

MUSKETS & BROADSWORD

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution
November 2010

Editor-James F. Blauer

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: November 13, 2010
Where: Sizzler Restaurant
1401 North Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, CA
Time: Social Begins at 11:00am
Meeting: Called to Order at 11:30am
Website: www.orangecountysar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, happy birthday to the United States Marine Corps. I have several family members and friends who served as Marines (once a Marine – always a Marine); a brother, several nephews and cousins (one cousin was killed in action on Okinawa in World War II and two cousins who were wounded during the Korean War) and several close friends served with the Marine Corps in Vietnam. Therefore I feel comfortable saying *Semper Fidelis* to all present and former members of the USMC.

Other than July, when we celebrate the birthday of our great country, November may be the most patriotic month of the year:

The USMC birthday; November 10, 1775, President Abraham Lincoln gave his Gettysburg Address at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania; November 19, 1863, Veterans Day or Armistice Day or Remembrance Day – Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with Germany signing of the Armistice. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed an Armistice Day be observed on November 11, 1919 and Thanksgiving Day.

There are few keener associations preserved in the memory than the ones that surround holiday meals. Because Thanksgiving has no sectarian or political connections, the dinner itself (and in most cases a similar menu) is the single tradition on this holiday that calls the family together. In fact, although away from one's own family, the wafting aroma of roast turkey or the sweet scent of pumpkin pie can trigger nostalgia for Thanksgiving at home, just as particular incidents from past celebrations remain as vivid years later as the taste of a favorite dish. I am certain we all remember that Thanksgiving holidays spent with our families as a special time. After Thanksgiving dinner the warm sound of voices and rising laughter mingled in tales of sorrow and happiness of days past, but not forgotten, are precious memories indeed.

James C. Fosdyck
President

Our great modern Republic. May those who seek the blessings of its institutions and the protection of its flag remember the obligations they impose.

~Ulysses S. Grant.

**SPEAKER Lt. Col. Joe L. Ruthenberg,
USMC (Ret)**

Colonel Ruthenberg comes to us after a long and distinguished career with the United States Marine Corps. Involved with helicopter flight operations and instruction for many years, he began his career as Instructor Pilot and Standardization Officer in Japan in the mid-1970's. This included the responsibility for 10 pilots while instructing them on the local flight operations in the Tokyo area and on aircraft systems and procedures. He was also a Diversity Training Officer from 1976 through 1979, and was responsible for conducting seminar classes for Marines in relationships with others of differing backgrounds and ethnicities. From 1980 to 1983 he again supervised pilots and aircrews. While there, he directed the staff in the organization and development of systems to monitor individual levels of expertise and provided instruction to improve levels of skills of pilots and aircrews. From 1983 to 1987 he became an Instructor Pilot for refresher and new senior pilots in three types of helicopters, while providing general leadership instruction for civilian pilots and aircrews, as well as for the Marines and for Civil Service employees. During this time, he became the White House Helicopter Aircraft Commander, and was awarded the Presidential Service Badge. He also served as Advance Officer and White House Liaison Officer in the Presidential Helicopter Squadron. In 1987 and 1988 he supervised leaders instructing in aircraft maintenance, operations, logistics, and personnel management. With natural leadership abilities and a desire to serve and help others, he then became involved with the

supervision of instructional leaders who were responsible for general instruction of a multi-discipline organization of 700 people. From 1993 into 1998, Joe was the Senior Marine Instructor, Marine Corps JROTC, for the Campbell Union High School District in San Jose, CA . There he supervised instructors at four high schools. From there, he went on to fulfill the same duties from 1998 to 2010 at Orange High School in Orange County . His preparing students to become officers in the Marine Corp has been the most rewarding part of his entire career. During this time, he has assisted in placing several students in the U.S. Military Academy , West Point, and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis . He was responsible for building the JROTC from 85 cadets in 1998 to 315 cadets in 2010, and the establishment of competitive teams in Color Guard, Drill Team, and Marksmanship have produced several awards, locally and nationally. The Drill Teams routinely take first place awards at competitions throughout Southern California . Through the JROTC, he has provided Color Guards and narrators to lead in flag salutes for community events, school assemblies, and for varsity sports teams. His Cadet Battalion earned the title of Naval Honor School for three consecutive years, and was in the top 20% of all Marine Corps JROTC units from 2008 to 2010. Joe's love of flying and the desire to provide an introduction to flight for the cadets propelled him on to develop an after-hours Aviation Ground School . Because of his efforts and dedication to the cadets, many students, instead of dropping out, have remained in school and have found a home in the JROTC under the leadership of Joe. Colonel Ruthenberg retired from the JROTC in July 2010. He lives with his lovely wife in Orange County , and continues to serve his country whenever and wherever he finds the opportunity. Please join us November 13th as we hear an inspiring story from

the life of Lt. Col. Joe Ruthenberg, United States Marine Corps.

WOUNDED WARRIOR VIRGIL BARTOLOMUCCI

Virgil was drafted in the Army on February 20, 1967 and spent the first 10 weeks at Fort Lewis Washington for his basic training. He was then transferred to Fort Polk Louisiana for Advanced Infantry Training. Fort Knox Kentucky was the next training facility for the Armored Personnel Carrier (APC M113A1) school. Learning all the ins and outs of this vehicle for the next assignment Viet Nam.

Virgil arrived in Viet Nam August 3, 1967 and was assigned to Bravo Company 2nd Battalion 47th infantry of the 9th Division. His duties were predetermined to be Infantry with a secondary of an APC driver. Patrols, Ambushes, Search & Destroy, Securing the main roads in and out of Saigon was some of Bravo Company's duties.

Virgil's first Purple Heart was received for the actions of the TET Offensive January 31, 1968. All of Saigon was under attack. Air Fields, Bases, Transportation Depots, Hotels and so-on. The Long Bien Ammo dump's perimeter was breached & overrun, his unit was called to restore security. Unbeknown to Bravo Company, the enemy was successful in planting explosive charges in and around the facility. About 7:00 am, the dump exploded. None of the VC invaders were recovered. Command believed they were suicide bombers. Out of 150+ in the unit, about 30 were injured with multiple shrapnel wounds, no KIA.

Virgil was promoted to Squad Leader Sergeant E5 in May. That was the same month as the Mini TET. May 9th 1968 all hell broke loose. Once again fighting broke out in ALL of Saigon. Bravo Company was called to aid the South Vietnamese Army in defending a portion of the city. They

crossed the "Y" Bridge into the Chinese District called Cholon. There were 4 constant days of street combat throughout the area. On May the 12th, Virgil's 5 man squad was rooting out snipers when everything went crazy. A large and loud explosion had gone off and the entire team was blown through a block wall into an office building. THE SQUAD HAD BEEN HIT. He was Dazed and confused. Along with another GI, Virgil was alive, the other three were not so lucky. Minutes later helicopters landed to evacuate the KIA's and the Wounded. That Month of May Bravo Company lost 17 Brave American Soldiers and countless wounded.

Up until 10 years ago BRAVO COMPANY COMMAND thought it might be a Rocket Propelled Grenade(RPG) however it wasn't. It was FRIENDLY FIRE artillery, a 105mm round. Virgil was in the hospital for six weeks, split up between The 9th Medical Division and Cam Ranh Bay. On June 26th he returned to His duties of Squad Leader, continued his tour until he came back home on August 2nd, 1968.

Awards received, Combat Infantry Badge, Two Purple Hearts, Bronze Star (V), Army Commendation Medal (V). The 4 years that the 9th Division was in Viet Nam, they sustained a loss of more than 2500 American Soldiers.

CHAPTER ON THE WEB

The Orange County Chapter can be viewed on the web participating in their activities. The sites are as follows:

1) The Field of Honor May 14-17 at Castaways Park in Newport Beach. There is a Video from NBTV at http://newportbeach.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?new_id=318clip_id=1211 Running time 1 hour. about 12-15 minutes into the video there is the interview with Jim Blauer and Jim & Un Hui

Fosdyck About 42-45 minutes into the video is the presentation of Colors by Chuck Lampman, Jim Fosdyck and Jim Blauer.

2) The write up on the Field of Honor by the Orange County Register with Photos can be viewed at www.ocregister.com/news/flags-248905-beach-newport.html Two of the 12 photos are of the Color Guard presenting the colors.

3) July Fourth Parade in Huntington Beach http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daZrL_AzY-g&feature=youtube_gdata 1:11 running time. Thanks go to Matthew Noell who had this clip placed on Youtube. Matthew is one of the fifers of the Fife & Drum Corps that joins us for the parade.

4) Marching Through History Exposition (3 Oct 2010). See the battle. Running time 5:46. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8YqXWKvyec>

5) Korean Festival Parade (9 Oct 2010). Running time 1:08. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tPMQ1pG2f0Q> These last two are thanks to Jim and Un Hui Fosdyck.

DUES DUE

Yes it is that time of the year again when those who pay on an annual basis are asked to reup by sending in their dues. Secretary Jim Wallace is busy getting the dues notices ready for mailing. He hopes to have them on their way to you by the end of October, first of November.

Those of you who may be thinking of getting a life membership will have to wait until after the Fall Board of Managers Meeting. President Wayne Griswold recently suspended any new Life Memberships until a new actuarial study could be made and reported on at the Fall Meeting. We will report the findings and the decision on the pricing of the Life Membership in next month's newsletter. The chapter is currently around 81 members with

about 35 who are Life Members. Once they have paid the Life Membership fee in full they no longer have to pay dues as the interest earned by the state pays for Chapter, State and National dues each year. One does not have to worry about increases at any of the levels of membership dues. Some thing to think about for the long term.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This month I would like to start a section where we wish a Happy Birthday to those Compatriots who will be celebrating in November.

November 1--Larry Wood

November 10--Warren Oakes

November 13--Cameron Webb

FALL BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

November 4-7 will find compatriots from all over the state heading to Santa Clara for the Fall Board of Managers Meeting.

Something new is being tried. Compatriot John Dodd has scanned in the minutes and exhibits from the April Membership Meeting and they are being sent via email to all those members that we have emails for. If you have not yet received a copy let your editor know(jblauer@pacbell.net) and he will email them to you.

We will report back to you on any proposals that are voted on.

AMERICANS INVADE CANADA

In late June of 1775 Congress informed General Washington that they wanted action taken against the British in Canada. The first major offensive of the American Revolution began with the movement of a two prong attack.

First there was Major General Phillip Schuyler who was to lead one force, but when he became ill that duty was given to Brigadier General Richard Montgomery. On September 16 Montgomery with 1,700 militia headed out from Fort Tichonderoga



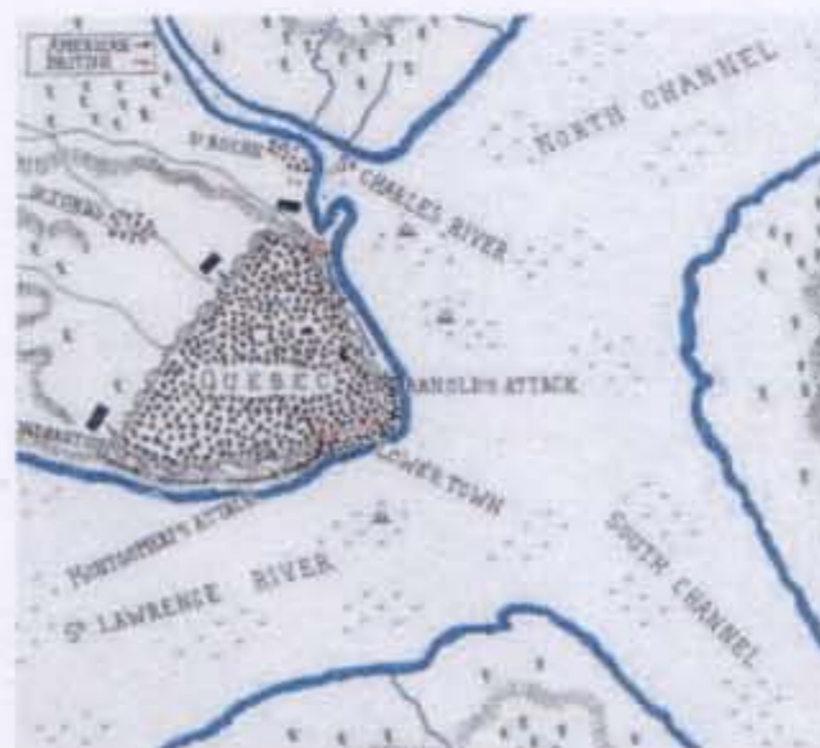
General Richard Montgomery

and advanced up Lake Champlain, arriving at Fort Jean (St. John) three days later. He proceeded to attack the fort and was able to force the garrison to surrender on November 3. By November 28 the Americans had moved up to Montreal which they were able to take without a fight.

Meanwhile, to the East General Washington had dispatched Colonel Benedict Arnold. With a force of 1,100 men, hand picked from Washington's Continental Army, Arnold set off on September 11 believing he would be in Quebec in 20 days. It turned out to be 45 days in getting to this destination. He began in Massachusetts and traveled up to the mouth of the Kennebec River. It was here that the realization set in that it was not going to be easy going. The maps that had been provided were found to be faulty as they began to encounter hardships along the way. Because they had planned for a shorter expedition in reaching Quebec they became short on supplies that resulted in starvation. Between the deaths and the those who turned back, Colonel Arnold only had a force of 600 men when they reached the St. Lawrence and approached Quebec in late October. Forced to wait for reinforcements Colonel Arnold withdrew to Pointe Aux Trembles and wait for reinforcements.

By December 2, General Montgomery arrived with 300 men to team up with Arnold's men. They planned a two pronged attack on the city. Montgomery would attack the West side and Arnold would advance along the North via the Charles River.

While they planned their attack, the Governor



Map showing the American Plans for the attack on Quebec.

General of Canada, Sir Guy Carleton, with a garrison of 1,800 regulars and militia erected a series of barricades to enhance their formidable defenses.

The assault from the two forces began on a snowstormy December 31st. Montgomery's forces were able to advance past the Cape Diamond Bastion into the lower town. Here they encountered the first barricade. Montgomery lined his men up for the attack on the 30 defenders. The surprise was on the Americans as the first British Volley killed Montgomery with a shot to the head. Even worse the volley struck down his two chief subordinates. This resulted in the remaining officers ordering a withdrawal.

Not knowing of the failure of Montgomery's attack and his death, Arnold proceeded up the Charles River. As they reached the Sault au Matelot, Colonel Arnold was hit in the left ankle.



This painting depicts the death of General Richard Montgomery during the attack on Quebec.

Unable to walk he was moved to the rear of the column and the command was transferred to Daniel Morgan. They were able to take the first barricade then moved into the city proper.

With Montgomery's withdrawal, the British forces were able to concentrate wholly on the attack from the North. They counter attacked Morgan's rear by retaking the barricade, then moved up to surround him. With no way out Morgan and his men were forced to surrender.

The Americans had 60 killed or wounded and another 426 men were captured. The British had 6 killed and 19 wounded. Though the attack failed American troops remained in the fields around Quebec. Arnold rallied his men and made several attempts to lay siege to the city. It was ineffective as the men began to desert once their enlistments were up. Though Arnold received reinforcements, he withdrew completely with the arrival of 4,000 British troops under General John Burgoyne. The Americans were defeated at the Battle of Trois-Rivieres on June 8, 1776. This brought an end to the American's invasion of Canada as the troops retreated to New York.

Excerpts from the Journal of Abner Stocking
September 13, 1775. All things being in readiness for our departure, we set out from Cambridge, near Boston, on the 13th of September at sunset and encamped at Mistick at eight o'clock at night. We were all in high spirits, intending to endure with fortitude all the fatigues and hardships that we might meet on our march to Quebec.

September 14. This morning we began our march at 5 o'clock and at sunset encamped at Danvers, a place twenty miles distant from Mistick. The weather through the day was very sultry and hot for the season of the year. The country through which we passed appeared barren and but I thinly inhabited.

September 15. This morning we marched very

early, and encamped at night within five miles of Newbury Port, The inhabitants who visited us in our encampment expressed many good wishes for our success in our intended enterprise.

September 16. Zealous in the cause, and not knowing the hardships and distresses we were to encounter, we as usual began our march very early. At eight o'clock we arrived at Newbury Port where we were to tarry several days and make preparations for our voyage. We were here to go on vessels which we found lying ready to receive us and carry us to the mouth of the Kennebec. The mouth of the Kennebec is about 30 leagues to the Eastward of Newbury Port.

From the Journal of Dr. Isaac Senter

Wednesday November 1st. Our greatest luxuries now consisted in a little watered, stiffened with flour, in imitation of shoemakers' paste which was christened with the name of Lillipu. Instead of the diarrhea, which tried our men most shockingly in the former part of our march, the reverse was now the complaint, which continued for many days. We had now arrived, as we thought, to almost the zenith of distress. Several had been entirely destitute of either meat or bread for many days. These chiefly consisted of those who devoured their provisions immediately, and a number who were in the boats. The voracious disposition many of us had now arrived at rendered almost anything admissible. Clean and unclean were now forms little in use. In company was a poor dog (who had) hitherto lived through all the tribulations, became prey for the sustenance of the assassins. This poor animal was instantly devoured, without leaving any vestiges of the sacrifice. Nor did the shaving soap, pomatum, and even the lip salve, leather of their shoes, cartridge boxes, etc., share any better fate. ***

For more on these journals go to www.historycentral.com/revolt/battleaccounts/Canada.

Photo Album

November 2010



At left--U.S. Army member Virgil Bartolomucci, a Purple Heart Recipient from the Vietnam War receives his Wounded Warrior Certificate and coin from Dan Henry.



At right--Judge Jim Gray receives a Certificate of Appreciation from President Jim Fosdyck for speaking to our members & guests.

Below Don Webb is presented 5 approved supplementals by President Fosdyck and Registrar Kent Gregory.

Dave Manning drove his 1931 Model A Deluxe Coupe in the Korean Festival Parade with President Fosdyck in the Rumble seat.



Members gather before the start of the Korean Festival Parade. Jim Fosdyck, Dave Manning, David Siler, Sharon & Larry Wood, Kent & Lisa Gregory and Un Hui Fosdyck.

Below--The ladies lead off with the banner, Sharon Wood, Un Hui Fosdyck and Lisa Gregory. They are followed by the Color Guard of David Siler, Larry Wood, and Kent Gregory. They are followed by the car with Dave Manning and Jim Fosdyck.



Photo Album

November 2010-2

Marching Through History Exposition



Larry Wood, & Jim & Un Hui Fosdyck pose by sign. Above right Larry checks out the Stocks.

Larry Practices his drills with the other Colonials., below, Then, proceeds to give lessons to the public, below.



Above the Colonials get ready to battle the British. Unfortunately as you can see at left we lost Larry in this battle.

Above right our Colonials, Larry, Jim and David Siler stand with those who have come after them to continue the defense of our country.

God Bless the men & women of our military, past, present, & future!!!