

FORTITUDIN

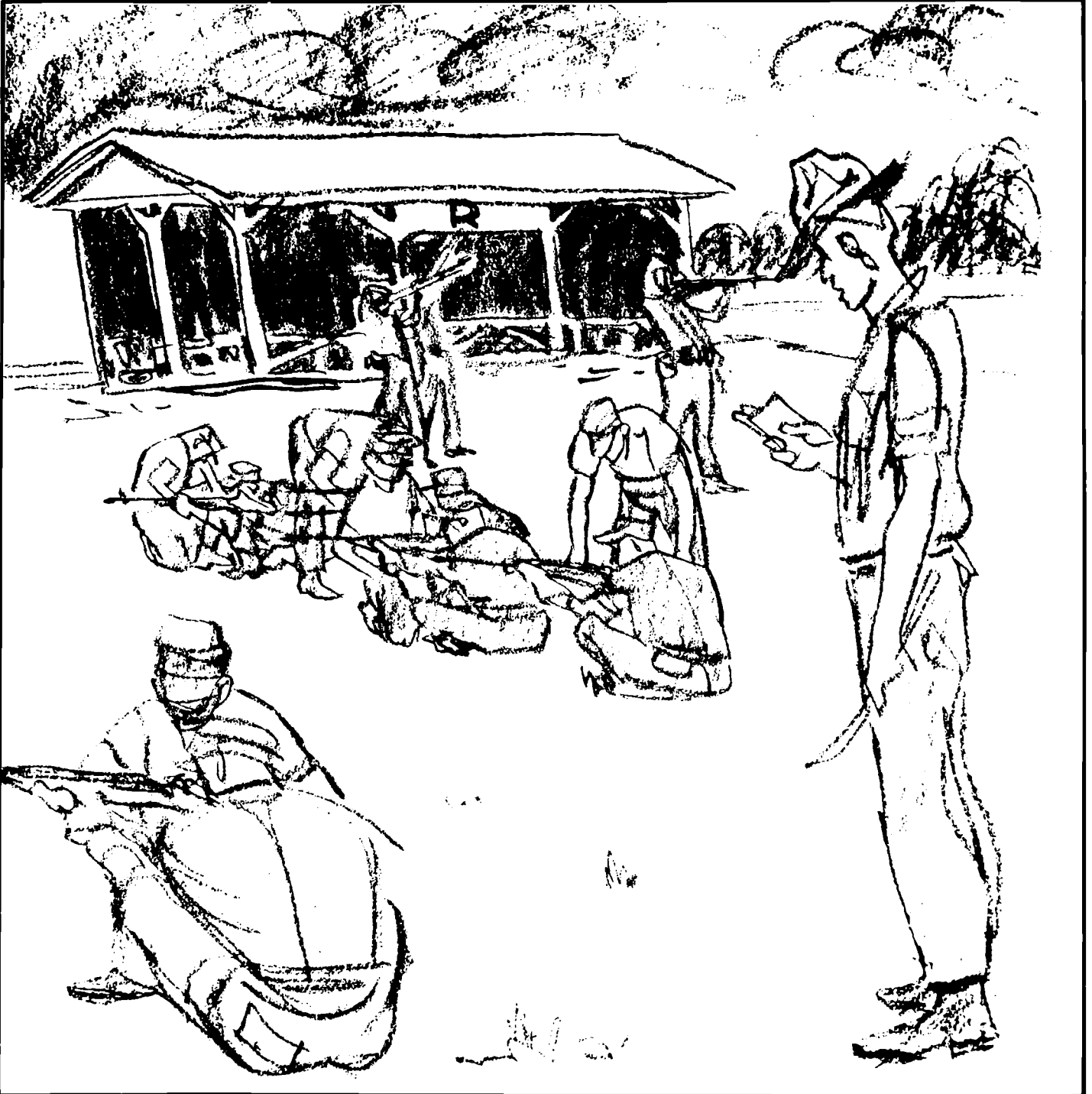
BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

25th
ANNIVERSARY YEAR

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXV

WINTER-SPRING 1996

NUMBERS 3 & 4



PARRIS ISLAND MUSEUM MARKS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO RECRUIT DEPOT. . . STAFF AND FRIENDS BID A FOND FAREWELL TO BGEN EDWIN H. SIMMONS, LONGTIME DIRECTOR OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

This issue combines in one the Winter 1995-1996 and Spring 1996 issues. Please see page 2 for details

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

PCN 10401220100



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FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Volume XXV

Winter-Spring 1996

Nos. 3 & 4

This quarterly bulletin of the Marine Corps historical program is published for Marines, at the rate of one copy for every nine on active duty, to provide education and training in the uses of military and Marine Corps history. Other interested readers may purchase single copies or four-issue subscriptions from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. The appropriate order form appears in this issue.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Memorandum from the Chief Historian: Saluting a Marine of Depth and Dignity
Benis M. Frank 3

New Phones, Closings at Center
LtCol Dave Beasley, Jr. 7

Seniors Monitored Young Marine's Career, Papers Show
Amy J. Cantin 8

Historical Quiz: Marines in Disaster Relief Missions
Jennifer Josey 9

New Books: Photo Collections Capture Marines in Training, at War
Jennifer Josey 10

'Boldness and Daring' Win Prize for Writer
Peter M. Yarbrow 10

Acquisitions: Cates' Vented, Dented WWI Helmet Enters Collection
Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas 11

Commandant Establishes a Beachhead in the Pentagon
Charles R. Smith 12

Art Chosen for CMC Tells History
Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas 14

Parris Island Museum Celebrates 20 Years in the Making
Dr. Stephen R. Wise 15

Answers to the Historical Quiz: Marines in Disaster Relief Missions
Jennifer Josey 17

Corps' Archivist Asked to Lecture on Methods in Japan
Frederick J. Graboske 18

First View of Rare Aircraft Stars in Museum's 18th Year
Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas 21

Marine Corps Chronology: January-June 1947
Robert V. Aquilina 22

Raiders History, Humanitarian Relief Series Introduced
Benis M. Frank 24

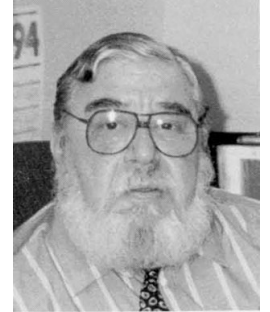
ABOUT THE COVER

Capt (now Colonel, retired) Edward M. Condra III produced this sketch, "Rifle Range—Snapping-in, Parris Island," in 1968, also noting that "Marine recruits through constant practice learn to become good marksmen." By the early 1970s, as Maj Condra he had become the third director of the Parris Island Museum, and the one who developed allotted spaces in the Recruit Depot's War Memorial Building which still are a part of the command museum facility. Current Director Dr. Stephen R. Wise takes readers on a literary walking tour of the museum and describes some of the items in its growing collections, beginning on page 15.

TO OUR READERS

This issue of *Fortitudine* combines two issues, Winter 1995-1996 (Volume XXV, No. 3) and Spring 1996 (Volume XXV, No. 4), into a single issue, identified as Winter-Spring 1996 and numbered Volume XXV, Nos. 3 & 4. Subscribers to the bulletin from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, will find their current paid subscriptions extended by an additional issue.

Fortitudine is produced in the Editing and Design 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.



Benis M. Frank

Saluting a Marine of Depth and Dignity

YOU MAY VERY WELL wonder why this section of *Fortitudine* has changed and why its previous occupant, of 25 years standing, is no longer here. BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), Director of Marine Corps History and Museums and longtime author of "Memorandum from the Director," re-retired on 3 January after nearly 54 years both as a serving Marine officer and, for the past 24 years, as a civil servant.

During the past year Gen Simmons entertained notions of retiring, and on 23 October 1995, discussed his intention to retire with the Commandant, Gen Charles C. Krulak, via electronic mail. The Commandant told him, "Ed, I knew the day was coming but I must confess that your E-mail left me feeling somewhat empty—53 years of faithful service to Corps and country—you should feel great pride in what you have done and the impact you have had over those years." That same day, Gen Simmons informed his staff that the rumors it had heard about his impending retirement were true, and added, "I will leave with unbounded admiration for a great and talented crew."

On 3 January, the Director sent the following "all hands" e-mail to the History and Museums Division staff: "This will be my last transmission as Director. For me it has been a great 24 years that have gone by all too quickly. Some of you have been with me all this time. Others have arrived more recently. But regardless of your relative longevity, I am proud of you all and of the products we have turned out. But then, what better subject could a military historian want than the United States Marine Corps? With all best wishes to each and every one of you, Semper Fidelis, E. H. Simmons."

Also on 3 January, at the direction of the Commandant, Gen Simmons became Director Emeritus of Marine Corps History and Museums and moved himself and his belongings to another office in the Historical Center, and the Division continued operating under the acting director, Col

Michael F. Monigan, USMC.

Gen Simmons is one of the last veterans of the great landings of World War II to leave Marine Corps service. His career spanned one-quarter of the Marine Corps' existence, and made him uniquely suited to his assignment as Director of Marine Corps History and Museums. His great depth of experience also made him an important advisor to Commandants for more than the last quarter-century.

IN THE FACE OF ALL THIS, I have been tasked with preparing the "Memorandum..." for future issues, and I obviously have a very hard act to follow. I want first

to acknowledge the towering contributions of my predecessor. But where to begin describing him? *How* to describe him?

A brief recital of his background might be a good starting point. Gen Simmons is a native of Paulsboro, New Jersey; he went to school there. Recently reflecting upon his career and experiences, he noted that while growing up in Paulsboro, he wanted to be variously a professional soldier, a history teacher, and a writer, and the Marine Corps allowed him to be all three.

After high school, he went on to Lehigh University, where he earned his bachelor of arts degree in journalism in 1942. He had been elected to Phi Beta Kappa the

BGen Simmons receives the Secretary of the Navy's Distinguished Civilian Service Award from the Commandant, Gen Charles C. Krulak, in the Commandant's new office at the Pentagon on 19 January. It was the first such ceremony to be held there





Gen Simmons and family members were welcomed by Division staff and Marine Corps Historical Foundation members at the evening reception they jointly sponsored at the Center. With the general, from left, are daughter Courtney, wife Frances, daughter Bliss, and son Clark. Son Edwin was unable to attend. As memento, the general received a model M1917 machine gun

year before. He was active in ROTC at Lehigh and held an Army commission for a brief time after graduation, before he resigned to be commissioned a Marine second lieutenant on 12 June 1942. His career eventually included command or acting command in combat of every echelon from platoon through division.

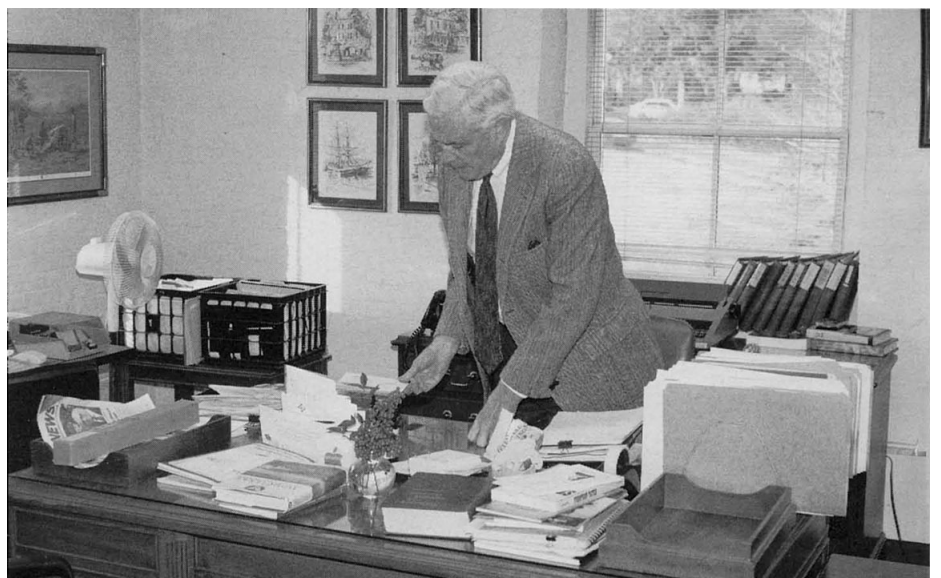
Upon completing the Reserve Officers Course at Quantico, he taught other new officers for a while before deploying overseas as an engineer assigned to the 5th Field Depot in the South and Central Pacific. He took part in the recapture of Guam and served with the 7th Service Regiment on Okinawa and in China.

FOLLOWING THE WAR, he served as managing editor of the *Marine Corps Gazette* for three and a half years and, while at Quantico, attended Junior School. He was with the Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, when the Korean War erupted. His battalion became part of the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, with which he participated in the Inchon landing and the Chosin Reservoir campaign. A fellow company commander was

Robert H. Barrow, a future Commandant. His regimental commander was the legendary Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller. During the battle for Seoul, for leading the defense of a city bridge with a mixed platoon-sized force against a two-battalion North Korean

attack reinforced by a tank battalion, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal. Later in his career, added to the Silver Star would be the Distinguished Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart Medal.

Taking his leave from the desk where hundreds of visitors each year found welcome assistance, Gen Simmons debates with himself on items to be transferred to his new office. He plans on continuing to work on his history of Marines in World War I.





Col Michael F. Monigan, USMC, History and Museums Division acting director, chats with Bliss Simmons, left, and Courtney Simmons, at the farewell luncheon.

His post-Korean assignments included a tour with the Naval ROTC unit at Ohio State University, where he earned a master of arts degree in journalism. For a little more than a year, August 1959 to October 1960, Gen Simmons served as the Naval Attache to the U.S. Embassy in the Dominican Republic and was a central figure in the events prior to and following the assassination of dictator Rafael Trujillo. In July 1965, he began the first of his two tours in Vietnam. In the first tour he served as G-3 of III Marine Amphibious Force and then as commanding officer of the 9th Marines. Returning to Washington, he was Deputy Fiscal Director of the Marine Corps, 1967 to 1970, and was promoted to brigadier general in 1968. He went back to Vietnam in 1970 for a year's tour as Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Marine Division and subsequently Deputy Commander, 3d Marine Brigade.

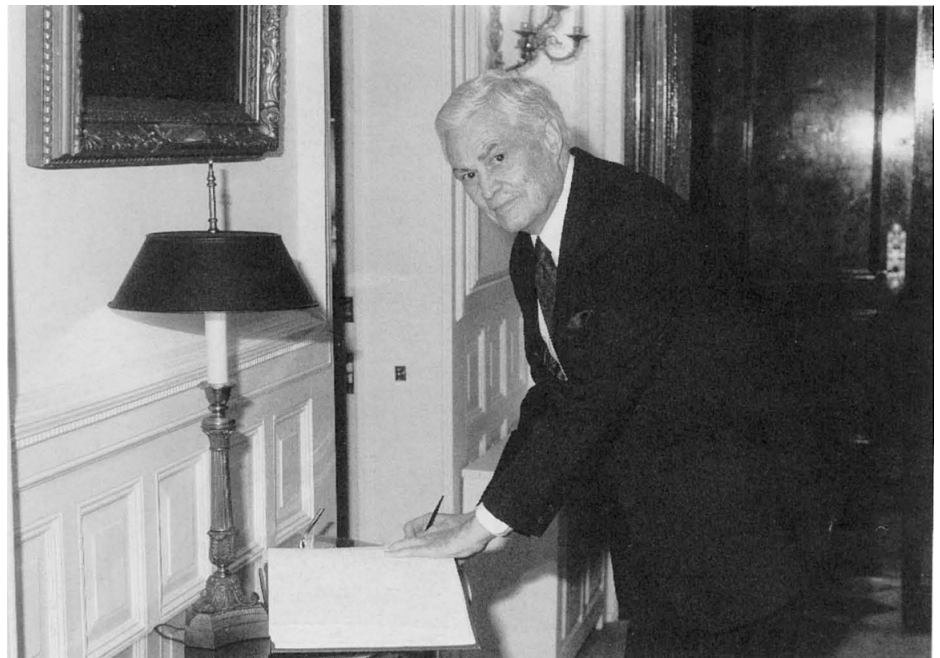
Gen Simmons returned once again to Headquarters Marine Corps as special assistant to the Chief of Staff for strategic studies and, in December 1971, was appointed Director of Marine Corps History and Museums. He went on the retired list the following July, but was recalled to active duty as Director. He retired again in July 1978, and returned to the History and Museums Division in October as a Civil Service employee to resume his po-

sition as Director. He served collaterally for many years as president of the Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board.

All during his active service years, he was a prolific writer and contributed articles and signed book reviews to many professional journals. As his personal contribution to the 200th birthday of the Corps, he wrote *The United States Marines, 1775-1975*, which now has undergone many reprintings. He currently is working on what should become the standard history of Marines in World War I.

HE IS A MEMBER of many organizations (and most often an officer), each organization reflecting his multifaceted interests. He currently is president of the Council on America's Military Past (CAMP). He is a past president of the American Military Institute, now the Society for Military History, and a past vice president of the United States Commission on Military History. He is also a founding member, former executive vice president, and senior vice president of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, and a fellow and former governor of the Company of Military Historians. He is a life member and past president of the 1st Marine Division Association, a past president of the American Society of Military Comp-trollers, and a past vice president of the National War College Alumni Association.

Gen Simmons signs the guest book as he arrives at the dinner given for him by Gen and Mrs. Krulak at the historic Commandant's House. As part of his duties for 25 years, Gen Simmons monitored the care given the house's heirloom art and furniture.



Following news of Gen Simmons' upcoming retirement, his friends and associates made plans to honor him in various ways. The first event was truly a first, in that it was the first time the Commandant's new offices in the Pentagon were used for a decoration ceremony. At this time, 19 January, Gen Krulak decorated Gen Simmons with the Secretary of the Navy's Distinguished Civilian Service Award. The citation read:

For nearly 54 years, General Simmons' leadership, vision, devotion to duty, erudition, impeccable integrity, and personal dignity, have been guiding lights to the Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy. He is the principal architect of the Marine Corps Historical Program, establishing it as a model which all other Services' historical agencies have emulated. General Simmons' creative leadership has resulted in many notable achievements such as the development of an outstanding and highly praised command museums program, the amassing of a valuable collection of personal papers, an equally significantly rich oral history collection, a prodigious and impressive Marine Corps art collection, as well as a highly acclaimed publications program. Under his



At the luncheon were, from left, BGen David Armstrong, USA (Ret), Director, Joint Forces History Office, JCS; BGen John Mountcastle, USA, Chief, Army Center of Military History; Maj-Gen Marvin T. Hopgood, Jr., USMC, President, Marine Corps University; Dr. Alfred Goldberg, Historian, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Dr. William Dudley, Director of Naval History.

direct guidance, a vast number of well-received and favorably reviewed histories have been published documenting the Marine Corps' experience and its rich legacy of service, sacrifice, achievement, warfighting skills, and soldierly virtues. These histories represent for future generations of Marines the very ethos and traditions of the Marine Corps. General Simmons is a founding member and senior vice president of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation. He is a well-recognized and respected author and lecturer, as well as a prolific writer. His influence has been pervasive in a number of areas, from inculcating an appreciation for military history and the Marine Corps' naval character at professional military schools to, as President of the Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board, ensuring that traditions are preserved and safeguarded. General Simmons has represented the Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy with dignity and honor at the highest levels of government, in the military, academic arena, and the professional community. He has been and continues to be an inspiration to all those who have come into contact with him, and his lasting personal contributions have

been indelibly inscribed in a dynamic and functional Marine Corps Historical Program.

In his comments at the ceremony, Gen

Krulak characterized Gen Simmons as "a tremendous warrior, a tremendous scholar," and said that a film about the Marine Corps' last 50 years "would see Ed

More than 200 friends and colleagues crowded the ballroom of the Bolling AFB Officers' Club for the 1 February luncheon. Those attending the event were entertained by Pipe Major Dr. Michael Green, left, and Drum Sergeant Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas.

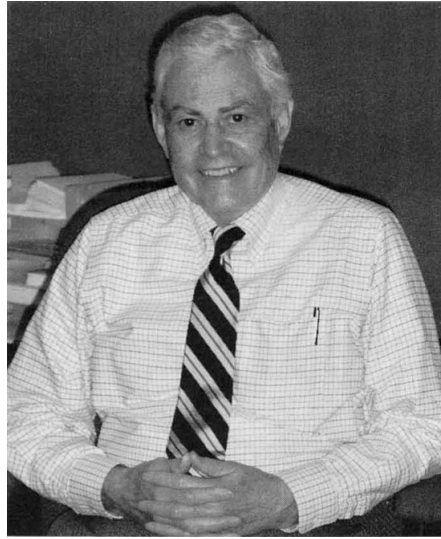


Simmons in a starring role." The Commandant imagined this movie's credits showing Gen Simmons as screenwriter, wardrobe and prop chief (referring to his longtime commission as president of the Uniform Board), director, and producer. Attending the presentation were Mrs. Simmons and three of their four children—Courtney, Bliss, and Clark.

That evening in the Marine Corps Historical Center's Special Exhibits Gallery, the Center's staff and the members of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation honored Gen Simmons at a reception. LtGen Philip Shutler, USMC (Ret), president of the Foundation, praised Gen Simmons' services both to the Corps and to the Foundation, and on behalf of the Foundation presented him a framed reproduction of the stylized map of Belleau Wood which hangs in the Conference Room of the Historical Center. On behalf of the History and Museums Division staff, I presented the former Director a one-fourth-sized model of an M1917 watercooled .30-caliber machine gun, assembled by master model-maker Gordon Heim of the Division's Exhibitory Unit.

The following evening, Saturday, 20 January, the Commandant and Mrs. Krukak hosted a dinner in honor of Gen and Mrs. Simmons in the Commandant's House at the 8th and I Streets Barracks. The other guests were the chiefs of the other Service historical offices and their wives. Present were Dr. Alfred Goldberg, historian of the Office of the Secretary of Defense; BGen David Armstrong, USA (Ret), director of the Joint History Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; BGen John Mountcastle, USA, Chief of the Army Center of Military History; Dr. William Dudley, Director of Naval History; and Gen Shutler of the Historical Foundation.

THE FINAL, and largest, event honoring Gen Simmons was a luncheon held at the Bolling Air Force Base Officers Club on 1 February, attended by more than 200 friends and colleagues, including the 30th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr., and the Comptroller General of the United States, the Hon. Charles Bowsher. This luncheon was originally scheduled for 9 January, but the famous "Blizzard of 96" cancelled that date. Guests entering the dining area were serenaded by Pipe Major Dr. Michael Green of The City of Washington Pipe



Happily ensconced in his new office is the Director Emeritus of Marine Corps History and Museums, a title directed by CMC.

Band, and Drum Sergeant Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas of The City of Alexandria Pipe Band (and Curator of Material History in the Marine Corps Museum).

Among the many tributes paid to Gen Simmons were those by Mr. Gordon Heim, Sr., treasurer of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation and longtime treasurer of the 1st Marine Division Association; Dr. Dudley; BGen Mountcastle and Armstrong; Mr. Herman Wolk of the Office of Air Force History; Dr. Goldberg; military historian Dr. Allan Millett of Ohio State University; Mr. Bowsher, the Comptroller General; and Gen Shutler.

Gen Simmons now keeps bankers' hours at the Center, which does not mean he is not fully occupied finishing his World War I history, preparing articles and speeches to which he has been committed for a long time, and responding to a healthy batch of correspondence which comes in daily. He also continues his interest in the conduct and welfare of the historical program without being himself directly involved. However, as may be seen in the accompanying photograph, retirement seems to suit him well. □1775□

New Phones, Closings at Center

*by LtCol Dave Beasley, Jr.
Executive Officer*

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE History and Museums Division of Headquarters Marine Corps working at the Marine Corps Historical Center at the Washington, D.C. Navy Yard, now have "voice mail," and a number of other communications innovations, right at hand. The Center recently had its telecommunications system upgraded as part of the Department of Defense TEMPO conversion, a program under which outdated analog capacity lines are being replaced by digital capacity lines. As a result, most of the Center's telephone numbers have changed.

Other changes at the Historical Center include the closing of the Marine Corps Museum every Tuesday, and the addition of Thanksgiving Day and New Years Day to Christmas Day as the holidays during which the Museum also will close. The Museum is closing on Tuesdays to allow for an on-going effort to clean, refreshen painted surfaces, and install remodeled and new exhibits. The Museum will be open each Monday and Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday and federal holidays, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and, during the summer parade season, Friday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m.

The prefix for all of the new telephone numbers at the Historical Center, is (202) 433-. The Defense Switching Network (DSN) prefix for the same numbers, for calls from within the Department of Defense, is 288-.

The new numbers are:
Duty Desk, -3534
24-Hour Information, -3840
Director, -2273
Secretary to the Director, -7607
Deputy Director, -3838
Head, Historical Branch, -3837
Chief Historian, -3839
History Writing Unit, -4222
Reference Section, -3483

Archives Section, -3439
Personal Papers Unit, -3396
Head, Support Branch, -2484
Administrative Officer, -2261
Publications Distribution, -4262
Editing & Design Section, -0244
Historical Center Library, -3447
Security Unit, -3667
Exhibits Unit, -4850
Museum Gift Shop, -6330

Phone numbers for the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia, and the Museums Branch of History and Museums Division, remain the same: (703) 784-2606/07 (DSN 278-).

Seniors Monitored Young Marine's Career, Papers Show

by Amy J. Cantin
Personal Papers Archivist

BOOKS ABOUT PEOPLE and events answer important questions, such as cause and effect, location, and key players. However, books may not answer *all* of the questions individuals have about a person or a period. For those questions, they need original sources. And for people who want to know more about the lives of Marines in the past, the original sources of the Marine Corps Personal Papers Collection are extremely important.

The Marine Corps Collection is large and growing steadily. As archivist of the collection, I frequently have the pleasure of coming across special items within it that enlarge the Marine Corps story by tracing the career of one Marine. Such an individual is Col Luther A. Brown, Jr., who was awarded the Legion of Merit for skill and exceptional courage in dealing on behalf of his Marines, and other Allied troops, with Japanese prisoner of war camp

authorities in World War II.

"On one occasion he saved the life of a high British official by disarming the Japanese Chief Officer Interpreter who was at the point of slashing the Briton with his sword," the medal citation reads, "Subsequently, during an official interview, he returned a blow struck by the Japanese Camp Manager and immediately took bold measures which resulted in the transfer of that officer from the camp."

IN 1966, Col Brown donated his papers to the Historical Center. These papers span his 30-year career as a Marine, with service in Saint Croix in the Virgin Islands, in Nicaragua, and in Shanghai, Peking, and Tientsin in China, as well as at various bases in the U.S. His entire career is open to the researcher by reading letters, orders, and various other documents and memorabilia. The collection is

fascinating for anyone who wants to know what it was like to be Marine from 1923 to 1953.

Brown was unusually fortunate at the beginning of his career. He had several opportunities presented to him and, in choosing one, in 1917 was admitted into the Naval Academy through "an extra appointment" and graduated in 1921. By October 1922 he sought to be commissioned in the Marine Corps because, as he stated, "the Naval Service has never appealed to me as it should." Thereafter he appears to have been well guided by a succession of senior Marine officers.

Brown's commission was approved in December 1922, despite deficiencies in his eyesight. The Surgeon General signed an endorsement to the Major General Commandant recommending that "the defective vision in [this] case be waived." However, in September 1924, Marine Corps Aviation "had 33 vacancies for pilots . . . and it was essential that the quota be maintained at full strength." All officers were considered; Brown was put forward as a strong candidate. He delayed his acceptance out of respect for his wife's "reluctance." In the end their deliberations over a career change were futile because, once again, he was unable to pass the physical examination.

IN JANUARY 1925, Brown sought a change of duty station in hopes of recovering from a "financial embarrassment." Promotions at the time were based on four major qualifications: mental, physical, moral, and professional. As a result of the debt which Brown had incurred he lacked the moral qualification and, consequently, could not be promoted to first lieutenant. Brown sought a new duty station in Haiti, where he thought he "would be better able to pay off my debts."

There were no openings in Haiti. However, there would "probably be a vacancy in the Virgin Islands very shortly." A few weeks later Brown was on his way to St. Croix with the USS *Grebe*. He was still having financial difficulties into 1928, and it was not until action came down

Luther A. "Brownie" Brown, Jr., heads out by rickshaw in 1940, in his second tour of duty in China. He would become commander of the Marine Detachment, Tientsin, only to be forced to surrender it to the Japanese Imperial Army on 8 December 1941.



from the Commandant, MajGen John A. Lejeune, placing Brown on a financial schedule in which he would be required to submit "special monthly reports," that the situation began to change. Brown was named to first lieutenant by January 1930.

In 1931, Brown traveled to China for the first time with the American Legation Guard for rifle matches and then a tour of duty with the 4th Marines. This was followed by a variety of assignments in the U.S., and return to China by mid-1940. By 12 March 1941 he was named commanding officer of the Marine Detachment, Tientsin.

LESS THAN NINE MONTHS after Brown's arrival, he and his entire detachment were forced to surrender to the Imperial Japanese Army at 0900, 8 December 1941. The Japanese gave the Detachment the ultimatum to either "disarm [them]selves voluntarily" or "the Japanese Army shall be obliged to resort to arms and disarm all." By 1000 that morning, a radioed message came in from Col W. W. Ashurst, USMC, CO, Marine Forces, North China, stating: I AM COMPLYING COMPLYING WITH DEMANDS OF THE IM-

PERIAL JAPANESE ARMY. ADVISE YOU TO DO LIKEWISE." Brown responded to the Japanese in writing, "You are advised that the proposal submitted . . . is accepted." The same day then-Maj Brown and his subordinates became POWs who were to be imprisoned in China and Japan until the end of the war in September 1945.

While imprisoned, Brown continued to look after his Marines, as others had done for him early in his career. He insisted that "in accordance with the provisions of the Boxer Protocol, all of my officers and men be returned to the United States by first available conveyance." In addition, because "[these] Marines from North China were not [technically considered] POWs" and through a connection with the Swiss International Red Cross, he was able to have "for a considerable period" Red Cross parcels delivered to the Marines semiannually. In order to reduce the number of "mass punishment[s] . . . cut[s] in rations and the withdrawal of blankets," Brown encouraged Col Ashurst to sign a letter stating that the Marines would stop all attempts to escape. Brown knew that "such a paper signed under duress was regarded

by the Americans as not binding."

In prison Brown taught himself to read, write and speak Russian with proficiency. As he described in a letter to the Commandant dated 18 February 1948, the Marines also planted a garden and by their "last season in Shanghai" were able to cultivate from "a camp farm of 15.5 acres . . . 660 pounds of fresh vegetables per day over a period of eight months." Brown was also proud to inform the Commandant that "typical of U.S. Marine characteristics, one of our men constructed a short-wave set and using it judiciously, kept [the others] well informed from San Francisco as to the progress of operations."

THE OBSERVATIONS reported here only scratch the surface of this collection's contents. There is a particular abundance of descriptive information on the treatment of prisoners of war. The collection includes copies of *The North China Marine P.O.W. Bulletin* which were generated from March 1948 to January 1952. The bulletins announce where fellow POW survivors are, what they are doing, and touch on some of their individual experiences. □1775□

Historical Quiz

Marines in Disaster Relief Missions

by Jennifer Josey
University of Georgia
Historical Center Intern

1. Where in the Caribbean Sea did U.S. Marines land in January 1907 in order to assist in rescue work following a severe earthquake?
2. In what Central American city did the officers and men of the 2d Marine Brigade work during 31 March- 9 April 1931 to rescue civilians, restore order, and put out fires caused by an earthquake?
3. Name the Marine unit that the U.S. ships *Casa Grande*, *Monrovia*, and *Rockbridge* carried to the Ionian Sea islands of Zante, Cephalonica, and Ithaca to provide rescue and relief after a four-day series of earthquakes in August 1953.
4. On 21-24 February 1983, a blizzard struck a region that the U.S. Marines were occupying as part of a multinational peacekeeping force. Rescue efforts of American, French, and Italian troops of the multinational force spurred an unusual cooperation among what three nations of the region?
5. Name the group of islands that received disaster relief from the Marine Corps twice in 1970 as a result of Typhoons Georgia and Joan.
6. During 24 September-10 October 1989, Marines from the 2d Force Service Support Group, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 provided relief on the coast of the southeastern U.S. What was the disaster that necessitated their assistance, and where did it occur?
7. In April 1989, the Alaska Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) 89-1, on board the USS *Juneau* began assistance in a major clean-up operation. They were later relieved by MAGTF 89-2 of the USS *Cleveland*. What were they helping to clean?
8. This operation, originally called Productive Effort, involved nearly two weeks of disaster relief in the Bay of Bengal as the result of a cyclone. What was the operation renamed?
9. When and where did the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit provide assistance by carrying more than 200,000 pounds of concrete to a vent in the side of a volcano in order to alter the course of lava flow?
10. From August-October 1992, Marines participated in a hurricane clean-up that was one of the largest peacetime military operations in the U.S. Which hurricane was it and where did it hit?

(Answers on page 17)

Photo Collections Capture Marines in Training, at War

by Jennifer Josey
University of Georgia
Historical Center Intern

THE LIBRARY of the Marine Corps Historical Center receives many recently published books of professional interest to Marines. Most of them are available from local bookstores and libraries.

This issue's reviews focus on books of photographs or books about military photographers.

A Sense of Values: American Marines in an Uncertain World. David Bowne Wood. Photographs by Bob Mahoney. Kansas City: Andrews and McNeal, A Universal Press Syndicate Company, 1994. 258 pp.

As a national security correspondent for Newhouse News Service, David Bowne Wood, along with photographer Bob Mahoney, spent nearly a year with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and in Somalia. Wood was motivated by a curiosity about the Marines. He mused that "They live isolated lives, cloistered in timeless rituals and bent to service like monks of an austere sect," and wondered, "Who are these guys? Where do they come from, and why? And what's it like with them out there?" His book provides answers from the 24th MEU point of view. The time spent with those men, along with their answers from Wood's anonymous questionnaire, allowed an unusual and honest look into their lives and activities. \$24.95

There Once Was A War: The Collected Color Photography of World War II. Jeffrey Ethell, ed. New York: Viking Studio Books, an Imprint of Penguin Books USA Inc., 1995. 224 pp.

This is a compilation of more than 200 of the sparkling Kodachrome images of the unique Jeffrey Ethell collection of World War II color photography. This private collection, consisting of more than 20,000 color slides, was started by the writer and historian in 1968. The photos are organized into four chapters: Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Behind the Lines. He

provides captions and a brief foreword which traces the development of color film and processing and its use in the early 1940s. The volume includes written contributions from World War II veterans Gen Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager and Col Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson. \$29.95

Women in the Marines: The Boot Camp Challenge. N. R. Rowan. Minneapolis: Lerner Publications company, 1994. 72 pp.

This book, which includes photographs by the author, details in layman's terms what boot camp involves for a female recruit at Parris Island, South Carolina. The last two chapters are devoted to the opportunities for women Marines after basic training and to the growing role of women in America's Armed Forces. (Out of print, but may be available from local libraries.) □1775□



Photo by Lena M. Kaljot

Maj Quinn commended by Marine Corps Gazette Editor Col John E. Greenwood.

'Boldness and Daring' Win Prize for Writer

by Peter M. Yarbro
Johns Hopkins University
Historical Center Intern

MAJ JOHN T. QUINN II, USMC, a historical writer in the History and Museums Division, was recognized on 12 April for attaining second place in the 1995 Chase "Boldness and Daring" Essay Contest. The honor, in the form of a plaque and a check, was presented to Maj Quinn in ceremonies at the Marine Corps Historical Center by Col John E. Greenwood, USMC (Ret), editor of the *Marine Corps Gazette*.

The awards, named in honor of the late MajGen Harold W. Chase, USMCR, are presented annually to the best essays which advocate changing an existing Marine Corps policy, procedure, or practice in order to produce an improved, more effective, or more efficient Corps. This year judges chose from among 39 candidate essays.

Maj Quinn's article, titled "The Future Fleet Landing Force," addresses the prospects for Marine Corps expeditionary forces. The article proposes reorganization of Marine expeditionary units to reflect more closely future amphibious shipping and missions in order to attain greater operational flexibility. He also proposes more permanent relationships between MAGTF units through a regular system of cross-attachments between infantry regiments and helicopter groups.

This is Maj Quinn's first "Boldness and Daring" Award; his article will appear in the June issue of the *Marine Corps Gazette*.

Cates' Vented, Dented WWI Helmet Enters Collection

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas
Curator of Material History

A HELMET WORN during World War I by Gen Clifton B. Cates, 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps, was donated to the Marine Corps Museum late last year by his son, Capt Clifton B. Cates, Jr., USN (Ret). This battle-scarred and dented helmet bears the unique insignia of Company E of the Third Army Composite Regiment, American Expeditionary Force. It is the most significant helmet from the World War I period in the museum's collection.

Gen Cates entered the Marine Corps in 1917 from his native state of Tennessee, giving up his law practice. Assigned to the 96th Company, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines, he sailed for France in January 1918. Six months later, then-2dLt Cates was fighting in the battle of Belleau Wood, where he was wounded and gassed. He was awarded both the Navy Cross and the Army Distinguished Service Medal for his part in the capture of Bouresches on 6 June and its subsequent defense against repeated German counterattacks. Eight days later, he won another Army Distinguished Service Medal for bravery while fighting in another part of Belleau Wood. The French government also bestowed on him the Croix de Guerre, with gold star, in recognition of his valor during this pivotal battle.

Over the next five months in France, Cates saw action in all of the campaigns in which Marines fought. In July 1918, he gained the first of his two Silver Star medals for his gallantry under fire at the battle of Soissons (where he was wounded for a second time), and was also awarded another Croix de Guerre, with palm, by the French. In addition, the French made now-1stLt Cates a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He received his second Silver Star medal and another Croix de Guerre, with palm, for his actions at the battle of Blanc Mont in October. In total, he received no less than five Divisional and General Headquarters Citations by the time of the Armistice in November.

THE GREEN-PAINTED, British-made helmet shows the effects of these hard-fought battles. There is a large

creased dent across the front of the helmet, and a bullet hole in the rim. On the top of the helmet is another smaller dent. Gen Cates penned his name inside the shell of the helmet which now, sadly, is devoid of its liner and chin strap. On the inner rim of the helmet is the following red ink inscription, written in Gen Cates' own distinctive handwriting:

Dent & hole made 6 Jun 1918
Small dent made 3 Oct "

In a letter which he wrote home on 14 June 1918 (and now preserved in the Marine Corps Historical Center's Personal Papers Collection), then-2dLt Cates graphically recounted the action in which the helmet sustained its first battle damage:

. . . We charged across an open field for eight hundred yards and there were eleven machine guns playing on us—honest, the bullets hitting the ground were as thick as rain drops—one hits me solid on the helmet—denting a dent in it the size of a hen egg—it knocked me cold for a minute; another bullet went thru the brim of my helmet, clipping my ear . . .

Twelve days later, he mentions the helmet in another letter to his mother which he wrote while he was recuperating after being gassed:

. . . I wish you could see your son with his equipment on—dirty, torn, ragged suit; wrapped puttees; shoes that used to be boots, but are now cut off; *steel helmet, with a hole thru it and a big dent*; pistol belt and suspenders; first aid package and cover; pistol and holster; canteen, cup and cover; knapsack, which holds toilet articles, maps, message books, extra cartridges, etc; field glasses and case; two extra pistol clips and cases; German gas mask (which saved my life); French gas mask; big German Lu-gar [sic] pistol and holster; big

musette bag with cigarettes, chocolate bars, magazine, writing paper, condiment can, malted milk tablets, comb, little clothes brush, alkaline tablets (for gas), and other junk; a blanket roll, which contains a poncho, blanket, air pillow, handkerchiefs, socks, underwear, etc.; and a German raincoat slung over my arm.

The second dent was made by German machine gun fire during the capture of Blanc Mont ridge by the 4th Marine Brigade on 3 October 1918. Cates was awarded a citation by the General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Force for his exploits during this action.

DURING THE OCCUPATION of Germany in 1919, General of the Armies John J. "Black Jack" Pershing organized a Composite Regiment which was made up of companies drawn from each of the divisions in the Third Army. The Composite Regiment served as an escort to Gen Pershing when he was honored during parades on 4 and 14 July in Paris, and later in London on 19 July. After its arrival in the United States in September 1919, the Composite Regiment paraded in New York and Washington. Two companies were furnished by the 2d Division. Then-Capt Cates commanded Company E, and was assisted by then-1stLt Merwin H. Silverthorn, also destined to rise to the rank of general officer in later years. The Marines of Company E had the familiar star and Indian head insignia of the 2d Division painted on their helmets, but without the prescribed colored background shapes that were used to designate the component units in the division (see "Star and Indian Head Insignia," *Fortitudine*, Vol. IX, No. 4, Spring 1980). They also wore patches with this insignia sewn on the left shoulders of their Army olive drab wool coats.

Plans for this helmet include a short special exhibition in the Marine Corps Museum's "Recent Acquisitions" case and later display in the standing World War I exhibit in the "Time Tunnel." □1775□

Commandant Establishes a Beachhead in the Pentagon

by Charles R. Smith
Historian

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS will be in the Pentagon by the end of the year. So predicted the Corps' new Commandant, General Charles C. Krulak, at his initial briefing in July 1995 of headquarters Marines and civilians.

The shift of Headquarters from the Navy Annex to the naval passageways of the Pentagon, General Krulak said, would not only improve the Corps' ability to work with the Navy on issues, but also would increase the Corps' understanding of the other Services and their departmental headquarters and, in turn, increase their understanding of the Corps. The Marine Corps will be on an equal playing field with the other Services, he said, and "it will allow us to be even more responsive. This is important to a Force in Readiness."

By early January, office spaces in the Pentagon's E-Ring had been vacated and renovated. On the day the Blizzard of 1996 struck Washington, the Com-

mandant and several key members of the Headquarters staff moved in, completing the first of a three-phased, multi-year consolidation of Headquarters into the Pentagon and Navy Annex.

REACTION TO THE change varied. Some Marines said the move should have taken place long ago, while others, noting that Marines pride themselves on being a unique service, pointed out that maintaining a separate headquarters outside of the Pentagon somehow complemented that uniqueness.

The move to the Pentagon was not the first move of Headquarters Marine Corps, but it was perhaps the most important. The symbol of leadership for Marines serving throughout the world, Headquarters Marine Corps has been located at various sites throughout its 220-year history.

From 1775 to 1781, except for a short period during the British occupation, the various headquarters of the Continental

Marines were located in Philadelphia. While the locations of all the headquarters sites are unknown, it is known that Maj Samuel Nicholas and his small "staff" occupied a number, all situated in Philadelphia's waterfront district.

With the reestablishment of the Corps in July 1798 a small barracks with a headquarters was situated in a leased building on the corner of Filbert and Thirteenth Streets, at the north end of Philadelphia's Center Square. As the Corps grew in strength, and to avoid the yearly yellow fever epidemics, an encampment was established northwest of the city on the Germantown Road.

BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT had moved from Philadelphia to the new capital at Washington, Maj William Ward Burrows and a small group of Marines arrived on 15 July 1800 and set up a temporary tent camp overlooking the Potomac

(Continued on page 14)

Marine Corps Commandant Gen Charles C. Krulak surveys the flag-bedecked Navy corridors along the E-ring of the Pentagon which will be the new home to Headquarters, Marine Corps, as he addresses attendees at the 17 January dedication ceremonies. With him are Adm Jeremy M. Boorda, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, and Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton.

Photo courtesy of SCPO Terry Cosgrove, USN

