered the chamber of death, alone. He was Sergeant Edward F. Younger, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 50th Infantry, a lad from Chicago, Illinois,

who had fought through all of the war as private, corporal, sergeant, and who was wounded twice and earned the Distinguished Service Cross. In his hand he carried a spray of the roses of France, gift of M. Brasseur Bruffer, a former member of the city council of Chalons, who had lost two sons in the war. While the French band played a hymn, Sergeant Younger slowly walked around the caskets several times and finally paused in front of the third one from the left and gently he laid his roses on this casket, and then came smartly to attention, facing the body at the salute.

General Duport, commanding the 6th Army Corps of France, the prefect de la Marne, the mayor of Chalons, the town council, and a company of distinguished French generals and other officers, paid their homage in salute, as did the commissioned officers from the American forces in Germany. US troops, then stepped forward and carried the casket to another room where the body was tenderly transferred to a special coffin for homecoming.<sup>1</sup>



With the transfer General Duport delivered an address in French. Brief reply was made by the American Quartermaster General thanking him and all the French officials for their sympathetic attention to every detail of this solemn but inspiring occasion.

A catafalque had been erected in the shrine in the center of the large hall facing the principal entrance gate at the Hotel de Ville. On the new casket had been inscribed: "An Unknown American who gave his life in the World War." Over it a guard of honor kept watch - six French soldiers, five non-commissioned officers from the American forces in Germany, and a representative from the American Legion. Flowers, wreaths and tokens in bronze, gifts from many places, surrounded the base of the catafalque. For the next three hours, the people of Chalons passed by single file, reverently paying homage and leaving their offerings of flowers for our dead.

In the later afternoon the French and American officers, with bands of music and an escort of French Infantry and Cavalry, returned to the Hotel de Ville where the City of Chalons took official leave of the Unknown. At 5:00 P.M., when the early French night had begun to fall, the march to the station began. The officials in the hall stood at salute as the casket was carried out and laid on the flag-draped gun carriage. Boy Scouts of France gathered the flowers and tributes, forming in line in front of the Hotel de Ville to the railway station, along which the cortege solemnly passed.

The funeral train was waiting, together with a special car tended by the Government of Paris, resting at the Gare Batignolles under soldier guard. Next morning (October 25<sup>th</sup>) the train left for Le Harve, with a distinguished company of French and American officers on board as escorts. There was a brief stop at Rouen to take on Major General Duchesne, Commanding General of the 3rd French Army Corps as additional escort. Le Harve was reached at 1:00 P.M., where awaited a machine-gun company and a detachment of sailors, both French, as a new guard of honor.

Here another procession was formed. The American pallbearers carried the casket from the train, followed by the officials and 30 French soldiers carrying the floral offerings, and marched to the square at the railway station where a flag-draped caisson was waiting. As the band of the 5th Division, French Army, played the familiar strains of "Aux Champs," the casket was placed on a gun carriage. A veritable

<sup>1</sup> The other three caskets were replaced in shipping cases and immediately taken to the Meuse-Argonne cemetery for reburial among comrades, there to rest for all time. Their graves are numbered 1, 2 and 3, Row 1, Block G.

shower of flowers fell upon it-the tribute of the school children of Le Havre. It seemed as if the entire population of that seaport city lined the streets to pay their deep respect to America's Unknown. Twenty deep they lined both sides of the route from the train to the Pier d'Escaie, where the cruiser *USS Olympia*, veteran sea-dog of Manila Bay and '98, was waiting to receive the body with all steam up.

Leading the cortege were the drums and bugles of the 129th Infantry of France, and the band played the funeral marches of Chopin and Mendelssohn on the way; the flag of the 129th; battalions of the Havrais Regiment; sailors from the crews of the Verdun and L'Epernay. Soldiers of the 129th regiment followed, bearing the palms, wreaths and bouquets. Then The Unknown, preceded by a detachment of this comrades, with eight American sergeants on each side of the coffin, and among them Younger. More troops marched behind with their arms reversed, and in the rear brought up the orphans belonging to the Fraternalite France-Americaine, each little one bearing a flower.

The procession marched through the Boulevard de Strasbourg. A wreath tied with the French and Havre colors, was offered by the city of Le Havre, in front of the Hotel de Ville, where delegations of the fire brigade, customs officials and policemen had gathered.

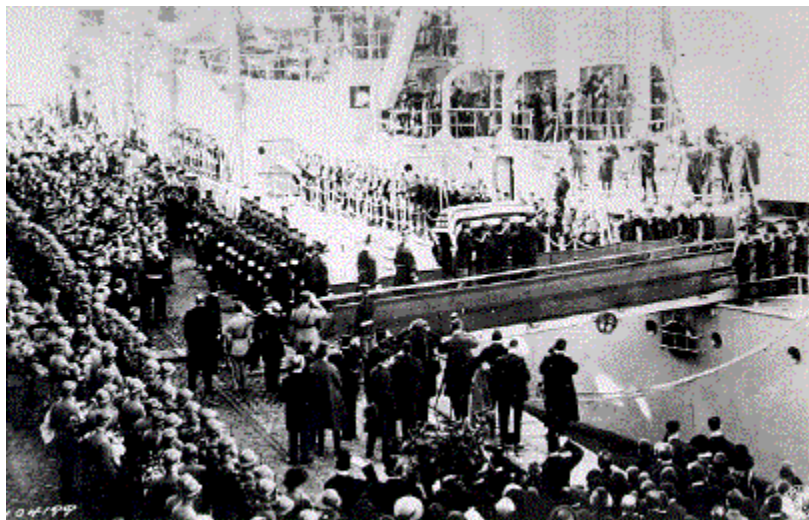
The cortege then continued through the rues de Paris, des Drapiers, du General Faidherbe and the Quai de Bostrom. A reverent crowd lined the way, decorated with flags flying at half-mast. The procession reached the quay at half-past two. *Olympia*, with the American flags at half-mast and the French flag hoisted half-way up the foremast, was anchored between her escorting ships. All steam was up; and the ship seemed to tug at her chains as if impatient to bear the Unknown on his last journey. Admiral Chandler, with the officers of his ship and those of the destroyer *USS Ruben James*, stood on the wharf in front of the cruiser. Grouped behind them were the band and detachments of US Marines and sailors of the *Olympic*.

Monsieur Meyer, the mayor of Havre spoke the French farewell. US Major General Henry T. Allen, commanding forces in Germany made replied and then faced the flag covered casket:

"The Great Republic, which is rendering you homage on this day, is likewise paying tribute to your comrades in blue who fell with you, and who lives in the hearts of his countrymen as you live enshrined in the loving memory of yours. Whoever you be, your gallant deeds are indelibly inscribed in the pages of history to the glory of your nation, and as long as these free states endure will your exploits be sung. In leaving hospitable France, who has so fondly cherished you, another voyage is prepared and further honors await you in the land of your birth."

Monsieur Maginot, Minister of Pensions, representing the French Government, addressed the dead:

"Unknown Soldier, valiant son of noble America, fallen on our soil in the cause of right and civilization, it is all of France that inclines before your casket, on which I have been ordered by the



Le Havre. Going aboard the "Olympia." Bearing the body of the American Unknown Soldier. Le Havre, France, Oct. 25, 1921, Signal Corps Photo

Government of the Republic to place the Cross of the Legion of Honor at the moment when your glorious remains, enveloped in the flag of your country, are leaving the land which your sacrifice has helped to save.

"It is the entire French nation which pays you this last and supreme honor. She cannot forget, she never will forget, what you have done for her in the hour of peril, France was menaced -the France who had sided with the newly-born America, the France whom in its turn the United States would not permit to lose her liberty."

The band began playing softly "Ouvrez le Ban," and Minister Maginot walked over to the casket and decorated the Soldier Unknown with the Cross Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur. Then "Fermez le Ban" and the "Marseillaise" ended the ceremonies.

The military pallbearers lifted the casket and bore it towards the cruisers. There eight pallbearers six sailors and two marines took charge of the body; in the words of an eyewitness "One by one the seafaring men took the places of the soldiers and the casket changes hands, silently and swiftly, without being lowered to the ground while the *Olympia's* band played soft and low the Funeral march of Chopin".

The body was moved to the place of honor at the stern to rest amidst flags and flowers. As a last tribute 300 school children came on board and heaped the dead with blossoms.

The whistle blew. Moorings were cast off. Two French destroyers pulled out beyond the breakwater. Eight other French torpedo boats left their places outside the piers to accompany the *Olympia*, now gathering way and slowly moving from her dock and out of the harbor. Seventeen French guns boomed salute, to which the *Olympia* replied in kind and made her way home.

### Burial

The placid Potomac carried the *Olympia* as she steamed up past Mount Vernon, George Washington's home, to the Nation's Capital. Here he was laid to rest under the glistening white dome of the lofty Capitol where people paid him silent homage until Armistice Day, November 11, 1921, the time set for the last ceremonies and farewells.

Meanwhile new pallbearers have been chosen from among the enlisted personnel of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps - all men of the caliber of which heroes are made who had distinguished themselves in the war beyond the call of duty.

President Warren G. Harding, designated himself as chief mourner. Secretary of War John W. Weeks served as Master of Ceremonies.

Armistice Day dawned clear and bright; the sun shone down on the Corpse as the medalled bearers placed it on the gun caisson for the very last of the journey, begun on a battlefield in France and drawing to its end down Pennsylvania Avenue.

First came the fighting arms of the Service - infantry, cavalry, artillery, with shining bayonets, clanking sabers, and rumbling cannon, still tricked out in war's camouflage. Following the gun carriage bearing the Unknown came. The President of the United States, on foot, marching alone - then the Vice President; the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Associate Justices, marching four abreast; the members of the Cabinet with Secretary of State Charles E. Hughes at their head; the Governors of States and their staffs; the Senators, the members of the House. Next followed the living holders of the Medal of Honor from many wars, representing the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Behind them were representatives of the service, veteran groups and patriotic organizations. General John J. Pershing, who had led the American host to victory three short years before, headed the representatives of the Army.



**The Unknown is accompanied to gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery. The Marine is Medal of Honor holder Gunnery Sergeant Ernst Janson, the hero of Belleau Wood.**

Meanwhile a hushed and reverent company had gathered at the amphitheater in Arlington where the stone tomb waited. Nearly all of the friendly nations in the world had sent their ambassadors or ministers. The States of the Union were represented. So, too, came many relatives whose dead are recorded among the unknowns; and many gold star mothers.

The President took his place. The Marine band played the National Anthem. Chaplain Axton, of the Army, made invocation and then the trumpet call, "Attention," thrice sounded. This was the signal for the entire company to rise, observing silence for two minutes. "America," sung by the audience, next punctuated the stillness and provided fit introduction to the President of the United States, who stepped to the rostrum to speak after which a quartet sang the hymn "The Supreme Sacrifice." Then President Harding stepped up to the casket and placed on it the Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross, the highest honors a fighting man can win at the hands of his country.

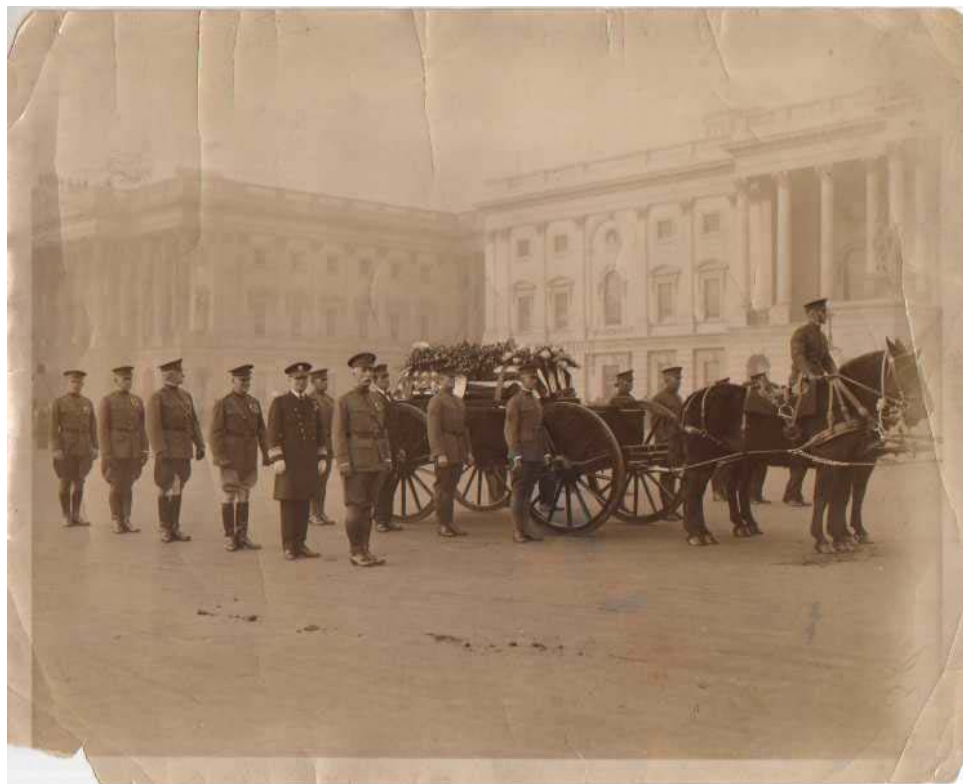
He was followed by a procession of distinguished soldiers and diplomats, each laying the highest decoration of his country for valor beside the decorations from the United States, already lying on the casket. Hymns, the Psalm and Scripture followed and then the remains were borne from the apse to the sarcophagus, proceeded by the clergy and followed by the President and his wife, the then Vice President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, foreign dignitaries, the Cabinet, General Pershing and others. Softly the band played "Lead Kindly Light," and Chaplain Brent, head of the Chaplains in the American Expeditionary Forces, and later the Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, spoke the words of the committal service.

An American War mother place a wreath on the tomb on behalf of all American war mothers, followed by a British war mother in behalf of those sister-mothers across the seas. Chief Plenty Coups, head of the Crow Nation, representing the all Native American nations of the United States, stepped out from the crowd. Slowly he laid his war bonnet and coup stick on the sarcophagus.

The artillery burst forth in three salvos and when the last reverberation had died away, a bugler played the plaintive notes of "Taps"

When the last note had died away, the artillery fired the national salute of 21 guns.

The Unknown was home.



## They Served

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran's Day. Here's a list of a few men (and one rabbit) who wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America," for an amount of "up to and including my life." While well known today, they weren't at the time and no one got a soft cushy job making training films.



**Drew Carey** served in the U.S. Marine Corps for six years and has said it's where he first acquired his signature black glasses and buzz cut look.

**Kurt Vonnegut** was a prisoner of war who was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. In fact, he survived only because he was part of a group of Americans held captive in an underground slaughterhouse meat locker called Schlachthof Fünf – Slaughterhouse Five. Because they were underground when the city of Dresden was bombed, they were saved.

That rebellious act of **Steve McQueen's** wasn't really an act – although he was promoted to Private First Class in the Marine Corps, he was reportedly demoted back to Private seven times, including once when he stayed out long after a weekend pass had expired and had to be hauled back by the shore patrol. He was also heroic, though – he saved the lives of five Marines when he pulled them out of a tank just before it broke through ice and fell into the ocean.

**Paul Newman** in the Navy and hoped to be a pilot until his color blindness was discovered. He ended up being a gunner instead and should have been at Okinawa, but his pilot developed ear infection and they were delayed. It was an ear infection that changed cinematic history: had Newman and his pilot gone when they should have, they likely would have been killed – the rest of their detail was.

**Captain Kangaroo**, AKA Bob Keeshan enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in 1945, but never saw combat. There's long been a story floating around that Lee Marvin said he and Bob Keeshan served together at Iwo Jima, but much like the Mr. Rogers myth, this one is false – neither of them served at Iwo Jima.

**Ed McMahon**, Johnny Carson's sidekick, was a Marine Corps flight instructor for two years before finally getting his orders to fly in combat in 1945. They were canceled, however, after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed. He did end up flying 85 combat missions during the Korean War, earning six Air Medals and retiring as a Colonel.

Speaking of Ed, there's a rumor that McMahon was **Johnny Carson's** commanding officer in the military, but there's no truth to it. The pair met for the first time in 1958. Johnny enrolled in the Navy in 1943, also hoping to be a pilot. He was assigned to be a midshipman instead. He reported for duty on August 14, 1945, which was the day Japan accepted surrender terms, marking the end of the war. As you might imagine, Carson's military career was pretty quiet after that – he has said the highlight of the whole thing was getting to perform a magic trick for James Forrestal, then-Secretary of the Navy.



**Bugs Bunny**. Really. Warner Brothers produced a cartoon called "Super-Rabbit" where Bugs says, "This looks like a job for a *real* Superman!" then jumps into a phone booth to presumably change into his Superman costume. When he emerges, though, he's in a Marine uniform singing the Marines' Hymn. The Marine Corps loved the homage so much they officially inducted the fictional rabbit as a private, even producing real dog tags for him. He was officially discharged at the end of WWII as a Master Sergeant.



## Santa's Defense Forces



### Santa's Sword and Shield

The harsh security realities of the past 100 years have necessitated a rapid buildup and modernization of Santa's military. No longer merely a ceremonial guard of Nutcrackers and reindeer, Santa's Defense Forces are now a thoroughly professional and efficient military organization. Similar to the armed forces of other small nation-states, the SDF makes up for its small numbers with the latest weapons systems and training. Santa's armed helpers have played an increasingly high profile role in ensuring Christmas certainty, from protecting Santa's Sleigh One to proactively striking at Santa's most dangerous enemies.

The Santa's Defense Force Command is divided into three branches:

### NUTCRACKER COMMAND (NUTCOM)

The 6,000 fighting nutcrackers of NUTCOM are responsible for all major military ground operations on behalf of the Santa. The nutcrackers are tasked with anything from the ceremonial guard of Santa's residence to high intensity urban warfare. The most famous nutcracker unit is Santa's Own 12th Nutcracker Regiment, the so-called "12th Nut."

Notable NUTCOM units:

- **Santa's Own 12th Nutcracker Regiment**  
The 12th Nutcracker Regiment is the personal guard of the Santa. It is the most elite unit under the Nutcracker Command (NutCom) of Santa's Defense Forces. The nutcrackers of the so-called "12th Nut" are carefully selected from the regular regiments within NutCom based upon their exemplary combat abilities and unquestioned loyalty to the Santa. The regiment includes approximately 750 nutcrackers including Nut Officers, Nut Soldiers, medical and logistics personnel.
- **25th Mechanized Nutcracker Regiment**  
The 25<sup>th</sup> Mech Nut is an armored sleigh attack unit of 5200 officers and men.



### REINDEER COMMAND (REINCOM)

The 5,000 reindeer of REINCOM are responsible for all North Pole aerial operations, from Santa's personal sleigh to gift transport. Most of the reindeer are devoted to logistical operations related to the Christmas Operational Window—the delivery of gifts each December. But a select few reindeer are assigned to the armed sleighs of Santa's aerial combat units.

Notable REINCOM units:

- 1st Sleigh Squadron, Santa's personal transport unit including Sleigh One
- 99th Sleigh Attack Squadron, armed sleighs specializing in Christmas air superiority and close air support roles

### JOINT CHRISTMAS CERTAINTY COMMAND (J-CCC)

The J-CCC ("J triple C") is a hybrid command encompassing the Santa's most specialized and elite

military units. The special forces of J-CCC perform the most critical and sensitive operations related to Christmas Certainty, most of which are classified. As enemies of Santa have become increasingly unconventional, Santa now increasingly relies on the unique skills of his most elite units. Notable J-CCC units:

- **103rd Sleighborne Regiment**

The 103rd Sleighborne is the only ground combat unit of Santa's reindeer. Along with the Sugar Plum Service it is part of the Joint Christmas Certainty Command (J-CCC.) The unit has been in continuous operation since 1942.

- **Sugar Plum Service**

Sometimes referred to as Taskforce 1225 or the 25th Long Range Fairy Squadron, the Sugar Plum Service (SPS) provides the Santa with an option of last resort in matters of Christmas Certainty. This elite volunteer special forces unit made up entirely of Sugar Plum fairies is often compared to the world's other tier one units such as the American Delta Force, German GSG-9, and Russian Spetsnaz. Because the Santa does not comment publicly on the SPS or its activities, little is known about the unit. The following information is gleaned from the public record and is not endorsed by the Santa or Santa's Little Secret Service.



## Selected Operations of the SDF

### **1813 The Cossack Repulse**, North Pole

In 1813 the North Pole was attacked by Cossacks during the Christmas Wars (1813-1815.) Santa's cottage was nearly burned to the ground before the Nutcracker Guard was able to defeat the Cossack cavalry. Led to updating of train and equipment. North Pole has not been attacked since

**1820 The Lapland Incursion**, Finland. Rescue of POW and MIA Reindeer still held by Finns from the Christmas Wars.

**1897 The China Rebellion**, Hong Kong. Still classified.

**1914 The Christmas Crisis**, Verdun, France. Led to Christmas Miracle Truce of Christmas Eve 1914.

**1926-27 The Elvish Troubles**, North Pole. Still Classified.

**1942 The Christmas Raid, Hamburg, Germany**, Santa's Sleigh was shot down in Hamburg by German flak cannons. Surviving 12th Nutcracker troops established a defensive perimeter around Santa Claus. As German forces encircled the crash site it became clear Santa was trapped. The only friendly force nearby was a small logistical regimen, the 2nd Sleigh Regiment, under command of Deer Sergeant Rudolph "Red Nose" Pulaski. Despite the fact that the 2nd Sleigh was not a combat unit, DS Rudolph gathered all the candy cane rifles he could, commandeered a supply sleigh, and flew his reindeer straight into the heart of Hamburg. The sleigh was also shot down, but the reindeer reinforcements allowed the 12th Nutcracker and Santa to escape the clutch of Nazi forces and led to the formation of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Sleighborne Rgmt..

**1956 Operation White Christmas**, Budapest Classified

**1966 Operation Rum Raisin**, Addis Ababa Classified

**1974 Operation Christmas Morning**—various world capitals. Covert delivery of Christmas presents to unfriendly world leaders commences. Continues to present day.

**1981 Operation Mistletoe**, Beirut. Combined operation with 12th Nutcracker, 103rd Sleighborne and SPS to deliver Christmas presents during Lebanon's civil war.

**1989 Operation Christmas Goose**, Prague Classified

**1992 Operation Infinite Tannenbaum**. Rescue operation following the downing of Sleigh One by North Korean surface to air missile. North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung retreats from public life for 18 months. Three of his presidential palaces burn down mysteriously during this time.

**1994 Operation Rogue Stocking**, Mogadishu

**2009 Operation Yule Storm**, San Francisco

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## Pick the Day!

### ***Decisions are made by those who speak up.***

We have been getting a lot of feedback about having our last meeting on Wednesday evening, rather than Thursday evening. Some think it was a fabulous idea and some think it was the dumbest thing we ever did.

Here's your chance to have a say in CP1's activities by voicing your opinion on which evening we should have future meetings.

Let me know what you think but dropping a quick email – even one word is enough -- to me at

[dandianne3@gmail.com](mailto:dandianne3@gmail.com)



## Operational Order 538978-00



1. An official visit by MG Santa (NMI) Claus is expected at this headquarters 25 December 2011. The following instructions will be in effect and govern the activities of all personnel during the visit.

a. Not a creature will stir without official permission. This will include indigenous mice. Special stirring permits for necessary administrative actions will be obtained through the C1. Mice stirring permits will be processed through the C2 for proper clearances and obtained through Veterinary Services, ARCENT-KU.

b. Personnel will settle their brains for a long winter nap prior to 2200 hours, 24 December 2011. See MAJ Dickenson for pre-napping medical requirements. See MAJ Adams for napping demonstration. Uniform for the nap will be: Pajamas, cotton, light, drowsing, with kerchief, general purpose, camouflage; and Cap, camouflage w/ear flaps. Equipment should have been drawn from homestation CIF prior to deployment.

c. Personnel will utilize standard Sharq Market sugar plums for visions to dance through their heads. Artificially sweetened plums are authorized for those in the unit weight control program. Specifications for this item will be provided by the servicing dining facility.

d. Stockings, wool, cushion sole, will be hung by the chimney with care. Necessary safety precautions will be taken to avoid fire hazards caused by carelessly hung stockings. ARCENT-KU safety officer will submit stocking hanging plans to this headquarters prior to 0800 hours, 24 December 1999, ATTN: MAJ Salada, for approval.

e. At the first sign of clatter from the lawn, all troops will spring from their beds to evaluate noise and cause. Immediate action will be taken to tear open the shutters and throw open the window sashes. PMO Plan (Saint Nick), Reference LO No. 3, paragraph 6c, this headquarters, 2 February 2007, will be in effect to facilitate shutter tearing and sash throwing. Section OICs will familiarize all personnel with procedures and are responsible for ensuring that no shutters are torn open nor window sashes thrown open prior to start of official clatter. See CPT Donley for hardcopy.

f. Prior to 2359, 24 December 2011, all personnel will be assigned "Wondering Eye" stations. After shutters are thrown open and sashes are torn, these stations will be manned.

g. SSG Bekono will assign one each Sleigh, miniature, M-66, and eight (8) deer, rein, tiny, for use of MG Claus' driver who, in accordance with current directives and other applicable regulations, must have a valid



SF56 properly annotated by Driver Testing; be authorized rooftop parking and be able to shout "On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and Vixen, up Comet, up Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen".

2. MG Claus will enter quarters through standard chimneys. All units without chimneys will draw Chimney Simulator, M-6, for use during ceremonies. Chimney simulator units will be requested through SPC Oswald on Job Order Request Form submitted to the Furniture Warehouse prior to 19 December 2011, and issued on DA Form 3161, Request for Issue or Turn-in.

3. Personnel will be rehearsed on shouting "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." See LTC Pride for demonstration. This shout will be given on termination of General Claus' visit. Uniformity of shouting is the responsibility of section NCOICs.

/s/

CHRISTOPHER K. RINGLE

Colonel, USA

OIC, Special Services



***Merry Christmas Everyone!***



## China Post 1 Membership

*Becoming a Member of the China Post 1 Dhahran Memorial Division is easy!*

**There are three types of membership:**

### **Regular Member**

To become a regular member you must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Optionally you can be a US citizen who served with Allied Armed Forces during any period of conflict to which the United States was a party. Conscientious Objectors and others who refuse military discipline or do other nonqualified service are not eligible.

A copy of your DD-214 must be submitted with the application. If you do not have ready access to your DD-214, please submit it as soon as possible. A copy of your discharge certificate will be accepted as temporary documentation for application into China Post 1 but a copy of your DD-214 needs to be submitted when you have access to it. We normally give a grace period of 1 year to submit the DD-214.

There is an annual dues assessment of \$40 paid directly to the National China Post 1 Headquarters in Houston, Texas. The initial check is sent with the application from the Dhahran Memorial Division Office. There are also SR150 annual dues to support the local Dhahran Memorial Division – China Post 1 chapter.

### **Sons of the American Legion**

Membership in this group is open to a sibling, child or grandchild of a veteran that was on active duty during any of our periods of conflict

### **Friends of China Post 1**

The “Friends of the Dhahran Memorial Division – China Post 1” is a social membership open to anyone who does not qualify in the above categories. Membership allows you admission to our gatherings as well as a subscription to our newsletter and a place on our mailing list.

For additional information, as well as a membership form, please contact **Randale Rushing**, [randale.rushing@ngmsa.net](mailto:randale.rushing@ngmsa.net)

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### **2012 Regular Membership**

Please contact **Randale Rushing**, [randale.rushing@ngmsa.net](mailto:randale.rushing@ngmsa.net) to start the process of submitting your 2012 National membership application. Persons whose paperwork was not submitted last year should contact Randale as well.