



# San Jose Stamp Club Newsletter



Whole number 211

November 2015



## 9 - 11—WE WILL NEVER FORGET

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### Visit our website at:

[sanjosestampclub.wordpress.com](http://sanjosestampclub.wordpress.com)

Founded 1927. Club show since 1928  
Meets 7:00 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays  
Hilltop Manor in 3<sup>rd</sup> floor dining room  
790 Ironwood Drive, San José, California  
Driving instructions on the website.

#### Annual dues:

Adults/families \$12 ~ Youths \$6  
With hardcopy of newsletter \$20

APS chapter # 0264-025791

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### Website

If you haven't checked out our website I urge you to do so. Jim Steinwinder is the webmaster and has really done an outstanding job in its creation.

We've needed a web presence for some time now and Jim has not only stepped-up to create it but has demonstrated his ability and acumen in so doing. There's a wealth of information and its extremely easy to navigate. You are encouraged to share information, changes, additions and/or deletions with Jim so that the information remains current and relevant.

Here is the site address:

[sanjosestampclub.wordpress.com](http://sanjosestampclub.wordpress.com)

### Newsletter Editor

To date no one has expressed any interest in doing the newsletter. This is not rocket science, and no one expects you to put out eight pages as I've done these past 18 years.

Primarily a club newsletter need only report on club activities: meeting dates, meeting programs, a show schedule, and any activities such as we recently had at the Heritage Museum in Sunnyvale.

Trust me, without a newsletter this club will slowly wither and die. If you don't care, then continue sitting on your duff.

I will help you get it started if you wish, so it won't be so overwhelming. -ed.



Lt. Alexander “Sandy” Bonnyman, Jr., Medal of Honor recipient. His return story on page 6.

### Filatelice Fiesta

It's that time of year again and your Filatelice Fiesta Committee has been hard at work preparing for the show.

Once again we request your help with both set-up and take-down. There are any number of chores that have to be attended to and with your help the work is diminished and the time shortened to make ready on Thursday before the show and Sunday after the show closes.

The stamp club will have a hospitality table with coffee and munchies for all. There'll be a couple exhibit frames with information on Bay Area stamp clubs—hopefully with representatives from each of the clubs present. Jim Steinwinder will have his program of stamp stories on a continuous loop from his computer to a monitor—all very nice and well done.

This year we will have a raffle for a box (boxes?) of philatelic material. The number of boxes will depend on the number of donations received from membership and the dealers. It need not be specifically stamp related as I've seen everything from jig-saw puzzles to bottles of wine in raffle boxes at other shows. Anything you feel could motivate someone to buy a couple tickets—but please, no junk. We can have a little fun with it and raise a few dollars for our treasury at the same time.

Volunteers for duty during the show are needed, primarily for the registration and hospitality tables. A sign-up sheet will be available at the November 14th meeting, or you may call the editor to be added to the list. We ask for a couple hours for any or all of the three days of the show. I think nearly everyone can do a couple hours without difficulty and it would lessen the time load for everyone—besides it's an opportunity to interact with the show goers and rest your feet.



- Over 200 Dealers
- 60,000 Exhibit Pages
- 50 Convening Societies
- 8 Amazing Days

May 28-June 4, 2016  
Javits Center

# POPULAR

# The Prez Sez

## Northern California Trivia

Q Lasting only one month in 1981, what dramatic series starring Tom and Dick Smothers was set at KSFJ-TV in San Francisco?

A "Fitz and Bones."

Q What star of "I Spy" was born in Oakland?

A Robert Culp.

### 'A SHOT OF WHISKEY'

In the old west a .45 cartridge for a six-gun cost 12 cents, so did a glass of whiskey. If a cowhand was low on cash he would often give the bartender a cartridge in exchange for a drink. This became known as a "shot" of whiskey.

### THE WHOLE NINE YARDS

American fighter planes in WW2 had machine guns that were fed by a belt of cartridges. The average plane held belts that were 27 feet (9 yards) long. If the pilot used up all his ammo he was said to have given it the whole nine yards.

### BUYING THE FARM

This is synonymous with dying. During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

### IRON CLAD CONTRACT

This came about from the ironclad ships of the Civil War. It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

### RIFF RAFF

The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight but they were expensive so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.

### SHIP STATE ROOMS

Traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins on ships are called staterooms.

### SHOWBOAT

These were floating theaters built on a barge that was pushed by a steamboat. These played small towns along the Mississippi River. Unlike the boat shown in the movie "Showboat" these did not have an engine. They were gaudy and attention grabbing which is why we say someone who is being the life of the party is "showboating."

"The Constitution ... is a mere thing of wax in the hands of the judiciary which they may twist and shape into any form they please."

—Thomas Jefferson, letter to Judge Spencer Roane, 1819

"At the establishment of our constitutions, the judiciary bodies were supposed to be the most helpless and harmless members of the government. Experience, however, soon showed in what way they were to become the most dangerous."

—Thomas Jefferson, letter to Monsieur A. Coray, 1823

What time is it? It's Filatelic Fiesta time, of course! We're building it up every year with new things and making improvements. It is my goal that we make FF a show that every philatelist in the South Bay will make time to attend. We are building a show that people will not only attend when it is convenient, but make a special point to attend.

How are you helping out? Everyone should be already thinking about how they are going to contribute. There is something for everyone no matter the limitations. Staffing the hospitality area only requires sitting in the area, drinking coffee, eating donut holes, and occasionally standing up to great people. Working at the reception table takes even less standing if physical activity is an issue for you. Help is needed on Thursday starting at noon to help mount exhibits and other tasks to get the room ready. Please plan to be at the show on Sunday afternoon to help take down the exhibits and clean-up.

Our hospitality area is becoming increasingly popular and developing into something really special. Creating a place where people can come and be comfortable, socialize, and get a light snack is something special. As we did last year, we're incorporating the APS "Stamp Buddy" program into the hospitality area. As club members greet and welcome show guests, we can engage them in conversation and build a discussion about visiting their local stamp club or joining the APS. The APS goals are the same as ours, getting more people involved in the philatelic community.

One of the new elements this year is a large map of the greater Bay Area with all local stamp clubs and shows marked. Color-coded markers will show how there are clubs and shows all over the greater Bay Area. I believe this will impress lots of guests that there is more going on than they ever thought. Kristin Patterson is developing this idea and building this map for us. A BIG thank-you to her for the support.

Jim Steinwinder has several new presentations that will be on a continuous loop display. The new presentations continue Jim's series of presentations on early commemorative issues. If you've been a regular meeting attendee, you've seen some of the new presentations and know how informative they are. Another BIG thank-you to Jim!

Please, seriously consider attending the awards banquet on the evening of Saturday, November 14th at the Elk's Lodge. The food is always good and we have a great time. A special event this year will be an award to a very deserving club member. There will be the awards for the exhibits, so come see if your favorite wins a gold and perhaps even the Grand Award to go onto compete at StampShow 2016. The cost is \$39.50 per person. If you plan to attend, let me and Dr. Ed Lavaroni know by Nov. 10th. The Elk's Lodge is located at: 444 West Alma Ave, SJ.

There are serious issues facing the future of Filatelic Fiesta. Steve Schumann is stepping down as show chairman after FF 2016. Dr. Ed Lavaroni is resigning as exhibit chairman after this year's show. A very serious issue is the loss of several important dealers. Our dealer bourse revenue is borderline to covering expenses. In case you didn't know, the fees for renting tables to dealers is the primary source of revenue for the show. Some dealers have expressed dissatisfaction with our current location.

Continued on page 3

## Postal Buddy—Follow-up

**G**oodman's claim, which is pending before the Postal Service contract office, demands payment of \$1.3 billion, or, if that is rejected, \$127.9 million. The lower figure is the actual losses that Goodman and his investors say they suffered from what they claim is a breach of contract.

His claim argues that the terms of the contract allow for recovery of \$629.6 million in lost profits as well as a \$606.1 million payment for the "value of the business destroyed." If rejected, Goodman can appeal to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims or seek a hearing before a postal contract board.

Berry and Goodman note that when Postal Buddy was killed, the project was in the midst of an major advertising campaign that was beginning to boost its revenue. Given the Postal Service's public partnership pledge with Goodman, Berry said the agency had an obligation to help Goodman overcome any start-up problems. As he puts it: "The Postal Service had an obligation to make it work."

Members of the Postal Service Board of Governors, the presidential appointees who oversee the agency, were assured that the government's potential liability was no more than \$20 million when the contract was canceled. This summer when they were told of the size of Goodman's claim during a closed briefing some were furious.

Today, the Postal Buddy Corp., the company Goodman created with millions from EDS and Goldman Sachs, is moribund. The 183 Postal Buddy machines that were operational last September are stored in a Rochester, N.Y., warehouse. "It's impossible to put us back in the position we were in," Goodman said. "All the bridges are burned.

"Everybody told us, 'It's not going to happen. You're dealing with the largest civilian bureaucracy in the world,'" Goodman recalled. "I'm an entrepreneur. I'm too naive. I've never dealt with any government bureaucracy before," Goodman used to tell his critics.

Sandra Harding, a postal spokeswoman, said the agency also discovered that the kiosks, which collected change-of-address information, were more costly to operate than anticipated. Postal workers had to send confirmation notices to individuals before accepting a change-of-address form, a step that increased expenses.

Sidney R. Goodman, president and chief executive officer of Postal Buddy Corp., said he was "shocked" and "quite upset" by the unexpected termination of the contract. "It flies in the face of the facts and thumbs its nose at the government's 'reinventing government' effort," he said, adding that the machines had been well received in Washington and San Diego. A company official said Postal Buddy Corp. had invested \$40 million in the machines and had planned to invest up to \$200 million. The firm expected to make money from sales of stationery, postcards and printed labels.

Goodman said the Postal Service would have to pay the company an undisclosed amount for breaking the contract, a point that Harding disputed. The company rejected the claim that the machines generated low revenue and said they had been adopted by the Postal Service to provide change-of-address information, not revenue.

When the machines were introduced at a joint news conference in December, company and postal officials said they could cut down on congestion in post office lobbies and quickly provide change-of-address information in a computerized format.

Postal Buddy Corp. was to install 10,000 of the machines in post office lobbies, supermarkets, shopping malls and other locations. It is not clear what will happen to machines installed

in locations other than post office lobbies. The project had the blessing of former postmaster general Anthony M. Frank, and postal officials proclaimed that the agency would "not spend one cent" on the machines. The machines were supposed to be the prototype of private-public agreements that would save the agency millions of dollars.

"We signed an 8 1/2-year agreement this past January with our new partners authorizing them to produce, deploy and service 10,000 or more Postal Buddy kiosks because we believe in the company and its abilities," Ann McK. Robinson, the Postal Service's consumer advocate, said at the news—blah, blah, blah, blah—and on and on it goes.

Even I know that if you are a small business you don't do business with the Fed. They will destroy you every time as a small business can't afford the lobbyists needed to grease the palms of politicians to ensure success. Not to mention a union that is totally out of control, which could spell the demise of the postal service as we know it. Far to many "BIG" little people in the post office.-ed.

## The Prez Sez

Continued from page 2

A long term future of the show may require a new venue, but many that have been investigated are too expensive. Moving out of the fairgrounds may be required as they are raising prices to other events. This raises another serious issue with storage of our large frame boxes. The show currently enjoys below market rate storage on fairgrounds property as we host an event there. To have a successful show in future years, we'll need to find people to fill the leadership roles, find a new venue, raise attendance, and coax more dealers to rent tables. Every show is struggling to find enough exhibits to satisfy WSP standards. One option to help with several of our issues is to change to a two day show. This would reduce the exhibit hall space rental and reduce the number of exhibit frames needed.

It is in our control if Filatelic Fiesta is to have a long thriving future or fades away the way so many shows have. Let's continue building a great show this year. Everyone's hands are needed to do this. See you at the show!  
—Brian

## SEMPRE LIBERO, (Always free)

**"The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave."**

—Patrick Henry

**"One man with courage is a majority."**

—Thomas Jefferson

**"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, It expects what never was and never will be."**

—Thomas Jefferson

**"People demand freedom of speech as a compensation for the freedom of thought which they seldom use."**

—Soren Kierkegaard

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.—Will Rogers

## The Norwegian Legion

In 1941, the Norwegian government made an agreement with Germany that mail sent by Norwegian volunteers in the German forces had free Feldpost services. Postal rates of 20Rpf was charged for packages sent from Germany weighing 250gms to 1000gms, and 35 Ore fee for those posted in Norway.

Feldpost mail from units with open addresses were required to add the "Portofreie Dienstsache" notation, even when dispatching mail through Feldpost offices. All mail was censored. Normally Norwegian volunteers in Waffen-SS formations had their Feldpost mail inspected by SS examiners.

SS mail was examined and applied with circular "As" censor markings and/or sealing tapes. Commercial or Feldpost mail was also inspected and examined in Norway or Germany and bore the circular "Ao" (Oslo) or "Ab" (Berlin) markings.

Because of the lack of faith in the local post offices, in July 1942, a special postal service was established to serve the civilian and military occupation authorities. This service was the "Deutsche Dienstpost Norwegen," which remained in operation until May 1945. Censored control marks were applied in Norway for mail transferred from Feldpost to civil post office. They were 15mm circular marks with the letters "FN" (Feldpost Norwegen) and are found with numerals "1 through 5." They were used between September 1942 till January 1944. A 16mm circular "FN" routing stamp was used in northern Norway.

### Norwegian Collaboration Stamps

The Norwegian postal administration issued stamps to support the Norwegian volunteers serving in the German forces.



Norway, Scott B24.

On 1 August 1941, a red semi-postal stamp was issued. It illustrates a Norwegian Legionnaire with the Norwegian and Finnish flags waving in the background. The inscription reads the Norwegian Legion and has a postal value of 20 + 80 Ore. The surtax was added to benefit the Norwegian Legion. Only one hundred thousand stamps of this issue were printed.

Note: An essay in a form of souvenir sheet (105mm x 95mm) was printed but never issued. The stamp design is the same as the Norwegian Legion. It in horizontal format with the postal plus surtax value printed on the left side.

On 1 February 1941, a semi-postal stamp showing Quisling's portrait was issued by the post office with a postal value of 20 + 30 Ore. The following day the same stamp was overprinted in dark-red "1-2-1942" to commemorate Quisling's first day in office as Prime Minister.



Very scarce cover that illustrates the two semi-postal issues of Quisling's portrait. The cover commemorates the first day of Quisling as Prime Minister. It has the Oslo first day postal cancel applied on both stamps.

On September 26, 1942 the Quisling semi-postal stamp was re-issued with an inscription for the 8th annual meeting of the National Unity Party. The Norwegian National Unity Party was equivalent to the German NAZI party. The surtax from the sale of these stamps aided relatives of soldiers killed in action.



Quisling semi-postal stamp (Scott B27) with the date for the 8th annual meeting of the National Unity Party

On 12 October 1942, two regular postage stamps were issued by the post office. Both stamps depicted two earlier stamps. The first Norwegian stamp issued in 1855 is shown and next to it is the Quisling semi-postal stamp. One stamp (red) valued at 20 ore, and the other (green) valued at 30 ore. These stamps were issued to commemorate the European Postal Congress held at Vienna, October 1942. In 1942, the postal authorities issued official stamps for Quisling's civil service and military personnel. These stamps show the Norwegian Nazi Party Emblem and they were used till 1944.



The stamps issued to commemorate the European Postal Congress held at Vienna, October 1942, Scott 253-254.

On 2 August 1943, a red-brown semi-postal stamp with a 20 + 30 Ore value was issued (Scott B31). It shows a Viking warrior holding a shield emblazoned with a cross and the inscription Front Fighter. The surtax supported the Norwegian volunteer units. A badge showing the Front Fighter was issued to Norwegian veterans returning from the Eastern Front. Both Legion stamps were designed by Herald Damsleth and were valid until 15 May 1945. The letter shown is a first day cover issue for the Front Fighters semi-postal stamp, which incidentally shows the badge that was awarded to Norwegian Eastern Front volunteers.

Two different slogan postmarks were used: a slogan with the inscription "BRUK FRONTKJEMPER FRIMERKET" (Purchase the Front Fighter stamp) and a flaming heart shape shield with the inscription "NORSK FRONT." The later slogan was posted for only the months of April and March 1945.



Stamp issued 2 August 1943, (Scott B31) with the 30 Ore surcharge going to benefit the Den Norske Legion. It depicts a Viking holding a sword and shield with "Frontkjemper," or "Front Fighter" framing him over the top.

The first day cover showing the Norwegian Legion semi-postal was mailed by a family member to a Norwegian Volunteer. The cover has been censored by German military authorities, with a blue "Geprüft Feldpostprüfstelle" (Inspected Feldpost Examiners Office).



### **Freiwilligen Legion Norwegen**

In 1933, a Norwegian pro-Nazi party was instituted by Vidkun Quisling and was called the "NASJONAL SAMLING" (National Unity).

In April 1940, Germany invaded the Norwegian coastlines because Hitler feared that the British fleet would invade Norway's vital strategic seaports and take control of its natural iron resources. During the German occupation of Norway, the pro-Nazi Party under Quisling's leadership actively supported the Germans.

There was a Norwegian interest in forming an expeditionary force to fight along side the Finnish against the Soviets. With German support represented by Reichskommissar Josef Terboven, the pro-nazi party called for a meeting of four high officials of the Norwegian Army to create a legion. A massive recruiting rally was held on the University Square in Oslo on 4 July 1941.

The Norwegian Government intended to form a full regiment of two battalions but due to strict admissions standards and brief six terms of enlistment only one battalion was realized. Titled "Gula" and "Frosta" (name for the 1st battalion was changed to VIKEN, the other battalion was never formed).

The Legion was sent to Bjolsen Skole camp in Norway where they were surprised to receive German SS uniforms since they had expected to wear Norwegian or Finnish uniforms.

Differences were the Norwegian National Flag sleeve patch worn on the SS uniforms, and members of the Nasjonal Samling and its para-military arm "Hird" were allowed to wear their emblem. A standard Legion collar patch (right collar only) displaying a Norwegian lion holding an axe was used.

On 29 July 1941 the first 300 Norwegian volunteers arrived in Kiel, Germany, and were sent to Fallingbostal Training Camp. By the end of 1941, it had the strength of 1218 men with an additional reserve battalion provided for replacement. The officers were sent to Lauenburg training camp.

Officially named "Den Norske Legion" (The Norwegian Legion), the Legion was commanded respectfully by Major Jorgen Bakke and Major Finn Kjelstrup (both ex-Norwegian Officers) but both officers resigned in early December 1941. In December 1941, after completing six months enlistment, Legionnaires re-enlisted for another six months. Originally the plan was to have them serve in the Finnish sector of the Eastern Front but because of the critical situations elsewhere in Russia, the Legion was sent to the Leningrad Front.

This Legion had no contacts with their compatriots in the WIKING Division who were considered full Waffen-SS cadre personnel. In February 1942, the Legion, commanded by Sturmbannfuhrer Arthur Quist, was sent to the quietest sector near the Leningrad front to support the 2nd SS (motorized) Infantry-Brigade and 250th Spanish Blue Division. The 2nd SS Brigade was an international unit, which included Dutch, Flemish and Latvians. In Norway the recruitment continued unabated. In April 1942, the effective strength of the Legion amounted to 1150 men with another 150 on reserve.

By May 1942, the Legion, with almost half in casualties over the previous three months, was relocated to Konstantinovka for refitting. In July these and six months enlistments caused a manpower shortage in the Legion.

In August 1942, they were reinforced with 200 new recruits, plus another 93 men contingent arrived from the 1st Norwegian Police Company. By the end of December 1942, their strength dropped to 20 officers and 678 other ranks. On 1 March 1943, the Legion with the 1st Police Company was withdrawn from the front lines and sent to Norway on home leave. In May 1943, about 600 veterans were sent to the Grafenwohr training camp

in Germany where the III SS Panzer Corps was being formed. In the Grafenwohr training camp, the Legion was disbanded and the Norwegian volunteers were offered re-enlisting in the new "23. SS Panzer-Grenadier Regiment Norge."

### **SS Skijaeger Bataillon Norge**

During the summer of 1941, the SS Norwegian Volunteer Ski Company of 120 men was formed in Finland. In September 1942, this company was sent to the SS Training camp in Sennheim, Alsace, in care of a Finnish SS-Hauptsturm. The NCOs and officers went to various SS Training schools in Germany.

In February 1943, after intensive infantry training, the ski company was sent by train to Danzig where it was joined by the NCOs and officers. The company was placed under the command of Obersturmfuehrer Gust Jonassen, who was the founder of the ski company. The Ski Company was sent to the Karelian area of northeastern Finland where it was attached to the SS Reconnaissance Detachment 6, of the 6th SS Mountain Division. The Ski Company served in Finland till July 1943. The volunteers were then sent on an extended home leave.

In October 1943, enough volunteers had joined to form a new SS Norwegian Ski Battalion, composed of three companies. A number of volunteers transferred from the Nordland Division, who expressed a preference for serving in Finland. The formation of the SS Norwegian Ski Battalion took place in Oulu, Finland. The ski battalion was designated the "SS Skijaeger Bataillon Norge" and was attached to the SS Reconnaissance Detachment 6 where it served in the northeastern part of Finland.

In October 1943, an independent Norwegian Police unit that was outfitted and managed by the Waffen-SS arrived in Finland for a six month service. Designated as the "2. Norwegen Polizei Kompanie" it was deployed to guard the defensive perimeter located in Schapk-Osero just 10 kms behind the Nord Divisional front-line. In April 1944, the 2nd Police Company, which fought with distinction, was withdrawn from the front lines and sent back to Norway.

The Norwegian Ski Battalion was depleted of needed personnel and as a consequence it extended their defensive lines. By June 1944, the battalion had the strength of 300 men and in the course of continuous fighting it was depleted to half of its manpower when it was confronted and overran by the Russian 731st Rifle Regiment. After retreating through northern Finland and Norway, the depleted battalion was sent to the training grounds at Mysen, Norway for refitting. In August 1944, the ski battalion received 200 new recruits from Norway including 150 volunteers of the 3rd Norwegian Police Company.

The new formation was referred to as the "SS Polizie Bataillon 506." The battalion was re-trained and refitted until the day of Finnish capitulation on 4 September 1944. The Germans immediately began withdrawing towards northern Norway. The ski battalion had to cover and protect the pulling back of the Nord Division. By November 1944, it retreated from the Lapland area and into Norway, where it disintegrated in January 1945.

A 4th Norwegian Police Company was formed late in the war, it did not participate on the Eastern Front. In addition an SS guard battalion was recruited in 1942 to guard Russian prisoners of war in Norway. Norwegian volunteers had joined the Luftwaffe service since early 1943.

It is estimated that some 50,000 Norwegians served in the German Wehrmacht, Waffen-SS and para-military formations in WWII. Norwegians served throughout the war with other Waffen-SS units.

**From the internet. As is so often the case, there is much, much more to this story and nearly all of it on the internet.-ed.**

## Lt. Alexander “Sandy” Bonnyman, Jr.

By Mark Alexander · October 7, 2015

“There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery and heroism.” —Alexander Hamilton (1775)

Amid the precipitous decline of our nation's world standing—due to the failed foreign policies of the current chief executive, compounded by the desecration of our most honored warriors by his ungrateful cadres—it is my great privilege to acknowledge one of many American Patriots who honored his oath “to support and defend” our Constitution in the service of our country and paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Having been associated with military intelligence communities for the last 25 years, and more recently as an advisory board member with the Medal of Honor Heritage Center, I have been deeply humbled with opportunities to meet many of the 78 living recipients of this most rare and prestigious military award, which denotes “gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of [one's] life above and beyond the call of duty.”

One recipient, whom I will know only through his honorable service record, is Marine 2nd Lt. Alexander “Sandy” Bonnyman, Jr. Lt. Bonnyman returned home to Tennessee two weeks ago, some 72 years after he was last on his native soil.

At the onset of World War II, Bonnyman was statutorily exempt from military service because the then-30-year-old was operating a copper-mining company that produced vital material for the war effort. Despite this, Bonnyman enlisted as a private in the Marine Corps. Two years later, he set out for the Pacific aboard the *Matsonia*.

Bonnyman distinguished himself at Guadalcanal and in other direct enemy actions, and his exceptional leadership abilities earned him a battlefield commission as a second lieutenant in February 1943. In November of that year, he demonstrated his heroic character on Tarawa, the most strongly defended Japanese island in the Pacific, an island whose defenders claimed “it would take one million men one hundred years” to conquer.

As Executive Officer of Company F, 2d Battalion Shore Party, 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division, Lt. Bonnyman led his men into the Battle of Tarawa, where they took the fight to a supremely fortified Japanese enemy that had been slaughtering the Americans.

According to his Medal of Honor citation, Bonnyman was utterly determined to end that slaughter:

“Acting on his own initiative when assault troops were pinned down at the far end of Betio Pier by the overwhelming fire of Japanese shore batteries, 1st Lt. Bonnyman repeatedly defied the blasting fury of the enemy bombardment to organize and lead the besieged men over the long, open pier to the beach and then, voluntarily obtaining flame throwers and demolitions, organized his pioneer shore party into assault demolitionists and directed the blowing of several hostile installations. ...

Determined to effect an opening in the enemy's strongly organized defense line the following day, he voluntarily crawled approximately 40 yards forward of our lines and placed demolitions in the entrance of a large Japanese emplacement as the initial move in his planned attack against the heavily garrisoned, bombproof installation which was stubbornly resisting despite the destruction early in the action of a large number of Japanese who had been inflicting heavy casualties on our forces and holding up our advance.” His citation continues:

Withdrawing only to replenish his ammunition, he led his men in a renewed assault, fearlessly exposing himself to the merciless slash of hostile fire as he stormed the formidable bastion, directed

the placement of demolition charges in both entrances and seized the top of the bombproof position, flushing more than 100 of the enemy who were instantly cut down, and effecting the annihilation of approximately 150 troops inside the emplacement. Assailed by additional Japanese after he had gained his objective, he made a heroic stand on the edge of the structure, defending his strategic position with indomitable determination in the face of the desperate charge and killing 3 of the enemy before he fell, mortally wounded. By his dauntless fighting spirit, unrelenting aggressiveness and forceful leadership throughout three days of unrelenting, violent battle, 1st Lt. Bonnyman had inspired his men to heroic effort, enabling them to beat off the counterattack and break the back of hostile resistance in that sector for an immediate gain of 400 yards with no further casualties to our forces in this zone. He gallantly gave his life for his country.”

More than 1,000 Marines would lose their lives on Tarawa atoll during a hellish 76-hour battle, and it was this “dauntless fighting spirit, unrelenting aggressiveness and forceful leadership” that earned Lt. Bonnyman the Medal of Honor.

At the time of his death 72 years ago on 22 November, the remains of Bonnyman and many other Americans were buried in a number of battlefield cemeteries on the island. In 1947, the Army Graves Registration Service recovered most of those remains and those identified were repatriated to their hometowns across America. But Bonnyman and 40 other Marines were never found, most likely because Navy Combat Engineers inadvertently covered “Cemetery 27” when reconfiguring the island. They were declared “unrecoverable” by the Quartermaster General's Office in 1949.

Unrecoverable, that is, until July of this year, when Bonnyman's grandson, Clay Bonnyman Evans, brought him home.

Mark Noah, founder of History Flight, announced in early July “the discovery and recovery of historic Cemetery 27 on Betio Island as part of its 10-year, multi-million-dollar effort to recover hundreds of Marines lost to history, their nation and their families in 1943.”

History Flight, in conjunction with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, located Cemetery 27 in 2011, and in March of this year confirmed the location and began excavation. Clay Evans assisted in that excavation, during which they recovered the remains of more than 120 Marines. His grandfather's distinctive dental records, which included some gold teeth, led to his ultimate identification.

Bonnyman's Medal of Honor action is one of very few ever captured on film, though he is rarely identified in the raw combat footage. In a video posted online, Bonnyman can be seen at minute 1:23 in the very center of the frame (without a helmet) motioning for flamethrowers and riflemen to advance on the bunker. Also in the very brief footage at 3:49, where you will see one of the only instances in which Marines and Japanese troops were caught in the same frames during ground combat.

Some 16 million Americans served in World War II, and more than 400,000 died defending Liberty. Of those 16 million, 471 were awarded the Medal of Honor.

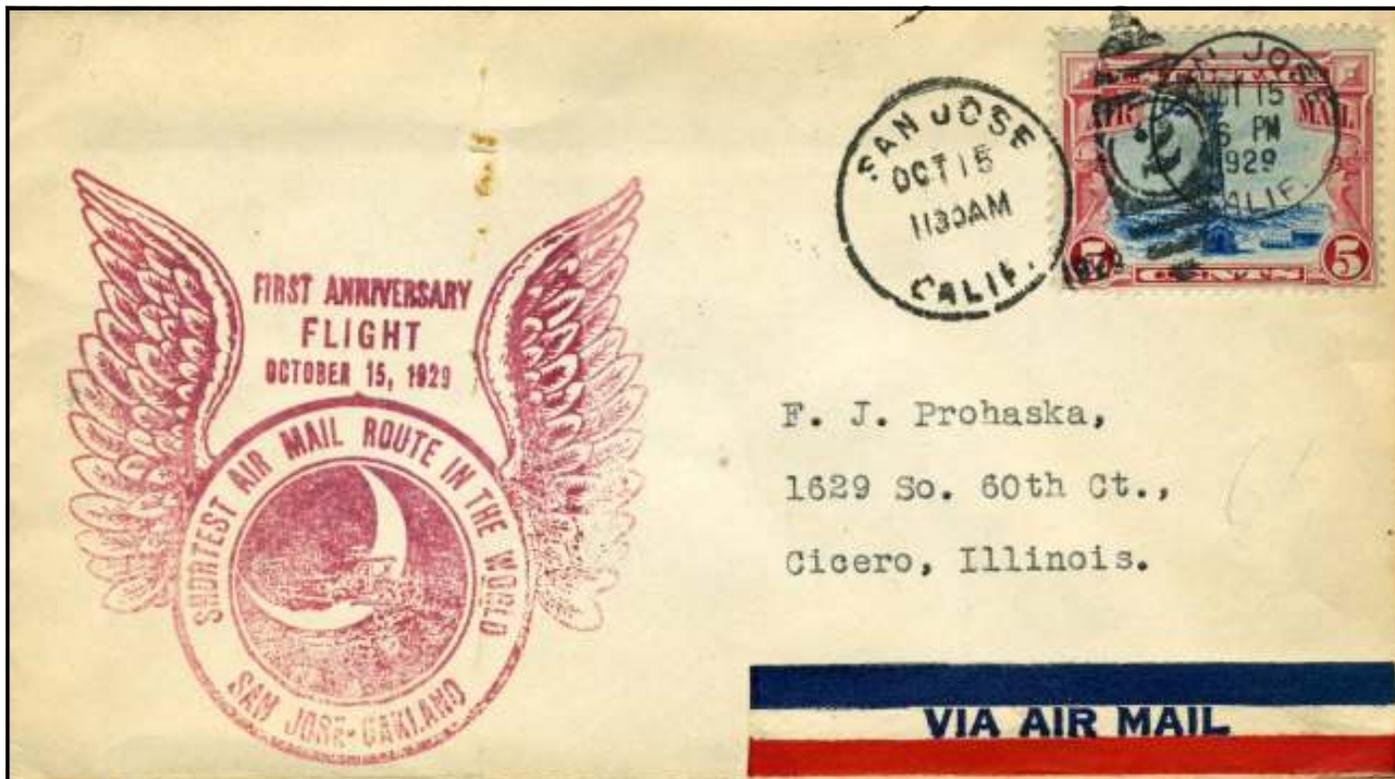
“Honor, justice, and humanity, forbid us to tamely surrender that freedom which we received from our gallant ancestors, and which our innocent posterity have a right to receive from us. We cannot endure the infamy and guilt of resigning succeeding generations to that wretchedness which inevitably awaits them if we basely entail hereditary bondage on them.”

—Thomas Jefferson (1775)

Pro Deo et Constitutione — Libertas aut Mors  
Semper Vigilans Fortis Paratus et Fidelis

# Covers, Cards, Stamps, etc.

Billed as the “Shortest Airmail Route” in the world in 1929, this first anniversary flight cover commemorates the establishment of that airmail route—and I wouldn’t be surprised if it still was the shortest airmail route. However, Trucks from San José to the Oakland Distribution Center are very likely not only quicker but carry much, much more than a plane. But, if during rush hour on 880, pack mules would likely be quicker. I’m guessing that in 1929 it was a big deal and we shouldn’t make light of it in 2015. An interesting observation is the fact that the duplex cancel gives the date and time as October 15, 1929 at 11:30 AM, while the CDS gives the date and time as October 15, 1929 at 6:00 PM—return flight???



An outstanding of Slania’s engraving, Sweden, Scott 1351.

**BLOOMBERG SAYS WHEN HE WAS IN COLLEGE HE WASN’T RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH FOR A GUN AND HE DOESN’T KNOW ANYONE IN COLLEGE WHO IS.**



**My 19th birthday was in Korea in 1953!-ed. I’m guessing Bloomberg still is not very responsible...The operative words may be “in college!”**



We can believe what we choose. We are answerable for what we choose to believe.—John Henry Newman

**NOVEMBER MEETINGS ARE ON THE 4TH & 18TH  
DECEMBER MEETING IS ON THE 2ND**



**Show Calendar**

**November 7 - 8**  
Sacapex  
Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street, Sacramento  
Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 4  
Free Admission - Free Parking

**November 13 - 15**  
Filatelie Fiesta  
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, Gateway Hall  
344 Old Tully Road (enter gate C), San Jose  
Fri, Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 4  
Free Admission - Free Parking

**November 22**  
Vintage Paper Fair  
Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive, Walnut Creek  
Sun 10 - 5  
Free Admission - Free Parking

**December 5 - 6**  
Penpex  
Community Activities Building  
1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City  
Sat 10 - 5:30, Sun 10 - 4  
Free Admission - Free Parking

**The San Jose Post Card Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (excepting July & August) in the Hilltop Manor dining room at 7 pm. Visit the SJSC website at: [filateliefiesta.org](http://filateliefiesta.org)**

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