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MEDIA MAIL

Mr. Peter Maass
c/o The New Yorker
4 Time Square
New York, NY 10036

RE: "The Toppling", p. 42, JAN 10th, 2011 issue

Dear Mr. Maass,

I greatly enjoyed your article regarding our very uncritical and misleading media at Firdos Square on April 9, 2003 and the actions of our Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, but do you know of what DIVISION they belonged to or derived from? I mean the 3rd Battalion/4th Marines in your story; how were they configured organizationally before the Iraq invasion? If you know? I could not discern their lineage from your article.

During 1981 I served with the 3rd Battalion/4th Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division, which was then stationed on the island of Okinawa in what was then called WES/PAC (Western Pacific) before the whole Division was relocated back to the continental U.S.A. sometime during the late 1980's (if I remember correctly.) When I served with the 3rd Battalion or "3/4" as it was called, we had also a nickname of "The Thundering Third" and another more sheepishly used of the "Blundering Third" which was a backhanded reference to the 3rd Battalion's unique historical distinction of being the only Marine Unit in Marine Corps history to have been captured or at least technically having it's colors taken prisoner during a war. That being by the Japanese on the island of Corrigidor in the Philippines during the start of World War II.

Now, what would be funny or interesting about this possible connection is your stories reference to General MacArthur's uses of the same misleading media representation in Chicago in the Lang study and General MacArthur's sneaking away from the gun emplacement on the sea-ward side of the Corrigidor Island (my spelling may be wrong) at the start of WWII to an awaiting submarine and the leaving behind of General Wainright and the 3rd Battalion/4th Marines to be captured and forced on the Battan Death-March by the Japanese. I visited the island in 1981 and other battlefields too, and it is a very special place and place in our military history and if the same unit/battalion was involved in that Iraq fiasco in your article and on the Island of Corrigidor, too, then there could be a little mysticism (or Karma) at work for all those left behind by that self-proclaimed hero, MacArthur, who died for nothing back then.


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Re post jdvd@com/media

THANKS JDVB