



VFW Post 8870

Edmonds, WA
www.vfw8870.org
Jim Traner, Editor

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Volume 2, Issue 5
May 1, 2008

Post Officers for 2008 -2009

Commander	Duane Pounds
Senior Vice Commander	Jim Traner
Junior Vice Commander	Rock Roth
Quartermaster/Adjutant	Elizabeth Mather
Surgeon	Al Boyett
Chaplain	Edgar Gray, Jr.
Judge Advocate	Jim Harkness
1st Year Trustee	Richard Marin
2nd Year Trustee	Buck Weaver
3rd Year Trustee	Les Abel

With no additional nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and approved by the members in attendance. A couple of the candidates attempted to escape, but were voted in anyway.

Rock Roth Heads up Fourth of July Parade & Student Writing Contest

You can tell Rock was an officer. He wasn't able to dodge "volunteering" for chairing both the Fourth of July parade and the Patriot's Pen, a youth-essay writing contest. A good enlisted man would have at least gotten out of one of them. However, Rock made the mistake of doing an excellent job on both of the details last year, so he now is in charge of them for this year. If any of you are interested in giving him a hand, I'm sure he could use the help.

By the way, the top prize for the essay contest is \$10,000. The theme this year is "Why American's Veterans Should be Honored. If you have any one who is interested in the competition, Rock would be happy to give them an application. Deadline for the essays is November 1, 2008.

Poppy Sign-ups

At the risk of totally boring everyone, Phil still has openings for Memorial Day weekend. This is a great opportunity for those members who have trouble attending the meetings to team up with other members and learn a bit about the Post while raising funds for vets and families of vets. Phil's phone number is 425-741-7311.



Member Profile—Ken Chaplin

I caught Ken Chaplin after the March meeting and asked him to write a short piece about his military bio. Somehow, I ended up taking notes and doing the darn piece myself so any inaccuracies are both Ken's and my fault. Ken, like most of us, was a happy civilian working for the Massachusetts Highway Department when Uncle Sam caught up to him. The Highway Department required you to be 21 so Ken's application showed he was, of course, 21 although his birth certificate showed him to be a few years younger. However, the MA draft board only looked at his employment and figured he hadn't registered for the draft. They decided to rectify the situation, and Ken, like the rest of us, soon found himself wearing a lot of green most of the time from December



Ken Chaplin, long-time member of VFW Post 8870, shows the VFW colors.

Meeting Place & Time

VFW Post 8870 meets the second Friday of each month (except November which is the third Friday) at the Senior Center located at 220 Railroad Ave. Edmonds, WA 98020. We welcome all veterans of foreign wars to attend our meetings. If you need any additional information, please contact our Quartermaster.

Need A Lift?

If you need a lift to the meeting, just give Liz Mather, the quartermaster, a call or drop her an email. We can't promise we can get everyone, but we sure will give it a good try. A lot of guys are getting grounded, so to speak, but that isn't a good reason to miss a meeting. On the other hand, if you are interested in providing transportation to a fellow member, let Liz know and she can match riders with drivers.



Member Profile—Ken Chaplin—Continued

1940 until he was discharged. Ken ended up infantry, volunteered to go airborne and served in the Pacific Theatre with the 503rd Infantry (Airborne). I'll be perfectly honest, I didn't realize that the airborne was utilized in the Pacific Theatre, but Ken made 4 combat jumps and 2 walk-ins as he called them, although I suspect they weren't exactly walk-ins, per se. He saw combat on Noemfoor off the coast of New Guinea to Leyte in the Philippines with a couple of stops along the way. Somewhere along the line, Ken was walking past a tunnel when the enemy detonated an explosive device. After being airborne for a while without the aid of an airplane, Ken found himself on the ground and in need of medic, earning the Purple Heart. I did a bit of research on line regarding his battalion. From the records I dug up, the 503rd killed over 10,000 Japanese during its combat operations in the Southwest Pacific and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for bravery on Corregidor. Ken received a battlefield commission and was a 2nd Lt. until the war ended when he reverted to his previous rank, PFC.

The Purpose and Eligibility Requirements for VFW

This is a repeat from last month but worth repeating for those who didn't have an opportunity to read it. When you run into a veteran, perhaps these requirements will help you in determining whether he or she is eligible.

The Purpose of the Veterans of Foreign Wars shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies, whomsoever."

A person may not be a member of the VFW unless that person –

1. Served honorably as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service has been recognized as campaign-medal service and is governed by the authorization of the award of a campaign badge by the Government of the United States; or
2. While a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, served honorably on the Korean peninsula or in its territorial waters for not less than 30 consecutive days, or a total of 60 days, after June 30, 1949, or
3. While a member of the armed forces serving in an area which entitled the individual to receive special pay for duty subject to hostile fire or imminent danger.

SOCIAL EVENTS IN MAY

Saturday, May 10th

Post 8870 invites all members and their wives to a social meeting to be held at 12 noon at the Highland Park Association meeting room – 500 Elm Way, Edmonds, WA – just off 5th Avenue. Lunch will be provided. This is an excellent opportunity to meet socially with other members of the post, especially those of you who can't make the monthly meetings. A side meeting of officers of the post and those involved in the ebay sales project will be held. Those not involved can put in their 2 cents worth. Contact Liz Mather e.t.mather@comcast.net or (425) 672-0279 for directions.

On Friday, May 23, the Edmonds Senior Center is offering a special lunch menu (not the usual fare) in honor of Memorial Day.

Carnival salad

Chicken corn fritters and fries in basket

Fresh fruit

Ice cream

Veterans of Post 8870 who meet at the Center are invited to come. The lunch tickets are a suggested donation of \$2.50 and are sold beginning at 11 a.m. The Center will make an acknowledgement of all veterans in attendance at lunch time. Robert Stivers has graciously agreed to a request to perform taps with the bugle and this will be followed by a moment of silence in remembrance of our fallen heroes.



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And Now a Word from Our Advertisers

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The Last Word

I was recently telling a story about receiving a package from my dad while in the field in Vietnam. I eagerly opened it but much to my chagrin, I found it full of Tropical Chocolate Bars. Now a few of these things were included in SP packages that each track got every couple of weeks. They were inedible as far as I could determine. Having the consistency of paraffin and an unknown melting point as I never saw one even get soft although the temperature most of the time was in the 90's or 100's, we mostly just threw them to the kids along the road. I'm not sure, but I think a few may have been thrown back at us. Anyway, the package is buried somewhere in SE Asia and someday a thousand years from now will be found and those bars will still be edible or, rather, still inedible as the case may be. Anyway, I looked up these things on the internet, and low and behold, I found an article on the history of chocolate in the military. Since this article covered just about all of our experiences (regardless of age) with military chocolate, I thought I would share it with you. I admit, it is totally plagiarized from Wikipedia's website. Anyway, I've included it in this newsletter for your reading pleasure.



A Little Trivia (with all due respect to Leroy Middleton) on Military Chocolate

United States military chocolate—from Wikipedia

Military chocolate has been a part of standard U.S. armed forces rations since 1937, and is issued to troops as part of basic field rations and sundry packs. Chocolate rations served two purposes: as a moral boost, and as a high-energy, pocket-sized emergency ration. Military chocolate rations are often made in special lots to military specifications for weight, size, and endurance. A majority of chocolate issued to military personnel is produced by the Hershey Company.

When provided as a morale boost or care package, military chocolate is often no different from normal store bought bars in taste and composition. However, they are frequently packaged or molded differently. The World War II K-ration included a bar of Hershey's sweet chocolate. But instead of being the typical flat thin bar, the K-ration chocolate was a thick rectangular bar that was square at each end.

When provided as an emergency field ration, military chocolate was very different from normal bars. Since it was provided as a quick emergency food source, officials initially outlined that it should not be a tempting treat that troops might eat before they needed it. But even as attempts to improve the flavor were made, the heat-resistant chocolate bars never received rave reviews. Emergency ration chocolate bars were made to be high in energy value, be easy to carry and to withstand high temperatures. Withstanding high temperatures was extremely important, since infantrymen would be outdoors, sometimes in tropical or desert conditions, with the bars in their pockets against their bodies. These conditions would make any normal chocolate bar melt within minutes.

The first emergency chocolate ration bar commissioned by the United States Army was the Ration D Bar. Army Quartermaster Colonel Paul Logan approached Hershey's Chocolate in April 1937, and met with William Murrie, the company president, and Sam Hinkle, the chief chemist. Milton Hershey was extremely interested in the project when he was informed of the proposal, and the meeting began the first experimental production of the Ration D bar.

Colonel Logan had four requirements for the Ration D Bar. It had to:

1. Weigh 4 ounces
2. Be high in food energy value
3. Be able to withstand high temperatures
4. Taste "little better than a boiled potato"

Logan believed if the chocolate bar tasted good, troops would eat them casually instead of waiting until they needed them for an emergency meal.

Chief chemist Hinkle was forced to develop entirely new production methods to produce the bars. Chocolate manufacturing equipment was built to move a flowing mixture of liquid chocolate and oat flour into preset molds. However, the temperature-resistant formula of chocolate became a gooey paste that would not flow at any temperature. To produce the bars, each four ounce portion had to be kneaded, weighed, and pressed into a mold by hand. The end result was a hard block of dark brown chocolate that would crumble with some effort. The three pack of the four ounce bars was intended to furnish the individual combat soldier with the 1,800 calorie minimum sustenance recommended each day.

Colonel Logan was pleased with the first small batch of samples. In June 1937, the United States Army ordered 90,000 "Logan Bars" and field tested them at bases in the Philippines, Panama, on the Texas border, and at other bases throughout the United States. Some of the bars even found their way into the supplies for Admiral Byrd's third Antarctic expedition. These field tests were successful, and the Army began making irregular orders for the bars.

With the onset of America's involvement in World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the bars were ordered to be packaged to make them poison gas proof. Numerous changes in the packaging were made to reflect shortages and Army requests from 1941 to 1945.



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In 1943, the Procurement Division of the Army approached Hershey about producing a confectionery style chocolate bar with improved flavor that would still withstand extreme heat. After a short period of experimentation, the Hershey company began producing Hershey's Tropical Bar. This bar was more similar to normal chocolate bars in shape and flavor than the Ration D Bar. The bar exceeded all tonnage for any other item produced by the wartime Hershey factory, including the Ration D Bar. While attempts to retain the sweetened flavor were somewhat successful, many troops found the chocolate tough and unappetizing. Nonetheless, it was perfect as a quick snack in the field, or as barter material.

It is estimated that between 1940 and 1945, over 3 billion of the Ration D Bars and Tropical Bars were produced and distributed to soldiers throughout the world. In 1939, the Hershey plant was capable of producing 100,000 ration bars a day. By the end of World War II, the entire Hershey plant was producing ration bars at a rate of 24 million a week. For their service throughout World War II, the Hershey Chocolate Company was issued five Army-Navy 'E' Production Awards for exceeding expectations for quality and quantity in the production of the Ration D Bar and Tropical Bar.

Production of the Ration D bar was discontinued at the end of World War II. However, the Hershey's Tropical Bar remained a standard ration for the United States Armed Forces. The Tropical Bar saw action in Korea and Vietnam. The Tropical Bar returned to fame briefly when it was included onboard Apollo 15 in July 1971.

During Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, Hershey's Chocolate tested a new high temperature chocolate that they dubbed the Desert Bar. Hershey's shipped 144,000 Desert Bars to American troops, as a test market for the new chocolate bar. According to Hershey's, the bar could withstand heat in excess of 60 degrees Celsius (140 degrees Fahrenheit). While Army spokesmen said the bar's taste was good, troop reactions were mixed and the bar was not launched into commercial production.



VFW POST 8870 MEETING April 11, 2008

The meeting opened in proper order at 1235 with a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Ed Grey read the eulogy to John Broderick that was delivered at a ceremony aboard ship held on February 16th when John's ashes were scattered to the sea. Buck Weaver led the company in the singing of "America the Beautiful". The roll call of officers found the Service Officer, Judge Advocate and 2nd Year Trustee absent. There were 16 members in attendance. There were no new membership applications. The minutes of the March meeting and the Quartermaster's report for the month of March were approved as read.

Rock Roth stated he received a letter from the city about the 4th of July parade. He will assume responsibility for the parade again this year, and will contact the city to see if the \$25 charge per vehicle can be waived.

On the sick list were the wife of Harold Huston, Dexter Miller, Bob Crawford, Julie Pounds and Buck Weaver (present at the meeting nevertheless). General Orders #7 were passed around to be read. Surgeon Al Boyett gave the Hospital and Community Service reports.

Poppy Chairman Phil Sacks reported that shifts at QFC were filled but there are still open shifts at Safeway and Tops Market. He once again urged members to sign up for 2 back to back shifts, if possible. The post has met its objective for buying poppies this year, and has a large surplus on hand.

Rock Roth will chair the Voice of Democracy essay contest for 2008-2009 with Dexter Miller as his assistant.

Newsletter editor Jim Traner passed around extra copies of the latest newsletter and complimented Jean Whalley on the article she submitted on her service in the WACS, and expressed his admiration for her participation in the Normandy invasion.

Jim Harkness' nomination for Judge Advocate was approved by the members. A motion was made, seconded and passed to vote in all the officers nominated for their respective posts.

E Bay Sales Chair Earl Prebezac reported that he will prepare a list of items that have been most successful and those not successful in generating sales on ebay. Delivery, storage, evaluation and presentation of items will all need to be discussed. Commander Duane Pounds stated a combined social and ebay sales meeting will be planned. The meeting will be open to all members on a social basis, and to post officers and workers involved in the ebay project.

The Quartermaster stated that there is only one item listed in the VFW supply catalog for Scout awards, and that is a certificate which requires 4 weeks for delivery and includes the scout's name and post as well as two signatories. There are no belt buckles available for purchase. Les Abel stated there 3 scout posts in the area – 312, 301, and 300. The scout program will be further discussed at the social/business meeting.

The Quartermaster reported on the Veterans Resource Fair sponsored by US Representative Jay Inslee and the topics that were covered by representatives of various veterans programs.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to pay \$10 for registering one delegate to the VFW National Convention to be held in Orlando, Florida August 16-21.

Chaplain Ed Grey requested that the post keep him informed of any member who may be ailing or hospitalized.

Buck Weaver will contact the Director of the Edmonds Community College Arts Department in reply to his request for a speaker who served in Europe during World War II.

The Quartermaster will send a list of all the posts in District One to Dr. Bill Gould in response to his request for contact information for those posts. Dr. Gould also stated he would like to come to VFW post meetings to give his talk on Ranger Training. He will be invited to Post 8870's June meeting.

The meeting closed at 1345 with a prayer delivered by Chaplain Ed Gray and a salute to the flag.