



The Bugle Call



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ANN'S CHOICE RESIDENTS AND GUESTS ARE INVITED TO THIS FREE PROGRAM -

(Club membership is not required)

NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, January 16, 2018
at 7:30 pm, Ann's Choice PAC**

The first meeting of Ann's Choice Veterans Group in 2018 will feature a program by Linda Simon, Veteran Liaison for Compassus. Compassus provides specialized hospice care for veterans and is dedicated to serving veterans who have served selflessly – from the Greatest Generation to the latest generation. They are trained to provide support and advocacy for veterans for VA benefits and services. Enrolled veterans' expenses for hospice-related services are covered 100%.

Bucks County Tour of Honor

The next Tour of Honor will be on Monday, May 7 for Vietnam era veterans. Bob Swan will have application forms at the meeting.

New Members

A big welcome to Jim Hurly (US Coast Guard, Vietnam, 1965 to 1985), Mary Hurly (US Army, Desert Storm, 1979 to 2010), and Edwin Krauss (US Army, Aug 1950 to Feb 1951) who recently joined the Ann's Choice Veterans Group.

Military Officer Association of America – Willow Grove Chapter

All veterans at Ann's Choice are invited to join the MOAA-WG for breakfast at 0930 on Saturday morning, January 20, 2018. The breakfast meeting will be in the Liberty Commons Catering Room. The cost is \$19 each; checks can be made out to MOAA-WG and sent to Frank Gorman, HV118. Reservations are needed a couple of days before the meeting.

The speaker will be Captain Scott Anderson, USCG, Commander of Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay

February Meeting

The February meeting will be on Tuesday evening, February 20 at 7:30 in the PAC. Ann's Choice resident Gordon Larson will present a program on famous historical individuals and military bases named for them. More information about the meeting will be in the February 2018 issue of *The Bugle Call*.

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Valet Service Volunteer Opportunity

The Valet Services group assists residents with seating at events in the PAC and at the Chapel. With the monthly RAC and Executive Town Hall meetings, additional volunteers are welcome to assist with this service. Contact Russ Neiger at (610) 930-3077 for more information.

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Code Talkers

The term 'code talkers' is usually associated with the United States soldiers during the world wars who used their knowledge of Native American languages to transmit coded messages. Code talkers transmitted these messages over military telephone or radio communications nets using formal or informally developed codes built upon their native languages.

The name code talkers is most strongly associated with bilingual Navajo speakers specially recruited during WW II by the Marines to serve in their standard communications units in the Pacific Theater. Code talking, however, was pioneered by Cherokee and Choctaw Indians during WW I.

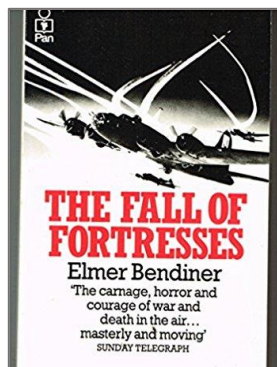
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The Fall of Fortresses

This story is confirmed in Elmer Bendiner's book, *The Fall of Fortresses*.

"Sometimes, it's not really just luck."

Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during WW II. He tells this story of a World War II



bombing run over Kassel, Germany, and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks. "Our B-17, the Tondelayo, was barraged by flak from Nazi anti-aircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit.

Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell

piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple. "On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck.

The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but 11 had been found in the gas tanks. 11 unexploded shells where



only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. A near-miracle, I thought.

Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn. "He was told that the shells had been sent to our armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that our Intelligence Unit had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer. "Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shells, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless. Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The Intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note. It set us marveling.

Code Talkers, continued

The first known American use of Native Americans to transmit military messages under fire was a group of Cherokee troops with the American 30th Infantry Division serving alongside the British during the Second Battle of the Somme. According to the Division Signal Officer, this took place in September 1918.



Choctaw soldiers in training in WW I for coded radio and telephone transmissions.

Also during WW I, American Army officers overheard Solomon Louis and Mitchell Bobb conversing in Choctaw. The officers could not understand what the soldiers were saying and reasoned that the Germans would

also not understand them. Eventually, 14 Choctaw men in the Army's 36th Infantry Division trained to use their language in code.

The first combat test took place on October 26, 1918, when Colonel Bloor (142nd Infantry in France) ordered a "delicate" withdrawal of two companies of the 2nd Battalion, from Chufilly to Chardeny. The movement was successful: "The enemy's complete surprise is evidence that they could not decipher the messages", Bloor observed. A captured German officer confirmed they were "completely confused by the Indian language and gained no benefit whatsoever" from their wiretaps.

They helped the American Expeditionary Forces win several key battles in the Meuse Argonne Offensive in France, during the final large German push of the war. Within 24 hours of the Choctaw language being pressed into service, the tide of the battle had turned. In less than 72 hours, the Germans were retreating and the Allies were in full attack. These soldiers are now known as the Choctaw code talkers.

(compiled from Wikipedia sources)

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Fortresses, continued

Translated, the note read:

"This is all we can do for you now ... using Jewish slave labor is never a good idea."