



*Ballard Eagleson Patriot*  
Post 3063, Ballard, WA  
July 2016 (rev.)

## From the Commander



As I begin the tenure of Post 3063 Commander, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize Past Commander Aaron Stoltz's eight years of leadership. Many of today's accomplishments were, in part, due to his guidance and his work with the formulation of various committees.

Although he has stepped down, he will continue to be active with the Post as 3-year Trustee and in an advisory capacity as Past Commander. Commendations for a job well done, Comrade Stoltz.

Taking on the position of Commander cannot be accomplished single-handedly. While decisions and guidance may come from the Commander, the Post itself is generally not run by the Commander but by the Post Quartermaster. I found this out when I had to take over as Quartermaster in 2008 due to the unexpected passing of then Quartermaster Tom Brown. For the next five years, I found out there was more to it than just paying bills and having broken equipment fixed. At the time, there were no standing committees to take on projects and activities. These duties fell into my hands as well as Commander Stoltz's hands. We initially struggled, but managed to keep the Post afloat.

Therefore, my reliance on Post Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger during my term is paramount. The position is instrumental in the operations of the Post. He and I will continue to work closely to ensure that the viability of the Post remains robust. The Post is in much better shape than say, 10 years ago. Back then on several occasions, we didn't have enough members attending a meeting to have a quorum. Today, meeting attendance is up and there is more involvement from Post members.

A goal I have is to encourage Post members, many of whom are life members, to attend monthly meetings and Socials, whenever possible. I believe with the help of the Membership Committee, we can achieve that.

I also want to recognize the Post Auxiliary and its President, Margaret Philips and to involve them with the annual Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs. Their participation with these programs will help ensure the Post has representation for local, District and State level contests.

As incoming Commander, I don't anticipate changes. Rather, we will build on the achievements and successes we've accomplished and have our Post remain active. I thank you for the support in entrusting me to the position of Commander. With the help of all, my term as Commander will be a substantial one.

Yours in Comradeship, Nestor Tamayao

## Quartermaster's Update



Here we are at the start of another VFW year. The new officers have taken their positions and committee members are appointed and anxious to go to work. I know you've heard and read it before but I'll say it again. We have our regular business meeting on the first Thursday of each month and a social every third Thursday. Help kick off the new VFW year by planning to attend regularly.

With the beginning of a new year we are starting from last year's calculated base to make one hundred percent of our membership again. Every year we lose members due to some moving out of our area, some passing on to their reward and some deciding not to renew their membership. I know that last is hard to believe, but it actually happens once in a while so look around and see if you can bring in at least one new member this year to help get our membership back up to one hundred percent.

Your post is getting more and more active in the community. The newly formed Color Guard is practicing marching and drilling with our new M1 Garand rifles. Interested personnel should email the Color Guard Captain, Bill Hoeller, at [colorguard@vfwseattle.org](mailto:colorguard@vfwseattle.org) or call him at 206-632-3173.

Our redesigned website ([vfwseattle.org](http://vfwseattle.org)) is up and running. When you have time give it a look. It is interesting and you may find some information you can use.

We are visiting more hospitals and nursing homes. If you would like to volunteer to participate in these visits shoot us an email, contact us via our website or call the office, 206-782-8618.

Our new Service Officer, Gail Engler, attended the Washington State VFW Service Officer school last week and is ready to provide assistance to veterans and family members in our community who need help applying for benefits or who would like more information about what's available. Contact her via the Web page or email at [serviceofficer@vfwseattle.org](mailto:serviceofficer@vfwseattle.org).

Two weeks ago on Flag Day, for the first time in over thirty-five years, we held a flag retirement ceremony in our parking lot. It was an impressive ceremony. See article on page 2.

On Memorial Day some of our members visited the patients at the Seattle VA Hospital. We plan another visit on Independence Day, the Fourth of July, to visit with patients and pass out treats. If you are interested in attending, please call me at: 206-972-2135 or email [quartermaster@vfwseattle.org](mailto:quartermaster@vfwseattle.org) for details. [Harold Rodenberger]



## Flag Retirement Ceremony

By Charles R. Anderson



On Flag Day, June 14, 2016, Ballard Eagleson VFW Post 3063 held the first flag retirement service in more than 35 years to dispose properly of worn flags that had been left at the post.

It was a windy gray day with a threat of rain looming, perhaps appropriate for such an event.

The flags were burned as prescribed by the United States Flag Code. The incinerator device was home-made by our Quartermaster Harold Rodenberger from half of a 55-gallon drum mounted on a piece of salvaged aluminum from an old post sign with wheels added for portability. A raised grating supported the flags, while a healthy bed of burning wood provided the fuel.



## Veterans Community Conversation

Brought to you by the King County Veterans Consortium.

Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 2 PM—4 PM  
American Legion Post 160, 3618 SW Alaska Street, Seattle, WA 98126.

Purpose: To ensure all veterans and their families have a voice in the King County Veterans Situation Report (SITREP). The SITREP will leverage the expertise of KCVC members and the voice of the military community to advocate for improvements to systems, policies and programs that impact veterans and their families.

For questions, contact Dawn Barrett,  
[dawn.barrett@kingcounty.org](mailto:dawn.barrett@kingcounty.org) or Ryan Mielcarek  
[rmielcarek@comasshousingalliance.org](mailto:rmielcarek@comasshousingalliance.org)

In honor of Independence Day with its traditional picnics we will have grilled hamburgers and hot dogs prior to our meeting next Thursday on the 7th of July. The catered dinner provided by master chef, Willie Williamson, at the social this month will be that good old American meal of meat loaf with mushroom gravy, rice pilaf, veggies, salad, roll and desert. Why not take a break from your routine and visit your friendly VFW Post to enjoy a meal and some time with your friends? [Harold Rodenberger]

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Post officers are listed on our Web site at [vfwseattle.org](http://vfwseattle.org)



## Happy Fourth of July; An Editorial

By Charles R. Anderson. (Note: The viewpoints expressed in this editorial are those of the author only and may not represent those of the Post or VFW.)



Although the United States broke with monarchical rule in England, our beliefs in ideals such as individual freedom still came from there—going all the way back to the Magna Carta in 1215. Does anything remain of these ideals today? Among a fairly significant part of the population, very few it seems. In the U.K. most of the “Great Charter” clauses have been repealed or modified into non-existence for all practical purposes. The basic concept of a right to defend yourself has been written out of the law and bred out of the belief system of most people in that country. Look at this advice from a UK police [FAQ Q589](#): “Are there any legal self-defense products I can buy? Answer: The only fully legal self defence product at the moment is a rape alarm. These are not expensive and can be bought from most local police stations or supermarkets. You **must not** get a product which is made or adapted to cause a person injury. Possession of such a product in public (and in private in specific circumstances) is against the law.” As stated in other [legal](#) briefings in the U.K, “The law does not recognise the concept of a ‘defensive weapon.’ You are not permitted to carry an offensive weapon—even to defend yourself. *You may, however, provided it constitutes reasonable force, defend yourself with an ordinary everyday object, such as keys, an umbrella or a comb, provided you have them with you for their ordinary everyday purpose.*” [*italics mine*] In [Scotland recently](#), 11,569 crossbows, rifles and pistols dating back to World War Two were among thousands of air weapons surrendered during a police amnesty. Effective December 31, 2016, it will be a criminal offense to have an air gun without a license or permit.

How is the Bill of Rights working in the U.S.? The basic concepts of the Magna Carta have been corrupted in the UK to fit a socialistic, paternalistic government that forbids individual rights of self-defense. In the United States countless examples exist of changes in once-inalienable rights such as self-defense, religious liberty, the right to peacefully assemble, etc. Many of the principles embodied in the Bill of Rights are either under attack or already have been nullified by court or executive actions/orders.

In our country, a goodly percentage of the populace feels that it is morally wrong to defend yourself by owning any kind of weapon, particularly a firearm. Instead they say, “the police will protect you,” ignorant of the fact the police have no duty in law to protect anyone. Even the appearance of something like an AR-15 has the power to strike terror and misconceptions in supposedly rational individuals. Generations that have been taught to believe everything is about ME (the *Me Generation*) are unlikely to perform heroic acts in the midst of an attack. Perhaps this explains the tendency of victims of mass shootings to simply lie down and accept what is going down with no attempt to resist. Does anyone anymore still give [Todd Beamer's](#) rallying cry of “Let’s roll” on Flight 93?

A few examples of how our world has changed:

[Edward Peruta v. County of San Diego](#). Ninth Circuit Opinion. On June 9, 2016, the Ninth Circuit, sitting *en banc*, ruled 7 to 4 that the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms does not apply to any law governing the concealed carry of any protected firearm in public.

[School rejects](#) teen's gun-toting, flag-waving photo. The 15-year-old country boy from Ringoes, New Jersey is a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association. He's a member of two state shooting teams and he serves as a United States Sea Cadet. A photo of him for a class project showed him holding an American Flag and a shotgun.

[School sends sheriff](#) to order child to stop sharing Bible verses during lunch.

A [New York City man](#) could be facing a manslaughter charge for defending his wife against a would-be rapist.

According to a [Pew Research Center Study](#), “40 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 34 believe the government should be able to ban any speech that is offensive to minority groups.”

[Boykin bounced](#): Fort Riley cancels Delta Force hero's prayer breakfast speech.

**In Philadelphia, the Liberty Bell no longer rings due to a crack. Will it ever, even figuratively, ring again?**





## Military Songs: A Brief History

By Charles R. Anderson



"The Army Goes Rolling Along." Originally "The Caisson Song" and official anthem of the U.S. Field Artillery Corps, it was composed by Lt. Edmund L. "Snitz" Gruber during a long march in the Philippines. Gruber heard an officer roar, "Come on! Keep 'em Rolling." Gruber's relative Franz had composed "Silent Night" and was inspired to write the melody for a new song. Serving soldiers in the artillery helped compose the lyrics and the song became very popular during WWI. In 1948, when the Army wanted its own song, they held a nationwide contest. Despite hundreds of entries over the next four years none was acceptable, so the Adjutant General's office recycled "The Caisson Song" and renamed it "The Army Goes Rolling Along."



"The Marines' Hymn." The melody for this came from an aria in Jacques Offenbach's *Genevieve de Brabant*. "According to tradition, an officer wrote the first verse of the Hymn on duty in the Mexican War (1846-1848). Meant to highlight the various campaigns of the Marines, the unknown author edited the words from the Marines' colors and added them to Offenbach's melody." New, unofficial verses are added with each Marine campaign.



"Anchors Aweigh." This one was written to rally the U.S. Naval Academy's football team. The Navy bandmaster from 1887 to 1916, Lt. Charles A. Zimmerman, had been composing a march for each graduating class. A Midshipman named Alfred Hart Miles asked Zimmerman in 1906 to write an inspiring tune with some swing to it for a football marching song. The two men wrote the melody and lyrics and dedicated it to the class of 1907 (Navy did win that year over Army).



"The U.S. Air Force," originally the "Army Air Corps" tune was the result of a contest sponsored by *Liberty Magazine* in 1938. Out of 757 pieces submitted, this one written by Robert Crawford was selected.



"*Semper Paratus*," (U.S. Coast Guard). Both the motto and official song of the Coast Guard, the motto was adopted in 1910, and the words were composed in 1922 by Capt. Francis S. Van Boskerck. Five years later he completed the melody.

## University of Washington World War I Exhibit

By Lisa Oberg, UW

As we approach the centennial of the United States' entry in the first World War (April 6, 2017), staff in Special Collections in the University of Washington Libraries are planning an exhibit of Seattle's WWI involvement. The exhibit will be installed on campus in late August and will run from September through January, 2017. There are many stories to be told about the war and Seattle's contributions from the Red Cross hospital, Base Hospital 50, organized by the University of Washington to the Spruce Production Division logging Douglas Fir for the first military aircraft. And, on the home front, there was labor unrest, food rationing, victory gardens, bandage folding, knitting drives and more. Special Collections has some wonderful scrapbooks, personal papers and manuscripts relating to World War I, but we would welcome the loan of the following types of artifacts you might have in your personal collection or family memorabilia to supplement the exhibit.

- WWI gas mask, helmet or uniform
- Service Flags
- Photos and memorabilia related to the UW's Base Hospital 50 and U.S. Army Ambulance Corps
- Overseas Hospital Service photos and memorabilia
- WWI medals, unit patches, etc.
- WWI women's service photos and memorabilia
- YMCA flyers, posters, post cards
- Red Cross posters, flyers and other relevant WWI ephemera

If you have questions related to the exhibit or material you would be willing to loan contact the exhibit curator, Lisa Oberg, Head of Public Service, Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries. Lisa can be reached at 206-543-7492 or [lisanne@uw.edu](mailto:lisanne@uw.edu).

Mark your calendar and plan to visit the exhibit between Sep 1, 2016, and January 30, 2017. Contact Lisa, as well, if you're interested in information about any programs offered in conjunction with the exhibit.



## 51st Expeditionary Signal Battalion: 100th Anniversary

By Charles R. Anderson



This military unit, constituted on July 1, 1916, held a commemoration ceremony at JBLM May 31 to June 2 to mark 100 continuous years of existence. A [youtube](#) video describes their history and their lineage is [here](#).

On order, 51st Signal Battalion Expeditionary rapidly deploys worldwide to “Engineer, Install, Operate, Maintain, and Defend the LandWarNet in support of Full Spectrum Operations.”

In October 1917, the battalion deployed to France and joined the American Expeditionary Force. During World War I, the battalion participated in three campaigns—

Lorraine 1918, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne.

In WWII, the 51st headed to North Africa and staged and participated in the Invasion of Sicily, followed by a mission to provide communications support to forces arriving in Italy in October 1943. For its service in World War II, the battalion was credited with five campaigns and received the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

During the Korean War, the battalion supported I Corps in ten campaigns and received two Meritorious Unit Commendations and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. Later the battalion moved to Ludwigsburg, Germany in support of VII Corps.

On November 8, 1990, the battalion was mobilized for immediate deployment to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield. For its participation, the battalion received three campaign streamers.

The Battalion deployed to Haiti in September 1994 in support of Operation Uphold Democracy, returning in March 1995.

In May 2002, a platoon from C Company, 51st Signal Battalion deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, returning in October 2002. In September 2002, B Company sent a platoon to Kuwait returning in August 2003. The 51st Signal Battalion deployed in March 2005 for Operation Iraqi Freedom III, returning to Fort Bragg in March 2006. On September 15, 2006, the 51st Signal Battalion (Airborne) was briefly inactivated.

On January 17, 2007, the 51st Signal Battalion was activated at Fort Lewis, Washington. On August 27, 2008, the 51st Signal Battalion (Expeditionary) deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, returning August 23, 2009.

The unit’s distinctive insignia depicts a band of telegraph poles alluding to the unit’s original function as the 55th Telegraph Battalion during World War I. The unit’s motto is “*Semper Constans*” meaning “Always Constant.”





## The Corporals of Souain

By Charles R. Anderson

On March 17, 1915, four corporals in the French Army were executed *pour encourager les autres*. This simple French phrase translates as “to encourage the others.” This is the reason these men were shot—not for anything they alone had done—but for something their regiment failed to do—advance against overwhelming machine gun fire through their own artillery barrage falling on the trenches in front of them.

After three failures to take a German position near Souain-Perthes-lès-Hurlus on February 15, 1915, the French general in command, Géraud François Gustave Réveilhac, known for an earlier order when he re-launched an attack because the percentage of acceptable losses had not yet been reached for that day, ordered his artillery to fire on his own trenches because the men were not leaving them to attack (because they were being cut down by massive machine gun fire as they climbed out).

The artillery commander, Col. Raoul Berube, refused to obey without a written order. The general would not provide it and gave up that idea. However, he then ordered thirty infantrymen to be tried for cowardice. The privates were found not guilty, but four corporals were chosen at random for the firing squad to serve as ex-



amples.

The four men, Louis Girard, Louis Lefoulon, Lucien LeChat and Theopile Maupas were no more guilty of cowardice than any man in the 700-man regiment. Maupas was an exemplary soldier chosen by lot. When the facts came out in 1921 there was considerable outrage. After years of appeals, the men were exonerated. There is a monument now to the men in a communal cemetery.

The general subsequently was relieved of his command and forced to take three months' leave. After this he took command of a reserve unit until the war ended. After the war, Reveilhac retired with honor and was awarded the highest French order, *Commandeur de la Légion d'honneur*.

Humphrey Cobb, a novelist, wrote a book about the event titled *Paths of Glory*. This was made into a motion picture with the same title in 1957 directed by Stanley Kubrick. Both book and movie are available from Amazon.com and the Seattle Public Library.