

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO / WYOMING

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Sons of Union  
Veterans  
of the Civil  
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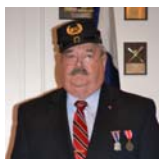
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## MARSHALL HOPE AWARD

Western Tribune Best Department Newsletter 2014



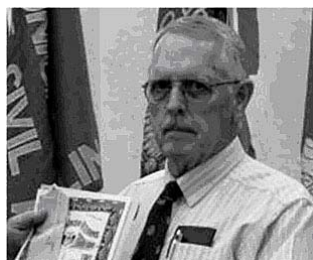
### Commander's Comments:

Recently, I received an email from PCC Charles Beal, of California's Generals Sedgwick Granger Camp #17. Brother Beal was in vacationing in Pueblo, Colorado and found some interesting material on Pueblo County's Civil War monuments in the local library. He kindly forwarded pictures and the results of his research which we'll add to the department's website.

His email reminded me that it is probably past time to revisit the department's monuments and memorials. PDC Jim Davenport did yeoman's work several years ago photographing these tributes to the "boys in blue" throughout the department. However, few have been documented with a formal assessment. Photos of all the monuments found so far can be found here: <http://suvvw.org/co/cowwy%20memorials.html>

Please take a look at them. If you live near one of them, won't you take some time to visit and complete an assessment? Assessment forms (CWM Form 61) can be downloaded from the national website <http://www.suvvw.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/memorial-fi.pdf> If you can, take some updated photos. Send the completed form and photos to me by post or email (my addresses are on the last page of this newsletter) and if you have the capability, include the GPS coordinates of the location. We hope to build a database of these monuments to include photos, history, directions to the location and a link to the form 61.

As you read in the last issue, the *Western Tribune* was awarded the Marshall Hope award for the best department newsletter for last year. National Secretary Alan Russ decorated the department's flag with the streamer at Camp 100's October 12 meeting.



National Secretary Alan Russ accepted the award on behalf of the department at the National Encampment.



**Riverside Cemetery, Denver, Co Veterans Walkway**

By Craig Ayler

About one year after the Riverside Cemetery Flag-pole project. Cooperation was not easy to find and as it was pointed out to me in the beginning, I was a "One Man Committee". As time moved on, the weather got better and we were able to begin Phase one on May 18, 2014.



The first day was great work and a good beginning. Randy Comstock had a tiller, I had my truck / bricks and Art Goguen had the tools and the skill. We had a great beginning. The next day (Sunday), it all went wrong. A care taker from Fairmont Cemetery destroyed our work and discarded all of our materials. A lady from Friends of Riverside came over and said that we couldn't build the Veterans Walkway. I requested her to call Fairmont. Our people were upset and talking about getting a lawyer. Knowing that I had arranged the walkway through Judge Fullerton (one of our members) to build the project. I was told that the Judge isn't "All There". I told him that he was out of line and that this was agreed on through the President at Fairmont Cemetery. That I have used a metal detector to make sure there was no one buried there. He spoke to the President and our project was approved. We proceeded thru out the very hot day and decided to finish on the next weekend. Members were Craig Ayler, Jim Barker, Gene Cheney, Randy Comstock and Art Goguen. During the following week the weather began to get worse. No one could make it to the following weekend so I called a long time friend of mine and we finished the last few rows. Phase I was completed.

Phase II began on September 21, 2014. Art Goguen and I planned to arrive at Riverside at 8:00 AM. Art was successful, however I drove halfway there and I realized that I didn't have the half bricks. I turned around and loaded the bricks. It's a scary ride in my truck filled with brick and sand. Art had everything started so we began laying brick. As we progressed, Jim Barker and Gene Cheney arrived and everyone had something to do. The heat came in with a vengeance so with stopped for the day. On Sunday we all showed up and finished the work. It turned out great and we all went home. Members were Craig Ayler, Jim Barker, Gene Cheney, and Art Goguen.

Phase III began on October 19, 2014. At our Summer Camp meeting, the interest grew to a higher level. Members were becoming more interested. Art and I looked at each other and thought the same thing. We were very tired and our work with our jobs required our attention. We knew we could do one more Phase so we planned it out. As it turned out eight people volunteered to work on the third block. Once again I drove the "Scary Brick Drive" with brick and some sand. Art and his son Beren brought their truck with dirt, sand and tools. We got started and Jim Barker drove up. The weather was great and we installed 2/3's of the bricks. We thought we had all the material we needed but as it turned out, we ran out of sand and dirt. We laid in the brick, cleaned up and went home. Sunday was great, we all had something to do and the work moved quickly. We had to make some adjustments at the end but the block finished nicely.

There was just enough sand and dirt to finish. We cleaned up and took a picture. Members were Craig Ayler, Jim Barker, Gene Cheney, Art Goguen, Beren Goguen, Brian Kurth, Walter (Wally) Weart and Tom Zink.

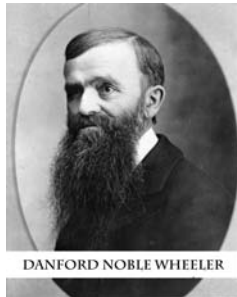


There are members that feel that we should finish this year. The simple truth is, people have to work and the weather is changing quickly. When we begin the last two Phases, we hope more people will join in so that we can have our Veterans Walkway dedication. GREAT WORK EVERYBODY!!!

**Danford Noble Wheeler**  
**"A Man to Match our Mountains"**

By Garry Brewer

*Give me men to match my mountains, Give me men to match my plains, With courage in their hearts, and Empires in their brains*



Danford Noble Wheeler was a man born with "Sand in his Shoe's" as he was always looking for the next adventure.

Dan was born in Wilkes Barre, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania on August 11, 1841, where he grew up and worked as a mechanic until age 21. Over the objections of his parents he went west with his cousin to enlist in the 153rd Illinois Infantry Volunteers on February 12, 1865, for the last great push to conquer the south during the Civil War. He was proud to be known as a volunteer, joining of his own free will, and not drafted, to help save the Union.

His Company C was assigned to Nashville, Tenn. and later Tullahoma, Tenn. where his unit saw action during raids into Alabama. He was discharged at the end of the war on September 21, 1865, and returned to his home in Illinois. Like many young men of the day he caught "Gold Fever" and went west to the mining towns of Western Colorado.

To support himself he learned the art of photography from Thomas E. Barnhouse, his business partner, also they did gold mining on the side. Traveling the mining towns he took many photos of the early towns and mines of Colorado. While in Silverton in November 1877, after a long day in the snow, he turned his burros loose as usual and during the night while sleeping,

*"Some miscreant unprincipled and I think uncircumcised wretch willfully took two of the three burros" leaving Dan and his helper fifty miles from home in the snow to carry all the supplies and heavy camera equipment with "only one real jackass left." while they took the place of the other two.*



Lillie Belle Wheeler about 1890.

In one boom town he met a young lady by the name of Lillie Belle Barrett. She was the daughter of George N. Barrett and Caroline E. Berlsford Barrett who operated the Stage Stop at Wagon Wheel Gap in Lake City. Dan and Lillie fell in love and were married in Lake City on November 11, 1881. From this union came three children, Carrie, born in Colorado and Leta and Danford Jr. born in Kansas.

Dan and his family moved to Leadville, where he opened a photography studio and after a time they moved to Colorado Springs. There he met former Union General William Palmer the founder of Colorado Springs. Palmer was the man that Mesa County was to be named after. The original bill for the formation of our county set forth Palmer County as the designated name. However, Governor Grant had a dislike for Palmer and changed the name to Mesa County.



Danford and daughter Carrie look at peaches growing in their garden.



After a few years in Colorado, the Barrett and Wheeler families moved to Kansas but the families deeply missed the beauties of the mountains over the flat and unappealing land of Kansas so after some researching they decided on Grand Junction as their new home.

Unfortunately as they were preparing to move, Lillie suddenly died on June 3, 1890, of an abscess to the head. She wanted to be buried in Colorado Springs so Dan escorted her body to Colorado and buried her in Evergreen Cemetery.

Afterward as he took the train back to Kansas he stopped in Grand Junction and made living arrangements for his three motherless children and his in-laws.

Upon arriving in Kansas Dan sent his mother-in-law and three children to Grand Junction by train while he and his father-in-law, George Barrett, followed with wagons and teams with supplies, belongings, and live-stock including mares, a colt and a milk cow.

In late 1890, Dan met an old Civil War friend, and former business partner, T.E. Barnhouse, who owned a photography studio. Dan bought an interest in the business and began taking outstanding photos of early Grand Junction. Some of the most Notable pictures were taken of the fireman hose company race from the top of the old bank building (*now Wells Fargo Bank*) at the corner of Fourth and Main Street.

Dan built a home for his family at 112 Ouray Street (*now Colorado Stamp and Seal*); a home where he would remain the rest of his life. He became an active member of the community and joined the Grand Army of the Republic, John A. Logan Post 35 (GAR), the Oddfellows Lodge and many other groups.

In 1906, he sold his photo studio and along with his father-in-law purchased property near Mt. Lincoln in the Fruit Ridge area and planted a peach orchard. True to his calling as a photographer, Dan took many photos of his orchards near Mt. Lincoln as well as Mt. Garfield. The Loyd Files Research Room at the Museum of Western Colorado houses a large box of his interesting photos.

In late November 1909, Dan came down with pneumonia and suddenly passed away on November 28th at 68 years old. His remains were buried next to his wife, Lillie, in Colorado Springs.

Townspople were shocked when they learned of his death and whether by coincidence or by plan a poem appeared on the same page of his obituary that said:

A Little Cold

He caught a little cold  
That was all  
So the neighbors sadly said  
As they gathered round his bed  
When they heard that he was dead  
He caught a little cold  
That was all. (Puck)



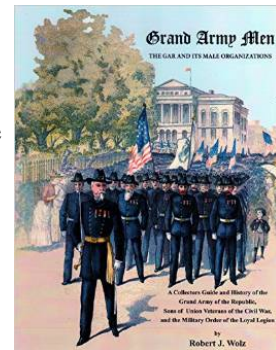
Dan and Lillie Wheeler have many descendants in the area from their son Danford Jr. and their daughters, Mrs. Carrie Howell, and Mrs. Leta Sykes.

Danford Noble Wheeler, Senior left a legacy of Orchards; photos and events in our town; and an ever living family that he and Lillie planted with love so many years ago.

*Story Teller of the Tribe, Finder of Odd Knowledge, Uninteresting Items, A Bore to his Grandchildren, a Pain to his wife on spelling, but a Locater of golden nuggets & truths and pearls of wisdom.*

## Grand Army Men: The GAR and Its Male Organizations

From National Historian, PDC Robert Wolz, this book is a collector's guide and introductory history to the Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. Quoting long forgotten resources, it reveals a rich history previously lost. For the first time, all badges and insignia of all three post Civil War societies are shown in full color and in sequential order of manufacture. A "must have" volume for both historians and collectors.



Cost: \$39.95 plus \$5.00 shipping. Order from the National Website.

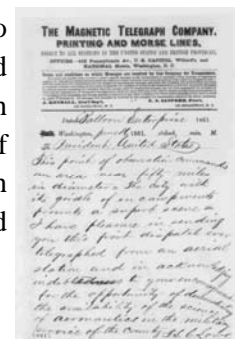
## The Union Army Balloon Corps

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

The Union's Balloon Corps resulted from a suggestion put forward the Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase and Professor Joseph Henry, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Several prominent balloonists vied for the job of creating such a corps but Thaddeus Lowe, who came the closest to attempting to fly the Atlantic, was championed by Prof. Henry and Secretary Chase arranged for Lowe to meet President Lincoln on 11 Jun 1861. Lowe offered to demonstrate his balloon for the President and the event took place on 17 June. Lowe launched his balloon, the *Enterprise* (the first in a long line of craft of that name, both real & fictional, related to air & space activity) from the National Mall. Ironically, his launching site stood near the present day site of the National Air & Space Museum. He reached a height of 500 feet. In a flash of brilliant improvisation, Lowe took a telegraph key aloft connected to the ground and sent the President the first ever aerial telegram.

Suitably impressed, President Lincoln gave Lowe a letter of introduction to Gen Winfield Scott, the Army's Commanding General. When Lowe attempted to present the letter to Scott the next day, his staff, presaging the army's high command attitude toward anything aeronautical for most of the 40 years of labor that resulted in the birth of the U.S. Air Force, stonewalled him. With Lincoln's personal intervention, Lowe was named "Chief Aeronaut" and given a contract to build a balloon for the army.

Lowe's balloon – the Union – made its first operational flight on September 24, 1861, ascending to more than 1,000 feet near Arlington, VA, and began providing intelligence on the Confederate troops located at Falls Church, VA, more than three miles away. As a result, Federal artillery were able to aim and fire accurately at the Confederate troops without actually being able to see them—a first in the history of warfare. General



McClellan, also suitably impressed, established the "Aeronautics Department" or Balloon Corps under the control of the Topographical Engineers

Eventually, Lowe built seven balloons for the army - *Intrepid*, *Constitution*, *United States*, *Washington*, *Eagle*, *Excelsior* and the original *Union*. The Balloon Corps participated in the battles of Bull Run, Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Seven Pines Antietam, Fredericksburg and Vicksburg transmitting regular reports on Confederate troop movements.

Originally, the balloons used natural gas from Washington D.C. municipal lines to inflate the gas bag. Although gas was plentiful, the balloon could not be moved far, limiting the area it could be employed. Because transporting the balloons to the battlefields was a dangerous and lengthy process, Lowe set out to build a portable device that could follow the balloons anywhere. He came up with a wagon mounted copper-lined wooden tank, filled with water and iron filings. When sulfuric acid was added, hydrogen gas was produced, allowing the balloons to be inflated near any battlefield. The horse-drawn wagons were large and rectangular and each weighed about 1,000 pounds. Twelve of these wagons were built to service the balloons.



During the Peninsular Campaign, the heavily forested terrain forced Lowe to take to the waterways. A coal barge, the *General Washington Parke Custis*, was converted by having its superstructure removed and its deck cleared of all items that could entangle the ropes and nets of the balloons, and used as a river transport. Lowe had two gas generators and a balloon loaded aboard and later reported: "I have the pleasure of reporting the complete success of the first balloon expedition by water ever attempted. I left the



Navy yard early Sunday morning ... having on board competent assistant aeronauts, together with my new gas generating apparatus, which, though used for the first time, worked admirably". Thus was born the world's first aircraft carrier.

The balloon *Washington* aboard the *George Washington Parke Custis* and towed by the tug *Coeur de Leon*. The Balloon Corps did not last until the end of the war. Captain Cyrus Comstock was assigned to oversee the Corps. He cut its funding and thus its effectiveness. Lowe resigned from the Balloon Corps on May 8, 1863. By July 1863, without Lowe to promote it, the Balloon Corps had disbanded.

### Civil War Soldier to Posthumously Receive Medal of Honor

Reprinted from *Air Force Magazine* online 29 Oct 2014

President Obama will present the Medal of Honor to Army 1st Lt. Alonzo Cushing posthumously on Nov. 6. The Civil War Union Army lieutenant served as commanding officer of Battery A, 4th United States Artillery, Artillery Brigade, 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac, when his battery was charged near Cemetery Ridge in Gettysburg, Pa. During Pickett's Charge, Cushing manned the only remaining serviceable field piece in his battery and went up against the Confederate forces, sustaining injuries to the abdomen and the right shoulder. He pressed through the injuries and continued to fire before being shot and killed by Confederate forces. He is credited with helping the Union Army repel the assault with his bravery in the battle. His cousins, Frederic Stevens Sater and Frederic Cushing Stevens III, will be in attendance for the White House ceremony, according to a Pentagon release.



### Three-time Medal of Honor Recipient?

by Jim Barker, DC (Camp 100)

Three thousand four hundred and sixty-eight service members have been awarded the Medal of Honor since its creation in 1861. Forty-eight percent of them for actions in the Civil War. Of the total, only 19 men have been awarded the medal twice (14 of them for two separate actions). No one has ever been awarded a third medal. However, three men could have and arguably should have received a third medal. Two are fairly well known, Maj Gen Smedley D. Butler, USMC and Sgt Maj Dan Daly, USMC. The third, Maj Gen Frank D. Baldwin, USA is not so well known.

Gen Frank Baldwin was commissioned a 2Lt in the Chandler Horse Guards of the Michigan volunteers on 19 Sep 1861. The Horse Guards disbanded the next year and Baldwin became a 1Lt in the 19 MI Infantry. In March 1863, Baldwin was captured in his first engagement and sent to Libby Prison. Upon his exchange he took command of Company D and led his company in defense of a railroad bridge near Murfreesboro, TN. Promoted to Captain in early 1864, he was next in action at the battle of Peachtree Creek in Jul 1864. He led his troops in a counterattack penetrating the confederate lines, capturing two officers and a flag. For this action he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

"Led his company in a countercharge at Peach Tree Creek, Ga., 12 July 1864, under a galling fire ahead of his own men, and singly entered the enemy's line, capturing and bringing back 2 commissioned officers, fully armed, besides a guidon of a Georgia regiment."



**Maj Gen Frank D. Baldwin**

Mustered out of the Volunteers at the end of the war, he entered the Regular Army in 1866 as a Lieutenant in the 19<sup>th</sup> Inf. In 1869, he was transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup> Inf. For the next 35 years he campaigned throughout the West during the Indian Wars. He was brevetted Captain for "gallant service in actions against the Indians" during the Red River War. Then in Nov 1874, he led a troop of cavalry and an infantry company in a frontal attack at McClellan's Creek rescuing two white girls. This action led to his second Medal of Honor as attested by the following citation:

"At McClellan's Creek, Texas, November 8, 1874. Rescued, with 2 companies, 2 white girls by a voluntary attack upon Indians whose superior numbers and strong position would have warranted delay for reinforcements, but which delay would have permitted the Indians to escape and kill their captives."

Baldwin holds the distinction for being the first recipient of the Medal of Honor in different conflicts. He was cited for conspicuous gallantry in Dec 1876, for an attack on Sitting Bull's camp on the Red Water River and again in Jan 1877, for driving off Crazy Horse's force at Wolf Mountain. For these



actions he received a brevet promotion to Major. Baldwin continued to serve with distinction in other major Indian Wars campaigns up to the final campaign against the Sioux. In 1901, he was battling the Moros as Colonel of the 27 Infantry during the Philippine Insurrection. By 1903, he was a Brig Gen and in command of the Department of Colorado. His last assignment was as Commander of the Southwest Military Division. He retired in 1906. In 1915, he was promoted on the retired list to Maj Gen by act of Congress at the age of 73. About this time he appeared in the Cody Historical Picture Company's films *The Indian Wars* and *The Adventures of Buffalo Bill* along with his friends Col William F. Cody and Gen Nelson A. Miles. In 1917, Gen Baldwin returned to active duty and served as Colorado's Adjutant General until 1919. He died in 1923, in Denver, CO and is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Gen Baldwin could very well have been the first triple recipient of the Medal of Honor. He was first recommended for the award for his defense of that railroad bridge near Murfreesboro in the fall of 1863. For reasons lost to history, that recommendation was never acted on.

Gen Butler's military career began in 1898 when he received a direct commission as a 2Lt in the Marine Corps and saw service in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. He mustered out in Feb 1898 at the end of the war but accepted a commission as a 1Lt two months later. He next saw combat in the Philippines during the Philippine Insurrection. It was during this tour that he acquired his famous tattoo – a large Eagle, Globe & Anchor that extended from his throat to his waist. In July 1900, he was in China and participated in the battle of Tientsin. During the battle he saw another Marine officer fall wounded and climbed out of a trench to rescue him. Butler was then himself shot in the thigh. Another Marine helped him get to safety, but also was shot. Despite his leg wound, Butler assisted the wounded officer to the rear. He was commended by his commander who recommended him to the Navy Department "for such reward as you may deem proper". He received a brevet promotion to Captain.



**Maj Gen Smedley D. Butler**

After China, he participated in a series of expeditions, police actions, and interventions by the United States in Central America and the Caribbean, commonly called the Banana Wars. January 1914, found him in Panama when he was ordered to a battleship squadron off the coast of Mexico as the Squadron Marine Officer. Revolutionary unrest caused the U.S. to occupy the city of Vera Cruz. During the ensuing battle Butler earned his first Medal of Honor. His citation reads:



“For distinguished conduct in battle, engagement of Vera Cruz, 22 April 1914. Major Butler was eminent and conspicuous in command of his battalion. He exhibited courage and skill in leading his men through the action of the 22d and in the final occupation of the city.”

Fifty-six Medals of Honor were awarded for the Vera Cruz operation. An extraordinary number of awards for such a small engagement. Butler felt the gratuitous awards were cheapening the value of the medal so he returned it, explaining he had done nothing to deserve it. The medal was returned to him with orders to keep it and to wear it as well.

In 1915, he deployed to Haiti to help put down the Caco rebellion. After several battles, Butler with a force of 100 marines attacked Fort Reviere, the last Caco stronghold. In a twenty minute engagement characterized by fierce hand-to-hand fighting, the fort was taken, effectively ending the rebellion. This action earned Butler his second award.

“For extraordinary heroism in action as Commanding Officer of detachments from the 5th, 13th, 23d Companies and the Marine and sailor detachment from the U.S.S. Connecticut, Major Butler led the attack on Fort Rivière, Haiti, 17 November 1915. Following a concentrated drive, several different detachments of Marines gradually closed in on the old French bastion fort in an effort to cut off all avenues of retreat for the Caco bandits. Reaching the fort on the southern side where there was a small opening in the wall, Major Butler gave the signal to attack and Marines from the 15th Company poured through the breach, engaged the Cacos in hand-to-hand combat, took the bastion and crushed the Caco resistance. Throughout this perilous action, Major Butler was conspicuous for his bravery and forceful leadership.”

Gen Butler earned his place as a contender for a third award based on his action at Tientsin, China in 1900 that earned him a brevet promotion. During the Boxer Rebellion Navy and Marine officers were not eligible for the Medal of Honor thus the brevet promotion. In 1921, the Marine Corps created the Marine Corps Brevet Medal to provide visible evidence of valor under fire inherent in the brevet rank. Butler was one of only twenty Marines to receive the medal which was obsolete the day it was created. His citation reads:

“The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in transmitting to First Lieutenant Smedley Darlington Butler, United States Marine Corps, the Brevet Medal which is awarded in accordance with Marine Corps Order No. 26 (1921), for distinguished conduct and public service in the presence of the enemy while serving with the Second Battalion of Marines, near Tientsin, China, on 13 July 1900. On 28 March 1901, First Lieutenant Butler is appointed Captain by brevet, to take rank from 13 July 1900.”

Had he been eligible for the Medal of Honor in 1900 it seems likely he would have been included with the four enlisted Marines who were awarded the medal for actions in the same battle. The Brevet Medal ranked immediately after the Medal of Honor and many consider it its equivalent.

Never a favorite of his civilian superiors he was somewhat protected by his influential father. Although considered brave and brilliant, he was also described as unreliable. Denied a combat command in World War 1, he was promoted to Brig Gen as a consolation and given a logistics command in France. In 1930, when the position of Commandant of the Marine Corps became vacant he was the senior Maj General in the Corps. President Hoover declined to nominate him for the post. He retired in 1931. In civilian life, he became a popular activist and pacifist. He wrote the book *War is a Racket* criticizing U.S. foreign policy and denouncing war profiteering. At the time of his death in 1940, he was the most decorated Marine in U.S. history.

Described by Maj Gen Butler as "The fightin'est Marine I ever knew!" and by Maj Gen John A. Lejeune, former Commandant of the Marine Corps, as "the outstanding Marine of all time", Daniel J. Daly joined the Marine Corps 10 Jan 1899, too late to participate in the Spanish-American War.

In May 1900, he landed with other Marines in China during the Boxer Rebellion. In the battle to relieve the siege of the American Legation, American and German forces had been driven from their position on the Tarter Wall. With Capt Newt Hall, Pvt Daly mounted the wall bastion, bayoneted rifle in hand. Capt Hall left to bring up reinforcements and Pvt Daly remained to defend the position single-handed. Chinese snipers fired at him and stormed the bastion, but he fought them off until reinforcements arrived. For this gallantry he was awarded his first Medal of Honor. His citation reads:

“The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Private Daniel Joseph Daly, United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism while serving with the Captain Newt Hall's Marine Detachment, 1st Regiment (Marines), in action in the presence of the enemy during the battle of Peking, China, 14 August 1900, Daly distinguished himself by meritorious conduct.”



**Sgt Maj Daniel J. Daly**

Fifteen years later, GySgt Daly, like Gen Butler, deployed to Haiti to put down the Caco rebellion. On the night of October 24, 1915, in the Battle of Fort Dipitie he was part of a group of 35-41 Marines who were ambushed by a force of approximately 400 Cacos. He led one of the three groups of men during the fight to reach a nearby fort, and was awarded his second medal for his conspicuous actions.

“The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Gunnery Sergeant Daniel Joseph Daly, United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with the 15th Company of Marines (Mounted), 2d Marine Regiment, on 22 October 1915. Gunnery Sergeant Daly was one of the company to leave Fort Liberte, Haiti, for a six-day reconnaissance. After dark on the evening of 24 October, while crossing the river in a deep ravine, the detachment was suddenly fired upon from three sides by about 400 Cacos concealed in bushes about 100 yards from the fort. The Marine detachment fought its way forward to a good position, which it maintained during the night, although subjected to a continuous fire from the Cacos. At daybreak the Marines, in three squads, advanced in three different directions, surprising and scattering the Cacos in all directions. Gunnery Sergeant Daly fought with exceptional gallantry against heavy odds throughout this action.”

During World War I, Sgt Daly served as First Sergeant of the 73 Machine Gun Company, 6 Marine Regiment. The 6 Marines were assigned to the 2 Division of the US Army. During the Chateau-Thierry campaign his unit participated in the fight for Belleau Wood. During this operation, on 5 June and at the risk of his life, he extinguished a fire in the ammunition dump at Lucy le Bocage. Two days later, while the same sector was under one of its heaviest bombardments, he visited all machine gun crews of his company, then posted over a wide section of the front, cheering his men. On 10 June, he single-handedly attacked an enemy machine gun emplacement, capturing it by the use of hand grenades and an automatic pistol. On the same date, during an enemy attack on the village of Bouresches, he brought in wounded under heavy fire. It was in this attack that he reportedly sounded the battle cry "Come on, you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?" For his actions he was recommended for his third Medal of Honor. As the recommendation worked its way through the system, an army general in the chain of command downgraded the award to the Distinguished Service Cross purportedly for the reason that "no one should receive this medal three times". In addition to the Army Distinguished Service Cross, perhaps as a consolation, Sgt Daly was also awarded the Navy Cross for the same actions with exactly the same citation:

Distinguished Service Cross: "The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to First Sergeant Daniel Joseph Daly (MCSN: 73086), United States Marine Corps, for repeated deeds of heroism and great service while serving with the Seventy-Third Company, Sixth Regiment (Marines), 2d Division, A.E.F., on 5 June and 7, 1918 at Lucy-le-Bocage, and on 10 June 1918 in the attack on Bouresches, France. On June 5th, at the risk of his life, First Sergeant Daly extinguished a fire in an ammunition dump at Lucy-le-Bocage. On 7 June 1918, while his position was under violent bombardment, he visited all the gun crews of his company, then posted over a wide portion of the front, to cheer his men. On 10 June 1918, he attacked an enemy machine-gun emplacement unassisted and captured it by use of hand grenades and his automatic pistol. On the same day, during the German attack on Bouresches, he brought in wounded under fire."

Navy Cross: "The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to First Sergeant Daniel Joseph Daly (MCSN: 73086), United States Marine Corps, for repeated deeds of heroism and great service while serving with the 73d Company, 6th Regiment (Marines), 2d Division, A.E.F., on June 5 and 7, 1918 at Lucy-le-Bocage, and on 10 June 1918 in the attack on Bouresches, France. On June 5th, at the risk of his life, First Sergeant Daly extinguished a fire in an ammunition dump at Lucy-le-Bocage. On 7 June 1918, while his position was under violent bombardment, he visited all the gun crews of his company, then posted over a wide portion of the front, to cheer his men. On 10 June 1918, he attacked an enemy machine-gun emplacement unassisted and captured it by use of hand grenades and his automatic pistol. On the same day, during the German attack on Bouresches, he brought in wounded under fire."

Three men, who if history had been altered just slightly, may have been the only Americans to have been awarded the nation's highest honor three times.



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