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Marine Corps League

Serving Greater Springfield

Scuttlebutt

Newsletter of Westfield River Valley Detachment 141

Westfield, Massachusetts

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May 2011

New VA Support Line Provides Important Assistance to Caregivers

The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs is increasing its support to caregivers with a new, toll-free telephone line for the caregivers of veterans of all eras.

The National Caregiver Support Line—1-855-260-3274—will serve as the primary resource and referral center to assist caregivers, veterans and others seeking caregiver information.

The support line will provide information regarding new caregiver benefits, referrals to local caregiver support coordinators as well as emotional support to those concerned with their ability to provide care to loved ones who are veterans.

The National Caregiver Support Line is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Eastern time; and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Licensed VA social workers and health technicians are staffing the support line. For more information, visit www.caregiver.va.gov.

Concussions Now Qualify For Purple Heart

The Army has announced a clarification in its guidelines for receiving a Purple Heart, with an emphasis on battlefield concussions being eligible for the medal. Official Army guidelines have long considered combat-sustained concussions a valid injury worthy of the Purple Heart, but in practice, it has been left to doctors or battlefield commanders to decide whether a blow to the head during combat warranted the medal.

With recent studies on brain trauma, however, the rules have been revised to state what constitutes a concussion, with symptoms including momentary loss of consciousness or memory, dizziness, headache, nausea or light sensitivity. Medical treatment, also required for the medal, is defined by the rules to include merely rest and Tylenol. If you are a soldier who suffered a concussion and feel you may not have been appropriately recognized for a Purple Heart, the Army urges you to re-apply through your chain of command. Veterans can call 1-888-276-9472 or email at hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil

"Marines I see as two breeds, Rottweiler's and Dobermans, because Marines come in two varieties, big and mean or skinny and mean. They are aggressive on the attack and tenacious on the defense. They've got really short hair and they always go for the throat."

RAdm. "Jay" R. Stark, USN; 10 November 1995

The Commandant's Corner

By now everyone has enjoyed the good old April showers which bring May flowers and all kinds of events to kick off the good weather. One of the many ideas that came out of the last meeting was the Falcons hockey game and the fun we had. You could've caught the Commandant doing push-ups with several other veterans, all of course for the MCL. What we won't do, just to get a baseball cap. I had the honor of escorting patients from the VA Leeds Hospital. They all had a great time and said thank you, I also would like to thank all the members for giving the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke and Leeds hospitals this opportunity.

I took a vacation day this past month to enjoy that wonderful breakfast that we put on at our headquarters. I want to personally thank all the cooks and staff that were involved in this special day for the Dogs in the state. That was exceptionally well done. Thanks again for all those long hours, it does not go unnoticed.

Flag pin sales are up and coming fast. Please sign up on the list at the Barracks. Let's all do our fair share. Remember, we have two different weekends that we do this on. Calendar tickets will be on sale real soon. If you can't help with the flag pin sales, then maybe you can help with the raffle. All help is always appreciated.

We also have the Memorial Day Parade coming up. I would love to see more people marching this year, or if you would like to ride instead, please let us know so we have the appropriate amount of vehicles there for support. We are also looking for desserts. If you can make something, please let us know so we can add it to the list.

If you haven't noticed, many new things are being added to our Scuttlebutt. Please let the editor and myself know what you think.

And most of all, I hope to see you all at the next meeting on the second Monday of the month. Come early, and enjoy a simple meal with your fellow members. I'm looking forward to tasting some of the newest members cooking.

Semper Fidelis,

Brian P. Dupee
Commandant



Commandant Brian P. Dupee



Detachment 141 Officers

Sr. Vice	Dan Bishop
Jr. Vice	Bill Penkala
Judge Advocate	Don Rivette
Paymaster	Marc Dunne
Adjutant	Mike Burke
Sgt. at Arms	Aldo Mancini
Chaplain	J.B. Stern

**Detachment 141 meets monthly on the second Monday
at 1900 hours. Social hour at 1800 hours.**

Fundraisers:

The Detachment and Auxiliary work close together in support of the principles of the Marine Corps League. We hold several annual fundraising events including: a scholarship dinner, flag pin sales on Mother's Day and Father's Day, July 4th pig roast, a baked potato and chili booth at the Westfield Fair, a motorcycle run and a July 4th and Christmas calendar raffle. The Detachment hands out 4 scholarships totaling (\$1200.00) every year. Our motorcycle run is entering its third year, and last year we donated 100% of the proceeds (\$1500.00) to the Marines Helping Marines/Wounded Warriors Fund.

Financial Support:

Our organization provides financial support to the following:

- The Chapel of Four Chaplains
- Toys for Tots
- Tree of Lights
- Marines Helping Marines
- Wounded Warriors
- Holyoke Soldiers Home
- Veterans Hospital—Leeds
- Westover Young Marines
- Marine Corps League Youth Fitness Program
- Korean War Memorial
- Local Boy's and Girl's Clubs
- Westfield Veterans Council
- Americanism Program

In addition, we host a Children's Christmas Party at the barracks, along with serving breakfast for all veterans every Saturday morning from 0700-1100.

Community Involvement:

Our members are actively involved in the Greater Springfield area. We provide:

- Color Guards for Memorial Day and Veterans Day services, parades and other patriotic occasions.
- Honor Guards for funerals of military veterans.
- Care packages to deployed Marines and FMF Corpsmen.
- Toys for Tots programs.
- Speakers for local and area schools for patriotic occasions.
- Certificates of Appreciation to leaders of community organizations and private citizens who demonstrate patriotism.
- Good Citizenship Awards to Boy Scouts who attain the rank of Eagle Scout.
- Flag Retirement Ceremonies.
- Marine Corps Birthday Ceremonies.
- Assistance to Marines, families and Marine Units.

The Detachment also sponsored the 2010 Department of Massachusetts Convention at Westover Air Reserve Base.



On Saturday, 16 April, Veterans groups and the community of Westfield celebrated Patriots' Day at Parker Memorial Park. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Dr. James J. Dowd, was honored by State and local officials. After more than 20 years, Dr. Dowd is retiring from his role as master of ceremonies for all Veterans events in Westfield. Pictured left to right, representing State Senator Mike R. Knapik, is Councilor P.J. Miller, Representative Don F. Humason, Jr., Dr. James J. Dowd, Mayor Dan Knapik and Commander Benjamin J. Surprise, American Legion Whip City Memorial Post 454.



On Monday, 25 April, members of Detachment 141 went to Athol to give Lynn O'Neil her long overdue Marine jacket and cover. She is the oldest member of Detachment 141. From left to right are Earl King from Detachment 1168, Elizabeth Brewer, Irene Arnold, Lynn O'Neil, John Rutovich, Brian Dupee and Carroll Arnold.

Upcoming Detachment 141 Events

May 1:	Joint Growl, #276 & #2 at Caddie Detachment
May 6-8:	Flag pin sales at Geissler's in Agawam
May 9:	Detachment 141 meeting
May 30:	Memorial Day parade in Westfield
June 2-4:	Department Convention, Tewksbury, MA.
June 13:	Detachment 141 meeting
June 17-19:	Flag pin sales at Wal-Mart
July 3:	Detachment 141 pig roast at Westfield Fair Grounds
July 11:	Detachment 141 meeting
August 8:	Detachment 141 meeting
August 19-21:	84th Westfield Fair at Westfield Fair Grounds

If you changed your email address, see Fred Shannon for updates. If you know of any potential sponsors, see Dan Bishop. We are still looking for kitchen help on Fridays (preparing) or Saturdays (serving & clean up). Sign up sheets are in the back for all upcoming activities, so get your uniforms ready and participate in your Detachment. The Pig Roast tickets are in as well as the Calendar Raffles, see Paymaster Dunne, or pick them up at the Saturday breakfast. Matt Knas is our official photographer, but we need more pictures from the events, Matt can't be everywhere. If you have a camera keep it close, we may need you. I welcome any ideas on how to better our monthly newsletter, please submit your ideas to me at MarcDunne@comcast.net.

Come see us every Saturday for breakfast, hours are from 0700-1000. (depending on food) For a small donation our menu includes eggs, sausage, biscuits, toast, SOS, hash, grits, juices, milk, coffee, (regular and decaf) and donuts. Enjoy the company of your fellow members, watch the news on the big screen TV or mingle with the vets from the Soldiers Home or Leeds. Why watch history on TV when you can sit right next to it at the barracks.

Scuttlebutt

Scuttlebutt is the official newsletter of the Westfield River Valley, Detachment 141, Marine Corps League, and is intended only for the information of its members. Articles and photos do not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Marine Corps or the Marine Corps League. Detachment Headquarters is located at 71 North Elm Street, Westfield, MA. 01085. Items for publication should be dropped off at headquarters or by contacting the editor. For current events and up to date calendar items, go to our Web Site at www.mclwrv141.com. The Detachment phone number is 413-562-4850

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Marine Spotlight

Where were you born?	Champagne, Illinois
Graduated from? (High School)	Longmeadow High School, (1965)
Married? Children?	Yes, twin daughters, 1 son
Graduated from? (Boot Camp)	San Diego, California, Platoon 111
MOS	0351
First Duty Station?	Chu Lai, Vietnam
Last Duty Station?	Quantico, Virginia
What did you do after leaving the Corps?	Terminal manager at trucking firm
Favorite meal?	Ham & Lima Beans—c-rats
Current occupation?	Manufacturer representative
Where were you on 7 December 1941?	A thought in my father's head
Favorite President?	Ronald Reagan
Favorite movie?	Sands of Iwo Jima
Favorite actor?	Lee Marvin
Favorite comedian?	George Carlin
Favorite book?	Up country—Nelson Demille
Favorite vacation place?	St. Martin
Favorite subject to talk about?	Jeep's & motorcycles
Favorite quote?	"If you can't lead, get out of the way, and fall in line"
What do you think of today's Marines?	Outstanding
Most memorable lifetime event?	Climbing "Grey's Peak", 14,000 ft. Colorado
Did you make the Corps your career?	No
Would you do it all over again?	Yes
Should politics be kept out of the military?	Yes
All time favorite Marine?	Chesty Puller



The Marine Corps has just been called by the New York Times, "The elite of this country". I say "They are the elite of the world." Adm. William "Bull" Halsey, U.S. Navy

Upcoming Dues: May Dues

William Daley, Stephen Jemiolo, John Johnson, Richard Montagna, Richard Tyrell, Daniel Walsh III, Francisco Duncan, John Foley, Joshua Bouchard, Walter Rankin

June Dues

Richard Adams, Ella Balchunas, Wayne Cartwright, Javish Garcia, Richard Greene, Robert Hertz, Alphonse Piela, John Kern, Steven Sklarski, Stanley Strempek, Vincent Sulewski, Paul Tessier, James Bouchard, Robert Potito, Geoff Croteau, Bill Chandler, Robert Tessier, Jason Laverty

Dues Reminder 2010

Richard Adams, Jeffrey Hall, Donna Magdycz, Ronson Sherman, Joseph Wise, Isabel Paulsen, John Godfrey, Lisa Smith, Harry Mifflin

2011

Barry Szymojko, Leila Connolly, Thomas DelNegro, Robert Dittrich, Jr.

Life Membership Dues

Members age 35 and younger.....\$500
 Members age 36-50.....\$400
 Members age 51-60.....\$300
 Members age 61 and over.....\$150

Membership—166

Marines/Corpsmen—82
 Associates—26
 Paid Life Members—56
 Honorary—2

May Birthdays

1st George DeBarge, Matt Knas
 3rd Paul Tessier
 7th John Rhodes
 18th Geoff Croteau
 20th Waldo Rankin, Bill Chandler
 23rd Dan Bishop
 25th John Knapik
 28th Benjamin Surprise
 30th Roland Boissonault, James Laverty



This Month In History....

2 May 1946: Marines from Treasure Island Marine Barracks, under the command of Warrant Officer Charles L. Buckner, aided in suppressing the three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay. WO Buckner, a veteran of the Bougainville and Guam campaigns, ably led his force of Marines without suffering a single casualty.

5 May 1983: In Beirut, Lebanon, a UH-1N helicopter carrying the commander of the American peace-keeping force, Col. James Meade was hit by machine gun fire. The six Marines aboard escaped injury. Col. Meade and his crew had taken off in the helicopter to investigate artillery and rocket duels between rival Syrian-backed Druze Muslim militiamen and Christian Phalangists that endangered French members of the multinational force.

8 May 1995: In the wake of the most devastating storm to hit the New Orleans area in more than 200 years, a group of Marines and sailors from Marine Forces Reserve demonstrated the quick response synonymous with the Navy/Marine Corps team. Within 24 hours of being called, Marines assisted in the evacuation of 2,500 civilians, and Navy corpsmen treated scores of flood victims.

10 May 1945: The 22nd Marines, 6th Marine Division, executed a pre-dawn attack south across the Asa River Estuary and seized a bridgehead from which to continue the attack towards Naha, the capital of Okinawa.

15 May 1862: Corporal John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service in the USS Galena during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond.

16 May 1945: The 22nd and 29th Marines continued the attack against Half Moon Bay, a day characterized by the 6th Marine Division as the "bitterest" of the Okinawa campaign. By the 18th, the famed "Shuri Line" had been breached.

22 May 1912: 1st Lt. Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine officer to be assigned to "duty in connection with aviation" by Major General William P. Biddle, reported for aviation training at the Aviation Camp at Annapolis, Maryland, and Marine aviation had its official beginning.

23 May 1988: The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft made its debut during rollout at Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas facility. General Alfred Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps, praised the versatile rotor craft that was designed to meet the needs of the 21st Century battlefields.

26 May 1969: Operation Pipestone Canyon began when the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines and the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines began sweeps in the Dodge City/Go Noi areas southwest of Da Nang. It terminated at the end of June with 610 enemy killed at a cost of 34 Marines killed.

29 May 1991: Elements of a joint task force that included the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade departed the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Bangladesh after nearly two weeks of disaster relief operations following a devastating cyclone. The joint task force delivered tons of relief supplies using helicopters, C-130's, and landing craft in Operation Sea Angel.

Funny BONES

After a fire started in a downtown hotel four of the guests found the exit downstairs blocked by fire. The guests consisted of an Army Captain, a Navy Captain, an Air Force Colonel, and a Marine Major. Surrounded by fire, the four went up to the roof. The fire truck soon arrived and the firemen set up a net and yelled up "OK groundpounder, jump." The Army Captain responded "I am an officer and a gentleman of the United States Army, and you will address me as such." The firemen yelled back, "OK, Captain, jump." The Captain jumped and the firemen moved the net and the Captain splattered on the ground.

The firemen yelled up, "OK, swabbie, jump." The Navy Captain yelled back "I graduated from the Naval Academy and you will show me respect." The firemen yelled back, "OK, sir, jump" and the firemen again moved the net and the Captain went splat.

The firemen yelled up, "OK, flyboy, jump." The Colonel yelled back, "I am a top ace in the United States Air Force, and I demand respect." The firemen yelled, "OK, sir pilot, jump" and the net was moved a third time.

The firemen yelled up, "OK, jarhead, jump." The Marine Major yelled down, "I'm not stupid like those other guys, you're not moving the net on me, before I jump place that net on the ground and step back three paces."

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One day three officers are hiking together and unexpectedly come upon a wide, raging, violent river.

They needed to get to the other side and had no idea of how to do so.

The Air Force Colonel called out to God, praying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river." POOF!

God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across. It did, however, take him more than an hour and he almost drowned twice.

Seeing this, the Army Major prayed out to God saying, "Please God, give me the strength and tools to cross this river." POOF!

God gave him a rowboat and oars. He was able to cross, but it took almost an hour and he almost cap-sized several times.

The Navy Captain saw how things worked out for the other two, so when he prayed to God, he said "Please God, give me the strength, tools and intelligence to cross this river." POOF!

God turned him into a Marine Sergeant, who looked at his map, walked upstream a couple of hundred yards and crossed the bridge.

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Having just moved into his new office, a pompous Navy Captain was sitting at his desk when a Marine PFC knocked on his door. Conscious of his new position, the Captain quickly picked up his phone, told the PFC to enter, then said into the phone, "Yes, Admiral, I'll be seeing him later today and will pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes sir."

Feeling as though he sufficiently impressed the young Marine, the Captain asked, "What do you want?" "Nothing important, sir," the PFC replied, "I'm just here to hook up your telephone."

**There are only two kinds of people who understand Marines: Marines and the enemy.
Everyone else has a second-hand opinion. General William Thornson, U.S. Army**



Corpsman Up!

“Corpsman Up!” is the call we do not want to hear. Whether in combat or training, Marines know that when the need arises our Corpsmen will put their lives on the line to administer to our medical needs. Serving with the Marine Corps, about 2,012 Corpsmen have been killed in action. 1,170 in World War II, 109 in Korea, 639 in the Vietnam War, 15 in the Marine Barracks in Beirut and as of June 17, 2010, 42 in Iraq/Afghanistan. Our Corpsmen (respectfully known as “Doc” to all Marines) have received the following decorations for valor:

- (22) Medals of Honor
- (174) Navy Crosses
- (31) Distinguished Service Crosses
- (946) Silver Stars
- (1,582) Bronze Stars

We know that most of our Corpsmen will never be individually recognized for their heroic actions. Since January 2008, a dedicated group of Marines, Corpsmen, and our supporters have formed the Corpsmen Memorial Foundation (CMF) to place a monument in the Memorial Gardens (near Camp Johnson of MCB Camp Lejeune in North Carolina) in gratitude and respect for what our Corpsmen have been doing for us wherever we go.

The memorial is being designed in such a way as to honor all those who served alongside the Marine as Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen. It is intended to be a place of honor and reflection, a place of recognition of the duties performed and the bonds forged in combat. These men and women who have served at the side of the Marine are a breed among themselves, forged in the training and experiences that they have shared with the Marines. They have treated others while suffering injury themselves. They have carried wounded from the battlefields while under fire. They have saved lives and given their own without hesitation. They have comforted, treated and cared for thousands in the ranks of the Marines, and yet they have not asked for any glory for themselves, except the honor to serve.

World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Kuwait, Somalia, Iraq/Afghanistan...Corpsmen have been there to do their duty, to do their best, to bring the Marines home alive. This is why we now choose to honor them.

Every Corpsmen wants to save every life, minimize the pain, and administer to the needs of their Marines and Sailors; they want to be the expert surgeon the situation may require. Every Marine or Sailor in a combat unit wants their “Doc” to be able to administer whatever medical procedure the situation may require. Sometimes this is unfortunately an unrealistic desire. We know we can count on our “Docs” doing all they can. To lose one of your Marines or Sailors is a traumatic burden to carry.

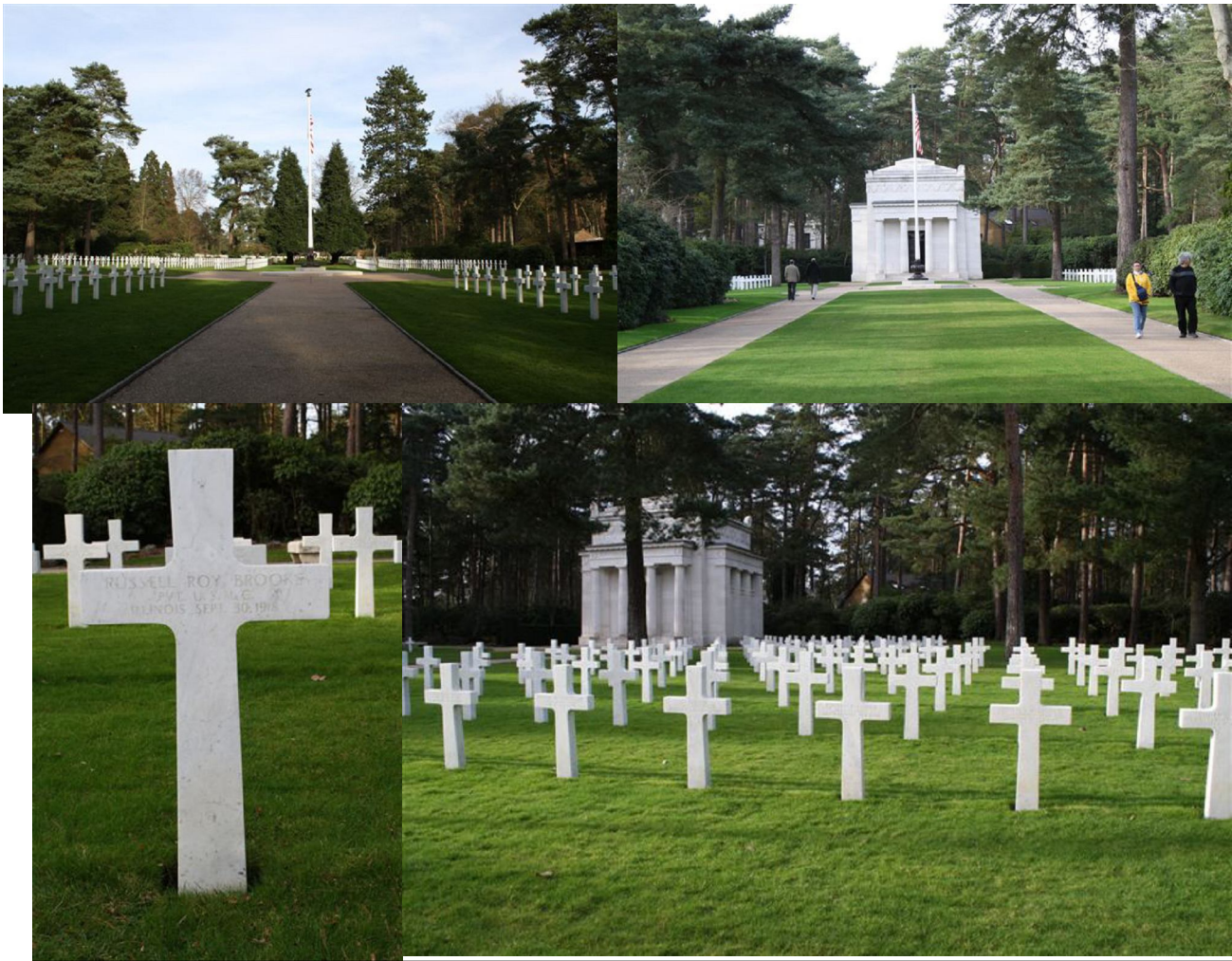
We know it is time for us to recognize and thank our Corpsmen for what they do for us. We cannot imagine any Marine or person that has served with or supported our Marines that would not want to support this important cause. So “FALL IN!” and be part of the formation that now wants to recognize and thank our “Docs” for what they have done for us. Nccorpsmenmemorial.net or send donations to: P.O. Box 12641, Jacksonville, NC 28546

“The Corpsmen are the most valuable assets in a combat unit!” Col. Paul O’Toole, USMC (Ret)

“The name “Doc” is earned through the respect of his Marines” HMCS Matthew DesChamps, USN

“I’ve seen the “Docs” do some miraculous things in Vietnam” MSgt. John Cooney (Ret) CAP Marine 65/66 and 69/70

Brookwood Cemetery Surrey, England



Brookwood Cemetery is a burial ground in Surrey, England. It is the largest cemetery in the United Kingdom and one of the largest in Western Europe. Brookwood Cemetery is also known as the London Necropolis, established in 1849 to house London's deceased. A military cemetery was added to Brookwood in 1917 and contains 1,601 dead from World War I and 3,476 dead from World War II. The Brookwood Military Cemetery covers 37 acres and contains 786 non Commonwealth war graves, including French, Polish, Belgian, Czech and Italian.

The Brookwood Memorial stands at the southern end of the Cemetery and commemorates 3,500 men and women who died during World War II and have no known grave. This includes 43 Canadian Commandos who died of their wounds in the Dieppe and St. Nazaire raids of August 1942. The nearby Brookwood (Russian) Memorial was erected in 1983 and commemorates forces of the British Commonwealth who died in Russia during the World Wars.

The Brookwood American Cemetery and Memorial sits on a 4.5 acre site to the west of the civilian cemetery. It contains the graves of 468 American military dead. The Memorial contains an additional 563 Americans with no known grave. The Cemetery holds the remains of one Marine Pvt. Russell Roy Brooks of Illinois, who died in September of 1918. The American Cemetery is administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. This story and all photos were taken by our own Matt Knas who was on vacation last month in England.



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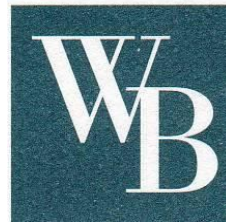
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Detachment 141 would like to thank all our sponsors for their continued dedication and support of this monthly newsletter.

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