

OK all you old salts, (as the saying goes), pull up a seabag my clean Marines and I'll tell you the story of "Brown versus Green"...

Chesty had Chesty had five Navy Crosses or one Navy Cross Ribbon/Medal with four *bronze* stars on it, indicating repeat awards!

Chesty won two of his Navy Crosses in the Nicaragua, one on Guadalcanal, and one on Bougainville, and a final one in Korea. Of course that doesn't count the Distinguished Service Cross (the Army's equivalent of the Navy Cross) McArthur pinned on Chesty in Korea, thus giving him the equivalent of **Six** Navy Crosses!



My Dad participated in the Haitian Campaign as a member of the Marine Detachment of the USS Oklahoma, and he and his squad captured a brass Gatling Gun that sat out in front of the Navy Department for many years. Apparently (judging from the inscription General Puller wrote in my copy of "*Marine*" by Burke Davis) he and the General served together on Haiti and later during the Banana Wars. I once ate dinner with the General at his place in Saluda about 1958 when I was visiting my old friend Bill Dabney who later married Chesty's Daughter, Miss Virginia Puller (Bill was simply courting Miss Virginia at the time). I had met her when Bill brought her up to VMI for one of the "hops" - accompanied by her Dad of course!). I still have a wedding invitation to Bill and Virginia's wedding, but I was with the 3rd Division at the time, and they were a bit reticent to allow me (a mere 1st Lt.) to travel back to the States, even for Miss Virginia's wedding! Grrrrr...

The actual quote about being surrounded by the enemy as taught to us at P.I. back in 1954 was that the incident occurred during the withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir in 1950. Chesty was holding the door open for the Division as they came south down the MSR. His radio operator is reputed to have reported to Chesty that they were now surrounded by 13 Chinese Divisions! Colonel Puller then replied, "good, now the Sons of Bitches can't get away!" Whatever the circumstances, it's the thought that counts, and it certainly characterizes his approach to war! One of my all time heroes!

GySgt Dan Daly had two Medals of Honor, the first of which he won shooting Chinese off the wall during the Boxer Rebellion using his Lee Navy 6mm Rifle. His second one of course, was in Haiti. His famous charge across the wheat field using the "*Come on you Sons of Bitches, ya' wanna' live forever*" was originally written up as a MOH, but since he already had two was downgraded to a mere Navy Cross!

As far as I know, only two Marines have received two Medals of Honor for *two distinct actions*, although five more received two MOHs during WWI (one medal from the Navy and another from the Army), but those were awarded for the same action (apparently

the Navy didn't want to be outdone by the Army or vice versa).

The two separate and distinct MOH awards were given to Smedley Butler, and Dan Daly. Butler also won a Marine Corps Brevet Medal during the Relief Expedition for the Boxer Rebellion. Although his two enlisted companions each got the MOH for crawling several miles along the railroad track to bring back the wounded, being lead by Lieutenant Butler. Butler was breveted to Captain for his actions. Seems that at the time, officers in the Naval Service were not allowed to receive the MOH. The Brevet Medal is worth doing a Google Search on as it was awarded very few times, and entitled the awardee to be advanced to higher rank although the recipients were not paid in their new rank structure, although they could be placed in command of a unit commensurate with their brevet. If the rule of no Naval Officers being awarded the MOH had not been in effect in 1900, Smedley might well have gotten three Medals of Honor (the restriction on the MOH for Marine Officers was lifted in 1915)!

Oh well, just a little history for those who weren't landed at Guantanamo Bay in '98 (Heh, heh, heh...).

Semper Fi,

Dick

For a little additional USMC History, check out Louis Cukula one of the gents who was awarded two medals of Honor for the same act (one Army, one Navy) during WWI. He was (according to my old man, one of the great characters of the Corps. He was a Serbian by birth, emigrated to the United States after attending the Serbian Merchant (Marine) Academy, spent a couple of years in the Army and then joined the Corps . After winning his Medal(s) of Honor as a GySgt he was later given a battlefield promotion. It seems that he never properly learned "The Queen's English" and would often cobble his sentences up a bit. One of his most famous quotes was given when he was conducting close order drill. At the time, (we were still using the old 8-man Squad Drill of course), and instead of "to the rear march" the command was "Squads Right About March"! When it came out of Louie's mouth it was "Squads Right two times, don't fu*k it up!" Lots of Louie Cukula stories, sometimes I may put a few to paper! One of the true old time characters of the Corps!

Check out the following URL:

http://hqinet001.hqmc.usmc.mil/HD/Historical/Whos_Who/Cukela_L.htm

ROC
