

# *Scuttlebutt*



***MILITARY SEA SERVICES MUSEUM, INC.***



***Mar/Apr 2023***



**John Cecil**

## ***A message from the President***

Ahoy Matey's. The MSSM fleet is underway again. Some of our parade models anchored at the St. John's Methodist Church on March 10 & 11, where they demonstrated the MSSM member building expertise and to recruit new members. The ships returned to their home port and will sail to the Sebring Airport on March 15<sup>th</sup>. They will be moored adjacent to the original Hendricks Army Field flagpole, which will be re-dedicated. The museum fleet has a lengthy list of future ports of call from the local community.

The first step in the museum expansion has been satisfied. The board has retained Cool & Cobb Engineering to develop conceptual plan drawings for review. Construction donations are graciously accepted, and one can rest assured, all will be put to good use.

Our Memorial Day celebration will be on 05/29/2023 @ 1400. The Museums 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary will commence immediately after.

The museum members are saddened by the loss of Jack Moore who passed on Feb 19, 2023, just 8 months before his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Jack fought in WWII and was a machine gunner during the Pearl Harbor attack on 12-07-1941.

As always, fair winds and following seas.

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## **Museum Happenings**

### **All lines are singled up in preparation for getting underway.**

In the parlance of landlubbers, the above statement can be interpreted as, things are starting to move regarding the expansion of the MSSM. An exploratory meeting was convened on 01/17/2023., with numerous MSSM members and a representative of a county engineering firm present. 20-year-old drawings of a possible expansion were perused. Using the age of the drawings, one can surmise how long this process has been kicking around. Discussed during this preliminary meeting were, in no specific order, building shape and square footage, roof design, additional restroom if required, plus handicap ramps and emergency exits. Additional mechanical and electrical requirements, HVAC, parking, fire exits, fire suppression and the rate of commercial construction. Of primary interest to all concerned is to build in a way this will facilitate future expansion. The list goes on, and on. Updates will be issued in subsequent Scuttlebutt's and developmental correspondence generated by the committee. Everyone involved is overjoyed that this much needed expansion process is moving forward. Bravo Zulu to all who have become involved and volunteered their time and expertise.

No, this is not a new depiction of the Last Supper. It is, in fact, the first monthly MSSM dinner of 2023. Imagine, if you will, 5 different soups, assorted meats and cheeses for sandwiches, salads, and deserts. A veritable cornucopia to titillate the taste buds. The 31 members and guests in attendance enjoyed the spread and many were observed going back for seconds.



President, John Cecil and Curator, Fred Carino each gave a brief overview of the ongoing process of increasing the size of the Museum and the hurdles being encountered. Both agreed that this is a long-term project and will require the efforts of as many volunteers as feasible. There will not be a shortage of tasks to be completed. Mike Borders spoke about the progress of the Medal of Honor Memorial Park being constructed in downtown Sebring.



Immediately after the dishes and cutlery were cleared, MSSM member, Ken Steel, former LT USNR and F4 Phantom II pilot (1960-1973) gave a presentation covering the History of the Navy's 1<sup>st</sup> generation of Jet Aircraft using models of each built by Ken and other military enthusiasts. All aircraft capabilities and drawbacks were discussed. Ken also spoke about the angle deck & optical landing systems used on modern aircraft carriers. Due to the weight & speed of jet aircraft, there was insufficient room for take offs and landings, plus aircraft parking. Following the Royal Navy initiative on angle decks, the US Navy developed an 8-degree offset landing deck which would not interfere with bow catapult launches and aircraft parking. Again, using information developed by Commander Nicholas Goodhart, RN., the US Navy started development and testing of an automated landing system, that would replace the flag or paddle waving Landing Signal Officer (LSO), This research led to the Fresnel Lens Optical Landing System, referred to by all carrier pilots as the meatball. "Roger Ball" grew to indicate that the pilot had visual contact with the automated landing system leaving the LSO with a radio phone and a pickle switch to indicate, using cut lights, that the pilot is cleared to land, add power, fouled deck, plus others. Thanks, Ken, for a very informative presentation.

On March 13, 1942, the Quartermaster Corps (QMC) of the United States Army begins training dogs for the newly established War Dog Program, or “**K-9 Corps.**”



No matter the branch of the military "**Semper Fidelis**" is their hallmark.

“We rest well in our beds at night because rough men and women (and wonderful dogs) stand ready to do violence against those who would threaten us.”

George Orwell

Well over a million dogs served on both sides during **World War I**, carrying messages along the complex network of trenches and providing some measure of psychological comfort to the soldiers. The most famous dog to emerge from the war was Rin Tin Tin, an abandoned puppy of German war dogs found in France in 1918 and taken to the United States, where he made his film debut in the 1922 silent film *The Man from Hell's River*. As the first bona fide animal movie star, Rin Tin Tin made the little-known German Shepherd breed famous across the country.



In the United States, the practice of training dogs for military purposes was largely abandoned after World War I. When the country entered **World War II** in December 1941, the American Kennel Association and a group called Dogs for Defense began a movement to mobilize dog owners to donate healthy and capable animals to the Quartermaster Corps of the U.S. Army. Training began in March 1942, and that fall the QMC was given the task of training dogs for the U.S. Navy, Marines and Coast Guard as well.

After World War II, due to lack of interest and budget issues the War Dog Programs were mostly cancelled and closed. The 26th Scout Dog Platoon however stayed intact to some

degree and moved from Front Royal Virginia to Fort Riley Kansas in 1948. On December 7th, 1951, the responsibility for dog training was transferred to the Military Police Corps and the 26th Scout Dog Platoon moved again to Fort Carson Colorado. The 26th Scout Dog Platoon was the only active War Dog Platoon to serve in the **Korean War**. The 26th Scout Dog Platoon served with honor and distinction in Korea from June 12th, 1951, to June 26th 1953.



During the late fifty's and early sixty's as very expensive jet aircraft and sophisticated weapons systems were developed, the Air Force had a permanent and on-going need for the use of Sentry Dogs to ensure the security of these installations. Due to lack of interest and dependability of the Army, in meeting the need of the Air Force for Sentry Dogs, the Air Force established its own Sentry Dog Training Facility in October 1958 at Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio Texas. Fort Benning Georgia served as the only Training Center for all Army and Marine Scout Dogs during the Vietnam War. The dogs were procured and inducted into the service

by the Air Force and sold to the Army for training as Scout Dogs. In July 1965 the first Air Force Sentry Dogs began arriving in **Vietnam** from Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, the Pacific Air Force Sentry Dog Center in Showa, Japan and Kadena Air Base, on Okinawa. These dogs-maintained perimeter watches at Bien Hoa, Binh Thuy, Can Ranh Bay, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Tuy Hoa, Phu Cat, Phan Rang, Tan Son Nhut and Pleiku. It is believed that over 9,000 handlers and 4,000 dogs served in Vietnam.

This short summary is only that. For a complete detailed history of the use of war dogs by the United States we urge you to read Mike Lemish's book **War Dogs, Canines in Combat**.



*Lest We not Forget Those That Never Complain and Remain at Our Side, Come Hell, or High Water. While we remember our troops, let's not forget our loyal dogs who are often fearlessly by their side. Man's Best Friend Serves Us All Well.*

# Bataan Death March

Within hours of their December 7, 1941, attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Japanese military began its assault on the Philippines, bombing airfields and bases, harbors and shipyards. Manila, the capital of the Philippines, sits on Manila Bay, one of the best deepwater ports in the Pacific Ocean, and it was, for the Japanese, a perfect resupply point for their planned conquest of the southern Pacific. After the initial air attacks, 43,000 men of the Imperial Japanese 14th Army went ashore on December 22 at two points on the main Philippine Island of Luzon. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the supreme commander of all Allied forces in the Pacific, cabled Washington, D.C., that he was ready to repel this main invasion force with 130,000 troops of his own.

MacArthur's claim was a fiction. In fact, his force consisted of tens of thousands of ill-trained and ill-equipped Filipino reservists and some 22,000 American troops who were, in effect, an amalgam of "spit-and-polish" garrison soldiers with no combat experience, artillerymen, a small group of plane-less pilots and ground crews, and sailors whose ships happened to be in port when Japanese forces bombed Manila and its naval yards. At the landing beaches, the Japanese soldiers quickly overcame these defenders and pushed them back, again and again until MacArthur was forced to execute a withdrawal to the jungle redoubt of the Bataan Peninsula. This thumblike piece of land on the west-central coast of Luzon, across the bay from Manila, measured some 30 miles (48 km) long and 15 miles (24 km) wide, with a range of mountains down the middle.

On **April 9, 1942**, Major General Edward P. King Jr. surrenders at Bataan, Philippines—against General Douglas MacArthur's orders—and 78,000 troops (66,000 Filipinos and 12,000 Americans), the largest contingent of U.S. soldiers ever to surrender, are taken captive by the Japanese. The Bataan Death March was the forcible transfer by the Imperial Japanese Army of these American and Filipino prisoners of war from Sainsain Point, Bagac, Bataan and Mariveles to Camp O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac, via San Fernando, Pampanga, the prisoners being forced to march despite many dying on the journey. The transfer began on April 9, 1942, after the three-month Battle of Bataan in the Philippines during World War II.



Route of the death march. The section from San Fernando to Capas was by rail cars.

Fallen soldiers.

Prisoners started out from Mariveles on April 10, and Bagac on April 11, converging in Pilar, Bataan, and heading north to the San Fernando railhead. At the beginning, there were rare instances of kindness by Japanese officers and those Japanese soldiers who spoke English, such as the sharing of food and cigarettes and permitting personal possessions to be kept. This, however, was quickly followed by unrelenting brutality, theft, and even knocking men's teeth out for gold fillings, as the common Japanese soldier had also suffered in the battle for Bataan and had nothing but disgust and hatred for his "captives" (Japan did not recognize these people as POWs). The first atrocity—attributed to Colonel Masanobu Tsuji<sup>1</sup> occurred when approximately 350 to 400 Filipino officers and NCOs under his supervision were summarily executed in the Pantangan River massacre after they had surrendered. Tsuji—acting against General Homma's wishes that the prisoners be transferred peacefully—had issued clandestine orders to Japanese officers to summarily execute all American "captives". Although some Japanese officers ignored the orders, others were receptive to the idea of murdering POWs.

During the march, prisoners received little food or water, and many died. They were subjected to severe physical abuse, including beatings and torture. On the march, the "sun treatment" was a common form of torture. Prisoners were forced to sit in sweltering direct sunlight without helmets or other head coverings. Anyone who asked for water was shot dead. Some men were told to strip naked or sit within sight of fresh, cool water. Trucks drove over some of those who fell or succumbed to fatigue, and "cleanup crews" put to death those too weak to continue, though some trucks picked up some of those too fatigued to go on. Some marchers were randomly stabbed with bayonets or beaten.

Once the surviving prisoners arrived in Balanga, the overcrowded conditions and poor hygiene caused dysentery and other diseases to spread rapidly. The Japanese did not provide the prisoners with medical care, so U.S. medical personnel tended to the sick and wounded with few or no supplies. Upon arrival at the San Fernando railhead, prisoners were stuffed into sweltering, brutally hot metal box cars for the one-hour trip to Capas, in 43 °C (110 °F) heat. At least 100 prisoners were pushed into each of the unventilated boxcars. The trains had no sanitation facilities, and disease continued to take a heavy toll on the prisoners.

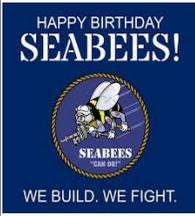
It was not until January 27, 1944, that the U.S. government informed the American public about the march, when it released sworn statements of military officers who had escaped.

General **George Marshall** made the following statement:

“These brutal reprisals upon helpless victims evidence the shallow advance from savagery which the Japanese people have made. We serve notice upon the Japanese military and political leaders as well as the Japanese people that the future of the Japanese race itself, depends entirely and irrevocably upon their capacity to progress beyond their aboriginal barbaric instincts’.



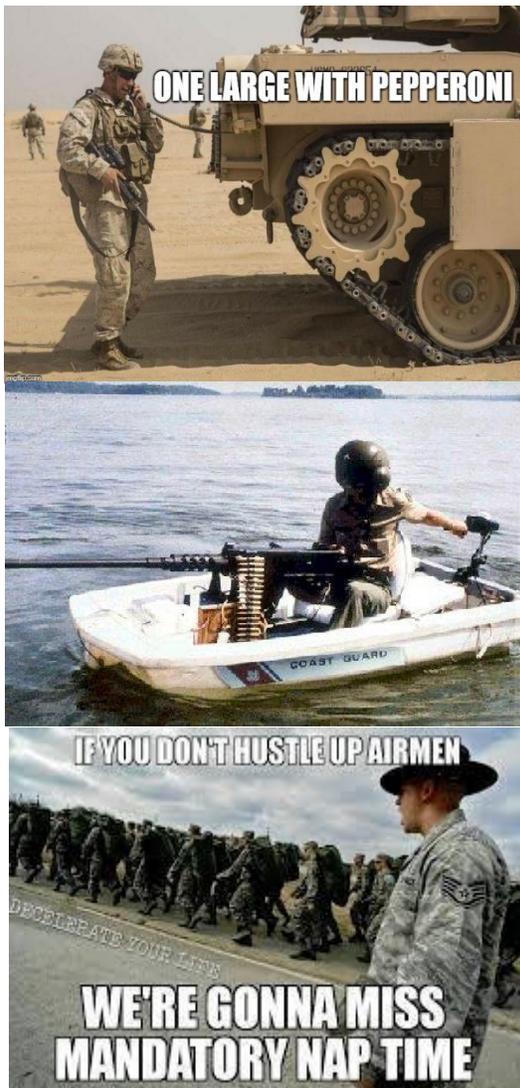
## March 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 	2	3	4
5 	6 <b>Vietnam Veterans Assn Meeting 1800</b>	7	8 <b>MSSM Board Mtg 1630</b>	9	10	11
12 	13	14	15	16	17 	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 
26 <b>MSSM Monthly Dinner 1430</b>	27	28	29 	30	31	
	<p><b>03/04/1747 - Revolutionary war hero <u>Casimir Pulaski</u> was born in Poland. Before aiding in the American Revolution, he was a military leader in Poland's struggle against Imperial Russia. He joined the Americans in 1777 and fought alongside General Washington at Brandywine, then served at Germantown and Valley Forge. He was mortally wounded during a heroic charge in the Siege of Savannah, Georgia.</b></p>					

## April 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 
2 	3 <b>Vietnam Veterans Assn Mtg 1800</b>	4	5	6	7 	8
9 	10	11	12 <b>MSSM Board Mtg 1630</b>	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 
23 <b>MSSM Monthly Dinner 1430</b>	24	25	26 	27	28	29
30	<p><b>April 4, 1968 - Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tennessee. As head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he had championed non-violent resistance to end racial oppression and had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He is best remembered for his <i>I Have a Dream</i> speech delivered at the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington. That march and King's other efforts helped the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965</b></p>					

# Humor in Uniform



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