

# FORTITUDINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

VOLUME XII

WINTER 1983

NUMBER 3



DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

PCN 10401220100



# FORTITUDINE

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

Volume XII

Winter 1983

No. 3

## HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION

Telephone: (202) 433-3838, 433-3840, 433-3841

DIRECTOR  
BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret)

HISTORICAL BRANCH  
Col Oliver M. Whipple, Jr., USMC  
Deputy Director for History

Mr. Henry I. Shaw, Jr.  
Chief Historian

*Histories Section:* Maj Frank M. Batha, Jr., USMC; Maj William R. Melton, USMC; Maj Edward F. Wells, USMC; Mr. Jack Shulimson; Mr. Charles R. Smith; Mr. V. Keith Fleming, Jr.

*Reference Section:* Mr. Danny J. Crawford; Mr. Robert V. Aquilina; Mrs. Ann A. Ferrante.

*Oral History Section:* Mr. Benis M. Frank

MUSEUMS BRANCH  
Col F. B. Nihart, USMC (Ret)  
Deputy Director for Museums

Mr. Charles A. Wood  
Chief Curator

LtCol Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR  
Capt Donna J. Neary, USMCR  
Artists-in-Residence

*Personal Papers:* Mr. Charles A. Wood, *Marine Barracks, Special Projects:* Mr. Richard A. Long, *Art:* Mr. John T. Dyet, Jr. *Exhibits:* Mr. Carl M. DeVeré, Sr.; GySgt David Dendy, USMC; Mr. Benny L. Lenox, Sr. *Registrar:* Mr. Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas.

Museums Activities, Quantico  
LtCol Herman C. Brown, USMC  
Officer-in-Charge

*Ordnance:* Mr. Anthony W. Tommell, *Aviation:* Mr. Joseph E. Payton, *Exhibits:* Mr. Ronald J. Perkins, *Security:* Sgt Miguel Saninocencio, USMC

SUPPORT BRANCH  
LtCol Philip A. Forbes, USMC  
Head/Division Executive Officer

*Administrative:* CWO4 Robert M. Skidmore, USMC. *Security:* GySgt Vernon D. Kittle, USMC. *Archives:* Mrs. Joyce E. Bonnett. *Library:* Miss Evelyn A. Englander.

*Publications Production:* Mr. Robert E. Struder. *Production:* Miss Catherine A. Stoll. *Typesetting:* Cpl Mark J. Zigante, USMC.

Editor, *Fortitudine*  
Maj Edward F. Wells

This quarterly newsletter of the Marine Corps historical program is published for the Corps and friends of Marine Corps history in accordance with Department of the Navy Publications and Printing Regulations NAVEXOS P-35. Individuals and institutions desiring *Fortitudine* on a complimentary basis are invited to apply to: History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (Code HDS-1), Washington, D.C. 20380.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Director's Page: "Two Gallant Marines . . ."	3
Oral History Report . . . . .	9
Uniform Paintings Near Completion . . . . .	11
World War II Chronology: April-June 1943 . . . . .	15
Readers Always Write . . . . .	17
Certificates of Appreciation . . . . .	17
Letters From a Frigate Navy Marine . . . . .	18
Olcott's Letter to His Brother . . . . .	19
In Memoriam . . . . .	20
VMO-6 Squadron History Available . . . . .	21
Museum Needs Specific Items . . . . .	23

### THE COVER

This drawing, by then-Sgt Ralph H. Schofield, is one of a series he made while serving with the 1st Marine Division in Korea in 1950. Here he shows three Marines in the march-out from the Chosin Reservoir.

*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 60-pound, matte-coated paper. Printing, by offset lithography, is by the Defense Printing Service.

# Director's Page



BGen Simmons

## “Two Gallant Marines . . .”

Two remarkable Marines died this past winter: BGen Robert Hugh Williams on 15 February and BGen Samuel Blair Griffith II on 27 March. Both were “tombstone” brigadiers; that is, they were promoted to general officer rank upon retirement under an old law, unfortunately rescinded in 1959, that gave a promotion to officers who had distinguished themselves in combat. Moreover, both were prolific writers, with Williams’ contribution leaning toward traditions of the Corps and Griffith’s towards its operations, and, in a larger way, towards the theory and practice of revolutionary war.

I did not get to know Bob Williams personally until he was well into the writing of *The Old Corps: A Portrait of the U.S. Marine Corps Between the Wars* (Naval Institute Press, 1982). Sam Griffith wrote the Foreword to the book and in it he says of the Old Corps:

Men trusted one another, and they trusted their officers for the simple reason that the officers knew their stuff, and knew their men. This was not then a technological jungle with a “career counselor” sitting in a cubicle down the hall.

Griffith, born in 1906, and Williams, born in 1907, were among the 53 “gold bar cadets” assembled in September 1929 at The Basic School, then at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Griffith as a Naval Academy graduate had a unrestricted commission which put him a notch ahead of Williams, who, as an Army ROTC graduate from Ohio State University, had to serve a two year probationary period. Base pay for second lieutenants was \$125 a month and most went into debt for the \$1,000 or more it cost them for uniforms. Basic School was something of a bore for both but they were impressed by their tactics instructor, Capt Merritt A. Edson, freshly returned from Nicaragua and the Coco River patrol.

After a year spent with the 1st Marines at Quantico, Griffith himself went to Nicaragua in 1931. He

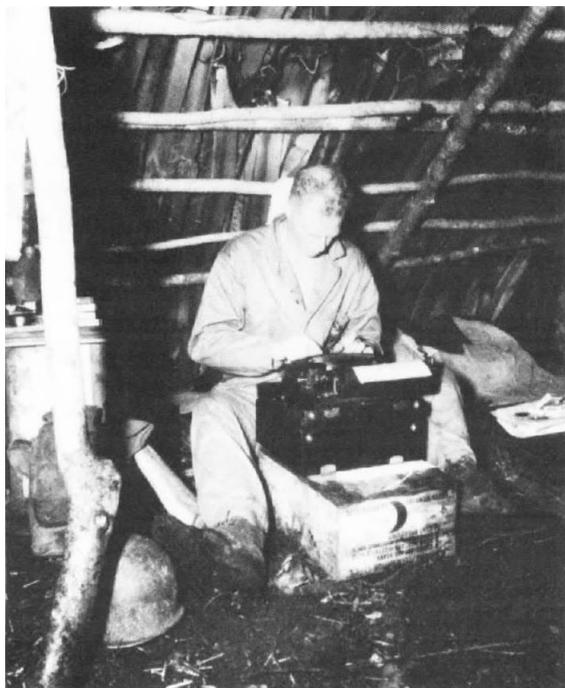
was there for two years, spent mostly in the hills with the Guardia Nacional chasing the elusive Augusto Cesar Sandino.

Williams had gone from Basic School to flight school, first at Norfolk and then at Pensacola, where he was boarded out for a tendency toward a “graveyard glide.” He was transferred to Marine Barracks, Portsmouth, Virginia and in January 1932 deployed with the “floating battalion,” embarked in the old battleships *Arkansas* and *Wyoming*. After a memorable cruise through the Canal to California he was transferred back to Portsmouth with orders to sail in the transport *Henderson* to Shanghai for duty with the 4th Marines. At 14 knots and with many ports of call it was a leisurely voyage, from 8 July until 19 September.

Life in Shanghai was very social, very elegant. The 4th Marines had a polo team of which Williams was a member. Those were the days of the 8-man squad, four squads to a platoon. Duty hours were from eight until noon. Outside the city the countryside was restive with the comings and goings of Chiang Kai-chek’s Nationalists, Mao Tse-tung’s Communists, and bandits of less well defined political affiliation. The American-owned Yangtze Rapids Steamship Company operated on the upper river, where it twists and turns its way through the gorges from Ichang to Chungking. The 4th Marines provided armed guards. Williams went up river twice.

In February 1935 he was ordered to Quantico. With five months to make the trip he came back the long way round, through Europe. Home in July he found his orders changed to Marine Barracks, Washington, where Maj Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. was executive officer and driving spirit. He made Williams the parade adjutant.

In March 1936 he was sent to Edgewood Arsenal to learn chemical warfare and in October he was



*LtCol Griffith, then commanding the 1st Raider Battalion, taps away at his typewriter at Enogai in summer 1943. The complicated New Georgia operation would be the last for the lightly armed raiders.*

assigned to the 1st Marine Brigade at Quantico. On 10 November it was announced that the next Major General Commandant would be Thomas Holcomb and shortly thereafter Williams was named his aide. As a bachelor he was also one of two Marine Corps White House aides. These were the Roosevelt years. Williams was impressed that the President always dressed for dinner, black tie and dinner jacket, even when there were no guests. He reveled in the special full dress Marine Corps uniform that he himself wore for daytime ceremonies. The uniform was passed down, aide to aide, with suitable tailor's alterations and refurbishment, rather like what was done in Britain's Guards battalions on London duty.

Griffith had gone out to China in 1935. He had done well with his Spanish in Nicaragua, including reading *Don Quixote* in the Cervantes original. Now he was to study Chinese in Peking. The Japanese came into North China in the spring of 1937 and Capt Griffith found himself in the naval attache's office doing military analysis. One trip he made was as an observer with the Japanese army up into Shansi province. Mao Tse-tung's capital was at Yen-an in the mountains of Shensi, the next province to the west. At the time Evans Carlson was on the other side, an

observer with the Eighth Route Army. Griffith set down his own observations in "North China, 1937" in the December 1938 *Marine Corps Gazette*. Buried in the article is an aphorism worthy of being chiseled in stone at Quantico:

Wars and battles are not lost by private soldiers. They win them, but they don't lose them. They are lost by commanders, staffs, and troop leaders, and they are often lost long before they start.

Griffith left China in July 1938, coming back to Quantico for the Junior Course, after which he commanded Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. In June 1939 there were some experiments getting ashore from the destroyer *Manley* in a tracked "swamp buggy" developed by Donald Roebing.

Williams had met Alice Tuckerman at a ball at the Cuban Embassy late in 1938. They were married on 21 June 1939, just before he was detached to Quantico. Capt Griffith (already married to Belle Gordon Nelson) was one of the ushers. It was now Williams' turn to go to the Junior Course. The school problem that year, prophetically, was the re-taking of Guam after its capture by the Japanese.

In the Spring of 1940 Griffith received orders to go as assistant naval attache to Chungking, Chiang Kai-shek's wartime capital, but some indiscreet remarks about Nationalist prospects made to an admiral at a Washington dinner party caused his orders to be cancelled. He had been translating a ten-cent pamphlet he had brought back from China, "Guerrilla Warfare" by Mao Tse-tung. His translation, probably the first of Mao into English, was published in the June and September 1941 *Marine Corps Gazette*. A prophecy by Mao jumps out of the pages:

... the guerrilla campaigns being waged in China today are a page in history that has no precedent. Their influence will be confined not solely to China in her present anti-Japanese war but will be world wide.

Capt Williams joined the battleship *Oklahoma* in July 1940 as Marine detachment commander. He did not get along well with the *Oklahoma's* captain (there was a matter of the full guard and band not being turned out properly for the division admiral) so he took advantage of a circular letter inviting volunteers for parachute training. He arrived at Lakehurst in November 1940 in time for the second class. Six weeks and six jumps qualified him as a parachutist. In March 1941 at San Diego he organized what was to be Company A, 2d Parachute Battalion, part of Special Troops of the new 2d Marine Division. In June he and his company were transferred to the 1st Marine Division which already had its

own Company A of what was to be the 1st Parachute Battalion. The two companies were combined into a battalion, altogether less than 200 men, under command of Williams, and jumping around Virginia and North Carolina began.

Griffith was now on the 1st Marine Division staff. In November he and Capt Wallace M. Greene, Jr., who had been a year behind him at the Naval Academy, were sent to wartime Britain to observe commando training, then being run out of Inverary, Scotland. Ordered home after Pearl Harbor, they wrote a long report, much of it on the importance of learning to fight at night.

LtCol Edson, forming the 1st Marine Raider Battalion at Quantico, asked for Griffith as his executive officer. Griffith was sent to San Diego to exchange notes with LtCol Evans Carlson who was forming the 2d Raider Battalion. Carlson's time with the Eighth Route Army had infused him with the "Gung Ho" spirit. Griffith was impressed not only by this "live together, work together, eat together, sleep together, train together" philosophy, but also by Carlson's organization of his rifle squads into three teams of three men each.

Griffith found Edson a quiet, reserved man, cold, and completely unflappable, "a man who took a lot of knowing." He was also a great walker and in the 1st Raider Battalion it was "walk-walk-walk." Edson's Raiders left for Samoa in May 1942 and then went on to New Caledonia. In early July, Edson and Griffith learned they were to land at Tulagi, seat of British colonial government in the Solomons.

Williams' 1st Parachute Battalion also had an assigned objective in the upcoming Guadalcanal operation: Gavutu and Tanambogo, minute separate islands connected by causeway. In the fall of 1941 the battalion had moved to Camp Lejeune after testing the Johnson rifle which was accepted for the parachutists. The battalion was still under 400 men when it sailed in June for New Zealand.

The raiders landed at 0800, 7 August 1941, against no beachline resistance and reached their second objective, the Residency, shortly after noon, with still no fire from the Japanese.

The parachutists landed at Gavutu at noon (from landing craft, never in the war would they jump). Maj Williams started up a hill to get a better look and he took a bullet in the left lung. The parachutists lost a lot of men that day. They secured Gavutu but next day they would need help in taking Tanambogo. Williams went back to New Zealand in the hospital ship *Solace*.

On Tulagi the raiders together with a battalion of the 5th Marines beat off counterattacks and by noon of the third day had the island wrapped up. The Parachute Battalion, down to company strength, was assigned to the raiders and on 31 August the combined raider-parachute battalion crossed over to Guadalcanal, going into camp in the big coconut grove west of Henderson Field as division reserve.

After dark on 7 September the raiders loaded into the *Manley* and *McKean*, old destroyers converted into assault transports, and two "Yippees," YPs 298 and 346, and went east 10 or 12 miles to land in the morning against a reported Japanese base camp at Tasimboko. The raid was highly successful. The captured Japanese rations were delicious: canned crabmeat, marvellous roast beef in soy sauce, and good candy. More important was a blanket full of captured documents that confirmed that this was the rear echelon of the Kawaguchi Brigade.

Edson thought it most likely that Kawaguchi would come across a coral ridge south of the airfield. On 10 September, after breakfast, the raiders and parachutists began moving to the ridge. Griffith was given three companies, one each of raiders, engineers, and the shore party, to defend the left flank. The first attack came the night of 12 September, slid past Griffith, and hit very hard against the parachutists. The second and last attack came the next night.

After the battle the raiders went back to the coconut grove. There were so few parachutists left that the survivors were sent off the island. Edson moved up to the command of the 5th Marines and Griffith took over the Raider Battalion. On 27 September, in a confused fight along the Matanikau, he was shot through his right shoulder, nicking a nerve so he couldn't move his arm and had to be evacuated to New Zealand.

Promotions to lieutenant colonel came through for both Griffith and Williams. Williams, recovered from his wound, found his way back to the 1st Parachute Battalion which was near Noumea in New Caledonia. Strength was down to about a hundred men so he trained his replacements locally from volunteers.

In December 1942 the 1st Raider Battalion, which had been taken out of Guadalcanal in mid-October, came down to New Zealand for rest and recreation. LtCol Griffith detached himself informally from the hospital and went back with his battalion in January to Camp St. Louis outside Noumea, just down the river from the 1st Parachute Battalion. Both

Williams and Griffith received Navy crosses, Williams for Gavutu and Griffith for the Matanikau.

The 2d and 3d Parachute Battalions were pulled away from the 2d and 3d Marine Divisions and combined into the 1st Parachute Regiment with Williams in command. Griffith's 1st Raider Battalion, also filled up with volunteers, was likewise combined with the 2d, 3d, and 4th Raider Battalions into the 1st Marine Raider Regiment under Col Harry E. ("Harry the Horse") Liversedge. Following Carlson's example, Griffith reorganized his rifle squads on the fire team principle: three 3-man teams, a sergeant squad leader, and a corporal assistant squad leader.

The next operation was New Georgia. The landing plan was inordinately complex. Griffith's part of it was to go with his battalion and two Army battalions, all under Liversedge, land on 4 July 1943 at Rice Anchorage, and then go through the swamp to Enogai. This they had done by the 10th. The next part was to take the Japanese barge base at Bairoko. With nothing heavier than 60mm mortars the attack against Bairoko went very badly and the raiders had to fall back to Enogai. By the time the battalion returned to New Caledonia Griffith had lost 40 pounds and every tooth in his head was loose. He was evacuated to Oak Knoll hospital in San Francisco, arriving there on 31 October. For New Georgia he received the Army's Distinguished Service Cross.

Williams' 1st Parachute Regiment was not used at New Georgia although he did reconnoiter the island from the air for possible targets. For the Bougainville operation that followed, the regiment was staged at Vella Lavella. On 20 October, Williams and the commanding officer of his 2d Battalion, LtCol Victor H. Krulak, were summoned to I Marine Amphibious Corps headquarters on Guadalcanal where they were told by MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift that Krulak was to land on Choiseul island and make as big a demonstration as possible. The 2d Battalion went ashore shortly after midnight on 28 October and convincingly pretended to be the 3d Marine Division until the real landing was made at Empress Augusta Bay on 1 November.

The 1st Parachute Battalion landed at Bougainville on 23 November and six days later made a less successful one-day raid at Koiari, south of Cape Torokina. On 3 December Williams moved with his regimental headquarters, weapons company, and 3d Battalion from Vella Lavella to Bougainville, made a forced march to Hill 1000, later to be known as

"Hellzapoppin Ridge," and held it until relieved by two battalions of Marine infantry on 10 December.

In early January the parachutists came back to Guadalcanal. Williams was met with the news that his regiment was to proceed to San Diego and be disbanded. The 5th Marine Division was being formed and the parachutists were to be used as cadre. Bougainville also marked the end of the raiders. On 1 February 1944 the 1st Marine Raider Regiment was reorganized into the new 4th Marines, a conventional infantry regiment.

Griffith had been released from Oak Knoll in December 1943 and ordered to Candidates Class, Quantico. His immediate opinion was that it was being run like a Boy Scout camp and that the training wasn't realistic enough. He served first as executive officer and then as commanding officer. While at Quantico he was senior member of a board that recommended a 14-man rifle squad: three 4-man fire teams, a squad leader, and an assistant squad leader.

Williams, now at Camp Pendleton, became executive officer of the 28th Marines in March 1944. This regiment was the left flank regiment at Iwo Jima. On D-Day, 19 February 1945, it crossed the narrow neck of the island in less than an hour and

## Memorial to a Regiment And a Man

When Col Williams came to Washington for duty in 1946 he had in mind a small stained glass window or wall plaque in the National Cathedral to commemorate the six hundred Marines of the 28th Regiment who had died at Iwo Jima. His recommendation got lost, but the idea persisted and in 1954 Col Williams discussed the matter with the Dean of the Cathedral, Francis B. Sayre, Jr. Dean Sayre was against wall plaques, thought they would clutter up the cathedral, but suggested that the regiment might contribute a carved oak screen to the cathedral's War Memorial Chapel. It took another ten years before the screen was in place. The money was raised amongst the surviving members of the 28th Marines. The carving was done in England. The screen was dedicated on 19 February 1965, the 20th anniversary of Iwo.

On 11 March 1983 at two-thirty in the afternoon there was a memorial service in the chapel for Gen Williams. The Marine Band brass quintet played. There was a posting of the colors from Eighth and Eye. Dean Emeritus Sayre officiated. Afterward there was a reception in the Deanery. It was all done with great style. —EHS



*BGen Williams accepts his honorific stars from Maj Gen David M. Shoup, left, and then-Commandant, Gen Randolph McC. Pate, on 29 June 1956. Afterward, for his retirement parade at Marine Barracks, Washington, Williams wore his colonel's eagles.*

then faced left to go against Mount Suribachi. Williams wrote about it in "Up the Rock the Hard Way" in the August 1945 *Gazette*.

In May 1945 Griffith (promoted to colonel a month later) was given command of the 21st Marines, then on Guam and rebuilding after the terrible casualties of Iwo. At the year's end he was transferred to the III Amphibious Corps staff in Tientsin. In April he was loaned to the Seventh Fleet and sent up to hot and humid Nanking as a liaison officer. In August he became the commanding officer of the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, then at Tsingtao, and in May 1947 was detached for duty at the Naval War College, Newport. He spent three years at the college, one as a student and two on the staff, and decided Newport was a wonderful place to live.

Williams, promoted to colonel in August 1945, went to Sasebo, Japan, with the 5th Marine Division. In December he was given command of the 27th Marines, in time to take it back to Camp Pendleton and disband it. He was then ordered to Headquarters, Marine Corps and assigned as a team chief in the office of the Inspector General.

In 1947 he was sent to the Joint Services Staff College in England. The college was in an old country house at Chesham. The course started in July and ran into January 1948. He was impressed by the syndicate system of instruction (what we would call

seminars) and the ability of British officers to speak on their feet. He stayed on in England as a member of the staff of the School of Combined Operations which was at Fremington in another old country house. Williams found it delightful. He was the only American within 50 miles and he had a batman to shine his leather and press his uniforms. In January 1950 he came back home to be Director of the 6th Marine Corps Reserve District with headquarters at Atlanta. He was there for the mobilization of the Reserve for Korea.

About that same time, in July 1950, Griffith was named Chief of Staff at Troop Training Unit, Atlantic, at Little Creek, Virginia. The *Gazette* in July and August 1950 published his "Guerrilla," a historical study of guerrilla warfare which dwells longest on what Spanish and Russian partisans did to Napoleon, how the Boers fought Kitchener to a standstill, Lawrence and the revolt in the Arabian desert, Mao's application of Lenin's dialectic to guerrilla warfare, and three of the greatest American guerrilla leaders: Francis Marion, "Swamp Fox" of the Revolution, and the redoubtable John S. Mosby and John Hunt Morgan of the Confederacy. In September 1951 he moved over to Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, to be chief of staff. In August 1953 he was assigned to the staff of Commander-in-Chief, Europe. Two years of intelligence duties, mostly in Europe, followed. On 1 March 1956 he retired from active service.

In the summer of 1952 Williams was ordered to Camp Pendleton and given command of the 3d Marines. The regiment was in tents and this pleased him. Every unit he ever commanded, he was fond of saying, from company to regiment, lived in tents. The regiment was training in Hawaii when they were ordered to Japan in the summer of 1953. It landed at Yokohama and went straight into camp at Fuji.

Gen Shepherd, then the Commandant, visited in the fall of 1953. Col Williams turned out an honor guard, a company picked from each of his battalions, every man carefully sized. Williams also held a mess night in the British style. Gen Shepherd liked both the honor guard and mess night very much and apparently decided then and there that Williams would be the next commanding officer of Marine Barracks, Washington.

The 3d Marine Division celebrated the 20th anniversary of Iwo Jima with an exercise that captured the island all over again. In deference to Williams, the 3d Marines was assigned the taking of Suribachi. Williams left his regiment at Iwo, went back to Fuji for his gear and, with 30 days leave, flew home by way of Europe before taking command of "Eighth and Eye."

Gen Shepherd wanted a first-class sunset parade and a first-class officers mess and Williams was his chosen instrument to accomplish both. At the first mess night each autumn at the Center House the honored guest would be the Commandant. Williams set down the procedures in "Mess Night" in the December 1955 *Gazette* and in the three decades since they have not greatly changed.

Despite high marks from Gen Shepherd, Williams was passed over twice for promotion and he decided to retire. On 29 June 1956, his honorific stars were pinned to his shoulder straps in an office

ceremony by then Commandant, Gen Randolph Mc. Pate and MajGen David M. Shoup, whom Williams much admired. For the retirement parade at the Barracks, Williams took off the stars and replaced them with his eagles.

After retirement Williams divided his time between Wisconsin and Washington, D.C. He took a master's degree in International Relations at the University of Wisconsin. He wrote a family biography, *Young Minister of Wisconsin*, published in 1963. He joined the Senior Staff of the Brookings Institution and also served as a full-time consultant with the policy planning staff of the International Security Affairs sub-secretariat in the Pentagon. Later he went with the Research Analysis Corporation. While a member of RAC he spent six months in 1965 and 1967 with the Montagnards and other guerrilla groups in Vietnam. He retired again in 1970.

He was a charter member and ardent supporter of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation. At the annual meetings of the Foundation he excoriated the official historians for the impersonality and dullness of their writing. Largely as a consequence of his proddings, the History and Museums Division is now pursuing a number of biographies whose writing is being assisted by research grants funded by the Foundation. Williams himself was vigorously researching a possible biography of Gen Holland M. Smith when his fatal cancer was first diagnosed last summer.

My correspondence from Gen Griffith through the years was chiefly in the form of short notes, often irascible, scribbled in pen on legal-sized blue-lined yellow paper. After his retirement he went to New College at Oxford University taking his doctorate of

*(Continued on page 24)*

## Sources

In writing these profiles I made liberal use of Griffith's and Williams' own autobiographical recollections as contained in their oral history memoirs. The Griffith interviews were conducted by Benis M. Frank in November 1968 and March 1970. The Williams interviews, also by Mr. Frank, extended from November 1979 through January 1980. Gen Williams completed his review of the transcript only days before his death. Copies of both memoirs are held at the Oral History Section, Marine

Corps Historical Center, and the Breckinridge Library, Quantico.

I also reviewed the writings of both generals, particularly their books and their articles that appeared in the *Marine Corps Gazette* and the *Naval Institute Proceedings*. To a lesser extent I used their official biographical files and personnel records, as well as official Marine Corps historical publications. Also incorporated are my own personal recollections.—EHS

# Oral History Report

Following Gen Shoup's death, the Oral History Section reviewed its holdings of interviews with former Commandants. With few exceptions, Commandants beginning with Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift are represented in the Oral History Collection.

The Vandegrift accession is an extensive interview by Capt Robert B. Asprey, USMCR, in connection with preparations for the general's autobiography, *Once a Marine*. The tapes of this interview have been transcribed but not yet reviewed.

Gens Clifton B. Cates and Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., were interviewed by Benis M. Frank, head of the Oral History Section, and the transcripts of both interviews are available for use by researchers in the Marine Corps Historical Center.

*Newly commissioned 2dLt Cates, photographed in 1917, subsequently commanded a platoon, company, battalion, regiment, and division in combat.*



Gen Randolph McC. Pate died before the advent of the Oral History Program, so he is not represented in the collection. Gen Shoup's long illness prevented him from participating in the program, but the collection holds two interviews conducted by others; one by Martin Russ for his *Line of Departure, Tarawa*, which was published in 1975, and another by Dr. Lawrence Suid, about the making of the movie, "Sands of Iwo Jima." Dr. Suid's interview was done to support the writing of his *Guts and Glory*, which tells of the relationship between the film industry and the armed services in the making of war movies.

Since his retirement, Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., 23d Commandant of the Marine Corps, has had an ongoing relationship with the History and Museums Division and his interview is not yet completed. This also is the case with his successor, Gen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. Gen Robert E. Cushman, Jr., has completed his interview, as has Gen Louis H. Wilson. Both of these interviews currently are being processed before accession into the collection. Plans are underway to begin interviewing Gen Robert H. Barrow, the present Commandant, as his schedule permits. In addition to these interviews, other extensive material relating to the various commandancies is held by the Marine Corps Personal Papers Collection.

Recently accessioned into the Oral History Collection are interviews with BGen Robert C. Kilmartin, Jr. and Col John P. Leonard, Jr., both of whom had long careers in the Marine Corps.

Gen Kilmartin, a native of the District of Columbia, was commissioned in 1917. His law degree qualified him for legal billets and his first such assignment was as legal aide to the Military Governor of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. His interview describes in detail the U.S. occupation of that country. From 1930 to 1934 he served in the office of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy. One interesting section of the interview deals with the time in August 1940 when, as commander of 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, he was assigned duties as CO of the Emergency Recruit Depot at Quantico; a hurricane had temporarily knocked out facilities at Paris Island during a period of pre-war expansion and to maintain the "pipeline," recruits were trained at Quantico. In June 1941 then-LtCol Kilmartin was assigned to the recently activated 1st Marine Division as the assistant chief of staff for personnel and, as such, went overseas. On Guadalcanal he served as

chief of staff to BGen William H. Rupertus' assistant division commander's group in the attack on Tulagi. Also of interest in the memoir are Gen Kilmartin's reminiscences of his tour as FMFPac legal officer under LtGen Roy S. Geiger. Gen Kilmartin retired as a colonel in June 1941 and was advanced to brigadier general for having been specially commended in combat.

Col Leonard was one of the first Reserve officers called to active duty in 1939. A Philadelphian, he had been commissioned in 1938, the year he graduated from La Salle University. He joined the 1st Marine Division in April 1941 and served with its 1st Special Weapons Battalion under Maj Raymond G. Davis on Guadalcanal and as commanding officer at Cape Gloucester. Following the war, he served mostly in artillery units. Then-LtCol Leonard commanded the Marine Barracks Navy Mine Depot, Yorktown, Virginia, from 1947-50. Service with the 1st Marine Division in Korea in 1954 included duty as executive officer, 11th Marines, and on promotion to colonel, as G-1. He was the first comptroller at Parris Island, serving there for three years, and then attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, 1959-1960. Col Leonard was the head of Plans/Operations Branch, G-4 Division at Headquarters at the time of his retirement in 1965.

Another new accession to the collection was donated by the Naval Institute Oral History Pro-

*Later a battalion commander at Peleliu, Gen Chapman smiles in a pre-World War II snapshot.*



*BGen Shepherd commanded the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade in the recapture of Guam in 1944.*

gram. It is an interview with retired VAdm Robert S. Salzer, whose accounting of his tours in command of riverine warfare in Vietnam, 1967-68, and as Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, 1971-72, are of Marine Corps historical interest.

The Oral History Section recently began an interview with LtGen Thomas H. Miller, Jr., who was Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation at Headquarters at the time of his retirement. He has flown just about every type of Marine Corps plane in service during his career, and was directly involved in the Harrier program from its inception.

For the Oral History Section's outreach program, Col Warren P. Baker interviewed BGen Charles H. Cogswell and BGen William A. Stiles. Both of these interviews will be accessioned as soon as they are processed.

In January, Mr. Frank and Reserve Maj Ronald H. Spector travelled to Camp Lejeune to interview 20 key staff and command personnel of 22d MAU, which, as 32d MAU, had been part of the Multinational Force in Lebanon until November 1982, when it was relieved by 24th MAU. When the latter returns to Camp Lejeune, it is anticipated that its personnel will be interviewed also.

# Uniform Paintings Near Completion

*by Capt Francis B. Short*

During the next few months, a project of significance to both Marine Corps history and Marine Corps uniforms will be completed. The project, a series of plate illustrations showing almost the entire range of 19th century Marine Corps uniforms, has been in progress since early 1982. The plates will serve the dual purpose of providing an easily understandable, highly accurate supplement to uniform regulations as well as recording with great precision the actual appearance of current Marine Corps uniforms. The plates were inspired by the Marine Corps Uniform Regulations of the 19th century, especially those of 1859 and 1875. Those

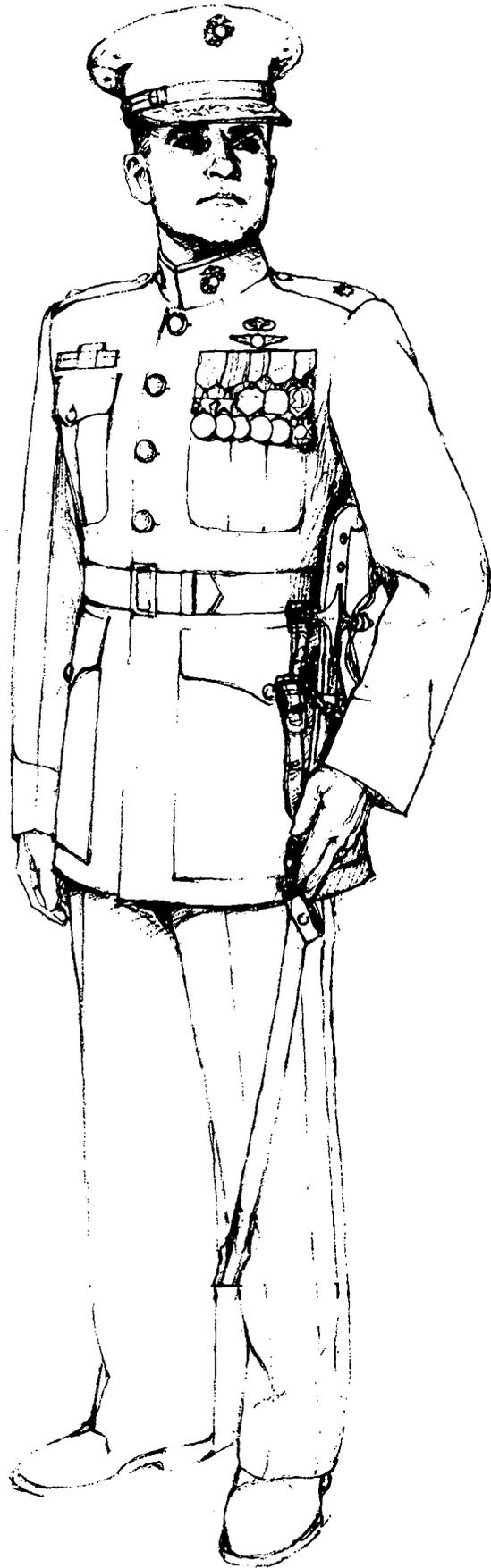
regulations were accompanied by colored lithographs, now collectors' items, showing the Marine Corps uniforms of the period.

BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret.), in his dual capacity as Director of Marine Corps History and Museums and President of the Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board, saw an opportunity to execute a series of uniform plates in the spirit of the 19th century illustrations. Gen Simmons was also aware of the artistic talents of Capt Donna J. Neary.

Capt Neary, a professional artist and a Marine Corps reservist, was called to active duty specifically for this project. She is particularly well suited for

*Capt Neary, with Col Whipple in evening dress "B" uniform, clarifies a question of perspective in natural light. The colonel appears as a central figure in the first plate.*





*The completed blue dress plate (bottom left) is the product of: composition sketch (not shown), photographs, and individual pencil drawings (top left and right). Although Capt Neary uses photographs as a starting point, her finished watercolors include changes in proportion, pose, and detail.*

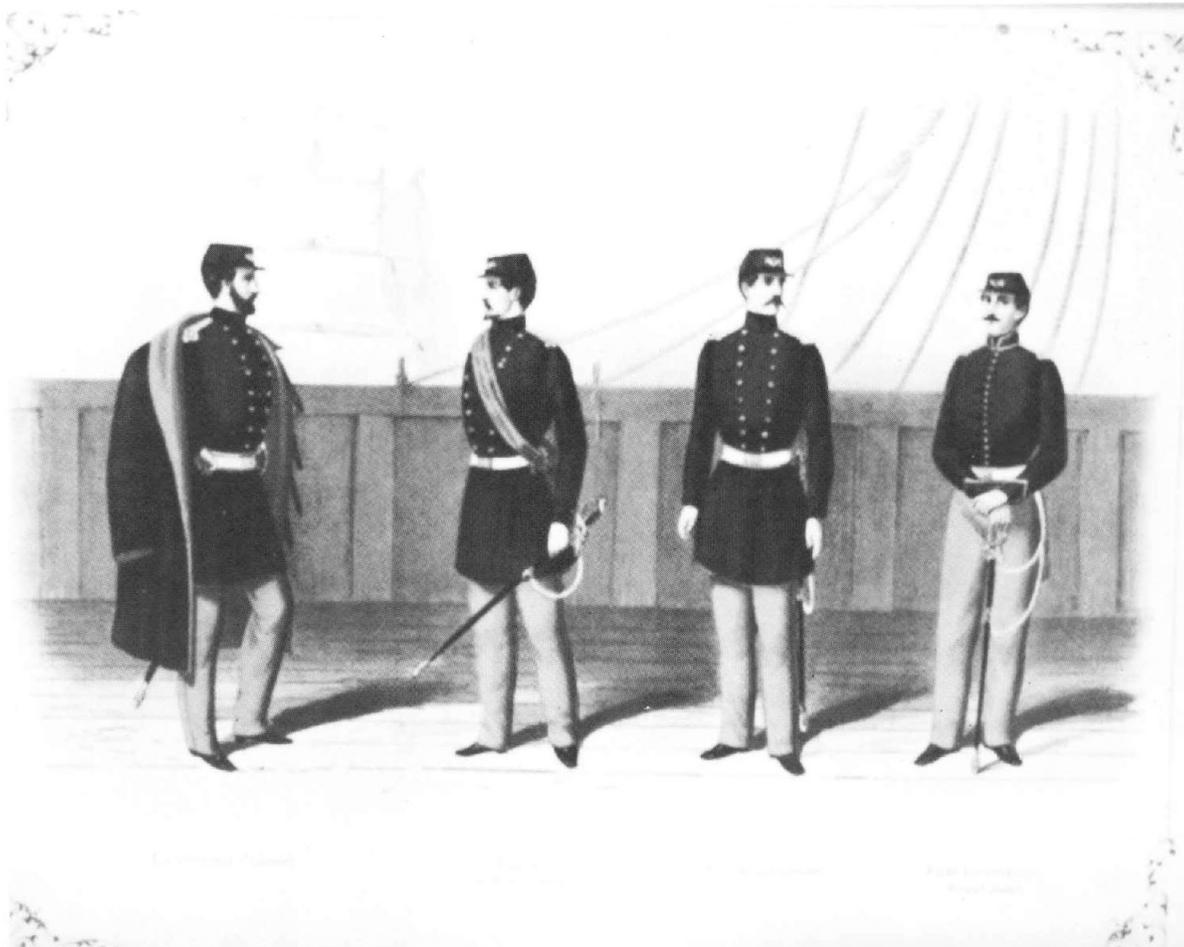
such an assignment, since her works have been highly acclaimed and have hung in the Pentagon, Headquarters Marine Corps, and the British Embassy. In 1971, Capt Neary was selected a Fellow of the Company of Military Historians for her outstanding work in the military and historical fields.

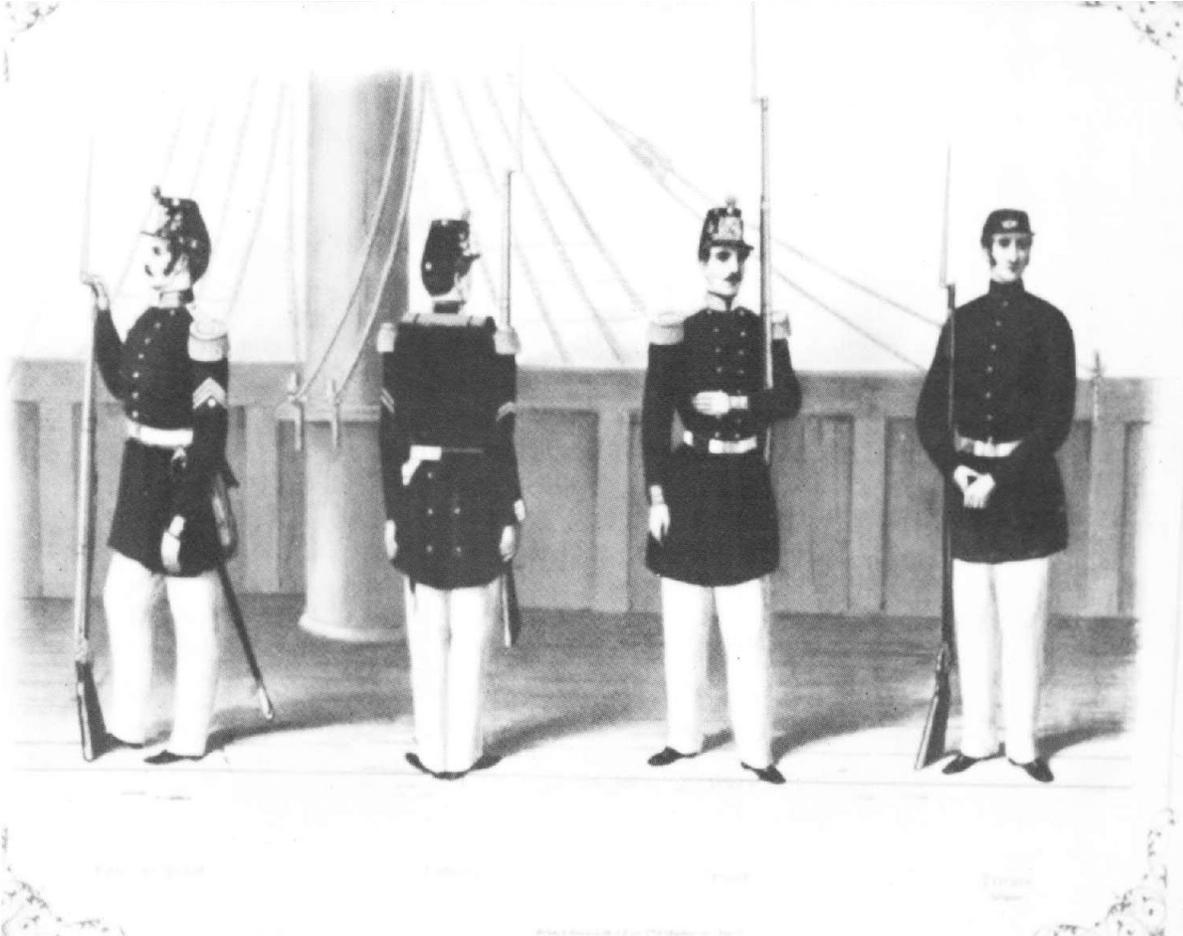
Before Capt Neary could begin painting, a working group including representatives of the History and Museums Division, the Inspection Division, and the Uniform Board carefully selected the uniforms to be shown, the format, and background scenes. These decisions set in motion the long and painstaking process intended to ensure accuracy and detail. First, Capt Neary submitted a "composition sketch" in pencil. This sketch showed Capt Neary's recommended arrangement of figures and poses. Upon approval by the Working Group of the sketches, photos were taken of actual Marines in the exact uniform and pose. The Marines were inspected prior to photography as a last minute measure to ensure that their uniforms fit properly and were worn in ac-



LIEUT. COLONEL. CAPTAIN. 2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUTENANT.

*By 1875 (above) the eagle, globe, and anchor and Mameluke sword were worn. The captain's undress uniform would evolve into present-day officers' blue dress. 1859 officer's fatigue jacket (below) was of "... dark blue cloth, lined with scarlet ... sixteen ... buttons ... sash to go twice around the waist. ..."* This survives as today's evening dress.





*In 1859 (above) "blue whites" were worn by seagoing Marines, as they are today. Other survivals include gold NCO chevrons and decorative button cuffs on dress uniforms. 1983 Marines will recognize the 1875 undress uniform (below) as the precursor of blue dress. Also familiar are the NCO sword and frog. In addition, the first sergeant is armed with a bayonet to go with his (not shown) Springfield rifle, caliber .45-70, model 1873.*

cordance with regulations. Then, working from the photos, Capt Neary first completed a detailed pencil drawing of each figure, and then combined these detailed sketches as the basis for her final illustration.

The Working Group reviewed the results of each stage of the project, and was tasked with critically examining the work with an eye for meticulous attention to detail. Together, the Working Group and the artist endeavored to ensure that even the most minute details were accurately recorded.

Segments of the completed plates will appear on the cover of *Marine Corps Gazette* throughout 1983. Sets of the completed plates will be distributed to Marine Corps Commands in late summer or early fall for display. Each plate will be accompanied by an explanatory text describing the uniforms shown and providing reference to Uniform Regulations. It is also planned to offer prints for sale to the public through the Superintendent of Documents.



# World War II Chronology

*April-June 1943*

**4 April.** The final elements of Marine Aircraft Group 21 landed on Banika Island in the Russell Islands.

**7 April.** Adm Isoroku Yamamoto, Imperial Japanese Navy, began "I" operations, designed to drive the Allies out of the Solomons and New Guinea, with an attack on Tulagi Harbor, Guadalcanal, by Japanese dive bombers and fighters. Only light damage resulted, but the diversion enabled the Japanese to slip reinforcements into Kolombangara Island by destroyer transport while Commander, South Pacific, concentrated air strength at Guadalcanal to meet further attacks.

**15 April.** The first airstrips on Banika in the Russell Islands were declared operational.

**18 April.** Adm William F. Halsey, Commander South Pacific, and Gen MacArthur, Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, met at Brisbane, Australia, and agreed that a Marine defense battalion, a naval construction battalion, and a regimental combat team would be transferred to the Southwest Pacific Area; 15 May was tentatively set as D-Day for the combined operations in New Georgia.

**20 April.** U.S. Army B-24's operating from Funafuti bombed the Tarawa atoll.

**21 April.** Marine Aircraft South Pacific (MASP), was established on a tentative basis to coordinate the administrative and logistical workload of the 1st and 2d Marine Aircraft Wings.

**26 April.** Gen MacArthur issued Elkton III, his third plan for the seizure of the New Britain, New Guinea, and New Ireland areas, calling for mutually supporting advances in the South and Southwest Pacific toward Rabaul.

**1 May.** The Personnel Department of Headquarters Marine Corps was organized absorbing the Adjutant and Inspector's Department and the Division of Personnel and Reserve.

**2 May.** Japanese commanders at Rabaul created the Southeast Detached Force for the defense of the Central Solomons.

**6 May.** The New Britain Force received a warning order from General Headquarters for the occupation of western New Britain by combined airborne and amphibious operations.

**11 May.** U. S. Army 7th Division landed on Attu, in the western Aleutians.

**12-25 May.** At the Trident Conference, the United States and Great Britain approved the U.S. "Strategic Plan for the Defeat of Japan," calling for a drive on the Japanese homeland through the Central Pacific.

**13 May.** The North African campaign formally ended.

**19 May.** Thirty Grumman Avenger fighters from Marine Scout-Bomber Squadron 143 and Navy Torpedo Squadron 11, with a supporting flight of six heavy bombers, mined Buin-Kahili off Bougainville.

**20 May.** MajGen Roy S. Geiger, Director of Aviation became Assistant Commandant (Air).

**23 May.** The 22d Marines was detached from the 3d Marine Brigade and moved to Tutuila where it was organized as the Garrison Force, Defense Force, Samoan Group.

**24 May.** The Marine Corps glider program was abandoned. The 36 officers and 246 enlisted Marines were dispersed to other aviation units, and their 21 gliders allocated to the U.S. Army and Navy.

**31 May.** MajGen Noboru Sasaki arrived at Kolombangara to head the new Southwest Detachment, a joint Army-Navy defense force in the New Georgia group. MajGen Sasaki was assigned responsibility for all land defense in the New Georgia sector and command of all Army troops in the area.

**3 June.** RAdm Richmond K. Turner, U.S. Navy, was named to assumed overall supervision of Operation Plan 14-43 for the seizure of positions in the Central Solomons. The 43d Division, USA under the command of MajGen John H. Hester, was designated as the largest ground unit to be involved.

**3 June.** All organized Japanese resistance to U.S. Army troops on Attu Island in the Aleutians ceased.

**7 June.** Air Solomons' interceptors turned back a raid by Japanese planes from the Eleventh Air Fleet at Rabaul.

**7 June.** The Japanese opened another series of air attacks on Guadalcanal. Allied fighters intercepted and destroyed 23 enemy planes, while losing nine planes.

**12 June.** Japanese aircraft from the Eleventh Air Fleet at Rabaul, headed for another attack on Air Solomons fighter strength in the Russell Islands, were badly mauled and turned back by Allied fighters.

**13 June.** The last reconnaissance patrols to the New Georgia Group, which included teams of Marine Corps, Army, and Navy officers, landed at Segi and surveyed four probable landing spots at Rendova, Rice Anchorage, Viru Harbor, and Wickham Anchorage.

**14 June.** Adm John H. Newton relieved Adm William F. Halsey as Commander, South Pacific, and the Solomon Islands were annexed to the Southwest Pacific Area, ending South Pacific's campaign against the Japanese.

**16 June.** MajGen John H. Hester, USA, commander of the New Georgia Occupation Force, issued Field Order No. 1; D-Day was set for 30 June.

**16 June.** A Force of Japanese dive bombers with fighter cover attempting a third attack on Air Solomons' fighter strength in the Russell Islands, were destroyed by Allied aircraft.

**17 June.** The 9th Defense Battalion was relieved of its defensive role on Guadalcanal and commenced training for the New Georgia operation.

**21 June.** The last Marine ground unit, the 3d Defense Battalion, was withdrawn from Cape Torokina, Bougainville.

**21-22 June.** The 4th Marine Raider Battalion (less Companies N and Q) and two companies from the 103d Regimental Combat Team, USA, were committed at Segi Point, New Georgia at the urgent insistence of the New Zealander coastwatcher stationed there whose position was threatened by a Japanese advance from Viru Harbor.

**22-23 June.** U.S. Army units began the invasion of the Trobriands islands with a landing on Woodlark Island.

**26 June.** Japanese aircraft deployed from Buin to defend the Central Solomons against Allied attack, were ordered back to Rabaul.

**27 June.** Companies O and P, 4th Raider Battalion, landed at Segi, New Georgia to launch a coordinated attack against Viru Harbor where a minor naval base for small craft was to be developed.

**29 June.** The 158th Regimental Combat Team, USA, and the 46th Engineer Combat Company, USA, reinforced, landed unopposed on Kiriwina Island, Trobriands.

**30 June.** The active duty strength of the Marine Corps was 308,523 - 21,384 officers and 287,139 enlisted.

**30 June.** Converging drives on the Rabaul bastion by forces of Commander, South Pacific and Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area opened with amphibious operations against the Central Solomons, Trobriands, and New Guinea.

**30 June.** The Viru Occupation Unit landed at Nono, New Georgia, to join the 4th Raider Battalion in an attack on Viru Harbor.

**30 June.** Companies N and Q of the 4th Raider Battalion landed unopposed near Oloana Bay followed by the 2d Battalion, 103d Infantry Regiment, USA, and supporting units. The Raiders and Company F, 103d Regiment, moving towards Wickham Anchorage, overran their objectives.

**30 June.** Companies A and B, 169th Infantry, USA, secured the islands guarding the entrance to Rovian Lagoon and Zanana Beach on the shore line of New Georgia.

**30 June.** Elements of the 172d and 103d Infantry Regiments, USA, and the 24th Naval Construction Battalion, supported by the 9th Defense Battalion, landed at Rendova Harbor against light resistance. Fighter planes from the Solomons—including those of Marine Fighter Squadron 121, 122, 213, and 221—intercepted attacks by the 11th Japanese Air Fleet, downing 101 Japanese planes. The Marine units secured Kokorana and cleared a firing area for a 90mm battery, besides taking part in the seizure of Rendova Island.

**30 June.** U.S. Army troops and the 12th Defense Battalion occupied Woodlark Island.

**30 June.** The 1st Battalion, 162d Infantry, USA, and supporting U.S. and Australian forces began an unopposed landing at Nassau Bay, New Guinea.

**30 June.** The proposed plan for the occupation of Martinique was cancelled when RAdm Georges Robert, the French High Commissioner for the Antilles, surrendered his command to VAdm John S. Hoover, USN.

# Readers Always Write

## AN INTEREST IN HEINL

*Fortitudine* continues to arrive and maintain my interest—keep up the good work!

On page 19 of the Fall issue I read that Mrs. Heinl spoke of Col Heinl's relationship with Gen Shoup. Since the frank article on Gen Shoup, page 12 of the March *Gazette*, I find my interest on the subject very high. Do I have to wait until I get back to Washington, D.C. to find out what Mrs. Heinl has to say? . . .

LtCol M. T. Hoppgood, Jr., USMC  
Australian Joint Services Staff College  
Canberra, Australia

*See Oral History Report, Fortitudine, Fall 1982. According to Oral History Section, Mrs. Heinl's series of interviews is not yet complete. Interviews, once completed, are normally transcribed and their*

*availability to researchers is determined by the interviewer. — Editor*

## OLYNYK SEES ERROR

The Fall 1982 issue of *Fortitudine* arrived a few days ago, and I read it with a great deal of interest. On my next visit I must take some time and review the oral history material on World War II fighter operations.

One item however, did catch my attention, because it is (dare I suggest it) in *error*! VMF-124 actually arrived at Guadalcanal with their F4Us in February 1943. The squadron history (on file in Reference Section) says February 11; Kenneth A. Walsh's flight log shows that he flew there on February 13. The muster rolls might clear this up. In any case, they flew an escort mission on February 14, losing 2 planes (one by collision), but claiming three aircraft shot down (apparently float Zeroes). . .

Frank Olynyk  
Aurora, Ohio

*That issue's "World War II Chronology" lists 12 March as the squadron's arrival date. Reference Section agrees an error was made. A check of records shows the correct date to be 12 February. — Editor*

## 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 participation in the Oral History Program:

**BGen Herman H. Hanneken, USMC (Ret)**

For donating his personal library of military history books:

**LtCdr Ray William Stubbe, ChC, USN**

For five years of service as a Museum Shop Volunteer:

**Mrs. Eugene B. Fallon  
Mrs. John Greenwood  
Mrs. F. Brooke Nihart  
Mrs. Ben Read  
Mrs. Robert L. Simmons**

For four years of service as a Museum Shop Volunteer:

**Mrs. Charles Drake  
Miss Evelyn Englander  
Mrs. Benis M. Frank  
Mrs. John Grace  
Mrs. Harold Hatch  
Mrs. Milton Irons  
Mrs. Warren H. Wiedhahn, Jr.**

# Letters From a Frigate Navy Marine

by Charles R. Smith

The Marine Corps Historical Center recently acquired a collection of 30 letters by a 19th Century Marine officer that have been invaluable in preparing a new history, tentatively entitled *Marines in the Frigate Navy, 1789-1835*. The letters, written by Lt Henry Olcott, provide something normally missing in official records: a rare peek into the personal life and thoughts of a Marine officer whose service encompassed the War of 1812.

There are abundant official records in the National Archives and, to a lesser extent, the Library of Congress. Marine-related material of a personal nature, however, is quite rare. That which does exist is scattered among the collections of historical societies, university libraries, and autograph collectors. Lt Olcott's letters are a welcome addition to the growing number of personal manuscript collections housed at the Center.

Henry Olcott, born in 1788 at Charlestown, New Hampshire, and the son of United States Senator Simeon Olcott, began his education by entering Phillips Exeter Academy. Two years later he enrolled at Yale, where he was involved with his brother George in a series of student disturbances not unlike those of the 1960s. In 1804, he apparently left the

college and returned to Charlestown from where in 1809 he applied for and received an appointment as a midshipman in the Navy.

Olcott's account of his military career begins with a letter written to his brother from on board the *Chesapeake* at Boston in October 1810; it ends with a letter from Norfolk, Virginia, written in September 1819, less than two years before his death. As a midshipman Olcott had joined the *Constitution* and voyaged to France where he took the occasion to make a number of shrewd observations about the then-current Napoleonic conflict: "No wonder the great Napoleon is so powerful by land, for we may truly say France is a nation of soldiers. Almost every man is enrolled for to fight his country's battles." As he observed at Cherbourg: "every street corner and before every public building there are soldiers stationed day and night. Besides those there are the *gendarmes* spread throughout the city who watch the movements of everyone. You must be cautious here how you express yourself of the government."

In October 1812, following his return, he received a commission as a lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He served throughout the war, chiefly on board the frigate *United States* during her long period of blockade off New London, Connecticut, and remained with her, following the peace, on her assignment to the Mediterranean Squadron. During his four-year stay, 1815-1819, he saw much of the Mediterranean from Gibraltar to Naples.

The *United States* returned to Norfolk in 1819, where she was laid-up for repairs; Lt Olcott and the Marine guard were transferred to the barracks at Gosport, Virginia. Somewhat tired of shipboard service, Olcott made application for appointment as Quartermaster of the Corps. Despite his apparent seniority in terms of sea service, he was passed over for the post. Lieutenant Henry Olcott died at Gosport on the evening of 17 October 1821 "after a lingering illness of many months" at the age of 33.

---

*Mr. Smith, author of Marines in the Revolution, received his BA degree from the University of California and his MA degree from San Diego State University prior to serving with the Army's 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He is a PhD candidate at Georgetown University. In his current project, "Marines in the Frigate Navy, 1789-1835," Mr. Smith works in collaboration with Mr. Long and LtCol Waterhouse. Research continues on "Marines in the Frigate Navy." The Historical Center asks readers' assistance in obtaining copies of any original letters or other documents related to Marines of that era.*

# Olcott's Letter to His Brother

Washington City,  
Marine Barracks,  
January 5th, 1813

Dear Brother

Your letter of the 25th December came to hand this day. I am pleased that the introductory letter of Capt Hull's met the approbation of my friends. It shall be my strife to prove myself deserving of it in my present pursuit. As our duty will be (or rather, is) principally upon the water, the success of our Navy is our grand object, and that it behooves us to defend at the risk of our lives and fortunes. It is well known by anyone of common discernment that we have not *Solomon* at the head of this growing nation, as [Virginia's John] Randolph says (and I think with much truth too) that he might as well write upon the surface of the water and believe the letter to be indelible as to reason with the minds of our rulers. In that particular I think him perfectly correct. Past time has shown us that they are not to be reasoned into a measure, more particularly should it be of any utility to the country. They must be dealt with in a different manner, like the boy in the apple tree who, after fair words and persuasion, they were obliged to pelt him with stones to bring his reason home, so must we pelt, kick, and drive our head men, so that common sense, common reason may float over their present pusillanimous and penny serving ideas.

Our Army is sufficient proof of their ignorance and inadequacy of bestowing upon our country that which every American bosom beats for—glory, honor, liberty, and independence. Our soldiers have thirsted for battle. They have seen *Victory* crowned with laurels stare them in the face, but it has been kept from them. They have been led on by a set of treacherous, cowardly runaways, by men who know not how either to command or obey, and with fellows at the head of a few untrained militia, they expected to have planted the *flag of America* upon the *batterys of Montreal*.

I will now give you a short statement of the situation of this corps. The War Office has nothing to do with this body. We are immediately under the control of the Secretary of the Navy. It is a naval establishment. It is commanded by one Lieutenant colonel, who is Franklin Wharton; one Major; six Captains; twelve first Lieutenants; sixteen second Lieutenants; an Adjutant, Paymaster, and Quartermaster; the three latter are taken from Lieutenants. The officers are taken from men of the first talent and respectability. None others will be admitted. I have not the names of the officers by me. I will give them to you at another time. Our principal duty, as I have

before stated, is at sea. We have nevertheless officers and men stationed at particular ports on land. I do not know that I can give you a more accurate account of this Corps at this time. Should anything occur to me hereafter I will inform you of it.

I am happy to find that the young married people are rendering so much service to their country as appears from your letter. She will at some future day require their services. I think myself it is time for some of you *lawyers* to be in the same way, instead of turning over your musty leaves and then perhaps not remembering half you read. I should advise you to turn to at once, for you will be in your grave before you think of it, and then good bye to all the profit your country ever derived from you.

I have no objections to Mr. Hubbard's marrying, but I think any lady who marries him through *love* must be very deficient in her upper story.\* As for Mr. Walker,\*\* I cannot pass an opinion; my intimacy or acquaintance with him was very trifling.

The good health of our parents is very pleasing to me. It would gratify me to visit you this winter and it is not improbable I may. Captain Hull has a[sked]\*\*\* for me to go to New York with him but do not as yet [know whether I] shall be ordered there. Should I, I shall try my hand to r[each] home.

There has been nothing of importance around in the city of late. I wrote a few days since to our father and a short time since to you. I expect you will be punctual in your answer.

My best respects to all friends.  
I remain, yours, etc., etc.,  
H. Olcott

George Olcott  
Charlestown, New Hampshire

---

\* Henry Hubbard (1784-1857), lawyer, statesman, Governor of New Hampshire 1842-43, Senator, Representative, married Sally Walker Dean, also of Charlestown, on 30 November, 1813.

\*\* Abel Walker, Jr. of Charlestown, married Sally Doolittle in January 1813.

\*\*\* Brackets indicate where the original letter has been damaged and words inserted by the editor.

# In Memoriam

Gen David M. Shoup, 22nd Commandant of the Marine Corps, died 13 January 1983 at the age of 78 in Alexandria, Virginia, after a long illness.

He was a native of Indiana, born in Battle Ground in September 1904. Following graduation from De Pauw University in 1926, he initially served for a month as an Army Reserve second lieutenant, and resigned to accept a commission in the Marine Corps.

His early years in the Corps before World War II included several tours in China, one on board the *Maryland*, and service with the Civilian Conservation Corps in Idaho and New Jersey.

In May 1941, then-Maj Shoup went to Iceland, serving successively as operations officer of the 6th Marines and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade. Upon his return to the United States the following year, he was assigned as assistant D-3 of the 2d Marine Division, with which he deployed to New

Zealand. He was the division's observer with the 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal and with the Army's 43rd Infantry Division at New Georgia.

After these operations, and now a colonel, Shoup returned to the 2d Division, commanding the 2d Marines on Tarawa in November 1943. It was during this assault, when, as the senior Marine ashore, he earned the Medal of Honor "by his brilliant leadership, daring tactics, and selfless devotion to duty, [and] was largely responsible for the final decisive defeat of the enemy . . . ." Col Shoup also was awarded the British Distinguished Service Order for this action.

After Tarawa, Col Shoup became the 2d Division chief of staff for the Saipan and Tinian landings.

Postwar tours included assignments to Headquarters Marine Corps as logistics officer, Division of Plans and Policies; CO, Service Command, FMFPac; 1st Marine Division chief of staff at Camp Pendleton; and CO, The Basic School. He then returned to HQMC, first as assistant fiscal officer and then as Fiscal Director of the Marine Corps. Under his direction fiscal responsibilities were shifted from

*Gen David M. Shoup bunkered for a group picture as a first lieutenant with the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933. Twenty-seven years later in 1960 he sat for an official portrait as the 22d Commandant of the Marine Corps.*



the Quartermaster of the Marine Corps to the Fiscal Director, when the Fiscal Division became a separate agency at the general staff level.

In May 1956, following the Ribbon Creek incident at Parris Island, then-MajGen Shoup was designated Inspector General of Recruit Training and then Inspector General of the Marine Corps. Following these assignments, he commanded in turn the 1st Marine Division, 3d Marine Division, and MCRD, Parris Island.

Later, President Eisenhower nominated him over nine more senior generals to become the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Sworn in on 1 January 1960, it was his symbolic "hand on the plough" inaugural speech shortly afterwards that set the tone of

his commandancy—a return to Marine Corps fundamentals typified by his attitude regarding swagger sticks; that is, "if you need them, carry them." Other aspects of his commandancy were his opposition to U.S. involvement in Vietnam, and a deep skepticism of counterinsurgency as the panacea for all threats facing this country. He was opposed to "empires" in the Marine Corps and ordered them abolished.

Controversy followed Gen Shoup into retirement. He reiterated his earlier assertions that nothing justified a massive U.S. buildup in Southeast Asia. He continued to speak out when the war escalated in the late 1960s.

Gen Shoup was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 17 January with full military honors.

## VMO-6 Squadron History Available

*A History of Marine Observation Squadron Six (VMO-6)* is the sixth monograph to be published in the Squadron Histories series. Co-authored by LtCol Gary W. Parker and Maj Frank M. Batha, the history provides a concise operational narrative about one of the Marine Corps' most interesting aircraft squadrons. VMO-6's deactivation in 1976 ended nearly five decades of distinguished air support which began with combat operations in the second Nicaraguan campaign and ran through Vietnam. The squadron's most important contribution to Marine Corps aviation is considered to have been its pioneering use of helicopters during Korea.

The History and Museums Division will distribute the publication to all aviation activities, however, additional copies may be requested from Headquarters Marine Corps (Code HD), or purchased from the Government Printing Office (cost \$5.00).

Histories have previously been published about the following squadrons: Marine Attack Squadron 232; Marine Attack Squadron 223;

### A HISTORY OF MARINE OBSERVATION SQUADRON SIX



Marine Attack Squadron 311; Marine Fighter Squadron 312; and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161.



BGen George F. Gober, USMC (Ret), who retired in 1959, died at the age of 68 in Oxford, Mississippi on 22 March. He was born in Holcut, Mississippi in 1915 and graduated from Mississippi State University in 1939, the year he was commissioned in the Marine Corps. He joined the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in 1940 and served with the 1st Marine Division in the Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, and Peleliu operations. He remained in the supply field for the rest of his career, serving as FMFPac Force Supply Officer. He also served in the G-4 Division at HQMC, and was Director of Logistics Readiness Training in NATO headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia. Col Gober commanded H&S Battalion at Parris Island. Upon retirement in 1959, he was advanced to the grade of brigadier general for having been decorated in combat. Gen Gober was buried on 24 March in Oxford Memorial Cemetery, Oxford, Mississippi.



BGen Robert B. Carney, Jr., USMC (Ret), the son of former CNO Adm Robert B. Carney died at the age of 64 on 9 March 1983 at his home in Arlington, Va. A native of Washington, DC, and a graduate of Dartmouth College, he was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in 1942. From Reserve Officers Course at Quantico he underwent parachute training, following which he joined the 3d Parachute Battalion, with which he took part in the Guadalcanal, New Guinea, and Bougainville operations. In the Iwo Jima assault, he was a company commander in the 3d Battalion, 28th Marines. In July 1945, he became aide to MajGen Thomas E. Bourke, CG of the 5th MarDiv, and remained his aide when the latter became Inspector General of FMFPac. Returning to the United States in 1947, Maj Carney began a succession of school and garrison assignments. In 1951, he was assigned as Senior Marine Advisor to the Chinese Marine Corps. He remained on Taiwan until 1955, when he was detached to Camp Lejeune, where he was Assistant G-3 of

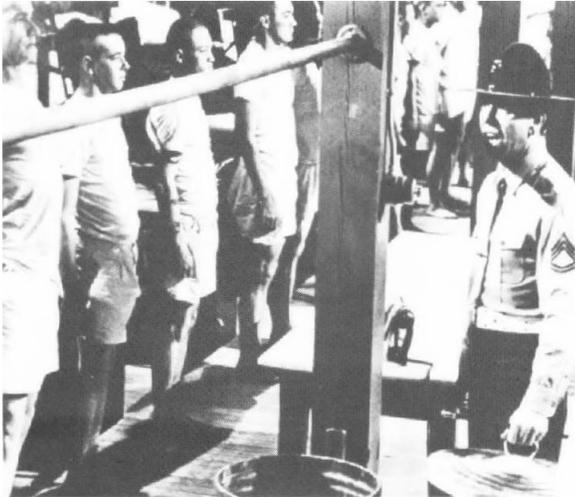
the 2d Marine Division and later commanded 3d Battalion, 8th Marines. Following completion of the Armed Forces Staff College, he went to Washington where he served as Special Assistant to the G-3 Division at HQMC, aide to the Commandant, and in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, successively. From 1964 to 1967, Col Carney commanded the Marine Barracks, Washington. Promoted to brigadier general in 1967, he served as Assistant Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps, and in November 1968, he was reassigned to Vietnam where he was concurrently Assistant Division Commander of the 3d MarDiv and CG, Task Force Hotel, and later commanded the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade. Upon Gen Carney's return to the United States in 1970, he was assigned briefly as Deputy Chief of Staff (Administration) at HQMC and then Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1. He retired in June 1972. Gen Carney was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on 14 March.



Veteran Marine aviator MajGen Samuel Sloan Jack, USMC (Ret), died at the age of 76 in San Diego on 25 March after a long illness. A graduate of the Naval Academy, Class of 1927, Gen Jack was born in Flagstaff, Arizona, in August 1907. He was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in June 1927 and after completion of Basic School, his first assignment was to the 2d Brigade in Nicaragua. Here he remained until 1931, when he returned to the United States for flight training. Lt Jack received his wings in 1929, was assigned to Marine aviation units on North Island until 1931, when he returned to Nicaragua to serve with Marine squadrons supporting the brigade there. He was awarded the Navy Cross for distinguished service 12-13 April 1931 during flights against rebel bandits. In the 1930s, he did postgraduate work in aeronautical engineering and then was assigned to BuAer in the Navy Department. At the outbreak of World War II, Maj Jack was commanding VMF-121. He sailed to the Pacific as executive officer of MAG-12 and took command of Fighter Command on Guadalcanal in November 1942. In 1943 he returned to the United States for a short stay before returning to the Pacific for a second tour, this time as operations officer of AirFMFPac

and then CO of MAG-33 on Okinawa. During the Korean War, Col Jack was chief of staff of the 1st MAW in Korea, August 1952 to August 1953. After his promotion to general officer rank in September 1953, Gen Jack commanded MCAS, Cherry Point and then 1st MAW. He was later Deputy CG,

FMFPac and Director of Aviation, HQMC. He commanded AirFMFPac from July 1958 until his retirement in June 1961. Gen Jack was buried with full military honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, on 30 March.



*Actor Jack Webb, whose classic portrayal of a Marine drill instructor in the movie, "The DI," won Marine approval and acclaim, died following a heart attack in Los Angeles on 22 December 1982. Best known for his long-running television series, "Dragnet," Webb also appeared in another movie with a Marine theme, "Halls of Montezuma." Born in Santa Monica, he was a B-26 pilot in World War II.*

## Museum Needs Specific Items

During the course of our recataloging effort and our revision of the exhibits at the Marine Corps Aviation Museum, we identified some items which we need. They are:

- Any technical manuals for the PV-1 Lockheed aircraft.
- Aviator's headgear, especially any pre-1941 goggles.
- Instruments for the Japanese "Baka" bomb.
- A tripod for a Soviet 120mm M1943 mortar.
- Any World War II period Women Reserve uniform items, especially shoes and utility/work uniforms.
- Any pre-1946 enlisted identification discs.
- Any World War II period helmets with liners.

- An 81mm Stokes-Brandt mortar.

- Any World War II period machine gun mounts for vehicles or aircraft.

- Large-sized (size 9 or larger) World War II field shoes.

- Pre-1943 ammunition boxes.

We already have ample quantities of both officer and enlisted post-1937 garrison and dress uniforms. Interested donors should contact the Museum before sending in any artifacts. The address is:

Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums  
 Marine Corps Historical Center  
 Building 58, Washington Navy Yard  
 Washington, D.C. 20374

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS U.S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

BULK RATE  
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
USMC  
PERMIT NO. 038-000

---

## “Two Gallant Marines . . .”

*(Continued from page 8)*

philosophy in 1961 in Chinese military history. During the war he had written “That Man Sun-tzu,” published in the August 1943 *Gazette* and based on the 1908 translation of Sun Tzu by British Capt E. F. Calthrop. Apparently not satisfied with the Calthrop translation, Griffith did his own, *Sun Tzu's The Art of War* (Clarendon Press, 1963). A year earlier his 1941 translation of Mao Tse-tung was re-discovered by the *Gazette* and published in the January 1962 issue as “Mao's Primer on Guerrilla Warfare.” Frederick A. Praeger published the Mao translation in 1961 in book form. Griffith's China books also include *Peking and the People's Wars* (Praeger, 1966) and *The Chinese People's Liberation Army* (McGraw-Hill, 1967).

Earlier he had written *The Battle for Guadalcanal*, published by Lippincott in 1963 as part of the Great Battles of History Series (reprinted by Nautical &

Aviation Press, 1979). His writings appeared in many popular magazines and professional journals and he lectured widely at both civilian universities and service colleges.

He made his home in Newport with summers spent in Maine, but his travels were many. The long researching of British sources for a major work on the American Revolution took him back to England and Oxford for several years. The book, *In Defense of the Public Liberty*, was published by Doubleday in 1976.

Griffith's last article for the *Gazette* was in the November 1978 issue; “Memories and Impressions: Guadalcanal and Tulagi, 1978.” It was a nostalgic piece, prompted by a return visit to the Solomons, and it combined, just as the title indicates, his impressions of present day Guadalcanal and Tulagi and his memories of what had happened there.