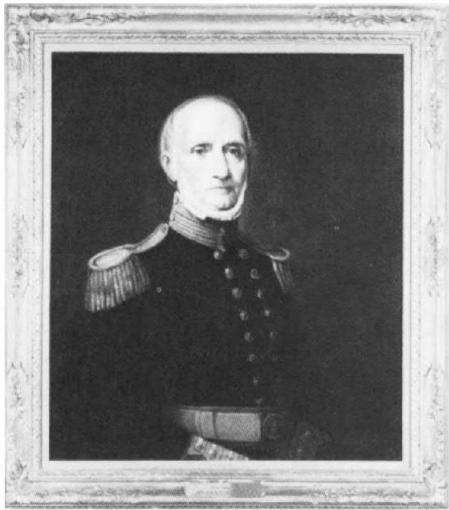


being completely original, and dating from approximately 1825 to 1850. Fashioned as outerwear, this boat cloak may be the earliest known example of this type of clothing surviving. Of interest to clothing historians is the possibility that the cloth may have been treated with a waterproofing agent to shed water. Chemical analysis is scheduled to

*Official portrait of Col Cmdt Archibald Henderson: it was over a uniform of this pattern that he probably wore the cloak.*



to discover the nature of this unknown treatment.

Unfortunately, the cloak is in an advanced state of deterioration. Mildew has created a number of holes throughout. The lining material, now a pale green in color, is thought originally to have been a different color, now undistinguishable. Studies have shown that nineteenth century dyestuffs fade at a very even rate, even in the absence of sunlight. It is hoped that chemical analysis also may provide a key to the original color.

The cloak is scheduled to undergo professional conservation treatment through a cooperative agreement with the laboratories of the Smithsonian Institution. This work will stabilize the condition, aid in the prevention of further destruction, and prepare this unique garment for exhibition.

Gifts of such historically important objects give rise to a great deal of preliminary conjecture and to the subsequent corroboration of some of it. Perhaps worn at the Inauguration or funeral, most certainly worn on the parade deck of Eighth and Eye, the boat



*Henderson Hall in West Virginia, where the cloak was located, is the family home of the Fifth Commandant's descendants.*

cloak provided Col Cmdt Henderson protection from the elements. Surviving through the years, it remains as a key to the style, fashion, and personal history of a legendary Marine.

The Marine Corps Museum is grateful for this significant donation from Mrs. Jean Brady and her son, Mr. Michael Rolsten, collateral descendants of Archibald Henderson. —JMcG

During fall 1984, Special Projects Curator Richard A. Long traveled to West Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky, returning with artifacts for the Museum associated with two historic Marines, Presley N. O'Bannon and Archibald Henderson.

In September, he attended the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in Louisville, Kentucky, also taking the opportunity to continue research on the Marine Corps career and private life of Presley Neville O'Bannon and his collateral descendants in Kentucky state and local repositories and with private individuals.

On 16 September he acquired for the collection a unique, gold-encased original watercolor on ivory miniature portrait of O'Bannon. Shortly thereafter, he discovered a cane which O'Bannon reportedly brought back from

Tripoli in 1805, and negotiations continue for its donation.

Enroute to Kentucky, he visited a historic home, Henderson Hall near Williamstown, West Virginia, to meet with Mrs. Jean Brady and Mr. Michael Rolsten, collateral descendants of Col Cmdt Archibald Henderson. Mr. Long has maintained contact with his hosts for more than 20 years, and was pleased to receive from them a boat cloak thought to belong to the Corps' Fifth Commandant.

Returning by way of North Carolina, he visited Miss Elizabeth Sanders of Smithfield, a descendant of Henry Bulls Watson, a Marine officer from 1836 to 1855. Miss Sanders loaned the Museum for transcription journals kept by Watson prior to the Mexican War and while on board the USS *Portsmouth* off California from 1846 to 1848. —RAL



*Mr. Long and donor Mrs. Stuart Gay Berryman, whose late husband was a descendant of Presley N. O'Bannon, whose miniature portrait she holds.*

# Center Aids Observances of Iwo Jima 40th Anniversary

by Col. Brooke Nihart

The 19th of February 1945 was a long time ago. Young Marines then are mostly in their 60s today, some enjoying well earned retirement, others with Marine-like tenacity are still slaying their daily dragons and tilting at their daily windmills. The 19th of February 1985 marked the 40th anniversary of those young Marines' landing on Iwo Jima. Some unreflective journalists have asked why observe the 40th anniversary of anything? Because the good, round, 50th, Golden Anniversary, 10 years hence, will see only about half of today's number still with us, that's why.

As for Iwo, it was to be the penultimate amphibious operation of World War II, the largest Marine landing, thus the largest Marine participation in any landing; and it was to be the toughest nut to crack of World War II, any theater. Over 6,000 Marines were to die, over 18,000 to be wounded. Of the 21,000 Japanese defenders few were to survive.

The campaign was a classic of over-the-ocean application of amphibious power. The preparation fires and close support were delivered by seabased air and naval gunfire. The troops, their tanks, artillery, heavy equipment, and supplies were transported 3,500 miles

*Col Waterhouse drew himself as a young Marine for the Iwo Jima ceremonies.*



from the Hawaiian Islands, almost 1,000 from Guam.

Observance of an anniversary of this importance and with events ranging from Washington to Japan requires preparation. As might be expected the History and Museums Division was in the midst of both preparations and observances.

An avalanche of requests for information began to arrive at the Reference Section during January and February. Dozens of media requests were received from organizations such as CBS News, *Life Magazine*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *US Magazine*, and many other local newspapers and radio and television stations. Information was requested and provided to several Congressional offices, the Commandant's office, and Marine Barracks, Washington, as they prepared for the 40th anniversary ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. Reference Section also provided the U.S. Coast Guard station on Iwo Jima with reference material to assist them with preparations for hosting the return to Iwo Jima of hundreds of Marine veterans of the campaign.

Of course, many of the veterans of the Iwo Jima battle wrote to us. Some simply wanted a concise account of the battle along with strength and casualty figures. Others requested the names of fellow Marines alongside whom they fought, or the name of a wounded buddy who they were unsure had survived the battle. Some of the families of Marines who fought on Iwo Jima asked about the battle and its significance in relation to the overall war picture; a few asked for more information on the death of a loved one.

Received more than any other single question, however, were queries about the flag raisings on Iwo Jima. Many requestors wanted to know about the flag raisers, particularly those depicted in the famous photo of the second flag raising by Joe Rosenthal. Some of the most common misconceptions surrounding the flag raising included the belief that all of the flag raisers were Marines (one was a Navy Corpsman); that all received a Medal of Honor (none did); that the flag raising marked the end of the battle (it

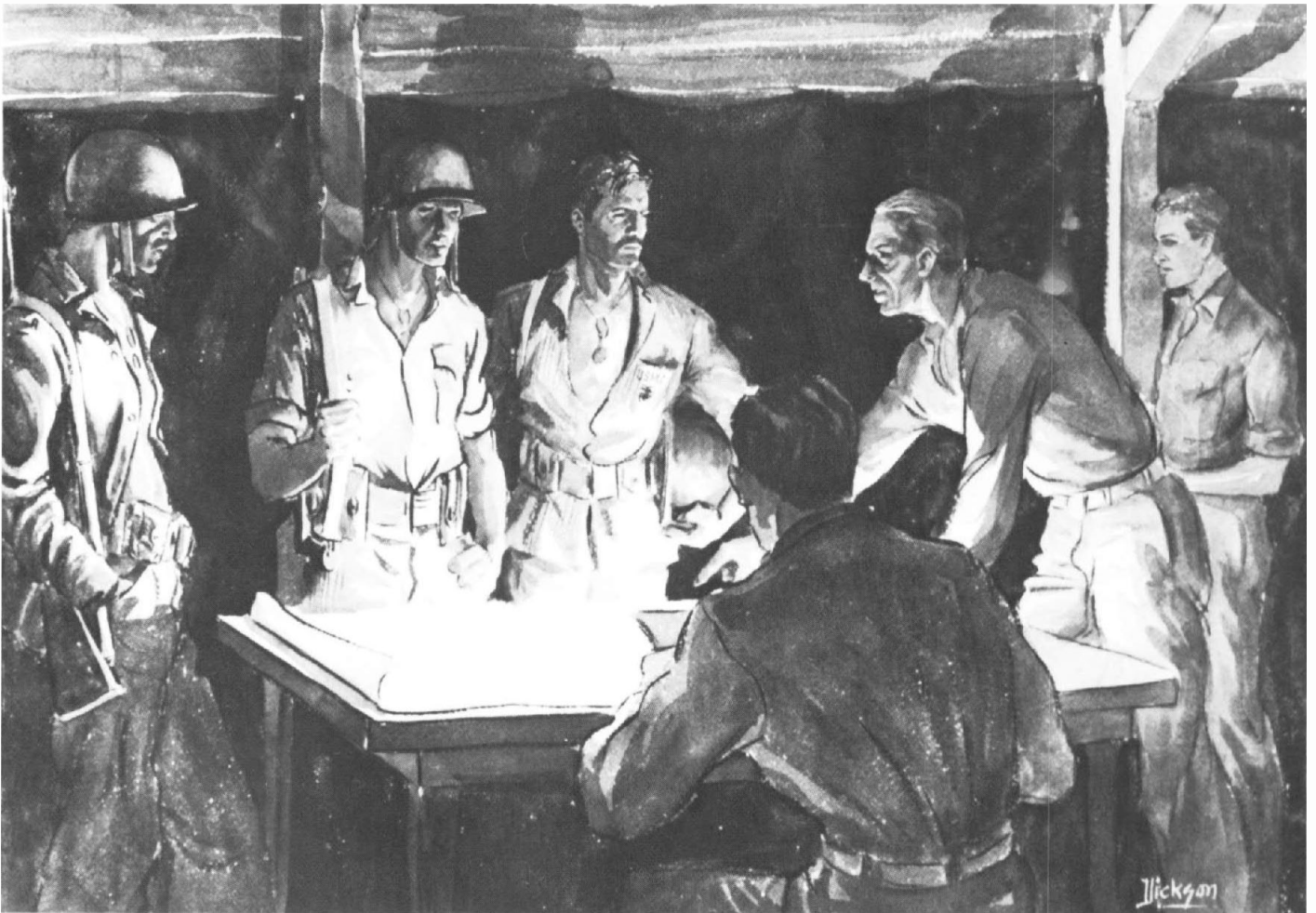
occurred early in the battle); that there was only one flag raising on Suribachi (there were two); and that the Rosenthal photo was posed (it was not).

Washington was the scene of the most extensive observance as 400 Marine veterans of the battle rendezvoused on 18 February, D-minus one 40 years ago. The 28th Marines, which took Suribachi, was the unit best represented of the 3d, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions and their nine infantry regiments. The first event was a memorial service at the Washington Cathedral. "We all enjoy this free land today through the blood, the sweat, the pain, the tears and, yes, even the death of those who fought for freedom," said Navy chaplain Captain Charles L. Keyser in opening the service.

A visit to the Marine Corps Museum came next, where are enshrined the two flags flown atop Mount Suribachi and other memorabilia of the battle. The group was led by Marine Corps Historical Foundation President LtGen Donn J. Robertson, commander of 3d Battalion, 28th Marines, during the battle, and Foundation Director MajGen Fred E. Haynes, a member of the 28th Marines staff at the time. One of the organizing committee for the events was Foundation member Col John A. Daskalakis, a member of Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines. The Iwo Jima veterans almost bought out the Museum Store and did purchase all the neckties in stock bearing the flag-raising emblem.

That evening the veterans dined at the Mayflower Hotel with the Commandant, Gen Paul X. Kelley, the guest of honor. The next day, the 19th, D-Day 40 years ago, the group laid a wreath at the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima flag raising statue) in Arlington and later 325 veterans (all who could produce identification with a photograph and a social security number) visited the White House and met with President Reagan. The President remarked to them that, "Today Iwo Jima is remembered with other names like Saratoga, the Alamo, and Gettysburg."

The Museums Branch teamed with the art collections of the Navy, Army, and Coast Guard to present a 70-piece com-



*In the small hours of the morning, Guadalcanal Marines jungle patrol. The work by Donald L. Dickson in "The Island War: Marines in the Pacific," was "lost" art, eventually contributed to the Museum.*

bat art exhibition in the Rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Titled, "The Island War: Marines in the Pacific," the show opened 19 February, when it was viewed by the Congressional Marines Breakfast—a group of former Marines working on The Hill from Senators to Capitol Police, plus Marines and former Marines involved in legislative affairs—in the morning and in the evening by guests at a reception to open the exhibition given by the District of Columbia Council of the Navy League under the chairmanship of retired Marine Col Michael J. Hutter. While the exhibition honored the memory of Iwo Jima, it was discovered that there was too little art done of that battle to mount a full-scale show. The concept was expanded to cover Marine participation in the entire Pacific War from Guadalcanal to Okinawa. Twelve Marine combat artists were represented, plus one Army, eight Navy, and three Coast Guard artists.

The farthest afield History and Museums Division involvement in the Iwo 40th anniversary was the revisiting of

*Shown is a portion of the "Island War" art show in the rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building. In the center of the rotunda the small model of the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima flag raising statue) was displayed. The Congressional Marines' breakfast and the reception were held in the gallery above the rotunda.*





*Chamorros children greet U.S. Marines following the 1944 battle for Guam in one of the artworks by J. R. McDermott on display at the Cannon House Office Building.*

Iwo Jima by artist-in-residence Col Charles Waterhouse to participate in the 19 February activities there. He had landed there with the 28th Marines and was wounded and evacuated on D + 2. Waterhouse had arranged a personal visit to Iwo on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the landing and spent several days there living at the U.S. Coast Guard LORAN station by night and exploring and sketching by day. The 40th anniversary was to draw a large party of Marine veterans to Iwo as well as some Japanese survivors. Having resolved to return for the 40th anniversary, Waterhouse thumbed his way across the United States and the Pacific "space available." He had a seat on the occasional Coast Guard flight from Yokuta to Iwo arranged through the good offices of HQ FMFPac. He arrived a few days before the crowd and again went exploring, sketching, and photographing. Another series of paintings are expected to result. He found a detachment of Marines sent up from Okinawa to care for the visitors and conducted them on tours of nearby key battle points.

On the morning of the 19th the Coast Guard and Japanese Defense Forces conducted a joint flag raising on Suribachi. The 225 Marine veterans and about 100 Japanese arrived later in the

*In the anniversary art show's "Infantry and Tanks," J. R. McDermott describes tanks leapfrogging rifle elements to fire on a final objective in the Pacific war in 1944.*



day by C-130 from Japan. Col Waterhouse's own story of his trip, together with some of his paintings, will be the subject of a future *Fortitudine* article.

So ended the 40th anniversary of the Iwo Jima landing observances. But activities of this sort will continue at the Historical Center. The high level of interest in the World War II period will continue through the remainder of this year as the Okinawa anniversary is observed and we approach the 40th anniversary of the 14 August V-J Day and the 2 September 1945 Japanese surrender aboard the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. Already the Reference Section has assisted Marine units on Okinawa in identifying the sites of some of the major actions on that island, and has been responding to Marines planning a return to Okinawa later this spring. The Museums Branch had sent a flag raised on Okinawa to Camp Butler for use in its 1 April D-Day 40th anniversary. The Museum is already preparing a major retrospective exhibit on World War II. It will make use of exhibits prepared for the Headquarters Marine Corps lobby over the past four years observing the 40th anniversaries of campaigns starting with the occupation of Iceland. The exhibition will be open during the summer season probably with a special observance on VJ-Day.

## Gen Robert Cushman, 25th Commandant, Succumbs at Age 70

Retired Gen Robert E. Cushman, Jr., 25th Commandant of the Marine Corps, suffered a fatal heart attack at his home in Fort Washington, Maryland, on 2 January, nine days after his 70th birthday. A native of St. Paul, Minnesota, Gen Cushman graduated 10th in his class of 442 from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1935. He was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant at the age of 20.

In a recent interview, he gave the reasons he opted for a Marine Corps career. One was that he thought he would rather be a Marine than a sailor, for he had read the *Landing Party Manual* assiduously and "I just felt I'd be happier and able to do better the technical things that you had to do to be a Marine officer than you did to be a naval officer." A second reason for becoming a Marine was that while at the Naval Academy, he had overstayed his leave in town one night. He was climbing over the barbed-wire-topped wall behind the Academy chapel when the Marine guard on duty separated the barbed wire with his rifle butt and held it apart so "I could get through. And I decided that's my kind of outfit. Any guy that'll do that for me, he's alright!"

Lt Cushman joined The Basic School Class of 1935, which, like the famous West Point Class of 1915, was called "the class the stars fell on," for the fact that out of its ranks came two Commandants—Gens Cushman and Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.—and 14 others who served on active duty as general officers. About 1947, several members of this class, now lieutenant colonels, were serving at Quantico. One night at Waller Hall they were discussing the progression of the Commandancy, and determined that at a certain time in the future, a new Commandant would be chosen from their Basic School class. They each wrote down their best guess as to who it would be. Then-LtCols Chapman and Cushman, and a third officer, were unanimous choices.

Following graduation from Basic School, Lt Cushman was ordered to duty in Shanghai, where he served as a platoon leader in the 4th Marines. Upon his return to the United States in 1938, he served at the naval shipyards in Brooklyn, New York, and Portsmouth, Virginia, and the following year was assigned to the Marine detachment at the New York World's Fair. Just last fall in Washington, Gen and Mrs. Cushman hosted the 45th anniversary of former members of the detachment. At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Capt Cushman commanded the Marine detachment on the *Pennsylvania*, then based at Pearl Harbor. With his ship out of action, he was transferred to the West Coast to the new 9th Marines as a battalion executive officer. When his regiment embarked for the Pacific in January 1943, Maj Cushman was given command of the 2d Battalion. He held this command for two years, leading it in the campaigns on Bougainville, where he earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; on Guam, where he was decorated with the Navy Cross; and on Iwo Jima, where he received the Legion of Merit with Combat "V." LtCol Cushman was decorated with the Navy

Cross for extraordinary heroism during the period 21 July to 20 August when, as a 29-year-old battalion commander on Guam, he:

... directed the attacks of his battalion and the repulse of numerous Japanese counterattacks, fearlessly exposing himself to heavy hostile rifle, machine gun and mortar fire in order to remain in the front lines and obtain firsthand knowledge of the enemy situation. Following three days of bitter fighting culminating in a heavy Japanese counterattack, which pushed back the flank of his battalion, he personally led a platoon into the gap and, placing it for defense, repelled the hostile force. He contributed to the annihilation of one enemy battalion and the rout of another.

Following the end of the war, LtCol Cushman returned to the United States where he held a number of staff and instructional positions. He attended Senior School and then was assigned as a supervisory instructor in the Junior School. LtCol Cushman was a prolific

*MajGen Graves B. Erskine, left, congratulates then-LtCol Cushman on receiving the Navy Cross in February 1945 for action as a battalion commander on Guam.*

