

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE DEVIL DOGS

"Here at Belleau Wood, the German Commander was to risk all in a 'Local Dog Fight,' and he picked on the wrong people." S. L. A. Marshall, Military Historian

DEVIL DOGS CREED:

I am an American: I was born in France. I have held the title of United States Marine, and understand the commitment of holding the title, Devil Dog. It is a tradition born at Belleau Wood in the year 1918, of a "Force in Readiness" and the "First To Fight". As a Devil Dog, I ask no quarter and give no quarter. I will do everything in my power to uphold the objectives of the Military Order of Devil Dogs and to perform my duties to a swift and satisfactory completion.

The Military Order of the Devil Dogs is the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League.

MAIN PURPOSE:

Promotes good fellowship amongst the members of different Marine Corps League Detachments. The Order provides amusement and entertainment at all gatherings of the League, when and where advisable, preserves and strengthens the principles and ideals of the League, and maintains true allegiance to the United States of America and its Constitution and laws. It fosters and extends American institutions of freedom and defends America against all enemies foreign and domestic. The Order is also HIGHLY active in raising funds for children's hospitals, and associated charities.

WHO BELONGS:

The Military Order of Devil Dogs is made up only of Members of the Marine Corps League. The Order only accepts the most worthy of League Members.

HOW TO JOIN:

You must be a paid-up member in good standing in the Marine Corps League. The applicant must be active in his/her Detachment in the League, and must be invited to become a member in the Order. He/she must be recommended by the Detachment Commandant and be sponsored by two Devil Dogs or Pedigreed Devil Dogs. The applicant is then interviewed by the members of the Pound at a Pound Growl (a meeting is called a Growl). If accepted, the applicant must undergo an initiation and swearing-in ceremony.

ORGANIZATION:

The Pound is on a local level and is usually made up of members of different Marine Corps League Detachments. On the State level there is the Pack, and on the National level there is a Kennel. There are three different degrees in the Order. The lowest degree is that of a Pup. The next degree is that of a Devil Dog. The highest degree is that of a Pedigreed Devil Dog. The Pup wears a black ribbon, the Devil Dog wears a red ribbon, and the Pedigreed Devil Dog wears a gold ribbon. The ribbon is worn around the neck and a Dog Tag is attached to it.

The head of the Pound is called the Pound Keeper. The head of the pack is the Pack Leader. The head of the Kennel is also the head of all Devil Dogs and is called Chief Devil Dog.

The Order's many charitable donations not only help people in need, but also build good public relations for the Order, the League, and the United States Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps League, formed in **1923** by members of what had been the Marine Corps Veterans Association, assimilated more meaning for the Marine oriented organizations that sprang up following the end of World War I. Comprised largely of veterans of the fierce fighting between the Fifth and Sixth Marine Regiments and the Germans,

these returning veterans of the Great War (the war to end all wars) were called "Teufelhunde" by their German adversaries, literally meaning "Dogs of the Devil," or as we now know, DEVIL DOGS. (copied and edited in part)

Woof, Woof!

Chaplain Ron

