

FORTITUDINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

VOLUME XV

FALL 1985

NUMBER 2



THE ROYAL NAVY'S ATTACK ON THE VIRGINIA LOCALES OF NORFOLK AND HAMPTON . . . PERSONAL PAPERS OF 2,000 MARINES OF ALL PERIODS IN MUSEUM COLLECTION . . . GEN CHAPMAN'S BY-THE-BOOK EVENING PARADE . . . ON THE TRAIL OF THE 'LOST' O'BANNON PORTRAIT . . . FLIGHT LINES: GM TBM-3 AVENGER

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FORTITUDINE

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

Volume XV

Fall 1985

No. 2

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THE COVER

Maj John T. Dyer, Jr., USMCR (Ret), is Curator of the Marine Corps Art Collection. A noted watercolorist in his own right, Maj Dyer is steward of the scores of items of contemporary art added to the Collection each year by members of the Marine Corps Combat Art Program, as well as the more than 5,000 works in all media which are part of the Corps' historic art holdings. Maj Dyer recently produced a suite of ink sketches, including this rendition of Royal Marines aboard their landing barges, to illustrate the Director's report on the Battles of Craney Island and Hampton, in this issue.

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Director's Page



BGen Simmons

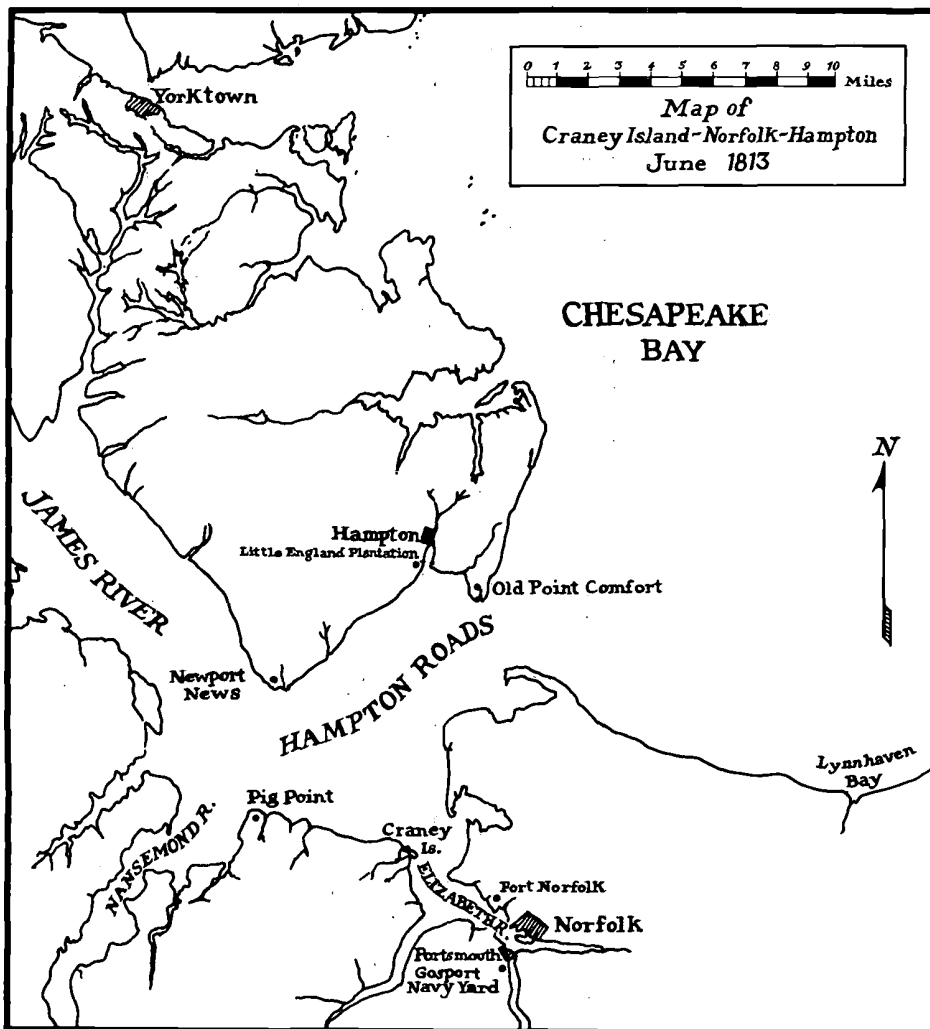
The Battles of Craney Island and Hampton

Hampton, Virginia, is celebrating its 375th anniversary, having a somewhat tenuous claim to having been founded in 1610. I had the opportunity to participate in the celebration on 5 June when I was the speaker at the annual banquet of the Historical and Ar-

chaeological Society of Fort Monroe. The banquet was held in the ballroom on the top floor of the venerable red brick Hotel Chamberlain which is on Old Point Comfort within the boundaries of Fort Monroe itself. The ballroom offers a 270-degree panoramic view of the

Hampton Roads area and has the general ambiance of the 1920s. There is also something about the ballroom which made me think of the luxury liners of the pre-jet age. It was a stormy night, with rain, wind, and lighting coming up from the south.

Hampton Roads area map locates Old Point Comfort, passed by the invading British fleet on the way to the two battle sites of Craney Island, near Norfolk, and Hampton.



My topic, not too imaginatively, was "Marines in the Hampton Roads Area," and I covered the years from 1760, when the British began the construction of Gosport Navy Yard and brought along with them red-coated Marines, until 1894, not quite to the eve of the War with Spain. I could have gone on, but the storm was growing worse and my audience was shifting restlessly in their seats and being primarily retired Army types and their spouses were probably not all that enthralled anyway with my singing the praises of Marines who had served within sight and earshot of where we had just had dinner.

In getting ready for my talk, what had intrigued me most was the Battle of Craney Island, about which I had already known a little, and the subsequent Battle of Hampton, about which I had known nothing.

On Friday, 18 June 1813, three British frigates, attended by two schooners and a captured Baltimore cutter, came into Hampton Roads and under full sail and with a light wind swept slowly and majestically past Old Point Comfort, site of the present Hotel Chamberlain. One of the frigates, HMS *Junon*, 38, Capt Sanders, "stood up so high as to look into Elizabeth river." This was a clear signal to the Americans that an attack against Craney Island and Nor-

folk, perhaps followed by a landing at Hampton, was intended.

BGen Robert B. Taylor, with headquarters at Fort Norfolk, was in command of the American land forces in the district. On paper he had 15,000 troops, but they were almost all militia, only partially mobilized and almost completely untrained. Craney Island, then a low-lying kidney-shaped strip of land, half-a-mile long and 200 yards wide, was the cork in the mouth of the Elizabeth River. Upstream beyond Norfolk was the Gosport Navy Yard.

Lying at the Navy Yard, anchored and immobile, was the 36-gun frigate *Constellation*. In addition to the *Constellation*, there was a flotilla of about 20 gunboats under Navy Lt (courtesy title "Captain") Joseph Tarbell. The larger gunboats were sloop or schooner rigged and armed with one or two long guns. The smaller gunboats, Jefferson's own design, had a single long 12- or long 18-pounder and depended upon their oars for propulsion. They could be used only in an almost absolute calm. In overall Navy command was Commo John Cassin.

Before midnight on Saturday, Tarbell took 15 of his gunboats, divided into two divisions, down river to engage the most forward of the frigates. (As yet unidentified by the Americans, it was the *Junon*, 38, Capt Sanders.) At four o'clock Sunday morning Tarbell's gunboats opened on the becalmed *Junon* at three-quarters mile range. For an hour or more they banged away, then a breeze came up. The other two British frigates came to help and Tarbell's gunboats scurried to safety, past the protection of Craney Island.

Tarbell was optimistic as to the harm inflicted on the *Junon*. Later the captain of the captured Baltimore cutter, held prisoner on the frigate, reported her damage as four shots in the hull, rigging much cut up, one man killed, and two or three wounded. Tarbell dismissed his own losses as very trifling: "Mr. Allison, master's mate on board No. 139 was killed early in the action by an 18 pound ball which passed through him and lodged in the mast." Tarbell also reported, "There are now in the Roads, 13 ships of the line, one brig and several tenders."

Sir John Borlase Warren, Admiral of the Blue, and Commander-in-Chief,

The writer is indebted to the following for substantial research assistance in the preparation of this article: Mr. Richard A. Long and Mr. Charles R. Smith of the Marine Corps Historical Center; Mr. Richard P. Weinert of Fort Monroe; and LtCol Joseph Frankoski, USA (Ret) of the Hampton Museum.—EHS

North Atlantic and West Indies Station, had in fact concentrated his entire fleet at the Capes of Virginia, possibly as many as 8 ships of the line, 12 frigates, and a train of supply ships and tenders. In the accompanying transport were some 3,000 troops under Quarter Master General Sir Sydney Beckwith. These troops, organized into two brigades, included the 1st and 2d Royal Marine Battalions, each with its own company of Royal Marine Artillery; the 102d Regiment of Foot; a battalion euphemistically called the "Canadian Chasseurs" or "Chasseurs Britanniques" but actually made up of Frenchmen taken prisoner in Spain; and a half-company of Royal Marine Artillery especially trained in the use of Congreve rockets.

During April and May, while awaiting the arrival of these troops from England, Adm Warren and his energetic second-in-command, RAdm Sir George Cockburn (he who would later burn Washington) had been spreading fear and hate with their raids in the upper Chesapeake. Tarbell's gunboats had inflicted only a small sting on the British but it was an embarrassment to Warren who now hurried along with his preparations.

On Monday morning, 21 June, it seemed to the Americans on Craney Island that the whole British fleet, some 20 sail, had moved up opposite Hampton. Signals were snapping from every flag hoist and it was obvious that an attack was imminent.

LtCol Henry Beatty was in command at Craney Island and by Monday evening he had a garrison of 446 militia infantry, 91 state artillery, 50 riflemen from Winchester (sons and grandsons of Morgan's riflemen, one can presume) and a few volunteers. At this point, Capt Tarbell arrived with 150 sailors and Marines from

the USS *Constellation* to man and protect a battery of Navy 18-pounders at the northwest point of the island. A second battery of two 24-pounders and four 6-pounders was manned by the Virginia state artillerymen. Altogether Beatty mustered 737 defenders.

The Marine detachment from the *Constellation* was under Lt Henry B. Breckinridge and numbered two sergeants (Henry H. Dentzel and William McJoy), two corporals, a drummer, a fifer, and 32 privates.

Adm Warren put Cockburn in charge of the landing. His attack against Craney Island was to come from two directions. On the river side, his boats were to land 500 shipboard Royal Marines, 200 seamen, half the 102d Foot, and one of the companies of the Canadian Chasseurs. They were to storm the American batteries on Craney Island. Meanwhile, the main attacking force under Gen Beckwith, with both Royal Marine battalions, their attached artillery companies, and the rest of the 102d Foot and Chasseur battalion were to land on the mainland two miles away and then were to cross by a ford over the back channel of the Elizabeth River to Craney Island.

At four in the morning, Tuesday, 22 June, the main body began landing at Pig Point at the mouth of the Nansemond River against no opposition. At daybreak they could be seen from Craney Island three miles away, pulling for shore. Of more immediate concern to the Americans were the 45 or 50 barges (by American count), escorted by two schooners, coming in their direction. They could see the redcoats standing packed in the barges and guessed their numbers at 1,500. At about 0800 the barges were within range of *Constellation's* gunners.

In the lead was an admiral's barge, the *Centipede*, commanded by one Capt Hanshett, said to be the illegitimate son of George III. The barge was painted bright green and you can get the reason for the name *Centipede*—the bank of 12 oars on each side were the *Centipede's* legs. The Americans also called it the "Grasshopper." The leading boats grounded on a mud bank about 150 yards from shore and were literally sitting ducks for case and grape shot coming from the two batteries. In their en-

thusiasm, the Winchester rifles and perhaps some of the Marines waded out in the water to the foundering barges. Three barges were sunk, one of them the *Centipede*, to be salvaged later by the Americans, and the British withdrew to their ships. About 40 prisoners were taken, including 18 willing Frenchmen who said the bad fare of British prison ships had forced them into British service. The Americans thought the British might have lost as many as 200 men. The only weapons the British had been able to bring to bear were the Congreve rockets and a few of these had fallen on Beatty's camp. Beatty reported no casualties.

Commo Cassin, in his report to the Secretary of the Navy written the next day, said, "The officers of the *Constellation* fired their eighteen pounders more like Riflemen than Artillerists. I never saw such shooting and seriously believe they saved the Island."

Meanwhile, the main body had bogged down in the woods and marsh and could not get across to Craney Island. (American accounts say they were turned back by gunfire; British accounts say that no assault was attempted.) The British re-embarked this force, perhaps 2,000 men, at sunset, except for a good number of deserters, mostly French, who ran off into the woods.

Adm Warren's report to the Admiralty written two days later, minimizes the whole affair:

I request you will inform their lordships, that, from the information received of the enemy's fortifying Craney Island, and it being necessary to obtain possession of that place, to enable light ships and vessels to proceed up the narrow channel towards Norfolk, to transport the troops over on that side for them to attack the new fort and lines to the rear of which the *Constellation* frigate was anchored, I directed the troops under Sir Sydney Beckwith to be landed upon the continent within the nearest point to that place, and a reinforcement of seamen and marines from the ships; but upon approaching the island, from the extreme shoalness of the water on the sea side, and the difficulty of getting across from the

land, as well as the island itself being fortified with a number of guns and men from the frigate and militia, and flanked by fifteen gunboats, I considered, in consequence of the representation of the officer commanding the troops, of the difficulty of their passing over from the land, that the persevering in the attempt would cost more men than the number with us would permit, as the other forts must have been stormed before the frigate and dockyard could have been destroyed; I therefore ordered the troops to be re-embarked.

I am happy to say, the loss in the above affair, (returns of which are enclosed) has not been considerable, and only two boats sunk.

I have to regret, that Capt Hanshett, of His Majesty's ship *Diadem*, who volunteered his services, and led the division of boats with great gallantry, was severely wounded by a ball in the thigh.

The officers and men behaved with much bravery and if it had been possible to have got at the enemy, I am persuaded would have soon gained the place.

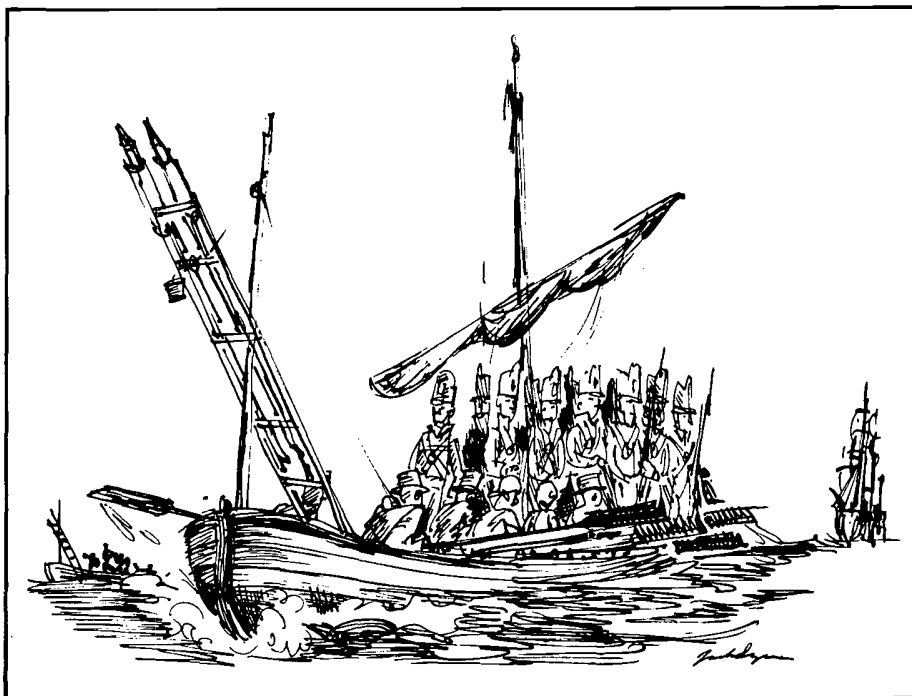
Having failed to take Craney Island, Admirals Warren and Cockburn now

turned their attention to Hampton. They saw it as a small town situated on a low wooded flat and sitting astride the main road to Richmond. Blocking the Hampton River approach to the town was a battery of four or five guns. Several regiments of Virginia militia were believed to be encamped in and around the town.

British intelligence, while not precise, was quite accurate. Hampton, as it was then, lay on the northwest bank of the Hampton River. Immediately outside the town Maj Stapleton Crutchfield was encamped at Little England Plantation (near the present-day Hampton Yacht Club) with 436 militia, chiefly from the 115th Virginia Regiment but some from the James City County Regiment. At the point of land formed by the entrance of Sunset Creek into the Hampton River he had a battery of one 18-pounder, two 12s, and four 6s under command of a Capt Pryor.

The British, organized as described earlier into a Light Infantry Brigade and a Marine Brigade, landed before dawn on 25 June west of the town at Indian River near "Newport's Noose," while a flotilla of armed launches and rocket boats—which incidentally had the Royal Marine Artillery rocket half-company on board—demonstrated on the waterside. The Americans were mesmerized by the

The Centipede, with mountings for Congreve rockets, makes for Craney Island among "45 or 50" barges laden with up to 1,500 redcoats. Illustrations for this feature were produced by Historical Center art curator Maj John T. Dyer, Jr., USMCR.



rocket fire and other pyrotechnics of the boat demonstration (actually only two houses were set on fire) and discovered too late that the main body of British had landed behind them.

Gen Beckwith's report to Adm Warren, written 28 June, describes the action very well and I think quite accurately so far as it goes:

I have the honour to report to you that in compliance with your orders to attack the enemy in town and camp at Hampton, the troops under my command were put into light sailing vessels and boats, during the night of 25th instant, and by the excellent arrangements of rear-admiral Cockburn, who was pleased in person to superintend the advance under lieutenant-colonel Napier, consisting of the 102d regiment, two companies of Canadian Chasseurs, three companies of marines from the squadron, with two 6-pounders from the marine artillery, were landed half an hour before daylight the next morning, about two miles to the westward of the town, and the royal marine battalions, under lieutenant-colonel Williams, were brought ashore so expeditiously that the column was speedily enabled to move forward.

With a view to turn the enemy's position, our march was directed towards the great road, leading from the country into the rear of the town. Whilst the troops moved off in this direction, rear-admiral Cockburn, to engage the enemy's attention, ordered the armed launches and rocket-boats to commence a fire upon their batteries; this succeeded so completely, that the head of our advanced guard had cleared a wood, and were already on the enemy's flank before our approach was perceived. They then moved from their camp to their position in rear of the town, and here they were vigorously attacked by lieutenant-colonel Napier, and the advance; unable to stand which, they continued their march to the rear of the town, when a detachment, under lieutenant-colonel Williams, conducted by captain Powell, assistant-quartermaster-general, pushed



The barges in the Craney Island attack grounded on a mud bank 150 yards from shore, making passengers sitting ducks for grape shot. Some U.S. Marines waded out to the foundering barges, it was said later, to help the wounded prisoners ashore.

through the town, and forced their way across a bridge of planks into the enemy's encampment, of which, and the batteries immediate possession was gained. In the mean time some artillerymen stormed and took the enemy's remaining field-pieces.

Enclosed I have the honour to transmit a return of ordnance taken. Lieutenant-colonel Williams will have the honour of delivering to you a stand of colours of the 68th regiment, James city light infantry, and one of the first battalion 85th regiment. The exact numbers of the enemy it is difficult to ascertain.

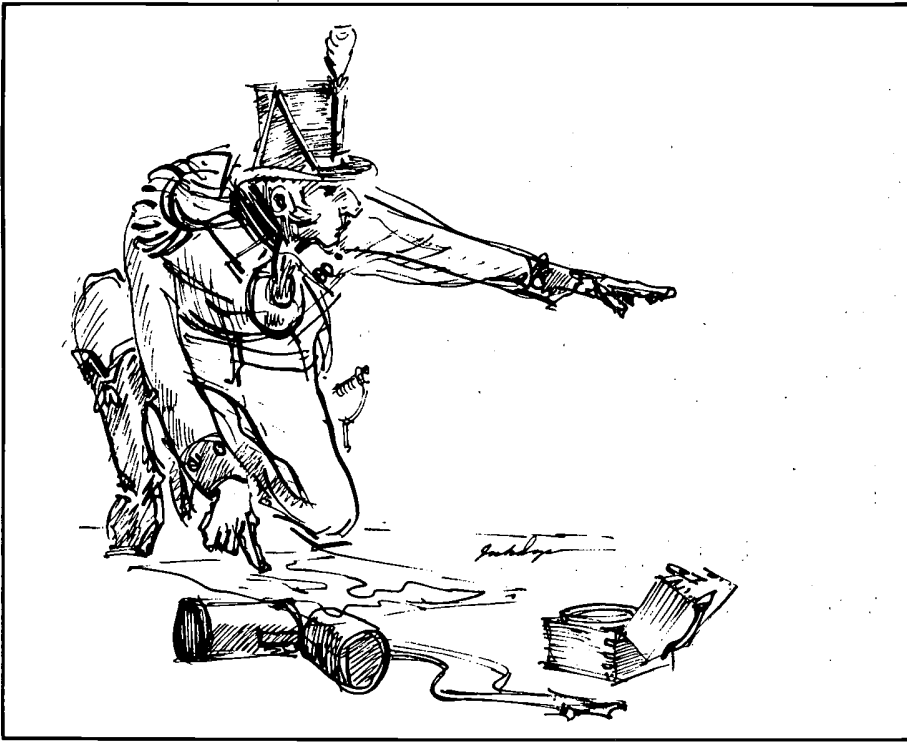
From the woody country, and the strength of their positions, our troops have sustained some loss; that of the enemy was very considerable—every exertion was made to collect the wounded Americans, who were attended to by a surgeon of their own, and by the British surgeons, who performed amputations on such as required it, and afforded every assistance in their power. The dead bodies of such as could be collected, were also carefully buried. . . .

American accounts put a better face on the American defense. On learning that the British had landed, Crutchfield

sent out a rifle company to investigate. He then followed with a larger force and in his own words:

We advanced in columns of platoons thro' a lane and an open cornfield which led from our encampment to the enemy. We were fired upon by the enemy's musketry from a thick wood at the upper end of a field immediately bordering on the road. Upon this discharge, orders were given to wheel left into line and march upon the enemy . . . the enemy opened upon us two 6 pound field pieces loaded with grape and canister shot, and his machines filled with rockets of a smaller size. Upon this sudden and unexpected attack with ordnance, I deemed it necessary to wheel again into column and gain if possible a passage through the gate. . . .

A French lieutenant surrendered his sword to the first American "gentleman" he encountered. Capt Pryor, commanding the waterfront battery, kept up a brave fire until he learned the British were behind him. Then he spiked his guns and fell back to join Crutchfield's retreating column. Crutchfield paused at Half-Way House on the York Road to regroup and then continued his retreat to



British commanders landed a light infantry brigade and a Marine brigade west of Hampton at Indian River, near Newport News. Taking their bearings, the main body of British managed to surprise American defenders by coming from behind them.

Yorktown. The Virginians took with them the body of a British officer, mistakenly thought to be LtCol Williams. On 27 June the British withdrew from Hampton and re-embarked and on the 29th Maj Crutchfield re-occupied the town.

Gen Beckwith failed to mention in his initial report that after taking Hampton, his landing force had sacked the town. Many years later, LtCol Charles J. Napier, the commander of the Light Brigade, wrote, "Beckwith ought to have hanged several villains at little Hampton. Every horror was committed with impunity—rape, murder, pillage and not a man punished."

But Napier, who would go on to become a lieutenant general and a distinguished military historian, exculpated the English troops: "Well! whatever horrible acts were done at Hampton they were not done by the Hundred and Second Regiment for they were never let to quit their ranks."

As for the Royal Marines, he particularly remembered the Royal Marine Artillery calling out to him:

Colonel, we are picked men, we blush for what we see; depend on us, not a man of the Marine Ar-

tillery will plunder. We are well paid by His Majesty and we will not disgrace him, or ourselves, by turning robbers and murderers.

BGen Taylor on 29 June sent off a courier to Adm Warren with a letter protesting "the excesses, both to property and persons, committed by the land troops, who took possession of Hampton. . . ."

Obviously, if it were not the English who committed the atrocities, it must have been the French. Either before or after receiving Taylor's letter, Adm Warren summoned the commanding officer of the Chasseurs, a captain named Smith, and demanded an explanation of their outrageous conduct. Capt Smith informed him that his men had declared it their intention to give no quarter to Americans "in consequence of their comrades having been so cruelly shot at whilst in the water, and unarmed, before the batteries at Craney Island."

That same day, 29 June, Adm Warren replied from his flagship HMS *San Domingo* that he had referred the letter to Sir Sidney Beckwith and "he will have the honor of writing to you upon the points to which it alludes."

And on that same busy day, Sir Sidney Beckwith wrote Taylor:

. . . the excesses of which you complain at Hampton were occasioned by a proceeding of so extraordinary a nature, that if I had not been an eye witness, I could not have credited it. At the recent attempt on Craney Island, the troops in a barge sunk by the fire of your guns clung to the wreck of the boat. Several Americans, I assure you most solemnly, waded off from the island, and in the presence of all, fired upon, and shot these poor fellows.

How Beckwith could have seen this from where he was with the main body is not clear. Taylor wrote him on 1 July, saying that he had convened a board of field officers to enquire into Beckwith's allegations. On 5 July Taylor transmitted the proceedings of the board to Beckwith. The board gave as "their unbiased opinion, that the charge alleged against the troops is unsupported." Elsewhere it was explained that the Americans had waded into the water to help the wounded prisoners ashore where they were given refreshment.

As for the Hampton excesses, all the blame having been put on the French renegades, Adm Warren ordered the Canadian Chasseurs shipped back to Bermuda and the unit broken up. However, some of the American witnesses insisted that not all the rapists had worn the green coats of the French; some had worn red coats and had spoken English.

During the next week Warren pushed up the James with his smaller vessels meeting no further opposition. Early in July the fleet divided: the main division under Warren went up the Potomac and a smaller division under Cockburn took station in Lynnhaven Bay, close to Cape Henry, so as to watch Craney Island and to keep the *Constellation* from slipping out to sea. After finishing his demonstrations in the Chesapeake, Warren brought his ships together at Lynnhaven on 2 September. A week later, with sickness in the fleet increasing, he set sail for Halifax.

So ended the 1813 naval campaign. We Americans did even less well when Cockburn came back into the Chesapeake in 1814, but that is another story for another time.

Acquisitions

Computer Record Stars in Museum Accessions Process

by John H. McGarry
Registrar

The Museum Registrar's office often has a holiday air about it. It is here that the many boxes and packages of incoming donations are opened in much the same spirit as would be found around the tree on Christmas morning. Following the celebration of the receipt of each new treasure, the work begins.

The Museum branch receives approximately 2,500 new acquisitions to the collection each year. The management of this property begins with accessioning and leads to an entry in the Marine Corps Museum Catalog and Inventory Control System (MCMCICS).

An example of this process would be found in the handling of a recent donation. A box of items was delivered to the Museum by Mr. Hiram Quillin. He had learned that the Museum was interested in obtaining material related to the 14th Defense Battalion. Following a recent reunion of the unit, he had gathered materials and brought them in. Upon receipt, they were carefully sorted out.

The first step taken is to prepare the item for marking, including painting numbers on a hidden surface on solid objects, sewing tags on textiles, and writing on papers with a number 2 erasable pencil. Care is taken to insure that any means of marking is completely reversible, so the tagging process does not have a negative effect on the object.

Once the tag is prepared, the item is assigned a unique number. This is the MCMCICS control number, and is crucial to all remaining facets of the accessioning and cataloging project. After accounting for all items received, and assigning numbers, a formal letter of acknowledgement is drafted to the donor. With the letter is a Deed of Gift form. By requesting the donor to sign and return one copy of the Deed of Gift

form, the legal transfer of the property is completed. The Deed of Gift form is also the donor's official receipt should he decide to use the donation as a tax deduction. All donations to the Museum are tax deductible.

Once these accessioning procedures are completed, the objects are separated and sent to the appropriate curator. The photographs and papers are sent to the Personal Papers curator, the uniforms and ordnance sent to their respective curatorial departments. At this point the cataloging process begins. The curator researches as much information as possible on each item, including the information provided by the donor. This information is placed on a MCMCICS worksheet. Once completed, the worksheet is returned to the Registrar. The object itself is prepared for storage, or for exhibition, depending upon need. In some cases, as with the donation of Mr. Quillin, the items are shipped to one of the Marine Corps' Command Museums. The 14th Defense Battalion objects will be shipped to the Parris Island Museum. Most items are placed in the study collection for future research or exhibition. Every attempt is made to provide a stable environment for the objects so they may be preserved for posterity.

Upon receipt of the MCMCICS worksheet, the Registrar checks the work for accuracy, and to insure compliance with the formats prescribed for the MCMCICS system. After being verified, they are entered into the MCMCICS database. At this point the item is a permanent part of the MCMCICS master accession file.

The worksheet that has been entered contains a variety of information concerning the object. The accession number, a brief description, donor information,



Registrar John H. McGarry practices "reversible" marking of materials donated to the Marine Corps Museum.

and associated information such as period of use, geographical references, personalities associated with the objects, condition, and location are all part of the MCMCICS record. Thus, the computer can search for a number of different types of material. A computerized listing of all items associated with MajGen Smedley D. Butler could be generated. There may be a need for a listing of all items on Iwo Jima. Selective searches may be made, such as how many small arms used on Guadalcanal held in the collection can be assembled. In this manner, a curator or researcher may be informed in as little as twenty minutes how many of an object are currently held.

From the time a donor's box is opened, each object within receives over two and one-half hours of attention. This assures that each item receives the professional care it deserves. It also assures that the collection of Marine Corps historical property will continue to be a resource for future research and exhibits.

A "MCMCICS" search for items related to Marines serving in Nicaragua produced a listing for an aviator's map sketched on linen.

DATE	08/23/85	ESCORT DATA LISTING				PAGE	1
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Center Cares for the Personal Papers of 2,000 Marines

by J. Michael Miller
Personal Papers Curator

*Head Quarters of the Marine Corps
Washington, April 6th, 1848*

To the Commissioned and noncommissioned Officers of the Corps of Marines, and others interested.

It is considered incumbent on the officers of the U.S. Marine Corps to have a faithful and impartial history written of the services of that portion of the corps which has been on active duty with the Army and Navy during the existing war with Mexico. Justice alone to the corps, particularly to that part of it engaged in this arduous service, would require a record of this nature. It is therefore requested that each member of it will contribute, without delay, such notes and documents as may in his opinion tend in the least to its promotion, addressing the same to Brigadier General Henderson, commandant of the corps; provided that such notes or documents be not incompatible with existing regulations upon the subject of officers corresponding while on service with the Army or Navy.

*By order of the Brevet Brigadier
General Commandant.*

The Personal Papers Collection of the Museums Branch, History and Museums Division, derives in spirit from Brevet Brigadier General Archibald Henderson's directive to officers and NCOs of the Corps over 125 years ago. Today, the collection is one of the finest repositories of military manuscripts in the world, consisting of over 2,000 individual collections of Marines' personal papers, from participants in the Revolutionary War to those who served in Lebanon and Grenada. Such famous Marines as BGen Archibald Henderson, LtGen John A. Lejeune, BGen L. W. T.

Waller, Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., and Marine bandmaster John Phillip Sousa have papers in the collection.

The papers consist of all manners of items, from diaries, photographs, and letters to maps and annotated operations orders. These bits of memorabilia offer historians a unique and fascinating glimpse at the history of the Marine Corps, supplementing and enriching what official histories and biographies provide.

The program was formalized in 1967 when the Marine Corps Museum was given the responsibility of acquiring and preserving Marines' personal papers, but donations were being accepted even prior to 1940 by the Historical Section, Adjutant and Inspector's Department, Headquarters Marine Corps.

Other institutions, such as the University of Wyoming, East Carolina University, and the Hoover Institution, collect Marines' papers, but the only official repository of the Marine Corps is the Personal Papers Collection of the Marine Corps Museum. Researchers from all over the globe use the collection as do numerous scholars from across the United States. Requests for information are received with questions about their service, particularly in war years.

The papers once received are organized and cataloged with finding aids entered into word processors and the computer data base of the Museum. The papers are then placed in acid-free papers and boxes and are stored under temperature and humidity controls.

When a researcher gains permission to use the collection, he is provided with a

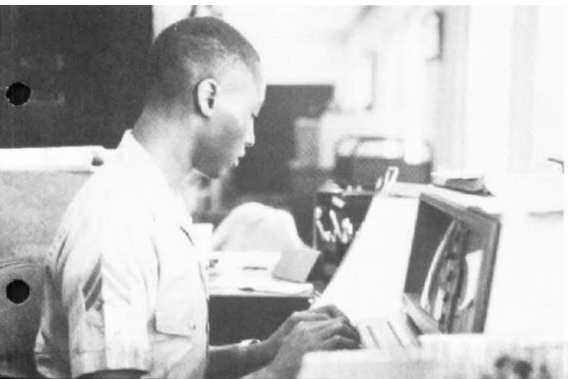
published catalog of 218 prominent collections to begin his research. A computer listing is then made of other collections that are pertinent to his research. The automated finding aid systems of the Museum are among the best anywhere for a manuscript collection.

Beginning in 1983, a recataloging effort was begun which would further enhance the ability of researchers to use the collection. Now 1,786 collections have been reinventoried, and the process will continue into 1986. New donations arrive at the rate of approximately 250 per year. By the year 1990, the total number of collections is expected to exceed 3,000.

Efforts are being made to further enhance the collection. A solicitation drive to gather material from World War I Marines has already greatly supplemented the holdings of the Museum and other efforts are being made to collect papers from Marines from Vietnam. These two groups represent two extremes among donors to the collection. Those men from World War I are very few in numbers and it is a race against time to collect their material. Vietnam Marine veterans, on the other hand, are much more numerous. Before it is too late, they are being made aware that their papers have value and should be held in the Personal Papers Collection to prevent their loss to Marine Corps history.

In many cases, former Marines have no idea that flight logs or personal letters have historical significance, or that the copy of a long forgotten report filed away in an attic might provide a future author the clue he needs to write an illuminating history.

Staffers, from left, Cpl Jeffrey A. Green, USMC; Mrs. Theresa A. Whitaker; and Miss Brenda A. Felder, care for the often fragile items in the Personal Papers Collection. Mrs. Whitaker is examining one of the 125 boxes of the Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., papers.



Four at Center Recall 1945 Landing in North China

by Henry I. Shaw, Jr.
Chief Historian

Largely overlooked in the larger events of the 40th anniversary observations of the end of World War II is any recollection that 55,000 Marines of the III Marine Amphibious Corps, commanded by MajGen Keller E. Rockey, began landing in North China on 30 September 1945. Their announced mission was to disarm and repatriate some 630,000 fully-armed, never-defeated Japanese troops. Their unannounced mission was to get to North China before the Russians could come sweeping down from Manchuria and to hold it until the Chinese Nationalists could redeploy northward.

MajGen DeWitt Peck's 1st Marine Division, having come up from Okinawa, including a dicey passage through the mine-strewn Yellow Sea, landed at Taku and then moved up the rail line to Tientsin. Four members of the Marine Corps Historical Center who remember that landing are BGen Simmons, Col Nihart, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Frank.

The Director, as a captain, had been sent to Okinawa by BGen Merritt A. ("Red Mike") Edson, Commanding General, Service Command, along with combat photographer MTSgt Louis Louft, to set up a public relations program for service troops. He landed at Taku with the 7th Service Regiment, a forerunner of today's Force Service Support Group. His most vivid memory of

MajGen DeWitt Peck, Division CG, center, and MajGen Louis E. Woods, Wing CG, right, greet BGen Merritt A. Edson, Service Command CG, on his arrival at Tientsin.

the landing is of the well-equipped, well-uniformed Chinese soldiers guarding the Taku-Tientsin rail line. Wondering how the Chinese Nationalists had gotten north so quickly, he was informed that they were not ChiNats, but Japanese "puppet" troops.

One of his tasks was to help get the *North China Marine* reestablished. Old China hands remembered it as the newspaper of the pre-war Marine detachments in Peiping and Tientsin. Japanese newsprint found stored in a theater was traded to Chilhi Press for typesetting and press time and the first issue of the new weekly *North China Marine* appeared appropriately on 10 November 1945 with full coverage of the surrender of various Japanese garrisons that had occurred during the previous month. Editor of the paper was 2dLt Ronald D. Lyons, USMCR, and the press run was 11,000—one for every five Marines in III MAC. Ron Lyons joined the *Leatherneck* staff after his return to the States and was its long-time editor until his death earlier this year. His widow recently donated a full run of the *North China Marine* to the Center.

Col Nihart, then a major and executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, landed in China on 30 September and moved with his unit to Tientsin, where the 1st Marines formed the infantry portion of the garrison, occupying for the most part the ex-British



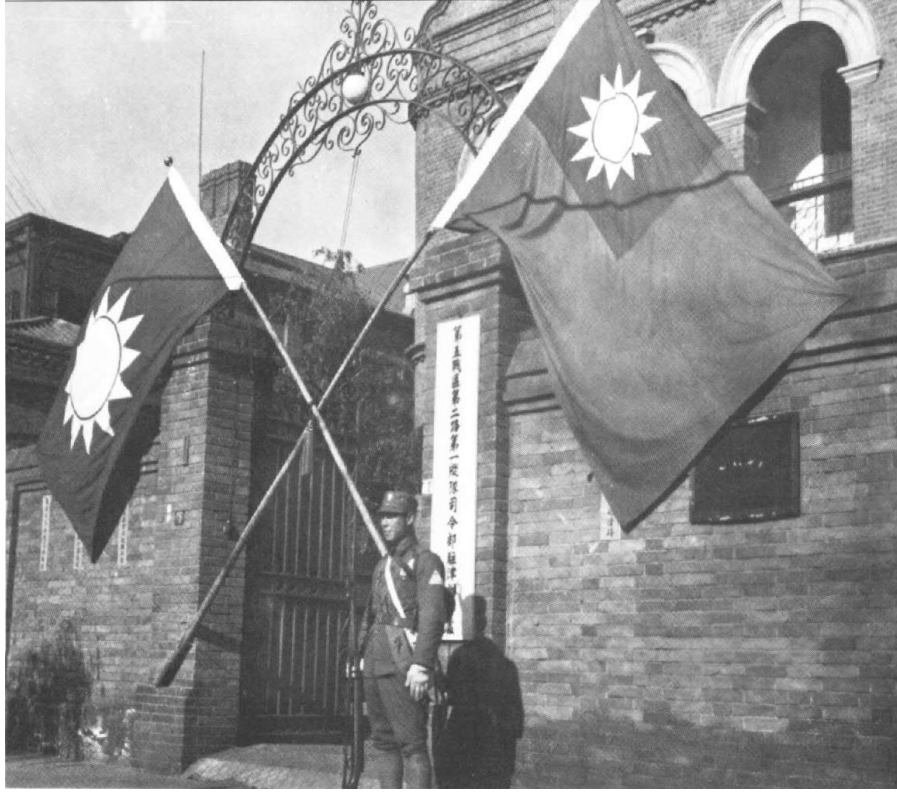
Marines moving from Taku to Tientsin by rail were surprised to find Japanese "puppet" troops acting as railway guards.

concession. Col Nihart stayed with the battalion until March 1946, when he left China to participate in the Pacific Division rifle and pistol competitions as a member of the 1st Marine Division team.

Col Nihart recalls, "The initial troop landings were on 30 September. The 1st Marines debarked from transports offshore into LCTs and LCIs, crossed Taku bar, entered the Hai Ho river, and docked at Taku. There we boarded trains for Tientsin's east station. The wily Chinese were expecting the gullible "Mejians" [Americans], for between the landing craft and the adjacent trains we were offered bottles of Johnny Walker Red Label scotch—only they were fakes seemingly properly sealed and labeled but containing a noxious non-alcoholic liquid—the first, but not the last scam the Marines would encounter in China.

"My other first impression was our arrival in Tientsin and march from east station to the old British Barracks. The welcoming crowds were huge and enthusiastic, so much so that our column of threes was reduced to single file in some





Flag-bedecked Chinese Nationalist headquarters in Peking as seen by Capt Simmons.

where we were billeted to the building behind which held our messhall. Even today as I smell charcoal or wood burning, or chestnuts roasting, I have a sense of *deja-vu*, and I'm back again in the twilight of a cold winter's day in Tientsin in 1945."

Mr. Shaw, a telephone lineman in 1st Signal Company, was a switchboard operator in Tientsin and later a teletype repairman in the corps signal battalion in Peiping. He and Mr. Frank later had the satisfying experience, as Marine Corps historians, of writing the history of North China operations for the volume, *Victory and Occupation*, among the Corps' official accounts of World War II.

Last year, Maj Richard C. Kennard, USMCR (Ret), gave us his collection of letters written home from Peleliu, Okinawa, and North China, many remarkably descriptive and interesting. Maj Kennard, who served as a forward observer on Peleliu and Okinawa and a battery executive officer in China, was a member of the 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.

Some of the original Kennard letters are part of the Peleliu exhibit in "From Dawn to Setting Sun," installed this summer in the Museum's Special Exhibits Gallery. All of the letters are available to interested readers in a book just published by Dorrance (Philadelphia), entitled *Combat Letters Home*. Most of Maj Kennard's China experience was at Chinwangtao where his battery was attached to the 7th Marines, which guarded the rail lines from Chinwangtao to Tientsin.

Another relevant contribution to the Personal Papers Collection recently arrived is Col Henry Aplington II's memoir of his experiences in China. He served as a 1st Marine Division staff officer in Tient-

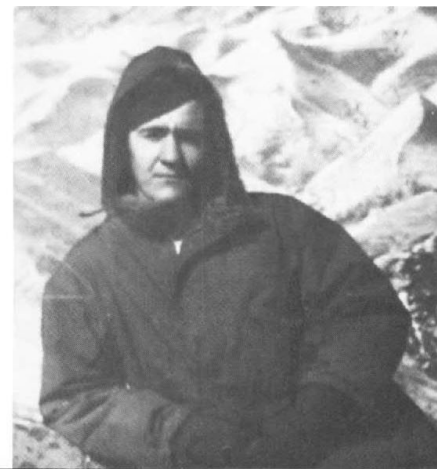
sins. Burdened as we were with transport packs and a full load of ammunition we had no free hands to ward off the Chinese well-wishers. There were plenty of civilian trucks operating, smoking and sputtering from the charcoal gas generator in the cargo space that provided the fuel. The charcoal generators lasted about three days as the trucks were reconverted to gasoline. The assumption of the infantry was that 7th Service Regiment operators were trading gas for who-knew-what."

Mr. Shaw and Mr. Frank, both members of the 1st Marine Division Headquarters Battalion and both long-time privates first class, were, as was Col Nihart, fresh from Okinawa and its harrowing 82-day campaign. Mr. Frank was a member of the division band, which was quickly caught up in a round

of surrender ceremonies, parades, and concerts, as the occupation troops in the cities of Tientsin and Peiping settled into a not onerous routine.

"As an avid reader of John Thomason's books and stories before I entered the Marine Corps, and with some contact with old China Marines after I came into the Corps, I was looking forward to seeing the China I had conjured in my imagination, based on these influences," Mr. Frank says. "When I got to China it was as I had visualized—the faces, the smells, the sights, the impressions—and for this reason, the very apparent poverty of the 'coolie' class was not a shock. I was, however, unprepared for the sight of dirty-faced, snotty-nosed, raggedy young kids going through our garbage piles to find sustenance enough to keep them alive—or for the beggars who lined our route from the Japanese schoolhouse

Taking poses for the camera in China were, from left, Cpl Benis M. Frank; PFC Henry I. Shaw, Jr.; and Capt Edwin H. Simmons.





Cpl Frank recorded the famous marble boat of the Dowager Empress of China at the Summer Palace near Peking. The Center's four China hands filled photo albums with snapshots of pagodas and palaces and the rich mix of nationalities in the capital.

sin and later as commander of the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, on rail and coal mine guard duty. His observations on the Marine way of life in these two different environments make fascinating reading. Col Aplington previously contributed a memoir of his experiences as commander of the 1st Battalion, 3d Marines in the re-occupation of Guam.

The Center also recently received a valuable contribution relating to the other sector of Marine occupation duty in North China, Tsingtao in Shantung Province.

MajGen Lemuel C. Shepherd's 6th Marine Division had landed at Tsingtao on 10 October. Mr. Daniel M. Thornton, Jr., of Norfolk, Virginia, an aide to Gen Shepherd in China, has donated a series of photographs of the surrender ceremonies at the Tsingtao racetrack on 25 October 1945. Mr. Thornton read the "Acquisitions" feature (*Fortitudine*, Spring 1985) and was prompted to donate the pictures (and more) of Japanese officers surrendering the actual swords that are part of the Museum's collections.

Call for Papers

The 1986 annual meetings of the American Military Institute and the Air Force Historical Association will be held at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Maryland, 4-5 April 1986. The theme of the meeting will be Military, Naval and Aviation medical history. Those interested in presenting a thirty-minute paper on these topics are asked to send an abstract of approximately 300 words to:

Robert J. T. Joy, M.D.
Section of Medical History
4301 Jones Bridge Road
Uniformed Services University of
the Health Sciences
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4799

not later than 28 February 1986. Please include a single page curriculum vitae with mailing address and telephone number. CME credit is available.

Historical Quiz: *Marines in World War II*

1. What was the strength of the Marine Corps at the end of World War II?
2. Name the top three Marine Corps aces in World War II.
3. Which Marine general in World War II became the first Marine to command a field army?
4. How many Medals of Honor were awarded to Marines for actions in World War II?
5. Which Marine aviation squadron was credited with shooting down the most enemy aircraft during World War II?
6. Name the three Marines who were awarded Medals of Honor during World War II who went on to become Commandants of the Marine Corps.
7. What was the name of the operation which called for the V Amphibious Corps to invade southern Kyushu on 1 November 1945 — but was never executed due to the Japanese surrender?
8. Name the Marine divisions that occupied Japan after World War II. Name the divisions that occupied North China.
9. What program was established in 1942 at the recommendation of Mr. Philip Johnston which involved using an unwritten code language in voice transmission to guarantee communications security in battle?
10. Name the first black Marine unit formed in World War II and the training camp that was built to accommodate the new black recruits?

(Answers on page 28)

Recent Books of Historical Interest

From the library of the Marine Corps Historical Center, recently published books of professional interest to Marines. These books are available from local bookstores or libraries.

Where it All Begins: A History of the United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. Eugene Alvarez. Gayle Publishers. 143 pp., 1984. A brief presentation of Parris Island's colorful past. It is illustrated with black-and-white photographs. One section deals with recruit experiences, while the latter part of the book concerns historical buildings and monuments of the depot. \$4.95.

Vietnam Voices: Perspectives on the War Years 1941-1982. John Clark Pratt, compiler. Penguin Books. 706 pp., 1984. The compiler has put together a chronological arrangement of all types of documentation—news releases, fiction, poetry, official reports, personal diaries, interviews, and more of the Vietnam years. All viewpoints, attitudes, and experiences are included with the intent of helping the reader to understand the Vietnam War. (In preparing his book, Mr. Clark acknowledged the help he received from Center staff members, research collections, and publications.) \$12.95.

Armour of the Vietnam Wars. Simon Dunstan. Osprey Publishing Ltd. 40 pp. 1985. Describes French, Vietnamese and U.S. armor used in the Vietnamese wars. Includes sections on the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army. Illustrated with black-and-white photographs and color plates. \$5.50

The Years of MacArthur, Volume III: Triumph and Disaster, 1945-1964. D. Clayton James. Houghton Mifflin Co. 848 pp., 1985. This final volume completes James' biography of Gen Douglas MacArthur, covering the years from 1945 to 1964 including his years as commander of the occupational forces in Japan and the years of the Korean War. As with the other two volumes, the author presents a well-researched, believable portrait of a complex, powerful individual. \$19.95.

The Marine from Manatee: A Tradition of Rifle Marksmanship. John Harllee. National Rifle Association of America. 330 pp., 1984. This book is the story of Marine Gen William C. Harllee, by his son, Adm John Harllee. It chronicles Gen Harllee's colorful and eventful life, from his South Carolina upbringing, through his years at West Point, and his military service in the Philippines, China, Cuba, Mexico, and Santo Domingo. It is the story of how throughout his military career the general dedicated himself to keeping the troops adequately trained in the use of firearms and it is the story of how he became known in the Marine Corps as the "Father of Rifle Practice." \$16.95

Harrier. (Jane's Aircraft Spectacular Series). Bill Sweetman. Jane's Publishing, Inc. 52 pp., 1984. *Phantom* (Jane's Aircraft Spectacular Series). Bill Sweetman. Jane's Publishing, Inc. 52 pp., 1984. Each volume in this series provides an overview of the aircraft with its respective capabilities and histories. Includes black-and-white, and color photographs, drawings, and fold-out illustrations. Each volume, \$10.95

Inside the Commandos; a Pictorial History from World War Two to the Present. James D. Ladd. Naval Institute Press. 160 pp., 1984. A pictorial history showing the development of Commando roles and tactics over the past 40 years. The first Commandos were recruited in 1940, with their World War II actions including Dieppe, St. Nazaire, Salerno, and Walchern. After the Second World War all Commandos were drawn from the Royal Marines. Their subsequent post-war activities included service in Korea, Suez, Malaya, Borneo, Aden, and the Falklands, while today they are committed to the defense of NATO's northern flank. Illustrated with over 400 photographs. Includes glossary. \$17.95

Through Peking's Sewer Gate: Relief of the Boxer Siege, 1900-1901. George W. Carrington, ed. Vantage Press. 101 pp., 1985. A short but revealing diary written during the relief of Peking and subsequent occupation duty by a British staff officer, Lt Richard A. Steel. The

editing is by Col George W. Carrington, USMC (Ret), a Marine Corps Historical Foundation member and himself the recipient of a Ph.D. in Chinese military history from Oxford University. An excellent introduction by Carrington enables the reader to place Steel's daily entries into the historical and social context of the period. Although primarily an account of British activities, there are frequent observations and incidents of the international force, including the American contingent. \$11.95.

American Naval History: an Illustrated Chronology: the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps, 1775 to Present. Jack Sweetman. Naval Institute Press. 331 pp., 1984. This chronology presents a concise summary of significant events in the history of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps from the Revolution to the present. Entries are on topics such as battles, explorations, capture of warships, and appointments to office. The book has four separate indexes by calendar, naval vessel, other ships, and a general index by people, battle, treaty, etc. Illustrated with drawings, maps, and black-and-white photographs. \$29.95

The Spirited Years: a History of the Antebellum Naval Academy. Charles Todorich. Naval Institute Press. 215 pp., 1984. The antebellum years of the U.S. Naval Academy, the years from its founding in 1845 until 1861, when it moved to Newport, Rhode Island, for the duration of the Civil War, were spirited ones as described in this history. It is both the story of the Academy's early struggle to establish itself and is, at the same time, an account of life at the Academy and the attempts of early superintendents to train midshipmen known for their disregard for regulations. \$19.95

The Korean War, History and Tactics. David Rees, consultant editor. Crescent Books. 128 pp., 1984. Editor David Rees and his contributors have provided a study of the Korean War, describing the origins, events and personalities of the war. Included are descriptions of the landings at Inchon and of the Marines at Chosin Reservoir. BGen Simmons provided the chapter "China Steps In." \$8.95.

Staff Shows Flag for Program at Professional Groups

by Col Brooke Nihart
Deputy Director for Museums

Members of the History and Museums Division routinely "show the flag" of the Marine Corps Historical Program as they undertake a variety of related outside activities in pursuit of professional career enhancement. On a not-to-interfere-with-mission basis, these activities have come to be recognized as a useful expansion of the program, a kind of organizational "outreach."

Prime examples are offered by members who provide leadership for military historical professional societies. Division Director BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), recently completed a term as president of the American Military Institute (AMI), a society for academic and service military historians. Historian V. Keith Fleming, Jr., currently serves as AMI secretary.

Chief Historian Henry I. "Bud" Shaw, Jr., is president of the Company of Military Historians (CMH), the material history professional and avocational society. Oral historian Benis M. Frank for seven years chaired the local Military Classics Seminar, a monthly-meeting military history literary society. Most members of the Historical Branch participate. More recently, Mr. Frank was elected to the Board of AMI.

In the museum field the Museums Branch perceived a professional need and filled it by forming the Committee on Military Museums in America (COMMA), currently chaired by the Deputy Director for Museums. Chief Curator Charles A. "Tim" Wood serves as secretary. Among other activities, COMMA, which is affiliated with the American Association of Museums (AAM), presents panel discussions on military museum practices at the annual AAM meeting. Col Nihart and Registrar John H. McGarry III chaired panels at the recent AAM meeting in Detroit. Mr. Wood is active in museum security associations of both AAM and the International Council on Museums (ICOM), while Col Nihart serves on the executive committee of the International Association of Museums of Arms and Military

History (IAMAM), also an ICOM affiliate. In 1981 Col Nihart chaired the organizing committee for IAMAM's ninth triennial meeting, held in Washington and New York.

Senior Vietnam Historian Jack Shulimson is active in the Society for History in the Federal Government and chaired its Archives Committee. Mr. Shulimson, Mr. Frank, and Personal Papers Curator J. Michael Miller conducted a panel on aspects of Marine Corps history at the 7th Naval History Symposium at Annapolis in September.

Service to the profession goes beyond organization work, attending meetings, and putting on programs. The Museums Branch, since it installed its Sperry-Univac BC/7 minicomputer in 1979, has been a leader in the use of the minicomputer in keeping museum records. Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas, when he was registrar, and current Registrar McGarry, have conducted numerous tutorials and consultations for other museums on the use of a computer in museums. Now Curator of Material History, Mr. Smith-Christmas frequently is called upon by the U.S. Army museum system to participate as an outside expert on inspection teams.

Registrar McGarry serves as program director for "History of the American Soldier," an educational pageant devoted to informing the public of the roles of our military forces for the past 300 years. Formerly with the National Park Service, Mr. McGarry still is called upon as a consultant for historic restoration and interpretive programs. He is chairman of the South Mountain Chapter of the Company of Military Historians and is an assistant editor of the Company's scholarly journal, *Military Collector and Historian*.

John T. Dyer, Jr., our art curator and himself a painter and extensive contributor to the combat art collection, participates in the annual Donor's Show of the Art League of Northern Virginia. Mr. Dyer facilitates liaison with the Society of Illustrators and has access to a number of independent artists through membership in the Air Force Art Pro-

gram. This last activity he has found useful in recruiting artists for our own program.

The Historical Center has sponsored an active program of student internship which has enabled college students in the fields of history, museology, archival science, and computers to gain practical experience in their fields. They have answered reference queries, researched and written monographs, cataloged personal papers collections, cataloged and preserved artifacts at our Quantico storage site, and entered collections into our computer-based system, MCMCICS (Marine Corps Museum Catalog and Inventory Control System). The Marine Corps Historical Foundation assists the intern program by providing the students small stipends, in effect carfare and lunch money. The return of useful products to the Historical Program and the satisfaction of assisting eager and interested young people is more than ample reward for the modest effort expended to assist them.

In addition to other museums being assisted in adopting computer cataloging and in certification inspections, prospective new museums have benefitted from assistance rendered. The Deputy Director for Museums serves on the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association's new National Firearms Museums and on the Advisory Board of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers' prospective National Historical Intelligence Museum. In both cases he serves as the museum technical advisor to these new ventures.

Perhaps the biggest outreach project of all is the writing and publishing of a book. Deputy Director for History Col John G. Miller, on off-duty time during this and a previous tour of duty, wrote of the USS *Houston* saga. The light cruiser was torpedoed off Leyte, nearly abandoned twice in a sinking condition, but saved through heroic efforts, towed to Ulithi for emergency repairs, and returned to the States. Col Miller's book was published in May by the U.S. Naval Institute Press as *The Battle to Save the Houston: October 1944-March 1945*.

New Certificates of Unit Lineage and Honors

9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE: 1962-1969: Activated 16 August 1962 at Camp Hauge, Okinawa, as the 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade for exercises on Okinawa's Eastern Coast; deactivated 21 October 1962; reactivated 5 August 1964 at Camp Hauge, Okinawa, in support of contingency plans in Southeast Asia; deployed during August-October 1964 aboard amphibious shipping in the South China Sea; redeployed during March 1965 to Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam; deactivated 6 May 1965; reactivated 1 March 1966 at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, as the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, Fleet Marine Force; during the period March 1966-November 1969 provided Special Landing Force Task Groups for numerous combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam; deactivated 7 November 1969. **1972-1985:** Reactivated 9 April 1972 on Okinawa for contingency operations in the South China Sea; deactivated 9 February 1973; reactivated 26 March 1975 for participation in Southeast Asia evacuations; deactivated 11 May 1975 and 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade staff nucleus activated; activated for numerous operations and exercises in South Korea, Australia, Okinawa, and the Philippines during the late 1970s and into the 1980s.

(HONORS: Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with one Bronze Star; Vietnam 1967, 1968; Navy Unit Commendation Streamer with three Bronze Stars; Vietnam 1968, 1968, 1972; Southeast Asia Evacuations, 1975; Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer; Southeast Asia Evacuations, 1975; National Defense Service Streamer; Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamer; Vietnam Service Streamer with two Silver and two Bronze Stars; Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer; and Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Streamer.)

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 214: 1942-1945: Activated 1 July 1942 at Ewa, Territory of Hawaii, as Marine Fighting Squadron 214, Marine Aircraft Group 21, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force; reassigned during

August 1942 to the 4th Marine Base Defense Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force; deployed during February 1943 to Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, and assigned to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force; participated in the following World War II campaigns, Southern Solomons, Vanikoro, New Georgia, Bismarck Archipelago, Bougainville, and Okinawa; relocated during January 1944 to Santa Barbara, California, and assigned to Marine Base Defense Aircraft Group 42, Marine Fleet Air, West Coast; deployed during February-March 1945 on board the USS *Franklin* to the western Pacific; participated in attacks on Japan and Okinawa during March 1945; relocated during April 1945 to El Centro, California, after enemy bombing of the USS *Franklin*; relocated during October 1945 to El Toro, California, and assigned to Marine Carrier Aircraft Group 15, Marine Air Support Group 46, Marine Fleet Air, West Coast. **1946-1955:** Reassigned during March 1946 to Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; reassigned during December 1949 to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force; deployed during July 1950 to Kobe, Japan, and assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 33, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force; participated in the Korean War, August 1950-November 1951, operating from Pusan Perimeter, Inchon-Seoul, Chosin Reservoir, and East Central Front; relocated during November-December 1951 to El Toro, California, and assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 15, Air Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; reassigned during November 1952 to Marine Aircraft Group 13, Air Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; reassigned during May 1953 to Marine Aircraft Group 15, Air Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; deployed during April 1954 to Kaneohe Bay, Territory of Hawaii, and assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 13, Air Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. **1956-1964:** Redesignated 31 December 1956 as Marine All Weather Fighter Squadron 214, Marine Aircraft Group 13, Air Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; deployed during April-September 1957

on board the USS *Hancock* to the western Pacific; redesignated 9 July 1957 as Marine Attack Squadron 214, Marine Aircraft Group 13, Air Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; deployed during October 1958 to Atsugi, Japan; relocated during March 1959 to Kaneohe Bay, Territory of Hawaii; reassigned during April 1959 to the 1st Marine Brigade, Fleet Marine Force. **1965-1969:** Deployed during March-April 1965 to Cubi Point, Philippines; reassigned during May 1965 to Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force; deployed during June 1965 to Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam; participated in the war in Vietnam, June 1965-February 1966 and April 1966-March 1967, operating from Chu Lai; redeployed to Iwakuni, Japan, and assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 13, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force during February 1966-April 1966; relocated during March 1967 to El Toro, California, and assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 33, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force. **1970-1985:** Reassigned during December 1970 to Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific; participated in the system of unit deployment between Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing during the late 1970s and into the 1980s. **(HONORS:** Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with one Silver Star; World War II, Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, Bismarcks - 1943-1944; Korea 1950, 1950, 1950-1951, 1951; Vietnam, 1965-1967; Navy Unit Commendation Streamer with two Bronze Stars; Vietnam 1965, 1965-1966; 1981-1982; Army Distinguished Unit Citation Streamer; Korea 1950; American Campaign Streamer; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Streamer with one Silver and one Bronze Star; World War II Victory Streamer; National Defense Service Streamer with one Bronze Star; Korean Service Streamer with one Silver Star; Vietnam Service Streamer with three Bronze Stars; Korean Presidential Unit Citation Streamer; and Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Streamer.)

Foundation, Barracks Honor Former Commandants

*by LtCol Cyril V. Moyher
Secretary, Marine Corps
Historical Foundation*

The Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Historical Foundation co-hosted a reception and parade on the evening of Friday, 9 August, in observance of the 40th anniversary of V-J Day and to honor former Commandants of the Marine Corps.

Invitations were sent to all members of the Foundation. Additionally, all active-duty Marine general officers in the

Washington-Quantico area and former Marines who are members of Congress were invited as guests.

Reservations began pouring in immediately from all over the country. A caller from the Houston area stated that "the cost (\$7.50) is right," when asked why she would travel so far for an evening out. The wife of a member from El Toro, California, said that she and her husband had been looking for years for an excuse to come to Washington, and

this was going to be it—they stayed for a week.

The unexpected response from the membership prompted an expansion of the original plan to host a reception of 250 in the Museum's Special Exhibits Gallery and to seat that same number at the parade. With the assistance of the Commandant's Office and the cooperation of the Commanding Officer of

(Continued on page 25)

Taking the review at the 9 August Parade honoring former Commandants at Marine Barracks, 8th & I, were, from left, Gen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.; the Commandant, Gen Paul X. Kel-

ley; Gen Louis H. Wilson; Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr.; Marine Corps Historical Foundation President LtGen Donn J. Robertson, and Barracks Commander Col Donald J. Myers.



1964

By-the-Book 8th & I Evening Parade a Chapman Idea

*by LtCol Wayne A. Babb
Historical Writer*

The reception and parade held on 9 August in observance of the 40th anniversary of V-J Day and to honor former Commandants of the Marine Corps at the Marine Corps Museum and Marine Barracks, 8th & I, closely recalls a similar event staged at the Barracks nearly 20 years ago, in 1964.

Then, the 23d Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., stood in the reviewing area with Gens Thomas Holcomb, Alexander A. Vandegrift, Clifton B. Cates, Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., and David M. Shoup,

Commandants during tumultuous years in the Corps' history.

In the distinguished visitors seats near Center Walk at the 1964 parade was Gen Greene's chief of staff, LtGen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr. Only a few years before, Gen Chapman had been selected as the Barracks commander by the 21st Commandant, Gen Randolph McCall Pate. Now there was an empty space flanked by Gens Shepherd and Shoup; Gen Pate had died in 1961, a year and a half after retiring. Saddened by Gen Pate's absence Gen Chapman also felt pride in

the evening's ceremony, for it was under his tutelage, during 1956 through 1958, that the ceremonies conducted at the Barracks became what they were at both the 1964 and this summer's parades.

In 1956, Gen Chapman, then a colonel having returned from command of the Marine Barracks at Yokosuka, Japan, and destined to become the 24th Commandant, assumed command of the Barracks. Gen Pate told Col Chapman, "To take command and continue to carry
(Continued on page 26)

From left, 23d Commandant Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., reviewed the 9 July 1964 parade with former Commandants

Generals Holcomb, Vandegrift, Cates, Shepherd, and Shoup. Gen Pate, who succeeded Gen Shepherd, died in 1961.



Belleau Wood, Peleliu Veteran Gen Silverthorn Dies

by Benis M. Frank
Head, Oral History Section

LtGen Mervin Hancock Silverthorn, USMC (Ret), died on 14 August at the age of 88 at Bethesda Naval Hospital after a long illness. Known as "Silver" to his close Marine friends and contemporaries, Gen Silverthorn was one of those young patriotic Americans who left college before graduation to enlist immediately following U.S. entry into World War I.

Gen Silverthorn was born in Minneapolis and was attending the University of Minnesota when the war broke out. He joined the Marine Corps on 27 April, and after recruit training at Parris Island, he joined the 5th Regiment of Marines at Quantico before it sailed to France in August 1917. He went into the battle of Belleau Wood a sergeant and came out a newly commissioned second lieutenant.

Lt Silverthorn went on to fight at Soissons, St. Mihiel, and Mont Blanc, and in the Meuse-Argonne. His decorations for heroism and gallantry in World War I included the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, and the *Croix de Guerre* with Silver Star.

During the interwar period, Gen Silverthorn served at various Marine Corps posts and stations in the States and abroad, and was a seagoing Marine also. He served several tours at Quantico where he was a student and instructor in the Marine Corps Schools.

At the outbreak of World War II Gen Silverthorn was serving in the War Plans Section in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He also was the amphibious warfare representative on the small joint staff of the embryonic Joint Chiefs of Staff, and as such, was involved in much of the planning for U.S. operations early in the war.

He went to war in the Pacific in January 1944 when he reported in as chief of staff to MajGen Roy S. Geiger's Marine III Amphibious Corps on Guadalcanal, and participated in the planning for and conduct of the landings on Guam, Peleliu, and Okinawa. When

LtGen Geiger took command of FMFPac at Pearl Harbor, Gen Silverthorn followed him to become chief of staff at that headquarters.

Following his service in the Pacific, Gen Silverthorn took command of the Troop Training Unit, Atlantic Fleet, and in September 1947, returned to Washington and to the office of CNO, where he was the Marine liaison officer. According to Gen Silverthorn, this was one of the most frustrating tours he ever had, for this was the Washington following the unification battles. Gen Silverthorn was assigned as a member of the naval delegation to an interservice committee which was trying to draw up a document which later became known as the "Key West Papers." The papers spelled out the roles and missions of the armed forces after passage of the National Defense Act of 1947, and much interservice bitterness and rivalry still remained. When the service representatives and their chiefs finally agreed upon the spelled-out service functions, they were taken to President Truman's summer White House at Key West, Florida, for his approval.

Recalling those days, when the Marine Corps and its representatives were pretty much left out of the final Key West

LtGen Mervin H. Silverthorn



discussions, Gen Silverthorn said, "Duty as a member of that committee was the most frustrating, the most exasperating, the most difficult duty I ever performed in my entire professional career. It was much more difficult than fighting as a platoon leader in Belleau Wood."

Shortly before the outbreak of the Korean War, Gen Silverthorn was appointed Director of Reserve at Headquarters Marine Corps, and was largely responsible for the successful mobilization of the Marine Corps Reserve. He then was appointed Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and Chief of Staff.

In 1952, Gen Silverthorn requested an assignment as commander of the Parris Island Recruit Depot. This was a period of rapid Marine Corps expansion and in which the rough treatment meted out to boots at PI was undergoing increasingly critical public and Congressional scrutiny. During his command of Parris Island, he attempted to reverse the situation. He retired from Parris Island on 30 June 1954.

From 1956 to 1957, he was Assistant Director of Defense Mobilization in the Executive Office of the White House. But after that he devoted full time to the third great love of his life—after his wife and family and the Marine Corps—the National Prayer Breakfast movement and the International Christian Leaders, of which he was a member from 1959 to 1976 and president for 10 years.

In commenting on his Marine Corps career, Gen Silverthorn said, ". . . I was always happy to be a Marine officer. I would rather have been a Marine officer than anything else in the whole world at all times. And on top of that . . . I would rather be doing what I was doing at the time than anything else, even though it was commanding a platoon in Belleau Wood or chief of staff of an amphibious corps at Peleliu . . . I don't have any general thoughts except one of still extreme loyalty to the Marine Corps, extreme pride. I still can generate some tears on Marine Corps birthdays and

when I start singing the 'Marine Corps Hymn.' ”

Gen Silverthorn was buried at Arlington Cemetery with full military honors on 19 August, with the Commandant, Gen Paul X. Kelley, leading a large congregation of mourners.



Then-BGen William W. Davies

MAJGEN WILLIAM W. DAVIES, USMC (RET), died at the age of 85 in San Diego on 1 June. He was born in Washington, D.C. in April 1900, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1918, and was commissioned four years later. He served in the Dominican Republic with the 2d Brigade, in China with the 4th Marines, and in Nicaragua with the Nicaraguan National Guard before World War II. He was the first officer in charge of the newly formed Amphibian Tractor Training Detachment in Dunedin, Florida, and was closely involved with the development of the amtrac for employment in World War II. He served as the FMFPac amtrac officer in the Pacific and at the time of his retirement in July 1955, he was CG, Troop Training Unit, Pacific at Coronado. Private funeral services were held for Gen Davies in San Diego on 5 June.

BGEN WALTER S. "TABASCO MAC" MCLHENNY, USMCR (RET), died at the age of 75 on 22 June in New Iberia, Louisiana, after a long illness. He was born and educated in Washington, D.C., and attended the University of Virginia. He

enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1935 and was commissioned the following year.

During his summer assignments to active duty, he was a member of Marine Corps teams competing at the National Rifle Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio. Lt McIlhenny was an instructor and shooting member of the Marine Corps Reserve Rifle Teams, and was a member of the 1937 Marine Corps team which won the Hilton Trophy and the AEF Roumanian Trophy; coach of the 1938 team which won the Roumanian and Critchfield Trophies; a shooting member of the team winning the Rattlesnake Trophy, and winner of the Bronze Medal in the National Individual Rifle Match which entitled him to wear the Distinguished Marksman Badge.

At the outbreak of World War II, he was called to active duty, attended Basic School in Philadelphia, and was immediately assigned to the 5th Marines at New River, North Carolina. For his actions as executive officer and later commanding officer of Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in the Guadalcanal operation, he was awarded both the Navy Cross and the Silver Star Medal.

The citation for his Navy Cross reads: "For extraordinary heroism and courage as Executive Officer of Company B, 1st

Then-Col Walter S. McIlhenny



Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, during the frontal assault upon a strongly fortified enemy Japanese position along the coast of Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, August 27, 1942. After organizing a volunteer party to advance and evacuate the wounded from the hazardous position well forward of the company, First Lieutenant McIlhenny, armed only with a rifle, and while under heavy enemy mortar and machine gun fire, covered the advance and withdrawal of the rescue party, gallantly drawing enemy fire and silencing a Japanese machine gun nest. Although ill at the time and suffering shock from concussion of an enemy mortar shell, he returned to a vantage point close to enemy lines and, in the face of fierce sniper fire, acted as an observer, relaying accurate information necessary for fire control until ordered by his superior officer to leave his post. His great personal valor, above and beyond the call of duty, not only made possible the rescue of nine wounded men but also contributed to the success of Marine mortar fire." He also received two Purple Hearts for wounds suffered in this campaign.

He participated in the Cape Gloucester operation as battalion plans and training officer, and was 5th Marines plans and training officer for the Peleliu landing.

Upon his release from active duty following the end of the war, Gen McIlhenny remained active in the reserve program, and retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in November 1959, when he was advanced to brigadier general by reason of having been specially commended for heroism in combat. Despite his retirement, he remained involved with and interested in Marine Corps affairs, and closely associated with and a long-time member of the board of directors of the Marine Memorial Academy in Harlingen, Texas.

Gen McIlhenny was president of the Tabasco Sauce Company, a family concern, and during the Vietnam War, sent countless numbers of bottles of the product to the Marines fighting in Vietnam. He also had prepared for them two cookbooks, which provided recipes for use of Tabasco Sauce with C-rations and with the newer MREs (meals ready for

eating). He even had designed a camouflaged Tabasco Sauce bottle holder which fastened to the issue cartridge belt.

Gen McIlhenny was buried with simple military honors in The Grove, Avery Island, Louisiana on 24 June.

COL THOMAS G. ROE, USMC (RET), who was director of Marine Corps History at the time of his retirement in 1962, died at his home in Norfolk, Virginia at the age of 71 on 2 August. Col Roe was a native of Montana, and graduated from the University of Montana in 1936, when

he was commissioned. For most of his Marine Corps career, he was an artilleryman, and took part in the pre-World War II installation of seacoast and antiaircraft artillery on Johnston and Palmyra Islands. He later commanded the 10th AAA Battalion on Eniwetok, and commanded the 3d Battalion, 11th Marines in the battle for Okinawa and later during the occupation of North China. Col Roe was a graduate of the Army War College and a member of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation. Private services were held for him in Norfolk on 5 August.



Then-Lt Thomas G. Roe

Readers Always Write: Berkeley Recollects Nicaragua

SOMEONE 'SAW' SANDINO

I have just been given a copy of a Marine Corps Historical Reference Pamphlet . . . The copy is a 1968 reprint . . . [*The United States Marines in Nicaragua*. Bernard C. Nalty. 1961 rev. ed., reprint 1968]. I . . . find two errors in discussing the Skirmish at Bromadros, 27-28 February 1928.

O'Day's patrol was not going from Yali to Esteli. The patrol had been sent from Condega to Esteli to pick up the mules we would need for operations of the 57th Company, 2d Battalion, 11th Marines. We had just arrived in the country. The supply people in Esteli took advantage of this mule transport and used O'Day's patrol to resupply two outposts at San Raphael (del Norte) and Yali. Yali was the last stop and from that point on the mule train was empty. The enemy's G-2 thought it was still loaded and they wanted the supplies. As the day drew to a close the patrol was spread out over a great distance fore and aft. The natives had been plying the Marines with fruit and everyone was most inattentive to say the least. O'Day and the hospital corpsman, PHM3 McKeon, had gone ahead to scout Darali Ranch as a stopping place for the night. The bandits hit hard and everyone scattered, the mules stampeded, one with a machine gun. The gunnery sergeant with the patrol was in the rear and rumor had it that he "went to the rear for orders," the rear being Yali. Sgt Isham took charge and organized a fire base and built up the

opposition. Of course someone "saw" Sandino, a lean figure on a white horse. The corpsman made it back at once and did his job with the wounded. The patrol leader did not make it back until the shooting was just about over. Both the corpsman and the patrol leader were recommended for the Navy Cross. I typed the citations (I was company clerk at that time) and one was very blood-curdling.

Years ago I told Bob Heintz [Col Robert D. Heintz, Jr.] of the error he had in *Soldiers of the Sea* regarding this battle.

The other error . . . [is elsewhere, where it is] said that MacNulty was moving towards Yali while O'Day was being attacked. Not so. We were in garrison in Condega when we first learned of the contact. I think a plane made a drop of a message. We started at once with a very strong patrol—they raked up any one available in camp at Condega, that is how I got in the patrol. When we reached Darali O'Day's people were all there and they were burying the dead and cleaning up.

Have just been looking at some snapshots I took later in 1928 of the site of the battle, the stone wall where the bandits had hidden their ambush. I find a picture of three graves . . . Two more were DOW and I thought we buried them there, too, but I can't find a picture of those two graves.

I learned one lesson from all of this. I had done the entire payroll for the 57th Company on the 27th, a company of 250

plus. By the 29th five were dead and I had to type the monster all over again.

LtGen James P. Berkeley, USMC (Ret)
Norfolk, Virginia

KOREA AS MARINES KNEW IT

Now that the World War II Chronology is finished, I wish to commend those who worked on it. It has been an excellent series. Hopefully it will be continued for Korea and Vietnam.

Keep up the good work.

Charles Kumpas
Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania

EDITOR'S NOTE: A Korean War chronology prepared by the Reference Section begins in this issue.

REMEMBERING JOE BAUER

The article concerning LtCol Harold W. "Joe" Bauer, USMC, in the summer 1985 issue of *Fortitudine* was of great interest to me as I am sure it would be to all who knew him.

Joe Bauer was not only a great pilot but an inspirational leader and friend to all the younger pilots who first came out of Ewa Marine Corps Station on Oahu, Hawaii, to join in the aerial defense of Guadalcanal during the early days of that campaign when the outcome was still in doubt.

BGen Rivers J. Morrell, USMC (Ret)
South Laguna, California

'Uncle Nevills Portrait,' The O'Bannon Miniature

Settling History and Authenticity of a 'Lost' Likeness

by Richard A. Long
Special Projects Curator

Our "Careful Readers" will recall that in September 1984 Mrs. Stuart Gay Berryman, of Lexington, Kentucky, donated to the Marine Corps Museum a watercolor on ivory miniature portrait of Marine 2dLt Presley Neville O'Bannon. (See *Fortitudine*, Winter 1984-1985.)

Her husband was a fifth-generation descendant of John O'Bannon, elder brother of Presley, a surveyor, distiller, farmer, and one-time sheriff of Woodford County, Kentucky, who died in Versailles, Kentucky, in 1813.

Searching for this miniature, discovering it, and the chase to acquire it were exciting and very satisfying. One might expect the curator to rest on his laurels and exhibit the portrait forever on the museum panel devoted to O'Bannon's exploits. But, it was also his responsibility to establish its history, and if possible, to authenticate it and to identify its artist. Its provenance has subsequently been based on the most conclusive evidence.

Search for O'Bannon memorabilia is not a recent fad but has been an interest of collectors and historians since early in this century. Numerous articles, have been published devoted to his military career. Reports have been made of not only his everyday personal belongings, but also of his proverbial and sometimes fictitious acquisitions abroad, and the supposed expensive gifts presented to him as the "Hero of Derna" by an adoring public on his return to the United States.

One naval curator carried on a lengthy but unsuccessful correspondence in the 1940s with officials of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Ken-

tucky Historical Society in a search for the jeweled sword hypothetically presented to O'Bannon by Hamet, the deposed bashaw of Tripoli. Even this writer has investigated it. (See "O'Bannon's Sword?", *Fortitudine*, Summer 1984.)

What of O'Bannon's miniature portrait? A black-and-white photographic likeness of it has been in the Marine Corps' photographic collections since about 1922. Unfortunately, in many of the prints of it reproduced in the last 60 years, details of his facial characteristics and of his clothing have been practically obliterated, evidence that prints have been copied repeatedly to acquire new negatives. From whom, then, was the original reproduction of the likeness ob-

Gold-framed, watercolor-on-ivory miniature portrait of Marine 2dLt Presley Neville O'Bannon, "Hero of Derna," is attributed to artist Philip Parisen of New York City, in the period 1801-1802.



tained? The most likely answer seems to be as follows.

In 1919, Miss Rebecca Gordon Averill, Registrar of the Susannah Hart Shelby Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Frankfort, Kentucky, borrowed the original miniature of Presley N. O'Bannon, dressed in a military-styled coat, from either Mrs. Maria Jackson Cotton Gay, or her daughter, Miss Georgie Cotton Gay, both of Versailles. Mrs. Gay was a great granddaughter of John O'Bannon.

Miss Averill had it photographically copied and small one-to-one prints made. How many is not known. Its glass negative today is a numbered accession in the collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, and the letterbook of the Gretter, and later, the J. Forrest Cusik Studios in Frankfort in which Miss Averill's order is recorded, is also there.

At least three of these matte photographs were hand-colored in oil paints, nearly all identical to the original miniature. Sadly, their artist is unknown.

One of these colored likenesses is in Frankfort's Kentucky Military History Museum. Another is in the possession of a descendant of Sarah Neville O'Bannon Pepper, Presley and John O'Bannon's sister. A third was presented by Miss Averill to the U.S. Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, where it is still on exhibit.

This likeness was probably first published as the cover of a brochure by the Daughters to commemorate the reinterment of O'Bannon's remains in Kentucky's State Cemetery on Flag Day, 14 June 1920. A copy of the brochure is in the collections of the Marine Corps Museum.



Likeness of elder brother John was thought from 1941 to be Lt O'Bannon, and not properly identified before 1984.

She may also have presented a copy to the Marine Corps, but if so, its lone historian, Maj Edwin N. McClellan, USMC, neither reported or recorded it. More likely, Maj McClellan acquired a copy negative or a black-and-white print of it from the Naval Academy Museum. He published it as a frontispiece in the Marine Corps *Gazette*, September 1922, but with no hint of its origin.

In 1941 the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico was given O'Bannon's State of Virginia presentation sword, minus its decayed scabbard. With it came an "ivory type," a second watercolor on ivory miniature portrait, in profile, ostensibly a likeness of Presley N. O'Bannon in civilian dress. Their donor was Mrs. Margaret Moseley Culver, of Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. Culver was also a descendant of John O'Bannon. Her mother was Margaret Frazer Cotton Moseley, a sister of Maria Jackson Cotton Gay, of Versailles.

Was this actually a portrait of Presley N. O'Bannon? It portrays a much older man, thick of cheeks and jowls, a nose distinctively different than in the other portrait, and a robust upper body. We now know that it had to have been painted before 1813, at a time when Presley was still a relatively young man.

There is no evidence that past Marine Corps historians questioned the identity of either portrait or investigated

the matter further. Both were captioned as being Presley N. O'Bannon. The writer, first becoming acquainted with the prints in 1958, assumed that Presley had sat for a portrait later in life, despite the physical differences.

It was not until March 1984 that the writer found in Zanesville, Ohio, an article that identified the latter likeness as that of John O'Bannon. In 1905, Nelson W. Evans, a Portsmouth, Ohio, lawyer, published a treatise in the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society Quarterly* on John O'Bannon's early land surveys in southern Ohio. He illustrated the article with two likenesses of John O'Bannon, one of them reversed in print. Both are identical to the one donated by Mrs. Culver, and to that in the Marine Corps collection thought at one time to be the older profile of Presley N. O'Bannon.

Further proof of the identity of this sitter has been found in family letters loaned to the Marine Corps Museum by Mrs. Berryman. Mr. Evans had corresponded with Maria Jackson Cotton Gay early in the 1900s, acquiring from her personal information and vital statistics of John O'Bannon, and presumably the photographs of his portrait as well.

In February 1984, while researching the O'Bannon family in Kentucky, the writer visited Capt David J. Breen, USMC Officer Selection Officer, in Louisville. To Capt Breen goes the credit for putting the Marine Corps Museum on the right track. He informed me that the grandmother of one of his recent selectees, Nicholas Berryman, of Lexington, had a portrait of Presley N. O'Bannon. Unable to retrace my steps there, and wary that the portrait was perhaps only another of the colored likenesses, Mrs. Stuart Gay Berryman was not contacted until April.

She quickly dispelled any doubt that her portrait was a reproduction, describing it as a watercolor painting, on ivory, in an antique oval glassed gold case. Reluctant at first, she and her sons eventually agreed to donate the miniature to the Marine Corps.

Diligent search has been made of the authenticity of this portrait. Presley N. O'Bannon died intestate on 12 September 1850. His wife, Matilda, died of cholera in the Insane Asylum at Lex-



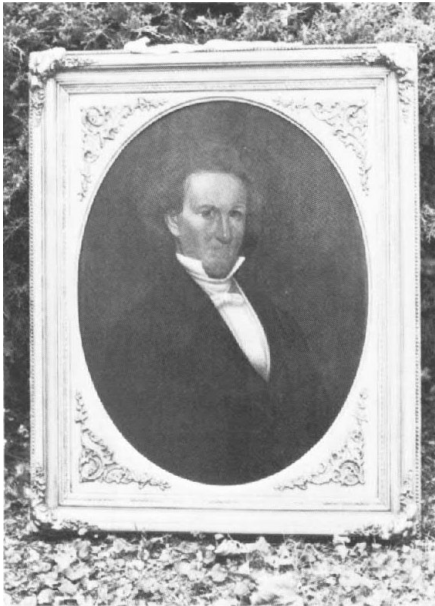
A portion of a business card was found in use as a divider between the ivory and the gold case of the O'Bannon portrait.

ington on 11 June 1849, and both of their children preceded them in death. It appears that any personal belongings he had may have been distributed among his brother John's family, sister Sarah Neville O'Bannon Pepper, and possibly niece Amanda Pepper O'Bannon, in whose home he died. Indeed, the descendants of these individuals have been the most knowledgeable of his life and career, subsequently discovered in print and in legal documents.

Before accepting the portrait from Mrs. Berryman, a search was made of the archives of Woodford County, in Versailles, Kentucky. Censuses, vital statistics, deeds, tax records, wills, and administrations of the O'Bannon and allied families were consulted. Records relative to the succession of land, distillery and farm equipment, household goods, and farm animals were complete and plentiful, but seldom did wills and estate papers reveal the keepsakes and personal belongings of these families.

Exceptions were found in the rare wills of the women family members. Elizabeth O'Bannon Cotton, John's daughter, died about April 1869. Following the payment of her debts and funeral expenses, she willed the balance of her estate to her granddaughters, Margaret Frazer Cotton, Maria Jackson Cotton, and Georgie Cotton.

Of these, Georgie may have died



Miniature's donor believes this portrait she owns to be O'Bannon in middle age.

young; little is known of her. Margaret, who married William G. Moseley and moved to Kansas City, died about October 1918. She apparently had privately inherited the State of Virginia Sword and the John O'Bannon miniature portrait, which were left to her daughter, Margaret Moseley Culver.

Maria Jackson Cotton Gay, whose will written in pencil was dated 23 November 1923, addressed her daughters, Ruth Gay Berryman and Georgie C. Gay McFerran, that "your Aunt Georgies things were left to Georgie by my mother, they include Uncle Nevills portrait . . ." The McFerrans died childless, and O'Bannon's miniature portrait became the property of Stuart Gay Berryman after 4 December 1934.

This portrait was not listed in the register or catalog of the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery. The search for its history, the time and place of sitting, and the identity of its artist presented a bleak picture.

We therefore sought the assistance of others who have expertise in this medium, the curators of the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of American Art, and the National Museum of American History.

Miss Robin Bolton-Smith, an associate curator in the Museum of American Art, who specializes in miniatures and who has a book on them in preparation, assisted the writer in 1977 to establish the provenance of a portrait by Charles

Willson Peale of Maj Samuel Nicholas, senior Marine officer of the American Revolution. She was the first from whom assistance was sought.

Miss Bolton-Smith examined the miniatures of both the O'Bannons and determined that they were not by the same artist. She suggested that Miss Ellen Miles, of the Portrait Gallery, be consulted on the portrait of John O'Bannon. Unfortunately, no provenance of it has yet been ascertained.

Miss Bolton-Smith simplified her task by having Miss Katherine Eirk, the National Museum's conservator of miniatures, open the O'Bannon miniature's case, extract the ivory, and clean its surfaces. This was a fortunate decision.

The reverse of the ivory was separated from the inside of the gold case by a piece of cardstock, cut roughly to the conformity of each. It appears to have been cut from the lefthand side of a business card.

On one surface, a spooled design bordered the top, bottom, and left sides. Informative doors were opened by the following message printed on it:

LIKEN . . .
PAINTED IN M . . .
BY
P. PAR . . .
No. 252 Will . . .
NEW- . . .

From this, Miss Bolton-Smith deduced that the artist's name may have been Philip Parisen, and she provided a copy of a short biography of him from *The New-York Historical Society's Dictionary of Artists in America, 1564-1860*.

Parisen, his father, Otto, and his two sons, J. and William D., were all artists in New York City. Philip painted actively there from 1791 to 1815, with a part of the year 1795 spent in Charleston, South Carolina. He was a painter of miniatures, silhouettist, hairworker, goldsmith, and silversmith.

Miss Bolton-Smith said of the technique used in the painting:

The portrait of Presley Neville O'Bannon seemed even more [than that of John O'Bannon] to have the hallmarks of the work of a European continentally-trained

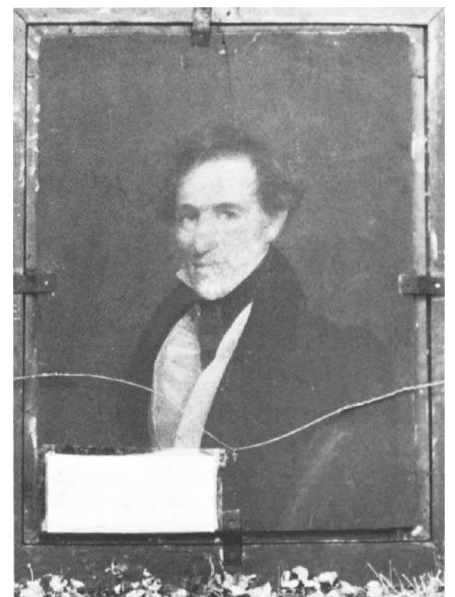
artist, working in America; primitive and slightly awkward in conception, very linear in treatment, with a more opaque use of the paint than the English-trained artists working in America at the time.

She weighed the evidence of the artist's business card in the case, "a common practice of miniaturists in lieu of a signature," together with the corresponding biography "to assume the attribution of this miniature to be Philip Parisen. . . ."

This established, attention was turned to the attire of Lt O'Bannon. It was the opinion of Col F. B. Nihart, USMC, (Ret), Deputy Director for Museums, and Mr. Kenneth Smith-Christmas and Mr. John H. McGarry III, of the staff, that O'Bannon's coat was distinctively military, even though its appearance did not strictly conform to a short description of the uniform of a Marine officer by the Secretary of the Navy in 1798. Mr. McGarry was certain that it was not that of an Army officer, O'Bannon having been in that service from 1807 to 1809.

With these basics in hand, further scrutiny of the miniature was entrusted to Mr. Donald E. Kloster, a veteran of 25 years' evaluation of the Smithsonian's Division of Armed Forces uniform collections. He in turn sought the valued opinions of a colleague, Dr.

The back of the painting above. It is unknown if either man is really O'Bannon.





Actor John Payne served as model for a fanciful portrait of O'Bannon by LtCol John J. Capolino, USMCR, in the 1950s.

Harold Langley, and Ms. Shelley Foote, of the Division of Costume.

Mr. Kloster identified the coat's red collar as the standing/falling type, a style commonly used in the country's services from the 1780s through the first few years of the 1800s.

He also noted that the lapels were opened only two buttons at the top and had no lace trim extending out from the buttonholes on the opposite side, a decorative characteristic of Army coats of the era. Its gilt buttons and red collar on a navy blue coat indicated a military, rather than civilian, coat.

Ms. Foote compared the garments beneath the coat with those of civilians:

This miniature shows two waistcoats, the first or outer is the white which is clearly seen and the second is of red which can be noted only by the narrow red strip next to the shirt on both sides—a style evidenced by fashion plates and portraits of the period. It should be noted that civilian styles were used by military for shirts and waistcoats. It shows an attempt to achieve a manly chest, which was done by padding in the coat.

The very high cloth stock is more typically military even though civilians did use a similar form. The shirt, which would have several rows of ruffles stitched to the upper front, is seen

here only under the waistcoats with the ruffles separated

The writer observed that O'Bannon wears what appears to be a medallion or stickpin on his stock. Sparse instructions for the dress of a Marine officer mention no insignia. No accoutrements would have appeared here. Was it a Masonic emblem? Authorities of the order say that they were not then in vogue.

Advertising for Parisen's calling stated that he also made ornaments of hair. Ms. Foote, not knowing of this secondary occupation, remarked to Mr. Kloster that she had seen hair ornaments exhibited in other portraits. It may not be inconceivable that with the looseness of early 1800s uniform regulations, O'Bannon dared to flaunt the consequences and wore a hair ornament for his portrait.

Philip Parisen was an established New Yorker, and two other portraits are known to have been done there. What were the circumstances that may have brought him and Lieutenant O'Bannon together as artist and customer?

Following his commissioning in January 1801, O'Bannon served at Headquarters of the Corps in Washington to 4 June. He is known to have been at New York's Barracks in August, and became Marine officer of the U.S. frigate *Adams* outfitting there for the Mediterranean in January 1802. In the next four months, he completed three Masonic Orders, and became a member of the Grand Lodge.

Philip Parisen was not a member of the Masonic Order, so brotherhood did not bring them together. O'Bannon probably read the newspapers, in which Parisen had advertised "Striking likenesses . . . to set in rings, lockets, &c. price from Two to Eight Dollars . . .," and his prices had not changed since 1791.

He may also have walked into Parisen's studio off the street. Parisen was well known in Lower Manhattan. From 1798 to at least 1803, his home and studio were at 252 William Street, only a few blocks from the Navy Yard.

O'Bannon may even have been handed one of Parisen's business cards by a hired urchin on the street, which read in its entirety:



O'Bannon as seen by Col Donald L. Dickson, USMCR, in the 1960s, draws on the figure in the ivory miniature.

LIKENESSES
PAINTED in MINIATURE
BY
P. PARISEN
No. 252 William-street
NEW-YORK

How much did he pay for it? As a second lieutenant of Marines, he earned \$25 and two rations per month. He was unmarried. His out-of-pocket expenses are not known, but twenty cents were deducted each month for the relief of sick and wounded seamen, and he may have voluntarily contributed to the Commandant's fund for music in the Marine Corps.

He owned a fiddle, for which he may have purchased replacement strings before going to sea. His family is thought to have been prosperous, so it's not likely he sent support home.

He may have paid the full eight dollars quoted by Parisen for which he received the miniature, its old gold case covered with glass and a sturdy ring at the top with which to hang it.

What prompted Lt O'Bannon to have his portrait painted? Knowing that he was soon to sail for foreign seas and doubtful of what the future held, he may have followed the practice of many another seafaring man and soldier and sat for his portrait. Not likely to have carried it with him to sea, he probably sent it to his mother, Ann Neville O'Bannon, at the family farm on Pignut Ridge, Fauquier County, Virginia.

Fortitudine Punch

Fortitudine was the motto of the Marine Corps during the early 19th century. Translated from the Latin, it means with strength, fortitude, or even guts. Appropriate name indeed for a Marine Corps punch.

Continental Marines often had to be content with "grog," which is simply rum diluted with water. But whenever possible they preferred their rum mixed with sugar and fruit as rum punch. Maj Samuel Nicholas, whom we hold to be our first Commandant, as a young buck in Philadelphia, was a member of the sportsman's club called the Schuylkill Fishing Company. As such he was certainly familiar with Philadelphia Fish House Punch. As we make it, Fortitudine Punch is a modern version of Fish House Punch.

Our version of the punch simplifies the old, but with modern conveniences. For example, instead of steeping the juice of two dozen lemons with a pound of sugar we simply use two twelve-ounce cans of frozen lemonade. Rather than ruin good champagne we dilute the mixture with club soda and ginger ale. The recipe:

one-half gallon of a darkish rum
one pint of peach brandy
two twelve-ounce cans of frozen
lemonade concentrate
two quart bottles of club soda
two quart bottles of ginger ale
float slices of one orange, one lemon,
and two limes
sufficient ice to cool down the resultant
fires

Caution: Fortitudine Punch, as its well-known ancestor, can be insidious. It tastes good and goes down smoothly, but judgement and caution are advised.

And why is punch called punch? It comes from the Sanskrit word *panch* meaning five (remember Sukarno's *panch shilla*, five principles of coexistence) for the five ingredients—a strong, a weak, a sweet, a sour, and a flavor.

Event Honors Former Chiefs

(Continued from page 16)

Marine Barracks, 8th & I, space was provided for an additional 200 guests.

To accommodate the additional visitors for the reception, the entire Historical Center was opened and a buffet of hors d'oeuvres, Fortitudine punch, wine, and soft drinks was served.

The Foundation President, LtGen Donn J. Robertson, met one of the first couples to arrive, Gen and Mrs. Paul X. Kelley, at the door. Together they greeted Generals Wallace M. Greene, Jr.; Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.; and Louis H. Wilson, and their wives. Also attending the festivities were Gen and Mrs. John K. Davis, Gen and Mrs. Samuel Jaskilka, Gen Robert E. Hogaboom, and Mrs. Robert E. Cushman, Jr. Rounding out this group of distinguished guests was the White House Chief of Staff, LtCol Donald T. Regan, USMCR (Ret), and his wife.

Members and their friends met in a festive atmosphere as they reunited with comrades-in-arms and shared memories of those with whom they had served.

The participants moved by bus and on foot to the parade ground, where they were prepared to witness the very best parade ever presented.

The Marine Band entertained the crowd prior to the parade with a number of selections which included John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever." The performance of the 8th & I Marines in the parade was met with shouts and applause throughout the evening.

Generals Greene, Chapman, and Wilson, and LtGen Robertson, joined Gen Kelley to review the parade. The memorable and historic evening was capped with the playing of "The Marines' Hymn" and "Taps."

Message from the 20th Commandant

General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., USMC (Ret), the senior former Commandant, did not participate in the ceremonies on 9 August, but sent a message to those in attendance:

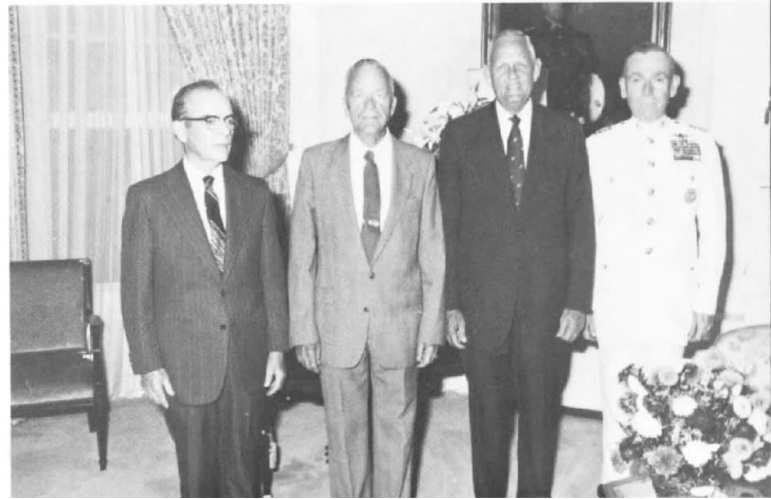
General Kelley, former Commandants of the Marine Corps, ladies and gentlemen:

I deeply regret that due to failing health, I am unable to join with the other former Commandants of the United States Marine Corps in this ceremony observing the fortieth anniversary of World War II V-J Day, which brought to a victorious conclusion the amphibious advance of the Marines across the Pacific.

It was seven years later that I was appointed Commandant of the Marine Corps, the greatest honor that can come to a Marine. Those of you here today who were privileged to become the Commandant of our illustrious Corps can take justifiable pride in your achievement.

May those who follow in our footsteps continue to cherish the traditions and hold high the ideals of loyal service to our country, the United States of America.

White House Chief of Staff LtCol Donald T. Regan, USMCR (Ret), left, talks with Generals Kelley and Wilson at the Marine Corps Museum reception. Later, Generals Greene, Chapman, Wilson, and Kelley pose together at the Commandant's House.



Parade Under Lights 24th Commandant's Idea

(Continued from page 17)

forward the standards established earlier, refining them where needed." And refine them he did.

Col Chapman relieved the late BGen Robert H. Williams. While respecting the parade sequence with British influences developed by the 20th Commandant, Gen Shepherd, and further refined by then-Col Williams, Col Chapman decided in favor of the landing party manual, by-the-book drill and ceremony of the Fleet Marine Force. He instituted the changes incorporated into the evening parades witnessed by over 75,000 spectators this summer.

Col Chapman might have been expected to prefer traditional Marine Corps marching and drilling standards. While at Marine Barracks, Yokosuka, he "wanted to have my Marines and their Navy counterparts reflect a continuing pride in Corps and country by attesting

to that fact on the parade deck." Col Chapman's unusual, back-to-back barracks tours, in Yokosuka and Washington, are best explained by his own recollection: a few months before Gen Shepherd turned over command of the Corps to Gen Pate, Gen Shepherd spent a few days at the Yokosuka Barracks. During the visit the troops, Gen Chapman says, "put on the best parade and show they could muster for the Commandant." Later on, word filtered back to Yokosuka that Gen Shepherd had told his staff in Washington that "he had seen the finest parade of his career during his visit to the Far East," and meaning Col Chapman's parade. Gen Pate was a member of Gen Shepherd's staff.

As the new 8th and I commander, Col Chapman allowed the well-rehearsed afternoon parade sequence to

continue during the remainder of the 1956 season. However, during the cold winter months of 1956 and 1957, he set about reconsidering and redesigning the content and setting of the parade. His innovative idea of multiple lighting effects was supported fully by Gen Pate. In the fall of 1956, the Commandant accepted an invitation for Barracks Marines to participate in the internationally renowned searchlight tattoo to be held in Bermuda by units of the British Royal Marines. As Gen Chapman would later recollect, "the Commandant was most enthusiastic and encouraging about my ideas for a 1957 parade season held under the lights during hours of darkness."

Influencing and directing the Barracks staff in planning the new parade, Col Chapman insisted that it adhere strictly to regulations. It would be according to the book with, he said, "no tricks, frivolous theatrics, and the frequently seen Queen Anne salutes."

8th and I, the colonel believed, should set the standard for marching units and troop formations throughout the Corps. With the approval of Gen Pate, the parade was to be totally military in the most minute detail. "These guidelines I issued were the very reason for the parade . . . It was to be by the book . . . as we nurtured the process from planning to execution," Gen Chapman later recalled.

Mrs. Emily Walton Ford Chapman reflected recently on her husband's activities in 1956-57. "I remember the seemingly endless rehearsals, the long evenings under the lights . . . knowing of my husband's dedication to perfection . . . and the enthusiastic way he was supported by the Commandant and by members of his command . . . He was a determined man who knew that he was right in his task and he was dedicated to success."

During the years of Gen Shepherd's commandancy, the afternoon parade was held at an hour inconvenient for the public at large, Col Chapman believed. He wanted a more convenient time which would also take advantage of dramatic lighting and focus on the Barracks' special ceremonial proficiency.

"By the end of the first evening parade season, we knew we had made the right decision in changing the time . . . Cer-

Then-Col Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., sat for his portrait on 24 August 1956, the new commander of Marine Barracks, 8th & I, and about to refine the Sunset Parade into the "under the lights" Evening Parade drill sequence still presented today.





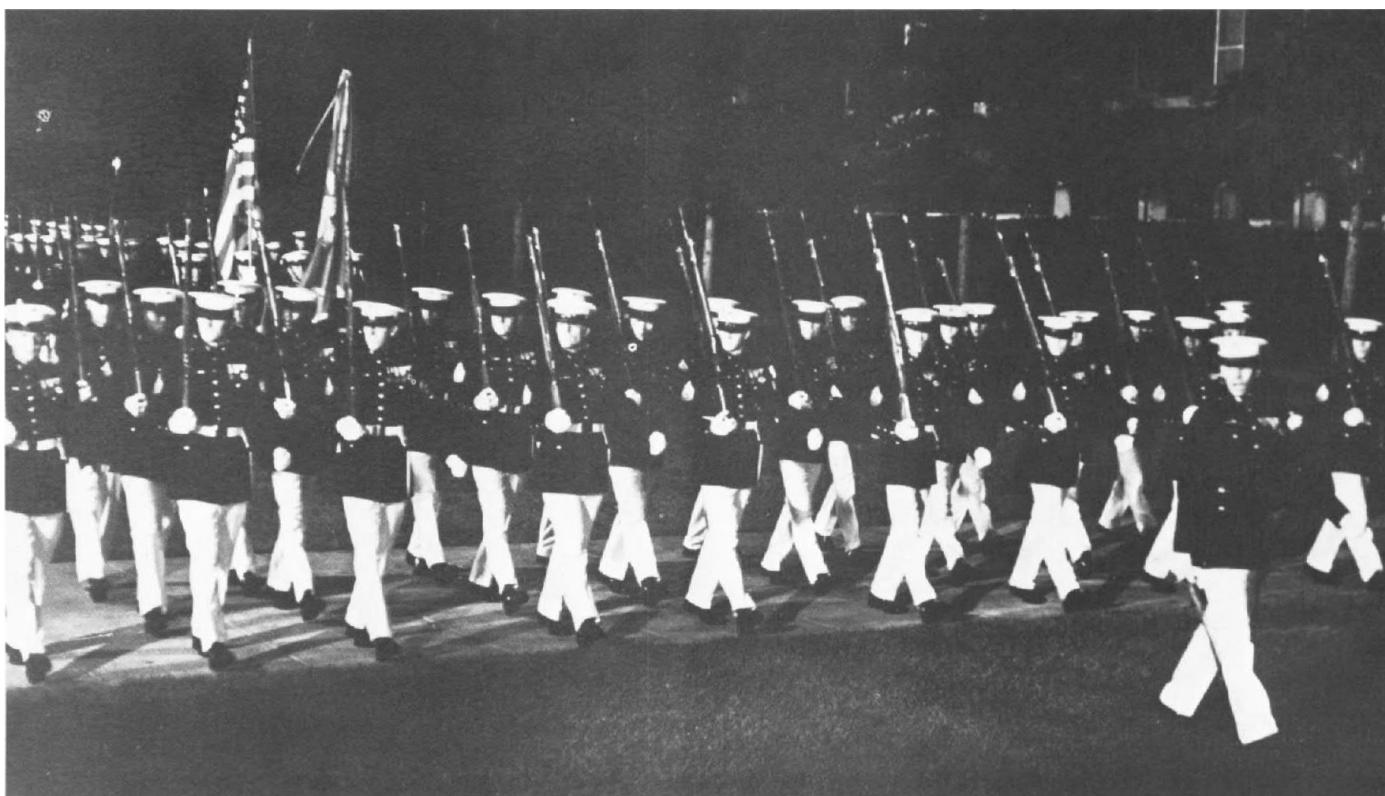
From left in the front row of spectators at the 8th & I parade ground, then-Col David M. Twomey discusses the 8 July 1971 Evening Parade with the 24th Commandant, Gen Chapman, as the 23d Commandant, Gen Greene, talks with Mrs. Chapman.

tainly in Gen Pate's eyes we were right . . . He loved it and he began bringing important people and friends of the

Corps with him regularly to the garden parties and to the parade," according to Gen Chapman. "We did not anticipate

Marines from one of the ceremonial companies of the 8th & I Barracks are caught by the spotlights of an August 1971 Evening Parade, in the nighttime spectacle which succeeded the af-

ternoon Sunset Parades of the years prior to 1957. Gen Chapman wanted participants in the parades, continued over the past 30 years, to "reflect a regulation Marine . . . a model Marine."



the numbers of people who would attend the evening parade . . . We had almost 4,000 people at the first evening parade . . . LtGen Karl S. Day, a retired Marine aviator and sort of an innovator in aviation for the Corps was our first reviewing official . . . I remember the date as July 5 of 1957 . . . We had a great evening . . . good for Corps and country . . . and it basically has been that way ever since . . . for almost thirty years."

During the two years that Col Chapman commanded the Barracks, changes in the parade were carried out gradually. Long months, weeks, days, and hours of rehearsal perfected routines and reflected the dedication of the parade-ground Marines.

In 1958 Col Chapman was selected for promotion to brigadier general and left the Barracks for duty at Camp Lejeune.

Ten years after relinquishing command of the Barracks, Gen Chapman was appointed the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The changes he initiated had remained the standard for Barracks ceremonial functions, except for continued refinement in parade proficiency and an occasional sequence

change. "Gen Shoup removed the buglers from the ramparts. Gen Greene put them back," Gen Chapman said.

The parade this summer honoring former Commandants has remained basically the same for nearly thirty years. According to Col Donald J. Myers, the current commanding officer of the Barracks, "I served here in the early 1970s as the operations officer. My return as commanding officer was to a post basically the same as it was 15 years ago. I see the improvement in the barracks as a reflection of the improved quality of Marines over the years. What Gen Chapman did during his tenure has changed little. It is time-proven."

Gen Chapman recently stated, "I have a belief that Marines should be regulation and of all places, Marine Barracks, 8th and I, should reflect a regulation Marine . . . doing things exactly as written down in the book . . . a model for all Marines . . . for visitors to be able to see what a regulation Marine should look like, act like." He said he wished ". . . to rid the post of all items of uniform and standards of drill that are non-regulation."

Gen Chapman, who in retirement resides in the Washington, D.C. area, continues to be a frequent visitor to Barracks ceremonial functions, along with the continuing appearance of Presidents, cabinet members, senators, representatives, court justices, and other distinguished military officers, who are attracted to one of the Nation's great patriotic spectacles.



Korea Veterans Stamp Adapts Marine Photo

The Korean War Veterans stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service on 26 July reproduces a pencil sketch by artist Robert Anderson, based on a photograph in the Marine Corps Art Collection.

The photograph was taken in 1950 by David Douglas Duncan as Marines trudged through a mountain pass on the march seaward from the Chosin Reservoir, after the intervention by Chinese Communist forces on 27 November.

Art Curator Maj John T. Dyer, Jr., USMCR (Ret), assisted Postal Service researchers early this year in reviewing the Center's collection of 101 Korean War studies by the famous photographer. With the photographer's con-

sent, the Center provided a number of glossy reproductions to the Postal Service.

"The stamp came as a surprise to me," Maj Dyer said, "I anticipated an engraving direct from the photo like the Iwo Jima and other commemorative World War II stamps."

The U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing produced the stamp in green and red by intaglio process. All lettering is in red with "Veterans Korea" printed in a single line centered at the top and "USA 22" at the lower right corner. "That's 19 cents more expensive than the stamp used when the action took place," Maj Dyer observed.

New Museum Shop Catalog Available

The Marine Corps Historical Foundation's Museum Shop at the Marine Corps Museum has a new catalog available in time for holiday shopping. Requests for the catalog with \$1.00, refundable with the first order, may be addressed to the Marine Corps Museum Shop, Building 58, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0580.

Answers to Historical Quiz: *World War II*

(Continued from page 12)

1. 485,000.
2. Gregory Boyington (28), Joseph J. Foss (26), and Robert M. Hanson (25).
3. MajGen Roy Geiger became Commanding General, Tenth Army on Okinawa upon the death of LtGen Simon Bolivar Buckner, Jr., USA, June 1945.
4. 81.
5. VMF-121, 208 enemy aircraft; VMF-221 was second with 185 aircraft.
6. Col David M. Shoup (Tarawa), MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift (Guadalcanal), and Capt Louis H. Wilson, Jr., (Guam).
7. Operation Olympic.
8. 2d and 5th Marine Divisions in Japan; 1st and 6th in North China.
9. The Navajo Code Talkers Program.
10. The 51st Composite Defense Battalion, Montford Point, North Carolina.

FLIGHT LINES

General Motors TBM-3 Avenger

The Avenger originated at the Grumman Aircraft factory in 1940 in response to a Navy requirement for an improved torpedo-bomber. Although the company had produced a number of successful carrier-based fighters, it was Grumman's first attempt to build that type of aircraft. The result of the effort was a mid-wing, single-engine mono-

plane, with a weapons bay large enough for a torpedo or 2,000-pound bomb, and a dorsal turret at the rear end of a long cockpit "glasshouse." In addition to a .50-caliber machine gun in the turret, there was a forward-firing .50-caliber machine gun in the engine cowl, and a .30-caliber machine gun in the aircraft's rear ventral tunnel.



Marines primarily operated the Avenger in the close air support role, but also used it to lay sea mines, attack surface vessels with torpedos, and depth-bomb submarines.

Technical Data

As depicted in bomber configuration with one 1,000-pound load in the TBM-3 airplane characteristics and performance chart issued 1 January 1944.

Manufacturer: General Motors Corporation, Eastern Aircraft Division, Trenton, New Jersey.

Type: Carrier-based torpedo-bomber.

Accommodation: Pilot and crew of two.

Power Plant: One 1,800-h.p. Wright R-2600-20.

Dimensions: Span, 54 ft., 2 in.; Length, 40 ft., 11 1/2 in.; Height 16 ft., 9 in.

Weights: Empty, 10,843 lbs.; Gross, 15,715 lbs.

Performance: Max. speed, 263 m.p.h. at 14,800 ft.; Service ceiling, 23,900 ft.; Range, 1,200 st. mi.; Climb at sea level, 1,160 ft. per min.

Armaments: Three .50-caliber machine guns; one .30-caliber machine gun; 2,000 lbs. bombs (max. internal); one MK 13-2 torpedo; four 325 lb. depth bombs.

Grumman's first production of the Avenger appeared in January 1942, and in March, General Motors Corporation was designated to establish a second source of Avengers at its Eastern Aircraft Division. Basic Avenger designations were TBF for aircraft built by Grumman and TBM for aircraft built by Eastern. The most important models of the Avenger series were the TBF-1 and TBM-1, the original configuration; the TBF-1C and TBM-1C, in which two .50-caliber wing-mounted guns replaced the cowl-mounted gun; and the TBM-3, which was equipped with the updated Wright R-2600-20 engine.

Marine Scout-Bomber Squadron 131 (VMSB-131), later redesignated Marine Torpedo-Bomber Squadron 131 (VMTB-131) to reflect its new torpedo-bomber mission, was the first Marine unit equipped with the Avenger. Arriving at Henderson Field in time to take part in the November 1942 naval Battle of Guadalcanal, VMSB-131 made its combat debut when four squadron TBFs participated in a torpedo attack on the Japanese battleship *Hiei*. This action, however, was the exception, as Marine TBFs and TBMs were primarily operated against land targets or used on anti-submarine patrols during the remainder of the war.

Major actions for land-based Marine Avenger squadrons included providing a significant amount of the airpower used to keep constant pressure on Japanese bases at New Georgia, Kolombangara, Bougainville, the Shortlands, and New Britain, as well as providing support for ground and naval forces at Guam, Tinian, Peleliu, and Okinawa. Additionally, in 1945 carrier-based Marine Avengers flew missions against Pagan, Rota, Borneo, and Okinawa.

The Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum's Avenger, a TBM-3 (bu. no. 85890), was obtained from the Georgia Forestry Service in 1971, and it was restored by the Marine Corps Aviation Association's Alfred A. Cunningham Squadron, located at Cherry Point, North Carolina. — FMB

Korean War Chronology

July-September 1950

Shortly before dawn on **25 June 1950**, seven infantry divisions and an armored division of the North Korean People's Army swept across the 38th Parallel into South Korea with two infantry divisions in reserve. Two days later U.S. air and naval forces were ordered into action as the United Nations invoked military sanctions against North Korea. General of the Army Douglas MacArthur established the General Headquarters, Advanced Command Group at Suwon under the command of BGen John H. Church, USA, to reorganize the demoralized Republic of Korea forces.

On **30 June**, President Harry S. Truman authorized Gen MacArthur to send certain supporting U.S. ground force units to Korea. An American naval blockade of the entire Korean coast was ordered, and Japan-based Air Force planes were authorized to bomb specific military targets north of the 38th Parallel. Gen MacArthur requested the immediate dispatch to Korea of a Marine Corps regimental combat team with its own air support. Subsequent to his request, the Joint Chiefs of Staff decided on **3 July** to send Marines with their air units to Korea. The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, under the command of BGen Edward A. Craig, and comprising about 7,000 Marines, prepared to ship out by sea from Camp Pendleton, California. Marine air units to be part of the brigade, under the command of BGen Thomas J. Cushman, prepared to depart from El Toro, California, where they were drawn from elements of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW).

The 1st Brigade sailed from San Diego on **12 July** for Pusan, and the advance echelon of the 1st MAW contingent departed for Tokyo by aircraft on **16 July**. Generals Craig and Cushman met with Gen MacArthur on **19 July**, and were apprised of his intention to land Marine forces at Inchon in September. While this strategy session was taking place, President Truman called the Organized Marine Corps Reserve to active duty.

By mid-July, the North Korean Army occupied nearly half of South Korea, and launched a major drive spearheaded by Russian-built tanks against American positions near Taejon. The severity of the situation was emphasized by a Commandant of the Marine Corps directive on **25 July** that the entire 1st Marine Division be brought to full war strength, and prepare to embark between **10 and 15 August** for duty in Korea. Marine aviation elements in the Far East were to be increased simultaneously from a single group to a wing.

The first elements of the 1st Brigade came ashore at Pusan on **2 August**. The following day, the first Marine aviation mission against the North Koreans was flown from the USS *Sicily* by eight Corsairs of VMF-214 in a raid against installations at Chinju and Saon-ni. This initial raid was followed three days later by a strike of Corsairs from VMF-323 on the *Badoeng Strait* against North Korean positions west of Chinju. The 1st



Men of the 1st Marine Provisional Brigade, above, boarded railway cars after landing at Pusan, Korea, on 2 August 1950. South Korean President Syngman Rhee, below, paid a visit to BGen Edward A. Craig, the Brigade's Commanding General, at the front on 27 August, attended the presentation of Purple Heart medals, and received a briefing on the combat situation.



Brigade, in the meanwhile, moved by truck and rail from Pusan to Changwon where it took up defensive positions astride the Changwon-Mason road.

From 7-10 August, Army and Marine units staged their first strong counterattack of the war just east of Chinju, when they drove the North Koreans back over 13 miles in bitter combat. On 12 August, Gen MacArthur, commander of all U.N. forces in Korea, announced that the combined Marine and Army counterattack had obtained its objective with the storming of enemy hill positions near Chinju. The combined Army and Marine force, known as "Task Force Kean," succeeded in turning back the North Korean threat to Pusan. The victorious, and fatigued, American forces enjoyed but a brief respite, however. On 13 August, a North Korean division succeeded in crossing the Naktong River near Obong-ni, thus threatening the American positions. Closing the resulting "Naktong Bulge" required the concerted effort of Gen Craig's brigade. The 5th Marines, commanded by LtCol Raymond L. Murray, made several assaults on North Korean positions before it succeeded in scaling the 1,000-foot "No-Name Ridge" on 17 August. An attempted North Korean counterattack failed to dislodge the Marines, and the defeated enemy units retreated back across the Naktong River.

In early September, North Korean ground forces began a new drive across the Naktong, assaulting 2d U.S. Infantry Division units. Once more, the 5th Marines counterattacked in force, and by 5 September had pushed back the enemy with heavy losses. At midnight on the same date, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was disengaged from active combat with North Korean forces, and went into reserve to prepare for the upcoming amphibious landing at Inchon.

Artillery of the 1st Marine Division prepares the way for a 5th Marines advance on 3 September 1950, in response to a second



PFC A. R. Jordan of Staten Island, New York, received a Purple Heart medal from BGen Craig during ceremonies attended by South Korean President Rhee, following the 1st Marine Provisional Brigade's strenuous closing of the "Naktong Bulge."

drive of North Korean ground forces across the Naktong River. The 1st Brigade was soon to go into reserve to assist at Inchon.



MCHF Aids Amphibious Warfare History Project

The Marine Corps Historical Foundation has approved a fellowship grant for Mr. David MacGregor, of the University of Rochester. His dissertation prospectus outlines an ambitious project that will primarily focus on the inter-war (WWI-WWII) developments in amphibious warfare.

Using a comparative approach, Mr. MacGregor will examine and discuss the doctrinal thinking that caused a significant change in the "war at sea" environment.

Mr. MacGregor's efforts to date are believed to be a fresh treatment of the subject.

As of 1 August, the Foundation has 997 members. Those who have joined since the listing in the summer issue of *Fortitudine* include:

MajGen Louis J. Conti, USMCR (Ret)
LtCol Richard J. Alger, USMC (Ret)
Col Herbert F. Chabysek, Jr., USMCR (Ret)
Col Joe B. Griffith, Jr., USMC (Ret)
CWO-3 Joseph C. Dawidziak, USMCR
Maj Thomas E. Chuck, USMCR
Mr. John W. Gardner
Mr. Thomas W. Crowder
Maj James J. Davies, USMCR
Maj Charles W. Camperman, USMC (Ret)
Mr. John Hancock
Mrs. Beverly J. Rose

MajGen C. Dean Sangalis, USMCR
Mr. C. Landon Fallin
Maj Donna J. Neary, USMCR
2dLt Michael C. Kirby, USMC
Col Russell J. Braden, USMCR (Ret)
GySgt Robert J. Roche, USMC (Ret)
LtCol Helen G. O'Neill, USMCR (Ret)
LtCol Donald W. Carlson, USMCR
LtCol Susan R. Malone, USMCR
Mr. Vaden L. Cobb
LtCol William O. Karcher, USMCR (Ret)
Mr. Percy R. Pyne, III
LtCol R. G. Kissling, USMC (Ret)
CWO4 Charles A. Holmes, USMC (Ret)
Mr. C. S. Hartley
Mr. Frank S. Craig, Jr.
Mr. Frederick P. Cole
MSgt Jill A. Rupinski, USMCR
Mr. A. Z. Freeman
Mr. Pete Haas
Mr. Richard Harwood
CWO3 Richard P. Douglas, USMCR
Mrs. Landon K. Thorne, Jr.
Col Stanley D. Low

Inquiries about the Foundation's activities may be sent to the office at the Historical Center or calls can be made to (202) 433-3914.