



The Maryland Line

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The Newsletter of the Maryland Military Historical Society, Inc.

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The Maryland Military Historical Society Inc.

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The *Maryland Line* is a quarterly publication of the Maryland Military Historical Society, Inc., (MDMHS). The views expressed in this publication are the views of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the MDMHS, its board of directors, officers, or members. Articles and photographs may be submitted to:

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Attention!

Membership fees are now due for the year 2020. We sent you a reminder to submit your dues back in January.

If you have not yet submitted your dues, please do so at this time.

Individual dues are \$25. Checks should be made payable to **MDMHS** and mailed to:

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Prepared for the present, while planning for the future

Although the MDMHS was never closed, a number of activities ceased during the past several months due to the COVID 19 pandemic. For example, we suspended the Curtis B. Vickery Round Table meetings, Board of Director meetings and Executive Committee meetings. However, the Society has been active on a number of fronts during this time period.

Noting the increased use of the Zoom videoconferencing platform during the pandemic, the MDMHS purchased a user license that allows us to hold sessions of up to 100 attendees and for time periods well over the one hour limit available on the basic, free version. Thus far, we cohosted, along with the Maryland Museum of Military History, an open Q&A forum on the 29th Division in both world wars featuring Joe Balkoski and Alexander Falbo-Wild on June 1.

In addition, we shared our license with the 29th Division Association, an organization in which many of our members are active, to host their National Executive Committee Meeting in June.

Going forward, we are planning to host our future meetings of the CB Vickery Round Table on the Zoom platform starting on July 18. All of our upcoming speakers, including members and guests, have agreed to provide their presentations using the Zoom online format. We are delighted to share this news since we have an impressive upcoming slate of speakers and topics that are detailed in the Round Table article in this newsletter.

The use of the Zoom application is just one step in the MDMHS's overall strategy to utilize digital tools to reach the broader community of military historians, buffs and ancestry enthusiasts. In the past year we released a new version of our website and have upgraded the website on a quarterly

basis with the most recent upgrade allowing current and potential members to pay annual dues online via PayPal.

In the future, we are planning to create and deploy a Facebook page for the MDMHS that will be replicated on Instagram. The FB page will allow us to disseminate Maryland military history information on a more timely basis and to a much wider audience. We are also considering a blog post that will provide rich historical content from a variety of bloggers.

We have had much success over the past year with our "In Freedom's Name" traveling exhibit that highlights the contributions of black Marylanders to military history from the founding of the colony to the current day. The MDMHS is very proud of this singular exhibit and the work that the membership team has undertaken both to develop it and travel it throughout the state. But especially at this seminal time in America's continual struggle with racial issues, the message of the exhibit needs to be shared more widely. During the development stage of the exhibit the team discussed future efforts for digitalization. Now seems to be the time to proceed with the planning for implementation of digitalized material.

Also, we have made progress on the rebranding of the MDMHS. Since the organization is focused on all aspects of Maryland military history to include land, sea and air, the Board of Directors approved a project to create a new logo to reflect this broader military scope. Just before the lockdown occurred, we received a proposal from a highly experienced and skilled graphic artist to work with us to develop the new MDMHS brand. We are now ready to restart that effort in the upcoming weeks. Stay tuned for more information.

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The bursting of a swivel gun at Camp Bowie, Frederick, Maryland

Baltimore American, July 6, 1871

The special correspondence of the *Baltimore American* was interrupted by the celebration of the Fourth in the camp of the Fifth Regiment by the dreadful accident which turned a night of rejoicing into a night of mourning. Company C has frequently been mentioned in this correspondence as one of the chief promoters of "fun" camp. The leading spirit in all enterprises that promoted any segment was J. Randolph Stewart, a general favorite in the company, a good soldier, and a most exemplary young man.

During the evening he and a party of his comrades had posted an old swivel, which had been used in camp as a signal gun, at the end of the Company avenue, just outside the guard line, and kept firing it at intervals. Discipline had been to a great extent suspended, to allow the soldiers to celebrate the Fourth in their way, and after tattoo and roll call Stewart and a few others, instead of going to their tents, went back to the swivel and prepared to fire a final salute.

Colonel Jenkins and some of the officers of his staff had arranged to give a complimentary serenade to some friends in Frederick, and accompanied by the band, had just passed out of the main gate on their way to town.

Sergeant Major Clifford Anderson walked down the avenue, and seeing that the young men were preparing to fire the swivel, begged them to desist for fear of an accident. "Do you order us to quit?" said Private Stewart. "No, I do not order you, for I have not been detailed for that purpose, but I beg you to quit, for fear some of you will be hurt," replied Mr. Anderson. "Then we will give a good loud one for the last," said one of the young men and the Sergeant Major walked away. They put in a cartridge and wadding, and then put pieces of sod on top and struck the rammer a few times with a sledge.

Private Hartmaier, of Company C, had been acting as gunner and supplying the match to the touch-hole during the evening, but this time Stewart took the stick himself, and standing within three feet of the gun touched the priming. There was a loud report that startled the whole camp, and when the soldiers came running to the spot where they found a mangled body lying beside the blocks on which the swivel had been mounted, but the gun itself had disappeared.

It was supposed that Private Stewart was dead and a messenger was dispatched after the Colonel, bearing the dreadful news. The serenading was overtaken before it reached town, and of course returned to camp with all dispatch. It was found that the man was still breathing, although entirely unconscious. Neither of the regular surgeons of the Fifth were with the regiment, so four of the Frederick physicians – Drs. Stokes, Smith, Dunnon and Baltzell – were summoned.

They did what they could to put the man in the proper position for breathing, and put bandages over the unsightly gashes, but they said that the wounds were mortal and that there was no hope of recovery. The right cheek was laid open, and the collar-bone and shoulder-blade completely crushed. A tent was put up near the spot



on which the man fell and a blanket spread on the grass under it, and on this hastily extemporized bed he was tenderly laid.

His comrades fanned his body all day, which was about all they could do. Rumors were constantly circulating through the camp that he was dead, but up to the time the regiment left (3 P.M.) he was still breathing, although from the first he had the symptoms of a man actually dying. Lieutenant Spear, of Company C, Corporal McLane, and Privates Burroughs, Bigelow and Bauer of the same company, were detailed to remain with him.

At breakfast Colonel Jenkins was called upon to say something in regard to the affair, but when he got up and essayed to speak his feelings overcame him, and he turned about and hastily walked out of the room.

Private J. Randolph Stewart died at 8 P.M. on the 5th of July.

The swivel was an old, rusty, cast-iron gun, about two and a half feet long, mounted on stout blocks. It was borrowed from a Democratic campaign club, of the Eighth Ward of Baltimore in 1856, to be used at a great Buchanan meeting in Frederick. Upon the occasion it was the cause of an accident that might have been fatal to some very distinguished men – Gen. Robert Toombs, of Georgia, Gen. Lewis Cass, of Michigan, Senator Slidell, of Louisiana, and Ex-Gov. Enoch Lewis Lowe who were riding through the streets in a magnificent carriage drawn by four spirited horses, when a salute was fired from the swivel, which caused the horses to take fright and run away. The carriage was demolished, but none of the inmates was seriously hurt.

Upon another occasion, the swivel was taken to Middletown to assist in celebrating some great political victory, and being fired off in the main street of the town, it broke all the windows in the neighborhood. Last fall when there was a great jollification in Frederick over the election of Hon. John Ritchie to Congress, the swivel was fired off at the corner of Church and Market Streets, and broke the large show windows of two business houses in the vicinity. It was tendered to the Fifth to be used during the encampment as a signal gun and was taken out to the fair grounds for that purpose.

Looking Back 75 Years to Okinawa: The Last Battle

The battle for Okinawa turned out to be the last battle of World War II. Its price in blood was high for both victor and vanquished. The United States Army and Marine Corps, including Coast Guardsmen, corpsmen, and doctors, lost 7,613 dead. Wounded for all services who fought on the island totaled 31,807. In the battle at sea, the United States Navy suffered nearly 10,000 casualties. The figure of killed within this number was close to 5,000 sailors. That makes the butcher's bill to capture the island in killed and wounded almost 50,000. Included among the dead were the army commanders on both sides, a rare event in military history.

In the land battle, Japanese losses were over 100,000 men, nearly all the casualties were dead. There were surprisingly 7,000 Japanese POWs. Many of these, probably the majority, were native Okinawans. The Japanese considered them subhuman and forced them to fight the Americans without much training but in Japanese uniforms.

Okinawa had a population of approximately 500,000. Official records show a civilian death toll of 42,000. This figure is low (it could have been close to double that number), considering that civilians were used in many ways by the Japanese army and not counted very carefully by the Americans in their casualty numbers.

The Imperial Japanese Navy lost 16 warships in defense of Okinawa. One of them was the *Yamato*, the largest battleship in the world at the time. This ship lost 2,498 killed. Its escorts, a light cruiser and 4 destroyers, were sunk as well, adding their dead to the battleship's increased the number to 3,665. Four more destroyers were included in the ships protecting *Yamato* and all of them severely damaged. Their casualty figures, the other 10 warships sunk in Okinawa naval operations, and Japanese warships that participated in those operations but stayed afloat would no doubt have contributed their fair share to the Imperial Japanese Navy's butcher's bill.

Why was Okinawa so important to attack and defend to sacrifice such large numbers of men? It was not, as many soldiers, sailors, and marines described the Pacific Campaign's objectives, as "just another damn island." Okinawa was located just 350 miles away from Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's 3 major islands, and 800 miles from Tokyo. These would be the next two targets picked by American strategists. Okinawa would serve as nothing less than the major Allied base (the British and Australians were to be heavily committed) for the invasion of Japan.

Okinawa is a very big island, 60 miles north to south. Its widest point, from the Motobu Peninsula east to the coast, is 18 miles, and most narrow just 2 miles. It contains a total land mass of 485 square miles. Engineers concluded that Okinawa would accommodate 18 airfields, and the nearby island of Ie Shima, also scheduled for capture, 4 more. Also, Allied fleets would have ample anchorages. There was enough room to use the island as a staging area for the hundreds of thousands of troops for the 2 major invasions of Japan, code-named "Olympia", the scheduled invasion of Kyushu, November 1, 1945 and "Coronet", the seizure of the Tokyo-Yokohama region starting on March 1, 1946.

It would take a great deal of men and material to take Okinawa. In fact, historical enthusiasts of the Pacific Theater liked to say that it rivaled, and in many ways, exceeded the Normandy invasion. [I will recuse myself from this argument] Four Army divisions (7th, 27th, 77th, and 96th) and three Marine Divisions (1st, 2nd, and 6th) made up the 10th Army, commanded by Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., the son of a Confederate general of the same name. The Marines were in III Amphibious Corps commanded by Roy Geiger, who started the Pacific War as commanding officer of Marine air on Guadalcanal.

The Army's 24th Corps led by John Hodge, contained all 4 Army divisions. Hodge may be completely unknown to the general public and deserves a bit more of an introduction. Unlike his boss, Buckner, who had no combat, corps or division command experience, Hodge was probably the most combat-experienced army general in the Pacific Ocean Area theater. He was admired by almost everyone as a tough soldier and skillful officer. By the time he took over 24th Corps he had the record to prove it.

In charge of the naval end of the campaign was ADM Raymond Spruance. Another Okinawa commander who had proved his abilities throughout the war, Spruance would command over 1,300 ships and 585,000 men and women (at least until the 183,000 combat troops got ashore) of all armed services. Richmond Kelly Turner once again would lead a Pacific Theater's amphibious force, code-named "Operation Iceberg". The Navy threw out all the stops, a major one was the preliminary naval bombardment of 7 days and 45,000 shells from 5" to 16", 33,000 rockets and 22,000 shells fired by smaller gunboats. It would be the biggest preliminary bombard in the Pacific War.

There was only one problem; the Japanese decided they were not going to defend the beaches. By this stage of the war the Japanese army was already committed to the "defense in depth" strategy. The garrison commander, General Ushijima, built his main defense line in the southern part of the island, on a narrow neck of land centered around the battlements of 1,700-year-old Shuri Castle. Ridges, hills, and caves with nearly every position mutually supporting, Ushijima's defenses would also have the effect of pinning down the Americans for an extended period of time. That would mean the navy's fleet supporting the marines and army soldiers could not stray too far away from Okinawa and, consequently, Japanese air power.

A key ingredient for the defense of Okinawa was Japanese aircraft, including the dreaded kamikazes, first introduced to the Americans as an organized unit in the battles for the Philippines. There were 65 Japanese airfields on the island of Formosa and 55 on the southern-most home island, Kyushu. Both islands were 350 miles from Okinawa. The Japanese air effort came close to force Spruance's Task Force 58's constant presence in the waters near Okinawa.

Admiral Nimitz made a special trip on April 23rd to talk with General Buckner, bogged down by weather and the Japanese defenses. He urged the general to accelerate his efforts. In the words of

Army historian Stephen Taaffe, "Buckner," in the true spirit of Army-Navy tradition, "frostily responded that ground operations were none of the Navy's business." Nimitz, the theater commander, replied, "Yes, but ground though it may be, I'm losing a ship and a half a day. So if this line isn't moving within 5 days, we'll get someone here to move it so we can get out from under these stupid attacks." Nimitz did not carry out his threat because removing Buck-



LAND ON RYUKYU ISLANDS. Soldiers and marines of the American Tenth Army stormed the southwest shore of Okinawa after first making landings on the smaller islands to the west. The ships on the map show the direction of these two operations and the aircraft carriers indicate the support of Admiral Mitscher's carrier planes. The inset map pictures the relation of the Ryukyus to the Jap home islands.

"Pictorial History of the Second World War," Wm. H. Wise Co., Inc. V4 page 1857 1857

ner would cause a damaging inter-service crisis on the heels of one caused by Marine General "Howlin Mad" Smith's removing army 27th Division commander Ralph Smith.

The battle to conquer Okinawa lasted from April 1 to June 22, 1945. We cannot possibly cover the entire battle blow by blow, but can give a summary of what the soldiers, American and Japanese, and the marines endured. The first day, April 1, was both April Fool's Day and Easter Sunday; it was the best day of the 83 days of battle. Not to demean even one human death, L-Day's undefended beaches (by now Normandy was "The" D-Day) "only" cost 159 total casualties, 28 killed, 104 wounded, and 27 missing. At the end of L-Day the beachhead was 8 miles long and 3 to 4 miles deep and included 2 airfields; 50,000 men were ashore.

On April 2, the 4 landing divisions moved out rapidly to take their objectives. The 2 Marine divisions split up; the 6th turned left and

attacked the Japanese defending the Motobu Peninsula and the 1st went east across the island to the opposite shore. Both army divisions that landed on L-Day, the 7th and the 96th went across the island. On April 3, they turned right and headed toward the southern tip of Okinawa. But on April 4 they found resistance "stiffening"; on April 5, 6, and 7 it stiffened more each day. On April 8 both divisions were stopped dead in their tracks. They had reached the outer works of the "Shuri Line", Naha anchored the left of the line on the sea and Yonabaru did the same on the east coast. Shuri Castle was the citadel of the defenses.

The first of the outer works to be assaulted was Kakazu Ridge. The attacks went in on April 9, 10, 11, consisting of 4 major assaults, each one bigger than the one before it. Total casualties for the 7th and 96th combined were 451 dead, 2,890 wounded, 241 missing, total 3,592. The Japanese total casualties were estimated at 5,750, ALL KILLED. But they still held Kakazu Ridge and the Americans only gained about 1,000 yards. They also found that they needed many more artillery shells than they originally estimated. Then, there was the lesson of the ridges. The key to their possession was to capture the reverse slope; seizing the forward slope was difficult but it could be done. Any attempt to move onto the reverse slope of the ridge brought heavy Japanese fire.

This would be the pattern for most of the battle of Okinawa: American attacks preceded by lots of artillery, fire from the big guns of the navy's battleships, cruisers, and destroyers as well as air support mostly from the fleet. Japanese semi-secure in their "reverse slope" defensive positions, fight to the death and take high casualties. It takes the Americans agonizingly long periods of time and high casualties to take each major Japanese position despite their overwhelming fire power. Combat problems were overcome by the blood of soldiers and marines. Logistical problems such as the unanticipated shortage of artillery shells were solved with a "rolling with the punches" attitude. After Kakazu Buckner immediately gave priority to artillery and 81 mm mortar shells. The mortar shells were needed after 2 ammunition ships carrying them were sunk by kamikazes. The daily supply of artillery shells went from 640 tons to over 3,000. Initially they were airlifted from Guam until more supply ships could make the longer voyage by sea.

Once they arrived on the beaches of Okinawa there was another unanticipated problem to overcome. The undefended beaches allowed a much faster rate of advance for the 10th Army. The original plan was made for the battle for the beachhead and airfields near them to last for several days. Consequently, supply trucks were given a low priority and the high priority went to DUKWs and LVTs, ship to shore supply carriers, that now had to ride inland and carry supplies north and south from the beaches great distances not expected in their design. They had to face yet another problem, an engineer said that Okinawa had "an excellent system of bad roads." Engineers and pioneer units needed to work tirelessly to improve and widen road surfaces. All of this was overcome.

The Navy also had their logistical needs. Task Force 58 and the rest of the 5th Fleet were supplied by cargo ships and oilers. Requests for fuel and ammo would be answered by the appropriate type of ship. Supply of heavy caliber shells to bombardment battle-

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Doc 'Pete'

A Baltimorean with the Royal Fusiliers, 1917-18

By Alexander A. Falbo-Wild

As the US went to war in April 1917 without, tanks, aircraft, heavy artillery, or more than a handful of infantry divisions, a legion of its physicians readied themselves for immediate deployment to the Western Front. In a twist of irony, the first US soldiers sent to France and Flanders were armed only with the Hippocratic oath. This vanguard established the first US base hospitals near the front a full month before the arrival of General Pershing's American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) headquarters.

And many doctors – especially those belonging to the US Army Medical Reserve Corps (USMRC) – were individually embedded with Entente units to gain experience treating combat wounds and refining surgical techniques. Most of these physicians went to the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) to serve with the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). Their arrival was timely as the Spring campaign did not end well for the Allies.¹

The much-anticipated French promise of a 1917 final victory through combined Anglo-French assaults in the Artois region ended in stalemate. And for the French Army, in mutiny. Conducting offensive operations on the Western Front thus fell exclusively to the BEF for the remainder of the year. By June 1917, a personnel plan, which initially focused on gradually handing over control of six British base hospitals to American doctors, included rotating exhausted British medical officers (MO) with their American counterparts down to the Casualty Clearing Stations and infantry battalions in the trenches.²

One such officer was a jovial and talented 30-year-old Lt. William H. Toulson. Hailing from Chestertown, MD, Toulson began his studies at Washington College. Following his BA, he left the Eastern Shore for the University of Maryland Medical School earning his doctorate in the class of 1913. Two years later, he was married, raising a family in Bolton Hill, Baltimore, and practising urology. When the US entered the war, he quickly sought a commission in the USMRC.

After a rigorous selection and preliminary training process state-side, Toulson embarked for England to further his practical education. Then, he deployed to France in June. After serving in base hospitals for a time, he ultimately arrived in the trenches. On 30 October, he reported for duty with the British 37th Division's, 49th Field Ambulance (FA) Company.³

The 37th was a workhouse formation. Trusty and competent. Recognisable by its cherished golden horseshoe shoulder insignia

(worn on both arms), it had been on the Western Front since July 1915. Raised from the last wave of volunteers in Lord Kitchener's New Army, it battled through the Somme and Arras campaigns, where it concluded 1917 grappling with the Germans in the des-pised Ypres Salient.

Once he reported to the company HQ, Toulson immediately assisted the 49th FA in commanding medicos and casualty clearing staff. Encamped astride what was left of the Comines Canal, 'Pete' (his collegiate nickname) relayed the circumstances in a letter to

his school fraternity... "I am writing this within half a mile of the front-line trenches, sitting in my dugout. I am in charge of an advanced dressing station where the wounded are brought in by stretcher bearers from the trenches." He continued... "the country around here is beyond description, and no one can realize the desolate waste until he sees it. The landscape is one vast sea of mud and shell holes and the ruined villages are rat-infested; but with it all life is exhilarating and interesting."⁴

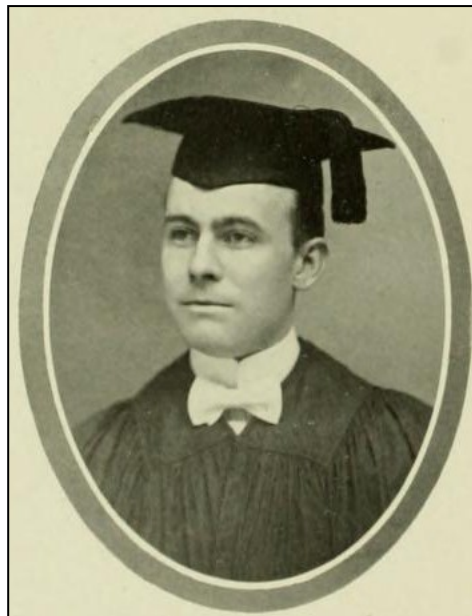
Two weeks before Christmas, he was finally transferred to an infantry battalion, the 13th Royal Fusiliers (RF). Their most able and admired MO, Capt. Mackwood – recently decorated with the Military Cross – was sent on an overdue leave to England as Toulson took over his duties.⁵ In that role, Toulson appeared in one of the finest war memoirs ever written; *A Passionate Prodigality* (1933)

by Capt. Guy Chapman, then the battalion adjutant. The book benefited from the perspective of a historically minded and well-read young man deftly blending memoir with unit history in emulation of Edmund Blunden's *Undertones of War* (1928).⁶

The 13th RF would miss Mackwood, but "in compensation" Chapman wrote, "we received a sturdy round-faced American doctor from Baltimore, of a humour and ingenuousness to smooth our churlish insularity."⁷ Rumour quickly spread through the ranks that the new Yank MO was a most compassionate fellow and earnestly (if liberally) granted medical excuse from duty.

The daily queue of 12 men before the medical tent, however, incrementally compounded until it reached roughly 50 when, much to Chapman's amusement, it dawned on Toulson that many of these Tommies afflicted with cases of constipation, heart murmurs, and piles were "guying" him. In short order, the patients thereafter were sent back with the simple diagnostic prescription of his predecessor's brusque fashion – "M&D" (medicine and duty).

Despite this turn in charity, Toulson cheekily defended himself telling Chapman, "If any arms or legs drop off during the day, you



Dr. Toulson graduating in 1913 from UMD.

surely will not blame me." "If any do" Chapman retorted, "you can hang them in the aid-post as a souvenir..."⁸

Spirits eventually lifted as movement returned to the front in the wake of the final German Spring offensives of 1918. The combat over the lunar cesspools of Flanders brought Chapman and the 13th RF to breaking point. Fortunately, the 37th Division was spared the full brunt of these initial assaults as it successfully recuperated and prepared for the summer counter-stroke.

By this time, Toulson established a great rapport with the battalion like a family doctor with his practise. One April afternoon at Gommecourt Park, "a spiky knoll of hacked and haggard trees, of vast chalky craters, and of a ramifying sub terrane," Chapman was leisurely gathered with the battalion's officers and staff.⁹ Capturing their reposed mood, Chapman remembered a tedious rant from their signal officer over yet another severed phone cable when suddenly...

"The doctor stuck his nose in the air and crooned:

'There's a girl in the heart of Maryland

With a heart that belongs to me;

breaking off to remark: *'Say boys, when the old Boche got through the other afternoon, I began to wonder whether he'd shoot me for a spy. This funny old hat Gen'ral Pershing fitted us out in don't some-how look the real thing... What I'd give to be home now, riding down Charles Street Bully-vard, Baltimore, in an automobile with a pretty girl under my arm.'*¹⁰

The battalion would soon be in the line again in May, repeatedly at the tip of the BEF's Third Army spear until the Armistice. But it was not long for the good doctor. At the start of July, Toulson bid adieu to the 13th RF in order to join his American comrades and fellow physicians serving Evacuation Hospital 8, AEF. With them, he survived both St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne.¹¹

The doughboys thus benefited from his experience looking after the Royal Fusiliers in both body and spirit, fulfilling the mandate of the original USMRC and RAMC mission. He had been lucky. Of the 1,649 physicians in the programme, 37 perished, one of whom, Lt. George P. Howe, was killed in action serving the 37th Division's, 10th RF in September 1917. The situation was no less dangerous for the doctors upon leaving the BEF as half of the 37 doctors fell in service of the AEF.¹²

Toulson ultimately returned to Baltimore in 1919 to lead a remarkable urology career, devise a new surgical procedure, ascend to the presidency of the *Société d'Internationale Urologie*, raise three children with his wife Helen, and live to 95.

¹ Michael Rauer, *Yanks in the King's Forces: American Physicians Serving with the British Expeditionary Force during World War I*, ed. Sander Marble (Washington, D.C.: Office of Medical History US Army, 2007), 2, 4.

² Rauer, 7-8, 17-18.

³ "War Diary of 49th Field Ambulance," n.d., WO/95/2525/2, TNA. Each division possessed three RAMC Field Ambulances companies.

⁴ "Toulson Signet Letter," *Bulletin of the University of Maryland School of Medicine and College of Physicians Surgeons* II, no. 6 (April 1918): 233.

⁵ "War Diary of 13th Royal Fusiliers," n.d., WO/95/2532/4, TNA.

⁶ Effectively a history of both Blunden's war experience and that of the 11th Royal Sussex, 39th Division.

⁷ Guy Chapman, *A Passionate Prodigality: Fragments of Autobiography* (Ivor Nicholson & Watson Ltd., 1933), 257.

⁸ Chapman, 258.

⁹ Chapman, 303.

¹⁰ Chapman, 303.

¹¹ Maryland War Records Commission, *Maryland in the World War, 1917-1919*, vol. II (Baltimore: Twentieth Century Press, 1933), 2105.

¹² Michael Rauer, *Yanks in the King's Forces: American Physicians Serving with the British Expeditionary Force during World War I*, ed. Sander Marble (Washington, D.C.: Office of Medical History US Army, 2007), 3, 32-33.

Okinawa

(Continued from page 4)

ships, impossible in the past, would be on a regular schedule for Okinawa. A new class of LST ammunition ships with mobile cranes were able to deposit cargoes directly on the deck of the bombardment group ships. Some of the LSTs would exclusively carry all 5" shells or 40mm anti-aircraft gun ammo. Fuel for all the ships together with over 1,000 carrier aircraft was carried by a replenishment group of tankers.

Every day during the peak period of April 4 to 24, an average of 167,000 42-gallon barrels of fuel oil was consumed by the ships at and around Okinawa, plus 385,000 gallons of aviation gasoline per day. By May 27, nearly 9,000,000 barrels of oil and 21,000,000 gallons of aviation gasoline had been consumed. As General Sherman said, "War is nothing more than grub and mules."

The battle for Okinawa ended very close to Buckner's death on June 18, mortally wounded by a shard of coral splintered by a Japanese artillery shell that landed close by. His adversaries, General Ushijima along with his chief of staff General Sho, committed suicide at 4pm on June 22 with the men of the 32nd RCT from the 7th Division on top of their cave.

In mid-June, Buckner had sent a very nicely worded letter to the

Japanese commander with the usual assurances such as "further resistance was useless" and invited him to negotiate and "save the lives of his men." Ushijima and Sho laughed hilariously when they read it.

The Battle for Okinawa was over, but the war was not. The blood bath of World War II blood baths, the invasion of the Japanese home islands, was scheduled to start in November. After the Okinawa campaign, there were no more doubters about that.

By Robert Mullauer

MDMHS

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Finally, after a four-month hiatus the MDMHS will continue Board of Director and Executive Committee meetings in July via Zoom. The Executive Committee was reconstituted in February for its first meeting in 2020 and will meet in between every quarterly Board meeting going forward. The MDMHS will communicate the dates and times for these meetings in the near future.

As the MDMHS adapts to the realities of COVID 19, we are looking forward to these exciting initiatives for the remainder of 2020.

By Frank Armiger, Editor

Curtis B. Vickery Round Table of Military History 2020 – 21

Due to the need to continue “social distancing” because of the COVID-19 pandemic the Round Table will hold future meetings via the Zoom platform. We are planning to hold our first Zoom meeting in July and will continue until it is safe to meet again in person at the Pikesville NCO Club.

The Zoom meeting invites will be emailed to MDMHS members approximately one week prior to the meeting. For those who are new to Zoom and would like some help, please contact Frank Armiger at 410-591-997 or via email at farmiger@gmail.com.

The current schedule for the Round Table:

July 16 Our speaker will be Mitch Yockelson, author of the soon-to-be-released book: *The Paratrooper Generals: Matthew Ridgway, Maxwell Taylor, and the American Airborne from D-Day through Normandy* (Stackpole). His presentation is “Who Were the American Airborne on D-Day?” A discussion about the more than 13,000 American soldiers who volunteered to become paratroopers and spearheaded the Normandy Invasion.

Mitch directs the National Archives and Records Administration-Archival Recovery Program where he leads investigations of thefts of historical documents and museum artifacts. Additionally, Mitch is a professor of military history at Norwich University and the author of five books and numerous articles and reviews.

He also regularly leads tours of the Normandy battlefields for the *New York Times Journeys* and *Smithsonian Journeys* and frequently lectures on military history. He lives in Annapolis, Maryland.

August 20 Cory Pfarr, author of “Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment,” will be our speaker. Mr. Pfarr’s publication is the first book-length analysis of Lieutenant General James Longstreet’s actions at Gettysburg. After the war, and especially after Robert E. Lee’s death, his contemporaries, as well as many historians roundly criticized Longstreet in the succeeding decades. He was vilified and blamed for the defeat.

Although his critics accentuated his stubbornness and sluggishness during the greatest battle fought on American soil, Mr. Pfarr’s meticulous research disproves these critical theories. This is a fascinating study to “set the record straight” and view Longstreet’s actions at Gettysburg in a much different light.

September 17 There is a famous Civil War photograph that was taken in Frederick, MD showing Confederate troops on the march in the streets of the town. For many years, historians believed that the picture was taken in September 1862 during Lee’s Maryland Campaign.

This photograph fascinated Paul Bolcik, whose writings, investigations and photographs have appeared in such publications as *Life Magazine*, *Civil War Times* and *The Washington Post*, and Erik Davis, a digital cartographer who is an avid history enthusiast and lifetime resident of Frederick, and spurred them to conduct a detailed investigation of the photograph. The results of the investigation will be the subject of their talk, historic, photographic detective work leading to a surprising conclusion.

October 15 One of our favorite speakers, member Joe Balkoski,

29th Division Historian, will return to present “The Road to D-Day,” emphasizing some of the little-known stories of the early stages of D-Day planning, such as the Tehran conference and FDR’s appointment of Eisenhower. As the preeminent authority on D-Day, Joe will dig deep into his knowledge base to present these unique and compelling stories that ultimately shaped the largest amphibious invasion in history.

November 19 Another member and favorite speaker, David Ginsburg, will provide a presentation on General Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck who was one of the most spectacular generals in the history of guerrilla warfare - and perhaps one of the most unknown. His eastern African campaign in WWI was designed with one purpose - to tie down as many allied troops as he could for as long as he could. Four years later, he was undefeated and left 300,000 allied troops frustrated across the continent.

December 17 Returning for an encore performance, Mary Ann Jung, who enthralled the group at the 2019 holiday dinner party with her first-person rendition of Clara Barton, will portray “Rosie the Riveter.” Of course, holding the party will depend upon the status of the pandemic in December. We will develop an alternate plan if we are unable to meet in person.

Mary Ann will interpret the fascinating story of Rosie through Rose Leigh Monroe who worked at the largest factory in the world – Willow Run in Michigan. Join us in the fun as we meet, and maybe even play, Charles Lindbergh, Walter Pidgeon, and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, all of whom toured Willow Run. Discover which came first – the Rosie posters, song, or the real women who sacrificed and worked in factories to help America win the war. Who was the real Rosie? The answer is riveting!

2021

March 18 David Ginsburg will return for a presentation on another little-known, but interesting unit from World War I. The Czechoslovak Legion was a volunteer armed force primarily of Czechs fighting on the side of the Entente Powers in WWI.

They fought in the Russian Imperial Army against the Central Powers, fought the Bolsheviks in the Russian Revolution, at times controlled the Trans-Siberian Railway and were finally evacuated from Vladivostok in 1920.

April 15 Many know about the bloodiest day in US military history – the battle fought along Antietam Creek near the town of Sharpsburg and the precursor, the Battle of South Mountain. Certainly, the Battle of Antietam fought on Maryland soil was a critical turning point in the Civil War in 1862.

However, less well known was a battle fought near Frederick in 1864 along the Monocacy River about 50 miles north of the District of Columbia. A hastily formed “army” under the leadership of General Lew Wallace, better known as the author of *Ben Hur*, met a veteran Rebel corps under the leadership of Jubal Early. Frank Armiger is the speaker and he will tell us about the significance of the Battle of the Monocacy.

By Frank Armiger, Editor



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MUSEUM HOURS

Our museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 9am to 3pm by appointment only.
Please contact Captain Mary Lyons at 410-576-1496, to schedule a visit to our museum.
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