



THE AMERICAN LEGION

NUNO ALVARES PEREIRA POST - PO 01

March 8, 2013

NO COMMITTEE MEETING

Due to heart attack of Adjutant Wells on 17 February followed by one week in hospital, insertion of 3 stents into his heart and order of doctor not to drive for a month there will be no committee meeting.

2013 MEMBERSHIP

This year it is possible to pay your dues online by visiting the following website:
www.legion.org/renew

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS HAVE PAID

Adalino Cabral, LIFE
Gilbert Furtado
Vin Gruper
David Higginbottom
Pierce Johnson
Wayne Koles
James Kowing

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Wendell Owens
Guillermo Vasquez, MD LIFE
Gilbert L. Wells
William L. Wells

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Gilbert Wells, Adjutant
The American Legion
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RBL WAR STORIES

While I was Secretary of the Royal British Legion in Portugal prior to 2000 a request went out to collect war stories and experiences dating back many years. I volunteered and have been collecting them. The Treasurer of the RBL, Stewart Austin, requested that these stories be posted on the RBL Portugal Branch website and this was done by the Chairman of the Portugal Branch, Desmond Briggs, with some help from RBL HQ in London.

Since there may now be others out there who also have interesting war stories to tell or just stories relating to military service or RBL service the RBL website has an additional page at the website called "Membership Forum".

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Tres	Gilbert Wells 21 929 1372 91 873 2689
JA	James Pritchard 91 949 0833

The website is below:

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/portugal/membership-forum>

Among the War Stories you will find the report of Lewis T Watty who was rescued from the Los Banos Camp outside Manila on February 23, 1945 along with 2000 other allied prisoners of the Japanese by the 11th Airborne Division.

Gilbert Wells, Adjutant PO 01, WW II member of the 11th Airborne Division.

***Nuno de Santa Maria Álvares Pereira
(1360-1431)***

Feast Day 1 April worldwide

Portugal 6 November

NUNO ÁLVARES PEREIRA was born in Portugal on 24th June 1360, most probably at Cernache do Bomjardin, illegitimate son of Brother Álvaro Gonçalves Pereira, Hospitalier Knight of St. John of Jerusalem and prior of Crato and Donna Iria Gonçalves do Carvalhal. About a year after his birth, the child was legitimized by royal decree and so was able to receive a knightly education typical of the offspring of the noble families of the time. At thirteen years of age he became page to Queen Leonor, was received at court and was created a knight. At sixteen years of age, at the wish of his father, he married a rich young widow Donna Leonor de Alvim. Three children were born to the union, two boys who died early in life, and a girl, Beatrice, who would eventually marry Afonso, first Duke of Bragança, son of King João I.

When King Fernando died, without an heir on 22nd October 1383, his brother João, became involved in the struggle to win the

Lusitanian crown, which was being contested by the King of Castile, who had married the daughter of the dead king. Nuno took João's side. He wanted him as his constable, that is commander-in-chief of the army. Nuno led the Portuguese army to victory on various occasions up until the battle of Aljubarrota (14th August 1385), which brought the conflict to an end.

The military capabilities of Nuno were, nevertheless, tempered by a deep spirituality, a profound love of the Eucharist and of the Blessed Virgin, the main foundations of his interior life. Totally dedicated to Marian prayer, he fasted in Mary's honour on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and on the vigil of her feasts. The banner he chose as his personal standard bore the image of the cross, of Mary and of the saintly knights James and George. At his own expense he built numerous churches and monasteries, among which was the Carmelite church in Lisbon and the church of Our Lady of Victories at Batalha.

Following the death of his wife in 1387, Nuno did not wish to marry again and became a model of celibate life. When peace finally came, he gave the bulk of his wealth to the veterans, the rest he would dispose of in 1423 when he decided to enter the convent of the Carmelites which he himself had founded, taking the name of Brother Nuno of Saint Mary. Animated by love he abandoned power to serve the poor: it was a radical choice for a life, bringing as it did to a high point, the authentic path of faith which he had always followed. With this choice, he left behind the weapons of war and power in order to be vested in spiritual armor as the *Rule* of Carmel recommends. He would have wanted to withdraw to a community far away from Portugal, but the son of the king, Don Duarte, prevented it. No power could stop

him from dedicating himself to the convent and above all to the poor, whom he continued to help and serve in every possible way. For them he organized a daily distribution of food and never hesitated in responding to their needs. The Commander of the King of Portugal, chief officer of the army and victorious leader, founder and benefactor of the Carmelite community, when entering the convent did not want any privileges but chose the humblest rank of a lay brother, putting himself at the service of the Lord, of Mary his ever venerated Patron, and of the poor in whom he recognized the face of Jesus himself.

Of significance too was the day of the death of Brother Nuno of Saint Mary: it was Easter Sunday, the 1st April 1431, and what following it was that he was immediately acclaimed a saint by the people who called him "O Santo Condestavel".

While the fame of Nuno's holiness remained constant and grew over time, more complex was the interim period of time leading to the process of canonization. This process was begun by the Portuguese sovereigns, and then by the Carmelite Order. But many other obstacles were to get in the way. Only in 1894 did Fr. Anastasio Ronci, then Postulator General of the Carmelites, succeed in introducing the process of recognition of the cult *ab immemorabili* of Blessed Nuno, which despite the difficulties came to a happy conclusion on 23rd December 1918 with the Decree *Clementissimus Deus* of Pope Benedict XV.

Even the relics were moved many times for the original tomb in the Carmelite church, until finally in 1961 on the occasion of the sixth centenary of the birth of Blessed Nuno, a pilgrimage was organized with the precious silver reliquary in which they were kept. Shortly afterwards this too was robbed and the reliquary never found. In their place some

bones, relics from other places, were gathered together and preserved. The discovery of the site of the original tomb in 1996, together with some authenticated bone fragments, awakened the desire to hasten the proclamation of Blessed Nuno as a saint in the church.

The Postulator General of the Carmelites, Fr. Felipe M. Amenós y Bonet, took up the cause again and this was collaborated by an approved miracle in the year 2000. The required inquiries having been undertaken, the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI made the proclamation of the decree of the miracle on 3rd July 2008. During the Consistory of 21st February 2009 he indicated that Blessed Nuno would be enrolled in the list of saints on 26th April 2009.

Classifieds:

Go to page 4.

Classifieds:

DD-214s are NOW Online.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s

online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

USAA

Membership in USAA is now open to American Legion Veterans and their families. For those of us living overseas this means we can insure our automobiles and personal property with USAA.

For more information go to:

www.legion.org

To join USAA online go to:

www.usaa.com/legion

TAX ASSISTANCE IRS PARIS

IRS Foreign Bank Account and Financial Records (FBAR) regulation requires US citizens at home and abroad to disclose any and all accounts held in foreign financial institutions over \$10,000. This requires the filing of IRS form TD F 90-22.1 for applicable US citizens.

For assistance see the IRS Paris website

<http://france.usembassy.gov/irs.html>

Most forms and publications are now available on www.irs.gov

Filers should be encouraged to use the website to download forms and publications.

US Tax Preparers

US taxes: Jean Daniel Lomont, 776 Av. Saboia, Apt #1, 2765-279 Monte Estoril, Tel 21 483 1805 lomont8437@yahoo.com –Subject line: INCOME TAX

US taxes: Barron Harper, Rua Guine Bissau, 12 -1-Esq, PT-3800-018 AVEIRO, Tel/FAX 23 442 9086, Cell 91 935 9809

HEALTH CARE

Dr. Anthony Maia (US Internist), Av. Nossa Senhora do Rosario, Lote 1212, 2750-178 Cascais Tel: (351 21) 482 6860

VA CLAIMS FROM OVERSEAS VETERANS ARE MADE TO

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Department of Veterans Affairs
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
800- 827 1000 412 395 6272

**HELP IN FILING THESE CLAIMS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM
PITTSBURGH AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICERS WITH OFFICES
IN THE VA**

For Claims:

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AMERICAN LEGION DEPT SVC OFCR
1000 LIBERTY AVE STE 1607
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222
Phone: 412-395-6230
Email: graham.wieland@va.gov

IAN D CARRIER
AMERICAN LEGION DEPT SVC OFCR
1000 LIBERTY AVE STE 1607
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222
Phone: 412-395-6247
Fax: 412-395-6234
Email: ian.carrier@va.gov

EDNA (CHICO) FICERAI
AMERICAN LEGION DEPT SVC OFCR
1000 LIBERTY AVE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222
Phone: 412-395-6228
Fax: 412-395-6234
Email: edna.ficerai@va.gov

BRITISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PORTUGAL
WWW.BHSPORTUGAL.ORG

BHS HISTORICAL TOURS

The 200th anniversary of the Napoleonic invasions of Portugal and Spain is being commemorated during the period up to 2013. Events are breaking out all over the Iberian Peninsula and two gentlemen from the British Historical Society of Portugal are organizing tours of the battlefield sites.

www.bhsportugal.org/tours

RBL PORTUGAL BRANCH WEB

www.portugal.legionbranches.net

**Room for a few American Retirees in:
THE BRITISH RETIREMENT HOME
ESTORIL**

Founded in the mid-1980's, the British Retirement Home is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac near the beach, within easy walking distance of the centre of Sao Pedro do Estoril, on the Lisbon-Cascais railway line. Open to residents of all nationalities, it comprises 10 unfurnished apartments with a kitchenette and an en suite bathroom as well as 8 individual rooms with private bathroom for those who are less independent. 24 hour Care Support is provided by a bi-lingual team, headed up by a registered Nursing Sister. Links with the local community ensure a steady flow of volunteers to help with outings, shopping trips and social events. Non-residents are welcomed on a daily basis or for short-term stays for recuperation or holiday periods.

For more information contact 214 688 694 during working hours, or visit www.brhportugal.com

LISBON CASUALS

David Salgueiral, Chair Cell 91 150 6720 lisboncasualschair@gmail.com

HOLLYWOOD GRILL

Mario Cordova, USN-Ret has just opened another restaurant and the dishes comprise Portuguese food, such as fresh fish : robalo, dourada, sardines, espada, and all grilled on charcoal. Also bacalhao abraz, bacalhao com natas, arroz de marisco, arroz tamboril and much more. He also has filipino dishes: adobo, pancit, tilapia, lumpia, etc.

Name: HOLLYWOOD GRILL

Rua de Paraiso, 74-76 sta. Apolonia

(before Hospital da Marinha) Feira de ladra

Hrs: 8:30 to 23:30 every day

Tel: 21-150-1165/ 21-888-1060

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Saturdays 10:00 – 13:00

Tel 21 928 2236

E mail colares.igreja@exercitodesalvacao.pt

University of Massachusetts in Lisbon, Study Abroad Program
(<http://www.portstudies.umassd.edu/lisboa/>)

Program Description

UMass in Lisbon, sponsored by the UMass Dartmouth Center for Portuguese Studies with the support of the Luso-American Foundation, offers American students the opportunity to spend a summer, semester or year in the vibrant capital city of Lisbon learning about the vast Portuguese-speaking world and European Union. As the only residential study abroad program in Portugal managed directly by a major American university, UMass in Lisbon provides unrivaled access to one of the world's most strategic centers of language and culture. Through our partnership with The University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL) and the Technical University of Lisbon's Superior Institute of Economics and Management (ISEG-UTL), students will have a wide array of curricular choices in both English and Portuguese, including UMass courses taught on site by both UMass and Portuguese faculty and language/culture study at all levels. A significant number of field trips will complement classroom learning, and living accommodations will be shared with European ERASMUS and Portuguese university students. Internships, home-stays, and service-learning opportunities are also planned, with administrative assistance available 24/7. Students may study for a semester, a year, or during the summer