

# Pass in Review

*Serving Marines at the "Oldest Post of the Corps"*

February 1988



*Inspection Ready*



**TRIBUTE TO A WARRIOR**

*Col. Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipient and leader of the "Black Sheep" Squadron during World War II, died of cancer in Fresno, Calif., Jan 11...he was 75. He was buried during a ceremonial at Arlington Cemetery by Marines from A and B Company here. Col. Boyington is best known for his leadership of Marine Fighter Squadron 214 in the central solomons area. The squadron, made up of a group of casuals, replacements, and green pilots, was dubbed the "Black Sheep" Squadron. It was there that Col. Boyington, 31 at the time, was nicknamed "Pappy."*

photo by

# Pass in Review

Marine Barracks, Wash., D.C.  
Vol. 8, No. 2 February 1988

## Features

### 6 Black History

"...They came from all over the United States and from various backgrounds, to Montford Point, N.C. The first to arrive at the black boot camp possessed skills ranging from cooking and truck driving to martial arts..." February marks the 62nd annual national celebration of the role of black Americans in all segments of life in this Nation.

### 8 Inspection Error

He ran his fingers up and down the alphabetized list, hoping there hadn't been a mistake. His breath quickened, for his name was not on the roster of those who had to stand the commanding general's inspection.

### 12 The Round Table

It is only a table.. made of Oak and nails. But when you stand next to it and rub your hands across its scarred top and read the names...you know you're in the presence of great men from a great time.

### 18 B-Ball Tips Off

Last years undefeated Barracks intramural basketball champs are back-- looking as strong as ever. But, will they repeat last season's superiority against the a stronger "A" and "B" Company and H&S?

Commanding Officer

Col. D.J. Myers

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## THE COVERS



#### Front

1st Lt. L.R. Quick looks over Cpl. S.J. Dutko's wall locker, Winter Service A uniform and junk on the bunk. This was part of a Barracks pre-IG inspection that has been in progress since November 1987. February is IG month for "inspection ready" 8th and I Barracks Marines. (photo by Sgt. C.D. Chambers).



#### Back

A Co's. forward LCpl. C.M. Ray tries to get around a B Co., double-team trap by forward SSgt. R.K. Ferreira and guard LCpl. J.T. Matcham. B Co. overpowered A Co. in the season first contest 69-42 and established themselves as a crown contender. (photo by Sgt. C.D. Chambers).

SSgt. Matthew Perez

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# Commander's View



Col. D.J. Myers

This year has the makings of a super year. Most of the new troops are aboard and they look good. The experienced Marines in all areas are second to none. Those things will continue only so long as we make them continue. One cannot relax and not give 100 percent effort and expect to remain the best. It requires full effort at all times. That's the difference between professionals and amateurs. I consider you all to be professionals. You have responded to every challenge both as a unit and individuals.

## Barracks Talk

### WHO WILL WIN SUPER BOWL XXII

*Editor's Note: The Barracks Talk question was asked before the Conference Championships to make predictions more difficult.*



*The Cleveland Browns will play the Minnesota Vikings and win 27-21.*

**LCpl. D.D. Schnoor**  
Guard Sec.



*The Denver Broncos will wip the Minnesota Vikings out 31-17.*

**LCpl. D.S. Brents**  
B Co.



*The Washington Redskins will meet Denver and take it 27-20.*

**Pfc. G.G. Hedger**  
A Co.



*This round table is special to many-a-former Marine. It's a table of a China tavern that is no more and of a time past.*

# The Round Table

*a simple piece of furniture, made of oak and nails*

story by Sgt. Dave Sampson - photos by SSgt. Matthew Perez

**T**his is the story of a table. A simple piece of furniture made of oak and nails. It isn't blessed with a famous name brand or the distinction of serving kings and queens through the ages but over the years it has seen its share of noble men pass by. With the passage of time it has been rewarded for its faithful, sturdy service with the scratches and dents of a thousand glasses banging into the surface. In a way they are the battle scars the table has earned from the hundreds of Marines who have gathered around over the years to live and laugh and fade away. Ironically the story began for me at a table.

I was attending a Marine Corps Combat Correspondents convention in Las Vegas last September and following the itinerary I was taking part in a poolside barbecue one evening. Across from me at the table sat an elderly, distinguished looking gentleman. As strangers often do, we began to exchange pleasantries about the weather, the meal and the gathering in general. When in the course of the conversation I mentioned that I was stationed at Marine Barracks, Washington D.C. his eyes lit up and he asked me if I had ever sat at the Round Table. When I asked what he meant by that I was given the rare privilege, thanks to former Marine Clem Russell, of travel-

ling to a time long past. Back to the days of the China Marines. Back to the days of the Knights of the Round Table.

Following the war to end all wars, World War I, United States Marines found themselves as they have since the beginning of our Corps, on the job in far away lands. One such location was the American Legation contained within the diplomatic quarter of Peiping China. The China Marines were a mixture of battle-hardened veterans of Belleau Wood and fresh faced kids just off the farm, eager to take their place in the ranks. In fact, about the only thing they had in common was the title U.S. Marine.

As Marines are known to do

“...Enter Hempels and you think you're in a butcher shop. Behind the glass partitioned counter a woman is eternally cutting up thick, juicy steaks. Walk on through and you emerge into a cozy, cheerful little bar and eatery that might have been lifted out of any city in America.”

in times of recreation, they soon found an establishment to their liking where they could hang their hats, enjoy each others company and taste a bit of the grain. It was located at number 49 Hatamen Street and went by the name of "Hempel's Butchery and Sausage Factory". The description that follows is from the publication North China Marine. "Enter Hempels and you think you're in a butcher shop. Behind the glass partitioned counter a woman is eternally cutting up thick, juicy steaks. Walk on through and you emerge into a cozy, cheerful little bar and eatery that might have been lifted out of any city in America."

Hempels was opened in 1902 by Richard "Pa" Hempel shortly after he was discharged from the German embassy guard following the Boxer Rebellion. As it turned out, one of the Marines who gathered at Hempels from time to time was a young private from Amesbury Massachusetts named Frank Gowen. Private Gowen had enlisted in the Corps in 1923 and saw duty on Guam and Cavite before arriving in China in 1925. When he was discharged from the Corps in 1927, he stayed in Peiping marrying one of Pa Hempel's daughters, Olga, and purchased the business.

It was 1929 when he had a table constructed of oak and began a loosely knit organization of Marines and other hangers-on and called them the Knights of the Round table. Their knightly creed was, "to be good fellows, pay their bills, help each other in time of need and have a good time". For the next eleven years that is



*This bottle cap opener, attached a table leg, saw plenty of action in the 1930s at Hempels.*

exactly what the Knights did. A constitution and by-laws was adopted outlining the conduct of the knights and the criteria for accepting new members. With their logo of a red pig on a white field, the knights gathered at Hempel's and journeyed together to places with exotic names like Black Dragon Pool, Jade Fountain and the Sleeping Buddha. In time the names of close to eighty knights were inscribed on nameplates and attached to the

table top signifying their membership in this unique organization.

As the 1930's drew to a close, the fires of war were being fanned across the Pacific and the Far East and Frank and Olga Gowen packed up and returned to the United States. During the ravages of war and occupation of Peiping by the Japanese Hempel's somehow remained open. But, the Knights of the Round Table no longer gathered on cold winter nights to trade lies and raise a glass. That is until the Fifth Marines arrived in 1945 to 'disarm and repatriate' the Japanese.

It didn't take long for the new crop of China Marines to discover Hempel's and begin new acquaintances and renew old ones. Once again the Round table was the focal point of the Marines social scene in Peiping with its worn surface and scratched nameplates playing host. In 1949 the Chinese communists came to power and the place known as Hempels ceased to exist. Hempel's was no more, but a piece of it somehow lived on. A German businessman managed to rescue the Round Table and it was brought to the states by a since forgotten Marine who had it shipped to its rightful owner, Frank Gowen.

In the years that followed the Gowens settled in Las Vegas along with another former China Marine, Clem Russell. The two would get together every now and then to sit around the table and enjoy a few cool libations while

Continued on next page

# Table

remembering days long past. One subject of conversation was the fate of the Round Table. Gowen was concerned about where it would end up and what sort of care it would be given, especially since it held so many Marine Corps memories. Frank Gowen passed away in October 1982 with the fate of the table still undecided. That is it was undecided until Clem Russell took charge. He knew that Frank Gowen wanted the table to end up in a place where it would be appreciated by the type of Marines who used it in China--enlisted Marines. Russell took it upon himself to contact every major Marine Corps command searching for a suitable home. When 8th and "I" received his letter the response was almost immediate. We would be honored to provide the Round Table with a place of honor in the Barracks Staff NCO Club. Despite a few unexpected delays the table arrived safely at the oldest post and was presented to the Barracks at the first summer parade of the 1983 season.

When I returned from the convention in Las Vegas I walked into the Barracks Staff NCO Club and there it was, the Round Table. Frank Gowen once said that by his calculations about 93,000 different people sat at the table during those 17 years in China consuming close to five million glasses of some of the worlds best beer as well as countless tons of food.

It is only a table. Oak and nails. But when you stand next to it and rub your hands across its scarred top and read the names, Bull Blasi, Swede Gagner, Pappy Teel and Frank Gowen you know that you are in the presence of great men from a great time. And if you close your eyes and listen very carefully you might even hear the sounds of Hempel's in 1930 and the China Marines.



*Many names of former Marines and "Knights of the Round Table" are engraved on brass plates on the top of the table.*



*There it sits all alone in a corner of the staff club. It has many memories and someday it might have a few more.*

# "Black Sheep" Leader

*Col. "Pappy" Boyington Dies*

HQMC News Release

**C**ol. Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipient and leader of the "Black Sheep" squadron during World War II, died of cancer in Fresno, Calif., on Jan. 11. He was 75.

Boyington is best known for his leadership of Marine Fighting Squadron (VMF) 214 in the Central Solomons Area. The squadron, made up of a group of misfits, replacements, and green pilots, was dubbed the "Black Sheep" squadron. It was there that Boyington, 31 at the time, was nicknamed "Pappy." He and his unit were later immortalized in a television series, "The Black Sheep Squadron," broadcast during the late seventies.

Boyington is credited with the destruction of 28 Japanese aircraft while in command of VMF-214 from Sept. 12, 1943, until Jan. 3, 1944. He was shot down over Rabaul, New Guinea, on the latter date, and his capture by the Japanese was followed by 20 months as a prisoner of war.

Boyington was born in Coeur d' Arlene, Idaho, on Dec. 4, 1912. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Tacoma, Wash. In 1934 he received a B.S. degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Washington.

The famed flyer started his military career while still attending college. As a member of the Reserve Officers Training Corps for four years, he became a cadet captain. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Reserve in June 1934, and served two



*Maj. Gregory "Pappy" Boyington in 1943. (Official USMC photo).*

months of active duty with the 630th Coast Artillery at Fort Warden, Wash. He later accepted an appointment as an aviation cadet in the Marine Corps Reserve. After flight training at Pensacola, Fla., he was designated a Naval Aviator on March 11, 1937, and was transferred to Quantico, Va., for

duty with Aircraft One, Fleet Marine Force.

He resigned his commission on Aug. 26, 1941, to accept a position with Gen. Claire Chennault's American Volunteer Group. The unit which was called the "Flying Tigers," was made up of U.S. fighter pilots who had volunteered to fight





*Leader of the famed "Black Sheep" Squadron, "Pappy" Boyington, standing third from the right in the first row, poses with his men. (Official USMC photo).*

with Chinese forces against the Japanese. During six months with the Tigers, Boyington flew 300 combat hours and shot down six Japanese planes.

Boyington returned to the United States in July 1942, and accepted a commission as a first lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve on Sept. 29. Within two months, he was on his way overseas again.

Before organizing the Black Sheep Squadron, Boyington saw combat flying at Guadalcanal in April 1943 as executive officer of Marine Fighter Squadron 121. With the Black Sheep Squadron's first tour of combat duty, he shot down 14 enemy fighter planes in 32 days. In keeping with his generally informal approach to things military except for combat, his men were well known for their lack of polish and disregard for service regulations. But, nevertheless they were highly recognized as fearless fighter pilots.

On Dec. 17, 1943, Boyington headed the first Allied fighter sweep over Rabaul. By Dec. 27, he record was 25 planes. On Jan. 3, 1944, 48 American planes, including one division

from the Black Sheep Squadron, took off from Bougainville for a fighter sweep over Rabaul. Boyington, the tactical commander of the flight, was seen to shoot down his 26th plane. In the ensuing action, he became mixed in the general melee and was not seen or heard from again. After a futile search, he was declared missing in action.

**T**aken prisoner by the Japanese, he spent 20 months in captivity. He was liberated from Omori Prison Camp near Tokyo on Aug. 29, 1945 and arrived in the United States shortly afterward. At the time of his release, it was confirmed that he had accounted for two more Japanese planes before he was shot down. That set his total at 28 planes.

Shortly after his return, Boyington was ordered to Washington to receive the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism as commander of the Black Sheep Squadron. The medal had been awarded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in March 1944 and held until Boyington was able to receive it. On Oct. 5, 1945, he was decorated

by President Harry S. Truman at the White House. Col. Boyington also received the Navy Cross for actions he performed on the day he became missing in action. He retired from active duty on Aug. 1, 1947.

After his retirement, Boyington was an executive at the East Side Brewery in Los Angeles from 1947 until 1951. He later worked for Coast Pro Seal, a West Coast firm that manufactures glues for the aerospace industry, until the early 1960s.

In 1957 he wrote "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep," an account of his experiences with the Black Sheep Squadron. Additionally, he wrote "Tonya," a novel based on his experiences with the Flying Tigers. He also remained active in lecturing during his post-retirement years.

Col. Boyington died in the Nancy Hines Hospice in Fresno. He had been there since Dec. 31. He is survived by his wife, Josephine; a son, Gregory Boyington, a retired Air Force colonel, of Alameda, Calif.; a daughter, Gloria Schneider of Everett, Wash., and eight grandchildren.

# Welcome...

SSgt. J.W. Holpp, H&S Co., of Wheeling, W.Va.  
SSgt. A.M. Horn, Band, of Fremont, Ohio  
SSgt. J.E. Butler, H&S Co., of Keswick, Va.  
LCpl. H.E. Smith Jr., A Co., of Fogalsville, Pa.  
Pfc. W.E. Covert, A Co., of Hermitage, Pa.  
Pfc. R.T. Thompson, A Co., of Erie, Pa.  
Pfc. C.W. Mercier, A Co., of Wilton Manors, Fla.  
Pfc. F.L. Davis, A Co., of Mount Airy, N.C.  
Pfc. R.D. Dix, A Co., of Kenton, Ohio  
LCpl. A.J. Romanowski, A Co., of Maple City, Mich.  
Pfc. G.A. Demars, A Co., of Springfield, La.  
Pfc. R.N. Norman, A Co., of Smithville, Mo.  
Pfc. W.C. Craig, B Co., of McAlester, Okla.  
LCpl. G.C. Spinks, B Co., of Columbus, Ind.  
LCpl. D.G. Steinhoff, A Co., of Rapid River, Mich.  
LCpl. D.C. Owens, A Co., of Pampa, Texas  
Pfc. B.E. Brown, A Co., of East Gramby, Conn.  
Pfc. G.G. Hedger, A Co., of Lake Luzerne, N.Y.  
LCpl. R.G. Boa, A Co., of Binghamton, N.Y.  
Pfc. J.R. Taylor, A Co., of Little Genesee, N.Y.  
Pfc. M.P. Poole, A Co., of Albany, N.Y.  
Pfc. P.H. McGuire, A Co., of Kingston, N.Y.  
LCpl. J.A. Holmen, H&S Co., of Albertville, Minn.  
Pfc. G.A. Wright, A Co., of Jackson, N.J.  
Pfc. A. Meyerflug, A Co., of Bloomingdale, N.J.  
Pfc. A Tamez, A Co., of San Antonio Texas  
LCpl. S.P. Jacobson, H&S Co., of Oakdale, La.  
Pfc. J.M. Unger, A Co., of Oregon City, Ore.  
Pfc. S.D. Wallingford, A Co., of Jacksonville, Fla.  
Pfc. K.A. Bladen, A Co., of Oregon City, Ore.  
Pfc. K.A. Hall, A Co., of Amite, La.  
Pfc. J.A. Ross, H&S Co., of Vancouver, Wash.  
LCpl. R.R. Harris, H&S Co., of Chattonooga, Tenn.  
Pfc. S.W. Rutledge, H&S Co., of Doylestown, Ohio  
Pfc. R.R. Chalmers, A Co., of East Detroit, Mich.  
Pfc. Z.A. Hollar, A Co., of Alb, N.M.  
LCpl. E.D. Gruner, H&S Co., of Gwinn, Mich.  
LCpl. S.E. Haley, H&S Co., of Bedford, Ind.

Pfc. B.K. Nicholson, H&S Co., of Aliquippa, Penn.  
SSgt. L.R. Bengamin, MCI Co., of Oak Bluffs, Maine  
GySgt. C.E. Schatz, MCI Co., of Elkhart, Ind.  
LCpl. C.P. Karris, MCI Co., of Taylorville, Ill.  
Pfc. E.L. Willer, H&S Co., of Bronx, N.Y.  
Pfc. D.W. Johns, B Co., of Bristol, Conn.  
LCpl. M.W. Jonatitiss, B Co., of Highland, Ind.  
LCpl. J.L. Pennington Jr., B Co., of Miami, Fla.  
Pfc. P.L. Hoskinson, B Co., of Idaho Fall, Idaho  
Pfc. R.M. Lima, B Co., of East Taunton, Mass.  
Pfc. M.S. Bragin, B Co., of Troy, N.Y.  
Pfc. M.E. Dean, B Co., of Lincolnville, Maine  
Pfc. S.S. Amriott, B Co., of Lawrenceville, N.J.  
Pfc. L.O. Severance, B Co., of Greenbelt, Md.  
Pfc. D.C. Gress, B Co., of Eagle, Colo.  
Pfc. S.E. Frable, MCI Co., of Oswlgo, N.Y.  
LCpl. K.M. Jones, MCI Co., of Midland, Mich.  
Pfc. A.J. Williams, MCI Co., of Hermiston, Ore.  
Pfc. L.D. Hill, MCI Co., of Philadelphia, Pa.  
Pfc. M.L. Mattila, H&S Co., of Toivila, Mich.  
Pfc. B.A. Anderson, MCI Co., of Opelousas, La.  
Pfc. P.M. Busch, MCI Co., of Pierce, Ind.  
Pfc. C.A. Smith Jr., MCI Co., of Chestertown, Md.  
Pfc. K.M. Boatner, MCI Co., of Houston, Texas  
Pfc. R.F. Evans, MCI Co., of Prairie City, La.  
LCpl. R.G. Vaughn, MCI Co., of Kernersville, N.C.  
Pfc. A.J. Wolf, B Co., of Belle, Mo.  
LCpl. K.A. Crosby, B Co., of Phoenix, Ariz.  
Pfc. M. Anderson, B Co., of Alto, Texas  
Pfc. E.R. Groeteke, A Co., of Auburn, Ill.  
Pfc. C.T. Fischer, B Co., of Jackson, N.J.  
Pfc. J.E. Stewart, B Co., of Fairport, N.Y.  
Pfc. S.R. Little, B Co., of Lanesville, Texas  
Pfc. R.N. Hatch, A Co., Longview, Wash.  
Capt. M.K. Johnson, Scty Co., Carresville, Va.  
Pfc. D.E. Foster Jr., B Co., Milan, Ill.  
LCpl. K.E. McCumby, B Co., Kalkaska, Mich.

