

FORTITUDINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

Volume XI

Summer 1981

Number 1

LET'S GO!



on LAND
at SEA
in the AIR

U.S. MARINES



FORTITUDINE

Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era.

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THE COVER

This recruiting poster of June 1941, painted by the late Col Donald L. Dickson (then a captain), captures the spirit of the Corps as it expanded in size in the months prior to World War II.

Fortitudine is produced in the Publications Production Section of the History and Museums Division. The text for *Fortitudine* is set in 10 point and 8 point Garamond typeface. Headlines are in 18 point or 24 point Garamond. The newsletter is printed on 120-pound, lithocoated paper. Printing, by offset lithography, is by the Defense Printing Service.

Director's Page

Tell It To The Sea Soldiers

"A Few Words" is a column in the *Dallas Morning News* that answers readers' questions and comments on "language and life." It is run by Dr. Lawrence McNamee, who is a professor at East Texas State University, and Kent Biffle, a *Morning News* staff writer.

This past June, Marine Capt Dickie Lee Fox of Athens, Texas, wrote "A Few Words" as follows:

One phrase that has bothered me—long before I joined the Corps—was "tell it to the Marines." This seems to imply that the members of this organization are not only a little slow mentally but also unusually gullible, an unkind aspersion when you recall that the Marine Corps is older than other branches of the armed forces and even older than the United States itself.

This appeared in the 28 June *News* along with a comment by Messrs. McNamee and Biffle to the effect that:

...the sea-soldiers in question here aren't the marines from Quantico or San Diego but those from Southampton, London and Bath—the British.

For centuries the Limey marine was the butt of many a cruel jest not only because his duties often were limited to the routine chores of military policemen, but also because the average rookie selected for the marines in England wasn't always what might be called a teeming tome of erudition. Rightly or wrongly, he was considered to be somewhat on the gullible side. Toward the end of Chapter 13 in *Redgauntlet*, Walter Scott has one character exclaim: "Tell that to the marines, the sailors won't believe it."

Frequent correspondent W. R. "Billy Bob" Crim of Kilgore, Texas, sent the column to me with the suggestion that I set the record straight. My letter appeared in "A Few Words" on 26 July as follows:



BGen Simmons

Your explanation of "Tell it to the Marines" is one way of telling it. But to turn a jeer into a boast, here's how we tell it, or better, here is how Texas' own Col John W. Thomason, Jr., famed Marine writer and artist, told it in *Fix Bayonets!* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1925 and 1955):

In Charles the Second's time, the English formed the first sea regiment—soldiers equipped as infantry, to serve on the sea in the fleet; to clear with musketry the enemy's decks and fighting-tops when the ships of the line went into close action; to go ashore and take up positions when the naval forces would seize a base preliminary to land operations of the army.

Here, by the way, comes the quip of old time: "Tell it to the Marines." They relate of Charles the Second that at Whitehall a certain sea-captain, newly returned from the Western Ocean, told the king of flying fish, a thing never heard of in old England. The king and the court were vastly amused. But, the naval fellow persisting, the Merry Monarch beckoned to a lean, dry colonel of the sea regiment, with a seamed mahogany face, and said, in effect: "Colonel, this tarry-breeks here makes sport with us stay-at-homes. He tells us of a miraculous fish that forsakes its elements and flies like a bird over the water!" "Sire," said the colonel of Marines, "he tells a true thing. I myself have often seen those fish in your Majesty's seas around Barbados." "Well," decided Charles, "such evidence cannot be disputed. And hereafter, when we hear a strange thing, we will tell it to the Marines, for the Marines go everywhere and see everything, and if they say it is so, we will believe it!"

This version supposedly is based on an entry in Samuel Pepys' *Diary* but we wouldn't want to pursue a good thing too far, would we?"

The same column also carried a riposte from retired Army Col Odus C. Kerley to Capt Fox's assertion that the Marine Corps is older than the other branches of the U.S. armed services:

Please know that the Army of our country is the oldest and senior service. The Continental Congress created the Continental Army June 14, 1775. Before this American colonial troops fought in the French and Indian War.

It was not until Nov. 10, 1775, when the Continental Congress established the Marine Corps, which was created to fight in the Revolutionary War after which no Marine Corps, as such, existed. Congress re-created the Corps as a military service in 1798. . . In 1789 Congress established the War Department to direct military affairs. This was nearly 10 years before the re-creation of the Marine Corps.

In 1834, Congress placed the Marine Corps directly under the Secretary of the Navy. There is a great difference in a corps and an army. Our Army has in its organization many corps."

Col Kerley has it right but he might also have said that the "American colonial troops" he cited included Marines. I have been fighting a running battle with Army historians on this score for years, most particularly with Col John R. Elting, USA (Ret.). Our argument centers on whether members of the American Regiment, which was in existence from 1739 to 1742 and landed at Cartagena with Adm Vernon, were Marines or soldiers. We call them "Gooch's Marines." The Army calls them the "61st Foot."

Most recently Col Elting had written me concerning the term "soldier of the sea":

While toiling on our dictionary of service talk, I looked at Leonard (?) Nason's *Sergeant Eadie*, another of those vanished great books of World War I.

In it, American soldiers—apparently of the 2d Infantry Division—are singing a disrespectful ditty with the line: "So yell t'hell with Kaiser Bill and the soldiers of the sea." They had just had an encounter with some Marine MPs.

So my question is—did the Marines ever call themselves "soldiers of the sea," or were the dogfaces taking poetic license? I know the

British used "sea soldiers" on occasion.

In answering John Elting I called his attention to Col Robert D. Heinl's use of *Soldiers of the Sea* as the title of his 1962 history of the Marine Corps. Bob doesn't explain his selection or its origin; however, Liddell Hart in the Foreword says, "The title, *Soldiers of the Sea*, is apt—epitomizing the adaptability, and thus the flexibility that such an amphibious fighting service possesses."

Bob Heinl must certainly have known that the same title was used by Willis J. Abbot in his 1918 history of the Corps. Abbot also fails to say why he chose "Soldiers of the Sea," but in the early pages of his book he repeats the Pepys' diary story of "Tell it to the Marines."

Both Thomason and Abbot have Pepys using the term "sea soldier," which has been around for at least three centuries. On 28 October 1664, the date the Royal Marines count as their birthday, Charles II ordered "that 1200 land Souldjers be forwith raysed, . . . for Sea Service." A verse by an unknown poet in *Wit and Drollery*, 1682, contains the line, "A health to brave Sea-Soldiers all . . ." *The Oxford English Dictionary*, that ultimate authority on etymology, has a 1690 entry, "The earls of Pembroke and Torrington have each a commission to raise a marine regiment," and one for 1699, "The Marine Soldiers on board receive the Wages of a Sailor." *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, Francis Grose, Editor, 1785, has a scurrilous entry, "*Marine Officer*, an empty bottle, marine officers being held useless by the seamen." But Capt George Smith in his *Universal Military Dictionary*, 1779, has it about right: "*Marines*, a body of soldiers, raised for the sea-service, and trained to fight either in a naval engagement, or in an action on shore."

While I was laboring in my own vineyard, Billy Bob Crim had written to Maj Anthony G. Brown, MBE, RM (Ret), Director, Royal Marines Museum, Eastney, who came up with a clutch of clippings including a 1944 letter to *The Times* in which LtCol W. P. Drury, RM, confesses that the "alleged interview between Charles II and Mr. Pepys. . . was an only too successful leg-pull perpetrated by me in my unregenerate youth."

A 1951 issue of *Globe and Laurel* reprinted a more complete explanation by LtCol Drury published elsewhere. He had first used the Pepys story in a volume of short stories he had published in 1904—plenty of time for Abbot and Thomason to pick it up.

Readers Always Write

Col Heintl Praised

BGen Simmons' comment on the Heintl Award in the most recent "Director's Page" brings forth an idea for a later comment by somebody in *Fortitudine*. Col Heintl's contribution to Marine history is well established, but it is worth noting that his contribution to the field of history finally transcended the Corps, establishing him as an historian of international status. I wonder if his life and work is not a very good example of the often neglected truth that Marine history is also American and world history. This is hardly a profound notion, since it is probably true by definition, but it does point up the fact that the work of the History and Museums Division may well have a larger following among those of us who served in other branches—or none at all—than it does among Marines, if only because there are so many of us in the former category.

Merrill A. Needham, Jr.
Jacksonville, Florida

Enlisted Memorabilia Needed

Upon my return from a three-week trout fishing trip in the mountains of Colorado, to my surprise, I found my first copy of *Fortitudine*. I read and absorbed every word and found it interesting and to say the least, educational. I really appreciate your work and look forward to the next issue.

No malice intended, but I would be surprised but delighted to see a workup on an enlisted man in such an interesting and entertaining magazine.

Jesse Nowlin
Richardson, Texas

Since Fortitudine is the newsletter of the Marine Corps Historical Program and not a journal of

Marine Corps history, all its articles must have news value related to the program. In preparing this newsletter, the editors and Center staff review significant events, inquiries, and newly accessioned material for possible development of articles. Regrettably, officers participate most often in the program. For example, they are the primary source of the collections of personal papers, records, and memorabilia so useful in providing newsworthy insights into the Corps' history. Fortitudine and the entire History and Museums Division solicit participation in the Marine Corps Historical Program by all Marines, not just by officers.

Veterans Visit Center

I am a former member of the United States Marine Corps . . . [who] served at 8th and I On July 24, 1981, Frank Reilly (former drill team member) and Frank Castora (former drill team member), myself, and our families returned to 8th and I after more than 20 years.

Twenty years ago we were living in Building 58 [which housed] three ceremonial platoons—Drill Team, Body Bearers, [and] Color Guard. Believe it or not, there was room for a P.X., C.O. quarters, "slop shoot," barber, and supply.

On Saturday morning July 25 we arrived at the reception desk of the Museum in Building 58 where we met Sgt Marilia R. Guillen, who was enjoying a day off. Sgt Guillen saw this group of 10 and suggested that we follow her for a complete tour

It was obvious that Building 58 has been all but gutted and completely rebuilt. It was long overdue. In 1958 we found a Building Department notice from the D.C. Building Department stating that Building 58 was condemned in 1948. The notice was found behind an oven in the mess hall. We certainly had a few laughs about that. In fact, I think we were granted a little extra mess duty for finding that building department notice.

Sgt Guillen . . . impressed us as a Marine totally dedicated to the Corps, the consummate professional

Jack Cataneo
Staten Island, New York

Mr. Cataneo's letter has been placed in Sgt Guillen's records.

Acquisitions

The relative scarcity of early 20th Century Marine Corps uniforms is becoming apparent in that they are commanding exorbitant prices on the collector's market. The Marine Corps Museum is indeed fortunate that it does not have to compete in this market for its new acquisitions due to the kindness and generosity of so many former Marines and their families who continue to donate uniforms in spite of the obvious temptation to sell them. However, uniform items predating 1900 are so rare that the Museum, in some cases, is forced to purchase them. One of our first acquisitions this spring was a pair of USMC Model 1859 enlisted epaulettes. Commonly referred to as "shoulder scales," these were purchased by the Marine Corps Historical Foundation in order to complete our extremely rare First Sergeant's full dress frock coat. The epaulettes are quite similar to those worn by the U. S. Army during the Civil War, but are slightly larger and have an extra piece to which worsted fringe is attached.

From Mr. Delzie Demaree of Hot Springs, Arkansas, we received both a complete Model 1917 winter service uniform and a complete dress blue enlisted uniform. Mr. Demaree, now a retired professor in his 90s, served with the 2d Division (U.S. Regular) in France and was awarded three wound chevrons. Another early uniform was obtained from the USMC Recruiting Station in Phoenix, Arizona. This was a complete Model 1922 enlisted dress uniform that included the hard-to-find white buff leather waistbelt. LtGen John N. McLaughlin, USMC (Ret), donated a more modern, but uncommon, uniform a month later. This was a Republic of Vietnam Marine Corps camouflaged uniform Gen McLaughlin received as a gift from the Commandant of the Vietnamese Marine Corps.

Much of our knowledge about uniforms comes not from the prescribed uniform regulations and the uniforms themselves, but rather from dated and attributed photographs of Marines wearing these uniforms. As can be imagined, many conventions of uniform wear, both authorized and unauthorized, can be found in these photographs.

LtCol John P. Matthews, USA, of Fort Sam



Mr. Delzie Demaree donated the Model 1917 winter service uniform he wore for this portrait taken during his World War I service.

Houston, Texas, sent us an exceptional collection of late 19th century Marine Corps portraits. From Mrs. Grace S. Brown of Havertown, Pennsylvania, we received a very interesting photograph collection which covers the service of Pvt Charles W. Sension through his service in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Mexico prior to WW I. Donated with the kind assistance of Mr. Gerald J. Gallagher of Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, this gift also included a captured Mexican clarinet which Pvt Sension used as a Marine musician.

Due to a scarcity of original records, photographs are also invaluable in work with early vehicles. Col John F. Miniclier, USMC (Ret), of Longwood, Florida, recently brought in a collection of photographs showing pre-1925 USMC ambulances, trucks, and armored cars. Photographs of this same period were also donated by Mr. Charles R. Bish of Trenton, New Jersey. Mr. Bish, a longtime supporter of the Museum, also gave us a collection of maps and documents from both the Haitian and Nicaraguan

campaigns. Another new acquisition from this time frame was a photograph album of Quantico in the early 1920s given by Mrs. Edna J. Bundquist of Gloucester, Massachusetts.

In much the same way as photographs, documents are also a boon to our research. Although it is usually thought that the Personal Papers Collection is used solely by historical researchers in study of Marine Corps personalities and events, the staff also finds this collection invaluable as a source for information on artifacts. BGen Harvey C. Tschirgi, USMC (Ret), sent us a large collection of Spanish-American War period newspapers which contain some interesting references to Marine Corps uniforms of the period. A fascinating collection of papers and photographs were received from Capt Thomas R. Fasulo, USMCR, which relate to the service of Maj Arthur B. Jacques in Haiti and Cuba during WW I. Mrs. Jacques has recently added to this by sending in more photographs as well as Maj Jacques' medical kit and bedroll. Other WW I-era personal papers collections were donated by Mr. Nathaniel R. Elliott, Jr., of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and GySgt Frank Hill, USMC (Ret) of Fairview, Missouri.

Through the assistance of Mr. John Andrews, a local collector and historian, we received a collection of newspapers published by the Marines of the 1st Provisional Brigade in Iceland. Mr. Andrews had been given this collection by former 1stLt George A. Jones of Annandale, Virginia, as source material for a recent article on the uniforms worn in the 1941 Iceland occupation. Mr. John H. Bowler of Whittier, California, sent us a collection of material relating to

the Tarawa campaign, while Col Henry Aplington II, USMC (Ret), gave us a copy of his memoirs entitled "1/3 on Guam."

Unfortunately, unlike personal papers collections, it is not often easy to determine in which campaign a donated artifact was used. If it is known, this information is stored in our computer "bank" and is used to collate groups of historical items for a particular exhibit. Consequently, we are pleased when the donors give us a short history of the items they donate. Mr. James J. Keating, Jr., who was mentioned in last issue's "Acquisitions," returned to give us a Japanese officer's sword that his father, the late BGen James J. Keating, captured on Guadalcanal. This particular sword, a *wakizashi*, was made about 1700-1725. From the Bougainville campaign, we received a Japanese soldier's personal flag. This was donated by Mrs. Marion Johansen of Boise, Idaho, in memory of her late husband, Col Carl Johansen. Other Japanese artifacts donated this spring were a "Baka" bomb instrument panel given by Mr. Robert A. Albrecht and several Japanese medals donated by Mr. Richard Urbaszewski of Berwyn, Illinois.

We were indeed fortunate to be given yet another of the rare and famous "George medals" from the Guadalcanal campaign. This one was donated by Mr. Frank E. Lindsay of Charlotte, North Carolina, and came to us via our oral historian, Ben Frank. Another piece from this era was a plaster statue of an early WW II Marine aviator which was given by Cdr Evald Holmgaard, USN (Ret). It is conjectured that this was used as a recruiting aid during the war. —KLS-C

Inspector General Reports

Units achieving an "outstanding" in their historical program in IG inspections since the last issue of *Fortitudine* are:

Detachment A, Marine Aircraft Group 46,
Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion,
4th Marine Division, USMCR, New Orleans.

Company C, Marine Support Battalion, Guam.

VMFA-232, Marine Corps Air Station,
Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

2d Landing Support Battalion,
2d Force Service Support Group,
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Detachment A, Marine Aircraft Group 41,
USMCR, NAF, Andrews Air Force Base.

Marine Security Guard Battalion
(State Department), MCDEC, Quantico, Virginia.

New Research Could Alter Aces List

by Dr. Frank J. Olynyk

The Spring 1981 issue of Fortitudine carried an article by author Robert Sherrod which updated a list of World War II Marine aces which originally appeared in his book, History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II. Many of the changes on Sherrod's revised list originated from research by Dr. Frank J. Olynyk. The following article covers Dr. Olynyk's continued research. Readers should remember that the Marine Corps has not compiled an "official" list of its fighter aces. As the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Robert H. Barrow, recently wrote, "The philosophy of the Marine Corps Historical Program is that our history is not a closed book, but a living, continuing thing, open to new facts, interpretations, and opinions."

During the course of World War II, the Marine Corps published several lists of its aces, pilots who had shot down five or more Japanese aircraft in air-to-air combat. These lists were prepared from cards maintained at Headquarters, Marine Corps by Lt (later Maj) Edna Loftus Smith. These cards, now kept in the Reference Section, Marine Corps Historical Center, have come to be known as the "Sherrod cards," since their main use has been as a research source for Robert Sherrod's *History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II*. During the war, as war diaries and action reports came in from the Pacific, a brief page was prepared for each combat, and the information on aircraft victory claims transferred to the cards. As the war went on, other sources were used—award citations, personnel reports, and letters—and the monthly totals of victories for each pilot were included with the war diaries. These sources were used to produce the list appearing in the January 1946 issue of *Headquarters Bulletin* and, after revision, in Mr. Sherrod's book.

About five years ago, I visited the Reference Sec-

Dr. Olynyk received a bachelor of science in mathematics and master of science and doctor of philosophy degrees in computer science from Case Institute of Technology. He is employed by Ecotran Corporation, designing software for phototypesetting. In addition to building lists of victory credits, he is working on a daily history of fighter operations in the Pacific.

tion and prepared a list of victory credits from the "Sherrod cards." I then keypunched the data and wrote computer programs to sort and list it by date, name, and unit. On succeeding visits, I have reviewed the sources for each victory credit, making sure that each could be documented. This has led to my own list of USMC victory credits, and a resulting list of USMC aces. I hope to publish the list of credits commercially in the near future.

In discussing aces and fighter pilots, a distinction must be made among claims, credits, and what actually happened. A credit is an acknowledgment by an official agency that it accepts a claim as valid. Whether in fact the pilot did shoot down the aircraft can usually only be determined by access to the enemy records. Gun camera films can be very convincing, but they must be used carefully to handle properly shared claims. Ideally, from the historian's point of view, one should not say a pilot shot down a plane without finding a corresponding loss in the enemy records.

It should be noted that most of the pilots whose scores are subject to some uncertainty are all from the 1942-early 1943 period when air combat was the heaviest. War diaries from this period are often incomplete, or even nonexistent (VMF-212, VMF-122, and VMO-251). Once Guadalcanal was captured, diaries and reports improved and when, in late 1943, a standard form, ACA-1, was introduced, documentation became excellent.

The Spring 1981 issue of *Fortitudine* carried Robert Sherrod's article, "Fighter Aces List Updated." I would like to correct some additional errors in this list of USMC aces and give the reasons behind the additional changes I would make in the list.

The first error occurred in preparing the new list for publication. The original list showed Philip C. DeLong with 11 $\frac{1}{6}$ victories during World War II, which is correct. In preparing the new list, *Fortitudine* accidentally changed the score to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$. He had an additional two victory credits in Korea, raising his ultimate score to 13 $\frac{1}{6}$.

A second printing error concerns Julius W. Ireland. When he was added to the list, it should have been with 5 $\frac{1}{3}$ victories, not the five shown in *Fortitudine*.

Two errors in totals have persisted through both lists. Hugh McJ. Elwood actually has 5 1/6 victory credits and Francis A. Terrill has 6 1/12. The unusual score for Terrill is the result of credits for 1/2, 1/3, and 1/4 victories (claims shared among two, three, and four pilots, respectively).

One final error which has persisted in both of Sherrod's lists is in the name of the 65th entry on Sherrod's revised list. His name should be Arthur Roger Conant, not Roger W. Conant. Both served in VMF-214, A. R. Conant during the period when Gregory Boyington was in command, while R. W. Conant was killed on the USS *Franklin* in 1945 when it was put out of action by Kamikazes.

There are two pilots whose scores need to be lowered, knocking them off the list. Capt Raymond F. Scherer served with VMF-311 in 1945. On 3 May he shared a "Frank" (Nakajima Ki-84 Hayate) with 2dLt Charles L. Kline, described in VMF-311's ACA-1 report number 132. The description of the combat on the last page of the report makes it clear that the victory should be shared. However, on the front page of the report, which lists the claims described by the report, Scherer's name appears alone. It was this error which was copied when Scherer's list of victories was prepared at Headquarters, Marine Corps. The VMF-311 war diary for May 1945 gives him a total of 4 1/2 victories. This is repeated in the June 1945 war diary, after which he left VMF-311.

Wayne W. Laird served with VMF-112 at Guadalcanal in 1942-43. The VMF-112 war diary credits him with two Zeros on 13 November 1942. VMF-121 was in the same combat and its war diary shows him with 1 1/2 victories and Donald C. Owen with 1 1/2. The VMF-121 war diary does not indicate with whom the victories were shared, but they were the only shared victories for that date. It should be noted that Owen has been added to Sherrod's new access list. If Laird is credited with two victories on 13 November, then Owen does not belong on the list. Conversely, if the three victories in question are shared with 1 1/2 each, then Laird does not belong on the list. The matter was settled by reference to the VMF-112 tour totals for the 1942-43 period, when Laird is shown with only 4 1/2 victories. The VMF-121 tour total shows 2 1/2 for Owen. Laird disappeared on a test hop on 1 May 1943. Owen added 2 1/2 more victories with VMF-112 off the USS *Bennington* before spinning-in on take-off on 26 May 1945.

A few pilots should have their scores revised upwards. The most notable is William N. Snider, increased from 8 1/2 to 11 1/2 as described in Sherrod's article.

Edward O. Shaw's score should become 14 1/2, up from 13. One of these victories was confirmed about two months afterward when another pilot, shot down in the same combat, was rescued and added further details. The 1/2 credit just got lost when a summary total was prepared for the VMF-213 war diary. Since the "Zeke" in question was shared with Wilbur J. Thomas, and the 1/2 credit appears in Thomas' list, there can be no doubt of its authenticity. Shaw was killed in a flying accident on 31 July 1944, a month before his Naval Aviator's Monthly Achievement Report was prepared by someone else, showing 13 victories.

Howard J. Finn should be credited with one extra victory. This victory is shown on the back of his "Sherrod card," but not the front.

The scores for some pilots should be lowered. One of these is Donald H. Sapp, who appears on the Sherrod list with 11 victories. This should be 10. One of his victories was a "Helen" on 20 November 1943. Because ACA reports at the time were supposed to be filled out in Greenwich or "GCT" time, this claim appeared in the ACA report on 19 November and in the war diary, prepared in local time, on 20 November. Thus, the Helen was counted twice. Some additional confusion as occurred since the war because he changed his name to Stapp.

A strong case can be made for changing the score of Jack E. Conger to 10, down from 10 1/2. I have been able to find only 10 victories for him. I believe the confusion arose from a reference to his being credited with shooting down "ten and a half destroyer [10 planes and 1/2 a destroyer]."

Finally, there is a group of pilots for whom the published total score is greater than the number of victories I have been able to document. I emphasize that this does not mean that they should not be credited with the higher score; only that I have not been able to document the higher score. There is a strong presumption in several cases that the lower score is correct, but that is only a presumption.

John F. Dobbins appears on the list with eight victories; I have found only 7 1/2. He appears on a VMF-224 list with 8 1/2 victories, although there is no list of individual victories. Interestingly enough, his flight log shows only 6 1/2 victories. I suspect the jump from 7 1/2 to eight occurred by taking seven and one shared, and making it eight.

Similarly, Roger A. Haberman appears with seven; I can find only 6 1/2. The same conversion of a shared victory to a full victory may have occurred here. He served in VMF-121 as part of Joe Foss' flight. The oft-quoted figure of 72 victories for Foss' flight is derived from the following totals: Foss, 26; Marontate, 13 (one of which was a "smoker"); Loesch, 8 1/2; Haberman, 6 1/2; Freeman, 6; Presley, 5; Bate, 4; and Furlow (Thomas W.), 3. These are given in Joe Foss' wartime biography, *Joe Foss, Flying Marine*. Note the number of aces in this group (Bate was to make his fifth claim in the Philippines in 1944).

From the members of Foss' flight, there are two more pilots to discuss. In Robert Sherrod's article in *Fortitudine*, he decided to change Freeman's score because of the lack of conclusive evidence of the sixth victory. At the time I had found five victories, and had evidence for a sixth and seventh. Foss' book credited Freeman with two dive bombers on 5 January 1943. That was where matters stood when Sherrod was finished with his revisions to the new edition of his book. One month later, at the American Fighter Aces Association meeting in Dayton, Ohio, I met Bill Freeman, and we discussed his service with VMF-121. Bill said he only claimed one dive bomber on 5 January 1943. This would be his sixth victory.

Presley appears in Foss' book with five victories, and on the Sherrod list with six. Presley's Navy Cross citation states that he shot down three on the first tour of VMF-121 (9 October-23 November 1942) and two on the second tour (1-30 January 1943). The citation describes a specific occasion on which he shot down a dive bomber. I believe this undated victory became his sixth. I have found no reference crediting him with more than five victories. It is possible that his four and one shared became five in his citation. Perhaps if the original recommendation for his Navy Cross could be found it might clear this up.

Other pilots at Guadalcanal in 1942 do not have all their credited victories in the relevant war diaries. Orvin Ramlo is credited with five but none are in the MAG-23 or VMF-223 war diaries. He received credit for five (two "Betty" bombers and three "Zeros") on the basis of his Naval Aviator's Monthly Report, prepared in 1944. When these report forms came into use in 1944, the first submissions by veteran pilots recapitulated their victories since the beginning of the war. I did find a 1945 war diary (VMF-113 for July 1945) which notes that he had just received credit

for three aircraft shot down in August 1942. I have found no award citations for the relevant period.

Joseph Narr is credited with eight at Guadalcanal, but his "Sherrod card" lists one victory on 2 October 1942. However, he is not credited with any victories on that date in either the MAG-23 or the VMF-121 war diaries. I did locate a newspaper article which quoted from his letters to his father. He described only seven victories in these letters.

Harold Bauer is credited with 11, but I have found only 10. He is frequently mentioned as shooting down four "Zeros," and getting one "smoker" in one combat. However, it is also mentioned that he refused to claim the smoker as shot down. That may be his eleventh victory. It should be mentioned that other pilots are credited with "smokers" as having been shot down.

Eugene Trowbridge is credited with 12, but I can find only six, the same number mentioned in his Navy Cross citation. The number 12 arises from his Naval Aviator's Monthly Achievement Report (NAMAR), prepared in 1944. I should point out that I have not seen the NAMAR of either Trowbridge or Ramlo, only the information on their "Sherrod cards." Trowbridge's case is a little unusual, however, since if the information is correct, he was the first Marine Corps ace in World War II, getting five victories between 21-24 August 1942. Marion Carl, who has been accepted as the first Marine ace, got victories numbers five and six on 26 August 1942. Another problem is that one documented claim by Trowbridge is not on his "Sherrod card." Finally, a press release from the Division of Public Relations dated 7 December 1942, credits him with 10 victories.

Loren Everton is credited with 12 also. Two of these were in 1944 in the Northern Solomons campaign, the others at Guadalcanal. He usually appears in contemporary reports with eight victories; one source (newspaper clipping), says eight plus two bombers on fire. His "Sherrod card" lists eight, seven of which are in the war diaries. The card documents number eight by reference to the manuscript of *Marine Wings*, which I have not been able to find.

Marion Carl is another Guadalcanal pilot with whose victory list I have problems. He is credited with 18 1/2 victories during the war. Of these, one was at Midway and two were at Rabaul in 1943. The remainder were from the 1942 Guadalcanal campaign. Thus, by the time he left Guadalcanal, he should have had 16 1/2 victories. I have found 15, and many contemporary references say he had 16

when he left. One victory is listed in the war diaries as an "assist" of Noyes McLennan by Carl. McLennan is correspondingly credited with assisting Carl. The term "assist" was used in some 1942 records to indicate that a pilot helped another to shoot down a plane, but did not give sufficient help to receive partial credit for the victory. Thus both pilots "assisted" in the victory, and I have given them each 1/2 credit. According to Barrett Tillman, who lives near Carl, the latter claims full credit for this victory. Carl also claims credit for a "Betty" on 24 August 1942, which would be his fifth victory. However, as far as I can ascertain from Japanese records, the aircraft attacked by Marines that day were "Zeros" and single-engine bombers from the carrier *Ryujō*. Carl has credit for two single-engine bombers and one "Zero" on that date. As mentioned earlier, his victories on 26 August are frequently said to be his victories numbers 5 and 6. The missing victory, whether it was on 24 August or later, was apparently confirmed while Carl was still at Guadalcanal. The extra 1/2 credit for the victory with McLennan would have to have been confirmed later, since he left Guadalcanal with 16 victories and returned to the Solomons in 1943 with 16 1/2.

Two pilots at Guadalcanal may have one more victory than they are credited with on the Sherrod list. Robert Galer (13) and Kenneth Frazier (12 1/2) may each have one more, but this could just reflect the confusion of the times. Most of their victories appear in both the MAG-23 and their respective squadron war diaries. A few appear in only one or the other.

After the furious action at Guadalcanal in 1942-43, the records were generally kept with much greater care, there being more time and energy available for such non-immediate tasks. However, James Cupp is credited with 13 victories, but I can

find only 12. Nevertheless, his "Sherrod card" states: "Actually a 13-plane ace but squadron records only account for 12."

Robert M. Baker is listed with seven victories, but I can find only five plus a "probable." Some sources say he shot down six planes, and his "Sherrod card" gives him two victories on the date of the "probable." It references the war diary, but I cannot find it there. Baker himself says he believes that the two victories were confirmed later.

Finally, Jack Pittman is listed with seven victories, but I can find only five, plus two "probables" for 1943. The VMF-224 war diary for August 1945 says seven victories, which was accepted as his final total.

During World War II, several Marine pilots served temporarily with Navy units, but none were aces. However, there was an Army pilot who flew with the Marines at least once and he was an ace. Paul S. Bechtal, of the USAAF, had four victories with an Army fighter squadron in 1942-43. On 2 September 1943, he flew a mission with VMF-124 to Kahili, and shot down a "Zeke." This was carried on the VMF-124 records as one of the unit's claims, credited to Bechtal. However, since he was flying with the Marines at the time, the victory has not been recognized by the Air Force, and he is not listed as one of their aces.

Any definitive discussion of Marine aces should consider victories from the Korean War which do not appear on Sherrod's revised list of World War II aces. John Andre claimed four victories in the Philippines in 1944; his fifth victory was in Korea in 1952. Several aces on Sherrod's list gained additional victories in Korea. Philip DeLong shot down two YAKs while flying with VMF-312. Bolt, Wade, and Durnford claimed six, one, and 1/2 MIG-15s, respectively, while flying on exchange duty with the Air Force.

Aces List Compared

(Totals in parentheses include Korean War victories.)

	Sherrod's Revised List	Olynyk's List			
1. Boyington, Gregory	28*	28*	9. Swett, James E.	15 1/2	15 1/2
2. Foss, Joseph J.	26	26	10. Spears, Harold L.	15	15
3. Hanson, Robert M.	25	25	11. Donahue, Archie G.	14	14
4. Walsh, Kenneth A.	21	21	12. Cupp, James N.	13	13**
5. Aldrich, Donald N.	20	20	13. Galer, Robert E.	13	13**
6. Smith, John L.	19	19	14. Marontate, William P.	13	13
7. Carl Marion E.	18 1/2	18 1/2	15. Shaw, Edward O.	13	14 1/2
8. Thomas, Wilbur J.	18 1/2	18 1/2	16. Frazier, Kenneth D.	12 1/2	12 1/2**
			17. Everton, Loren D.	12	10

(continued on next page)

18. Segal, Harold E.	12	12	72. Hundley, John C.	6	6
19. Trowbridge, E.A.	12	12**	73. Jones, Charles D.	6	6
20. DeLong, Philip C.	11 1/2	11 1/6 (13 1/6)	74. McManus, John	6	6
21. Snider, William N.	11 1/2	11 1/2	75. Percy, Gilbert	6	6
22. Bauer, Harold W.	11	11	76. Pierce, Francis E., Jr.	6	6
23. Sapp, Donald H.***	11	10	77. Pond, Zenneth A.	6	6
24. Conger, Jack E.	10 1/2	10	78. Presley, Frank H.	6	5
25. Long, Herbert H.	10	10	79. Shuman, Perry L.	6	6
26. DeBlanc, Jefferson J.	9	9	80. Stout, Robert F.	6	6
27. Magee, Christopher L.	9	9	81. Terrill, Francis A.	6	6 1/12
28. Mann, Thomas H., Jr.	9	9	82. Valentine, Herbert J.	6	6
29. Overend, Edmund F.	9*	9*	83. Vedder, Milton N.	6	6
30. Thomas, F. C., Jr.	9	9	84. Hansen, Herman	5 1/2	5 1/2
31. Loesch, Gregory K.	8 1/2	8 1/2	85. Hood, William L.	5 1/2	5 1/2
32. Morgan, John L., Jr.	8 1/2	8 1/2	86. Kirkpatrick, Floyd C.	5 1/2	5 1/2
33. Case, William N.	8	8	87. Lynch, Joseph P.	5 1/2	5 1/2
34. Dobbin, John F.	8	7 1/2	88. Maas, John B.	5 1/2	5 1/2
35. Gutt, Fred E.	8	8	89. Payne, Frederick R., Jr.	5 1/2	5 1/2
36. Hernan, Edwin J., Jr.	8	8	90. Sigler, Wallace E.	5 1/3	5 1/3
37. Hollowell, George L.	8	8	91. Alley, Stuart C., Jr.	5	5
38. Kunz, Charles M.	8	8	92. Balch, Donald L.	5	5
39. Narr, Joseph L.	8	7	93. Baldwin, Frank B.	5	5
40. Post, Nathan T.	8	8	94. Bate, Oscar M.	5	5
41. Warner, Arthur T.	8	8	95. Braun, Richard L.	5	5
42. Yost, Donald K.	8	8	96. Carlton, William A.	5	5
43. Baker, Robert M.	7	7**	97. Davis, Leonard K.	5	5
44. Brown, William P.	7	7	98. Doyle, Cecil J.	5	5
45. Caswell, Dean	7	7	99. Drake, Charles W.	5	5
46. Crowe, William E.	7	7	100. Elwood, Hugh McJ.	5	5 1/6
47. Haberman, Roger A.	7	6 1/2	101. Farrell, William	5	5
48. Hamilton, Henry B.	7	7	102. Finn, Howard J.	5	6
49. Jensen, Alvin J.	7	7	103. Fontana, Paul J.	5	5
50. McClurg, Robert W.	7	7	104. Ford, Kenneth M.	5	5
51. O'Keefe, Jeremiah J.	7	7	105. Freeman, William B.	5	5
52. Owens, Robert G., Jr.	7	7	106. Hacking, Albert C.	5	5
53. Pittman, Jack, Jr.	7	7**	107. Ireland, Julius W.	5	5 1/3
54. Reinburg, Joseph H.	7	7	108. Kendrick, Charles	5	5
55. Ruhsam, John W.	7	7	109. Laird, Wayne W.	5	4 1/2
56. Wade, Robert	7	7 (8)	110. McCartney, H.A., Jr.	5	5
57. Williams, G. M. H.	7	7	111. McGinty, Selva E.	5	5
58. Mullen, Paul A.	6 1/2	6 1/2	112. Olander, Edwin L.	5	5
59. Durnford, Dewey F.	6 1/3	6 1/3 (6 5/6)	113. Owen, Donald C.	5	5
60. Dillard, Joseph V.	6 1/3	6 1/3	114. Phillips, Hyde	5	5
61. Axtell, George C., Jr.	6	6	115. Porter, Robert B.	5	5
62. Baird, Robert	6	6	116. Foske, George H.	5	5
63. Bolt, John F. Jr.	6	6 (12)	117. Powell, Ernest A.	5	5
64. Chandler, Creighton	6	6	118. Ramlo, Orvin H.	5	5**
65. Conant, Roger W.****	6	6	119. Scarborough, H.V., Jr.	5	5
Conant, Arthur R.		6	120. Scherer, Raymond	5	4 1/2
66. Dillow, Eugene	6	6	121. See, Robert B.	5	5
67. Dorroh, Jefferson D.	6	6	122. Synar, Stanley	5	5
68. Drury, Frank C.	6	6	123. Weissenberger, G.J.	5	5
69. Fisher, Don H.	6	6	124. Wells, Albert P.	5	5
70. Fraser, Robert B.	6	6	125. Yunck, Michael R.	5	5
71. Hall, Sheldon O.	6	6	126. Andre, John		4 (5)

*Both Boyington and Overend are credited with six planes while with Flying Tigers in China.

**Indicates unresolved problems with documentation.

***Since World War II, Sapp changed his name to Stapp.

****Dr. Olynk found that the wrong Conant was included on Sherrod's list.

New Computer Enhances Access To Collection

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas

The Marine Corps Museum's long-awaited computerized artifact records system is now in operation. Using a "mini" computer, the Sperry-Univac BC/7, the new system has significantly increased the accuracy and accessibility of artifact records. Newly acquired artifacts are being accessioned via the computer and work has been underway to add the accession records of previous years.

The system, known as the Marine Corps Museum Catalog and Inventory Control System (MCMCICS), resembles an "invisible" library card catalog system. The information on each accession is broken down into more than 30 categories. Among them are such "data fields" as geographical reference, method of acquisition, donor's name, and accession number. Each of the 30-plus categories can be cross-referenced to the others in a multitude of combinations.

The system's ultimate capabilities can be illustrated by a hypothetical situation involving a researcher desiring material for an article on the

Museum Registrar Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas enters data on an artifact into the Center's new Sperry-Univac BC/7 computer. He designed the program that permits data retrieval through video display or printer (foreground).



Guadalcanal campaign. If such a researcher wanted to examine the Museum's entire holdings on the subject, the computer could print out all records in which Guadalcanal appeared in the geographical reference category. The resulting list might contain uniforms, weapons, personal papers, photographs, art, or even aircraft.

If the researcher took a narrower approach, a more refined list could be provided. For example, by cross-indexing the categories "Guadalcanal" and "uniforms," the researcher could receive a listing of the Museum's holdings of uniforms worn at Guadalcanal.

This versatility permits a rapid search for data with a great savings in physical space. A manual cross-index system, using file cards and having the same capacity, would require approximately a million cards in 30 file cabinets. The museum's new computer, however, takes up no more space than an office desk.

The top of the "desk" contains a television-like screen on which information in the system can be displayed. A keyboard, identical to that of an electrical typewriter, permits communication with the system. Data is stored on "diskettes" about the size of a 45-rpm record and each capable of storing one million characters of information. Each year's accessions are stored on a single diskette in the order in which they were received. From these, "vertical" collections files, such as small arms, photographs, personal papers, and uniforms, are formulated and stored on additional diskettes. The appropriate diskettes are easily slipped in and out of ports on top of the computer.

The Registrar accessions each new item acquired by the Museum. Normally, the item is unwrapped and inspected, along with its accompanying correspondence, on a table adjacent to the computer. No worksheet need be filled out since the data can be typed directly on the computer screen before being stored on a diskette. Once the data is entered, the page printer automatically types a paper record. One copy is filed with the correspondence and a second sent, along with the item, to the appropriate curator.

Only a portion of the Museum's total accessions have currently been entered into the system. This includes all items received from January 1977 to present and the majority of both our edged weapons and medals collections. The Museum's experience, however, in retrieving currently computerized data has been most satisfactory.

Tehran Hostages' Experiences Told

by Danny J. Crawford

Asked by the Center's oral historians why he initially volunteered to go to Tehran, returned Marine hostage Sgt Kevin J. Hermening answered, "I figured if I ended up going there it would be an adventuresome experience. Well, it was!"

In the last six years we have interviewed more than 50 Marine security guards on their experiences in various embassies as part of our on-going effort to document the long-standing relationship between the State Department and the Marine Corps (see *Fortitudine*, Winter 1979-80).

The take-over of the embassy in Tehran in November 1979 presented a special and extreme case. Soon after their release in late November 1979, we interviewed the four black members of the detachment. When the remaining nine Marines were released in January 1981, we knew we would have to compete with the national news media, among others, for time with the returned hostages.

Along with Benis M. Frank, head of the Oral History Section, I went to Quantico on 25 February to begin the interviews. After several attempts to interview Sgts Hermening and Steven W. Kirtley, we decided to avoid the frequent interruptions by the news media and arrange to meet with some of the Marines later at the Marine Corps Historical Center. With the help of Capt Patrick E. Donahue of the Marine Security Guard Battalion, Sgts James M. Lopez and Paul E. Lewis came to the Center on 6 March 1981 for a tour of the Marine Corps Museum and for oral history interviews.

Sgt Lopez told us how he helped a number of Americans to slip out the side door of the Consulate and subsequently to find refuge at the Canadian Embassy. Sgt Lopez, who was a military policeman and worked in corrections before becoming a Marine security guard, said he used his Marine Corps training to stay one step ahead of his captors. "I knew the



SSgt Michael E. Moeller (right), the senior Marine in the Tehran embassy detachment, gave Mr. Crawford a long oral history interview about his experiences as a hostage.

ropes—they didn't; I could pull fast ones on them that they had never even imagined because its been pulled before. I knew what to look for." He pointed out that although the Marines were young, like their captors, they were more disciplined and had experienced hardship in their Marine training which enabled them to withstand the treatment they received.

Sgt Lewis, in his interview, told how he had arrived in Tehran just 12 hours before the 4 November takeover. "I landed at the Tehran airport and arrived at the Embassy about 2300. The NCOIC gave me a tour of the Embassy grounds and I was glad he did the next morning." On his treatment as a hostage Lewis said "The first couple of weeks there was a lot of slapping and pushing around. They tried to intimidate us. But I was never beaten or tortured."

On 10 March 1981, I returned to the MSG School at Quantico to interview the remaining Marines after they returned from the Mardi Gras in New Orleans as honored guests. Sgt John D. McKeel, Jr., who reigned as "Bacchus XIII" at the parade, told me of the harsh treatment that his captors periodically meted out including fake firing squads and interrogations where he was falsely told that his mother had died. Of his often-quoted statement made at the West Point news conference about being ready to "get back to chasing women," he said, "I didn't realize what I had said until after I made the comment—but it was a lot of fun; people associate me with that comment."

Sgt Rodney (Rocky) V. Sickmann talked about his daily diary and how he was able to get it out of

Tehran. "I think they knew I had my diary all along. They would go through our stuff in our rooms when we went outside. At the end, one of the students came in and told me to put it (the diary) in my luggage."

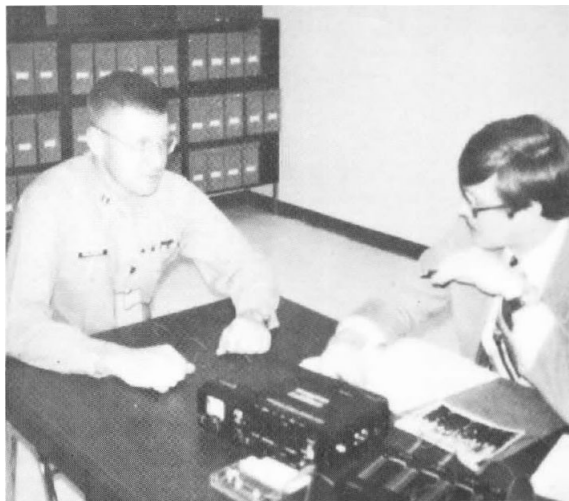
The luggage never did leave Iran, but Sickmann wisely ignored the advice he received and brought the diary out in his pants.

In his interview, SSgt Michael E. Moeller, NCOIC of the detachment, talked of learning that they would finally be released. He was told that he had been "nominated as a possible candidate for release," was given a physical and "prepped" for a television interview. His cellmate was told to "Just remember the good things." SSgt Moeller said all his Marines were tired, exhausted, and had lost weight (he himself had lost 40 pounds) at the time of their release.

The Marines of the Tehran Detachment all felt that the period of "depressurization" in Wiesbaden, Germany, was beneficial and several said they wished they had spent more time there. In our interview with Col James L. Cooper, commanding officer of the MSG Battalion, he talked of his perceptions upon greeting the returned Marines in Frankfurt, Germany.

"I said to them, 'Welcome home, Marine!' I thought that was the greatest compliment I could give any one of them. I didn't give them any orders. I never had to do anything like that. I was quick to find out that they never left the Marine Corps." He

Mr. Frank managed only a short oral history interview with Sgt Steven W. Kirtley on 25 February because of interruptions related to the intense news media interest in the former hostages.



Capt Robert T. Wolfertz (left), the former operations officer of the Marine Security Guard Battalion at Quantico, provided Mr. Crawford background information on the handling of the Iranian crisis.

went on to say that on their own volition, two hours after they arrived in the hospital, they had Marine Corps haircuts, they had shaved, they were in pajamas, and they had a Marine Corps skivvy shirt on. From that time on the Marines always practiced military courtesy, they stood tall, they stood proud.

Col Cooper went on to say, "The Marines displayed no bitterness. Hell, they were glad to be home, obviously. There was nothing but absolute joy in being free and being back home again."

Asked why the Marines survived the period of captivity better than some of the other hostages, Col Cooper noted that the Marines were younger, in much better physical condition, and they were an organized unit, although while in captivity, the Iranians went to great lengths to break up that organization. In addition, he said "A Marine learns to be flexible, to live with frustration, and he learns to be an optimist. Marine training enables them to withstand hardship and frustration that the average American is never trained to do."

Col Cooper continued, "These guys had been trained, selected, and had already demonstrated leadership ability and maturity before they went out there. They were put in a position where they were able to use that judgement and maturity. I had one elderly hostage tell me, 'If it had not been for that Marine who was in the cell with me, who made me eat and exercise and do things, I would never have survived captivity. I was quite willing to just roll over and die, but that Marine wouldn't let me do it.'"

Former Marine Donates Photos Of Her Service

When Mrs. Violet Van Wagner Lopez recently visited the Center she saw a photograph of herself on display in the "Time Tunnel" of the Marine Corps Museum. Mrs. Lopez met with Col Whipple, Deputy Director for History, and later donated several of her photographs to the Center.

Mrs. Lopez was one of eight "Reservists (F)" sworn in at the recruiting station at 24 East 23rd Street in New York on 17 August 1918. One of six children, she grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where she attended Public School 134 and was graduated from Bay Ridge High School. Her commercial course there fitted her to meet the rigorous selection standards for Marine Corps stenographers.

Mrs. Lopez served as a stenographer in the Adjutant and Inspector's Department of Headquarters, Marine Corps, then located in "Main Navy" on Avenue B near 17th Street in Washington. Prior to the Armistice on 11 November 1918, Mrs. Lopez was advanced to the rank of sergeant, the highest rank then accessible to Reservists (F). As such she paraded before Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels and his Assistant, Franklin D. Roosevelt, at the final

Mrs. Violet Van Wagner Lopez (second from left) was one of the first women enlisted from New York



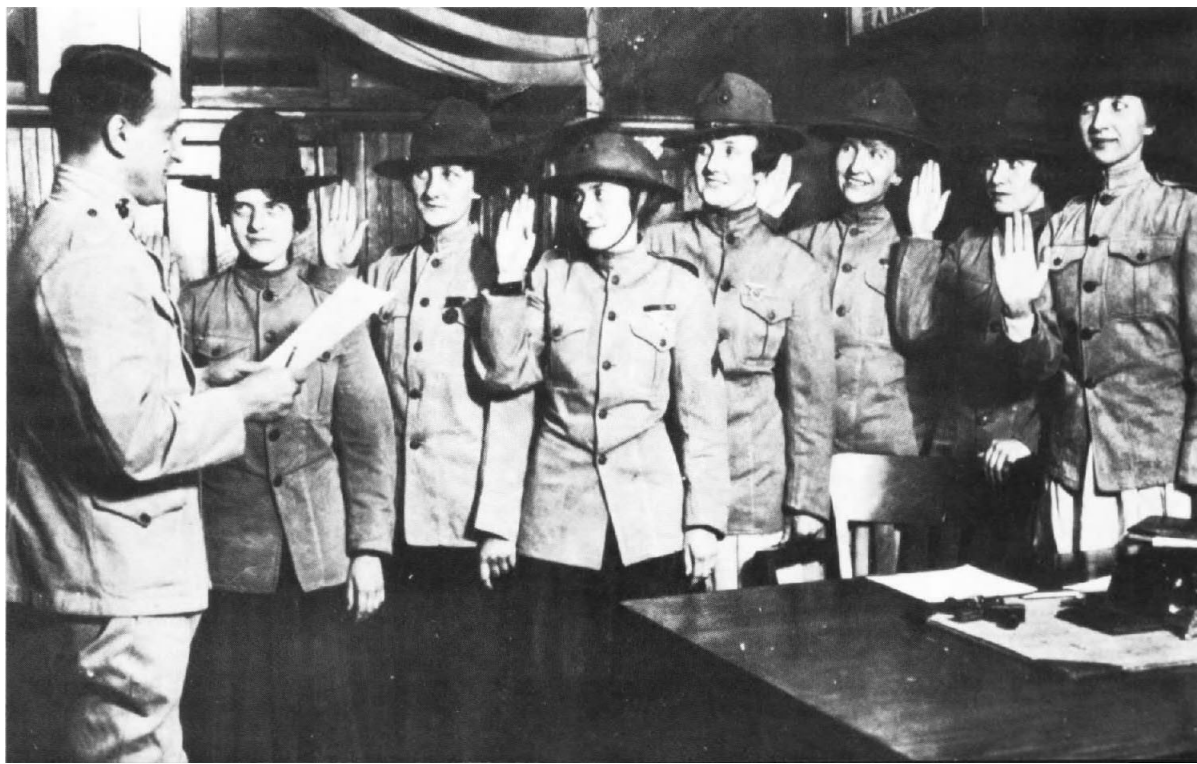
This section of a panoramic photograph of women assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps during World War I includes Mrs. Lopez (circled).

review of the Navy and Marine Corps women on 30 July 1919.

Mrs. Lopez continued at Headquarters as a civilian until 1926. Her service spanned the commandancies of MajGens Barnett and Lejeune. She especially remembers Gen Barnett's displeasure with the press's sobriquet "Marinettes" for the women. He insisted they should be (then, as now) simply styled "Marines."

Mrs. Lopez was employed by the public relations department of the Long Lines Division of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company in New York from 1928 to 1965. She is an active member of the New York Metropolitan Chapter of the Women Marines Association and has attended national meetings in Boston and the Bahamas. Mrs. Lopez was accompanied on her visit to the Center by her grandnephew, Lt George W. Chandler III, USN, who was then stationed at the Washington Navy Yard. — EFW

during World War I. The new recruits donned Marine uniform coats for this publicity picture.



World War II Chronology

December 1941

Fortitudine *plans to publish, beginning with this issue and continuing through 1985, a quarterly chronology of significant events involving Marines in World War II. Future chronologies should reach readers in time to serve as reminders of upcoming anniversary dates.*

7 December A Japanese carrier force inflicted heavy casualties on the American forces at Pearl Harbor. Marine losses included 111 men killed or missing and 75 wounded, with 33 aircraft destroyed and 12 damaged. Elsewhere in the Pacific, Japanese destroyers *Akebono* and *Ushio* bombarded Midway Atoll; the Marine garrison suffered 14 casualties and considerable damage to equipment. Subsequent to attacks in the Pacific, Japan declared war on the U.S. and Great Britain.

8 December The U.S. declared war on Japan. Col William W. Ashurst, senior Marine officer in China, surrendered Marine detachments at Tientsin, Peiping, and Camp Holcomb to the Japanese. Japanese aircraft bombed Wake Island, Guam, and the Philippines.

10 December A Japanese naval landing party of 6,000 invaded Guam. Capt George J. McMillan, USN, governor of the island, surrendered to the Japanese naval commander. A Japanese naval force seized Makin Island and the Imperial Japanese Navy proclaimed Tarawa Atoll occupied.

11 December Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S., which in turn recognized a state of war with these nations. An attempt to land a force of 450 men on Wake and Wilkes Islands from Japanese *Destroyer Squadron 6* failed, with the loss of two Japanese destroyers. Pilots of Marine Fighter Squadron 211 strafed and bombed the retiring force.

12 December Effective U.S. air support ended in the Philippines; Japanese naval planes of the *Eleventh Air Fleet* attacked Luzon in force and strafed the naval station at Olongapo. The advance assault detachment of the Japanese *16th Division* landed unopposed in southeastern Luzon, took its airfield objective and moved north.

15 December RAdm Frank J. Fletcher's Task Force 14, carrying a Marine expeditionary force which in-

cluded elements of the 4th Defense Battalion and Marine Fighter Squadron 211, left Pearl Harbor on the USS *Saratoga*, *Astoria*, and *Tangier* for the relief of forces on Wake Atoll.

19 December Japanese bombers from Roi seriously damaged defense battalion facilities at Camp One on Wake Island. Other Japanese planes bombed Olongapo.

21 December Intelligence information arriving at Pearl Harbor indicated that a large force of shore-based Japanese planes was building up in the Marshalls and that enemy surface forces might be east of Wake where they could detect the approach of Task Force 14 carrying reinforcements to the atoll. On Wake Island, a U.S. Navy PBY departed with the last U.S. personnel to leave the atoll. Japanese air raids seriously damaged defenses on Peale Island.

21 December The reinforced Japanese *48th Division* landed at Lingayen Gulf on Luzon, Philippines with Manila as its objective.

23 December The *Maizuru Second Special Naval Landing Force* executed a predawn landing on Wake and Wilkes Islands while carriers launched air strikes against Wilkes, Peale, and Wake Islands in support of the landing force. After almost 12 hours of fighting, all islands surrendered. The relief expedition, Task Force 14, received orders to return to base. In the Philippines, General MacArthur decided to withdraw to Bataan.

26 December The 4th Marines moved all men of the 1st Separate Battalion (later the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines) from Cavite to Corregidor. American officials declared Manila an open city.

27-28 December The 4th Marines moved to Corregidor with the exception of Batteries A and C and the radar detachment which remained on Bataan.

29 December Forty bombers of the Japanese *5th Air Group* attacked Corregidor, ending "normal" above-ground living there.

—DJC

Center Loses Photo Archives

The Defense Audio-Visual Agency (DAVA), which absorbed the former Marine Corps still and motion picture depositories, moved these functions to new locations in September. Marine Corps still photographs dating from 1941 to the present are now located at the new DAVA facility at the Anacostia Naval Station in Washington, D.C. Marine Corps motion pictures that date from 1960 have been moved to the DAVA facility at Norton Air Force Base, near Riverside, California.

The Department of Defense created DAVA in October 1980 to provide centralized management and control of all the armed forces' still and motion media depositories. The agency also will provide a centralized office for motion picture production within the Department of Defense. Another goal is to provide cost savings by eliminating duplication of personnel and audio-visual equipment and by reducing the number of DoD depositories from eight to two. The agency will be staffed essentially by civilians, with all junior military personnel transferred by October 1982.

GySgt William K. Judge, who headed the still photo depository when it was here at the Center, said the move itself would have little effect on DAVA's response to customer requests. By contracting with professional movers, DAVA moved its Marine Corps Still Photo Branch to its new offices

and was fully operational four days after moving from the Center. A longer hiatus is to be expected for motion pictures since the move was from Quantico, Virginia, to California, with 15 November 1981 set as the target date for full operations at Norton AFB.

GySgt Judge said the new DAVA facilities are organized for maximum customer convenience. A depository employee will be assigned to each researcher to provide dedicated assistance in meeting the researcher's requirements. In addition, researchers will have "one-stop shopping" providing access to the still or motion picture holdings of the entire Department of Defense. Of course, the Center's historical and museum personnel no longer will enjoy the convenience of having the Marine Corps still photo collection within our own building. All researchers, including our own, are advised to call the appropriate DAVA facility in advance to determine if the desired materials are available.

According to GySgt Judge, DAVA expects to further improve its services to customers. The existing files of the various military services will remain intact. Marine Corps materials, for instance, will continue to have the familiar "M" number indicating their origin. However, the filing records will be automated in the future to speed up the retrieval of materials. — VKF

Addresses for Audio-Visual Materials

To obtain *audio-visual* materials relating to the Marine Corps, researchers should write the proper NARS or DAVA activity.

For still photographs taken prior to 1941, as well as motion pictures taken prior to 1960:
National Archives and Records Service (NARS)
Audio-Visual Department
Washington, D.C. 20408

For still photographs dating from 1941:
DAVA Production, Distribution, and Depository Activity
Bldg. 168
Anacostia Naval Station
Washington, D.C. 20374
Telephone: (202) 433-2080/3634

For motion pictures dating from 1960:
DAVA Production, Distribution, and Depository Activity
Norton Air Force Base, California 92409
Telephone: (714) 382-2513

Oral History Report

While visiting Washington recently, Col Ruth Cheney Streeter, USMCR (Ret), first Director of Women Marines, visited the Marine Corps Historical Center to donate a bound copy of her transcribed memoirs to the Marine Corps Oral History Collection. This interview, conducted by Dr. John T. Mason, Jr., Director of the Naval Institute Oral History Program, joins an earlier interview with Col Streeter conducted by Col Mary Stremlow for her yet-to-be published history of women Marines in the 1946-1977 period. Dr. Mason interviewed Col Streeter for the Radcliffe College-Schlesinger Library program of interviews with prominent American women.

In the Naval Institute interview, Col Streeter spoke of her life, interests, and accomplishments to date, and only one part of the memoir is concerned with her 1943-1945 tour of active Marine Corps duty and subsequent interest in and relations with the Marine Corps. The Streeter interview is a fitting companion to the interview with Col Katherine Towle, USMCR (Ret), who was Col Streeter's assistant and post-World War II Director of Women Marines. This interview was conducted by the University of California, Berkeley, Oral History Research Office and donated to the Marine Corps collection.

Since the last Oral History Report, a number of interviews were begun and several completed. In March, Mr. Frank began interviewing Col Justice M. "Joe" Chambers, USMCR (Ret), who was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism on Iwo Jima. His interview will be concerned not only with his Marine Corp career, but also with his involvement with the Marine Corps Reserve Officers' Association, his role as advisor to the Senate Armed Forces Committee during the enactment of the National Security Act of 1947 and the so-called "unification fight." In March also, Mr. Frank interviewed Maj Norman T. Hatch, USMC (Ret), who, as an enlisted Marine and warrant officer, was a combat motion picture photographer in World War II. His pictures of D-Day on Tarawa



Col Ruth Cheney Streeter

helped to bring home to the American public the grim realities of the Marines' fight in the Pacific. Coincidentally, the following month, the Oral History Section interviewed another World War II motion picture photographer, Karl Thayer Soule, who was in the Guadalcanal operation and later returned to the U.S. to train other Marine combat photographers.

Another interview of interest joining the collection is one with Maj Edna Loftus Smith, USMCR (Ret), better known as "Eddie" to her legion of friends. The wife of a Navy pilot, she was one of the first women commissioned in the Marine Corps in World War II. Her first assignment was to Adm John S. McCain's Naval Aviation History Unit, where she was the only Marine. In this billet, she received and read every war diary submitted by naval aviation units in the Pacific. Released from active duty after the war, she was recalled to active service in 1947 to do the research for Robert Sherrod's *History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II*. Although this was to be only an 18-month tour, she didn't return to civilian life until 1954. In her interview, Maj Smith tells of the renowned Marine and Navy aviators she has known and of her involvement in the production of Bob Sherrod's epic work.

Added to the interviews Mr. Frank had conducted in cooperation with the Marine Corps Aviation Association, is a recent one with Col William K. Pottinger, USMC (Ret), who, as operations officer of Aircraft Solomons, controlled the first close air strikes directed at Hellzapoppin Ridge on Bougainville from an SBD. —BMF

In Memoriam



MajGen Robert B. Bell, USMCR (Ret), died in New Canaan, Connecticut on 4 August 1981. He was a native of Illinois who graduated from Harvard University in 1930. While an undergraduate, in 1928 he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve at

the Squantum, Massachusetts, Naval Air Station, where he received his primary flight training. He was commissioned in 1935 and, until World War II, was active with Marine Reserve Squadron VMS-2R at Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York. Lt Bell was mobilized in 1940 and remained on active duty until released to civilian life in September 1945. A transport pilot, he served overseas with Marine Aircraft Group 25 and South Pacific Combat Air Transport (SCAT). Gen Bell remained in the reserve program after World War II and was promoted to brigadier general in 1961. He retired as a major general in July 1968. He was also active in the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association. Gen Bell was buried in St. Mark's Episcopal Church Cemetery in New Canaan on 7 August, with simple military honors.



BGen John C. Beckett, USMC (Ret), died 26 July at La Jolla, California. He was cremated and his ashes were interred at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego. A native of Oregon, he attended the University of Oregon, where he was an

All-American football player in 1917. He enlisted in the Corps that year, and was commissioned in 1918. Lt Beckett was assigned to the 13th Regiment in France. In his early Marine Corps years following the war, he was an active football player and coach and was an assistant coach at the Naval Academy in the mid-1920s. During the interwar period, he served tours of duty both at sea and on land, and was an in-

structor at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico. Shortly after the beginning of World War II, Col Beckett was executive officer and later commander of the Reserve Officers Class at Quantico. He participated in the Iwo Jima operation as division inspector and assistant chief of staff for personnel, 5th Marine Division. At the time of his retirement in 1949, Col Beckett commanded the Marine Barracks, Mare Island. He was promoted to brigadier general upon retirement.



BGen Frank H. Wirsig, USMC (Ret), died 19 July in Wheaton, Maryland. A Nebraskan, he was a graduate of the University of Nebraska, where he was an outstanding track star, and held the American record for the pole vault in 1927. Following his

commissioning and completion of Basic School, Lt Wirsig tried out for the American team going to the 1928 Olympics. He went through flight training in 1929 and after receiving his wings, joined Marine Fighting Squadron 9. He remained in aviation throughout his 30-plus-year career. In the 1930s, he served in squadrons on both coasts and in Nicaragua. At the outbreak of World War II, Maj Wirsig was in charge of the Materiel Section, Division of Aviation, HQMC, where he remained until June 1943, when, as a lieutenant colonel, he left to assume command of Marine Aircraft Group 61, and subsequently MAG-32, which he took to Ewa from California. In January 1945, Col Wirsig returned to Quantico to head the Aviation Section at Marine Corps Schools, but left in September to command MAG-15 in the Pacific and China. His post-World War II assignments included duty as operations and training officer, MCAS, El Toro; chief of staff, Marine Air Reserve Training Command, at Glenview, Illinois; both student and instructor at the National War College; and with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Korea and Japan, first as G-3 and then as deputy chief of staff. Gen Wirsig also commanded Marine Wing Service Group 17 in Japan and was director of information at HQMC. At the time of his retirement in 1958, he commanded Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on 22 July.

BGen Julian P. Brown, USMC (Ret), died on 6 March 1981 in Jupiter, Florida. His remains were cremated for burial in Fitzwilliam, N.H. Born in 1897, Gen Brown was a native of Massachusetts, graduated from Culver Military Academy in 1917, and was commissioned that year. He served in France with the 74th Company, 6th Marines. Lt Brown first saw action in the Toulons sector, where he was gassed. After returning to duty with his company, he participated in the Soissons, Champagne-Blanc Mont, and Meuse-Argonne offensives, during which he earned two Silver Stars and the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star. Following the war, he was assigned to the MB, Peking, and to other tours of foreign shore duty, including posts in Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, and Shanghai. Lt Brown was BGen Smedley Butler's aide at Quantico for two years before a tour of sea duty in USS *Pittsburgh*. He next served in Nicaragua with the Marine Corps Expeditionary Force and the Nicaraguan Guardia Nacional, during which time he was awarded the Navy Cross for inducing one of the bandit forces to lay down its arms and for other meritorious service performed during this tour. In June 1941, LtCol Brown became Force Marine Officer and Intelligence Officer on the staff of Adm Halsey's Aircraft Battle Force on board the carrier *Enterprise*. When Adm Halsey became Commander South Pacific Area, Col Brown accompanied him to Noumea as Officer in Charge of the SoPac Intelligence Center. Succeeding tours were at the Naval War College as an instructor, and as a member of the Merger Board of the Navy Department. At the time of his retirement in June 1949, Col Brown was the Assistant to the U.S. Naval Representative on the United Nations Security Council's Military Staff Committee.



BGen James F. Moriarty, USMC (Ret), died in Dallas, Texas on 30 January. After being commissioned in 1917, he served with the 6th Machine Gun Battalion in France, participating in the Chateau Thierry, Soissons, St. Mihiel, Blanc Mont, and Argonne operations, followed by occupation duty in Germany. Between the wars he spent four years as an aviator. During World War II, Col

Moriarty commanded Marine Barracks both at Puget Sound and the Canal Zone. Col Moriarty retired in 1946 and was promoted to brigadier general on the retired list.



BGen Henry C. Lane, USMC (Ret), died 21 June in Monroe, North Carolina. A graduate of the University of Illinois in 1931, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve that year and was commissioned in August 1932. The following month, Lt Lane joined VO-7M at San Diego where he took his flight training. He remained an active reservist until 1939, when he went on active duty. A transport pilot, LtCol Lane commanded Marine Transport Squadron 253 in the South Pacific, where he participated in the Guadalcanal operation. He remained in the South Pacific flying transport aircraft until late 1943, when he returned to the States and commanded MCAS, Edenton, North Carolina, until May 1945. At that time, he once again went to the Pacific, where he was executive officer and commanding officer of MAG-21. Col Lane received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his accomplishments during the Guadalcanal campaign. Following the war, Col Lane commanded Marine Corps Air Facility, Camp Lejeune, and at the time of his retirement in 1958, he was head of the Materiel Branch, Division of Aviaton, HQMC. He was promoted to brigadier general upon his retirement for having been specially commended in combat. Gen Lane was buried with full military honors on 24 June at Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida.

BGen Joseph H. Berry, USMC (Ret), died in January in Honolulu. Born in Los Angeles, he was commissioned in 1929. Following Basic School, he had various assignments, including duty in Nicaragua. In 1942, Maj Berry became aide to the Commandant, LtGen Thomas Holcomb, and his successor, Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift. LtCol Berry then went to FMFPac as Assistant G-4 and then to the 4th Marine Division for the Iwo Jima operation. In 1949, Col Berry became the Military Secretary to the Commandant. Col Berry retired in 1954 and was advanced to brigadier general on the retired list.

Flag Raising 'Flop' Foments Flap

"Was the left-handed salute regulation for the Marines on Okinawa in 1945? It wasn't on Guam, Pelelieu, or at Quantico. . . ."

Daniel D. Warner
LtCol, USMCR (Ret)
Seattle, Washington

Marines have been raising flags over captured positions for a long, long time. Continental Marine Capt John Trevett raised the then-new Stars and Stripes over New Providence in the Bahamas on 28 January 1778 and it has been going on ever since. Okinawa was no exception.

The Spring 1981 issue of *Fortitudine* carried an article by Maj William R. Melton about an American flag that was twice raised by the 2d Battalion, 22d Marines, during the battle of Okinawa. The second raising, illustrated in the article, showing Marines seemingly saluting left-handed, was in memory of LtCol Horatio Cornick Woodhouse, Jr., the battalion's commander, who was killed in action. The article generated considerable reader response:

According to its official caption, which some readers have questioned, this is a photograph of a flag raising on Okinawa on 2 June 1945 in honor of LtCol

It is not unusual in the naval service to render the salute with the left hand. U.S. Navy Regulations, 1973: "The salute by persons in the naval service shall be rendered and returned with the right hand when practicable. . . ." The fifth edition of *Naval Ceremonies, Customs, and Traditions*, 1980, has this to say: "Salutes are always rendered with the right hand by Army and Air Force personnel. Naval personnel may use the left hand if the right hand is encumbered." The February 1959 issue of *All Hands* carried in its pages a section headed "Naval Courtesy" which dealt with saluting with the left hand. It stated: "Yes. An instance of a left-hand salute is during 'side honors' when the boatswain's mate uses the boatswain's pipe. A hand salute is rendered at the same time the side is piped. Since few are skilled in using the pipe with the left hand, the pipe is held in the right hand and the salute is

Horatio C. Woodhouse, Jr. The photograph was printed in reverse in the Spring 1981 issue of Fortitudine.



given with the left." However, in the case of the Spring issue of *Fortitudine*, readers Ferguson and Gregory suspected a simpler explanation:

"... did the Marines of the 2d Bn, 22d Marines, really salute with their left hand? Or did the picture get flopped?

Larry Ferguson
Phoenix, Arizona

"... I presume that since the Marines are saluting left-handed, the negative is backward?"

James H. Gregory
San Diego, California

Readers Ferguson and Gregory are correct. The negative was flopped.

Mr. Edward L. Fox, a member of the 2d Battalion, 22d Marines, on Okinawa, took a more serious approach:

"Marty [Martin Dawson] stood guard watch when the flag was raised He questions the photo. Could it be a shot taken on Guam . . . ? My general observation looking at it . . . could it be one of the Iwo [Jima] raisings? I was around on 21 June . . . this does not look familiar to me."

Edward L. Fox
(Company G, 2d Battalion, 22d Marines)
Elizabeth, New Jersey

Unable to identify anyone in the reversed photograph, he wrote several of his fellow 2d Battalion veterans. Their replies, which Mr. Fox forwarded to *Fortitudine*, were as follows:

"With regard to that Okinawa battle flag photo . . . not me, or anybody I can recognize. Our flag was on a wood pole I question this photo."

Daniel Dereschuk
(Company G, 2d Battalion, 22d Marines)
Santa Rosa, California

"I wonder where Maj Melton got the flag raising picture? I don't recognize anybody LtCol Woodhouse was awarded the Silver Star [Medal] posthumously, not the Navy Cross."

Edward DeMar
Kittery, Maine

"Thanks for the backward photo, but it's possible the man with the mustache might be 'Hymie' Crane, Acting C.O."

Martin Dawson
Albany, New York

Maj Melton did some further research and found that LtCol Woodhouse did indeed receive a posthumous Silver Star Medal, not the Navy Cross. In addition, the Defense Audio Visual Agency's collection of World War II Marine photographs contained negatives of several views of the flag-raising shown in the reversed photograph. The captions, written during World War II, all identify the flag-raising as occurring on Okinawa during the ceremony honoring LtCol Woodhouse. If any reader has a different identification, *Fortitudine* would appreciate hearing of it. — *WRM*

Certificates of Appreciation

Recent awards of Certificates of Appreciation issued on behalf of the Commandant of the Marine Corps to persons who have made significant contributions to the Marine Corps Historical Program are as follows:

For service as museum docents:

Donna Anthony
Cammie Liddle

For donations of historical materials to the Marine Corps Museum:

Mr. Charles R. Bish

For outstanding work as a historian intern:
Susanne M. Tedeschi

For participation in the Marine Corps Oral History Program:

Col Angus M. Fraser, USMC (Ret)
Maj Norman T. Hatch, USMCR (Ret)
Maj Edna Loftus Smith, USMCR (Ret)

For volunteer work in public information:
Mrs. Laura Dennis

For assistance in preparing captions for "Guides to the Commandant's House":

Gladys Long



Events at the Center

Arrivals and Departures

Sgt Marilia R. Guillen, a staff sergeant selectee and the Center's former administrative chief, departed on 25 September. She will attend the Administrative Chief's School at Parris Island prior to inspector-instructor staff duty in the Washington, D.C. area. Sgt Guillen came to the Center in May 1978.

Sgt Donald Jackson, formerly with the Marine Corps Institute, reported to the Center on 9 August and received his promotion to sergeant shortly thereafter. He is serving as the Center's administrative chief.

Cpl Willis E. Spells recently joined the Division from the Enlisted Assignment Section at the Navy Annex. A three-year veteran of the Marine Corps, the native Philadelphian is now assigned as a clerk-typist in the Collections Section here at the Center.

Ms. Faye A. Grant, newly assigned secretary to the deputies and chief historian, joined the Division from the U.S. Department of Energy. A native of Hampton, Virginia, she graduated with honors from the College of Hampton Roads.

Assigned to the Reference Section is Mr. Robert V. Aquilina, who joined the Division from the National Archives where he worked in the Declassifica-

tion Branch. Mr. Aquilina earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in history from New York State University at Buffalo.

On 1 June, Mrs. Cathleen J. Solms transferred to the Reference Section, where she now works as a reference historian. Mrs. Solms, a graduate of the University of Maryland, was formerly with the Oral History Section, where she was the editorial assistant.

LtCol Martino Retires



Upon his retirement on 1 August 1981, after more than 26 years service, LtCol Frank W. Martino received the Meritorious Service Medal for his outstanding performance of duty as the Center's Executive Officer and Head of the Support Branch.