

Vol. XVIII. February, 2019 Issue I.

Captain's Column

Alright gentlemen, the start of the 2019 reenactment season is fast approaching. For F Company it will begin (as it always does) with our Annual Meeting. This is where we take care of the business-related matters involved in running a reenactment unit. We set dues, determine the schedule, elect officers, and take care of anything else that needs to be addressed

This year the meeting is set for Saturday, 16 February. We were hoping to have it at the same location as last year, the Chimborazo Medical Museum on East Broad Street in downtown Richmond. Even though the government shutdown is technically over as of this writing it will probably be in phase two by the time of our meeting. We are looking for an alternative location and think we have one but as of this writing it has not been confirmed. Once we have official permission to use this site you will be notified via email. Chimborazo is still our first choice, but we do need a backup.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM and judging from past meetings will probably be over by 2:00 PM. Please make plans to be there. This is an important meeting that determines the future of F Company for the 2019 season. I hope to see everyone there.

Cordially,
Captain Turley

1st Sergeant's Column

Upcoming Annual Membership Meeting (Sat, 16 Feb 2019)- Key point, the F Co Annual Membership meeting will take place on Saturday, 16 Feb 2019, so make your plans accordingly to attend!

As you've seen from the Company Commander's column we are in fact still caught up in the Federal government shutdown reference our planned annual membership meeting place. We are scheduled to meet on the 16th at Chimborazo Medical Museum (National Park Service), 3215 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23223, however, the Federal government has been re-opened for only a three-week window which could easily come to an end at midnight on Fri, 15 Feb 2019 without any type of budget extension. This site is our primary preference for the annual meeting since Richmond National Battlefield supports us and we support them, but we would be less than prudent not to have an alternative meeting place given that Richmond National Battlefield cannot possibly guarantee that we can meet on the 16th of Feb at Chimborazo. We are working on coming up w/alternative site, but at this point we'll still be planning on Chimborazo. You need to pay close attention to F Co email messages and phone calls coming to you w/last minute change to meeting location!!! Only bad weather is going to prevent us from meeting on Sat, 16 February!

Inventory items will be for sale at the meeting, so bring along your cash or cheque book. Remember no credit for purchases! Additionally, this is a great opportunity for you to bring a prospective recruit to see what F Co is all about! The more soldiers in the ranks then we function as our own separate company which always works much better for all of us.

Annual Event Schedule for 2019- Once again we are looking at a full year of events. Interestingly enough the battle of Cedar Creek will happen again this year in October! Cancellation last year caused a "shake-up" in the Cedar Creek Foundation which sponsors the event, and a return to sponsorship of this major reenactor event. Note that Capital of the Confederacy Collector's Show and Remembrance Day Parade have been "de-conflicted" w/collector show on 16-17 Nov and the parade on Sat, 23 November. A major campaigner event is planned the first weekend in Oct in the Shenandoah Valley which promises to be good. Our muster this year will occur on 20 Jul which winds up the Gettysburg Campaign dealing w/Pickett's Charge or Longstreet's Assault. Full schedule will be presented at the Annual Membership meeting.

Article from Pvt Kendall Chapman- Yes, we've heard from Pvt Chapman who is on detached service at F Co's far outpost halfway across the Pacific Ocean! Please see Kendall's attached article on the 2nd Battle of Guam.

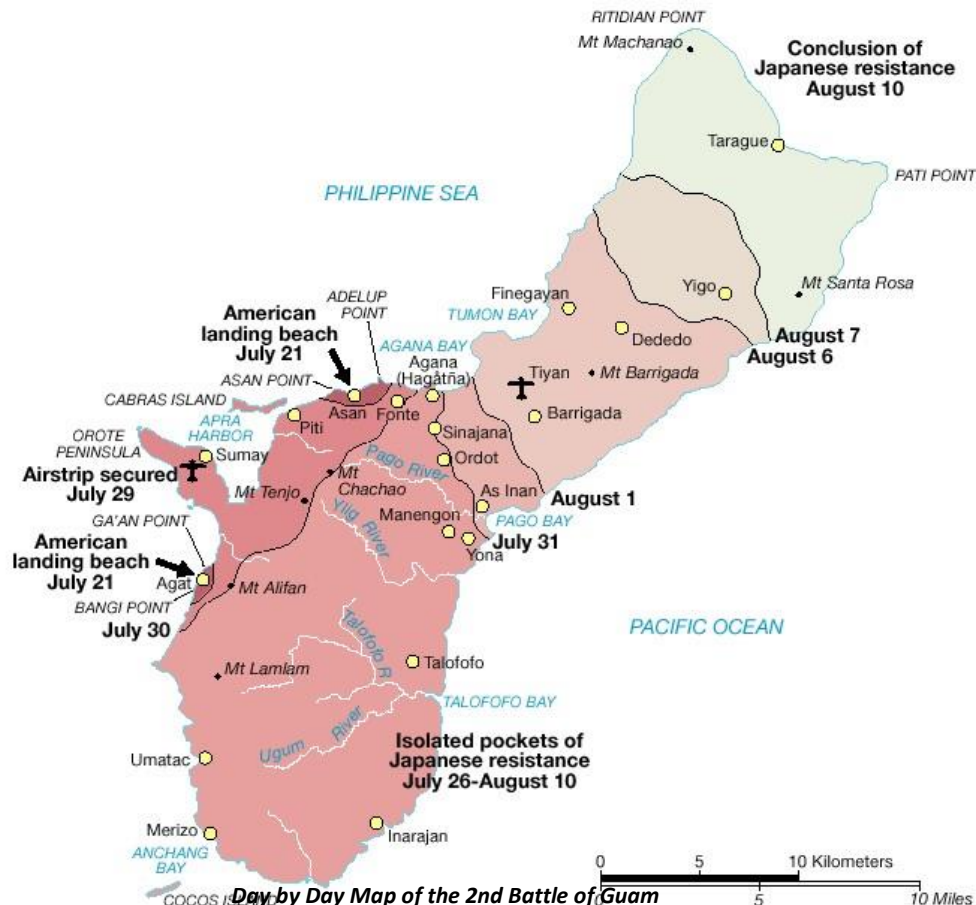
Respectfully,
Michael L. Vice, 1st SGT
F Co., 21st VA Infantry

The 2nd Battle of Guam

Hafai Dai and Happy New Year from Guam! There is not much prospects in the South Pacific for reenacting the War for Southern Independence, but there is excellent opportunities to tour WWII battle fields. Since, F Company has it fair share of Marines, one absent approved Sailor, and of course our enlisted patriarch Solider, I figure it appropriate to recant a battle that had all services partaking.

The island of Guam fell to the Japanese on 10 December, 1941 when the Japanese led by Major General Tomitara Hori's landed with 5,900 men and overwhelmed the austere U.S. and Guam defenses. Two and a half years later on 21 July 1944 the Third Marine division under Major General Allen Turnage landed north of Apra Harbor, while the first provisional Marine Brigade under Brigadier General Lemuel C. Shepherd, JR landed several miles below Orote Peninsula. Thus, began the 2nd time the United States liberated the island of Guam.

The allied plan for the invasion of the Marianas, Operation Forager, comprised of heavy air bombardment, by USAAF stationed out of the Marshall Islands, and naval bombardment by battleships, cruisers, and destroyers. Saipan, Tinian, and Guam were the chosen islands due to its deep water access and close proximity for follow on air bombardment missions in the Philippines and Japan. On Guam Apra Harbor, now the location of Naval Base Guam, was suitable for the largest Navy vessels: and air bases for Boeing B-29 Super-fortresses to bomb Iwo Jima and mainland Japan. U.S. used an amphibious assaulting force of 59,401 personnel against a Japanese defending force of 19,597. U.S. Units involved consisted of: III Amphibious Corps, 3rd Marine Division, 77th Infantry Division, and 1st Provisional Marine Brigade. Japanese units involved: 29th Infantry Division, 1st Tank Division, 48th Ind.



Brigade, 10th Ind. Mixed Reg., 319th, 321st, 322nd, 820th Ind. Infantry Battalions.

From 14 – 17 July, Seabee Underwater Demolition Teams scouted the beaches and removed obstacles in support of the upcoming amphibious assault. At 0829 hours, 21 July, 1944 first troops of the Third Marines under the command of Major General Alan H. Turnage crossed Asan beach to begin the recapture of Guam from a determined and entrenched Japanese enemy.

Mortar shells rained down on the waters as thousands of US Marines rode Amtrak's and waded ashore. Japanese guns swept the beach from camouflaged pillboxes at Asan Point. Landing craft continually shuttled the dead and wounded back to the ships. Though hard-won the beachhead was not the final objective. As heavy fire continued to rain down from surrounding ridges, the Americans used Asan as a staging area for assaults on Japanese strongholds at Adelup Point, Chorito Cliff, Bundschu Ridge, and Fonte Plateau. 21 July, the U.S. Army's 77th Infantry Division under Major General Andrew D. Bruce lacked *Asan Beach Today* amphibious vehicles and had to wade from the



coral reefs to the shore at Agat beach. Japanese artillery sank 20 U.S. LVTs and inflicted heavy casualties

on landing troops, but by 09:00 United States had secured both beaches. By nightfall, the U.S. Marines and U.S. Soldiers had established beachheads 6600 deep. The Japanese enemy conducted numerous counterattacks, mostly at night, sometimes penetrating U.S. defense network. Some of the fiercest fighting raged in the hills opposite of Asan & Agat beaches, where the Japanese enemy constructed an elaborate tunnel network to fight from. U.S. assaulting forces pushed in and up the island of Guam and after intense fighting organized Japanese *Hills opposite of Asan beach today*



U.S suffered 1,777 KIA, 5798 WIA, and 23 MIA. The Japanese suffered over 18,337 KIA and surrendered 1,250 soldiers.

resistance ceased on 10 August. Guam was

the first US territory retaken from the Japanese. The islands capture opened the heartland of Japan to attack and hastened the end of the war in the Pacific. Moreover the following four individuals were recipients of the Medal of Honor recipients for their actions during the 2nd Battle of Guam: Captain Louis H. Wilson, Jr., Private First Class Leonard F. Mason, USMC (Posthumous), Private First Class Luther Skaggs Jr. USMC, and Private First Class Frank Witek, USMC.

Sargent Shoichi Yokoi was the last Japanese soldier to surrender on the island of Guam. Sargent Yokoi along with two other soldiers hid for over 28 years in a hidden underground cave. Sargent Yokoi's two companions eventually died before his surrender in 1972. The original cave was destroyed during a typhoon, but countless Japanese tourist pay their respect annually to Sargent Yokoi at a replica cave in Talofofo Falls, Guam.



Sargent Yokoi's cave diagram



In an interview years later, Sargent Yokoi admitted that during his years of hiding he was aware of Japan's defeat, but was too ashamed to surrender, he explained, "We Japanese soldiers were told to prefer death to the disgrace of *Sargent Yokoi's cave entrance* getting captured alive." Sargent Yokoi was a prime

example of the Japanese soldier's resolute discipline towards the Emperor, and which made him an extremely formidable foe for the U.S service member.

Unfortunately, I must close for now. I have a prime rib on the smoker and black-eye peas on the stove to tend (yes the Chapman's still carry on the New Year Day tradition). I pray that you all have a good year and I look forward to following F. Company during the upcoming campaign season. I'm sure you all will keep the Company's standard as the "Finest", and I have two new prospective recruits upon my return (my sons).

Take Care, your friend,

Pvt. Kendall Chapman.



Executive members with their voting sticks at Longstreet Corps 2019 annual meeting

Ode to Joe

