

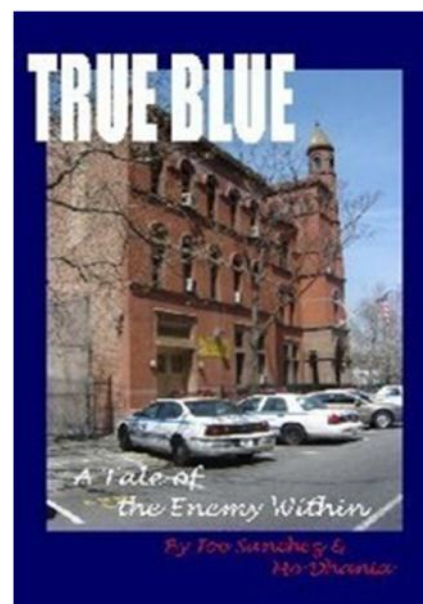
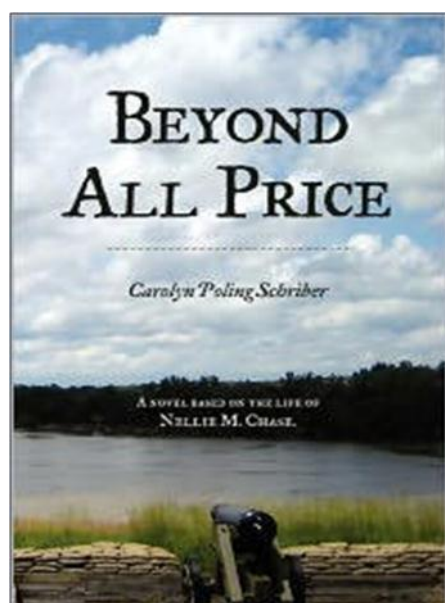
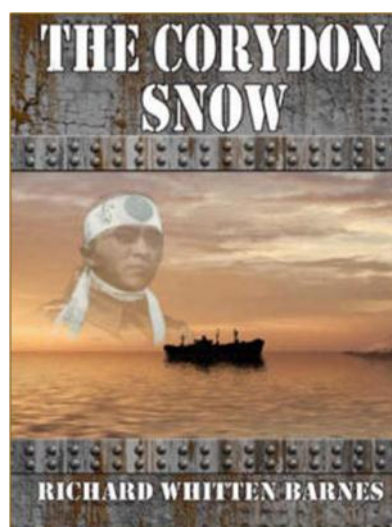
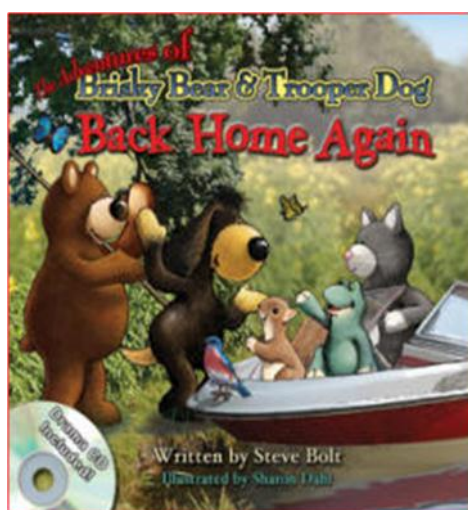
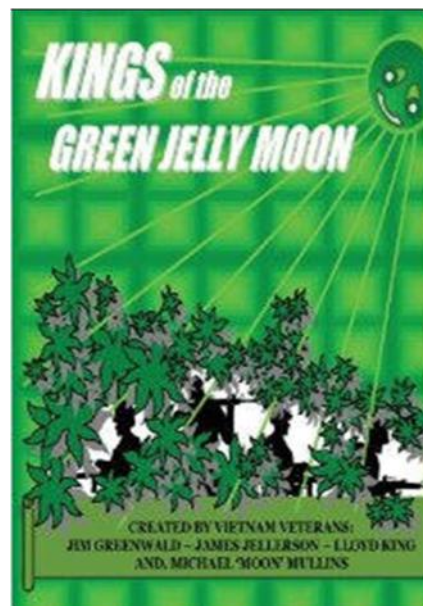
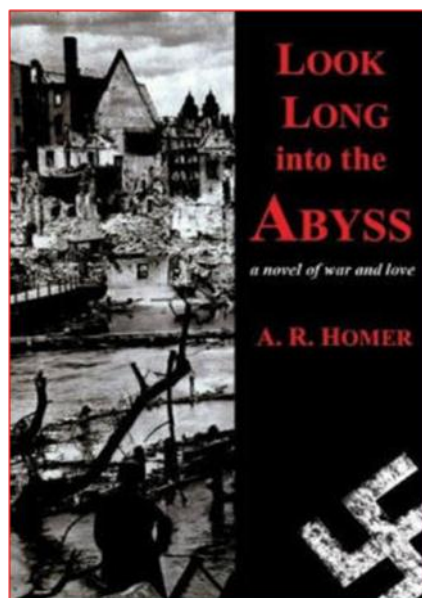
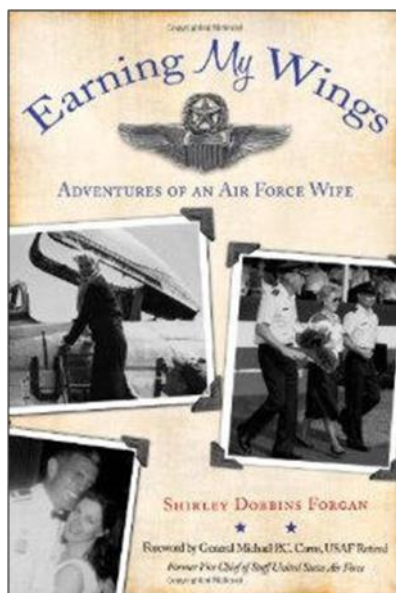
DISPATCHES

Monthly Magazine
MILITARY
WRITERS
SOCIETY
OF AMERICA

September/October 2011

MWSA Book Award Nominations for 2011





From the Editor...

Hi everyone,

I'm looking forward to introducing you to someone very special. Lillie Leonardi was an FBI agent who was responsible for community outreach in Pittsburgh. She was one of the folks called to Shanksville, PA on September 11, 2001 where her life changed forever. She has since retired from the FBI to deal with her PTSD issues related to that trauma and others—and has written three books. Check out her site at: LillieLeonardi.com. Lillie will be joining us at the conference and will participate on the panel moderated by Leila Levinson on writing and PTSD. Her doctor and co-author, Dr. Deborah Conway will also join us.

It's Time. Time to pack up a few books (don't go over board folks, bring maybe 5-10, no more) and head toward Pittsburgh. Make dates with old friends who you've met at other conferences and explore once again the soul of another writer. If you are an old hand, take time to meet and greet members who have never attended before. Introduce them to others and invite them to join you coffee. Listen to each others' stories. During the OPEN MIC, enjoy the talent and potential of your fellow members. Be real and supportive. If you win something, celebrate! Even if you don't win something, celebrate! Most importantly—relax and let conference flow over you. See you soon!

Joyce Faulkner, President of MWSA

MWSAPresident@gmail.com



Dispatches Staff

Joyce Faulkner — Editor
Mike Mullins — Columnist
Charles Bailey—Cartoonist
Joyce Gilmour—Columnist
Marcia Sargent—Columnist
Dwight Jon Zimmerman—Columnist
Jim Greenwald—Columnist
Bob Doerr—Columnist
Jack Woodville London—Columnist

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**CELEBRATE
TOGETHER!
MWSA 2011 CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 12
PITTSBURGH AIRPORT
MARRIOTT**

This publication includes works of perspective, reflection, fiction, and poetry.

Fighter Pilot Lessons For Life



Looking Good at the Field

One of the major tenets of fliers involved looking good at the field—the airfield. That meant pilots and RIOs—Radar Intercept Officers who sat in the backseat—were allowed to do wild and crazy things, even encouraged to do wild and crazy things in the air and on the ground. However, if they didn't show to advantage while doing whatever, they knew they'd get a ration of shit ranging from being given a bad time, all the way to losing the respect of any flier who heard the story. Most pilots would rather die than look bad. However, no pilot believed he could or would die—the wings conferred immortality. Other guys died. Stupid guys, young guys, and guys who had no luck. No pilot claimed fallibility or stupidity—except after they escaped by the skin of their plane from the teeth of death. Then they had joined the “goddam lucky bastards” club and they were golden. Grins all around.

I hate looking bad anywhere. No one likes to look a fool, but my daughters are much more relaxed about their physical appearance. My hair has to be freshly washed, blown dry. My makeup has to be applied and my clothes worthy at least of a lunch date if I am going to step out to the store—or even step out to get the paper. My youngest daughter will rubberband her sleep hair into a sumo knot on top of her head, drool tracks still apparent across her cheek, and run out to Ralph's grocery store dressed in pajama bottoms and a ratty sweatshirt. I envy her confidence. Actually, my non-maternal, little green meany side is totally pissed off at her.

And then I wonder, who do I meet at the grocery store or getting my paper? Why do I care how I look to the strangers and my neighbors? My life



Marcia Sargent
Author of “Wing
Wife: How To Be Married To A Marine
Fighter Pilot,”
Chair of MWSA Blog,
MWSAMember-
talk.blogspot.com

as a writer is internal and they have no control over whether I publish or perish. Come to think of it—I've seen some of them outside in CRAZY outfits with CRAZY hair. I am going to get my paper tomorrow wearing my robe and slippers. Proudly.

Change comes in small, often crazy increments. Looking good at the field is in the mind of the doer.

<http://www.marciasargent.com>

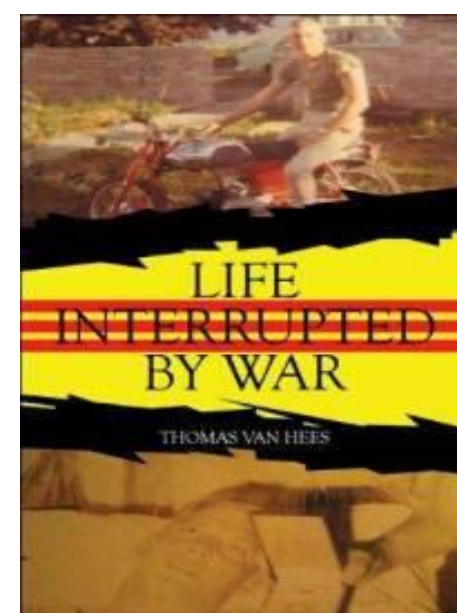
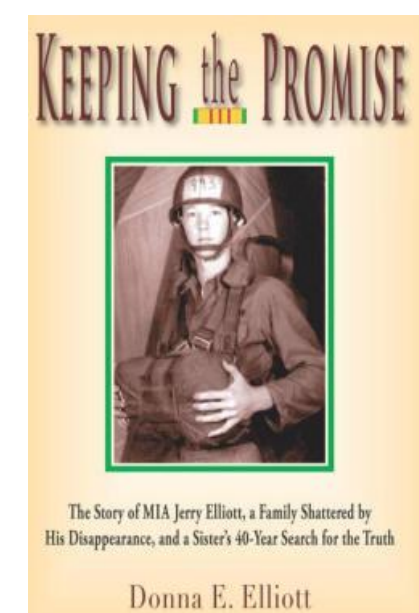
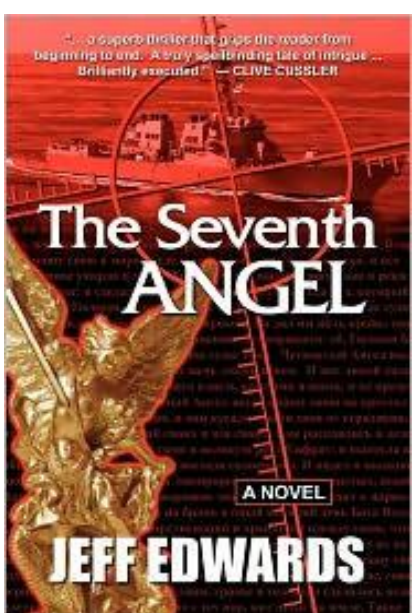
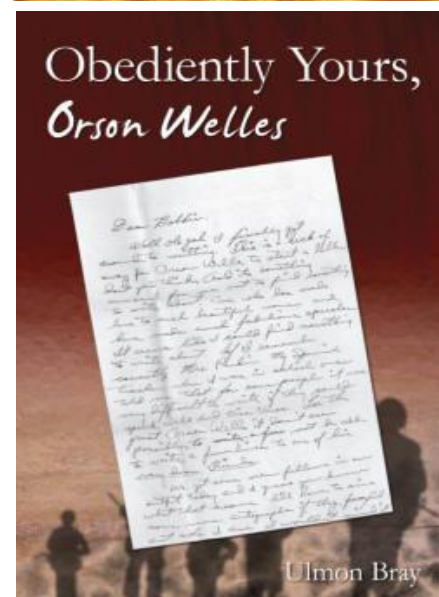
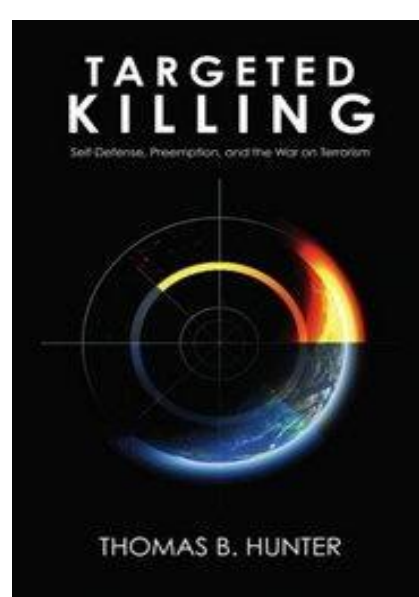
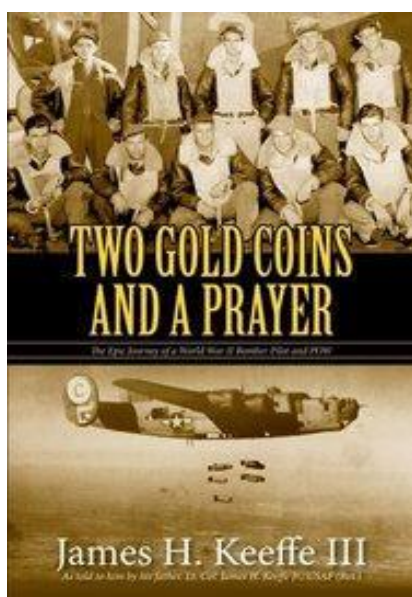
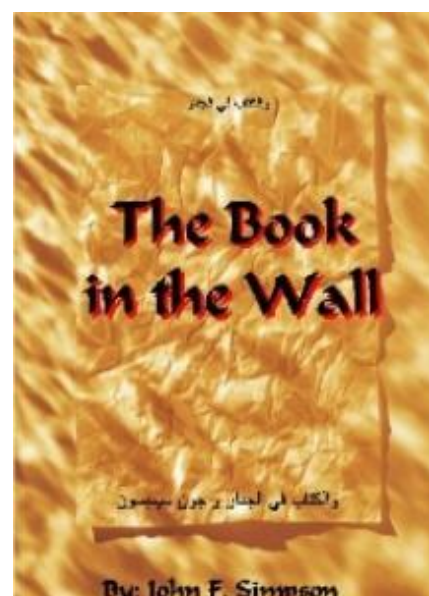
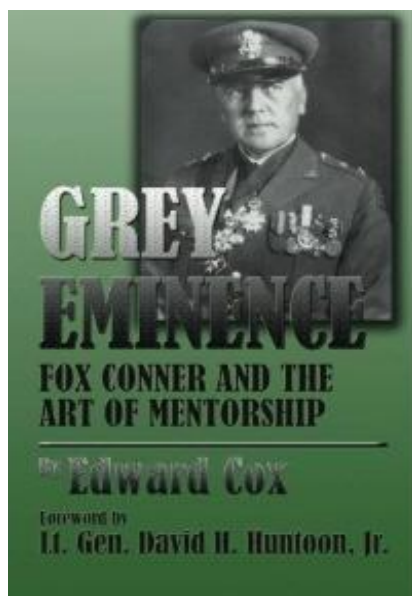
EDITORS NOTE: Marcia Sargent is MWSA 2011 Nominee for Non-Fiction/Memoir for her book, *Wing Wife: How to Be Married To A Marine Fighter Pilot*.

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MWSA Conference Programming

*** Topics are firm, timing is still tentative pending confirmation of some presenters & panelists. ***
Thursday September 29—Sunday October 2, 2011 Pittsburgh Airport Marriott (PAM)

Thursday, September 29—Pittsburgh Airport Marriott

Lobby

Coraopolis/Findley/Moon

Regatta Grill

Bridgeville Library

Registration &
Book Table
10AM-4PM

Meet & Greet
with Officers & Board
members
11AM-1:30 PM

Orientation 1:30 PM
Buffett Lunch 2PM
Writing Workshop with
Special Guests
2:30-4:30 PM



**MWSA Event &
Booksigning 6:00-8:30
PM**

Dwight Zimmerman, Louis
Intres, Marc Yablonka, Leila
Levinson, Darlene Iskra, Betsy
Beard, Jack Manick, Dick
Hrebik, Pat Avery, Kathy
Rowe, Marcia Sargent, Mike
Mullins

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Friday, September 30—PGH Airport Marriott

	Lobby	Coraopolis/Findley	Moon	Regatta Grill
8:00 AM	Registration & Book Table, Navigator Book Contract Raffle Ticket Sales, 8AM-1PM	Secrets & Spies- Dick Hrebik, TK*-Louis Intres, 8-8:50 AM	Book Cover Design- Moderator-Nancy Smith, Kathy Rodgers, Carmen Stenholm, Kathy Rowe, TK*-, 8-8:50 AM	Hospitality Relax & Socialize 8-8:45 AM
8:30 AM				
9:00 AM		Graverobbing & Terrorist -Louis Intres, TK*-Dick Hrebik, 9-9:50 AM		Poetry Corner - Mike Mullins & jim greenwald, TK*-Joyce Gilmour, 9-9:50 AM
9:30 AM				
10:00 AM		Treat your Manuscript with TLC - Joyce Gilmour, TK*-jim greenwald, 10-10:50 AM	eBook Round Table - Pat Avery, Moderator, Marcia Sargent, Jack Manick, Joyce Faulkner, TK*-, Dwight Zimmerman 10-10:50 AM	Positively PGH Live Interviews with Joanne Quinn-Smith 10:30AM-1:20 PM
10:30 AM				PPL Interview: Betsy Beard- 10:30-10:50 AM
11:00 AM		Hands-On Workshop on Writing Fiction - Jack London, TK*-Pat Avery, 11-11:50 PM	State of the Industry - Dwight Zimmerman, TK* -Marc Yablonka 11-11:50 PM	PPL Interview: Leila Levinson 11-11:20 AM
11:30 AM				PPL Interview Jack Manick 11:30-11:50 AM
NOON				PPL Interview, Kathy Rowe 12-12:20 AM
12:30 PM		Basic, Affordable Book Trailers using Adobe Premiere Elements - Nancy Smith, TK*-Pat Avery 12-12:50 PM	Screenwriting - Christopher Wyatt, TK* - Carmen Stenholm, 12-12:50 PM	PPL Interview Mike Mullins & jim greenwald 12:30-12:50 PM
1:00 PM				PPL Interview Joe Sanchez 1-1:20 PM

* TK-Time Keeper

Friday, September 30—PGH Airport Marriott

	Lobby	Coraopolis/Findley	Moon	Regatta Grill
1:00 PM		On Motion Book Trailers -JW Stehle, TK*-Lillie Leonardi 1:00-1:50 PM	Dialogue in Fiction & Nonfiction Panel - Moderator-Chris Wyatt, Jack Thomas, Bob Doerr, Del Staecker, TK*-Tony Homer, 1-1:50 PM	
1:30 PM				
2:00 PM		PTSD & Writing Panel - Leila Levinson- Moderator, Mike Mul- lins, Lillie Leonardi, Dr Deborah Conway, Carol Schultz Vento, TK*-Joe Sanchez- 2-3:20 PM		
2:30 PM	Registration & Book Table, Navigator Book Con- tract Raffle Ticket Sales, 8AM-1:00 PM			
3:00 PM				
3:30 PM		Social Networking for Authors Joanne Quinn-Smith, TK*-Pat Avery, 3:30-4:20 PM	MWSA Awards Judging Process - Joyce Faulkner, jim greenwald, Kathy Rodgers TK*-Kathy Rowe 3:30-4:20 AM	Hospitality Relax & Socialize 1-10 PM
4:00 PM				
4:30 PM				
5:00 PM				
5:30 PM				
6:00 PM				
6:30 PM		OPEN MIC & CASH BAR Mike Mullins, Tom Ruck, Louis Intres, Dale Throne- berry Bring your books with a passage marked, no longer than half a page - 6:30-8:30 PM		
7:00 PM				
7:30 PM				
8:00 PM				
8:30 PM				

* TK-Time Keeper

Saturday, October 1—PGH Airport Marriott

	Lobby	Coraopolis/Findley/Moon	Salon A	Regatta Grill
8:00 AM	Registration & Book Table, Navigator Book Contract Raffle Ticket Sales, 8AM-4PM			
8:30 AM				
9:00 AM		Bob Calvert & Videos From Afghanistan, 8:30-9:20 AM		Veteran's Radio Network - Dale Throneberry, Joe Sanchez, Jack Manick, Bob Doerr, Robyn Roche-Paul 9:00-10:00 AM
9:30 AM		Book Layout Using LYX, Vivek Sharma, TK* - Jack Manick, 9:30-10:20 AM	Writing Fiction & Nonfiction - Del Staecker, TK* Pat Avery, 9-10:20 AM	
10:00 AM				
10:30 AM		BEA & Self Publishing - Jack Manick, TK* Steve Zingerman, 10:30-11:20 AM	How to get, prepare for, & deliver an effective performance on radio - Dale Throneberry, Moderator-Joanne Quinn Smith, JoAnn Forrester, Bob Calvert, Dick Hrebik, TK*Louis Intres 10:30-11:20 AM	Hospitality Relax & Socialize 8:00 AM-1:00 PM
11:00 AM				
11:30 AM		Memoirs/Creative Non-Fiction/or Fiction: How do you choose? Marcia Sargent-Moderator, Carolyn Schriber, Jack Flynn, Fran McGraw, TK*-Louis Intres. 11:30-12:20 PM	Marketing Children's Books-Sandra Miller Linhart, Moderator,Pat Avery, Katherine Taylor, Dwight Zimmerman , TK*Charles Boyle- 11:30 AM-12:20 PM	
NOON				

* TK-Time Keeper

Saturday, October 1—PGH Airport Marriott

	Lobby	Coraopolis/Findley	Salon A	Regatta Grill
12:30 PM	Registration & Book Table, Navigator Book Contract Raffle Ticket Sales, 8AM-3PM	Once Upon a Time: Children's Books, Sandra Miller Linhart, TK*-Joyce Gilmour 12:30-1:50 PM	Book Promotion Round Table - Moderator Jack London, Carmen Stenholm, Kathy Rodgers, George Mancini, Tom Ruck - TK-Steve Zingerman, 12:30-1:20 PM	Hospitality Relax & Socialize 12:30-1:15PM
1:00 PM				
1:30 PM			Military Concerns & Writing Nonfiction - Darlene Iskra-Moderator, Don Farinacci, Dick Hrebik, Bob Doerr, TK*-Marc Yablonka 1:30-2:20 PM	PPL Interview Dick Hrebik 1:30-1:50 PM
2:00 PM		Converting your book to Audio & Braille - Jack Manick, TK* - Mike Mullins 2-2:50 PM		PPL Interview Robyn Roche-Paul 2-2:20 PM
2:30 PM			Helping Ourselves/Helping Each Other MWSA Teaming Joyce Faulkner, Moderator, Maria Edwards	PPL Interview Tony Homer 2:30-2:50 PM
3:00 PM				PPL Interview Donna Mull 3-3:20 PM
3:30 PM				PPL Interview Carolyn Poling Schriber 3:30-3:50 PM
4:00 PM				
4:30 PM				
5:00 PM				
5:30 PM				Hospitality Relax & Socialize 4-10 PM
6:00 PM				
6:30 PM				
7:00 PM				
7:30 PM				
8:00 PM				
		Cash Bar—5:30 PM Awards Banquet—6:00 PM		

* TK-Time Keeper

Sunday, October 2—PGH Airport Marriott

Salon E

8:00 AM

Coffee & Donut Social

8:30 AM

8-8:50 AM

9:00 AM

State of the Organization

9:30 AM

9-9:40 AM

10:00 AM

Buckaroo Auction & Navigator Book Raffle

10:30 AM

10-10:30 AM

11:00 AM

Good-bye Hugs 10:45 AM

11:30 AM

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2011 MWSA BOOK AWARD NOMINEES

Historical Fiction – Event

Beyond Those Hills

by M.H.A. Menondji

David & the Mighty Eight

by Marjorie Hodgson Parker

Victory Road

by Mark Bowlin

The Corydon Snow

by Richard Whitten Barnes

Once a Knight

by Walt Shiel

Look Long Into the Abyss

by A.R. Homer



Historical Fiction — Chronicle

Shall Never See So Much

by Gerald Gillis



Historical Fiction — Protagonist

For Love of Country

by William C. Hammond



Fiction — Mystery

Loose Ends Kill

by Bob Doerr

Laos File

by Dale A. Dye

ARGOPELTER

by Ronald Smith

I Know Why the Dogwoods Blush

by Bill Cain



Fiction — Thriller

Project Dragonslayers

by Kathy Rowe

Pirates & Cartels

by Lee & Vista Boyland

Sgt. Rock - The Lost Battalion, HC

by Billy Tucci

The Mullahs Storm

by Thomas W. Young

Fiction — Literary

The Book in the Wall

by John F. Simpson



Non-Fiction — History

Eisenhower & Montgomery

by William Weidner

Keeping the Promise

by Donna Elliott

American Guerilla

by Mike Guardia

Targeted Killing

by Thomas B. Hunter

T-41 Mescalero: The Military Cessna 172

by Walt Shiel

Lost Eagles

by Blaine L. Pardue



Non-Fiction — Memoir

DAI Uy Hoch

by David R. Hoch

Wing Wife

by Marcia J. Sargent

Life Interrupted by War

by Thomas van Hees

Lullabies for Lieutenants

by Franklin Cox

We Came to Fight a War

by Jack Flynn & Alvin E. Kotler

Earning My Wings

by Shirley Dobbins Forgan



Non-Fiction — Reference

Aerial Aces of the Universal Newsreel

by Philip W. Stewart



Non-Fiction — Biography

True Blue: A Tale of the Enemy Within

by Joe Sanchez & MoDhania

Women in the U.S. Armed Forces

by Darlene M. Iskra

Grey Eminence

by Edward Cox

Beyond All Price

by Carolyn Poling Schriber

(Continued on page 13)

2011 Award Nominees

(Continued from page 12)



Non-Fiction — How To/Business

Disability Compensation by Thomas van Hees
Breastfeeding in Combat Boots by Robyn Roche-Paul



Non-Fiction — Creative Non-Fiction

Gated Grief
 by Leila Levinson



Non-Fiction — Spiritual/Religious

God + Military Spouse
 by Lori Kathleen Cline
A Prayer Journey through Deployment
 by Donna Mull
Bringing Courage to the Courageous
 by Don Williamson
I Want to be the Fat Pretty One
 by Lori Kathleen Cline



Artistic — Pictorial

USAF Interceptors
 by Marty Isham & David McLaren



Poetry — Book

Through the Years
 by James Jellerson
Blooming Red
 by Carolyn Howard-Johnson
 & Magdelina Ball
Kings of the Green Jelly Moon
 by Lloyd King, jim greenwald, James Jellerson, Michael Mullins



Children — Ages 12 & Below

The Adventures of Briskey Bear
 by Steve Bolt
The Sandpiper's Game
 by Charles Boyle
Klinger
 by Betsy Beard
Our Daddy is Invincible
 by Shannon Maxwell
Eddie & Bingo: A Friendship Tale
 by Katherine & Kathleen L. Taylor



Military — Air Force

Safe Landings
 by Fran McGraw
Belle of the Brawl
 by Gary A. Best
The Men Who Killed the Luftwaffe
 by Jay A. Stout
Two Gold Coins and a Prayer
 by James H. Keefe III



Military — Army

Incoming
 by Jack Manick
Alan's Letters
 by Nancy E. Rial
Still Standing
 by Jim Kosmo
The Sentinel & the Shooter
 by Douglas W. Bonnot
Inside the President's Helicopter
 by G.T. Boyer & J. Boor
War Remains
 by Jeffery Miller



Military — Marines

Obediently Yours, Orson Welles
 by Ulman Bray



Military — Navy

The Seventh Angel
 by Jeff Edwards
The Untold Experiences
 by C. Gilbert Lowery
Listening to Ghosts
 by Robert (Bob) Stockton



Military — Coast Guard

The Coast Guard by Tom Beard



Korean War Book Award

Chitose Road by Robert S. Ruehrdanz
A Hill Called White Horse by Tony Sobieski
The Untold Experiences by C. Gilbert Lowery
Truman & MacArthur by Donald Farinacci
Eddie & Bingo by Kathleen & Katherine Taylor
War Remains by Jeffrey Miller

THE LAW OF UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Libya and War: No Good Deed Goes Unpunished. Conclusion

By Jack Woodville London

On this day in April, 1941, Libya was on fire. General Rommel had begun to counterattack. British troops were about to become trapped at Tobruk. It would be another two more years of desert war before Libya was safe and would become a rear area medical point for the British troops fighting in Sicily and Italy and a base for the American air force in Benghazi. But, in April 1941, it was a war zone.

Between 1941 and 1984, Libya became westernized. Not only did it benefit from British-American medical modernization and the inevitable airports, it also became a fuel station for the West. Drilling began in 1956 and, by 1961, Libya was the world's sixth largest producer, exporting mainly through Esso Petroleum and a consortium including BP, Texaco, and all other major western producers. The oil companies were nationalized when Ghadafi seized control in 1969. By 1984, Libya was literate, healthy, wildly overpopulated, and greatly unemployed. It also was operating as a terrorist state.

By this day in April 1986, Libya had become personal to me. I was in London to run the marathon. By then, Libyans had murdered a British police officer (from its embassy in London!), helped plan and execute the Berlin night club bombings that killed American servicemen and others, assassinated ex-patriots in Italy and attempted to do so in the US, and attacked its neighbors and its own citizens. In that week of 1986 the US and Britain exported arms to Libya again, this time via fighter planes sent to retaliate for the continued terror attacks. By December 1988, two weeks after I flew on one of Pan Am 103's last flights, Libya was a sophisticated forerunner of Al Qaeda, killing American and British

passengers en masse.

UN sanctions brought Libya to its knees and, eventually, it surrendered the Pan Am 103 suspects for trial. One was convicted of the Pan Am 103 murders, one was freed. Reparations were paid.

The good deed in question? In August, 2009, convicted Pan Am 103 bomber Abdelbaset Mohmed Ali al-Megrahi was freed from his Scottish prison because doctors concluded he had terminal prostate cancer, a disease very few of his ancestors would have lived long enough to contract in the days before British military doctors introduced penicillin to Libya and the world. Scotland freed al-Megrahi on compassionate grounds. Over the protest of the families of the PanAm 103 victims and the Obama administration, he was flown back to die in Tripoli. As of today, he reportedly is still well and getting around. Medical care in Tripoli, despite the rebellion, seems to have continued at the high level first achieved when British doctors introduced the world to penicillin there in 1943.

Why? For the same reason – the west coming to the rescue, as it were. Al-Megrahi was freed after British Petroleum lobbied the British and Scottish governments to let him go as his imprisonment was an obstacle to Ghadafi granting drilling concessions to BP, both in the desert and offshore. “The country ‘will be one of our major growth areas,’ a BP Exploration director told Bloomberg News.”

By April 2011 we have learned, unfortunately, that more than just Al-Megrahi and British Petroleum got through Libyan customs and immi-

(Continued on page 15)

Libya and War

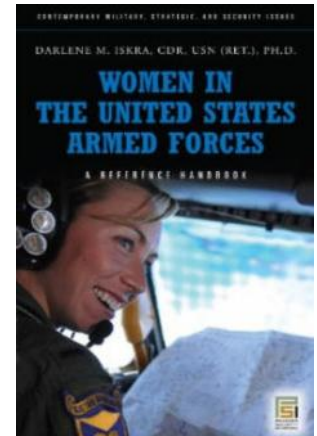
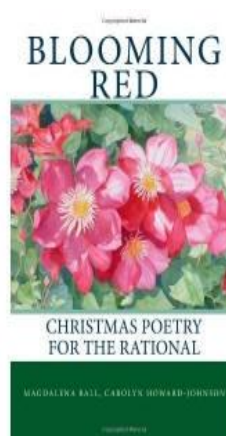
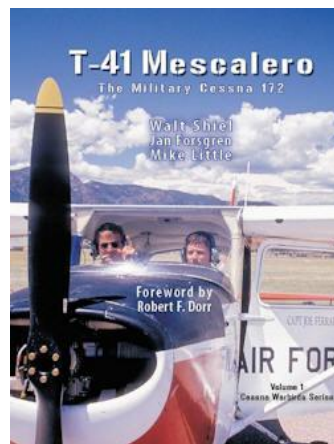
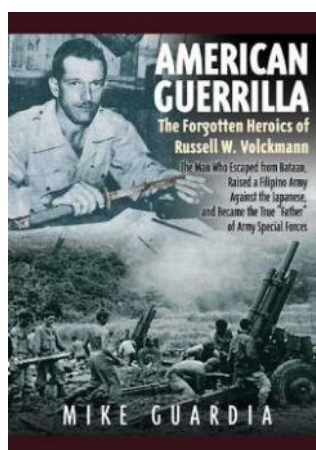
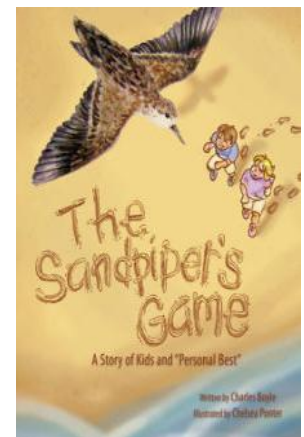
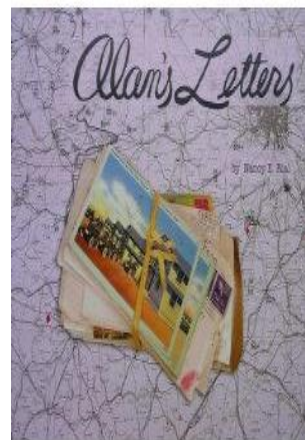
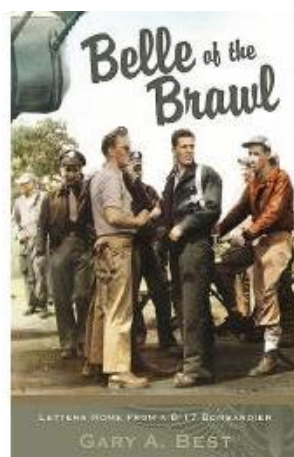
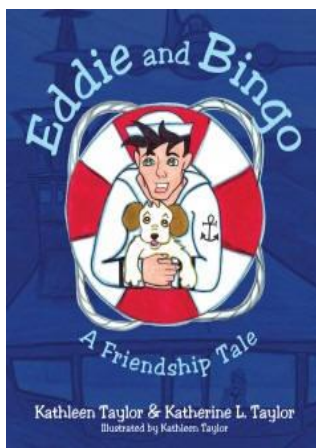
(Continued from page 14) **London**

gration: getting Libya back to business after it paid Pan Am 103 reparations also meant granting arms licenses. In order to bring Libya into the community of nations, Britain, Italy, the US, and others have bought oil and sold guns to Ghadafi. The weapons that he has turned on the rebels in April 2011 include arms and ammunition, artillery computers, military vehicles, and other items exported by Britain as recently as September. Now, Libya is on fire again, its war in the desert littered with bodies and wreckage. Except for the huge population, it could be mistaken for the Libya of 1941. History has repeated itself.

My three part blog on Libya has been a departure from my usual posts about books and such, to be sure. But, the war in Libya and how close I came to being a victim of it has made me reflect on more than literature and letters and books about military history. If it has helped open those windows to the past with a look at things in print and the view that maybe we can better understand where we are maybe we can guess where we are today. The war in Libya, from Rommel to penicillin to Benghazi is history. To be sure, today's war of Libya is a repeat of the war *in* Libya, having traveled from the desert to London to Berlin to Scotland and beyond and back again, dragging the US and Europe and much of Africa and the Middle East with it.

History has a way of doing that. If only we had a way of learning from it.

Pax.



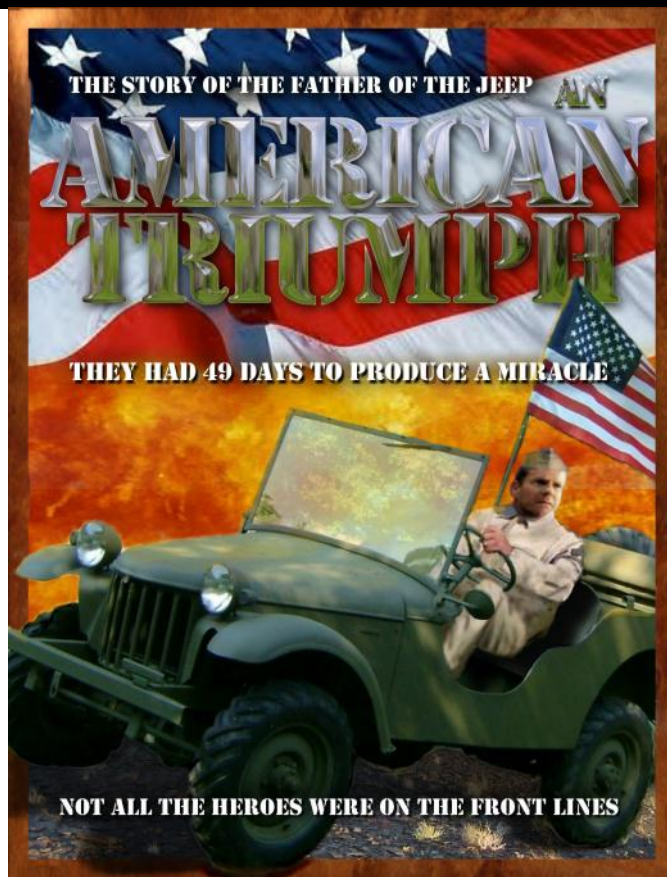
The Bantam Reconnaissance Car and the History Czar®

By Paul Bruno aka The History Czar®

The Bantam Reconnaissance Car (BRC), better known as the first Jeep, was designed and built by the bankrupt American Bantam Car Company, owned by Roy S. Evans, during the summer of 1940 in Butler, Pennsylvania, USA. Of the 135 companies who received the specification for a new vehicle from the US Army, only two responded with proposals, Willys-Overland and Evans' American Bantam. Willys could not promise delivery within the seemingly impossible forty-nine day deadline; therefore, the contract to build the prototype was awarded to Bantam. Evans hired Karl Probst to design the vehicle and Evans' team built the prototype in the forty-nine days allotted to them. The vehicle, christened the Bantam Reconnaissance Car by its builders, was delivered to Camp Holabird, Maryland, USA on September 23, 1940 with a half-hour to spare. It is truly one of the most remarkable untold underdog stories in American history.

I first heard of this story in the fall of 1999 and immediately fell in love with this tale of a group of anonymous individuals achieving the impossible to create a vehicle which not only was a major factor in the Allies winning World War II, and the vision and talent that went into creating the original vehicle has endured in both military and civilian form for over seventy years. My wife and I so love the story that together with Manuel "Max" Freedman we wrote a screenplay about these amazing events titled, *The Jeep: An American Triumph* and we have worked diligently to have this inspiring story told on the big screen. We continue to pursue every avenue available to us to see this story made into a feature-film.

One of the highlights of my journey with the BRC came in July 2010 when Joyce Faulkner, President of the Military Writers Society of America, encouraged me to visit the Military Vehicles Preservation Association convention in Topeka, Kansas, USA, because Duncan Rolls would be there to exhibit his exact replica of the original BRC. I had the pleasure to meet Duncan and his



wife Kim and hear the story of all the hours they both spent over four years on their labor of love to bring an exact replica of the first Jeep back to life.

Having lived with the story for so long it was a dream come true to see a perfect recreation of the vehicle I had only seen in pictures. Not only that but I also had the man who recreated it share the details of how he and his wife accomplished the feat. The highlight of the visit came when Duncan was gracious enough to allow me to sit in the driver's seat of one of the greatest vehicles ever built. For a history aficionado it was truly the thrill of a lifetime.

The story of the creation of the first Jeep is as remarkable as it is true. Having worked so long with my co-authors to bring the events of the

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16) **Bruno**

summer of 1940 to life in a movie and endured many disappointments along the journey, I can say that the BRC has given me more than I have given to it. It is as quintessentially American as Mom, apple pie and baseball. Some days I think even more so than those, except maybe Mom.

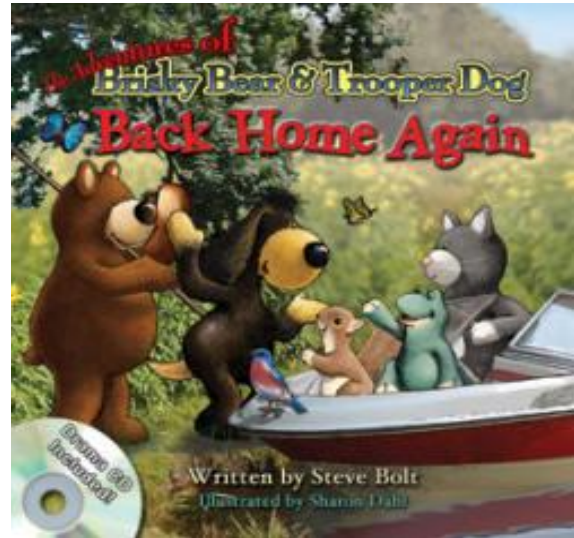
Links:

History Czar: www.historyczar.com

History Czar e-mail: thehistoryczar@cs.com

The Jeep: An American Triumph Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/The-Jeep-An-American-Triumph/110738008090>

Max Freedman Media: www.maxfmedia.com



CONNECTIONS

Less than a month to go, and those of us attending the conference will be gathering in Pittsburgh. I am thrilled that I am able to attend again this year. I want to take this opportunity to thank MWSA for believing in me, and allowing me to share my “CONNECTIONS” over this past year. I’m usually the one “behind-the-scenes” helping authors to get the nitty-gritty, not-as-much-fun stuff accomplished, so I’m just a newbie at the writing end of things. So I have greatly appreciated this opportunity.



Joyce Gilmour,
Columnist & Book Reviewer

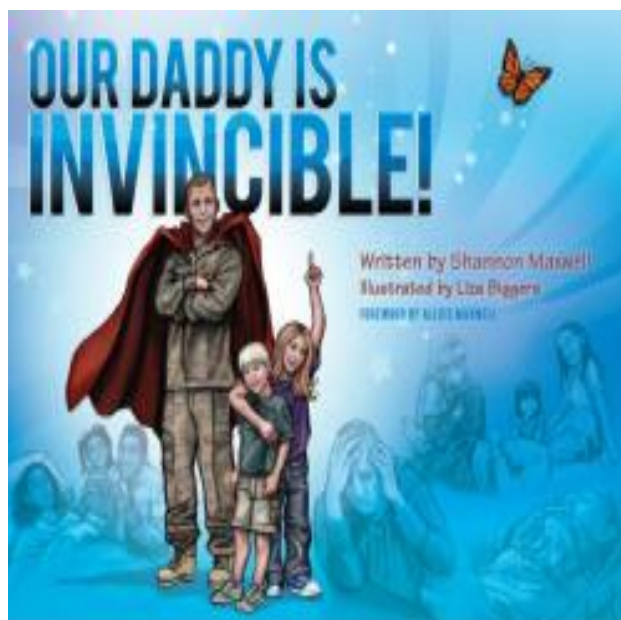
“Treating Your Manuscript with TLC” is the name of the workshop that I will be presenting. I’m hoping that authors will come prepared to share the steps they take to get their manuscripts to the final version. Kathleen Rodgers will be sharing her adventures with writing critique groups, too. There are many ways to get a great manuscript accomplished and it is always helpful to hear the strategies other authors are using in the process. I will also share some of the experi-

ences that I’ve had with my authors/clients. I hope to see a lot of you at my workshop.

If you are attending the MWSA conference, and you are interested in being one of my “CONNECTIONS” for the upcoming year, just say so, and we can have a conversation about what you’d like the readers of *Dispatches* to know about you, and I’ll get you in my 2011-2012 line-up. Never fear, if you are not able to attend the conference, we can still connect via email and/or phone. Just contact me at:

joyce@editingtlc.com

Thanks! Best of luck to all of the nominees, and for those of you waiting for a review, please know that reviewers are already reading books for next year!



BOOKS WANTED

In February 2012, veterans of the battle of Iwo Jima will gather in San Diego to commemorate the 67th anniversary of that battle and honor their fallen comrades. As a daughter of an Iwo Jima Marine, it has been my privilege to be on the planning board for the reunion for the past several years. This year I am asking my fellow MWSA authors for their help.

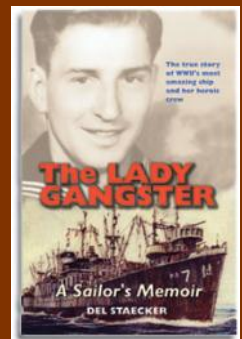
One of the Reunion's events is a complimentary raffle held in the Hospitality Room that is always well attended. I would like to share the great books written by MWSA members with the Iwo Jima veterans as part of the raffle and am inviting any interested authors to donate one of their booksa signed copy would be fantastic. These men are avid readers, engaged historians, lovers of military tales, be they fiction or non-fiction, and they are grandparents and great grandparents for those of you who write children's books.

Please send your book to:

Gail Chatfield
c/o Iwo Jima Committee
3225 Lower Ridge Road
San Diego, CA 92130



ANNOUNCING: Del Staecker, award-winning author for *The Lady Gangster* in 2009 and for his Ledge Trabue Trilogy in 2010 will be the Emcee for the MWSA Award Banquet on October 1, 2011, at the Airport Marriot.



WAKE ISLAND 70th Anniversary

5 -13 December 2011

Hosts: ADM Ron Hays, USN and MajGen O. K. Steele, USMC

Often called "The Alamo of the Pacific" the "Magnificent Fight" for Wake Island in December 1941 will go down in the annals of Military History as one of the Legacy Navy and Marine Corps battles of WWII.

You have the option for being in Pearl Harbor for the 70th Anniversary commemoration of the Japanese attack on 7 December, and still arrive on Guam for the Anniversary of the Japanese attack on this U.S. Territory in 1941. From Guam you will fly via Chartered Continental Aircraft for the 70th Anniversary of Wake Island on 11 December.

In addition to the Navy and Marine Corps losses during the fight, almost a hundred Chamorro civilians, from Guam, were also killed during the battle. The remaining garrison was captured in late December and shipped off to POW camps in both Japan and China.

For complete information and to receive a brochure, check: www.miltours.com or call [703-590-1295](tel:703-590-1295) or [800-722-9501](tel:800-722-9501).

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Colonel USMC (Ret)
President/Founder/CEO
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Woodbridge, VA 22193-5285
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JWiedhahn@aol.com
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ATTENTION: The Arkansas Chapter of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association invitation for MWSA members!

Any MWSA member who would like to have a book posted on the AR MVPA website, please send a photo of your book cover and copyright date, an overview, link to purchase the book, and recommendation to read to Evelyn Harless at plheh38@hughes.net.

See MVPA website book page at:
http://www.armvpa.com/recommended_reads.htm



Option #1: Stills and motion graphic--based 30--second trailer

- ◆ One hour of scriptwriting
- ◆ Three hours of editing with a professional editor using Final Cut Pro
- ◆ Two hours of motion graphics design and execution with a motion graphics artist using AfterEffects
- ◆ **COST: \$750.00**

Option #2: Stills and motion graphic--based 30--second trailer with music and logo animation

- ◆ One hour of script writing
- ◆ Three hours of editing with a professional editor using Final Cut Pro
- ◆ Two hours of motion graphics design and execution with a motion graphics artist using AfterEffects
- ◆ One cut of library music
- ◆ Title of the book animated
- ◆ **COST: \$1,350.00**

Option #3: Stills and motion graphic--based 30--second--1:30 trailer with music and Logo animation and three images provided by On Motion Media

- ◆ Two hours of script writing
- ◆ Five hours of editing with a professional editor using Final Cut Pro
- ◆ Four hours of motion graphics design and execution with a motion graphics artist using AfterEffects
- ◆ One cut of music
- ◆ Title of the book animated
- ◆ **COST: \$3,000.00**

Option #4: Interview sound bites with author, stills and motion graphic--based 30--second--2:30 second trailer with music and logo animation and five images provided by On Motion Media

- ◆ Three hours of script writing
- ◆ Eight hours of editing with a professional editor using Final Cut Pro
- ◆ Six hours of motion graphics design and execution with a motion graphics artist using AfterEffects
- ◆ Two cuts of music
- ◆ Title of the book animated
- ◆ **COST: \$5,000.00**

Note: Any images provided by the client must be high resolution.

Note: Any traveling out of a 50---mile radius of Pittsburgh needed to secure on-camera interview with author will incur additional charges. If anyone wants to purchase an interview package, On Motion Media will be available during conference at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriot, September 29 through October 2, 2011.

**15% off
posted
prices for
MWSA
members**

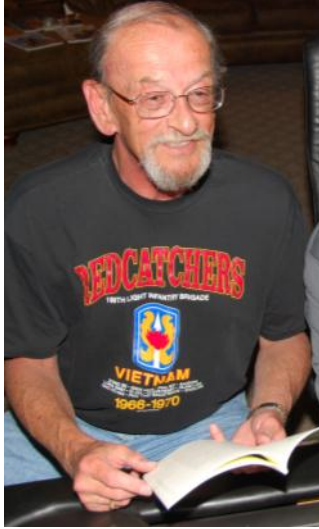
MOON'S MUTTERINGS

The box where I keep my spare words is empty. I used them all the last few weeks. I feel like one of those ink stamps in a craft shop that has been used until there is nothing left but the faded ink stains on the worn, flat surface with rounded edges. September is a huge month for me even without thinking about the upcoming Conference in Pittsburgh. August evaporated my spirit, not merely through the heat index, but with stress. I think stress should be measured somehow. Weather forecasters watch barometric pressures to predict atmospheric conditions leading to serious weather changes. I don't know what I would do with the information, but neither do the weather people.

If I weren't out of words and had some energy left I would be fired up about Conference. Three other wonderful members/Nam vets and I released a new book this summer and I am proud of what we have done together. In a matter of a few days my first novel will arrive on the literary scene and I am proud of that. I have never worked harder on anything. I have never been prouder of anything I did. Writing that book has been a blessing and a major event in my life. It has been frustrating. Holding the book in my hand may well be almost anti-climactic. The hard part is ahead of me. Conference may ignite the pieces of me laying on the ground, disgruntled and drying like kindling. It always reminds me of my purpose. I see several of the wonderful folks who are part of MWSA and I am reminded how I was led to this group and why. The people here have helped me become something more than I was. I may now actually be a writer. Writing...I still think about frustration.

F---Finding a way. Feeling. Floundering to be cogent. Forcing thoughts to flow. Forging alliances.

R---Research. Record. Relate. Respond to the



Mike Mullins

stimuli of the world around us. Repair the errors we make. Renewing our purpose when necessary. Renewing our energy when it fades, as it is sure to do. Recalling the images that flash into our minds at the most inconvenient times. Realizing we will always learn something new in our craft.

U---Understanding; our goal, our story, our characters, our purpose, our language, our weaknesses.

S---Speaking to our audience in a way to which they relate. Staying the course when we tire. Stepping back and away to look at our work and our soul where they merge and become

partners in order to be sure neither is lost, yet are working well together for Success.

T---True to yourself, true to your purpose. Technique is what you want for your project. Technical approach is consistent and appropriate. Timely, if we are working with deadlines.

R---Relax when your stress is affecting your quality. Redundancy is an enemy. Retailing is more difficult than creating; ramp up your focus and plan an approach that works for you. Remember your alliances. Review everything you have done. Rewrite what does not feel right.

A---Attitude; be fair with yourself, battle to be positive...and the hard work of creating something worthwhile is hard. Anger; control it...don't become your own worst enemy in the creative process.

T---Tear apart things that attack your purpose or misdirect your story flow (some may be worth saving for a follow-up story, but may be counter-productive where they are). Tie loose ends up so they aren't distractions for your characters or plot.

I---Images, in prose or poetry, are the workhorse and keep the reader in the story and make the

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(Continued from page 22) **Mullins**

work memorable. Imagination lights the fire in the writer and engages the reader. Intensity keeps the reader along for the whole ride.

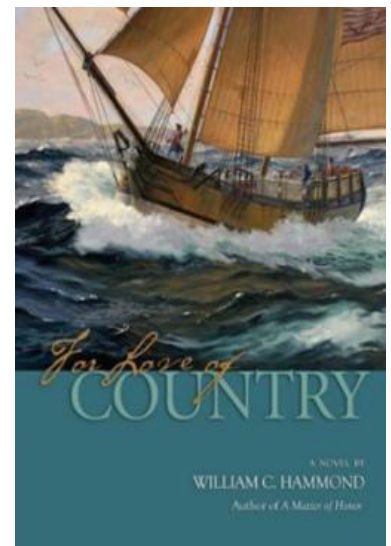
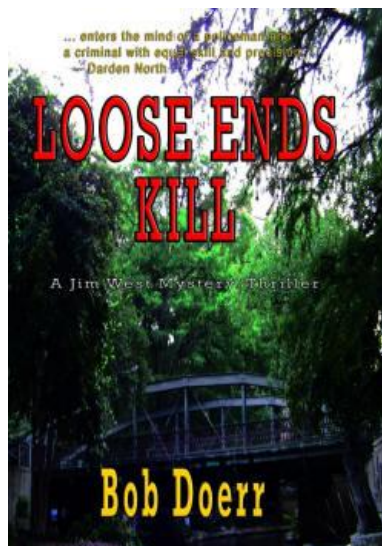
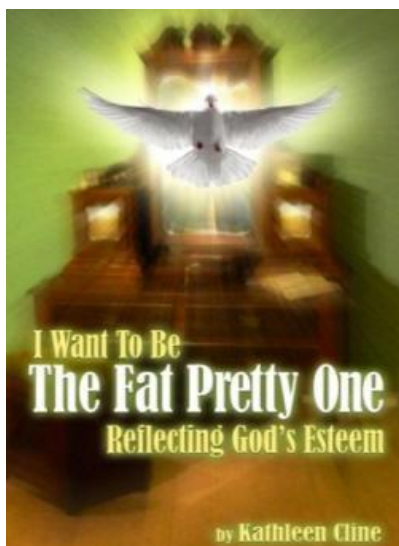
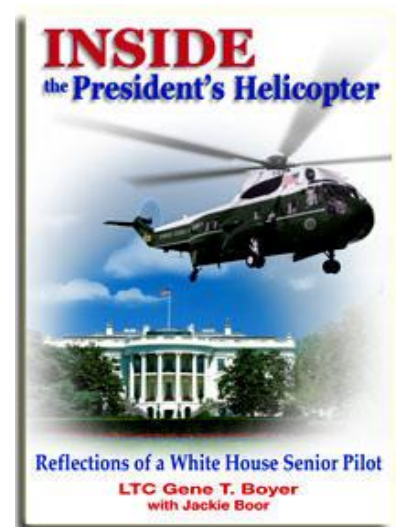
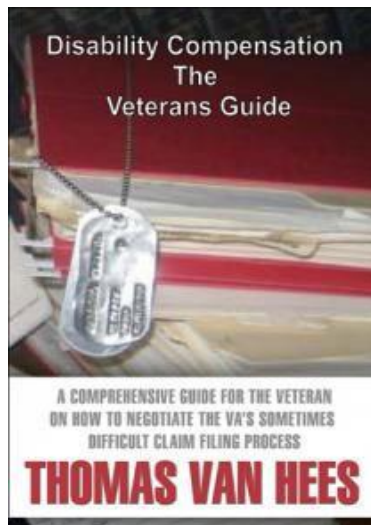
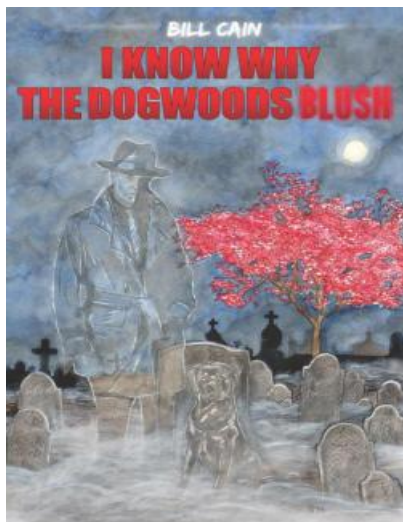
O---the sound of a gasp of pleasure, shock, surprise, pain...Opinion. Options. Organization.

N---Nearing completion. Now we are done. No more to say.

Frustration is part of every facet of life. As I neared completion of each book in which I was involved, my frustration levels rose. I wanted them to be beautiful. I wanted to be done. I wanted to give birth to something special. I also

knew I loved the writing better than the selling. Each time the feeling when I at last held the printed work in my hand I wondered if the new mother felt a little that way in her post-partum emotional state. I don't mean to overstate my mind at the moment, but there is an emptiness that follows two or three years of intense work that is suddenly compressed into something you hold in one hand. And the delay getting to that point is complete frustration.

I look forward to seeing those of you who are able to come to Pittsburgh. Renew me.



Around Deutschland in Eighty days

By Joseph Glydon submitted by Jack Manick

The story that follows is from the accounting of Mr. Joseph Glydon Sr., father to my best Friend, Joe Glydon Jr.

During my high school years Joe Jr. or Ace as I called him spent many hours and days together doing everything from playing chess to taking apart a Porsche engine. I spent many wonderful hours at his house and got to know Mr. and Mrs. Glydon well. They were wonderful hosts and loving and caring parents. Many times as we sat around the dinner table, my curiosity got the best of me and I'd ask Mr. Glydon about his war experience. He shared with us what he could...what he wanted to. I always listened attentively and would say under my breath...Wow! Mr. Glydon or Mr Ace as I called him later in life, loved to smoke his cigars and became a second father to me just as Mrs. Glydon(Josephine) became a second mother to me.

Mr. Ace passed away not so long ago and his face, the smell of his cigar smoke and his low, gravely voice and wonderful demeanor are with me still.

Mr. Ace was a flight engineer aboard a B-25 and was shot down (with injuries) over Italy then taken to POW Camp Stalag Luft IV. The rest is in his words. Mr. Ace, we miss you.

Staff Sergeant Joseph Glydon
Flight Engineer B25
12th Air Force
310 Bomb Group



The Army is always taking knocks for having so many snafus, but whenever a crisis arises, there is usually someone who comes up with a guiding procedure. Such was the case on the night of February 5, 1945, when someone came into our barracks room at Stalag Luft IV and told us to sew up one of our shirts, including the bottoms, and sew the arms to the bottom, forming a makeshift knapsack to put into it what belongings we had. This seemingly small act probably saved many hardships.

I had been in the camp only since November 1944, and did not have enough to fill the shirt, even after having my 21st birthday on January 6th.

The following morning, February 6th, we started on a walk through Germany which would last to April 25th, all because the Russian troops were getting close to the camp.

The first day we "marched" about 20 miles, and as darkness came, we had to bed down in a field of tree stumps that was once a forest. With a cold drizzling rain falling, we bundled up into groups of two and huddled together under blankets on the ground to keep warm. After that we were locked into barns at night and often not let out when nature called. One night the darkness and quiet were interrupted by someone shouting, "You yellow coward b'trd and much more, because someone had relieved himself from the up-

(Continued on page 25)



(Continued from page 24) **Manick**

per loft with no consideration of what or who was below. Otherwise, the lack of toilet facilities was no problem, due to our limited intake of solid food.

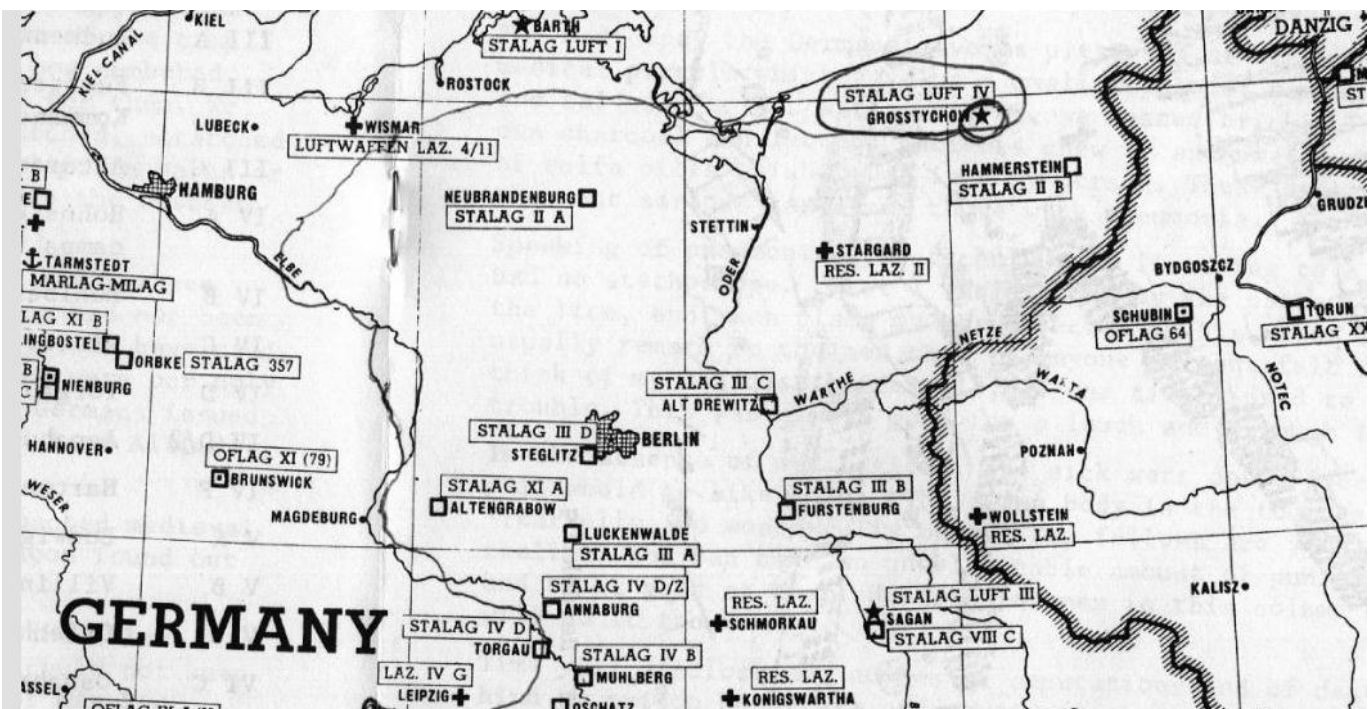
We had no food other than what was left over of the last Red Cross parcel we had received, which did not last long. We found raw rye grain in one barn and were happy to have something for our stomachs that kept telling our brains how hungry they were. Once or twice, we were given a cup of soup or sauerkraut along the way, but for the most part we went hungry.

One day in March, we came upon a wagon in a field, and on it was a fellow handing out Red Cross parcels, to be shared by three men, he said. The man given the parcel was to share it with the two men following him. Well, as the parcel was handed to the man in front of me and we were moving away from the wagon, he turned to me and said, "You share it with the one behind and ran off into the straggling column of men ahead. My buddy, John Kisgen and myself were very dejected and went on with long faces for days.

We boiled some dandelion greens to have something for our stomachs. Overall, we were a non-cohesive group of strangers, and no one was likely to share food with others. When in Frankfurt in November, a lieutenant quipped, “We have met the enemy and we are theirs.” Well, now one of the enemies was a fellow “kreigs gefangen” and unlike the Germans, he is still an enemy.

Sometimes during the rest period, we would watch as a guard sliced a piece of brown bread from his loaf, then spreading a lard-like substance over it he would wipe the knife over the rest of the loaf so that no molecule of butter was wasted. We must have looked real forlorn watching him eat.

My shoes developed holes in the soles, which were growing. In my boyhood days, I would put a piece of cardboard in to keep my socks from the same fate, but here there was no cardboard to be found. Luckily we had a few days stop at one big farm and to my amazement, my shoes were taken and resoled as I was given wooden shoes to scoff around in. But still no food. I think that even this was better than the ancient prison jail



(Continued on page 26)

(Continued from page 25) *Manick*

cell I had to endure in Italy.

One day we were getting disgruntled over something and started raising a fuss. One young guard said, "Such behavior is uncommon in Deutschland." I guess the spirit of freedom was starting to revive in us. He also wisely stated, "It's a pity to say, if it wasn't for the Americans, the war would be over by now."

One morning, which must have been April 13th, we were walking past a row of houses, feebly calling "syphen for brot" meaning we would give soap, which we couldn't use, for bread. The houses stood silent, with no takers. Then from one house, a heavy woman came almost jogging from the house in tears. With sobs she told us President Roosevelt had passed away. We all just kept walking, putting one foot in front of the other as we had been doing for almost two months now.

Another farm we stopped at we got to watch a mating bull and cow. The bull needed considerable help. I see why they need artificial insemination these days. At this same farm, I was joined in my travels by a considerable host of cow lice that used my body as a banquet feast. They stayed with me until the day I was liberated. Later, on another farm, we discovered sugar beets in a root cellar. Soon after eating them I became ill and started losing weight more rapidly, who knows what was on those sugar beets.

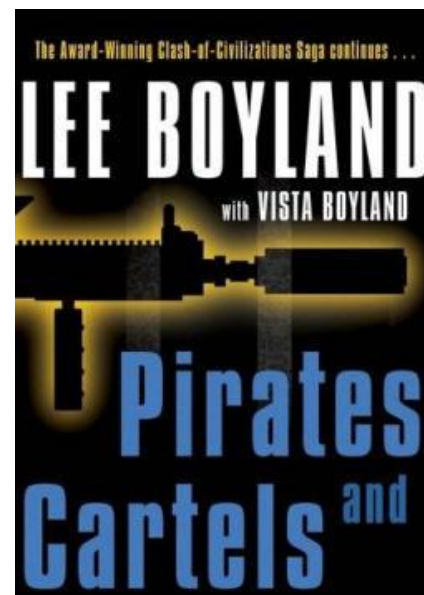
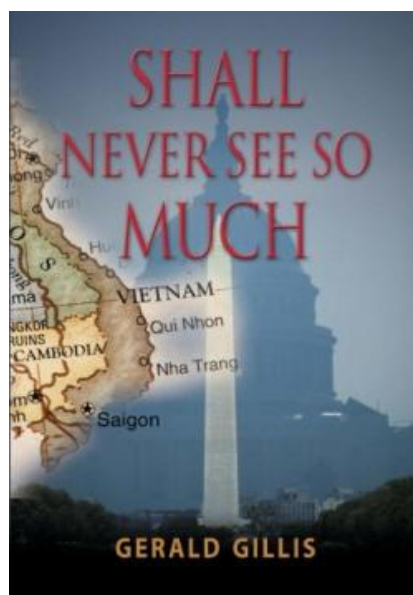
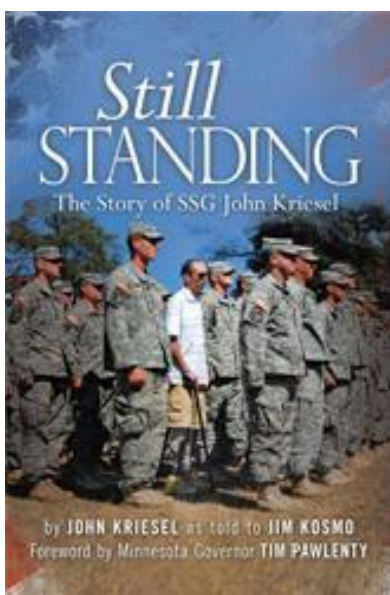
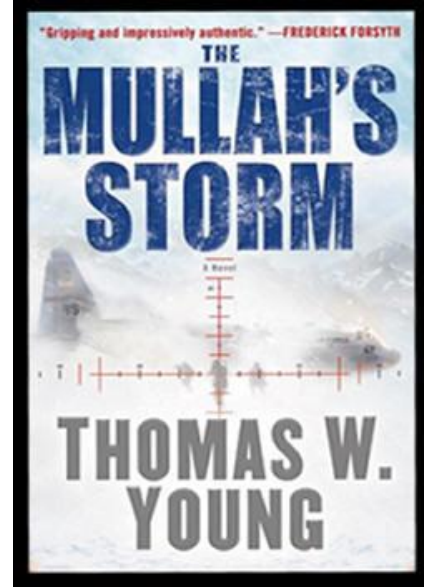
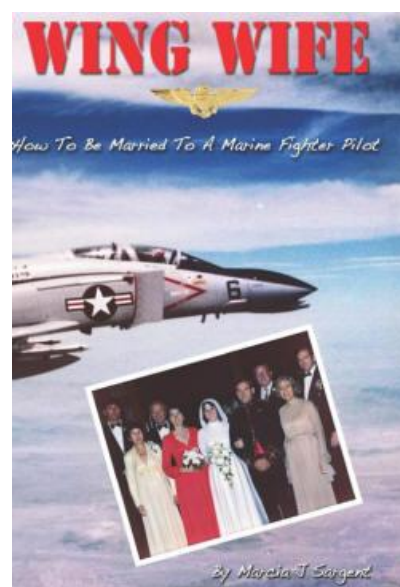
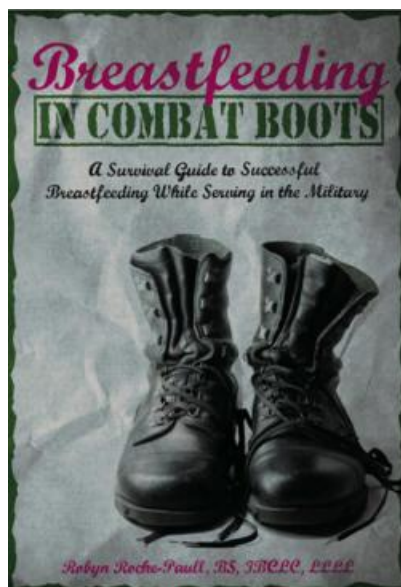
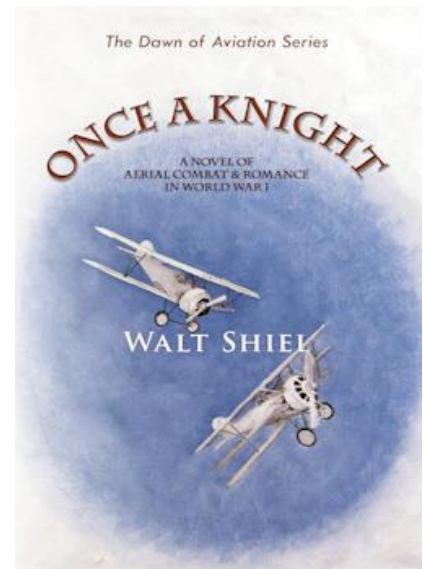
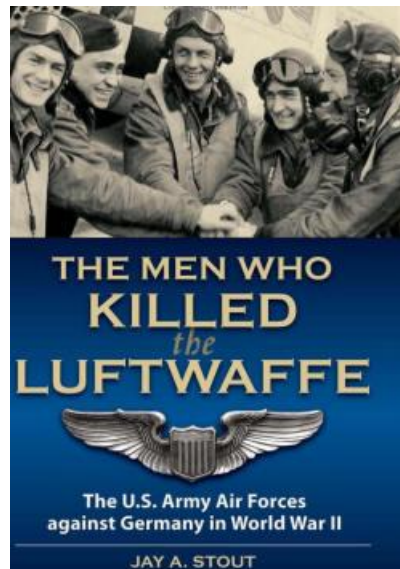
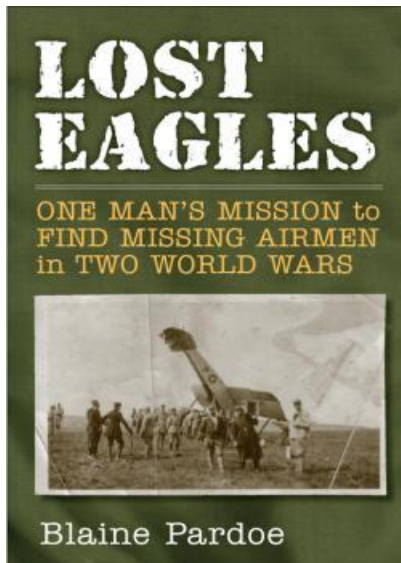
About a week later, we came near the city of Torgau. While staying at an old horse harness factory, someone called out that bombers were coming. We watched as the bomb-bay doors opened and the bombs fell and burst, uprooting trees about a block away. Clawing the ground did not seem to be safe enough, so I jumped under some equipment in the factory, gouging a piece of skin from my right shin in the process. This poor leg was taking a beating. The flak wound in it from when we were shot down on November 11th was just healing nicely, so now I covered the shin scrape with some cloth. A couple of weeks later, when the cloth was removed,

it was like dead rotten meat; luckily it then improved rather than get worse. At the same location, I got to see a P-47 blow up a steam engine with machine gun fire, which gave me a feeling of elation.

One early morning a few days later, we walked past a young soldier with a bazooka-like weapon at a railroad overpass, then an hour or so later we were liberated by a US Tank Outfit. On the next day, the 80th day of the trip, I volunteered for KP which resulted in me going to the hospital the following morning. The best thing I remember of that hospital stay was getting an alcohol rubdown from a pretty nurse from Marion, Ohio.

The total walk was said to be about 500 miles. When we left the camp, we headed west toward the Schweinemunde and Stettin, then went back and forth across the Elbe River, ending up in Bitterfeld. We once walked over the Reichs Autobahn, which didn't have one vehicle, not even a horse and wagon, on it. All this while the makeshift knapsack held what food I picked up along the way, I believe that little hint helped many.





MWSA's Summer 2011 Recommended Reading List

By Bob Doerr

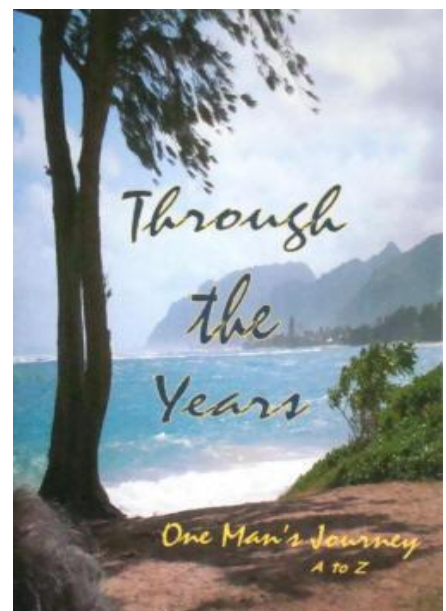
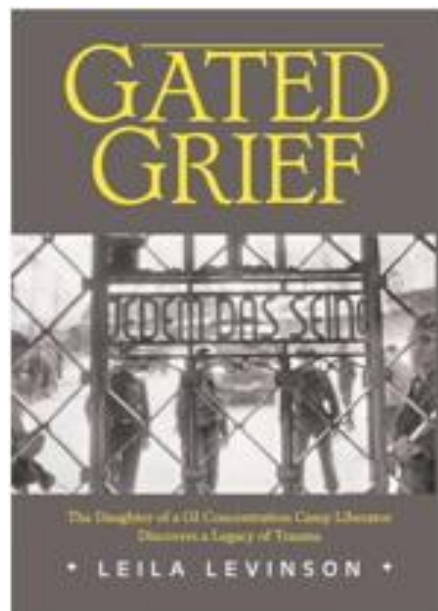
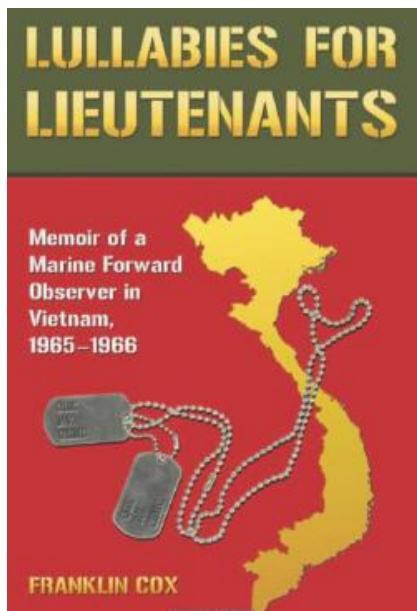
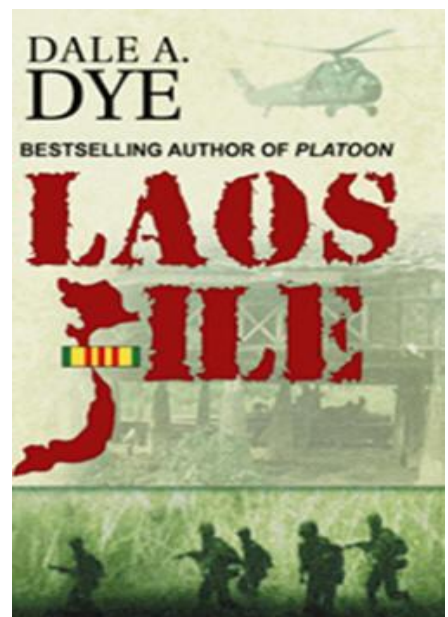
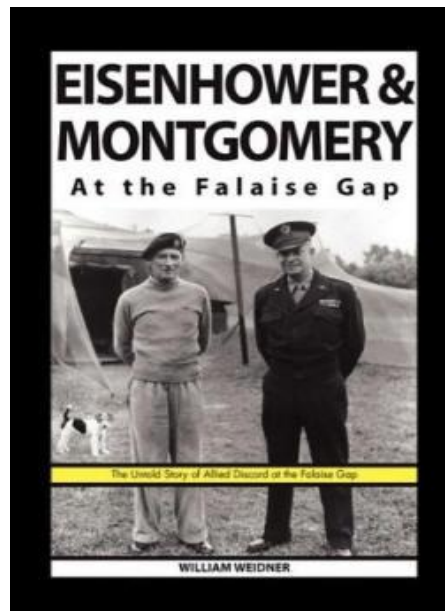
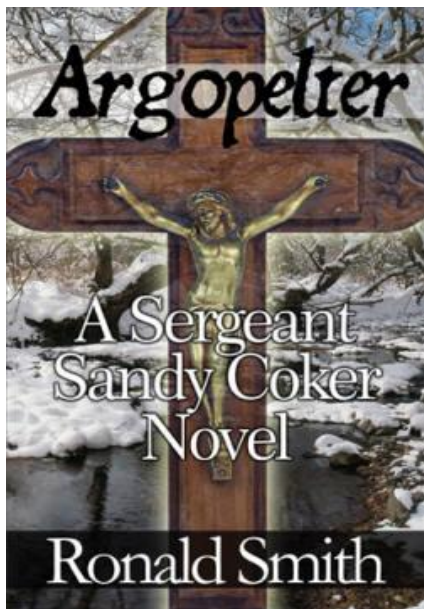
Chairman of Reading List Committee

As most of you know, the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) is an organization of nearly one thousand writers, poets, and artists drawn together by a common bond of military service. One purpose of our Society is to review the written works of our members. From our recent book reviews, we have selected the following as our 2011 Summer Suggested Reading List:

MWSA Summer Reading List		
Blooming Red	Howard-Johnson, Ball	Poetry
Pirates & Cartels	Lee & Vista Boyland	Fiction - Thriller
While You Were Away	Megan Egerton Graham	Non-Fiction: How-to/Business
Eddie & Bingo: A Friendship	Kathleen and Katherine Taylor	Children: 12 & Under
Earning My Wings	Shirley Dobbins Forgan	Nonfiction - Memoir
A Matter of Honor	William C. Hammond	Fiction: Historical Fiction
A Prayer Journey	Donna Mull	Non-Fiction: Spiritual/Religion
Dragonslayers: Mind Games	Kathy Rowe	Fiction: Thriller/Mystery
The Untold Experience	C. Gilbert Lowery	Military: Navy
Why the Dogwoods Blush	Bill Cain	Fiction: Thriller/Mystery
T-41 Mescalero	Walt Shiel	Non-Fiction: History
Targeted Killing	Thomas B. Hunter	Non-Fiction: History
Listening to Ghosts	Bob Stockton	Military: Navy
Devil in the North Woods	Walt Shiel	Fiction: Historical Fiction
Wing Wife	Marcia J. Sargent	Non-Fiction: Memoir
Beyond Those Hills	M.H.A. Menondji	Fiction: Historical Fiction
Victory Road	Mark Bowlin	Fiction: Historical Fiction
Kings of the Green Jelly Moon	King, greenwald, Jellerson, Mullins	Poetry

If you feel like taking a break from barb-b-que and beer, grab a good book. Looking for a good read – might we suggest one of the books mentioned above?





MWSA Conference Philosophy, Information & Tips

By
Joyce Faulkner

As an organization, MWSA has high goals. When we succeed, we are exhilarated. When we miss, we are disappointed—but not so disappointed that we give up. We assess the problem and then adjust our approach or our tools or our attitudes—and give it another go.

Hopefully, this is how we are as individuals—and as writers. We are on a journey together, but we aren't necessarily at the same point at the same time. Some of us are planning books, some are writing them, some are publishing, some are promoting. At the MWSA Conference, we'll share research techniques, industry information, and book publishing options. We'll learn how to layout books and discuss what makes a good book cover. We'll discuss ebooks and how they are changing everything from how we write to how we publish to how we promote our work.

Unlike other writing groups, we don't care who publishes your book. We care about you—no matter where you are on the journey. Because of your connections with the military, we believe that your stories are important and we want to encourage you to write them, not throw up further roadblocks. Because of who you are and where you've been in your lives, your words matter. We need to use them to educate, to inform, to interpret, and to inspire broad audiences.

To make this happen, we choose to focus on quality—what it is, how to get there, how to judge it, how to inspire it. Ideas about excellence are as slippery as ideas about justice. Easy to say, hard to achieve, especially since our education, talents, perspectives, and skillsets vary. Some of us have modest goals for our work, others dream of literary recognition and financial riches. However you define success, quality must be your first concern—and so it is MWSA's as well.

Of course, perfection in any endeavor is just beyond the fingertips for most. In MWSA, we have professionals who have been writing for 40 years

or more. We also have people who have decided to write their memoirs who may not have mastered things like grammar, sentence structure, or indexing. We have novelists of the highest caliber, and we have those who are struggling to edit their first efforts. What brings us together as a writing group is content—the stories. We have a body of work amongst us that contributes to the world's understanding of history from the most strategic level to the point of view of those most effected by war—those who fight it, those who live it, and those left at home as a result of it.

So, our goals, in general and for this conference, are:

- ♦ Come together as fellow storytellers to help each other define high-quality avenues to communicate our perspectives and experiences to society.
- ♦ Educate each other about writing and the writing industry as it is and as it is becoming—and educate our communities about the human condition reflected in our work.
- ♦ Involve schools, community and veteran organizations in our effort to record our unique perspectives and experiences as history.
- ♦ Explore ways that individual members can work together as a team to further these goals.

In fact, the last goal is the theme of all of our conferences. Celebrate Together! Let's celebrate the achievements of our most accomplished authors who will be recognized with awards this year. Let's also celebrate new beginnings and growth. And finally, let's figure out a way to use our numbers to support and enhance each other's efforts.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

Our conference will take place at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriott. It is about ten minutes from the airport and has a free shuttle. If you want to have it

(Continued on page 31)

(Continued from page 30) **Faulkner**

pick you up, call 1-412-788-8800 and arrange it, as soon as you land.

Some of you stayed at the Marriott last year and know it's a much better facility for us. All of our meetings will be on the same floor and right next to each other. Registration will take place in the lobby at the **MWSA Registration Table** which should be to the right of the front entrance. It'll be there Thursday, Friday & Saturday through 4 PM.

Thursday afternoon, we'll meet in the Coraopolis/Findley/Moon Room. We'll begin with an orientation, a buffet lunch, and a hands-on writing event which will be loads of fun and might enrich your buckaroo resources. That evening, some folks will go on to the Bridgeville Public Library event (Those participating have already signed up for this.) You can either relax in your rooms as you arrive or you can enjoy each other's company in the Regatta Grill which is behind the restaurant and will serve as our Hospitality Room. We'll have snacks & soft drinks for you there. The Hotel Restaurant and bar is close by if you want a meal and if you want to go out to eat, there are many restaurants within 2 miles of the Marriott.

Programming on Friday and Saturday begins at 8:00 AM and continues on until 9:30 PM. Our meeting rooms will be set up with round tables. This is for three reasons. One, it's more social and we want you to get to know each other. Two, you can write or type as you need. Three, you can bring in food or drink at your convenience. (There's a cash concession bar in the Hotel Lobby.)

There are only three MWSA meals. Aside from the opening Buffet Lunch on Thursday and snacks and drinks all three days in the Regatta Grill, we'll have the formal Awards Banquet in the Coraopolis/Findley/Moon room on Saturday night and Coffee and Donuts on Sunday morning in Salon A prior to the Buckaroo Auction. Other than that, you are on your own for food.

The conference schedule is crowded. You are

welcome to pick and choose what you want to attend. (If you want to spend more time with a speaker after his/her presentation, please clear the meeting room and continue your conversation in the Regatta Grill.)

Each speaker & moderator will have a whiteboard at the front of their meeting room where he/she will put the name of the session that's about to start. Check there to make sure you are in the right place. If you have a question, look for an officer or a volunteer. You can recognize us by our name badges which we will wear all the time.

One of the most important sessions is one the Jim Greenwald and I will present on Friday afternoon at 3:30, called "MWSA Awards Judging Process." This is where we will discuss how we evaluate books, what qualities we are looking to recognize, the standards that we use, and how we score and select winners. We'll show you examples of books that we consider the best of the best—and we'll demonstrate what NOT to do.

Dress is business casual for all the events except the Awards Banquet. We usually dress up for that. Anywhere from a Tuxedo to a dinner jacket is fine for men. I will wear a dressy blouse and either a long skirt or fancy slacks and heels. A few of the speakers will be wearing costumes. If that's your bag and you want to do that too, go ahead. Some of our members wear their uniforms to the Awards ceremony, that's fine too. We are there to celebrate.

****For the Awards, Banquet, I'm looking for a volunteer who will tweet the winners as they are announced and/or post them to our FB page. Please let me know if you'd be interested in doing this for our members who can't attend.****

The more you participate, the more you will get out of the event. Engage your fellow members, ask questions during the Q&A periods. Make suggestions, share your experiences, tell your stories—and have fun.

We are going to do a different version of OPEN

(Continued on page 32)

(Continued from page 31) **Faulkner**

MIC program, going back to the approach we used in San Diego in 2006. We will set up a display of all of the books of the attendees. A group of 4-6 readers will read excerpts from each book to the audience. Some readers will read their favorite passage from another author's book. If you'd like to be a reader, contact me or Mike Mullins. If you'd like the readers to read a particular passage of your book, mark it for them. If you'd like to read a passage from your own book, that will be fine too. Passages should be no longer than a half a page of a 6X9 inch book and take no longer than 2 minutes to read.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ♦ Starting immediately, you will be able to submit ebook versions of your books for review. You will need to inform the lead reviewer and he will assign you to a reviewer who has ereader. Like with hard copies, you will be responsible for getting the reviewer an ebook file. We prefer Kindle and/or Nook but can accommodate other formats as well. Your book **MUST** be officially published and have an ISBN number.
- ♦ **Maria Edwards**, one of the giants who helped launch MWSA and who serves as our consultant, will attend the conference. Many of you have worked with Maria or consulted with her in the past. This is your opportunity to meet her in person. She will be available to chat with you individually or in groups as is appropriate. We are thrilled to have her join us.
- ♦ To further our goals to introduce MWSA authors to schools, libraries, and communities, we are announcing a Scholarship program. In each city we select for our conference, we will work with a local school system and include them in our programming. To encourage them to participate, we will offer two \$500 scholarships for students who match certain criteria. The scholarships will be funded by two raffles throughout the year.
- ♦ **Navigator Books** has donated a book contract to be raffled off at the conference. See the ad on page 45. The tickets are \$25 and will go into the scholarship fund. To purchase a ticket, contact Louis Intres (louis.intres@smail.astate.edu). For those of you who attend the conference, you can use the Buckaroos you have earned over the year (you will receive them at registration) to purchase tickets as well. The drawing will take place on Sunday, October 2 as part of the Buckaroo Auction. You do not need to be present to win, but you must have purchased your tickets and we must have your name, email, and telephone number so we can contact the winner.
- ♦ At the conference, we will also launch the second raffle to support the scholarship program. The tickets will also be \$25 and the winner will receive their conference choice of an iPad or Xoom tablet. Since this is a fundraiser, buckaroos will not be accepted for this raffle. The drawing will take place on the Veterans Radio Network program on July 21, 2012.
- ♦ The 2012 Conference will be in Dayton, OH on September 27 –30 at the I-675 Holiday Inn near Wright Patterson Air Force Base and the Air Force Museum. If things go well with our community outreach program, we'll stay there for 2013 as well. We are currently looking for West Coast locations for 2014 & 2015 including Phoenix, Las Vegas, San Diego, & Los Angeles areas.
- ♦ We desperately need someone to help us with the website. If you have any time at all, please contact us. Most of the work to be done is posting of reviews. If we don't find someone soon, we will have to close down are site and move to blogging only.

September/October Notes By jim greenwald

The conference is almost here, under a month. Have you made your room reservation yet? Don't be disappointed or upset if you wait and wind up paying more or worse, do not get a room at the Marriott. Not being located at the Marriott creates a problem as we are not providing transportation this year so you would be on your own.

Conference Information: The Marriott has a Coffee/Soda Snack bar next to the hotel registration desk open 24-hours a day, so if you want a snack or coffee before heading into a seminar please pick one up in time to make the seminar.

Meal discount tickets for the hotel restaurant will be handed to you when you register at the MWSA table in the Lobby. If you run out just stop back and ask for more. The restaurant will accept one discount ticket for each bill, so it is not necessary for a husband and wife or friend to each provide one. These tickets are good for any meal. They are not restricted to dinner only. NOTE: There are also any number of restaurants within two miles of the hotel — from fast food to nice chains.

MWSA will be awarding two \$500.00 scholarships to two upcoming graduates from the High School that will be putting on the plays at our first Dayton conference. Tickets will be on sale at this year's conference for \$25.00 each. The winner of the raffle can choose between an Apple iPad or a Motorola Xoom tablet.

Reminder! If you are not coming to the conference there is a mailing charge of \$6.00 to send your Award and book stickers, also for the anthology. The purchase price of the Anthology is \$20.00. Nothing will be shipped until payment is received.

We have a limited number of last year's anthologies and they will be on sale at the registration desk for \$5.00.

Conference Auction Donations - Time is running out to donate something to our auction. I

need to have the item no later than September 23. If you are coming to the conference you can bring it with you, but you need to let me know what it is no later than September 23. If you are bringing something simply drop it off at the MWSA registration table when you arrive.

Things to think about - Signing up to place a book on our book table, contacting Joyce to volunteer for the conference (a few needed positions waiting to be filled – auctioneer, someone to relieve the registration desk people so they can eat and of course folks to review books).

I want to welcome aboard three new reviewers, Terry Shoptaugh, Robert Schaefer and Jack Manick who have stepped forward to help our organization review books. I hope many more follow their example.

Dues! Everyone should know when their dues expire, if not you can always check by emailing the MWSA Membership Secretary, Terry Gould — not Joyce or myself. NOTE that important emails addresses appear in all issues of Dispatches. Email addresses! If you change yours you need to notify the MWSA (Membership Secretary) to change your record. Some nominees had incorrect ones and this year I took the time and expense to mail copies of the emails to them, next year everyone should know so it will not be necessary to do so again.

The awards process is in its final stages. Some notes worth mentioning from what is the first year of this process/method. Members need to make certain to unblock MWSA emails to facili-

(Continued on page 34)



(Continued from page 33) **greenwald**

tate communication. Relying on publishers to forward your books is fine, but you had best stay on top of the process as publishers are busy and things do fall through the cracks. Four weeks after notifying author's judges were still waiting on books to arrive, that is pushing the envelope as they say. You could be disqualified for not getting the book in the hands of the judges in time to be scored, just like every other competition deadlines are there for a reason.

Seeking Volunteers

MWSA is a volunteer-based organization. The more resources at our disposal, the more and better the services we can provide. With our MWSA buckaroo program, you have a measure of the value of your participation. (Buckaroos are MWSA currency. The more you volunteer, the more you earn. Every year at the Conference, we have a buckaroo auction where you can use your buckaroos to bid on cameras, computers, services, etc.) More importantly, the more that you put into MWSA, the more you will take away from it.

- We need a new webmaster.
- We need someone to convert *Dispatches* to a format which will support our Social Networking Strategy.
- All of the committees need volunteers.

If you are willing to help out, contact MWSAPresident@gmail.com for details.



Veterans or Military Retiree Benefits Advisor

Do you have questions regarding your Veterans' eligibility or military retiree benefits?

We can help answer those questions.

To make an appointment, contact the Branson Veterans Task Force

IN THE RANKS...



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www.in-the-ranks.com



Military Writer's Society of America 2011 Conference Registration Form
September 29, 30, October 1 and 2

Amount (\$)

Name:		
MWSA Member #:		
Conference Fees:	3 Day (\$235) 2 Day (\$160) 1 Day (\$80)	A)
Non-Member:	3 Day (\$265) 2 Day (\$190) 1 Day (\$110)	B)
Conference Guests:	(# Guests X \$80.00)	C)
Lunch Buffet Guests:	(# Guests X \$25.00)	D)
Banquet Guests:	(# Guests X \$45.00)	E)
Book Table:	# days _____ X \$5.00	F)
Additional Anthologies	# _____ X \$20	G)
Total Conference Fees:	A+B+C+D+E+F+G =?	
Member Dinner Choice:		Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian
Guest Name & Meal:		Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian
Guest Name & Meal:		Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian
Guest Name & Meal:		Beef/Salmon/Vegetarian
Title & Price of Book:		

- All Conference Fees must be paid in full to register for the Conference
 Member Conference Fee covers All Functions & the Anthology, but does not cover cost of book table.
- If you want to have your Anthology shipped, please contact jim greenwald and mail a check to MWSA for \$6.00 to cover shipping costs. If you asking for it to be shipped and or ordering extra copies please do so before July 30th so we can order enough copies.
- Award Winners will receive their Medal, Certificate & Seals at the Banquet. If you do not attend, mail a check to MWSA for \$5.00 to cover shipping costs, no medals certificates or seals will be mailed until payment is received.
- Mail Check to: MWSA, P.O. Box 264, Bridgeville, PA 15017, or email to leanstofar@aol.com and jim greenwald will email you a .doc form to fill out and return to him. Then he'll send you a Paypal Invoice.

**MWSA
 PO Box 264
 Bridgeville, PA 15017**



TRAVERSING THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH

by Robert B. Robeson

Traversing the valley of the shadow of death,
Like David from our Biblical past,
We are never alone in our suffering.

Life finally exacts its punishing toll,
Where a missed breath means eternity,
Traversing the valley of the shadow of death.

As light that continues shining from long-dead stars,
During moments of snuffed-out hope,
We are never alone in our suffering.

Being threaded through the eye of a needle
Like Job, "What I feared has come upon me,"
Traversing the valley of the shadow of death.

We get used to everything, but departing,
Yet God stands with us in line to die.
We are never alone in our suffering.

As runners about to break the tape in the
Final—most important—race of life,
Traversing the valley of the shadow of death,
We are never alone in our suffering.

NIGHT MEDEVAC MISSION

by Robert B. Robeson

My instrument panel gazes through red-rimmed eyes
illuminating heading, altitude, airspeed and trim,
unable to pierce the gloom outside cockpit windows,
yet soothing my spirit with routine flight information.
Suspended for long minutes within a veil of black velvet
the combat world below teems with danger.
Nothing appears to move except a distant blip of light
marking a remote Vietnamese village...
farther and farther away, now.

I've been afraid before in the night while
speeding along air highways paved with green tracers
from enemy anti-aircraft fire,
charging by the front door of death,
long on adrenaline and often short of JP4 jet fuel.
Painful memories tumble kaleidoscopically through my mind.
Faces of the dying ominously pass in stark review,
carried halfway to safety on our blades...
then mysteriously snatched from our bird by an invisible force.

Ahead, a strobe light on a distant mountainside
flicks its white tongue in our direction,
held aloft by an unseen presence.
Descending slowly, the sweep-second hand on our panel clock
may be ticking off remaining seconds of my life.
I'm mesmerized by the dangerous lullaby of prior experiences
knowing what else may be down there,
watching...and...waiting,
like a tree snake hypnotizing a bird with its evil eye.
Searchlight on from two-hundred feet to a hover. Touchdown.
Lights off, as a mound of writhing, wounded warriors quickly
accumulate on our bloody deck in the creepy blackness.
Then I "pull pitch" and scramble for altitude
above the foreboding jungle, beyond towering peaks,
into the welcome refuge of a camouflaged sky.
Our patient load is called into the aid station—
more work for doctors and tombstone makers.
Darkness does not protect everyone from death.

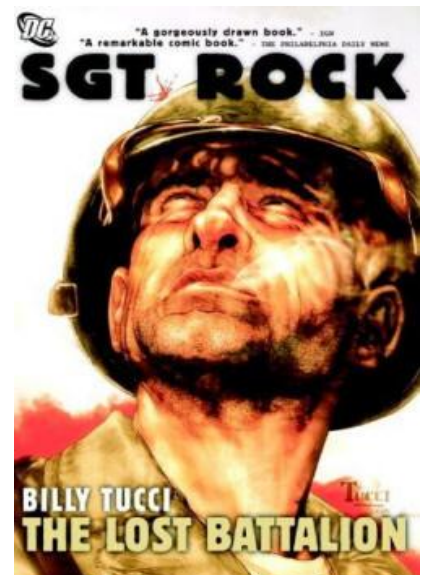
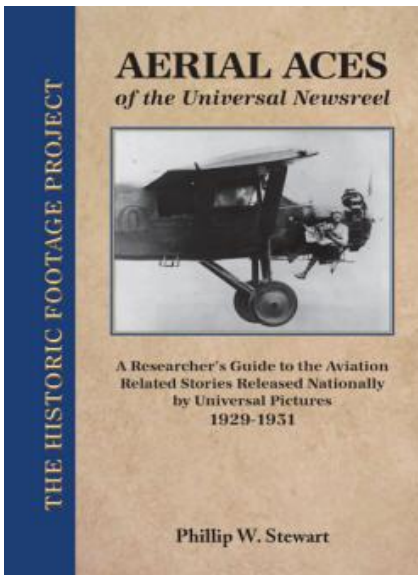
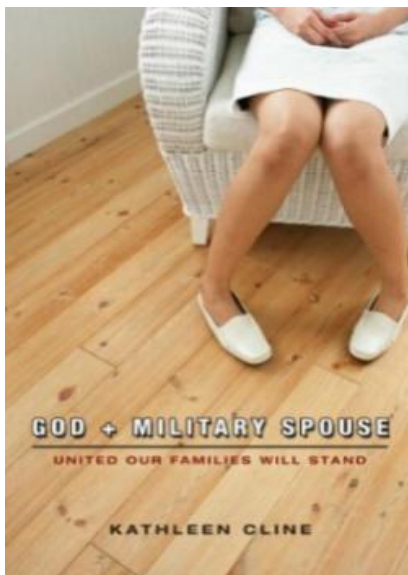
COMBAT VETERANS

by Robert B. Robeson

Many have vanished like pebbles in a pond.
For others, memories are sharp as bayonets
on a thousand rifles:
Hamburger Hill, Tet '68, Choshin Reservoir,
Inchon, Guadacanal, Omaha Beach.
Even martyrdom must run its course.

The enemy has disappeared into the sunset,
leaving behind a phantasmagoria of emotions
“which will live in infamy:”
Hanoi Hilton, POW/MIAs, 38th Parallel,
Iwo Jima, Bataan, Pearl Harbor...
souls left shaken by war's barbarity.

Those who sacrificed for their love of peace
sowed freedom's seeds—watering them with
patriot blood on distant shores:
searing heat, frigid cold, lonely nights,
fear, death, lifelong wounds.
“Thank you,” combat vets, one and all.



A BAD TRIP

by Robert B. Robeson

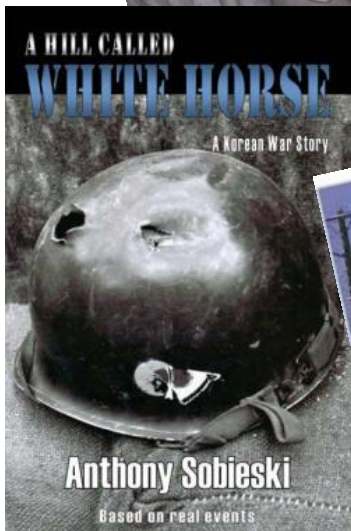
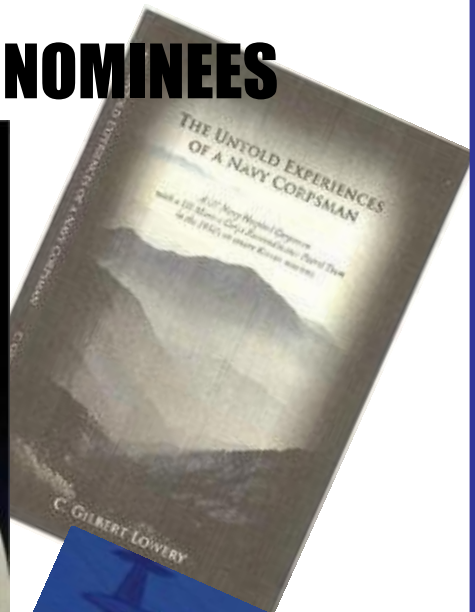
War is an off-note that sours the chords of life,
a second-by-minute nightmare;
flight from reality,
self-defeating,
sensing your entire life ticking down and
wondering what new horrors
the next day will bring.

Combat's a terminal overdose in the throes of another trip,
often being "takee" rather than taker;
mind-blowing experience,
acute intoxication,
surrendering your virtue to borrow a vice
and paying a fiddler
who's not playing your song.

War is waves of cold chills crawling through your flesh,
body shaking like a vibrator;
whispers that scream,
inhaling danger,
only marginally in control of any situation—
struggling with confusing puzzles
whose pieces continually change shapes.

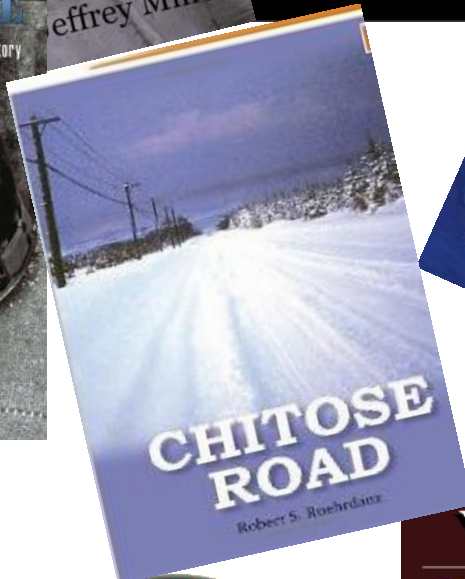
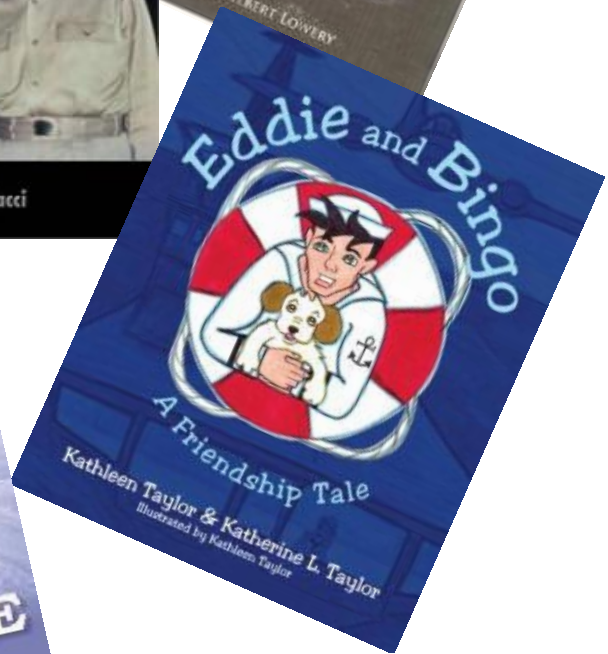
Combat is a place where death is difficult to avoid,
universally ruled by invisible forces;
moral eyes blinded,
zombie existence,
wondering if anyone truly cares and discovering
living is more courageous
than striving to accelerate the dying.

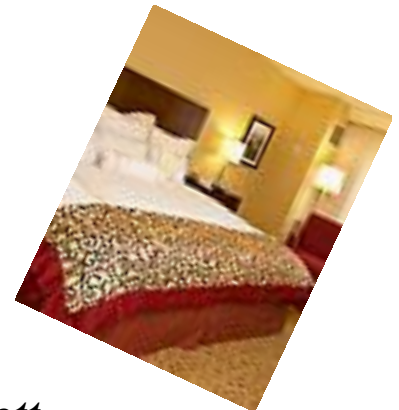
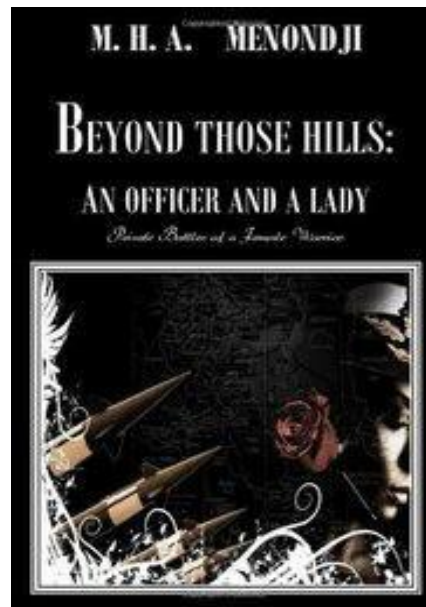
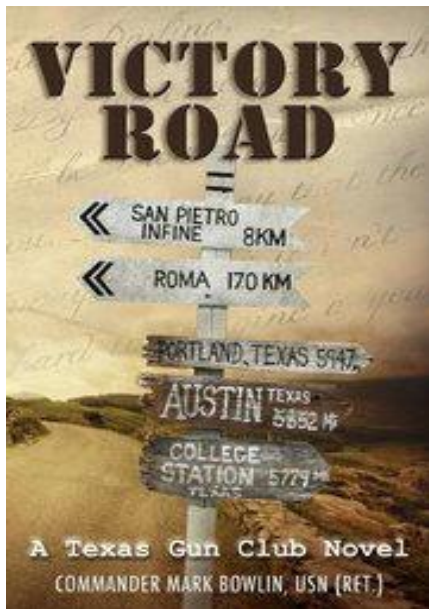
Korean War Book Award NOMINEES



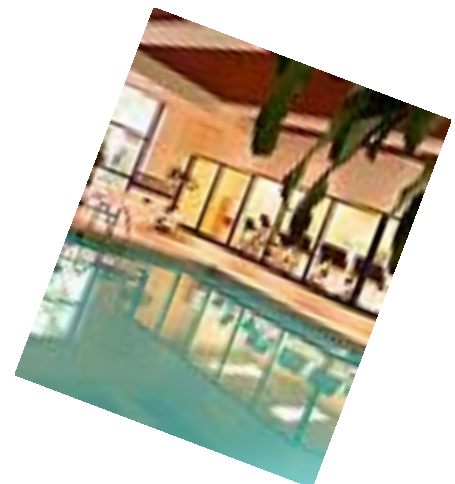
Jeffrey Miller

Donald J. Farinacci





***Pittsburgh Airport Marriott
Site of the 2011 MWSA
Conference
1-412-788-8800***





Times are tough and money is scarce. We all need to monitor our expenses to make ends meet. With the release of our new Vietnam War Poetry book it is time to **stretch** your dollars to include the purchase of a copy of this insightful look into a time in our history many wish to forget, a time best remembered lest it be repeated. Order your copy today from your local or on-line book store. If coming to the conference bring it with you for author signatures, at least two of the authors will be in attendance.

Kings of the Green Jelly Moon is an amazing recitation of poetry composed by four uniquely different voices. Wrought with rawness and realism, this diverse collection is sure to give the reader pause for reflection and understanding. None but those who were actually entrenched in the jungles of Southeast Asia are qualified to educate others as to the lasting effects of the tragedy and turmoil that was Vietnam. Not only are these four author/patriots qualified, they are also masterful poets as well, each bringing their own flavor to the same subject ... surviving Nam.

Lloyd King's "First Kill" is a chilling testament to the inherent value that a Soldier places on **every** human life ... even that of his enemy.

Jim Greenwald's "Just Stopped By" is a sobering reminder of those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom ... lest we forget.

James Jellerson's "Seven Stars" offers a glimpse into

the depths of selfless camaraderie that only brothers in arms can share.

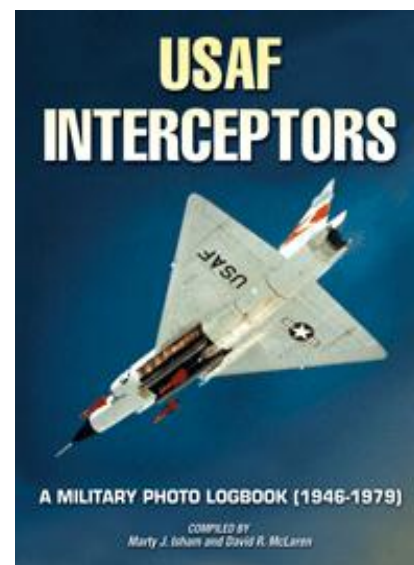
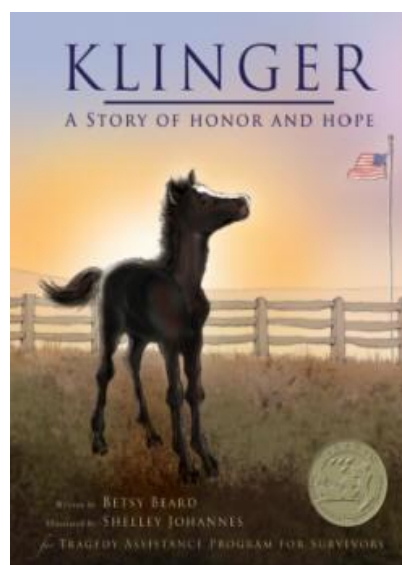
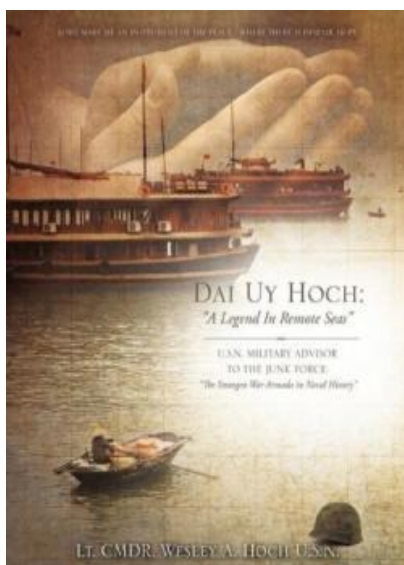
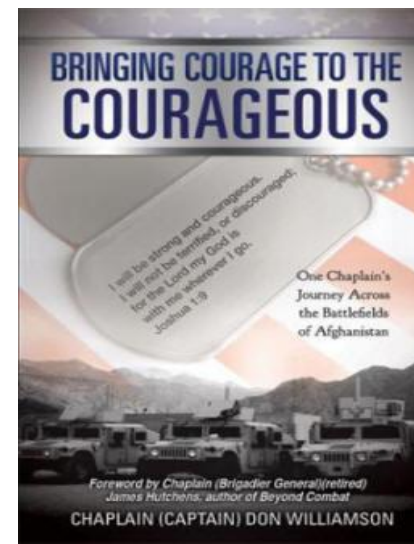
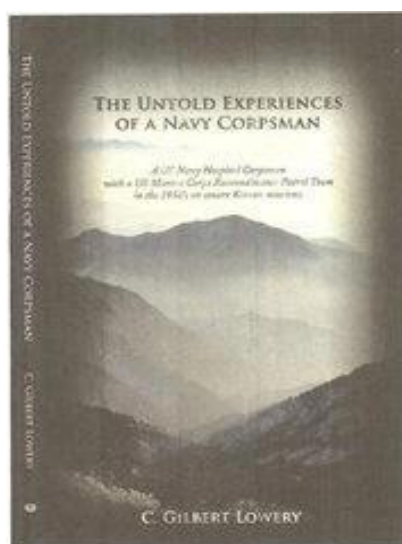
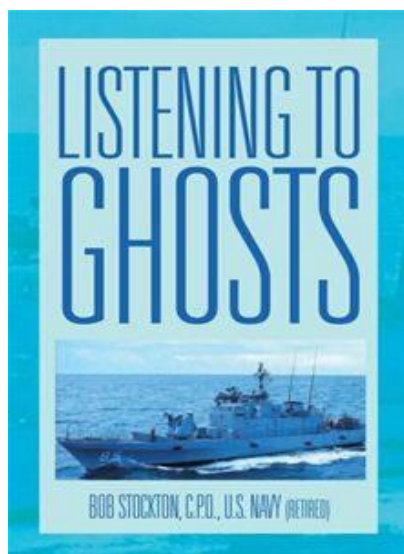
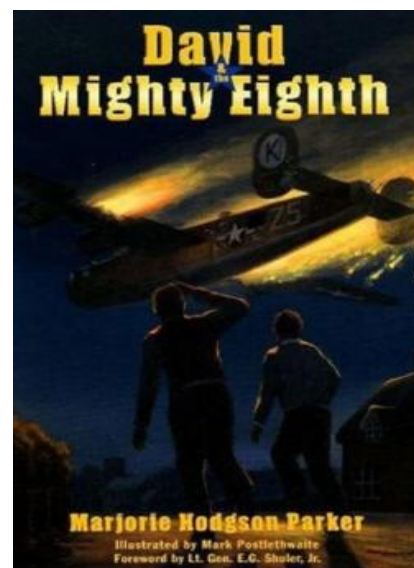
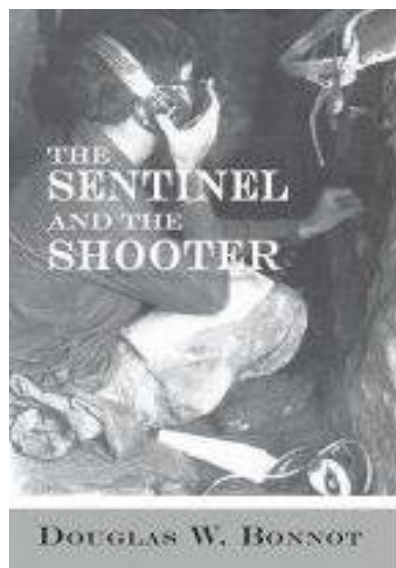
Mike Mullins' "Silence" gives the reader an intimate insight into the challenges of living with the memories of being a warrior.

"Kings of the Green Jelly Moon is not merely a collection of poems about Vietnam, but rather songs about the human condition. Absorbing and contemplating these poetic offerings will break the reader's heart and mend it at the same time.

This is an impressive body of work. The level of talent and presentation is outstanding. Each poet bares his soul to the reader, giving us a privileged glimpse into their souls...showing us the Vietnam they experienced and its lingering aftermath. [Claudia Pember-ton, Reviewer]

"Kings of the Green Jelly Moon' bares the still aching soul of the Vietnam veteran. Whether the writers pick at a scab, pour salt into a still bleeding wound or lave on cooling salve to ease the hurt, the poetry herein will make a lasting impression the reader will not soon forget." D. H. BROWN 'Nam '69-'71 MACV

Available through - i-Universe (108 Pages) Soft Cover \$12.95 [9781462027897], Hard Cover \$22.95 [978146202790], and e-book \$9.95 [9781462027910], Amazon.com, B&N.



Dwight Zimmerman—Industry News

The fact that we have transitioned into the e-book age was underscored today (Saturday, September 3) by an article in the *New York Times* (front page, no less) titled “The Dog-Eared Paperback, Newly Endangered in an E-Book Age.” Basically, it seems that the recession has helped spur sales of ebooks at the expense of the mass market paperbacks with have seen a 14 percent decline in sales since 2008. Aside from the fact that ebooks are cheaper than mass market editions, what’s also spurred ebook sales has been the shutting down of the Borders chain, which was a strong seller of mass market editions, and the shifting of shelf space in other mass market retailers, such as Wal-Mart and airport book vendors, who are now going for more expensive (and thus more profitable on a unit basis) trade paperbacks and hardcovers. For Wal-Mart and airport vendors, particularly, the credo of “move it or lose it” is paramount, and with sales volume down on lesser expensive mass market books, it only made sense for them to shift their bookshelf space to the higher margin editions.

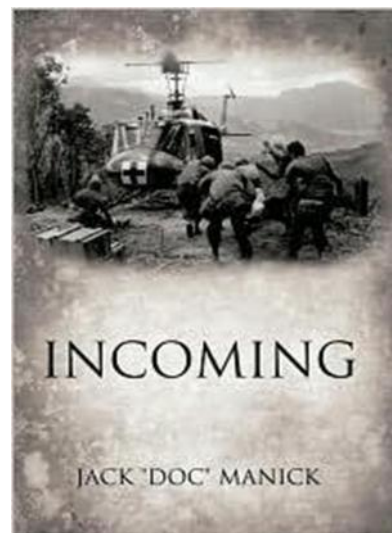
The biggest beneficiaries in this are genre novelists because they dominate the format. As ebooks pay higher royalties, this will certainly be a boon. For those interested in reading the complete article, it’s at: www.nytimes.com/2011/09/03/business/media/mass-market-paperbacks-fading-from-shelves.html?_r=1&hp.

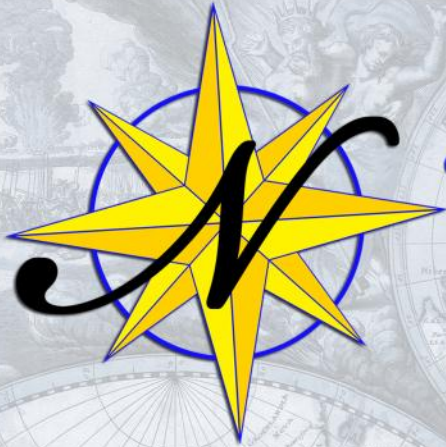
I really don’t have much else to say this time around—I’ve been pounding away on a number of projects, mostly articles. My article publisher is very happy with my series of World War II anniversary essays that are posted on his Defense Media Network website. New ones are posted each week. And I’m wrapping up a major article about the history of the US Navy SEALs for an authorized 50th anniversary publication of the unit.

Finally, a reminder to anyone who has book signings, interviews, or any other events for me to post on the MWSA Trumba site, even if you’ve



given me the basic book and story summary information before, please always include it in any new notice. I do not keep a file of this information, and it saves me time to simply refer to the email notice than to also have to search prior postings for particulars. Thanks!





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