

Happy 250th Birthday



Coop's Corner



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Happy 250th Birthday, Marine Corps!

On November 10, 1775, the Continental Congress established the United States Marine Corps. The “Eight Originals” were under the command of Benedict Arnold. Marines were used in all navies as boarding parties for enemy ships and to control unruly sailors at sea. Ship life was hard with four hours on duty and four hours off duty seven days a week at sea.

British Marines were called “boot necks” by sailors. Then in 1798 the U.S. Marine Corps members were issued a leather collar to protect their neck in battle, and the term “Leathernecks” was given to members of the Corps. The Corps has been with the U.S. Navy in every engagement from the American Revolution to the present. During the Mexican War, the storming of the Chapultepec Castle had a high casualty rate of NCOs and officers, which earned them the “blood stripe” down the outside of their trouser leg on their dress blue uniforms. Over the many years, the Marines have been the unit that was sent into action in the Caribbean and Central and South American countries for what was termed police actions.

The Marine Corps Hymn was sung, and the phrase *semper fidelis*, shortened to *semper fi* and meaning “always faithful,” was adopted in 1883. The Marine Corps moved more into the public image during the Spanish-American War with John Philip Sousa’s musical military marches.

Then during the Great War, the Germans met the Marines at the Battle of Belleau Wood and suffered such high casualties that they called the Marines “Devil Dogs.” At that battle, two phrases have come down in Marine Corps history. One is “Retreat? We just got here?” and the other is “Come on, you sons __ __, do you want to live forever?” The last statement was by Gunnery Sergeant Dan Daly, who won the Medal of Honor twice.

I should note here that an Army is made of four divisions, and the United States Marine Corps had just three divisions until World War II. Their uniform and the expanded size made them more notable to the public, and the Corps was good at public relations. During this time, the Marines wore their haircut “high and tight.” In their blue dress uniforms, the sailors said they looked like Mason jars and began referring to Marines as “jarheads” as an intermilitary insult.

The war in the Pacific showcased the Marine Corps’ abilities with amphibious lands as they pushed ahead in battles at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, and other battles. It was at Iwo Jima that the Corps made national news, with the photo of flag raising on Mount Suribachi by six Marines of the 5th Marine Division. Three individuals would be killed in action on the island. The Marines had the best public relations campaign, with a high degree of camaraderie *esprit de corps*.

Code talkers in the Marine Corps were not new to the U.S. Military. Native Americans were always a part of the U.S. military operations. During the Civil War, Colonel Ely S. Parker, born Hasanoanda and later called Donehogawa, was a member of the Seneca Tribe. He was an aide with General U.S. Grant and figured in the surrender of Robert E. Lee. Parker played a part in drafting the surrender papers and was an engineer who helped on the Erie Canal. The Great War had code talkers from seven tribes, mainly the Choctaw. During World War II, there were 34 tribes in the Code Talkers, with the Diné, or Navajo, in the Pacific Theater.

After the war, the U.S. Military was going through rapid changes, with the Army Air Corps splitting off to become the Air Force. Some military leaders wanted to move the Corps under the Army command. That ended during the Korean War, when General McArthur insisted on using Marine Corps for what it does best—amphibious lands. McArthur’s plan was to hit the North Koreans behind their lines at Inchon, where the tides are almost 30 feet high. The landing at Inchon turned the battle conditions to favor the Allied forces until the Chinese entered the war. The Marines were caught and encircled at the Chosen Reservoir by six Chinese armies. When Chesty Puller was told of this, he replied, “Excellent, now we can attack in any direction!” At another time, when asked if the Marines were retreating, he said, “Retreat! We’re just attacking in a different direction!” The Marines commanded the front page.

During the Vietnam War, U.S. Marines were under siege for 77 days at fire base camp Khe Sanh and fought at the Battle of Huê during the Tet Offensive. After that battle, the Viet Cong was done as a fighting unit, and the North Vietnamese Regular Army took over the campaign. The war started with the 9th Marines entering Vietnam, and the withdrawal began with the 9th Regiment “Walking Dead” pulling out and going home. They had the highest casualty rate in Vietnam—over 25% killed in action.

In 1983, the Marines were sent into Lebanon and were stationed there when a truck was driven up to the Marine barracks on October 23 and detonated a bomb, killing 220 Marines, 18 U.S. Navy men, and 3 Army soldiers. The Marine Corps saw action during the Bosnian War and the Gulf War, with three different battles at Fallujah over the years. Fallujah was the largest battle the Marines had fought since Huê. The last action in Afghanistan by the Corps was at Abbey Gate at the Kabul Airport. A suicide bomber was detonated, killing 170 civilians, 11 Marines, one Army member and one Navy member.

This Nov. 10 will be the 250th year that the Marine Corps had stood in line to defend this nation. Those of us that served are still Marines. “Once a Marine, always a Marine!”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Happy Thanksgiving

First Thanksgiving

The Protestant Reformation in 1517 opened the religious beliefs in Europe with the development of other church doctrines. Then in 1534, King Henry VIII established the Church of England, which set off religious dissent in England with the Puritans. This group wanted to purify the church. Another group of dissenters were the Pilgrims, who wanted to completely separate from the Church of England. Their journey took them to Plymouth on the Mayflower in 1620.

After a year of struggle and help from the Wampanoag Native Americans, the Pilgrims signaled their first end of harvest with a three-day celebration that today we call Thanksgiving. The food that was served is not completely known today. We do know there was wildfowl, corn, porridge, and venison. This is verified by written records left by two of the participants. Edward Winslow wrote to a friend in England, "Our harvest being gotten in ..., King Massasoit (of Wampanoag) came with some 90 men." William Bradford recorded "... besides waterfowl, there was a great store of wild turkey – venison – corn."

The foods that were available to the Pilgrims were fish, shellfish, ducks, geese, turkeys, venison, various nuts (walnuts, chestnuts, and acorns), wild berries, beans,

squash, pumpkins, onions, leeks, and grapes. The Vikings had called the land Vineland for all the wild grapes they found growing in North America. The Native Americans helped the colony survive by supporting them with farming techniques. The New England soil was not rich in nutrients. They also showed the new settlers how to collect maple syrup.

What began as a community gathering at the end of the harvest period slowly developed into family gatherings. There are some 13 nations that celebrate a day of Thanksgiving. Canada held their first Thanksgiving in 1579 with Martin Frobisher's celebration for a successful voyage. Ghana holds the Homowo Festival for the end of their harvest of the yams in August. Japan celebrates workers and community with the Kinro Kansha no Hi festival. Germany holds the Erntedankfest a festival to give thanks for the harvest, and Korea holds the Chuseok thanksgiving festival, also known as Hangawi.

The American Thanksgiving celebration had been adopted in Brazil in the 1940s with the Dia de Acao de Gracias festival in Grenada in 1983, and in Liberia with its association with freed slaves returning to Africa. Wherever the celebration is held, it is about community and family gatherings. Happy Thanksgiving!

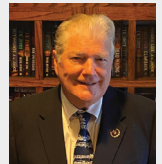


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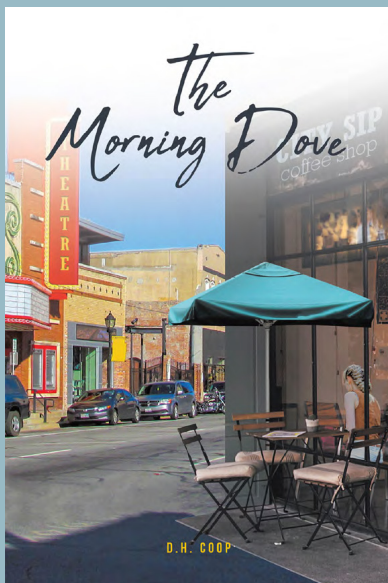
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D.H. Coop is a retired fire/paramedic and retired teacher having taught IB and AP World History 30 years. He continues to write, tutor and consult.

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A madcap satire set in a small beach town. When an early morning small fire breaks out in a vacant theatre, the town gossip, Mabel, starts a chain of events that has local, state and federal governers in a state of panic. Mabel's odd behaviors make for a hilarious story.

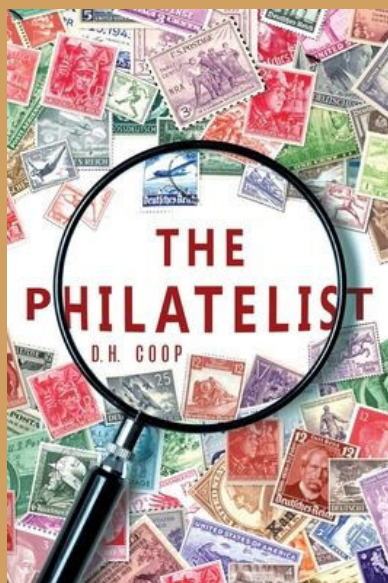


While hospitalized, a soldier, Joe, received a package of cookies. The simple act of kindness from a stranger helped the soldier during his recovery. For many years Joe and his wife repaid the kindness by anonymously sending packages of cookies to local hospitals for first responders and military individuals. When Joe passed away his grandson carried on the cookie tradition. One day a local reporter happened to be in a hospital when a package of cookies arrived for a patient. The reporter was determined to discover the name of the anonymous sender, which set off a string of events.

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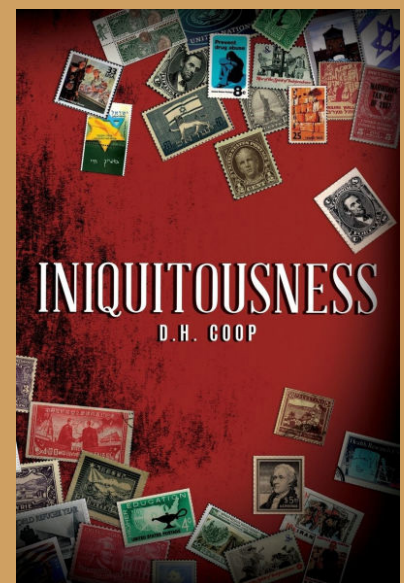
Follow C.E. Hall, a fire insurance investigator/philatelist through a series of events that begins with an international stamp book



The trilogy begins with *The Philatelist*, where the death of an elderly German lady sets off a series of events that leads to murder and links to the historical past. The key to the events is an international stamp book that C.E. Hall, a fire insurance investigator/philatelist, purchased from a stamp store. The stamp book is a record of a mysterious organization that links back before World War II. Powerful figures are trying to find the stamp book as C.E. Hall tries to unravel the mystery held within the stamp book. As C.E. Hall goes through the book, he discovers a sinister organization that had possibly tried to assassinate world leaders during World War II.



Opportunity for Evil is the second book in a trilogy with C. E. Hall as a fire investigator and FBI consultant. The local fire chief has called C.E. Hall to investigate the cause of a small fire in a print shop. When a body is discovered in an adjoining stamp store the investigation takes a turn when looking into the cause of death. The coroner finds a series of rare stamps that are counterfeit. FBI agent Nick Thomson joins the investigation. C.E. Hall and Nick uncovered that the counterfeit stamps have links to criminal organizations from drug cartels to the Russian Mafia, Chinese spies, and middle east terrorists. The groups had been using the stamps as a way to launder international money.



While unraveling this case they discover a link with the past sinister case of a post-Nazi organization in the first book, *The Philatelist*. To find the answers C.E. and Nick first must weave their way through interlocking webs of a drug cartel, Chinese espionage, and break-up a terrorist plot in the port of Los Angeles before they bring down international bankers that finance criminal activities.