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New 8K Event Marks 100 Years of Devil Dogs

Belleau Wood 8K Commemorates the 1918 Battle Where U.S. Marines Earned Their Nickname

QUANTICO, VA (February 8, 2018) – The Marine Corps Marathon Organization (MCMO) will introduce a new running experience into the 2018 MCM Event Series. Held on Saturday, June 23, aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico, the new Belleau Wood 8K will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Battle of Belleau Wood where the U.S. Marines earned the nickname “Devil Dogs.”

The three-week battle took place just outside of Paris, highlighting the courage, determination, and warrior spirit that has become synonymous with the U.S. Marine Corps. In their battle reports, German officers referred to the Marines as "Teufel Hunden" (Devil Dogs in German) as a result of the ferocity with which the Marines fought, and the name stuck.

The 4.97 mile Belleau Wood 8K will begin at 6:45 a.m. on the track at Quantico’s Butler Stadium. After taming three miles of streets on the base, runners will charge the forest and battle the aptly named “Devil Dog Trail” before proceeding to the finish line and claiming a military-inspired finisher coin.

“History plays an important part of the Marine Corps culture,” says MCMO Director Rick Nealis. “The new Belleau Wood 8K allows runners to mark the illustrious legacy of the U.S. Marines.”

Runners looking to add to the challenge may opt to also participate in Run Amuck, held in conjunction with the Belleau Wood 8K. The three mile event offers more than 20 physical challenges and obstacles including three messy, mucky, mud pits. Runners wishing to complete both distance events should register in one of the later waves of Run Amuck.

Belleau Wood 8K and Run Amuck registration is open to runners ages 7 and older starting on February 28, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) eastern time on www.marinemarathon.com. Each event costs \$45. As part of the *Next Generation Inspiration Initiative*, all runners ages 17-and-under on June 23 will receive a 40 percent discount on registration fees.

Participants in the Belleau Wood 8K will take home a commemorative bib and technical T-shirt in addition to the military inspired finisher coin.

Run Amuck and the Belleau Wood 8K are part of the 2018 MCM Event Series, hosted by the Marine Corps Marathon Organization. The MCM Event Series is sponsored by Brooks, Camelbak, GEICO Military, Holiday Inn Quantico Center, Marines Plumbing, Sentara Healthcare and Wegmans. The Marine Corps Installations National Capital Region-Marine Corps Base Quantico (MCINCR-MCBQ) conducts the MCM through a series of events organized around the sport of running, showcasing physical fitness and generating community goodwill in order to promote the high standards and discipline of the Marine Corps. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement implied. #RunWithTheMarines

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