The Fighting Joe Wheeler Dispatch

Volume XLVI, Issue 9 — September, 2026

Camp Officers:

Commander: Spencer Harris
1st Lt. Commander: Barry Cook
2nd Lt. Commander: Joe Payne
Adjutant: Dave McCombs
Chaplain: Tim Whitfield
Color Sergeant: Pat Acton
Quartermaster: David Knight
Sergeant At Arms: Pat Acton
Camp Surgeon: Dr. Rick Price
Dispatch Editor: David Fisher
Commander Emeritus: Dr. Ira West

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Please send articles or other information for inclusion in **"The Dispatch"** to
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Birmingham, Alabama 35209
Or e-mail fisherda@mac.com

Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 pm

The Red River Campaign

Speaker: Pat Acton

!!! NEW MEETING TIME 6:00 PM !!!

This Month During the War Between the States (1861-1865)

September 3, 1861	Confederate troops enter Kentucky, ending the state's neutral status
September 6, 1861	Federal forces seize Paducah, Kentucky
September 13, 1862	Federal soldiers near Frederick, MD find Lee's Special Order No. 191
September 15, 1862	Capture of Harpers Ferry, VA (now W. VA.)
September 17, 1862	Munfordville, KY surrenders to Confederate forces
September 2, 1862	Lincoln issues his Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation
September 15, 1863	Lincoln suspends writ of habeas corpus
September 19, 1863	Battle of Chickamauga, GA.
September 23, 1864	Skirmish at Athens, Alabama

http://www.fightingjoewheelercamp.org

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Alabama: We Dare Defend Our Rights

"The principal for which we contended is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form." - Jefferson Davis, May 1865

The Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp presents

The Red River Campaign

by

Pat Acton



Septemberr 8, 2026
New Merkel House
6:00pm

Commander's Report

September 2026

Brothers, Friends, Compatriots,

With September here it's officially Fall and football season even if it doesn't feel like it outside. I hope that everyone had a great Summer! Mine was very busy! Amy is moved in now and we are combining two households worth of stuff. We are looking through everything that we have and determining why hers is better and mine has to go! Just kidding, but I am proud of what she is doing with this house and very blessed to have her here. No more single dad duty for me and it's such a blessing. She and Charlotte are getting along great! Charlotte's grandmother bought her a horse as well! Charlotte's ready for the farmers life I can tell. Hopefully I'll get her out to a camp meeting soon, but her schedule is crazy with two sports in high school.

Our camp is making headway in our gun show appearance. If you haven't had an opportunity to see us at the gun show then the next one is October 10th and 11th. We'd love to have everyone participate, but even if you can't volunteer, come out and see what our new set up looks like.

This month is a great month as we wish Happy Birthday to one of our most prestigious Camp members and my Fraternity Brother, Mr. Jim Carroll. Our speaker this month is our very own Patrick Acton and I'm very much looking forward to hearing from him. I'll probably be rolling in just as the meeting starts as I'm coaching Charlotte in Flag Football, but I'll be there.

We are looking at a Camp Football Game event here at my house. Hopefully November 14th works for everyone. It will be a social event, so invite the wives and let them know that the other wives, including my own, will be there. Alabama has Vandy and Auburn has Mississippi State and the way things have been going in the past few years we don't have any real idea how these games will turn out. Come, have a good time, route for your team and enjoy yourself.

Thank you all and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Deo Vindice

Spencer Harris
Commander Fighting Joe Wheeler Camp 1372

Chaplain's Report

Reading from Mark 3:16-17 16) "*Jesus appoints the twelve apostles, including Simon, whom he renames Peter (The Rock). 17) Jesus also names James and John, the sons of Zebedee, as Boanerges, meaning "Sons of Thunder."*

Mark 3 tells the story of Jesus selecting his twelve Disciples. Jesus didn't mind giving out nicknames and he didn't mind giving out nicknames that symbolized toughness such as we see with "*The Rock*" and "*Sons of Thunder"* in Mark 3. Jesus wanted followers with resolve.

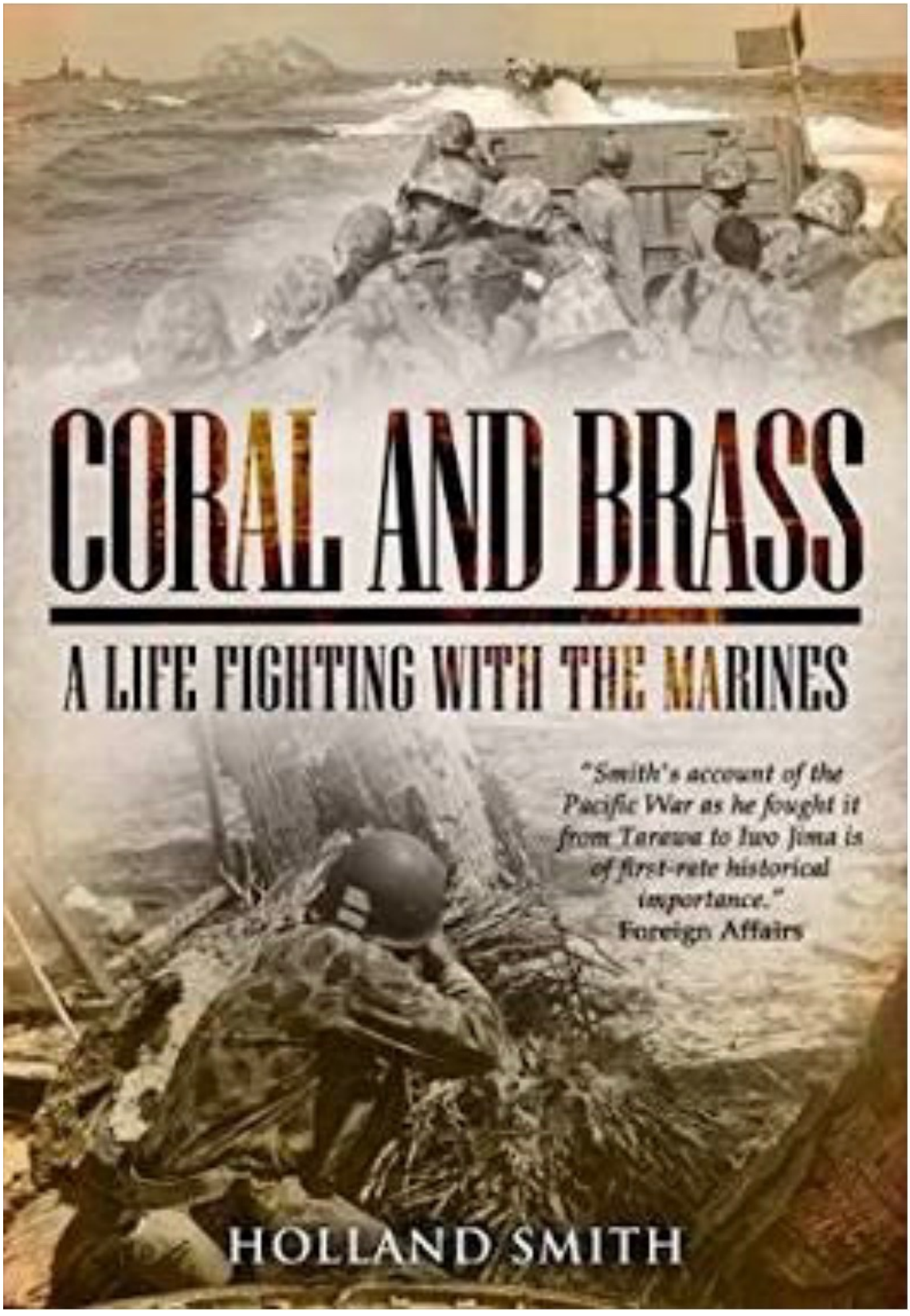
In our country we also have had many leaders with resolve and colorful nicknames. Stonewall Jackson is one example. In World War 2 one example was Marine General Holland M "*Howlin Mad"* Smith (1882-1967). America didn't have a very good amphibious assault capability before World War 2. The Yankees were pretty bad at it in the Civil War and the Confederates hardly even try it. But by the end of World War 2 General Holland Smith had become known as "*The Father of Modern Amphibious Warfare".*

General Holland Smith was born in 1882 near Phenix City Alabama to devout Methodist parents. He graduated from Auburn University (API at the time). In a book he wrote after the war titled "*Coral and Brass, a Life Fighting with the Marines*" General Smith described his family as "*Unreconstructed Confederates*". His parents were concerned when he decided later to attended the Naval Academy because of the "*Yankee influences*" he would come under. A devout Christian, he was given a Bible by his mother when he joined the Marine Corps and he carried that Bible with him throughout his career.

Both Holland Smith's father and grandfather were in the Confederate Army (his grandfather was a Confederate officer). The Confederates may not have had much amphibious assault capability, but the grandson of a Confederate officer became "*The Father of Modern Amphibious Warfare"*. He was an Alabama native nicknamed "Howlin Mad", which based on how Jesus described the resolve of some of his disciples is just fine.

Deo Vindice
Tim Whitfield,
Chaplain FJW Camp 1372

Reader's Corner



Reader's Corner

THE STARS AND STRIPES

USMC LT. GEN. HOLLAND "HOWLIN' MAD" SMITH

- Father of modern amphibious warfare
- Assistant commandant of the Marine Corps (1939)
- Served with the 1st Marine Brigade, 1st Marine Div, V Amphibious Corps
- Commanding general, Fleet Marine Force (1944)
- Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Purple Heart, Croix de Guerre

