

THE POWDER BAG

THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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March 2014



“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation. ”

George Washington

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Commander: 1SG Ed Powell (USA Retired)
Executive Officer: MAJ Richard Tomasso (USA Retired)
Adjutant: SFC Richard Zacamy (USA Retired)
Finance Officer: CW4 Jack Elberson (USA Retired)
Logistics Officer: 1SG Ed McCarty (USA Retired)

THE CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

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THE COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

I was not able to be in attendance at the March meeting due to a prior commitment. I want to take this opportunity to give my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped with the Dining Out and thanks to everyone who attended and made the evening a success.

On 15 March, 2014 a group of us from the Camden Light Artillery presented Leo Solomon the Saint Barbara award at the nursing home in Medford, NJ where Leo is now residing. I would like to thank the members who took their time to be present when we awarded Leo his award – Jack Elberson, Marc Kantor, Ed McCarthy, Chet Malik, and Brian Strecker.

At our next meeting on 2 April 2014, we will discuss the plans for our next Brunch to be held on Saturday 17 May 2014 at the Lamp Post Diner in Gloucester Township. The Brunch is in honor of Armed Forces Day.

WHAT IS ARMED FORCES DAY?

Many Americans celebrate Armed Forces Day annually on the third Saturday of May. It is a day to pay tribute to men and women who serve the United States Armed Forces. Armed Forces Day is also a part of Armed Forces Week which begins on the second Saturday of May.

On August 31, 1949, Louis Johnson, who was the United States Secretary of Defense, announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, and Air Force Days. The event stemmed from the Armed Forces unification under one department – the Department of Defense. The Army, Navy and Air Force leagues adopted the newly formed Day. The Marine Corps League declined to drop support for Marine Corps Day but supports the Armed Forces Day, too.

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 1950. The theme for that Day was “Team for Defense” which expressed the unification of all military forces under one government department. According to the U. S. Department of Defense, the Day was designed to expand public understanding of what type of job was performed and the role of the military in civilian life.

Armed Forces Day was a day for the military to show “state-of-the-art” equipment to Americans. It was also a Day to honor and acknowledge Americans in the Armed Forces. Armed Forces Day is still celebrated nationwide today and is part of the Armed Forces Week.

Many events across the United States take place on Armed Forces Day to honor Americans in uniform who serve their country in times of war and peace. Those who are honored on this day include people who served the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard. National Guard and Reserve units may celebrate Armed Forces Day/Week over any period in May because of their unique training schedules.

SUMMARY of the 5 March 2014 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by the Adjutant at 1900 hours. All stood for the pledge of allegiance lead by the EX Officer. Roll call, all officers were present and/ or accounted for. The Chaplin led us in prayer and reported that Leo Solomon was ill. New guests were announced as Allen Stedman and Nelson Widell. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February meeting and passed. A motion was made and passed to accept the Treasurer's report which stated we have \$10,125.25 in our bank account which includes the monies that still must be paid out for our Dining Out. A motion was made and accepted to give \$100.00 to Richard Scaricaciottoli for his help on printing the Ad Book for the Dining Out.

The Dining Out was a success – thanks to all who helped and attended. A motion was made to purchase a brick which will be inlaid at the WWII Museum site in New Orleans for \$500.00 in honor of our Jake Parvin. Update on armory bids are out for repairs. There was a discussion to print the Monthly Newsletter every three months and it was decided to continue it on a monthly basis. A Change of Command ceremony for the 3-112FA will be in Morristown, NJ on 30 March 2014. It was suggested that red jackets, black long ties, and white shirts be worn if attending. Time to be announced and put out on the internet. The 112FA Sports Club will meet on Saturday, 26 April, 2014 at the range office at 9:00am. Saturday, 17 May 2014 is the date of our next Brunch and is in honor of Armed Forces Day. The proposed location is the Lamp Post Diner in Gloucester Township. Final plans will be announced at our next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 2 April 2014 at the Cherry Hill Amory.

The meeting was adjourned at 1950 hours followed by refreshments.

CHANGE OF COMMAND

**3-112FA
Morristown, NJ**

The 3-112FA will hold a Change of Command ceremony on 30 March 2014 at the Morristown, NJ armory. Other news for the 3-112FA: A new firing BRTY will be added; the new unit will be supplied with the M777, a 155mm towed howitzer.



2014 DINING OUT



POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

There's an annual contest at Bond University, Australia, calling for the most appropriate definition of a contemporary term.

This year's chosen term was "political correctness".

The winning student wrote:

"Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority promoted by mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of turd by the clean end."

POLITICAL DEFINITIONS

Socialism - If you have two cows, you give one to your neighbor.

Communism - If you have two cows, you are forced to give them to the government and then the government gives you some milk.

Capitalism - If you have two cows, you sell one and buy a bull.

SHORT STORY OF THE MONTH

There was a time when our politicians tended not to apologize for our country's prior actions. Here's a refresher on how some of our former patriots handled negative comments about our country.

JFK'S Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, was in France in the early 60's when Charles DeGaulle decided to pull out of NATO. DeGaulle said he wanted all US military out of France as soon as possible. Rusk responded, "Does that include those who are buried here?" DeGaulle did not respond.

You could have heard a pin drop.

When in England , at a fairly large conference, Secretary of State Colin Powell was asked by the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example of 'empire building' by George Bush. General Powell answered by saying, "Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return."

You could have heard a pin drop.

There was a conference in France where a number of international engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break, one of the French engineers came back into the room saying, "Have you heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intend to do, bomb them?" A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: "Our carriers have three hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 3,000 people three meals a day, they can produce thousands of gallons of fresh water from sea water each day, and they carry half a dozen helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their flight deck. We have eleven such ships; how many does France have?"

You could have heard a pin drop.

A U.S. Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included Admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French Navies. At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French admiral suddenly complained that, whereas Europeans learn many languages, Americans learn only English. He then asked, "Why is it that we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking French?" Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied, "Maybe it's because the Brit's, Canadians, Aussie's and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have to speak German."

You could have heard a pin drop.

And then there is this:

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on.

"You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically.

Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously.

"Then you should know enough to have your passport ready."

The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible.. Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!"

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to."

You could have heard a pin drop.

REQUEST YOUR INPUT

I would like to remind you that this is your newsletter. You are cordially invited to submit any information you think appropriate for the good of the command to the Commander (e-mail address on the first page of this newsletter) to be edited for inclusion in the following month's publication.

Your membership expiration date is on your mailing label (just like a magazine subscription). It's your reminder to pay your dues. Dues are \$20 per year. Send checks to:

**Camden Light Artillery Association Inc.
National Guard Armory
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OUR MISSION

- To promote close association, friendship, understanding and cooperation between all member of the association.
- To foster and preserve the spirit, traditions and solidarity of the Field Artillery
- To provide various communicative means for keeping all members aware and involved in association developments.
- To conduct such social activities as may provide for a continuing close relationship and camaraderie among the membership
- To develop and maintain historical records on the lineage of the 1st Battalion 112th Field Artillery ancestors and it successors.
- To promote and support the provisions of the constitution of the United States of America.
- To provide community service to local civilian and military communities in time of need.

WEB SITE

www.112FA.org

E-MAIL ADDRESS

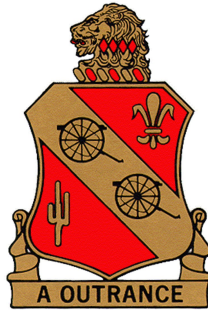
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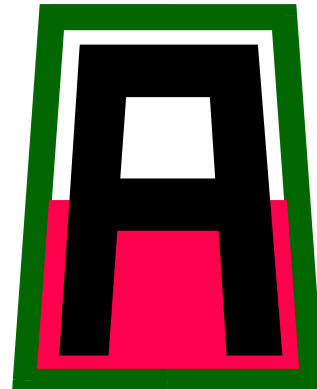
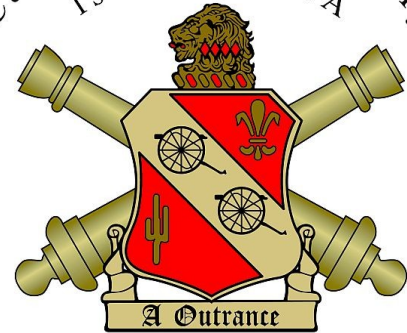
our name on Facebook is

CAMDEN LIGHT ARTILLERY





Camden Light Artillery
1st BN 112th FA





2010 Afghanistan - M777
(courtesy-SPC Gallegos via COL(Ret) George Bannon)