



# ALL EARS!!

THE LITCHFIELD FUND WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

"OUR EARS SPAN ALL FIELDS"



**ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> HOUR** of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month the armistice began that ended WWI, the *War to End All Wars*. It wasn't, due to the Allies' vengeance, Woodrow Wilson's incompetence & Neville Chamberlain's weakness. Then came a rise in religious fervor & totalitarian governments (socialism, communism, fascism, globalism) that took away human rights & gave all power to the government. Fortunately, the USA has men & women who believe in what we value: *individual rights, not the power of the government!* They are willing to fight, & to die, to preserve these rights here at home or abroad. To these *soldiers of freedom*, we offer a heartfelt *Thank You!*

**DEVIL DOGS:** In this newsletter's usual tradition, we step aside from the weekly news on *Veterans Day* to thank those individuals who protect our freedoms! Why? We live in a country where we are free to speak our minds (even if we sound foolish), to worship, to choose a profession, to raise & *protect* our family, to spend our money as we choose (not how the government chooses), to make a fortune, lose a fortune, complain about the government & write this newsletter! We honor & respect every individual who has donned the uniform of our military services, our law enforcement & our first-responders & the families who love & support them! We share individual stories that illustrate why we think these people & our country is unique. Meaning no disrespect to all branches of the military, this week we want to talk about the legend & the lore, well earned & well deserved, of the United States Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps was founded November 10, 1775. It was originally formed to protect the fledgling Colonial Navy & its naval bases. In 1801, President Jefferson refused to pay tribute to the Barbary Pirates of the Ottoman Empire & the other Muslim North African states. These pirates were capturing USA ships & enslaving our sailors. President Jefferson sent the Navy & the Marines to end the threat. The Navy blockaded & bombarded pirate bases & the Marines conducted raids. A small detachment of Marines under Stephen Decatur recaptured the *USS Philadelphia* & Pressley O'Bannon led a force of eight Marines, accompanied by mercenaries, across the desert west of Egypt to capture the city of Derna. They raised the American flag for the first time on foreign soil. The capture of Derna brought about the return of the hostages & an end to the First Barbary War. Since then, the lore of the Marine Corps has continued to grow, from the taking of Chapultepec Castle in 1847 in the Mexican War to Operation Enduring Freedom.

Much of the essence of what the Marine Corps is & represents came about during WWI, on just a few days in early June, 1918 & from just one man, First Sergeant Dan Daly. After the Russians surrendered, the Germans moved 50 additional divisions to the French lines. They launched three offensives, settling into Belleau Wood & an advantageous position on Hill 142. The Marines dug in using just their bayonets & stopped the German advance! Then, like most WWI battles, there were a series of attacks & counter-attacks in Belleau Wood! At one point the Marines charged through waist-high wheat fields into German machine gun fire. The fighting was ferocious, often hand-to-hand, with numerous casualties. Sergeant Daly (ironically, born November 11, 1873) already had won the Medal of Honor in 1900 for standing his position during China's Boxer Rebellion, killing 200 attackers & stopping their advance. Sergeant Daly won a second Medal of Honor on June 6, 1918, when he led his men on a charge against the Germans, shouting,

*"C'mon you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?"* The Marines eventually secured Belleau Wood, stopping the last major German offensive of the war. Major General Smedley Butler, who also won a Medal of Honor at Belleau Wood, called Sergeant Daly, *"The fightin'est Marine I ever knew!"* So fierce were the Marines, the Germans called them *'Teufelshunde,'* a nickname for the Marines ever since, *Devil Dogs!* The French renamed Belleau Wood, *'Bois de la Brigade de Marine'* (*Wood of the Marine Brigade*) & General of the Armies, John J. *'Blackjack'* Pershing said, *"The deadliest weapon in the world is a United States Marine & his rifle."*

The Marine Corps' legend grew throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, in the jungles & rock of the South Pacific islands & with Chesty Puller in Korea at Chosin Reservoir. But after the Vietnam War ended, the Marines felt they needed to remake themselves into their original mission - a single, self-contained fighting unit to attack, establish or defend positions from the sea. To update their tactics of attack & maneuvers, the Marines turned to a former Army Air Corps swimming instructor, who had seen service in occupied Japan! This man was a poor student whose IQ was said to be below 100, a Korean War wingman who never fired his guns at the enemy & without a doubt, *the most significant military strategist of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

After returning from Japan in 1947, John Boyd needed several tries to gain admittance to the University of Iowa, where he eventually earned a degree in Economics. After his tour in Korea, he began advancing his theories on both aircraft design & fighter tactics. He stole computer time to run calculations to prove his theories. He was so proficient on a flight simulator, he earned the nickname *'40 second'* Boyd, always backing up his claim that he could outmaneuver & defeat any pilot in 40 seconds. With his knowledge he was involved in the *Lightweight Fighter Program*, where his work & theories led to the development of the *F-18 A Hornet*, the *F-16 Fighting Falcon* & the deadliest weapon of them all, the *F-15 Strike Eagle*. But Col. Boyd's theories did not stop at aircraft design. He developed the *OODA Loop* – Observation, Orientation, Decision, Action – repeated quickly throughout a dogfight. The OODA Loop has been applied in the military, business, economics & sports. When Wayne Gretzky said *"A good hockey player knows where the puck is, a great hockey player knows where the puck is going to be,"* he may not have known he was citing Col. Boyd's *OODA Loop* & military tactics. Col. Boyd's work in the 1970s on Marine & military tactics of operation influenced many of the USA military's commanders, instructors & classes. When Dick Cheney needed a plan to push Saddam Hussein from Kuwait in 1991, he called on John Boyd, already retired 16 years. Col. Boyd merely came up with the famous *Left Hook!* Col. Boyd passed away in 1997. While all the service branches attended his funeral, the Marine Corps, as only the Marine Corps can, showed their respect by outnumbering all the other services in attendance! *Semper Fi – Always Faithful!*

The Marines are special, as they are *the first to fight!* They willingly land alone, in the worst places, to create a foothold for the Navy, Army & Air Force. The Marines fight for *right & freedom*, for both America & for those around the world whose human rights; those fragile, precious rights *we hold to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty & the pursuit of Happiness;* have been violated. The Marines have *fought in every Clime & Place*, from the *Halls of Montezuma* (the Battle of Chapultepec) to the *Shores of Tripoli* (the Barbary War). Among the Marines duties is guarding our diplomatic missions in foreign lands, be they friendly or not. This is why we truly do believe, that *if the Army or the Navy, ever look on Heaven's scenes, they will indeed find Her streets are guarded by United States Marines!*

**SEEDS, SPROUTS, GROW, HARVEST!**

**THE LITCHFIELD FUND – Tom Malenka**

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