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FORTITUDINE

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

Volume XIII

Fall 1983

No. 2

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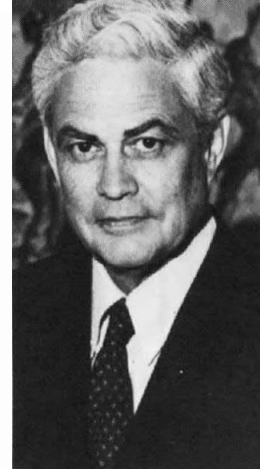
THE COVER

Combat artist Kerr Eby's "Bullets and Barbed Wire" is a charcoal drawing based on the Tarawa assault, Eby, above, was born in 1889 in Japan where his father was a Methodist missionary. He studied art at the Art Students League in New York and the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. Serving with the Army Engineers in France, his thumbnail sketches of Belleau Wood, Chateau Thierry, Saint Mihiel, and the Meuse-Argonne formed the basis for his book *War*, published by the Yale University Press in 1936. He was accredited as an artist-correspondent for Abbott Laboratories in 1943 and accompanied the Marines during the assaults on Tarawa, Bougainville, and New Britain. Eby's drawings are held by the U.S. Navy Combat Art Collection. He died in 1946.

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

Director's Page

Tarawa Postscript



BGen Simmons

LAST SPRING I received a letter from Cdr D. J. Farber, USN, CinCPac's representative in the Southwest Pacific. It enclosed a letter from Mr. Russell J. Surber, Charge d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy at Suva, Fiji. Mr. Surber's letter in turn enclosed a letter from Mr. Toanimatang Teraoi, a citizen of Kiribati.

For those readers who have not kept abreast of emerging nations, Kiribati is what we have always called, somewhat presumptively, the Gilbert Islands. It became a sovereign nation in 1979. And for those of you who are really rusty on your Pacific geography, Tarawa atoll forms part of Kiribati.

Cdr Farber in his covering letter said with respect to Mr. Teraoi's letter:

One's initial impulse at receiving such a letter might be (as mine was) to shrug it off as an opportunistic gimmick. I was quite surprised, however, and pleasantly so, at the enormous amount of goodwill that still exists on the part of the South Pacific islanders toward the United States as a result of our role during World War II. While many Americans seemingly have forgotten the sacrifices made by a prior generation on the beaches of Guadalcanal, Tarawa, et al., the people down here still recall with fondness of memory.

Mr. Teraoi's communication was in two parts: his own story of the battle of Tarawa, which is printed in the accompanying box, and a covering letter as follows:

To Whom it may Concern,

I attach herewith the story of my spy-work that I have done for the American Marine Soldiers during the Second World War in 1943 on Tarawa Island for your honourable Members or whoever may concern with this kind of work to see it and consider whether or not I should deserve rewards for my work. Would you please kindly inform me if Colonel Murray is still alive and his home address.

I hope my story will meet with your favourable consideration.

Sincerely yours,
TOANIMATANG TERAOI

It seemed to me that "Colonel Murray" must have been Raymond L. Murray, at the time of Tarawa a lieutenant colonel and commanding officer of 2d Battalion, 6th Marines.

So I wrote to Mr. Teraoi telling him that his "American colonel named Murray" was almost certainly Raymond L. Murray, now a retired major general living in Southern California. Because of the Privacy Act I could not give him Gen Murray's address, but I went on to say that I had written Gen Murray, enclosing a copy of his statement, and that I was sure that he would hear directly from the General.

Gen Murray did, indeed, write to Mr. Teraoi as follows:

15 June 1983

Dear Tony:

It has been many years since I have thought of the night we spent

on "HELEN" when the bombs dropped around us while we were in the bunker planning our actions for the clean-up of the atoll.

What a wonderful surprise it was to hear from someone from my past who still remembered my name and the events that took place so long ago.

I hope the years since then have been good to you and that you are now in good health.

I have written to our Marine Commandant and confirmed that your story is a true one. I have no way of knowing what action might be taken.

Let's hope we never have to fight again as we did at Tarawa and that peace will come to the whole world someday.

With all best wishes for your well being,

Sincerely,
R. L. MURRAY
MajGen, USMC (Ret)

In a parallel note to me, Gen Murray clarified the incident a bit more:

Dear Ed:

How interesting to receive a communication relating events of 40 years ago! And how remarkable that "Tony" should remember those events in such detail!

The story is true. I recall most of the details clearly after reading his "story." I don't recall who was in the bunker (foxhole) with us but it probably was the division C/S and

23rd November, 1982

WORLD WAR II BATTLE OF TARAWA ISLAND 1943

STORY BEGINS: My name is Toanimatang Teraoi a 11 year old boy when the war on the islet of Betio on Tarawa was fought between the Japanese and the Americans. When the American troops have landed on Betio, a message from an American colonel called Murray conveyed by three American Marine soldiers at about 2130 hrs to the village called Eita situated about 6 or 7 miles east of Betio. The message was for someone who could speak English to come to the colonel in order to enable him to obtain all informations about the Japanese who were stationed on the other side of Tarawa Atoll. Before my acceptance to the call, I had one thing in my mind that frightened me, and that was: "If the Americans loses the Tarawa war, I would be the only poor boy to have my head cut off or shot by the Japanese". Just because of my strong feeling to the fact that the American would won the Tarawa war, I decided to accept the call and so, I went with the three American soldiers whom I did not even know their names. They led me to the place where Colonel Murray was and at about 2200 hrs we came to the place and met Colonel Murray in a small dugout at the place called "Diana" or "Banraeaba". We introduced ourselves and then he gave me a nick name "Tony" because he cannot pronounce my long name and so from then and up to now the people here call me Tony. Murray then asked me to give him all the informations I know about the Japanese who are stationed on the other side of the Atoll.

These are the informations:

- a) There are more than 70 Japanese soldiers at "Temaiku". (Temaiku is the name of a place situated at the bend of the Tarawa Island easternmost point).
- b) There are more than 50 Koreans at "Kamwemwenang" not soldiers but they only have handgranades with them and no rifles. (Kamwemwenang is situated just a mile beyond Buoto Village on the southern side of a passage called Abatao passage).
- c) There are more than 70 Japanese soldiers at "Naa" with wireless set (Naa is a place situated at the very end of the northern point of Tarawa Atoll).
- d) Those soldiers at Temaiku together with Koreans at Kamwemwenang will move north by truck to join their friends at Naa.

After he has heard the above informations, he decided to go to Betio or its code name "Hellen" at 0100 hrs. At 0100 hrs Colonel Murray, the other officer and I boarded the L.C. and proceeded to Betio. On our way to Betio, I was surprising because the L.C. did not go direct to Betio but we headed to the warships anchored at the channel entrance, reported there, and have to call to every ships that anchored between the channel entrance and the wharf.

When we reached the Betio wharf, a big bright light was on and the work was carried on while the fighting on the land still went on. From the point of the pier, we rushed

ashore because some Japanese's planes were over head dropping bombs and shooting with machineguns and were very low because there were no big guns fired from the land, only the ships' guns fired that time to cover the land. When we reached the shore, we went into one of the foxholes where we met three or four officers inside with their little lamp. (These officers I believe they must have higher ranks than Colonel Murray). Murray told them the story and the Tarawa map was placed on the table. While they were discussing the matter, a Japanese's bomb dropped very near to our foxhole and one of the foxholes coconut logs was hit and fell in. What a terrible night to me!!! And Murray and other officers seemed nothing happened to them, they kept on talking. I ran out of the foxhole but Murray got hold of me and gave me one good slap on the face and told me that I would be safer to stay inside rather than outside. The big shot in the foxhole asked me some questions on the map about the Japanese position and I told him the same informations I have already given to Colonel Murray. After spending an hour or more in the foxhole, Murray took me back to the end of the pier where we first landed and asked the foreman who supervised the work on the wharf to look after me till himself would come and take me away after he had finished with the other officers in the foxhole. So left me there, and went back to the foxhole. I stayed with the foreman and was not very long after Murray had gone about, 50 Americans' airplanes flew over Betio Islet with lights on their wings came from an Americans' aircraft carrier near by Tarawa Island. This foreman showed me the Japanese Commander's medals and said that he killed him in his pillbox. I recognized the medals, as I had often seen them on the Commander when he wore them before the Americans' arrival. This foreman was very fat and tall but I forgot his name now. At about 0430 or 0500 hrs Murray came back to the foreman and took me away and many Marine soldiers embarked on about 31 L.C.s and 3 other craft that I do not know what you call them but these crafts can go on sea or by land with machine guns on them. When these L.C.s all filled up with Marine soldiers, we proceeded back to the other side of Tarawa Atoll heading east and when we almost arrived at Eita Village, the L.C.s splited up, 2 or 3 L.C.s and the 3 other crafts went direct to Buota or Tabiteuea Village while the rest of the L.C.s all landed at Eita Village joining with other Marine soldiers who have already landed at Banraeaba Village the night before. Colonel Murray's troops marched through Eita Village and about a mile beyond, we set up 3 guns all on wheels and fired few shells to Bikenibeu Village and Temaiku about 2 miles or more ahead. The troop marched toward the island till we reached Naa the very end of Tarawa northern point. That is the end of the fight.

Colonel Murray and his battalion went back to Banraeaba and made camp there. (The place where the old German lived named Myre). Stayed there not very long and then they just disappeared to an unknown destination.

This is the end of the story.

(Sg): TOANIMATANG TERAOI

maybe Dave Shoup. I don't recall slapping Tony, but I do remember his trying to leave the dugout as the bombs were dropping and I remember grabbing him and telling him it was safer inside than out.

We were talking about 2/6 making a sweep of the rest of the atoll to clean out the last of the Japanese. After the conference we returned to the island next to the Betio, where 2/6 had landed a day or so earlier to prevent any Japanese from leaving Betio, and began our move down the atoll.

Tony's figures as to the number and location of Japanese and Koreans are almost on the nose. We counted about 160 bodies after our battle on the last island. . . .

General Kelley to Toanimatang Teraoi regarding the Battle of Tarawa. In an age characterized by impersonality, it was refreshing to see that at least one Government Agency, the United States Marine Corps, could still reach into its past and acknowledge a debt to a single individual, no matter how small or far away.

As a reserve officer in the United States Coast Guard I have a certain personal interest in keeping alive our Services' traditions. I am delighted that the Marine Corps shares that interest. You can be assured that General Kelley's letter will become a treasured heirloom in the Teraoi family, and that in signing it the General added measurably to the good will our

country enjoys in this region.

With warm regards,
Sincerely,
RUSSELL J. SURBER
Charge d'Affaires, a.i.

And then, just before this issue of *Fortitude* went I received this letter from Mr. Teraoi, written appropriately but probably unknowingly on the Marine Corps' 208th Birthday:

Lands & Survey Office,
Bairiki, Tarawa
Republic of Kiribati
Central Pacific
10th November, 1983

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to reply to

Our Commandant was also impressed by Mr. Teraoi's account and on 5 August he wrote him this letter:

Mr. Teraoi,

Major General Raymond L. Murray, now retired, who led the 2d Battalion, 6th Marines, during the Battle of Tarawa, has told me of your courageous assistance to his unit during its drive to capture the northern islands of the atoll.

As we approach the 40th anniversary of that great battle, I want to commend you for your service to the United States and its Marine Corps. I assure you that we as Marines are grateful for what you did to help us gain victory.

On behalf of all United States Marines, I salute you!

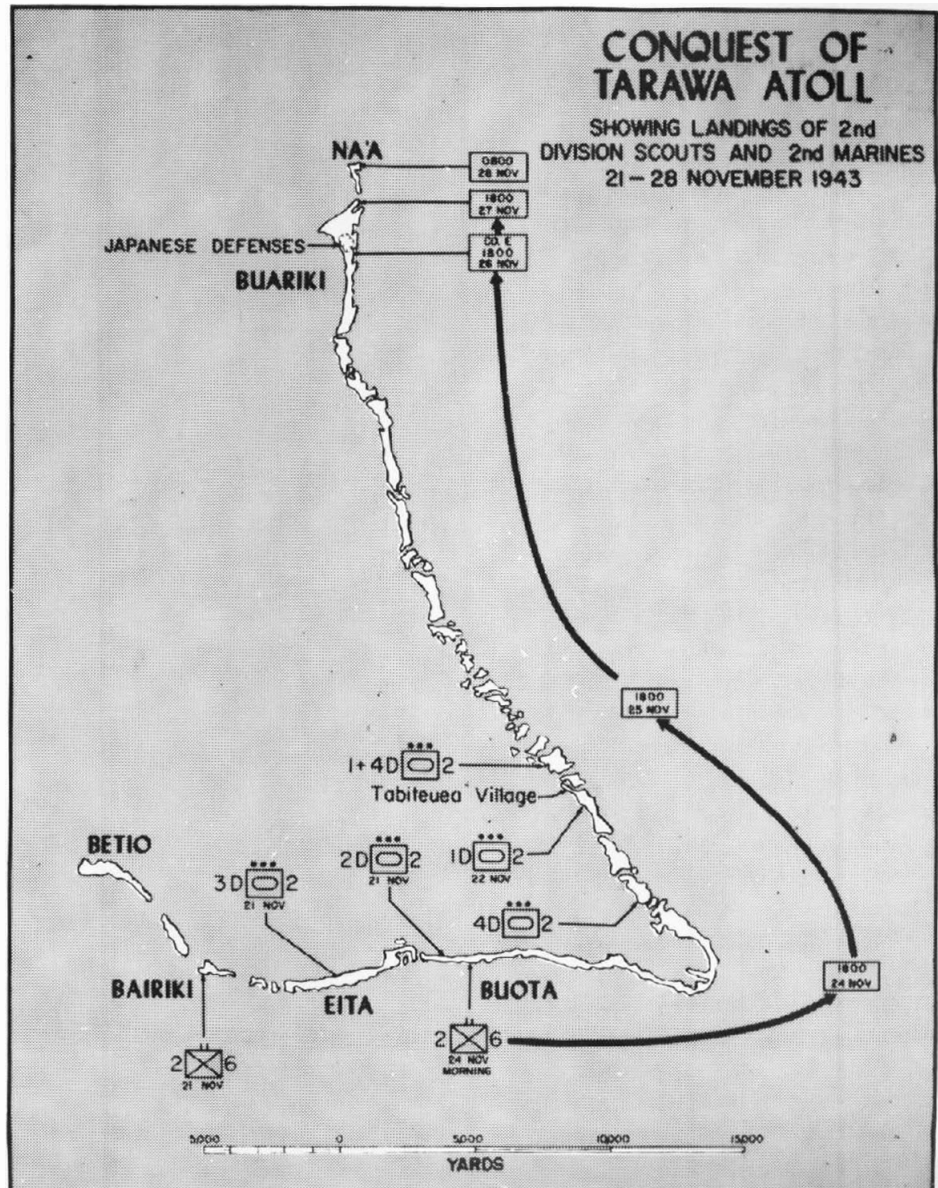
Respectfully,

P. X. KELLEY

General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

A copy of the Commandant's letter brought a thoughtful comment from Mr. Surber, the charge d'affaires at Suva:

May I take a moment of your time to express my appreciation for and pride in the letter from



FROM BETIO TO NAA

The occupation of the less important islands in Tarawa Atoll began while the battle for Betio still was raging. On 21 November, elements of Company D, 2d Tank Battalion, the division scout company, landed on Eita, west of Bairiki, and Buota, near the southeast corner of the atoll, where an estimated 100 Japanese were discovered. Another part of the scout company went ashore on an unnamed island that lay about one-fourth the distance from Buota to the northern apex of Tarawa. Two days later, while 3/10 was setting up its weapons on Eita to support the Marines on Betio, the Japanese on Buota escaped unopposed to the north. By 25 November, elements of Company D had scouted the southern half of Tarawa's eastern side, but at this point the entire unit was recalled to Eita to prepare for a reconnaissance of three nearby atolls—Abainang, Marakei, and Maiana.

In the meantime, Lieutenant Colonel Murray's 2/6, which had overrun Bairiki, had undertaken the mission of clearing the enemy from the outlying islands. Murray's men encountered no resistance until the late afternoon of 26 November, when the battalion reached Buariki, the northernmost of the larger islands of the atoll. At sunset on that day, a Marine patrol engaged in a fire fight with a small

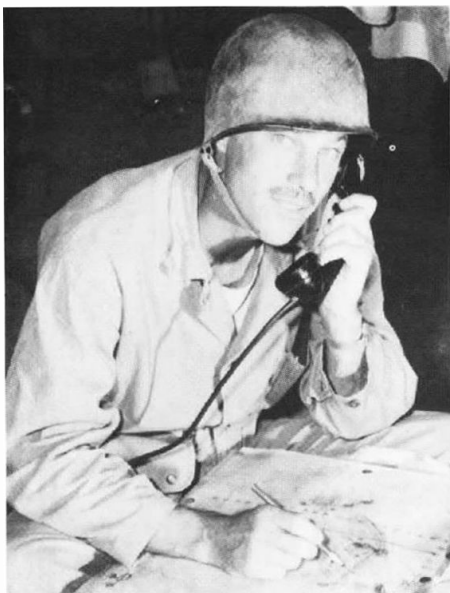
Japanese force. In spite of enemy harassment, the Marines held their fire throughout the night.

Murray resumed his advance on the following morning and soon located the enemy defenses, a haphazard arrangement of rifle pits and log barricades concealed in dense undergrowth. Because Company E had taken several casualties, the battalion commander ordered Company F to continue the attack while Company G maneuvered to strike the enemy on his eastern flank. Although Murray had a battery of pack howitzers at his disposal, poor visibility and the short range at which the infantrymen were fighting prevented the cannoners from firing more than a single concentration. In spite of this absence of artillery support, Murray's troops crushed the position, killing 175 and taking 2 prisoners. The Marines lost 32 killed and 59 wounded as a result of this fight.

Naa, a tiny island north of Buariki and the final objective of the battalion, was found on 28 November to be free of Japanese. The men of 2/6 then returned to Eita to rest from their mission. By boat and on foot, these Marines had covered a distance of about 35 miles in moving from Betio to Naa.

From Central Pacific Drive, vol. 3, History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II.

your letter dated 6th June, 1983, and to let you know with happiness that Maj. General Raymond L. Murray was the one that I was looking for. He has written to me admitting my statement and said he would forward it to the Marines Commandant, and this, has been despatched, knowing this, by the Commandant's letter to me, General P. X. Kelley acknowledging the receipt of my statement. He mentioned in his letter that "as the American Peoples approach the 40th anniversary of that great battle, he wants to commend me for my service to the United States and its Marine Corps. I know, without your help, Raymond L. Murray could not be found. Thank you very much for all what you have done for me. If there is no objection from you, may I ask, if I could have one of your portraits please. The reason for wanting your portraits, is that, to hang it on the wall in my house and whenever I look at it, it brings my minds to remember you and your assistance in finding my friend, and not only that, but also to elucidate to



Raymond L. Murray, shown as CO, 5th Marines, in Korea, was Mr. Teraoi's "Colonel Murray" in Tarawa fighting.

anyone whoever visited me in my house, all about your kindness and willingness to help an humble man like me, when I was in a great needs of something that I cannot do it by myself. I will write to each

participants and ask them their portraits, and when I get them all, I will hang them up on the wall in line, starting from: Russell J. Surber (Charge d'Affairs, Suva), Commander Donald Farber (USN CINCPAC Representative-South West Pacific American Embassy Suva), E. H. Simmons (Brigadier General, US Marine Corps [Ret.], Director of Marine Corps History and Museums), Maj. General Raymond L. Murray, USMC (Ret.), and P. X. Kelley, General, US Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

By looking at these portraits, they remind me of how I found my friend during *World War II*, Lieutenant Colonel Murray (the duration of 40 years past).

Before conclusion, I would like to say again; thank you very much for your help, and may God's blessing be with you, your family and your staffs whenever and wherever you may be.

With best personal wishes,

Sincerely,
TONIANIMATANG TERAOI

Acquisitions

A BROAD ASSORTMENT of new acquisitions was donated to the Marine Corps Museum this year.

The most significant item to be received was the American flag destroyed by the terrorist bomb explosion at the American Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, on 18 April 1983. LCpl Robert V. McMaugh, USMC, standing guard near this flag, was killed in the explosion. It was donated by the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic.

The Personal Papers Collection greatly benefitted from the generosity of many donors. A cloth survival map of the Solomons area was presented by Col Roland F. Smith, USMC (Ret), of Lake Placid, Florida. A fascinating account of the Soochow Creek incident is found in the war diary and accompanying photographs donated by 1stSgt J. Seagriff, USMC (Ret), of Las Vegas,

New acquisitions on display at the Marine Corps Museum include GySgt John Basilone's Medal of Honor, WO Roy T. Cavanaugh's "USMC" quilt made of dress blue uniform material, and the United States flag from the bombed Beirut Embassy.



Nevada. The story of the World War II Japanese Language School can be found in the papers of former Capt Paul S. Rull, USMC, donated by his wife, Mrs. Ruth Rull, residing in Eugene, Oregon. Other donors to the Personal Papers holdings include Mr. Daniel Burkhardt of Severna Park, Maryland; Mr. M. Beicke of San Diego, California; Mr. James Gilliam of Anchorage, Alaska; and Mrs. Benjamin Read of Alexandria, Virginia. The donations of the wartime letters and photographs of former Marine Joseph Kohn were arranged by his son, Mr. Stuart Kohn, a student at George Washington University.

A portrait of GySgt John Basilone, USMC, and the Medal of Honor presented for his actions in repulsing a Japanese attack on Guadalcanal, were presented by his sister, Miss Mary Basilone of Raritan, New Jersey.

The uniform collection received a number of Woman Marine items from Mrs. Nadine Miller of Annadale, Virginia, and Mrs. Laura Dennis of Arlington, Virginia. Among the uniforms and equipment donated by Mr. William Sager of Alexandria, were the herringbone twill coveralls he wore on Guadalcanal. The M1922 dress blues of Private John D. Bennett, 23rd Com-



GySgt John Basilone

pany, 6th Machine Gun Battalion, USMC, were donated by his daughter, Mrs. Carol A. Brandt of Fairborn, Ohio.

A pair of cold weather gauntlets was added to the aviation collection thru the kindness of Mr. Robert H. Rogers of Gainesville, Virginia. Boy Scout Troop 121 of Quantico, Virginia, found a M1942 poncho in its camping equipment, and presented it to the museum.

Mr. William H. Greer, Jr., of Washington, D.C., has made many notable contributions to the collection, including a watercolor view of the Washington Navy Yard painted in the nineteenth century.

During his 1945 climb up Mount Suribachi, former Marine Charles Rear-don of Kittery, Maine, found a cloisonne napkin ring. He recently found that the ring had been taken from the Marine Corps sergeants mess of the Peking Legation by a Japanese sailor at the beginning of the war. After researching the complete story, he presented the well traveled memento to the museum. Mr. Hyman Schwartzberg of Baltimore, Maryland, presented an object of Marine tableware in the form of a silver spoon with "USMC" engraving.

Col Frank Rostowski, USAF, (Ret), presented a large collection of mess gear items as used by the Marine Corps during World War I and World War II.

All the new acquisitions are greatly appreciated. The continuing support of the many donors ensures that the museum will preserve the continuing history of the Marine Corps. —JHMcG

Readers Always Write

MORE LTGEN BERKELEY

LtGen James P. Berkeley . . . wrote of the way the sword was handled in his day.

He might have forgotten and other readers might be surprised that he handled with great agility the wooden sword with which he is armed in the enclosed photograph. The date was 15 June 1940 and then Capt Berkeley, commanding officer, Marine Detachment, USS *Wichita* (CA-45), was serving as head of all Pollywog lookouts as part of the Crossing-the-Line Ceremony at the equator as the ship, with a reinforcement group of Marines aboard, headed toward Uruguay to quell any fifth column uprising that might arise from the scuttling of the German Pocket Battleship Graf Spee off Montevideo on 17 December 1939.

The lettering on the wooden sword appears to be Wogexcaliber.

Gen Berkeley promoted me to PFC aboard the *Wichita* and eventually pinned on my silver leaf shortly before I retired. In between Gen Simmons (as a lieutenant) taught me ballistics in OCS.

LtCol D.D. Nicholson, Jr., USMC (Ret)
The Citadel
Charleston, South Carolina

LtGen Berkeley was Wichita's Captain of Marines from March 1939 to June 1941. According to Dictionary of American Fighting Ships (Naval Historical Center, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C. 1981):

"In June . . . the heavy cruiser drew the assignment of 'showing the flag' in South American waters to counter German propaganda in some of America's 'good neighbors' to the south. As early as mid-May 1940, while the Germans were

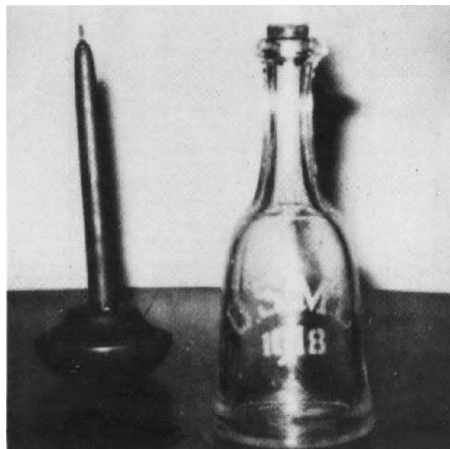


Then-Capt Berkeley on board Wichita

executing their devastating blitzkrieg against the Low Countries and France, Edwin C. Wilson, the United States Minister of Uruguay, had reported from Montevideo of an upsurge in Nazi propaganda. The State Department and the President himself came to share Wilson's concern over the German effort to extend its influence into the western hemisphere."—Editor

"USMC" USE

. . . In 1943, I was attached to the staff of [officer's] Candidate School. In one of the barracks buildings assigned to us (second row of brick buildings next to the hill) I noticed in the mess hall a vinegar bottle labelled "U.S.M.C. 1918" (periods were used). Recognizing



historical interest, I inadvertently "broke" one, and duly reported it to the mess officer, and paid him (as I recall) 70 cents. Later I found that it was not, in fact, broken . . . Enclosed is a picture.

H. A. Waldorf
LtCol, USMC (Ret)
DelMar, California

NORTH CHINA MARINE

In re. the photograph of the cockiest Marine ever photographed as pictured on the back of the current issue of *Fortitude*, this Marine was identified to me about 10 years ago as Curtis W. Knight, 16 Jan 1933 - 24 Jun 1934.

A former China Marine, then living in Arlington County, came into the Reference Section one day with some memorabilia of his service in China to donate to us. Among the items were several issues of the yearbook published by the Marines in China. He identified the Marine in your picture as Curtis W. Knight. As I recall they served together in China.

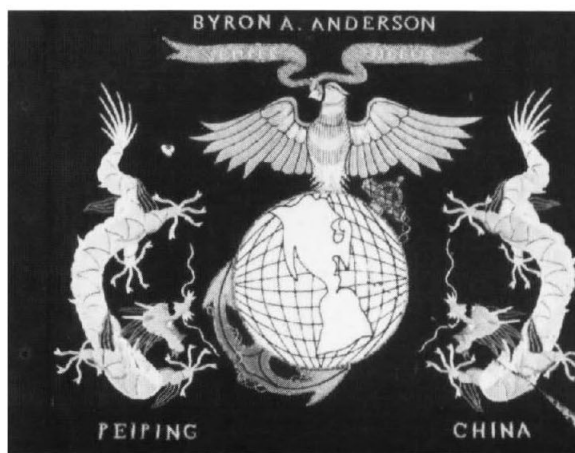
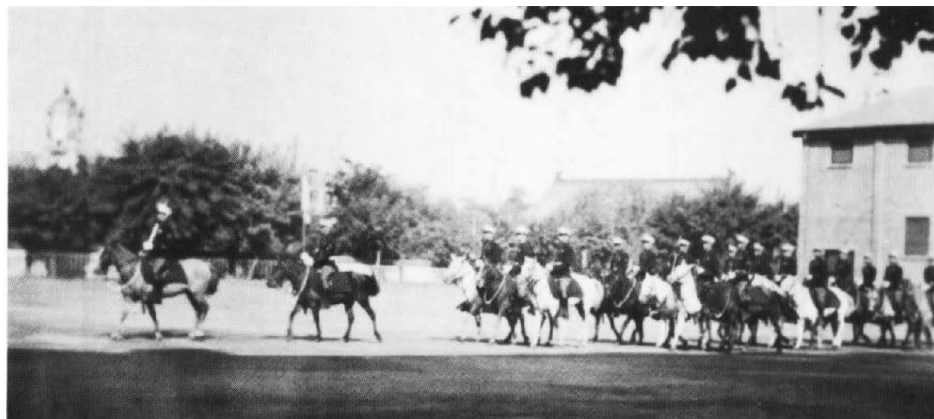
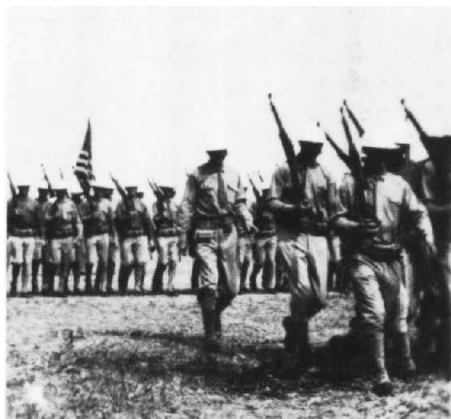
Ralph W. Donnelly
Washington, NC



According to the American Legation Guard Annual Peking, China, 1933, PFC C. W. Knight served in the Mounted Detachment. He is pictured with his mount, appropriately named "Leatherneck." Knight is also so listed in the Muster Roll of Officers and Enlisted

men of the U.S. Marine Corps for the "Headquarters Detachment, Marine Detachment, American Legation, Peiping, China" from 1 July to 31 July, 1933, inclusive. The yearbook preserved the traditional name for the North China city, renamed Peiping (northern peace) by Chiang Kai-shek in 1928. Legation Guard officers during Knight's service included 2dLt J. P. Berkeley, 1stLt L. B. Puller, and 1stLt E. F. Carlson, shown in that order below. In a related action, J. Michael Miller, Personal Papers Collection curator, recently accessioned former Marine Byron Anderson's collection of over 300 photographs. Pvt Anderson, at right, served in the Mounted Detachment earlier than Knight and his albums detailed field and garrison life for the Legation Guard Marines. This life included "spit and polish" in abundance as indicated by burnished 1913 cavalry sabers and, in the dismounted pass in review, burnished, possibly chrome-plated helmets. At bottom right is a silk embroidered album with a stylized eagle, globe, and anchor flanked by dragons. — Editor

(Continued on back page)



Reference Section Praised for Group Achievement

THE MARINE CORPS Award of Merit for Group Achievement was presented to the members of the Reference Section, Historical Branch, by BGen Simmons on 5 August 1983 at the Center. This distinction recognized "a group effort of superior merit which has resulted in benefit to the Marine Corps" over a year's time.

Reference Section, one of the busiest offices at the Marine Corps Historical Centers is staffed by five historians and a clerical assistant. Each year, the section answers more than 3,000 telephone inquiries and 1,500 written requests, and assists hundreds of visiting researchers. In addition, the Reference Section is responsible for the commemorative naming program, historic sites, the *Flag Manual*, lineage and honors and

streamers entitlement for Marine units, and many other programs and special projects for Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps and the Historical Center.

One of the three sections within the Historical Branch, the Reference Section is tasked with making the historical experience of the Marine Corps available for practical study and exploitation. It operates a historical reference service for public use, scholarly research, and official support of Marine Corps missions and programs. The basic resources of this reference service are the large collection of files that have been accumulated over several decades. These include biographical, subject, unit, and geographical categories. Supplementing these files are unit diaries of Marine units dating back to 1798, casualty lists, lineal

lists of Marine officers from 1800 to the present, and numerous other files and finding aids.

Reference historians are routinely questioned about two centuries of Marine Corps history. Inquiries come from diverse sources. They range from: junior high school students working on reports to Marine officers studying at the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia; to noted authors and scholars; to Marine Corps veterans. Some topics are the subject of frequent inquiries, such as the Iwo Jima flag raisings, customs and traditions of the Corps, Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipients, and such key battles and operations as Belleau Wood, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Khe Sanh, and the evacuation of Saigon in 1975. Public

Reference Section members pose with Award of Merit certificates (L to R) Ann A. Ferrante, Robert V. Aquilina, Ernestine Price, and Section Head Danny J. Crawford. Also named in the award is former member Cathleen J. Solms.



interest often reflects current events and media interest. A flood of letters arrived during and after the period that a televised version of "Baa Baa Black Sheep" portrayed a Marine squadron in the Pacific during World War II. Questions about Marines in Lebanon in 1958 began coming in again after the Marines returned there in 1982. Recent events in Grenada and Lebanon have generated dozens of calls and letters from newspapers, radio and television stations and the public.

Traditionally, there has been a great deal of interest in the Pacific island campaigns of World War II with many of the requests coming from Marine veterans. With the 40th anniversary of the World War II campaigns many veterans have been writing in for unit histories or for muster rolls listing their former comrades.

Over the past year there has been a dramatic increase in letters, phone calls, and visits by Vietnam veterans and researchers interested in the Marine experience in Vietnam. Some of these activities were undoubtedly related to the dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial in November 1982, but the number of inquiries continues to grow.

Some other interesting reference requests received during the past year include:

- A request from a Massachusetts Museum for the names of Marines lost when the cruiser *Quincy* sank off Guadalcanal in August 1942.

- A letter requesting information on the Marine Corps service of Chips, serial number 309, a Doberman Pinscher wounded in action during World War II.

- A request from a young relative of Sgt Michael Strank, one of the Iwo Jima flag-raisers who later died on Iwo Jima. He asked for information on the Marine Corps War Memorial and the location of Strank's grave at Arlington National Cemetery so he could visit the grave when his 8th grade class came to Washington in May.

- A letter from the brother of a World War II Marine prisoner of war, looking for information about the Marine who saved his brother's life in a Japanese POW camp.

- The daughter of a Marine Combat

Correspondent killed while covering a pre-invasion bombing raid on Iwo Jima wrote for information about the nature of her father's service and the circumstances surrounding his death.

- A letter from the son of a World War I Marine veteran requesting information on the location of battles his father fought in, so that he and his father could retrace his path when they travelled to France on Memorial Day.

- Several letters have asked for information on Marines as astronauts, including then-LtCol John H. Glenn, Jr., who orbited the earth three times in the first manned American space capsule, and the exploits of Colonels Jack Lousma and Robert F. Overmeyer, both of whom commanded recent flights of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

- A request for information on the use of Marines as Mail Guards in the 1920s, when the nation was in the grip of a crime wave that included armed robberies of the U. S. Mail.

- A letter from a Medal of Honor winner who earned his award during the 7 December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, requesting information on other recipients of heroic awards for their actions that day.

- Several requests have been received from other government agencies for verification that certain Vietnamese refugees trained at the Marine base at Quantico, Virginia during the 1960s.

- A Marine veteran of the Nevada Cities Operations in Korea during the Spring of 1953 requested information about the results of the fighting at the "Reno," "Carson," and "Vegas" outposts just months before the truce at Panmunjon went into effect.

- The Tiffany Cross Medal of Honor was the subject of a request concerning Marines in World War I who received the redesigned Medal of Honor produced by Tiffany and Company of New York.

Reference Section's Marine Corps award follows closely on the heels of the section's February 1983 nomination for the Congressional Award for Exemplary Service to the Public. This award recommendation, in itself a special honor, read in part, "For their consistently high level of courteous and effective service to all persons interested in the history and traditions of the Marine Corps, and for their unfailing willingness to give all members of the public who request their help, sincere attention and respect. . . ."—DJC

Okinawa War Memorial Planned

Japanese and Marine veterans of the battle of Okinawa plan a joint memorial/shrine honoring both nations' war dead on the island, the site of the last battle of World War II. The 6th Marine Division Association, whose members fought in the campaign, joined the effort after Mr. Yoshio Yazaki, a prominent Japanese businessman and former naval officer, visited and gained the endorsement of retired Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, the division's commander in World War II. The combined group expects to raise \$100,000 for a three-dimensional, 25-foot high structure of Okinawan stone and erect it on Kotobuki Hill on Oroku Peninsula south of Naha, the capital of the prefecture. The city has agreed to turn the spot into a park.

Mr. Yazaki heads the Japanese veterans' committee. Retired Col Gordon Warner, a professor of history and Asian studies with the University of Maryland's branch on Okinawa, is coordinating the Marine veterans' participation. Mr. Edward L. Fox of Union, New Jersey chairs the 6th Marine Division Association's memorial committee.

Anyone wishing more information or desiring to make a donation to the 6th Marine Division Memorial Fund should contact Mr. Fox at 23 Hueston Street, Union, New Jersey 07083.

Center Sponsors First Military Art Workshop

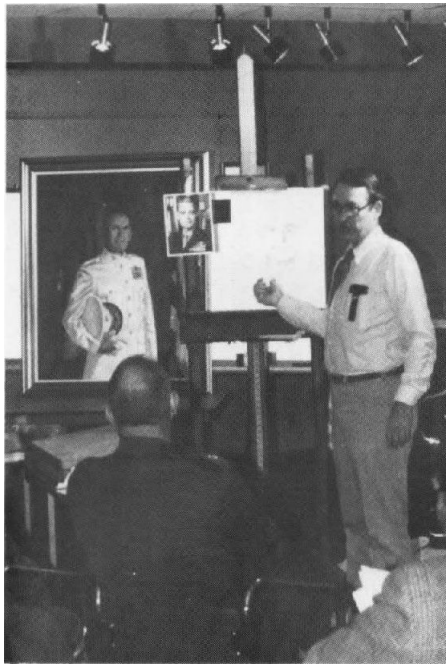
THE WORK OF THE ARTIST like that of the historian is usually an individual effort. The breeds do not tend to flock. When they do gather it is at symposia and workshops. The first such gathering ever of military artists was held at the Marine Corps Historical Center 27-28 October under the title, "Creating Military Art."

The stated purpose of the workshop was to focus on the creative process and techniques for combat art done in the field, reconstructing historical events, the illustrations of military uniforms, and military portraiture.

Almost 100 artists were invited including Marine Vietnam War combat artists, historical illustrators, uniform print artists, portraitists, and directors of service art programs. Over 40 of these attended the two-day event which was held in the special exhibits gallery of the center. Showing an intense interest were six young Marine artists from Quantico's Training Support Center. Of those unable to attend, most took the trouble to send their regrets, expressed enthusiasm for the idea, and wanted to be informed of the next workshop.

John Groth, known to all as the dean of combat artists having limned seven wars, was the keynote speaker. His prominence as an artist, war correspondent, writer, and teacher was reviewed by Col Raymond Henri, USMCR (Ret), who introduced him. Groth gave his expected colorful performance in recounting experiences as a combat artist and offering sound advice to the younger artists. His talk was highlighted by a demonstration of his loose sketching style in creating a dynamic scene of military action.

The first session was a panel discussion, "The Marine Corps Art Program during the Vietnam War—Implications for the Future." Leading the discussion was Col Henri who initially headed the art program. He was assisted by LtCol A. M. "Mike" Leahy, USMCR



Col H. Avery Chenoweth, USMCR (Ret) demonstrates his techniques of portrait painting. His recent portraits of four former Commandants hang in the Pentagon (Fortitudine, Summer 1983).

(Ret) and MGySgt Wendell A. "Tex" Parks, USMC (Ret) who had been assistant head and head of the program, respectively, at different times.

The second session was conducted by Col Edward M. Condra III, USMC, Public Affairs Officer, Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, and himself a combat artist. Condra presented and then discussed his paper, "The Impact of Military Art as a Visual Public Affairs Message."

Guests of the workshop were heads of the other service art programs: Ms. Marylou Gjernes, Army; Mr. John Barnett, Navy; and Mrs. Alice Price, Air Force. They discussed the past activities and current status of their programs.

Not all the workshop sessions were as serious, however. The first evening the Marine Corps Historical Foundation

sponsored a wine, cheese, and fruit reception which was well attended by the participants and local Foundation officers and directors. Catering and arrangements were by the Museums Branch curators.

Col Condra chaired the first session on the final day, "The Combat Artist in the Field—Inspiration and Technique." Panelists included James Butcher, who served and painted with the 1st Aircraft Wing in Vietnam, Col Peter M. "Mike" Gish, USMCR (Ret), LtCol Leahy, and Major Keith A. McConnell, USMCR.

LtCol Charles Waterhouse, USMCR, renowned for his several series of Marine Corps historical paintings, chaired the next session which was on "Historical Military Illustration." After he presented his methods of research and reconstruction of historical events, there was fur-

John Groth dean of combat artists and keynote speaker, chats with Col Condra who has already painted in Lebanon. Groth has volunteered to go to Beirut next year to paint his eighth war.

