

FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XIX

SUMMER 1989

NUMBER 1



HOW DID AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE COMMANDERS RATE MAJGEN JOHN A. LEJEUNE'S PERFORMANCE IN WORLD WAR I? . . . COLT .45 PISTOL MISSING FROM MARINE ARSENALS AFTER 77 YEARS . . . VOLUNTEERS, INTERNS BOOST HISTORICAL EFFORT . . . SEEKING FATE OF NINE RAIDERS LOST IN MAKIN ISLAND ATTACK

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

PCN 10401220100



HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION

Marine Corps Historical Center
Building 58, Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374-0580
Telephone: (202) 433-3838, 433-3840, 433-3841

DIRECTOR

BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret)

Secretary to the Director: Vacant. Secretary to the Deputy Directors/Chief Historian: Ms. Jeanette R. Pelton.

HISTORICAL BRANCH

Col Daniel M. Smith, USMC
Deputy Director for History

Mr. Henry I. Shaw, Jr.

Assistant Deputy Director for History
Chief Historian

Histories Section: Mr. Jack Shulimson; Maj George R. Dunham, USMC; Maj Charles D. Melson, USMC; Mr. Charles R. Smith. *Reference Section:* Mr. Danny J. Crawford; Mr. Robert V. Aquilina; Mrs. Ann A. Ferrante; Miss Lena M. Kaljot; Mrs. Regina Strother; Mrs. Shelia Gramblin. *Oral History Section:* Mr. Benis M. Frank; Mrs. Meredith P. Hartley. *Archives:* Mrs. Joyce E. Bonnett; Ms. Joyce C. Conyers; Sgt Kevin L. Parker, USMC.

MUSEUMS BRANCH

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

Mr. Charles A. Wood
Chief Curator

Artist-in-Residence

Col Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR

Marine Barracks, Special Projects: Mr. Richard A. Long. *Exhibits:* Ms. Nancy E. Christin; Mr. Benny L. Lenox, Sr.; SSgt Leroy M. Dyas, USMC. *Art:* Mr. John T. Dyer, Jr. *Personal Papers:* Mr. J. Michael Miller. *Registrar:* Miss Jennifer L. Gooding. *Administrative Clerk:* Vacant.

Museums Branch Activities, Quantico

LtCol William A. Beebe II, USMC
Assistant Deputy Director for Museums
Officer-in-Charge

Assistant Officer-in-Charge for Branch Activities: Mr. Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas. *Education Officer:* Capt Cardell N. Parker, USMC. *Ordnance:* Mr. John G. Griffiths; SSgt Donald C. Martens, USMC. *Restoration:* Mr. Joseph E. Payton; Mr. Stanley M. Sokolowski; Sgt James L. Arnold, USMC; Sgt Raymond E. Kirsey, USMC; Cpl Leonard G. DeWolfe, USMC; LCpl Barry T. Goldsborough, USMC. *Aeronautics:* Vacant. *Exhibits:* Mr. Ronald J. Perkins; Mr. Frank D. Howard. *Uniforms:* Mrs. Nancy F. King. *Programs Assistant:* Mrs. Kathryn R. Trout. *Security:* GySgt William P. Graybill, USMC; SSgt Mark Heather-ton, USMC; Sgt Fredrick A. Harrid II, USMC; Sgt Agustin A. Sarmiento, USMC; Sgt Matthew L. Dula, USMC; Sgt Ivan Vasilev, USMC; Cpl Rodney W. Wegher, USMC; Cpl David A. Novelli, USMC.

SUPPORT BRANCH

Maj Richard A. Clute, USMC
Head/Division Executive Officer

Administrative: Capt John B. Dickson, Jr., USMC; SSgt Bobby Holmes, USMC; Cpl Robert E. Clarke, USMC; LCpl Kimberly L. Toyekoyah, USMC. *Security:* SSgt Randy Shouse, USMC. *Library:* Miss Evelyn A. Englander; Mrs. Patricia E. Morgan.

Publications Production: Mr. Robert E. Struder. *Production:* Mrs. Catherine A. Kerns. *Graphics:* Mr. William S. Hill. *Typesetting:* Cpl Andre L. Owens III, USMC.

Editor, *Fortitudine*
Mr. Robert E. Struder

FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Volume XIX

Summer 1989

No. 1

This quarterly bulletin of the Marine Corps historical program is published to educate and train Marines on active duty in the uses of military and Marine Corps history. Other interested readers may purchase single copies or one-year subscriptions (four quarterly issues) from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Memorandum from the Director: Lejeune's Bad Fitness Report</i>	3
Seven Publications in 18 Months	7
<i>Acquisitions: 19th Century Papers Give Look at Early Corps' Affairs</i>	9
<i>Readers Always Write: Wives Have Contributions to Make to Corps' History</i>	10
Colt .45 Leaves the Corps After 77 Years	11
Interns and Volunteers Gain Experience Over Summer	13
Student Interns, 1988-1989	14
<i>Oral History Report: Volunteers Assist with Generals' Oral History Interviews</i>	15
The Korean War's 'Fighting' 1st Provisional Historical Platoon	17
<i>Historical Quiz: Marines in Europe</i>	19
Extracts of Corps' 1988 Chronology	20
<i>Answers to Historical Quiz: Marines in Europe</i>	21
Who was Left Behind on Makin?	22
Tarawa Historical Display Enhances 2d Division HQ	23
Waterhouse Paints Lively, Colorful Panama Action	24

THE COVER

Among a fine set of photographs loaned to *Fortitudine* by the Army's Center of Military History to accompany "Memorandum from the Director" in this issue was this view of smiling Marine MajGen John A. Lejeune, right, Commanding General, 2d Division, AEF, and Army MajGen Charles P. Summerall, Commanding General, V Corps, AEF, both on a post-Armistice visit to the 5th Marine Brigade at Pontanezen, France, on 18 June 1919. Their host, of course, was Marine BGen Smedley D. Butler, at center.

Fortitudine is produced in the Publications Production Section of the History and Museums Division. The text for *Fortitudine* is set in 10-point and 8-point Garamond typeface. Headlines are in 18-point or 24-point Garamond. The bulletin is printed on 70-pound, matte-coated paper by offset lithography.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.



BGen Simmons

Lejeune's Bad Fitness Report

Lejeune's bad fitness report—I had heard rumors of it before; I think for the first time many years ago from the late Col Robert D. Heinl, Jr., who liked nothing better than to exacerbate Army-Marine Corps differences. Then last year we published the register that LtCol Merrill L. ("Skip") Bartlett had done of the Lejeune papers (*John Archer Lejeune, 1869-1942, Register of His Personal Papers*).

In the Preface, Skip dangled this bit of bait:

"Materials critical of Lejeune's professional performance can be found at the National Archives, yet researchers have chosen to ignore their existence. The scathing letter of admonition that Lejeune received from Brigadier General Commandant Charles Heywood in 1893 can be

located easily, as well as the critical and unflattering fitness report written on him by Lieutenant General Charles G.[sic] Summerall in 1918."

The bait attracted several inquiries as to the nature of the bad fitness report. Personally, I bristled at the thought of Gen Charles P. Summerall, a corps commander not well loved by the men of the 4th Marine Brigade, giving my hero, "the greatest Leatherneck of them all," as commanding general of the 2d U.S. Infantry Division, a less than superb fitness report. Could it have had something to do with that last night of the war, that attack insisted upon by Summerall, the costly crossing of the Meuse by the 5th Marines even though it was known at higher levels that an Armistice was almost a certainty? There was much bitterness in the 4th Brigade as a

result. Did some of this rub off in the relations between Summerall and Lejeune?

Summerall was a West Pointer, Class of 1892. He made his reputation as an artillery brigade commander in the 1st U.S. Division at Cantigny in May 1918 and moved up to command of the division in July, leading it at both Soissons and St. Mihiel. He was given command of V Corps in late September.

Lejeune, it will be remembered, received command of the 2d Division in late July 1918. The division had to be rebuilt after the losses suffered at Soissons but it was combat-ready again in time for the pinching out of the St. Mihiel salient in mid-September. It was then moved over under the French Fourth Army for opening moves of the final offensive of the war,

MajGen John A. Lejeune's "marking senior" for the Meuse-Argonne Campaign was Army MajGen Charles P. Summerall,

commanding V Corps, seen here, left front, at Pouilly, France, in November 1918. Summerall was a West Pointer, Class of 1892.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Center of Military History



getting off to a spectacular and bloody start with the taking of Blanc Mont (and it was *Blanc* Mont, not *Mont* Blanc as some second-guessing modern-day writers would have it) in early October. After Blanc Mont, the division returned to American control, being placed under Summerall's V Corps for its share of the Meuse-Argonne.

Lejeune in his *Reminiscences of a Marine* tells of receiving the attack order at V Corps headquarters from Summerall. During the previous two weeks the corps had made only small gains. Summerall pointedly remarked that it had been necessary to relieve several commanders from frontline duty. The 2d Division was, in Summerall's words, to be "the point of the wedge" of the renewed offensive. The plan called for a D-day advance by the 2d Division of nine kilometers and including the Brunhilde and Freya Stellung strongpoints in the Hindenberg Line. Summerall and Lejeune together visited all 12 battalions of the two infantry brigades (3d Army and 4th Marine) of the division with Summerall hammering home the point that a successful assault would push the Germans across the Meuse.

The 2d Division jumped off on 1 November on a two-kilometer front, going through the Germans like a knife, and taking all objectives. Summerall congratulated Lejeune by telephone, followed by a letter dated 2 November which says in part:

The Division's brilliant advance of more than nine kilometers, destroying the last stronghold on the Hindenburg line, capturing the Freya Stellung, and going more than nine kilometers against not only the permanent, but relieving forces in their front, may justly be regarded as one of the most remarkable achievements made by any troops in this war.

On 4/5 November the division fought its way forward to the Meuse. At daylight patrols were pushed up and down the near bank searching for crossings. Next day, 6 November, Summerall visited Lejeune's headquarters and gave him verbal orders to be prepared to march to Sedan. These orders were later cancelled and the 2d Di-

vision was ordered to hold its sector along the west bank of the Meuse with the 77th U.S. Division on its right and the 89th U.S. Division on its left. On the evening of the 7th, V Corps issued orders for the 89th and 2d Divisions to be prepared to cross the river and seize the heights on the east bank. Next evening the division commanders met with Summerall. Lejeune reported that his reconnaissances showed the east bank in front of his division to be strongly held with many machine guns and very active artillery. He recommended a flanking attack by the 90th Division. Covered by this the 89th, 2d, and 77th Divisions could cross in turn and roll up the German defenses. Summerall said he would take this recommendation under advisement, but Lejeune, on returning to his own headquarters, found orders that the 89th and 2d Divisions would cross simultaneously on the night of 10/11 November.

Nagging at Lejeune was the realization that his Marines and doughboys knew that the Armistice was about to be signed. He prayed that the crossing would be called off, but it was not.

As Lejeune wrote later in an order published to the division:

On the night of November 10th, heroic deeds were done by heroic men. In the face of a heavy artillery and withering machine gun fire, the Second Engineers threw two footbridges across the Meuse and the First and Second Battalions of the Fifth Marines crossed resolutely and unflinchingly to the east bank and carried out their mission.

By 11 o'clock, the time of the Armistice, the two battalions of the 5th Marines, with the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry in support, had linked up with elements of the 89th Division which had also crossed. (See also MajGen Samuel C. Cumming, "The Last Night of the War," *Fortitudine*, Spring 1980.)

Lejeune, in a letter home on the 11th, said, "Last night we fought our last battle. . . . To me it was pitiful for men to go to their death on the evening of peace."

Next came the march to the Rhine. Gen Summerall detached the division with a commendation:

Especially I desire to commend the division for the crowning feat of its advance in crossing the Meuse River in face of heavy concentrated enemy machine gun fire, and in driving the enemy's troops before it, and in firmly establishing itself upon the heights covering the desired bridgehead. This feat will stand among the most memorable of the campaign.

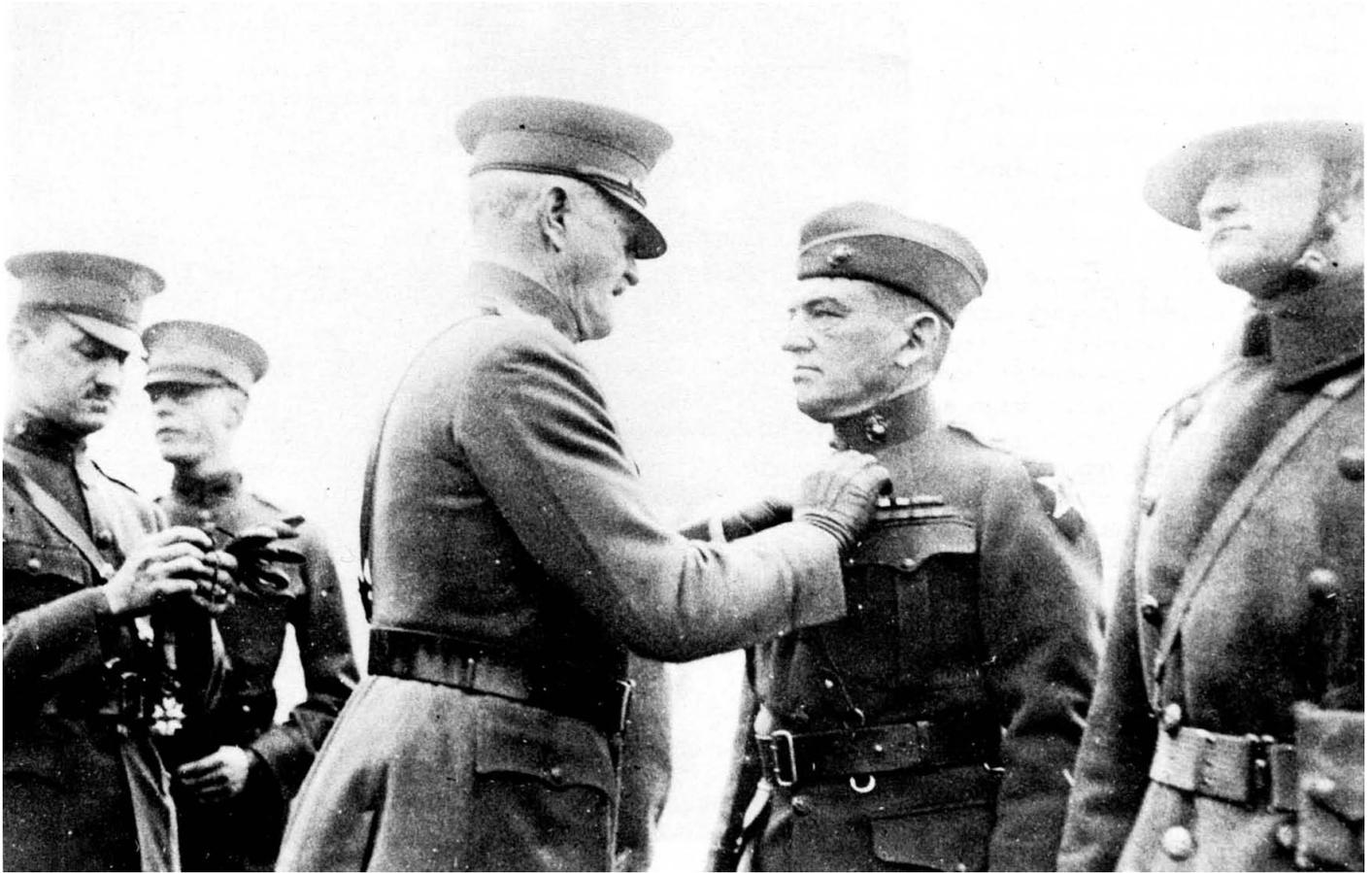
The division was now assigned to the III Corps. The march was to begin on 17 November. Horses and men alike were worn out from the long campaign and hard fighting. Thousands of men were sick with something which seems to have been intestinal flu. As Lejeune wrote later, "The march was conducted as though a state of war existed, with flank and advance guards while marching, and with outposts established whenever halted for the night."

Lejeune spent the 17th on the road, watching his division march past, "Each infantryman carried his field kit and clothing roll, and in addition a belt and two bandoliers of ammunition, rifle or Browning automatic, steel helmet, gas mask, overcoat, etc., a total of seventy-five or eighty pounds. The men were still below par physically, and many suffered from sore and blistered feet caused by the English shoes which had been issued them after the Armistice."

The route to the Rhine took the 2d Division through Belgium and Luxembourg. On 13 December the Allied Armies crossed the Rhine, ceremoniously establishing three bridgeheads, with the British at Cologne, the French and Americans at Coblenz, and the French at Mainz. The 2d Division was assigned a sector along the Rhine that included a number of towns. Lejeune's billeting officer found a large country house outside of Heddesdorf for Lejeune and his personal staff.

What then were the fitness reports that Lejeune received for this period?

A researcher was sent to the National Archives to investigate, without any great degree of success, the file of American Expeditionary Forces confidential fitness reports. Working through Lejeune's personnel records proved more rewarding. The fitness report forms are not very differ-



Gen John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, center left, rated Lejeune, center right, "Excellent," and commented, "Should be glad to have him" for future service, in fitness reports not much different from today's.

ent from what we use today. The range of possible markings was:

Favorable	
Excellent	4.0 to 3.5
Very good	3.5 to 3.0
Good	3.0 to 2.5
Unfavorable	
Indifferent	2.5 to 2.0
Poor	2.0 to 1.0
Bad	1.0 to 0.0

There was no provision for that favorite of today's reporting seniors, "Outstanding."

For the period 28 July through 30 September, while in command of the 2d U.S. Division, he received straight "Excellents" without elaboration, except for a "Should be glad to have him" as to future service in peace or war, from his reporting senior who was General John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief.

The report for the crucial period, 1 October through 16 November, came not from his corps commander, Summerall,

but from LtGen Hunter Liggett, commanding the First Army. Liggett found him "Excellent" in almost every aspect, with small mark downs in "Efficiency of personnel" and "Efficiency of material" and a "Very good" in "Military appearance and manner." Liggett described his "General temperament" as "Calm & even tempered."

A third report covers the period 17 November 1918 through 31 March 1919. MajGen John L. Hines, then commanding the III Corps, was the reporting senior. He was not a particularly generous marker. Lejeune "Commanded 2d Division during entire period in a very satisfactory manner." Lejeune's general temperament was "Calm, even tempered, active and painstaking. Not particularly forceful but by no means weak." Lejeune was recommended for "Command of troops appropriate to his rank." Most of the specific markings are "Very good" with some "Excellents" at the low end of the scale (3.5).

The next report, for the period 1 April to 12 July 1919, completes Lejeune's service with the AEF and is by LtGen Hunter Liggett once again. As compared to the

previous terse reports, Gen Liggett, Commanding Third Army, is positively effusive. Unfortunately his handwriting is not all that clear. What he seems to say is "I regard the perf. of Gen Lejeune & his Division as exceptional—at St Mihiel and in the Meuse Argonne operations—Exceptional in the ability displayed by the 2d Division & its commander. During the duty of the 2d Div. with the Army [of Occupation] the Division was at all times well trained, well disciplined & well equipped." All the markings are "Excellent" except "Military appearance and manner" which is 3.5, the equivalent of a high "Very good" or low "Excellent."

Then there is a curious concurrent or overlapping report from Gen Summerall for the period 23 October to 14 November. There is a typed comment as to duty in the field and in war which reads:

His Division was in the front line of the 5th Corps during the assault on the Kriemhilde-Stellung and the subsequent advance to the east of the Meuse

River, including the operation of forcing a crossing of the River on the night of November 10th. He executed every mission with conspicuous ability and loyalty and the performance of the Division under his command may be classed as brilliant.

All the specific markings are: "Excellent" at the 4.0 level. Lejeune's general temperament is described as "Self-possessed, calm and even-tempered." Gen Summerall "would especially desire to have him" in time of peace or war.

Hardly a bad fitness report.

But wait. There is something odd about the report. The period of the report, entered in Lejeune's handwriting, is "Oct 23, 1919 to Nov 14, 1919." The typed signature block at the end of the report reads:

C. P. SUMMERALL

Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding First Division, formerly
Commanding 5th Army Corps.

So quite obviously this report was prepared some time well after the period. Unfortunately the fitness report forms of those days did not provide for a dating of when the report was accomplished.

Was there a correction of the records? Did this report perhaps replace an earlier, less satisfactory report that Summerall might have rendered?

We have to look to Lejeune's correspondence file, as carefully cataloged by LtCol Bartlett, for clues.

On 22 November 1918, BGen Malin Craig, Chief of Staff, Third Army, sent a rocket to Commanding General, III Corps (Hines) which said inter alia:

Specifically the 2nd Division has been particularly an eyesore of the Third Army throughout the entire march. The Divisional Ammunition Train seems to have practically no order discipline. The officers do not supervise the march of the column. Intervals prescribed are not kept and the vehicles march in the middle of the road. The horses are not groomed at all, or are improperly groomed and harness not cleaned and oiled. . . .

The straggling and unshaven,

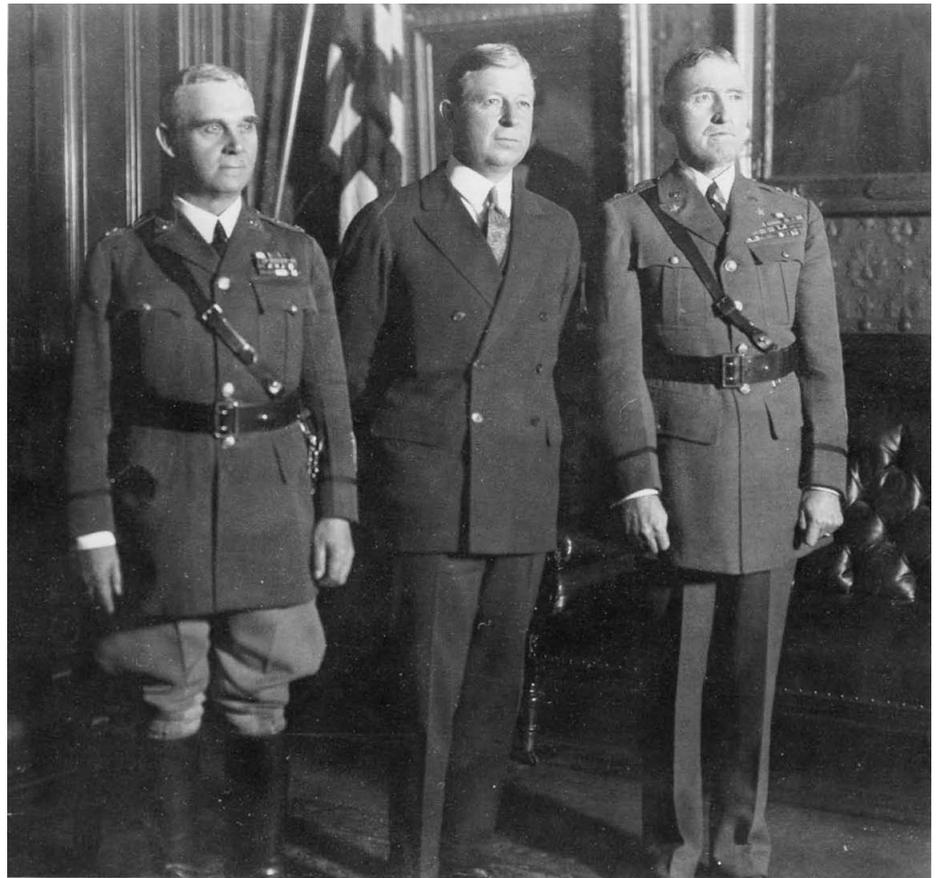


Photo courtesy of U.S. Army Center of Military History
MajGens Charles P. Summerall, left, and John L. Hines, right, posed in November 1926 with Secretary of War Dwight F. Davis. As corps commanders, both wrote lengthy comments on Lejeune's performance. Hines found him calm and painstaking.

unkempt appearance of elements of the 9th and 23d Infantry constantly directs unfavorable attention.

Hines' chief of staff shot the rocket through to Lejeune with a "For his information and guidance" first endorsement. Lejeune sent the rocket careening back to Third Army by way of III Corps with a second endorsement demanding that "the characteristic of the Second Division as an 'eyesore of the Third Army' be withdrawn," noting that with the exception of the past three weeks, ". . . the 2nd Division has fought, marched, moved by rail or camion, and bivouacked in the woods continuously since March 15th, last. It has fought five pitched battles, always defeating the enemy, and has rendered service of incalculable value to the allied cause." He went on to state ". . . in explanation of the present appearance of the Division, that it left the battlefield for this march without being refitted with clothing or equipment, and that practically all the men are now wearing the same uniforms that they wore in the battles in the Cham-

pagne district and in the recent American offensive."

By the end of the year the 2d Division was being showered with honors. There was a flowery commendation from Gen Henri Gouraud, Commandant of the 4th Army and Marshal of France, for the division's performance at Blanc Mont. When the 1st U.S. Division (the "Big Red One") got a General Headquarters citation, Lejeune felt slighted and asked for equal treatment for the 2d Division. Gen Summerall not only backed his complaint but asked Lejeune to send him "a draft of a citation, which you think will do justice to the division." Said Summerall:

I feel profoundly grateful to the division for its superb response to the great demands that it became necessary to make upon it during the operations of the 5th Army Corps. It is deserving of every possible honor and of the lasting gratitude of the American people.

So what can we make of all this? Was there a bad fitness report and did it

come from Summerall? Probably not in both cases. World War I commanders were not as hyperbolic in their markings as present-day commanders, but only Hines' report on Lejeune can be considered marginal. The restrained markings were probably the consequence of the "eyesore" charges of the Third Army HQ. Certainly Summerall, whatever his other faults might have been, always seems to have been generous in his praise of Lejeune and the 2d Division. It is not even fair to lay the blame for the night crossing of the Meuse on Summerall (and the very fact that he continually singles out that operation for praise and attention is in itself a kind of apology). As Lejeune makes clear in his *Reminiscences* the orders had come

The writer is appreciative of the help of Paul W. Hallam, formerly of the Personal Papers Section, and Robert V. Aquilina of the Reference Section in the research underlying this piece.

from the top. Marshal Foch on 9 November had sent a telegram to the commanders of each of the Allied armies:

The enemy, disorganized by our repeated attacks, retreats along the entire front.

It is important to coordinate and expedite our movements.

I appeal to the energy and the initiative of the Commanders-in-Chief and of their Armies to make decisive the results obtained.

Pershing ordered his First and Second Armies to press forward. The Second Army ordered the Fifth Corps to press forward and so it was that Pershing was able to report:

The Fifth Corps in the First Army forced a crossing of the Meuse east of Beaumont, and gained the commanding heights within the reentrant of the river, thus completing our control of the Meuse River line.

Undoubtedly it diagrammed very neatly on the situation map back at GHQ.

Fortitudine readers can be expected to know that John A. Lejeune went on to be the Major General Commandant (1920-1929) and on retirement became the Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, a post he held until 1937 when he was 70. In February 1942, long on the retired list, he received a well-deserved promotion to lieutenant general and died in November of that year. (The writer had the honor of marching in his funeral procession which also included a battalion of soldiers in recognition of his wartime command of the 2d U.S. Division.)

But readers of *Fortitudine* may not know that Charles P. Summerall, in a nice bit of parallelism, went on to be Chief of Staff, U.S. Army (1926-1930), and after retirement became President of The Citadel at Charleston, holding that post until 1953 when he was 86 years old. He died in 1955. □1775□

Seven Publications in 18 Months

Henry I. Shaw, Jr.
Chief Historian

Two new histories, one of a famous squadron, the Silver Eagles of VMFA-115, and the other the sixth in the Vietnam operational histories series were published by the History and Museums Division and printed and sold by the Government Printing Office in the past year. In addition, several titles were added to the list of occasional papers, original publications and reproductions of significant papers, which have both a limited publication run of a few hundred copies and a restricted non-historical-buff audience, primarily closely involved individuals, research activities, and military institutional libraries.

John C. Chapin, a retired Marine Reserve captain and a Marine Corps Historical Foundation charter member, was the author of *A History of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115*. Aided in part by a research grant from the Foundation which helped cover expenses, Capt Chapin devoted three years of volunteer effort to the research and writing of the squadron's story.

VMFA-115 began life as a fighter outfit in June 1943 at Santa Barbara. In July its first Corsairs arrived, not long after Maj Joseph J. Foss, leading Marine Corps ace and recipient of the Medal of Honor, took command. Foss led the squadron overseas in February 1944 and it began its first combat flights from the new airfield on Emirau Island in the St. Matthias group in May. Used in a variety of fighter roles, particularly fighter-bomber missions, the squadron moved on with the fighting from the New Britain area to the Philippines and finished out the war in support of Army operations.

Moving on to China after the war, VMFA-115 followed the flow of Marine Corps operations and saw duty in the Caribbean and Japan, combat in Korea, duty at both east and west coast air stations, combat in Vietnam for four tours, and duty in Thailand and on board ship in the Mediterranean. Now equipped with F/A-18 Hornets, the squadron is a part of MAG-31, 2d MAW. The Hornets are the

fifteenth aircraft flown by the veteran fighter-attack unit.

Based in large part on official records, the history also relies heavily on the recollections of men who served in its ranks. The 89-page soft-cover book is heavily illustrated and includes maps, footnotes, and appendices. It has been distributed to Marine Corps and library addresses and is available for individual purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, at a cost of \$6.00 (Order No. 008-055-00174-9).

Initially available only in a hard-cover edition complete with dust jacket (a soft-cover edition for Marine Corps distribution is currently being printed and should be available for requisition in November), the 1969 Vietnam volume is also available for public sale by GPO (Order No. 008-055-00175-7). In this case its \$21.00 price is justified by its 403 coated paper pages, which include many photo, map, and chart illustrations as well as extensive

notes and appendices. The latter encompasses a battalion-level command and staff list for all of 1969, a glossary of terms used, a chronology, all 1969 Marine Corps Medal of Honor citations, January and December status of forces lists for FMFPac, and a list of reviewers.

As with all Vietnam operational volumes, and most other History and Museum Division in-house publications, the contributions of the reviewers, all participants in the events described, are crucial to the value of the history both as an official reference source and as a readable story. *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Visibility and Standdown, 1969* is essentially the story of the beginning of the reduction of Marine combat presence in Vietnam, which was conducted amidst heavy fighting. By the end of the year, the 3d Marine Division, part of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and a corresponding slice of service and support troops had left Vietnam for Okinawa, Japan, and the States. Like its predecessors, this Vietnam volume is primarily a ground-oriented narrative which ranges across the whole spectrum of Marine military, pacification, and support activities with separate chapters and sections treating the contribution of Marine aviators, logisticians, artillerymen, advisors, and landing forces. Also as its predecessors in the series, the 1969 volume covers the activities of U.S. Army and ARVN units serving in I Corps as they impacted on Marine operations.

The author of the 1969 volume, Charles R. Smith, is a veteran Marine historian, a

member of the History and Museums Division since 1971, with degrees in history from the University of California and San Diego State. He served himself in Vietnam in 1968-69 as a member of the 101st Airborne Division. Notable among his other publications with the division is *Marines in the Revolution: A History of Continental Marines in the American Revolution, 1775-1783*.

Since the last notice of occasional paper publications in *Fortitudine* (Winter 1987-88, p. 16), the promised memoir by BGen Kessler of his Wake Island and POW experiences and Col Angus MacDonald's Korean Marine POW thesis have been reproduced. The year 1988 also saw the publication in limited editions of two significant registers of personal papers of former Commandants and a study of the changes in the curriculum at the Command and Staff college over the past seven decades.

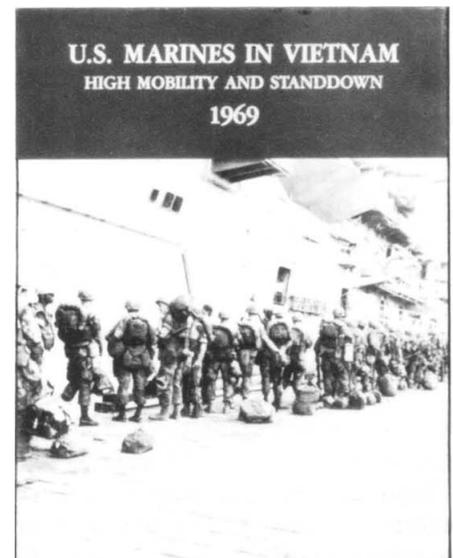
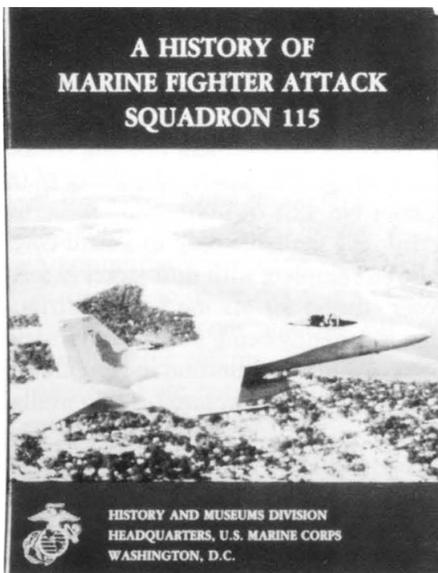
LtCol Merrill L. Bartlett, USMC (Ret), a frequent writer on Marine Corps historical topics, compiled a register of the John Archer Lejeune papers held by the History and Museums Division in the course of his research for a full-length biography of Gen Lejeune. Bartlett's 119-page typescript manuscript is considerably smaller than Dr. Gibson B. Smith's 229-page typeset register of the division's holdings from Gen Thomas Holcomb's papers. Dr. Gibson's opus, which is quite detailed, similarly represents his preliminary work toward a planned biography of the World War II CMC. Both compilers were helped with expenses by historical research grants during the course of their extensive studies. The division felt that the publication of these occasional papers was very important to Marine Corps history and that the material should be made available to research facilities, but the cost of general publication was not justifiable. It is expected that all such registers of personal papers will see publication as occasional papers in the future.

The story of curriculum evolution since 1920 at the C&S College was developed by LtCol Donald F. Bittner, the resident military historian on the College's staff, as the result of a requirement laid on the Marine Corps by a Congressional subcommittee investigating the historical

content of senior service schools' curricula. LtCol Bittner's resulting study, done in timely fashion, was of such usefulness that the division felt it should be reproduced and distributed to other military school research facilities. The study is a first of its type in the occasional paper series, but one that demonstrates the scope and flexibility of the concept.

Also a first of its type and selected for its unique subject matter is an occasional paper reproduced in 1989 which deals with Marines in World War II's OSS in Europe. Originally written in 1978-79 as a prize-winning C&SC student research and writing effort by then-Maj Robert E. Mattingly, the paper was reproduced as it was submitted, including exclusive documentation of Marine involvement in developing the concept of what is now known as special operations but which then hid behind a variety of titles. Not only is Mattingly's paper well and usefully documented, it is also very well written—"reads like an adventure novel"—and it should find a ready audience in the intelligence agency libraries to which it was originally sent. Now a lieutenant colonel retired and a member of the State Department's Foreign Service, Mattingly maintains an interest in the exploits of Marines on special, intelligence-type assignments in World War II and it is hoped he will continue his work to include the tales of Marines in the Pacific Theater (China-Burma-India in particular), a subject he had no time to pursue when he was a deadline-harassed student at Quantico.

□1775□



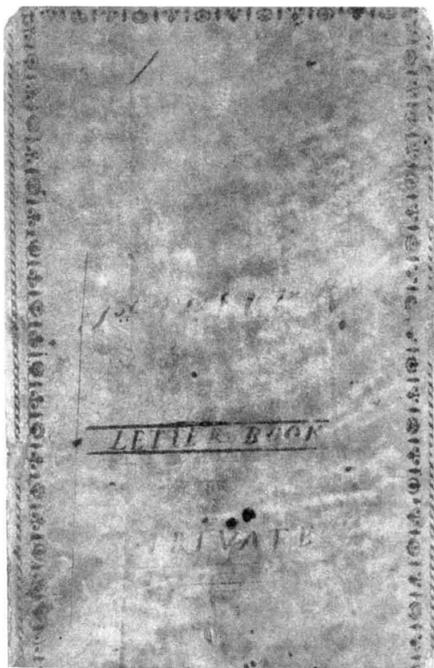
Acquisitions

19th Century Papers Give Look at Early Corps' Affairs

by Jennifer L. Gooding
Registrar

A 174-year-old book of letters kept by LtCol Robert Dewar Wainwright, USMC (1781-1841), which contains copies of all of his correspondence written as a captain from 10 August 1815 to April 1821, has been purchased by the Marine Corps Museum. Then-Capt Wainwright wrote letters from his post as commander of Marine Barracks, Charlestown Navy Yard, to such notable personages as the third, fourth, and fifth Commandants, LtCols Franklin Wharton, Anthony Gale, and Archibald Henderson; the Yard's Commandant, Navy Capt Isaac Hull; and the Corps' Adjutant and Inspector, Maj Samuel Miller.

The letters provide information and insight into numerous other Marine Corps and military figures of the day. The letters describe normal events and occurrences within Wainwright's command, such as discharges, payrolls, commissions, desertions, and misconduct charges, as well as repairs to the barracks and living quarters and distribution of guards for the LtCol Wainwright's letterbook has copies of his correspondence from August 1815 to April 1821, including discharges, payrolls, desertions, and misconduct charges.



frigates *Macedonian*, *Independence*, and *Guerriere*. The letter book is in fragile condition and has been accessioned into the Museum's Personal Papers Collection, where it will be conserved and cared for.

Another addition to the Personal Papers Collection was donated by former Marine William H. Greer, Jr., of Washington, D.C. Mr. Greer donated two letters, one of which is an original, written and signed by LtColComdt Archibald Henderson on 8 January 1821, to Senator H. Johnson, recommending "Mr. Hanna" for an appointment in the Marine Corps (Examination of the Navy Register covering 1821 to 1825 shows no "Mr. Hanna" or variation of that name as having joined the Marine Corps.).

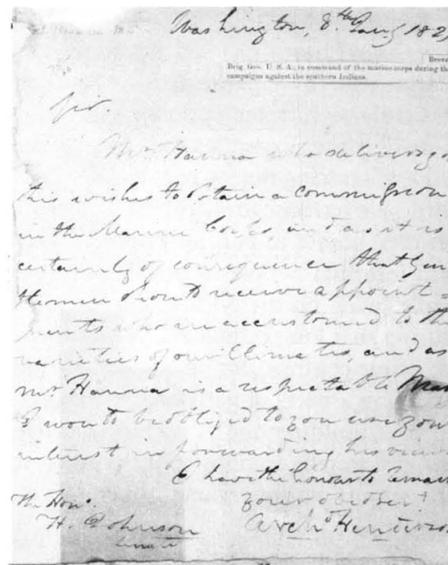
Mr. Greer's other donation was a original letter dated 16 March 1782 from a Mr. Joseph H. Harrison addressed simply to "Sir," and concerning the delivery of a hogshead of tobacco at the "Quantico Warehouse" which was to be applied towards payment of his debt.

LtCol Wainwright's book of letters and the letter to Senator Johnson from LtColComdt Henderson give us a look at how the Marine Corps conducted its business in the early part of the nineteenth century.

Mrs. Ruth Ann Wells of Chevy Chase, Maryland, recently donated the wool blanket, sewing kit, and shoe brushes that her husband, David L. Wells, was issued at Parris Island boot camp in the 1920s. She also gave the Museum his medals and badges, a bayonet, two pistols, a Japanese officer's sword, and letters and papers from his later career. A switchblade knife and case were taken from a bandit Mr. Wells killed in Nicaragua.

Mr. Wells' personal papers covered service in Nicaragua, Panama, Pearl Harbor, and Parris Island. Mrs. Wells also donated a pair of officer's boots with spurs and an officer's sword and scabbard that belonged to Mr. Wells' cousin, Col William Leslie Bales.

Mr. John E. Staneff of Nashville, Il-



A letter written and signed by LtColComdt Archibald Henderson in January 1821 is a gift from William H. Greer, Jr. Henderson wrote to U.S. Senator H. Johnson favoring an appointment in the Corps.

linois, donated the parachutist's manual and "notes" that parachutists and parachute riggers were given during World War II, along with the Certificate of Completion he received in 1945 for completion of the ten-week Parachute Riggers Course.

He was taught in the course to make a parachute "from scratch" using a Singer sewing machine and both virgin silk and synthetic materials.

Mr. Akio Tani of Saitama, Japan, recently donated a now-khaki-colored (originally dark green) Japanese officer's shirt that he wore as a captain in World War II, while occupying Guadalcanal from October 1942 to February 1943.

Mr. Tani was the commanding officer of a company in the 27th Heavy Artillery Regiment which was in action on the island. The shirt had been through a lot of wear and tear on Guadalcanal since it was the only shirt he had until leaving the island. Repairs were made to the shirt by the men in Mr. Tani's company by cutting off the once-long sleeves and using them to patch up the various holes and tears.

□1775□

Wives Have Contributions to Make to Corps History

SUCH A FLUFF PIECE

As one who grew up in the 1930s Marine Corps I have never had any doubt that Marine wives have participated in many of the truly significant episodes of Marine Corps history. Examples that I recall the ladies discussing during my childhood include the terrorist firebombing of Marine officers' homes in Port-au-Prince in 1929 and informal people-to-people activities while living on the Nicaraguan economy during that long campaign. Wives would be prime contributors on some of the pioneering aspects of garrison life overseas, such as building one's quarters or teaching children by correspondence course on the remote stations where no schools existed (e.g., Guam)

In fact, I have several times urged Ben Frank to give a few hours of tape to the distaff side of such things as the bombing of downtown Shanghai in 1938 and the circumstances of the later evacuation of dependents to the Philippines. I sincerely believe that Marine wives had valuable, in some cases unique, observations of many important events in our long and varied service.

So you can imagine my pleasure at spotting the Quilter entry in the recent *Fortitudine* (Fall 1988). What a disappointment to read it and find it such a fluff piece. Shades of the "ladies page!" John O'Hara gave entertaining treatment to such subjects as mores of the the young married set and the issues of interfaith marriage before World War II. Currently fashionable cultural, social, and "women's" history give them exhaustive treatment. So why waste space with . . . matters having so little to do with the Marine Corps?

. . . I do hope that future selections can deal with less trivial aspects of our history. And *without* omitting distaff observations!

Col Gerald C. Thomas, Jr., USMC (Ret)
The Plains, Virginia

EDITOR'S NOTE: Col Thomas, very much a Marine junior (his father was the famous Gen "Jerry" Thomas) did not have much

company in his sentiments. The "fluff" piece by Mrs. Quilter was enthusiastically received by most readers who wrote or called.

UNWANTED CREDIT

I am sure you will get at least a dozen letters commenting on Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas' article on Smedley Butler's raid [*Fortitudine*, Spring 1989]. Usually right on target, Ken gave Gen Butler one credit he did not need and certainly did not want. He never "wrote" an autobiography. *Old Gimlet Eye*, his adventures, were told to my old friend Lowell Thomas, who collected and edited and artistically rounded them into the fine book that it is.

The Farrar and Rinehart publishing company brought out the first printing in 1933. I spoke to Lowell about Butler on several occasions and he never wavered in his desire to honor him with a story as he had honored T. E. Lawrence in his *With Lawrence in Arabia* which brought Lawrence to the attention of the world. If things had been different we may have had Gen Butler in a wide-screen color epic instead of the mystery man of Mesopotamia. Lowell or "LT," as he was known to separate him from his almost equally talented son, "LTJ," always loved heroes and ranked both Butler and Lawrence "right up there."

I hope that eventually a book will be published with old Marines in mind, collecting the best of the Marine Corps art, as much of this history has passed the young Marine by and pictures speak ten thousand words, particularly pictures of Marines in action!

Joseph S. Rychetnik
Pacific Grove, California

EDITOR'S NOTE: The as-told-to autobiography by LT should have been noted as such. The closest book(s) that we have to the type Mr. Rychetnik describes are certainly John Thomason's doughty tales of Marine derring-do illustrated by the most notable Marine artist of the 20s and 30s. The Marine Corps Association has republished Thomason's Fix Bayonets!



Sketch from Fix Bayonets! for the chapter, "Marines at Blanc Mont," is captioned "The shells began to drop into the trench."

CONTRIBUTORS SOUGHT

The Spanish-American War and the Small Wars, a volume in the Garland Encyclopedia of American Wars, will include a great many entries related to Marine operations in the Caribbean, China, and the Philippines from 1898 through 1934. Entries deal with campaigns, battles, civic action, biographies of individual Marines, and other topics. To date, the "typical" contributor holds the rank of professor and has one or two books to his/her credit. The Head of the Humanities Department at the Coast Guard Academy will be writing Coast Guard entries, and an Air Force historian will be preparing the entry related to the first use of aircraft by the Army in combat during the Punitive Expedition to Mexico. Please contact Benjamin R. Beede, 7 Thrush Mews, North Brunswick, New Jersey 08902 for further information, including lists of entries for specific countries and a guide for contributors.

Benjamin R. Beede
North Brunswick, New Jersey

EDITOR'S NOTE: The History and Museums Division has agreed to review draft entries related to Marine Corps operations of the period for the encyclopedia.

Colt .45 Leaves the Corps After 77 Years

by *Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas*
Curator of Material History

For 77 years, the M1911 and M1911A1 .45 caliber Colt semi-automatic pistol has been the standard sidearm of the Marine Corps. Over the past several years, it has begun to be replaced by the new M9 9mm Beretta pistol. When our security staff at the Marine Corps Museums Branch Activities at Quantico turned in their .45s and drew M9s, the act underscored what had seemed to be the inseparable relationship between the Marine Corps and “old slabside.”

The M1911 pistol was the culmination of John Moses Browning's efforts to develop a simple, yet effective, semi-automatic pistol for the U.S. Government. The first commercial model of this pistol appeared in 1900, and was followed shortly by a military version, both in .38 caliber. However, the lessons of the Moro Rising in the Philippines, in which the underpowered .38 Long Colt proved ineffective against the fanatical native insurgents, resulted in the government's re-adoption of the larger .45 which had been abandoned in the 1880s. The U.S. military establishment was not alone in its search for a replacement for the revolver. Concurrently a number of European nations were exploring the adoption of semi-automatic pistols since they had become a viable weapon as a result of the great burst of technological advancement at the turn of the century. The German Army adopted the famed 9mm “Luger” in 1908 (the Navy having beaten them to it by two years), while a host of smaller countries followed suit in the years prior to World War I. During the war, the Mauser “broomhan-

Col John W. Thomason, Jr., portrayed a World War I-era Marine officer at the front in France, just after he fired his Colt .45.



dle” pistol was used as a secondary arm by the Germans and carried as a personal weapon by soldiers of many countries. During this same period, the Austrian government adopted both the 8mm Roth-Steyr and the 9mm Steyr Model 12 pistols, the Italian Army took up the 9mm Glisenti, the Danes and Belgians acquired 9mm Bergmann-Bayard pistols, and the British Royal Navy armed itself with .455 Webley & Scott semi-automatics.

In 1911, the U.S. Army and Navy formally adopted the 7-shot, .45 caliber Colt pistol. It replaced the .45 caliber M1909 Colt revolvers carried by both the Army and the Marine Corps, as well as the .38 caliber Colt revolvers used by the Navy. The automatic Colt pistol (.45 ACP) cartridge was shorter than the old .45 Long Colt revolver round and, although it developed less muzzle energy with its lighter bullet, it had an increased muzzle velocity of about 100 feet per second over the old Long Colt.

The Marine Corps received its first Colt pistols in 1912 and they were put to good use in the next few years. Carried ashore by officers in the landing at Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914, the pistol was used by then-Maj Smedley D. Butler in the following year, when he was awarded his second Medal of Honor for the capture of Fort Rivière in the Haitian Campaign of 1915. When he burst out of a narrow, derelict drainage tunnel into the midst of a “Caco” bandit stronghold in the crumbling fort, he used his Colt pistol to keep the bandits at bay while the rest of his troops forced their way into the fort.

Along with the pistol, Marines were issued a M1912 russet holster which had a hip swivel and the letters “USMC” in an oval embossed on the flap. Although largely replaced by the familiar M1916 holster (which, in a modernized version, is still used with this pistol) during World War I, the Marine Corps favored the old “long strap” holster design and developed its own version in the late 1920s. A sizeable number of M1916 holsters were subsequently converted to the new pattern at Rock Island Arsenal, augmenting the standard production types.



The M1911A1 .45 caliber Colt semi-automatic pistol has been standard Marine Corps issue since before World War I.

During World War I, front-line Marines were fortunate to obtain enough Colt automatics that they were spared the issue of Colt New Service and Smith and Wesson “Hand-Ejector” revolvers which were issued to much of the American Expeditionary Forces. These revolvers, both dubbed the “Model 1917,” were adaptations of commercial models which were available in .45 Long Colt. The Model 1917 used a curious “half moon” clip to fire the rimless .45 ACP in an effort to minimize logistical problems. These revolvers were already in production as civilian weapons and thus required only minor changes to adapt them to the military cartridge. Although contracts to produce the M1911 were awarded to nine different private manufacturing firms, only those made by Colt, the Remington Arms Company, and the U.S. Arsenal at Springfield, Massachusetts, were issued to U.S. troops. The armistice forestalled the other contracts from being fulfilled. The same pistol raised aloft in the right hand of “Iron Mike” at MCRD Parris Island can also be seen in many of Col John W. Thomason's sketches of Marines in action from Belleau Wood to the Argonne.

After the armistice, the Marine Corps returned to expeditionary and pacification duties. When the second Caco revolt exploded in Haiti during the spring of 1919, it was a Colt .45 in the steady hand of Capt Herman Hanneken (GdH) that helped quell the rebellion. He and two others bluffed their way into one of the bandit chieftain's camps and, while his men fought a pitched battle with the Ca-

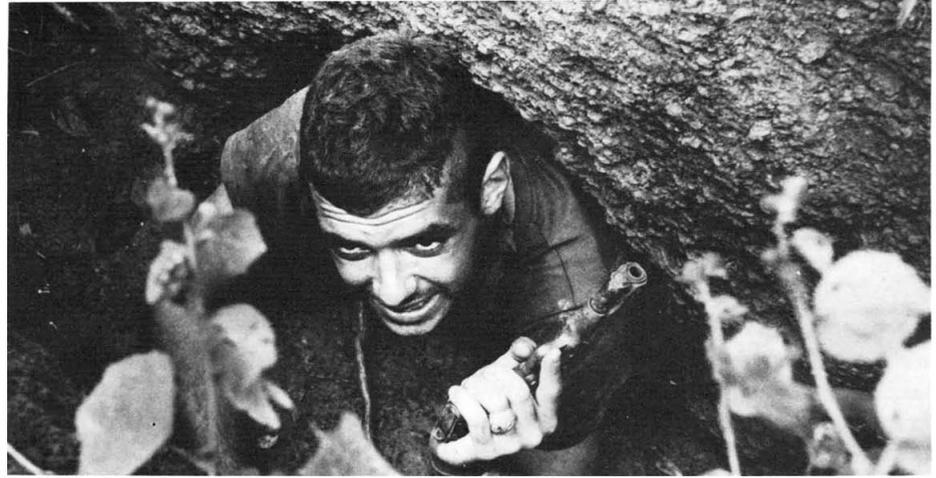
cos, coolly dispatched their leader by his campfire.

Eight years later, Marines were in Nicaragua in an effort to enforce a peace between warring Liberals and Conservatives. One Liberal general, Augusto C. Sandino, declined to be pacified and fought Marines and the Marine-officered native constabulary, the *Guardia Nacional*, in a gruelling six-year campaign through the jungle-covered mountains of northern Nicaragua. Although the pistol carried by the Marines and the *Guardia* was the M1911 in its original configuration, an improved version was coming out of the Colt factory in Hartford, Connecticut.

The new M1911A1 pistol had a shorter trigger, wider sights, a longer grip safety, and a distinctively contoured handgrip which was due to the change to an arched mainspring housing. Many of the earlier pistols were later upgraded with these improvements, and it is these that were reissued along with the M1911A1s in World War II.

The outbreak of World War II found the United States woefully unprepared for a long, global war. As had been the case in 1917, there were not enough pistols on hand to arm the rapidly expanding U.S. forces, and the Colt Company could not do the job alone. As in World War I, contracts were again let for the manufacture

Sgt Donald K. Smith, USMC, wearing a captured Japanese helmet and carrying a M1911 Colt Pistol, pauses during a lull in the battle for Tinian in August 1944.



In 1969, LCpl William G. Cox, USMC, emerges from one of many Viet Cong tunnels in the Batangan Peninsula of South Vietnam, his .45 caliber pistol at the ready.

of pistols. Four additional companies responded with pistols in varying amounts, most of which can be documented as having been used by Marines, whether issued or “appropriated.” By the end of the war, each Marine division was entitled to at least 1,707 pistols, which were carried by those officers, NCOs, and specialists not armed with M1 carbines. In actuality, the number of pistols carried in the field was much higher. Many Marines did not feel that the stopping power of the light, .30 caliber carbine was adequate and found various ways to arm themselves with pistols at any opportunity. Although some Marines followed the example set by the famed bandit fighter, then-GySgt William A. Lee, and armed themselves with large-bore revolvers, most preferred the issue Colt pistol.

The Marine Corps’ pre-war preoccupation with marksmanship paid off during World War II. Under the tutelage of such notable shooters as GySgt Morris A. Fisher, Marines were able to bring skill with the pistol to an almost legendary status. This was evidenced on the night of 25-26 July 1944 at Fonte Hill on Guam when then-Capt (later Commandant) Louis H. Wilson, Jr., led his troops in the repulse of several Japanese attacks and killed at least one Japanese officer with his pistol. The officer’s sword, with a hole from one of General Wilson’s bullets in its scabbard, is on display in the Marine Corps Museum. At least two other Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in which their prowess with the pistol tipped the scales in their favor.

When the North Korean People’s Army poured over the 38th Parallel in the summer of 1950, and pushed the defending South Korean and American troops into

a small corner of South Korea, centering around the port city of Pusan, the Americans counterattacked by making a bold amphibious landing far in the enemy’s rear at Inchon. Four days after this landing, as the 1st Marine Division fought its way eastward, then-1stLt Henry A. Commiskey rushed an enemy hilltop machine gun nest with his pistol, killing five North Koreans. For his bold initiative in silencing this gun and routing the troops supporting it, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

The next generation of Marines, also fighting in Asia, used the “automatic pistols” in the northern provinces of Vietnam. Although there were some complaints of the more elderly blued pistols rusting, it still served in good stead. For instance, while fighting near the Demilitarized Zone in July 1966, then-LCpl Richard A. Pittman rescued a beleaguered platoon and broke up a frontal attack by using first a machine gun, and when that was damaged, a pistol from a fallen comrade, according to the citation for his Medal of Honor.

Since Vietnam, the .45 pistol has been carried by Marines to Grenada and Lebanon, and is only now being replaced by the M9 Beretta. In fact, some units have not yet fully transitioned to the new pistol. The Beretta was selected as the successor to the Colt after a series of extensive tests conducted over the past 10 years, and is considered to be a superior weapon due to its double-action design, increased magazine capacity, and ease of handling with the lighter 9mm NATO standard cartridge. However, we probably will have to wait for the final analysis of the Beretta’s superiority over the venerable Colt if it, too, is used by the next three generations of Marines. □1775□

Interns and Volunteers Gain Experience Over Summer

by *Laura A. Cathcart*
Editorial Intern

Do you have any experience? That's a question many new graduates hear when hunting for their first job. This summer, the Marine Corps Historical Center gave several students experience that will be useful to them as they begin searching for employment.

Over the period of three months, six interns and two volunteers gained hands-on experience while working at Museums Branch Activities, Quantico, and at the Center at the Washington Navy Yard. The intern programs offered by the Center fall into three separate categories. One program provides salaried employment, a second allows students to earn academic credit, and the third recruits volunteers, both college students and others.

The interns were placed throughout the building in Washington, and at the Air-Ground Museum at Quantico, in accordance with their backgrounds, and depending upon what tasks needed the most attention. The Personal Papers Collection ended up with the most interns, having a total of three over the course of the summer.

Paving the way for those to follow was Midn Eugene Willis Herweyer, from the U.S. Naval Academy. Midn Herweyer was placed with curator J. Michael Miller in the Personal Papers unit, reckoned a good place for a history major. Herweyer's work was cut out for him. In his month's stay from 29 May through 22 June he was responsible for assessing and cataloging

historical papers dealing with World War II and the Vietnam War. The cataloging of this information will make it more accessible to researchers. As all non-paid interns, Midn Herweyer received a "lunch and carfare" stipend from the Marine Corps Historical Foundation for his work, but no academic credit, since his time here was part of the Academy's summer training program. After departing the Center, the remainder of his summer training would take him to Long Beach, California, where he would board the USS *Knox* (FF-1052). After completing the whole summer program Midn Herweyer would return to the Naval Academy, where he has one year left before graduating.

Upon Midn Herweyer's departure Mr. Miller received two new interns to pick up similar duties: Midn David Brent Marquand, also from the Naval Academy, and Richardo Albert "Ricky" Hutchinson, from the University of Maryland.

Midn Marquand was given the task of cataloging collections concerned with Marine involvement in Latin America and the Caribbean. Many of his hours consisted of transferring information to computer, making it more accessible for researchers. From a "Marine family" in San Diego, Midn Marquand's grandfather was the late MajGen Henry Reid Page, a former commanding general of the 1st Marine Division. Like Herweyer a history major, Marquand found his work of great interest. His time here also was considered Academy summer training and lasted

three weeks, from 16 June through 6 July. The remainder of his training period would consist of a submarine cruise departing from San Diego, after which he would also return to school for another year.

Ricky Hutchinson, unlike the other interns in Personal Papers, is not a history major, but is studying business marketing, and as a college "clerk-typist" he was getting a federal program salary. His job consisted of putting together a mailing list of all World War I Marine veterans in the effort to persuade them to donate personal items to the Museum collection. He found the list to be a short one and, regrettably, dwindling. Hutchinson's stay would be somewhat longer than the others. He arrived the same day as Midn Marquand, but would end his time at the Center on 29 August. At that time he would return to school, expecting to graduate in 1991.

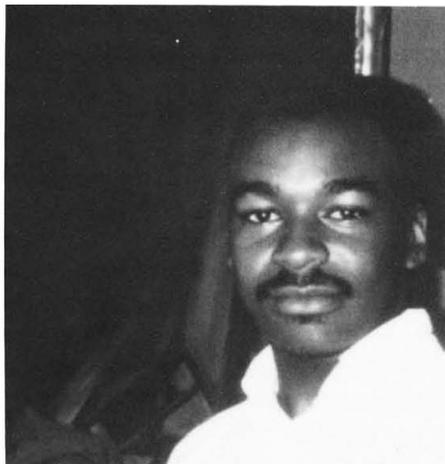
Along with Hutchinson there was one other summer intern categorized as a college "clerk-typist." Brian Michael Andrew, who had worked for the Center for six weeks this spring, was back for a second go-round. Andrew attends Hope College in Holland, Michigan, where he is studying history and political science.

Working again in the Reference Section at the Center, he spent a great deal of his time answering requests from people who need detailed information on Marine Corps-related topics. Andrew feels that the

Brian M. Andrew



Richardo A. Hutchinson



Laura A. Cathcart



experience he has gained over his two tours has been very beneficial, since there are many things that cannot really be learned in the classroom. Andrew would end his stay here on 25 August and return for one more year of school.

Brian Andrew was not the only intern who had served here once before. Rita Mary Plath, a junior at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, volunteered her time to the Center in the summer of 1988 and decided to continue this year, feeling that the experience she was gaining was extremely useful. As an art history major she says she could not have been placed in a better location. Plath spent her time in the Center with Mr. John T. Dyer, Jr., who explained and demonstrated for her the duties of a practicing art curator. Plath spent much of her time in assisting with records-keeping. Working at the Center 10 days over the summer was not her only job; she also spent 40 hours a week working for the American Automobile Association as a road service counselor.

Only one of the Center's summer interns received academic credit for her work this year. Laura Anne Cathcart would graduate in August from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where she studied public relations. Cathcart was placed in the Publications Production Section, where she performed the tasks of an editorial assistant, and additionally in the Museums Branch, where she worked with curators on the special requirements of announcing museum exhibits for the news media. She spent much of her time preparing and distributing press releases on Museum activities and events. Other duties included helping with the editing and production of *Fortitudine*. Cathcart's stay at the Center was for two months, from 1 June through 28 July, at which time she returned home to Marion, Virginia.

The Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, an activity of the History and Museums Division, had its interns as well. Sharon Bittner, a multiple repeat volunteer and recent graduate of Sweet Briar College in Sweet Briar, Virginia, joined the Museum for two weeks in June.

Bittner spent her time researching Marine officers' dress and undress blues to determine when details changed, in order to

set up a new classification system. Her other duties included the preservation of the uniforms: tagging, wrapping, and placing them in acid-free boxes for storage. The remainder of her summer was spent at President Jefferson's Monticello estate in Charlottesville, Virginia, participating in an archeological dig.

Hans Nicholas Wilson, a rising freshman at Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University, in Daytona Beach, Florida, was also on board at the Air-Ground Museum for the summer. In order to broaden his horizons for his upcoming year of college, he assisted in restoration work on a Korean War-era observation helicopter.

Along with its two interns, the Air-Ground Museum had two volunteers. They brought not only skilled help to the Museum, but interesting backgrounds as well.

Allen P. Maine, a guidance counselor for grades 6-8 at public schools in Aurora, Colorado, and James C. Pilkington, a training manager for IBM Corporation, also from Colorado, spent their two-week vacations volunteering at the Quantico museum. The two former Marines served together in Japan during 1958, and have stayed in touch. They became aware that volunteers were needed at the Museum through an article in *Leatherneck* maga-

zine, and decided after consulting each other that this was something in which they were interested. The two men spent their time cataloging uniforms and repairing and cleaning parts of valuable flintlock muskets. Working in the arsenal of antique weapons was extremely interesting for both men. Pilkington explains that, "The guns *we* used are now relics in the Museum."

"We are Marine veterans, not ex-Marines or former Marines. It is part of our history, our personal history. We get to come home to the Marine Corps," said Maine. Pilkington chimed in, saying, "It is extremely interesting, so we read everything we get our hands on, making it hard to get our work done." The time the two men spent at the Quantico museum, however, was very productive. They got numbers of uniforms categorized and made good progress on the weapons collection.

"We have had a great time, except for the heat and humidity," explains Pilkington, "and we hope we can do it again." Maine remarks, "It is something you read about, so it is neat to come back and go through personal papers and handle the uniforms and guns. It brings us closer to the whole history of the Marine Corps. It ties it all together. That is why we do it." □1775□

Student Interns, 1988-1989*

Brian H. Williams	Hope College	1988
David T. Kraska	Hope College	1988
Gregory G. Nezat	University of Southwestern Louisiana	1988
Armando E. Batastini	U.S. Naval Academy	1988
Mark C. Kustra	U.S. Naval Academy	1988
Edward J. McGovern	U.S. Naval Academy	1988
Rita M. Plath	Mary Washington College	1988-1989
Sharon L. Bittner	Sweet Briar College	1988-1989**
Brian M. Andrew	Hope College	1989***
Willis E. Herweyer	U.S. Naval Academy	1989
David B. Marquand	U.S. Naval Academy	1989
Laura A. Cathcart	James Madison University	1989
Nicholas Wilson	Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University	1989
Richard A. Hutchinson	University of Maryland	1989

* A previous list of student interns, covering the period 1977-1987, appeared in *Fortitudine* (Spring 1987), p. 22.

** Sharon Bittner also served as an college intern in 1986-1987.

*** Brian Andrew served both as a college intern and a college student aide in 1989.

Volunteers Assist with Generals' Oral History Interviews

by *Benis M. Frank*
Head, Oral History Section

Recently accessioned into the Marine Corps Oral History Collection were in-depth interviews with LtGens Edward S. Fris and Robert E. Keller, MajGen Carl F. Hoffman, and BGen Austin R. Brunelli. Three of these interviews—Keller, Brunelli, and Hoffman—were conducted by volunteers from the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, while Gen Fris was interviewed by the Oral History Section. MajGen Norman J. Anderson interviewed Gens Keller and Brunelli—as well as Gens Paul J. Fontana, Arthur H. Adams, Victor A. Armstrong, and John F. Dobbins, whose interviews have not yet been processed. On the west coast, LtGen Alpha L. Bowser conducted half of the interview with Gen Hoffman, and when he was prevented from completing it, Gen Hoffman finished it himself, taping his memoirs in a “do-it-yourself” interview.

Both Marine aviators, Gens Fris' and Keller's last tours were as Commanding General, Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Gen Fris succeeding Gen Keller upon the latter's retirement in 1974; Gen Fris retired the following year. A native of California, Gen Keller was attending the University of California, Berkeley, when he became an Aviation Cadet in 1940, and was commissioned and given his wings the following

LtGen Edward S. Fris



year. He served two tours of duty in the Pacific in World War II as a fighter pilot. In his oral history, he discusses his first tour as executive officer and the commanding officer of VMF-223 in the Solomons. He related how his squadron, when based at Green Island, was visited by famed pilot Charles A. Lindberg, who was then a technical representative in the Pacific for Chance Vought and how Lindberg flew a number of combat missions with the squadron. In his second tour in the Pacific during the war, Gen Keller commanded VMF(N)-533, which he led on Okinawa and later in North China. During the interwar period, Gen Keller filled a number of command and staff billets and also attended the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base. He commanded VMF-214 at the outset of the Korean War, initially based on a carrier off the Korean coast. Later in this tour, he was 1st MAW liaison officer to the Fifth Air Force Joint Operations Center in Seoul. Gen Keller received his first star in 1966 when he was assigned duty as Assistant Wing Commander of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Vietnam. In succeeding years he commanded the 4th MAW/Marine Air Reserve Training Command and was AC/S, J-3 of the Pacific Command, amongst other assignments. He received his third star in 1972, when he assumed command of Marine Corps Development and Education Command, remaining there until he retired.

Upon his graduation from the Missouri School of Mines in February 1942, Gen Fris was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant. During World War II, he served as a radar officer, and following flight training in 1947, he received his wings. As he related initially in his oral history, Gen Fris was very closely involved with the development of the innovative Marine Tactical Data System at Headquarters Marine Corps first, and then as Marine Corps Liaison Officer at Litton Industries in Los Angeles, where the equipment was being built. He was ordered to Vietnam in 1968 as the commanding

officer of Marine Air Control Group 18. Upon his return to the States, he was promoted to brigadier general and designated the Inspector General of the Marine Corps. Subsequently, he became commander of Marine Corps Air Bases, West, and in 1972, when he received his second star, he returned to Headquarters Marine Corps as Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation. Gen Fris relieved Gen Keller as Commanding General, Marine Corps Development and Education Command in 1974, and retired the following year.

While a student at Drake University, Gen Hoffman underwent PLC training in the summers of 1940 and 1941, and was commissioned in March 1942. He was assigned to the 2d Marine Division in the Pacific, participating in the Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian operations. In 1948, as a major, he was assigned to the Historical Division at HQMC, where he wrote two historical monographs—*Saipan: The Beginning of the End* and *The Seizure of Tinian*. In the Korean War, Gen Hoffman commanded the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, and later served as Assistant G-3 of the 1st MarDiv. Following the Korean War, he was a student first at the Armed Forces Staff College, and after a tour in the G-2 Division

LtGen Robert E. Keller



at HQMC, he was assigned to the Army War College as a student and then a member of the faculty. In 1965 he reported in at HQMC for the third time to become assistant head of the Policy Analysis Division first and then Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr.'s military secretary. Three years later, upon his promotion to brigadier general, he was transferred to Vietnam for duty as Assistant Division Commander of the 3d Marine Division and also Commanding General of Task Force Hotel. While in Vietnam, he also served as III Marine Amphibious Force G-3. In the years following his Vietnam tour, Gen Hoffman subsequently commanded Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms; Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island; III Marine Amphibious Force on Okinawa; and Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, where he retired in 1978. His oral history not only contains his memoirs, but also has the transcripts of seven recorded debriefings he conducted in Vietnam, at FMFPac, and at HQMC. Also included is the score of the march, "Esprit de Corps," which Gen Hoffman composed and for which he was the Marine Corps first prize winner in the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers/John Philip Sousa contest.

A native of New Mexico, BGen Brunelli studied at Colorado College for two years before entering the Naval Academy. Upon graduation in 1931, he was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant. He was assigned sea and shore duty following Basic School, and from 1936 to 1937 served

MajGen Carl F. Hoffman



BGen Austin R. Brunelli

as aide to MajGen James C. Breckinridge, Commandant of Marine Corps Schools. From 1940 to 1943, he was aide to Commandant of the Marine Corps MajGen Thomas Holcomb. Gen Brunelli's oral history contains his views of HQMC operations in this hectic period. Also narrated in this memoir are the details of the trip on which he accompanied Gen Holcomb and other HQMC staff officers to Guadalcanal in the early days of the operation and a subsequent visit to Adm Halsey in Noumea where, amongst other matters, the problem of command relations at Guadalcanal was settled. Gen Brunelli went to the Pacific War as a commander of a 24th Marines battalion and took part in the Kwajalein, Saipan, and Iwo Jima operations. For extraordinary heroism on Iwo, he was awarded a Navy Cross. At the beginning of the Korean War, Gen Brunelli was on the staff of Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, and in March 1952, he was assigned as chief of staff of the 1st Marine Division in Korea. Following his promotion to brigadier general in 1956, he was transferred to Camp Lejeune to become, first, Assistant Division Commander of the 2d Marine Division, and then commander of Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune. At the time of his retirement in 1962, Gen Brunelli commanded the Landing Force Training Center, Atlantic Fleet.

Presently being processed for accessioning into the Oral History Collection are interviews with the late MajGen Donald M. Weller and the late Col Angus M. Fraser, as well as a joint interview

with Adm Arleigh A. Burke, BGen Samuel R. Shaw, and the late Col Donald J. Decker concerning Adm Burke's association with the Marine Corps in the unification fight and during the course of his career. The Oral History Section recently transcribed interviews with MajGens Arthur H. Adams, Alan A. Armstrong, and Raymond L. Murray, and with Col William P. McCahill, who was one of the first Marines assigned as a public relations officer in World War II. After these transcripts have been reviewed by the interviewees and returned to the Historical Center, they, too, will be accessioned into the Oral History Collection.

The Oral History Section has completed an interview with LtGen William K. Jones, and recently began a series of interviews with Gen Thomas R. Morgan, former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, and former Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation, LtGen Keith A. Smith, both of whom retired this year. In addition, the Section has begun to interview Robert L. Sherrod, dean of war correspondents in the Pacific War and author of *History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II*. The interview sessions will be concerned with his association with the Marine Corps over the years. □1775□

MajGen Donald M. Weller



The Korean War's 'Fighting' 1st Provisional Historical Platoon

by Benis M. Frank
Head, Oral History Section

At times throughout its history, the Marine Corps has activated unique, provisional organizations, such as barrage balloon battalions, war dog platoons, glider squadrons, among others, whose existence proved to be short-lived. One such unit was the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon, which was established on 7 August 1950.

The concept of a platoon of this type, and a field historical program as well, was developed by LtCol Robert D. Heinl, Jr., when he headed the Historical Section during the period 1946-1949. He studied the Army's successful World War II historical program and learned that it also had a mobilization plan for historians for the next war. According to this plan, a cadre of professional historians, who had been given Reserve commissions and mobilization billets, would be called to active duty to fill these billets. During peacetime, the Army Reserve historians would periodically go on active duty to keep in touch with mobilization policy and with the concepts of employment and the objectives of military history under conditions of war.

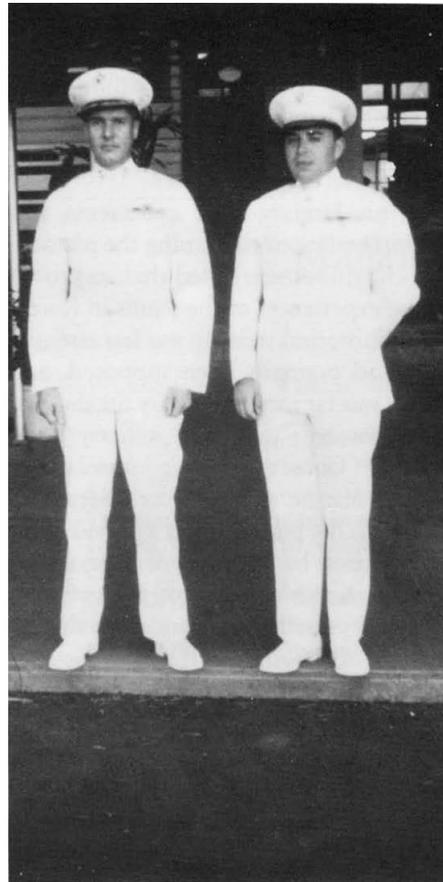
LtCol Heinl thought that this was an admirable idea and one which the Marine Corps should adopt. During World War II, the Corps had no professional historians on active duty as such until the Okinawa campaign, when a major and a sergeant, both historians in civilian life, were attached to the 6th Marine Division to attempt to capture a limited history of the operation. Further, when the Historical Section began writing monographs on Marine campaigns in the Pacific, it very often found unit G-3 journals, war diaries, after action reports, and the like, lacking in the details needed to prepare a valid, well-documented history.

LtCol Heinl drew up his concept of the employment of Marine military historians in the field in wartime, together with a proposed table of organization, and managed to obtain the approval both of the Commandant, Gen Clifton B. Cates, and the appropriate Headquarters Marine Corps staff sections in 1949. Personnel records were culled to identify and prepare a list of professional historians who were

members of the Marine Corps Reserve. Dr. Gordon Craig, an eminent historian who had served as a Marine officer in World War II and who, while at Princeton University, chaired the committee which supervised the writing of Isley and Crowl's classic *The U.S. Marine Corps and Amphibious Operations*, was selected to head the Marine Corps historical program in wartime. While this mobilization plan provided for wartime exigencies, and guaranteed a quality historical collection effort by professional historians, it also had the effect of relieving the regular Marines in the Historical Section to permit them to go to war in their specialties rather than as historians.

A table of organization for a Provisional Historical Platoon, FMF (T/O K-4911) was approved and published on 7 August 1950. It indicated that this type

Maj Edward L. Katzenbach, Jr., left, Commanding Officer, 1st Provisional Historical Platoon, stands with his assistant, 2dLt Benis M. Frank, at Pearl Harbor in 1951.



of unit would be activated in wartime only. The platoon consisted of a platoon headquarters, headed by a major, with an enlisted clerk typist, and two field combat historical teams, each consisting of a major as officer in charge and a captain combat historical officer. Each team would also have three enlisted Marines—a staff sergeant (combat historian), a sergeant (stenographer), and a corporal (clerk typist).

LtCol Heinl was relieved as head of the historical section at headquarters in 1949 by LtCol Gordon D. Gayle, who had been with the 1st Marine Division from before the war to 1944, when he commanded the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines in the Peleliu landing. It was in this operation that he earned the Navy Cross. LtCol Gayle headed the Historical Section until 1951, during which time the United States went to war with North Korea and the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon was activated.

As he recalled in his oral history memoirs, the Historical Section "was called upon to answer the question, 'How would you organize yourself to capture the history of the next war more effectively than we captured the history of World War II?' And we addressed both the questions of the kinds of records that should be kept and the amount of staffing that would be needed to keep them, and the creation of a unit to, in effect, set down a current journal, a current record more comprehensively and more effectively than had been done in World War II. I was very conscious of the fact, for instance, that in my own unit in World War II, the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, our records had been very sketchy and I can tell you exactly why they were very sketchy. We weren't staffed to do it, we didn't operate under conditions which permitted us to do it and we were concerned with the fighting and we weren't concerned with recording what we were doing. In my case we had only recorded things during periods of inactivity rather than recording the important things during the periods of great activity. So, it was against this background of dissatisfaction with our own records of World War II that the concept of setting up a separate unit

to provide the means for capturing at least some of the history, operational history, as it occurred that we proposed this in the mobilization plans and got it approved.”

Within a short time after publication of the platoon’s T/O, orders to active duty went out to the Reserve historians who were to man the new unit. Maj Edward L. Katzenbach, who had commanded the 4th Marine Division’s Reconnaissance Company in the Kwajalein Operation, was designated the platoon commander. His headquarters was to be located at Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, at Pearl Harbor. The two combat historical teams were to be attached on temporary additional duty status to the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, which essentially meant that they were not in the chain of command of either the wing or the division. This was to cause great problems for both teams almost immediately (which will be discussed shortly).

Heading the wing team was Capt Sanford W. Higginbotham, in civilian life a history professor at Rice University and a World War II veteran. Assigned to him was Capt James L. Kiernan, Jr. The division team was headed by Capt Kenneth A. Shutts, who had been the enlisted historian with the 6th Marine Division at Okinawa. His assistant was 1stLt Alvin Z. Freeman, who just recently retired from the history faculty of the College of William and Mary (and who now is a director on the board of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation).

In mid-December 1950, 2dLt Benis M. Frank, who had been a graduate student at Clark University, reported in at FMFPac for duty with the platoon. At that time Maj Katzenbach was in Korea visiting the historical teams, and so Lt Frank was kept at Pearl as Katzenbach’s assistant until the following September, when he was ordered to Basic School. While with the platoon, Frank prepared the monthly FMFPac war diary, conducted several interviews with wounded Marines as they passed through the Army’s Tripler Hospital, and also did some research for the FMFPac G-2 Division.

The mission of the platoon itself was threefold: 1) Assist in the preparation of historical diaries and special action reports; 2) Preserve and forward historical documents to Headquarters Marine Corps; and

3) Supplement these documents by interview and personal observations.

As Maj Higginbotham noted in a report he prepared on the platoon in January 1952 (he had relieved Maj Katzenbach as platoon commander in 1951), the unit never fulfilled the mission for which it had been organized. The first two missions were already being carried out by the major Marine commands in Korea; as for the third mission, the historians were just not militarily professional enough to perform this mission meaningfully.

Two basic problems arose almost as soon as the platoon was activated and its personnel ordered to the field. First, because the teams were sent to the wing and division on TAD orders, and since they belonged to neither the division nor the wing, they were looked upon as potential HQMC spies or inspectors general for a higher echelon. And second, because of their status as orphans (they really had no “poppa,” so to speak), in most instances they were unable to obtain the logistic support an organic unit of the division or the wing would normally get. As a result, the teams were very often unable to requisition supplies, much less the transportation they needed to visit various division or wing units. Despite the fact that the teams had no tape recorders, they managed to conduct a small number of meaningful interviews by writing down both questions and answers, and preparing a typed transcript later.

In his January 1952 comments and recommendations concerning the platoon, Maj Higginbotham noted that, as proven by the experiences of the teams in Korea, formal historical training was less essential than had originally been supposed, and that it was far more necessary for the platoon members to have a military background. Consequently, a number of regular Marine officers were ordered to duty with the platoon after a period of indoctrination by the Historical Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps. Most of these officers reported to the platoon by the beginning of October 1951, and by November had replaced all but one of the Reserve officers in the unit. Even with these professionals manning the teams in the field, the division and the wing were unhappy with the platoon for the reasons given earlier and they stated that they had no use for its services in that they had per-

sonnel organic to their commands performing the jobs that the historians would do. In the end, Maj Higginbotham recommended that the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon be disbanded, and billets for historians as special staff be established on force, division, wing, and corps levels, and that a description of these billets be placed in the *Staff Manual*.

The 1st Provisional Historical Platoon was disbanded on 25 July 1952, by order of the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, as directed by the Commandant. The platoon headquarters was absorbed by FMFPac’s H&S Battalion, while the teams with the wing and the division were transferred to the 1st Marine Division. For the rest of the Korean War, the division and the wing both managed their own historical programs, each with a special staff section comprised of one officer and four or five enlisted Marines. The sections restricted themselves pretty much to the preparation of basic historical documents required by the *Staff Manual*. They also served as the forwarding agencies for the reports of subordinate units and for other records and papers periodically collected and sent to Headquarters Marine Corps via FMFPac.

Meanwhile, the Historical Branch at Headquarters continued to seek out civilian historians who were eligible for Reserve commissions, reservists who were professional historians, and regular officers who had a flair for history, and prepared a list of potential combat historians it could call upon in the future.

In a study in 1957 by then-Maj Verle E. Ludwig, a member of the Historical Branch who had been a 1st Marine Division historical officer, it was recommended that wartime T/Os provide for special staff historical sections which would be occupied initially by experienced regular officers dispatched from the Historical Branch. He recognized a problem here, that no regular officer wanted to be sent to a historical billet when a war began, but provided no answer to the quandary.

If nothing else, the lessons learned during the short life of the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon established a pattern for a field combat history program which was to be reshaped to serve the needs of the Marine Corps historical effort in future years. □1775□

Panama Scene

(Continued from page 24)

.45-caliber Gatling gun, a 37mm (one-pounder) Hotchkiss revolving cannon, and a Dahlgren brass small-boat howitzer, all manned by Marines and sailors. Arriving at Matachin station two hours later, a contingent of 90 Marines from the Pensacola Navy Yard disembarked with their Gatling gun to guard this stretch of the rail line, the station, and a nearby bridge.

Col Waterhouse's painting captures that moment in the expedition, with Marines and sailors mingling with the villagers in a festive spirit while Maj Heywood confers with two of his subordinates, Capt Robert L. Meade, USMC, and Capt Henry Clay Cochrane, USMC, beside one of the armored cars.

In keeping with past efforts in this series, a number of interesting small details were found during the research and finally incorporated into the painting. These included the use of practical canvas leggings by the sailors (the Marine Corps quickly adopted them after the campaign), the distinctive grips of the Merwin and Hurlbut revolvers carried by the sailors, the Marines' white haversacks, and the two McKeever cartridge boxes carried by Marines in field service. Above all was an opportunity to include a then-innovative mode of defensive transport: the armored cars.

Fortunately, an excellent account of the design and construction of these cars was available in a report by their builder, Lt Kimball, to Cdr McCalla. The report was included in McCalla's summary of the campaign, which provided the research team the bulk of the material on which the painting is based.

Reports by other subordinate officers and later published memoirs also were consulted by the team, as were the papers of Col Henry Clay Cochrane in the Museum's Personal Papers Collection. Cochrane's papers and diaries are treasured by students of 19th century Marine Corps history, in part because they were so well organized by the methodical Cochrane.

In addition, the team studied the flora, fauna, architecture, and costumes of the region to further ensure the accuracy of the finished painting.

The staff of the Transportation Depart-



Among sources consulted for the content of the painting was this engraving from Harper's Magazine of 1885. The illustration appears in Peter Karsten's *The Naval Aristocracy*, described as *U.S. sailors and Marines guarding the American-owned Panama R.R. Co.*

ment of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History was helpful in providing photographs of the engines and rolling stock used by the Panama Railway Company in the 1880s. Also of assistance was the staff of the Naval Historical Center, in locating and providing obscure source materials for the research team.

Artifacts from the Museum's collections, as well as some others borrowed from pri-

vate collectors, were sent to the artist's studio, along with photographs of Marines assigned to Museums Branch Activities, Quantico, modelling uniforms and equipment in various poses desired by the artist.

The completed painting now hangs in the Commandants of the Marine Corps Corridor at the Pentagon, where its bright colors contrast vividly with the darker hues of many of the other artworks on display.

□1775□

Historical Quiz

Marines in Europe

by Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Historian

Identify the following Marines, organizations, dates, or events:

1. The first U.S. Marine guard was stationed in France, in 1878, for what occasion?
2. Marines were provided for this unusual mission to France during 1905.
3. Identify the two Marine infantry brigades that served in Europe during World War I.
4. This Marine pilot and his gunner became the first aviation Medal of Honor recipients.
5. During World War II, Marines were sent to Europe to serve with this forerunner of the CIA.
6. In 1941, this future Commandant, then a captain, was assigned as a special naval observer in London to observe British commando training in Scotland.
7. Marines from this command in Northern Ireland participated in the North African landings in November 1942.
8. In what year did Marine detachments organize a landing party in the harbor of Marseilles to accept the surrender of German forces and to disarm the garrisons?
9. During February and March 1966, Marines participated in their first joint exercise in what northern European country?
10. In what country did the U.S. Marine Band perform its first overseas concert?

(Answers on page 21)

Extracts of Corps' 1988 Chronology

by Ann A. Ferrante
Reference Historian

To outline significant events and dates in contemporary Marine Corps history, the Reference Section has been compiling ongoing, current Marine Corps chronologies since 1982. Complete each February, the chronologies have grown from 85 entries in 1982 to over 135 entries in 1988.

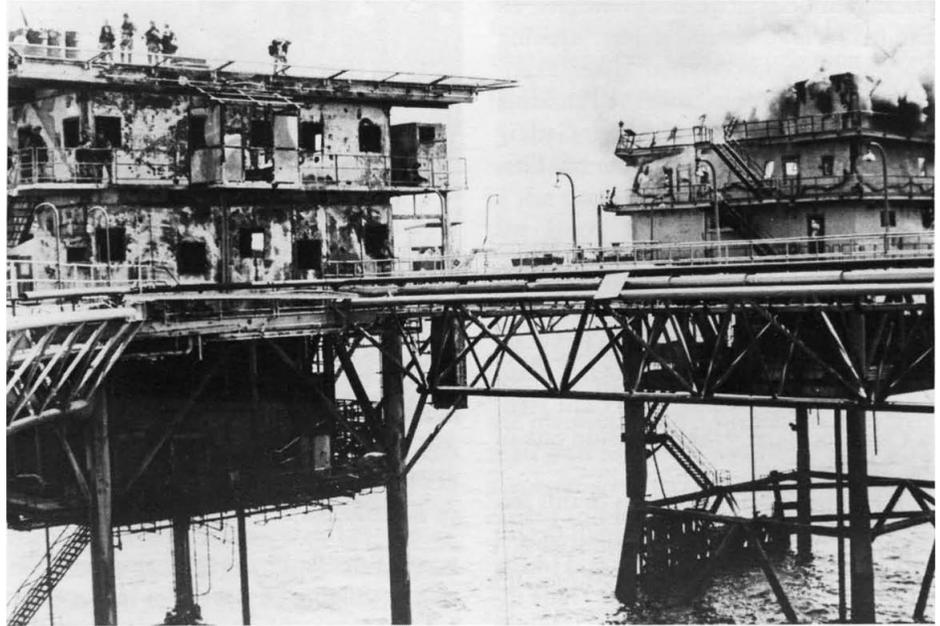
To compile the current chronology of the Marine Corps, numerous primary and secondary sources, consisting of literally hundreds of pages, are researched each week. As discussed in the Spring-Summer 1988 issue of *Fortitudine*, primary sources include annual summaries of activities for Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; unit command chronologies; operational summaries; and message traffic. Secondary sources are also reviewed for items of interest. They include a wide variety of press releases, newspapers, magazines, and journals.

Below are selected entries from the 1988 Marine Corps Chronology:

27 Jan—About 400 Marines and sailors from the 2d Marine Division, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, and 2d Force Service Support Group deployed for the war-torn Persian Gulf. The Contingency Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) CM 2-88, commanded by Col William M. Rakow, Jr., would relieve a similar though larger (700-man) Contingency MAGTF, CM 1-88, commanded by Col Frank Libutti. Use of the contingency MAGTFs would provide a small but effective landing force capability to Joint Task Force Middle East without drawing down on the Marine amphibious units routinely deployed to the Mediterranean and Middle East.

5 Feb—The Marine Corps changed the designations of Marine Air-Ground Task Forces that constitute its fighting formations. The word "amphibious" was replaced by "expeditionary." Marine Amphibious Units, Marine Amphibious Brigades, and Marine Amphibious Forces—the trademarks of the Corps for over 20 years—were redesignated as Marine Expeditionary Units, Marine Expeditionary Brigades, and Marine Expeditionary Forces. The new term signified that the Marine Corps would not be limited to amphibious operations but rather be capable of a wide spectrum of deployment and employment options.

15 Feb—The first recruits to undergo the most extensive change in basic training in many years began Basic Warrior Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. Basic Warrior Training, a program to improve individual skills and survivability in combat, incorporated additional weapons training. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Alfred M. Gray, visited Parris Island on



Two Iranian oil platforms were attacked by Marines in April 1988, in retaliation for damage to the USS Samuel B. Roberts from a mine laid by Iran in the Persian Gulf.

18 February to observe the first series of recruits to go through the training.

17 Feb—LtCol William R. Higgins, assigned to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) was abducted by pro-Iranian terrorists while traveling on the Lebanese coastal highway near the southern port city of Tyre. He headed one of three UNTSO detachments in the region responsible for monitoring the border between Israel and Lebanon. UNTSO is a multi-national peacekeeping organization comprised of unarmed military observers which, since its formation in 1948, has been responsible for supervising armistice agreements among Israel and neighboring Arab countries.

26 Feb-11 Mar—Marines of the 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) participated in FEX 1-88 at Twentynine Palms, California, the largest field exercise ever conducted by the 7th MEB and among the biggest force-on-force exercises in recent memory. The exercise pitted the 7th MEB against the 3d Brigade, 7th U.S. Infantry Division (Light) and involved more than 7,700 Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps personnel. It was designed to test the combat power of the MEB in a desert environment.

Mar—Three Marines were named as crew members for NASA shuttle missions to fly in 1989. Col James F. Buchli and Col Robert C. Springer were assigned as mission specialists on shuttle mission STS-29, scheduled for launch 19 January 1989. The primary mission objective would be to deploy a third tracking and data relay satellite. Col Charles F. Bolden was designated the pilot for STS-31, which would feature deployment of the Hubble space telescope, targeted for launch 1 June 1989.

1-22 Apr—More than 40,000 U.S. military personnel participated in Exercise Ocean Vendure 88 conducted on U.S. beaches, the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf

of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea. The exercise was designed to demonstrate U.S. capability to protect national interest by supporting friendly neighbors in the Caribbean. Approximately 5,400 Marines from the 6th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and the 28th Marine Expeditionary Unit participated in the exercise. On 12 April, one Marine was injured during the offloading of a maritime prepositioning ship and died later that day.

18 Apr—Acting on evidence that Iran had laid the mine that damaged the USS *Samuel B. Roberts* in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. retaliated with attacks on two Iranian oil platforms that had been used to help direct attacks on civilian shipping. Iranian counterattacks against civilian and military targets led to wide-ranging engagements in the gulf that resulted in heavy losses for the Iranian Navy. One Marine Corps helicopter from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167 disappeared while on a reconnaissance flight from the guided missile frigate USS *Wainwright*.

1 May—As of this date, traditional Inspector General of the Marine Corps (IGMC) were no longer conducted. The responsibility for the new inspection process shifted from Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps to major subordinate commanders. Each commander would be responsible for designing and conducting a biannual Command Inspection Program (CIP). The IGMC would provide guidelines to maintain Corps-wide inspection standardization and it would evaluate the effectiveness of the individual CIP every three years through visits and the analysis of the command inspection reports.

5 May—The late Gen Keith B. McCutcheon was recognized in the Naval Aviation Hall of Honor at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida, along with four other former naval officers and a civilian engineer. Gen McCutcheon flew combat mis-



LtCol David C. Hilmers, USMC.

sions in World War II and Korea and commanded the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam. He recognized the potential of rotary wing aircraft and became a strong advocate for helicopters and oversaw their introduction and proliferation throughout the Marine Corps.

23 May—The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter Textron's Arlington, Texas, facility. More than 1,000 representatives from the industry, military, and media gathered at Bell's Flight Research Center to hear guest of honor Mr. Jim Wright, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Gen Alfred M. Gray, Commandant of the Marine Corps, praise the versatile rotorcraft designed from the ground up to meet the needs of all four services on 21st century battlefields. The Osprey is scheduled for delivery to the Corps beginning in late 1991.

Jul—Marshal Sergei F. Akhromeyev, Chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Union, and senior military leaders on his staff toured Marine Corps instal-

lations as part of a Joint Chiefs of Staff-sponsored visit to promote better understanding between the armed forces of the Soviet Union and the United States. The Soviet officials visited Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where they watched a demonstration of a Marine air-ground task force operation. They also observed training and professional education at Marine Corps Development Command, Quantico.

4 Jul—Approximately 8,000 U.S. and Thai troops, including Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, participated in Exercise Cobra Gold 88, an annual training exercise in and around the Gulf of Thailand. The exercise was designed to strengthen the ability of the Royal Thai armed forces to defend their country. It also demonstrated the U.S. ability to rapidly deploy its forces in the defense of an ally.

10 Sep—On this date, an order came from President Reagan that Marine units from Camp Pendleton were to deploy to Yellowstone National Park to help bolster tired firefighters who had been battling the massive blaze all summer. In all, some 1,200 Marines from 1st and 3d Battalions of the 5th Marines, the command element of the 5th Marines, along with Combat Service Support Detachment 12 of the 1st Force Service Support Group made up Marine Air Ground Task Force 5. The task force joined approximately 6,500 other Army and civilian firefighters already at Yellowstone.

18 Sep-11 Oct—Marines of the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade joined Italian and Turkish troops for Exercise Display Determination 88 in the Mediterranean. The exercise resolved to reinforce NATO's Southern Region in time of crisis or war and meet NATO commitments to defend the region from external aggression. The exercise marked the first time the Corps included its newest combat vehicle, the LAV, in a six-month forward deployment.

29 Sep—The space shuttle *Discovery* raced into orbit carrying five experienced astronauts, among them LtCol David C. Hilmers, USMC. The first shuttle mission since the *Challenger's* explosion on 28 January 1986, the *Discovery* carried the nation's hopes for renewing its space program. The successful four-day



Then-LtGen Keith B. McCutcheon.

mission included the release of a \$100 million satellite that will be a critical link in a communications network for orbiting shuttles and other spacecraft.

10 Nov—Amongst many other Marine Corps Birthday celebrations and ceremonies, the new Commandants of the Marine Corps Corridor in the Pentagon was dedicated. The Commandant, Gen Alfred M. Gray, and the Secretary of the Navy, William L. Ball, presided at the ribbon-cutting. The art in the corridor traced the history of the Corps with portraits of 27 of the 29 Commandants interspersed with art portraying historical events of the period of each Commandant.

17 Dec—Six Soviet military museum curators visited the Marine Corps Historical Center, Washington, D.C. The exchange of military museum officials was part of a two-year program of U.S.-Soviet Military Contact activities agreed to in July 1988 by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm William J. Crowe, Jr., and Marshal of the USSR Sergei F. Akhromeyev. A reciprocal visit was scheduled for early 1989. □1775□

Answers to Historical Quiz

Marines in Europe

(Questions on page 19)

1. During that year, Marines were called upon to protect American exhibits at the Universal Exposition of Paris.
2. Marines arrived in France during June 1905 to escort the body of John Paul Jones back to his final resting place within the Naval Academy at Annapolis.
3. The 4th Brigade was formed from the 5th and 6th Regiments and the 6th Machine Gun Battalion in October 1917, and the Fifth Brigade, organized in September 1918, was composed of the 11th and 13th Regiments and the 5th Brigade Machine Gun Battalion.
4. 2dLt Ralph Talbot and GySgt Robert G. Robinson were awarded the medals for heroism in combat on the European front during October 1918.
5. The OSS (Office of Strategic Services) employed Marines behind the lines in several enemy-occupied countries to assist in organizing resistance units and coordinating delivery of arms and equipment to those regions.
6. Capt Wallace M. Greene, Jr., and then-Capt Samuel B. Griffith II, who received the same assignment, later wrote a report which stressed the importance of learning to fight at night.
7. A small group of Marines from the Marine Barracks, Londonderry, went ashore at Arzeu and assisted in the taking of three French steamers and a patrol boat.
8. During the invasion of southern France in August 1944, 730 Germans were taken prisoner in these operations.
9. It was Norway; Company L, 3d Battalion, 6th Marines, was attached to the III Battalion, Brigade North, Norwegian Army, for Exercise Winter Express.
10. During November 1985, the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps invited the Marine Band to perform at a joint concert in Rotterdam with the RNMC's Marine Band on the occasion of the Royal Netherlands Navy's 320th birthday.

Who Was Left Behind on Makin?

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

The Reference Section of the Marine Corps Historical Center receives many inquiries from World War II veterans concerning their military service, or a particular battle or campaign in which their unit participated.

Recently, the section received a request from a member of the Marine Raider Association for information on Marines who were officially listed as missing in action from the Makin Island raid of August 1942. Founded to preserve the traditions and memory of the Marine raiders of World War II, the Association seeks to account for all raiders who died in the war.

The Makin Island raid of 17-18 August was intended primarily as a diversion to force the Japanese to reroute reinforcements intended for Guadalcanal. Commanded by LtCol Evans F. Carlson, 222 Marines from Companies A and B of the 2d Raider Battalion departed Pearl Harbor on 8 August on board the submarines *Nautilus* and *Argonaut*, and reached the Makin Atoll in the Gilbert Islands on the evening of 16 August.

Following their surprise landing on Makin, the raiders had killed nearly every enemy soldier on the island and destroyed many of the Japanese supply dumps and facilities. However, when the raiders attempted on the evening of 17 August to return to the *Nautilus* and *Argonaut*, upon completion of their mission, they found the surf much heavier than expected, and many were unable to maneuver their rubber boats through the rapid succession of breakers to clear water. Equipment and clothes were lost. Col Carlson later noted that the hour-long attempt to negotiate the surf "provided a struggle so intense and so futile that it will forever remain a ghastly nightmare to those who participated." Indeed, several raiders probably drowned at this time attempting to reach the *Nautilus* and *Argonaut*, as hardly more than one-third of the Marines reached the two submarines. The remaining raiders returned to shore and waited miserably in the rain for dawn, and yet another attempt to reach the safety of the submarines. Further efforts to master the surf in the early

LtCol Evans F. Carlson, USMCR, left, and Maj James Roosevelt, USMCR, son of the President, display the Japanese flag seized by the Marine Raider Battalion in the 1942 Makin Island raid.



morning hours of 18 August did prove successful as several boats got through to the submarines.

Five Marines volunteered to return in a rescue boat from the *Nautilus* to the Makin shore with a line-throwing gun, and a message to Col Carlson, that although the submarines might be forced to submerge temporarily, they would return to remove all raiders ashore. Tragically, Col Carlson later noted that the rescue boat had hardly delivered its message when it was heavily strafed by Japanese aircraft and "its crew probably killed."

Japanese planes continued to bomb and strafe Makin for much of the day (18 August), while Carlson's raiders remained under cover. After spending another day ashore on the atoll, the exhausted raiders finally managed on the evening of 18 August to jury-rig four of their rubber boats to a native outrigger, in which they were able to negotiate the tossing surf. The raider force reached the *Nautilus* and *Argonaut*, at the lagoon side of Makin at 2330 and proceeded, along with the *Argonaut*, to Pearl Harbor. Col Carlson noted in his official report that the return journey "was without event except for the excellent surgery of the accompanying Navy doctors under difficult conditions."

An examination of operational reports and unit diaries from the 2d Raider Battalion lists 18 officer and enlisted Marines as killed in action during the 17-18 August 1942 raid on Makin Island. These 18 Marines were all interred locally on Makin Island, and their bodies determined to be non-recoverable by a field board after the war. The same operational reports and unit diaries also list 12 Marines as missing in action from the raid.

It should be kept in mind that several raiders were believed to have drowned while attempting to reach the *Nautilus* and *Argonaut* on the evening of 17 August, and five raiders were strafed in their rubber boats (and believed killed) while attempting to deliver a message and assist their comrades ashore on Makin. The official report of the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, on the Makin Island raid, dated 20 October 1942, stated that "30 of our Marine raiders were killed in action and drowned." It was only after the war that further light would be shed on the fate of nine raiders who, tragically, had been left on Makin Atoll.

To this day, it is unclear how the nine Marines were left ashore on Makin. A likely explanation may be that they were in a rubber boat which unsuccessfully fought the surf on 17 August and drifted downshore. In any event, the nine Marines were captured several days after the raid by Japanese reinforcements which mounted out of a nearby island garrison on 18 and 20 August. The Japanese reported that they found 21 Marine bodies, along with five rubber boats, rifles, and other equipment. As Carlson's Marine raiders accounted for 18 of their number killed in action on Makin, it does appear that three Marines drowned, or were killed when strafed on their rubber boat. At least one native from Makin Atoll reported after the war that the bodies of several drowned Marines were found on the Makin beach after the raiders departed. Thus, the 21 Marine bodies found by the Japanese, along with the 9 Raiders captured alive, account for all 30 Marine casualties from the Makin Raid.

The nine Marines captured on Makin were taken early in September by the Japanese to Kwajalein, and there guarded by the 61st Garrison Unit of the Imperial Japanese Navy. In mid-October 1942, the nine Marines were executed by order of the Marshalls Island Commander, VAdm Kose Abe, IJN, after purportedly being advised by a visiting member of the General Staff that he could dispose of the prisoners on the island, as it was impracticable to transfer them to Japan. The execution of the nine prisoners took place on 16 October 1942.

In April 1946 an American Commission convened at Guam by order of the Commander Marianas Area, to consider charges of murder against VAdm Abe, who had ordered the execution of the nine Marine raiders. The Japanese admiral was convicted of murder and was executed on 19 June 1947 at Guam. Capt Yoshio Obara, Kwajalein Island Commander, who was ordered by Abe to arrange the executions of the Marines, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, and a Lt Hisakichi was sentenced to five years in prison.

The Reference Section, in attempting to shed light upon the fate of the Marines left behind on Makin, examined the 400-plus pages of the *Record of Proceedings of the Military Commission* convened at Guam to consider the charges against the accused Japanese officers. Testimony taken at the trial clearly established that the nine Americans were Marines captured on Makin by Japanese forces several days after the 2d Marine Raider Battalion action. There is, unfortunately, no clue in the court proceedings as to the specific identities of the nine Marines. Indeed, it was specifically stated in the specifications of the trial that the names of the nine Marines were unknown. We *do* know that the nine came from the group of 12 raiders listed as missing in action from the Makin Raid. □1775□

Col Carlson, left, and LtCol Roosevelt, right, join other Makin Island Raiders to recreate for the camera the planning with maps on board Nautilus and Argonaut which preceded the raid.



Tarawa Historical Display Enhances 2d Division HQ

*by Col Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret)
Deputy Director for Museums*

The 45-square-foot Tarawa diorama, a popular feature of the World War II hangar at Quantico's Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum for the past five and one-half years, has been moved to the headquarters of the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune.

The division recently occupied its new headquarters building, Julian C. Smith Hall, converted from the old base hospital on Hospital Point. The division commander, MajGen Orlo K. Steele, wanted to create a mini-museum reflecting the division's history and called upon the History and Museums Division for help.

We term these mini-museums in unit and activity headquarters "historical displays," to distinguish them from the larger, more elaborate "command museums." A command museum represents a major effort by a large base, such as the museums at the Parris Island or San Diego recruit depots, or those proposed by Camps Pendleton and Lejeune or by air stations at El Toro and Cherry Point.

Establishing a historical display is more manageable. It might consist of an artillery piece or a tank in front of a headquarters building or an aircraft at an air station main gate. In a headquarters lobby it typically might include photographs, maps, and art of unit's battles.

When MajGen Steele called the History and Museums Division we immediately offered high-quality reproductions of Tom Lovell's painting of the Tarawa landing from the perspective of the reef and Col Charles H. Waterhouse's painting of the attack inland from the seawall. BGen Edwin H. Simmons, Director of History and Museums, then suggested the Tarawa diorama. A truck arrived from 2d Division, the diorama was carefully padded, and, after a gentle trip, it arrived at Camp Lejeune undamaged.

Longtime readers of *Fortitudine* will recall (Fall 1983) the arrival of the diorama at the Historical Center. It was created by the 9th-grade history class at the junior high school in Gilbert, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix. The class teacher, former Marine Glen P. Frakes, had each class research and construct a diorama of a famous battle or incident of American military history as a motivator and teaching tool. The Tarawa diorama took about 5,000 hours of effort and \$5,000 worth of material. Mr. Frakes and 15 of his students came to Washington on the 40th anniversary of the Tarawa landing to present their work to the Marine Corps. Another of Gilbert Junior High School history class's productions, a diorama of the Defense of Wake Island, remains in the Air-Ground Museum.

Historical displays are a relatively simple method of presenting unit history to Marines, in order to build esprit de corps by establishing a sense of identity with the past which leads them to better face the challenges of present and future. □1775□

Waterhouse Paints Lively, Colorful Panama Action

by *Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas*
Curator of Material History

A new painting featuring Marines and sailors in the Panama intervention of 1885, and the third in a series of five works depicting Marines in 19th century expeditions, has been completed by artist-in-residence Col Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR. Following the two completed paintings devoted to the capture of the abolitionist John Brown at Harpers Ferry in 1859 and the 1865 Union assault on Fort Fisher, this painting marks the midpoint of a project in which the fourth painting, on the capture of Cuzco Wells during the Spanish-American War, has also been completed, and the fifth, showing Commodore Perry's return from Shuri Castle, Okinawa, in 1845, is expected to be completed this year.

Although largely forgotten in recent times and overshadowed by more well known naval expeditions, the 1885 Panama intervention is nonetheless a classic example of the use of a "force in readiness," due to the speed with which it was mounted, the innovations in tactical transport, and the methodical military professionalism which terminated a revolution. This U.S. show-of-force presaged many such interventions in the Caribbean and Central America which except for some minor improvements in equipment seem to have had no major impact on the Marine Corps.

The scene of the painting is the small village of Matachin, a rail-



At right, Maj Charles L. Heywood confers with Capts Meade and Cochrane, as Marines and sailors mingle with the villagers of Matachin along the Panama railway in April 1885. The innovative armored car and artillery piece are featured.

road "whistlestop" midway across the Panamanian isthmus. Maj (later Commandant) Charles L. Heywood's battalion, the first of two contingents dispatched from New York, halts to establish a post in the village before pushing on to Panama City on the Pacific coast. The Marines are part of a naval force under Cdr Bowman H. McCalla which sailed on 3 April 1885, having as its mission the protection of American lives and property during a revolution which had broken out a week-and-a-half earlier.

Panama, at that time a province of Colombia, was an international focal point due to the interest in the completion of a canal. Landing at the Caribbean port of Aspinwall (now Colón) on 11 April, Heywood's Marines boarded two trains bound for the other coast at 2 p.m. Each engine was preceded by an ingenious armored car, designed by Lt W. W. Kimball, USN, and built in the engine repair shops of the Panama Railroad Company. The cars were armored with boilerplate and each mounted a

(Continued on page 19)