

# FORTITUDINE

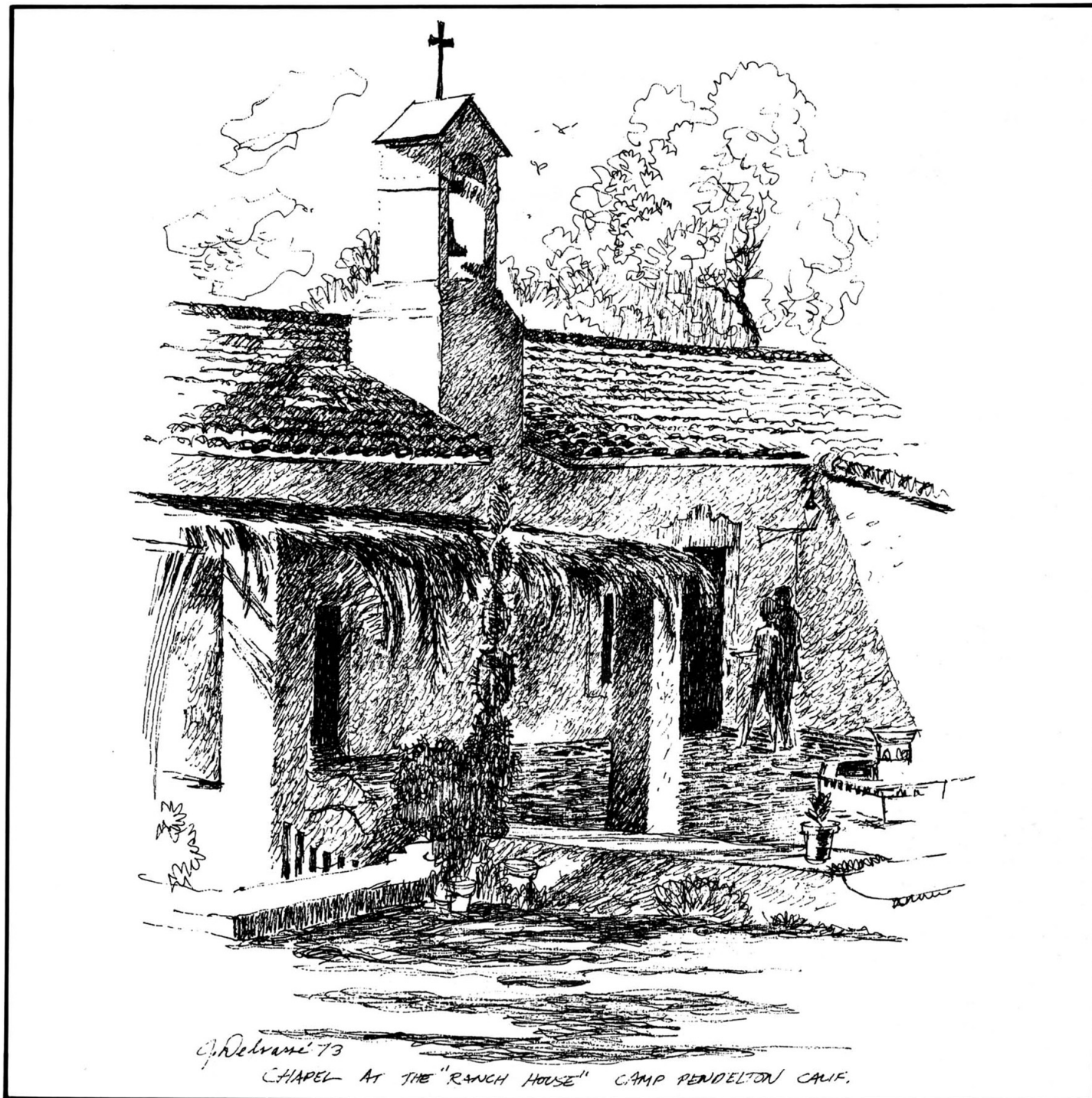
BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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FALL 1996

NUMBER 2



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# FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Volume XXVI

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No. 2

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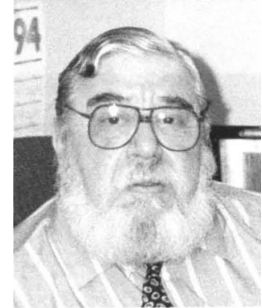
## ABOUT THE COVER

The chapel which is a part of the Ranch House complex at Camp Pendleton, California, is a true Marine Corps landmark, the scene of countless weddings, baptisms, and funerals of both renowned and lesser-known Marines. In June 1993 it was struck by a rampaging flood which took out one of its adobe walls, scattered its pews and other furnishings over a wide area, and buried its stained glass in inches of muck. Because of the interest and activism of a group of Pendleton volunteers, the chapel today appears once again as it did in Marine artist John DeGrasse's sketch, done in 1973, on the cover. Camp Pendleton writer Carrie Maffei describes the chapel restoration work beginning on page 12.

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# Memorandum from the Chief Historian



Benis M. Frank

## Tokyo Odyssey

FOR A PERIOD NOW, the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) and the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) Command and Staff College have been holding a series of what they jointly call “Military History Exercises” (MHX). The sites for these exercises have been in both the United States and Japan. This year, 15-22 February, LtGen Hiromu Fujiwara, JGSDF, commandant of the Staff College, and his assistant, MajGen Keiichi Ohnishi, hosted the activity at Camp Meguro in Tokyo, the site of the Command and Staff College Headquarters.

This year’s topic was the Battle of Okinawa. Since this had been an American joint services operation involving Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Army Air Corps forces, BGen John W. Mountcastle, USA, the Chief of Army History, invited the heads of the other Service historical offices to send one of their historians to the exercise to present a paper concerning the role of that service in the campaign.

Then-Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, selected me inasmuch as I had coauthored with my predecessor as Chief Historian, Henry I. Shaw, Jr., the fifth and



The sign above the entrance to the Command and Staff College at Camp Meguro in Tokyo, and an elegant floral arrangement, welcomed participants to the 1996 Military History Exercise. Topic of the exercise was the 1945 battle for the island of Okinawa.

final volume of our red-backed, official World War II historical series—this one dealing with Okinawa, the end of the war, and the occupations of Japan and North China. In addition, I had written two other books dealing primarily with the role of the Marine Corps in the Okinawa operation.

GEN MOUNTCASTLE LED an American delegation consisting of Dr. John T.

Greenwood, chief of the CMH Field Programs and Historical Services Division; Dr. Gary J. Bjorge of the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; LtCol Conrad C. Crane of the U.S. Military Academy’s History Department; Dr. Donald Laird, U.S. Army, Pacific, command historian; Dr. Peter Dulniawka, assigned to the 9th Theater Army Area Command, U.S. Army, Japan; William T. Y’Blood, Air Force History Support Office; and Dr. Edward J. Marolda, senior historian of the Naval Historical Center. Four interpreters were present: Ms. Yoshimi Allard, Defense Language Institute; Capt George Roszko, USA, 9th Army Reserve Command; LtCol Michael David, USAR; and LtCol Michael Beale, USA, who is the Fort Leavenworth liaison officer to the Staff College. I represented the Marine Corps.

The Japanese participants were members of the Ground SDF, plus a naval officer from the Maritime SDF and an aviator of the Air SDF. In addition, present were representatives from the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS), the National Defense Academy, and the Joint Staff College. One of the NIDS representatives who presented a paper was Dr. Hisashi Takahashi, chief of the 1st Military History Office of NIDS, who had been a

At Tokyo’s Narita Airport, the Washington contingent, from left, Frank, Marolda, and Mountcastle, meet up with Crane of West Point, and an SDF guide and interpreter.





*Before the exercise began, BGen John W. Mountcastle, Chief of Army History, left, paid a courtesy call on LtGen Hiromu Fujiwara, commandant of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force Command and Staff College. Cordiality was a constant for the week.*

visiting professor at the University of California, San Diego, for several years. In addition, there were four other civilian participants, three of whom were retired JGSDF colonels, and the fourth a retired Air SDF major general.

After a 14-hour, non-stop plane trip from Chicago to Narita airport, we were met by LtCol Beale and several JGSDF officers who served as escorts and who took us to the New Sanno, which is a U.S. Army-built and U.S. Navy-run hotel. Since we were now 14 hours and a day ahead of the East Coast of the U.S., our body clocks needed readjustment. (Actually, it was

much worse returning from Japan to Washington.)

**T**HE CORDIAL MEETING with the two Japanese majors who accompanied LtCol Beale was a harbinger of the courtesy and hospitality we were to receive from our Japanese hosts for the next eight days. I hadn't been in Japan since 1953, when I spent a week in Kyoto on R-and-R leave from Korea. On this 1996 trip over, I thought of the Smithsonian Institution's Enola Gay exhibit and the attendant hassle, and wondered how it had played in Japan and whether it was to affect this con-

ference in any way. I need not have been concerned. Our association with the Japanese officers and civilians at the MHX was objective and straightforward, as you shall see when I discuss the tone of papers that the SDF personnel presented. As the oldest member of the American party and the only veteran of the battle for Okinawa participating in the conference, it seemed to me that I was given special attention which was almost embarrassing. One other thing: it was planned that after the papers were presented, the MHX would move on to Okinawa itself for a tour of the battlefield sites. In considering the anti-American demonstrations breaking out on the island, our hosts thought this part of the exercise ill-advised, and so we didn't visit Okinawa.

The MHX began on the morning of 14 February, when our escorts arrived with vans to transport us to the Command and Staff College. Here we met our hosts, all of whom bowed when introduced, a gesture we all soon learned to emulate. We also soon discovered how well organized and managed the conference was to be. It was more than having an established schedule for the presentations, it also was having positions already indicated for the group photograph, which was one of the first items of business.

Next, we entered the conference room where we took our assigned seats, the Japanese delegation facing the American

*The first order of business of the first day was to photograph the participants in the Military History Exercise. All soon learned how well organized and managed the conference was to be; positions were already indicated for the group photograph. The format for the conference was that two presentations were given each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, one by an American presenter and one by a Japanese presenter. The Japanese participants courteously gave their talks in English.*

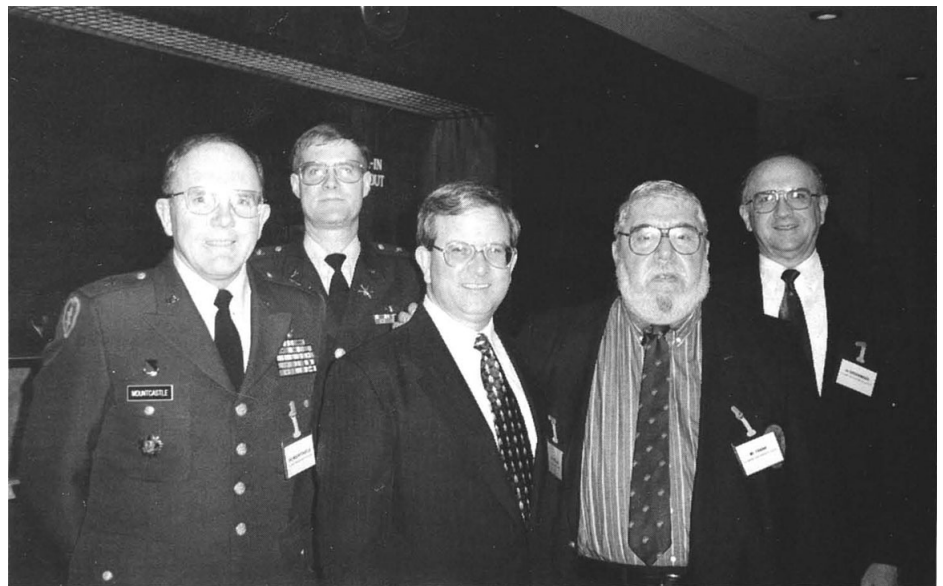


one, and each member stood, was introduced, and, again, bowed. The format for the conference was that two presentations were given each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, one by an American presenter and the other by a Japanese. Our papers had been translated into Japanese long before the conference and included in a conference notebook. The Japanese presentations were likewise translated into English and put into the notebook. Although our Japanese colleagues courteously gave their presentations in English, it was helpful to read the texts along with the talks. Following each presentation there was a period given over for questions and discussions, which were generally lively and wide-ranging.

AS I STATED EARLIER, the papers given by the Japanese were objective and frank. This became obvious as we heard, on 15 February, the first presentation by Dr. Takahashi, who spoke on “Despair or a Streak of Hope—The Situation of War Guidance in the Spring of 1945.” Dr. Takahashi related the confusion of the *Imperial General Headquarters (IGHQ)* staff in Tokyo, discussed army-navy rivalries, and—following the fall of Saipan—the fall of the Tojo government. He also addressed the *IGHQ*’s lack of firm intelligence of the situation in the Pacific and its inability to formulate realistically viable strategic plans to offset the Allied advance towards Tokyo. The other papers delivered by the Japanese delegation were as realistic and objective as this first one.

LtCol Crane, who holds a Ph.D. degree from Stanford University, spoke that after-

*One of the conference’s four interpreters, Ms. Yoshimi Allard of the Defense Language Institute, looks on amused as Frank attempts to navigate a pair of lunchtime chopsticks.*



*At the Japanese reception on the first night are, from left, BGen Mountcastle, LtCol Crane, Dr. Marolda, Mr. Frank, and Dr. Greenwood. Traditional customs were observed.*

noon on “Echoes of Okinawa—The Impact of the Okinawa Campaign on U.S. Escalation of the War Against Japan.” He concluded that the battle for Okinawa was a defining moment for American strategy in the Pacific, because American losses caused by a fanatic Japanese ground defense and *kamikaze* attacks strengthened U.S. resolve to achieve unconditional surrender. As a result, after Okinawa, “there were no more restraints to limit the escalation to total war against the enemy homeland.”

On the first evening of the conference, Gen Fujiwara hosted his American guests at a reception. Toasts were exchanged and what may be a peculiarly Japanese custom became apparent. One did not fill one’s own glass; one of the Japanese officers with whom you were talking would do it for you

and you would do the same for him. The result was to keep the glasses hospitably full at all times!

Dr. Marolda of the Naval Historical Center began the presentations on the second day with his paper, “Weathering the Divine Wind: The U.S. Navy and the Okinawa Campaign.” He concluded that “while the battle for Okinawa was generally an example of cooperation among the American armed services, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army Air Forces disagreed about the enemy’s *kamikaze* threat. Despite the Navy’s entreaties, AAF leaders delayed concentrating their bombing attacks against the Japanese fields from which the *kamikazes* sortied against VAdm Raymond A. Spruance’s Fifth Fleet.” Marolda pointed out that once MajGen Curtis L. LeMay, commander of the XXI Bomber Command, recognized the seriousness of the threat against the fleet, he ordered his aircraft to hit *kamikaze* bases. Dr. Marolda also revealed the losses sustained by the fleet: 34 ships sunk; 368 others damaged; and more than 5,000 sailors killed.

THAT AFTERNOON’S presentation, “What Did the Imperial General Headquarters Try to Achieve Through the *Ten-Go* Air Operation,” was given by Col Fujio Ina. I later learned that Col Ina’s father had been killed in Philippines fighting. Incidentally, before the presentations began, Col Ina told me that he had read my paper and agreed with what I had written in my last paragraph: “In reliving



*On Saturday's escorted tour, the exhibits seen at the Edo-Tokyo Museum were spectacular. This is one of the figures in the section devoted to the kabuki theater.*

World War II during the recent 50th anniversary commemorations of the war, I am pleased not only for myself and our Allied forces that we didn't have to invade the Home Islands, but also for the people of Japan who would have suffered mightily had the Emperor not decided that the war should end."

Col Ina's paper was incisive and interesting to me because he presented some Japanese concepts and conclusions of which I was not aware previously. Essentially, the *Ten-Go* operation was planned to conduct decisive air battles against Allied invasion forces, mainly around the "South-West Islands," located in the forward area of Japan. This was to be an effort to defend Japan proper after the failure earlier of the *Sho-Go* set of operations. The success of *Ten-Go* would depend upon the close cooperation of the Japanese Army and Navy. Since this had not been accomplished in the war so far, there was only the hope of it being achieved at this time, when the fate of the Japanese Home Islands was at risk. *Ten-Go* was launched on 18 March 1945, with only some small degree of success, i.e., the

effect of the *kamikaze* raids on the U.S. fleet at Okinawa. Col Ina concluded: "The *Ten-Go* operation was the last battle between the two nations. It brought an end to the war before a final decisive battle occurred on Japan Proper, which allowed the people of both nations not to bear deep grudges later. Furthermore, the end of the *Ten-Go* Operation became the starting point for establishing today's close Japan-U.S. relations." Col Ina's was the last presentation of that week.

On Saturday, our hosts took us on a tour of two city attractions—the Edo-Tokyo Museum and the Yasukuni War Shrine. The museum is concerned with the history of Tokyo, or Edo, as it was known until 1868. The museum was modern in concept and exhibitry and well displayed what Edo must have been like. In one area of the Edo section a typical street, with houses and shops on both sides, was presented, and in the shops contemporary items were shown. By the 18th century, Edo had become one of the largest urban areas in the world. With the end of the 250-year reign of the Tokugawa *bakufu* reign, Edo was renamed Tokyo ("Eastern Capital"). Throughout the Tokyo section in the museum, you can see how the city emerged as one of the most heavily populated worldwide. One section of the Tokyo exhibit is given over to a display entitled "War and Reconstruction," which gave me some slight idea of how Japanese citizens fared in the war. According to the museum guidebook, "Museum exhibits ques-

tion the meaning of the war from various angles . . . ." And so they do.

FOR LUNCH, OUR HOSTS took us to a traditional *sumo* restaurant named Tomoegata, after the retired *sumo* wrestler who founded it. We were seated on cushions around a low table, in the middle of which was a large electrically heated stewpot used to cook the traditional meal of the wrestlers. This is *chanko nabe*, a stew of salmon and other fish, fried tofu, mushrooms, and other vegetables which I couldn't identify. The solid items were picked out of the stew with chopsticks, and the remaining liquid poured into small bowls. Noodles were placed into the remaining stew to finish up. It was altogether exotic and delicious. All of this was accompanied by *sake*, beer (Japanese, of course), and soda.

After this repast, we were taken to the *Yasukuni Jinja*, or Shrine, which was originally known as the *Tokyo Shokonsha*. The word *Shokonsha* means the shrine or place to which the "divine spirits of those who have made the great sacrifice are invited." Essentially, this is a shrine to all of the Japanese war dead of all ages. As I noted in a diary I was keeping of my Tokyo trip, the shrine is very impressive. After entering through the first Torii gate leading to the shrine we arrived at what is called "the Hand-Washing Place," where, according to tradition, we washed our hands and washed out our mouths. There were many

*Everything was white and extremely quiet at the Yasukuni Shrine. White doves hovered and gathered as they were fed birdseed from a coin-operated machine nearby.*





*MajGen Daitche Shirosuke, center right, gave the group a guided tour of his museum, located on the shrine grounds. Among exhibits were an ohka, a human-piloted suicide bomb, and a cased diorama of a kamikaze raid on the U.S. fleet at Okinawa.*

white doves there which it seemed to me could be spirits of those long past. It had snowed in Tokyo since morning, and the day was cloudy and overcast. All these things contributed to give a strange atmosphere to the place.

Close by to the shrine is a museum, *Yushukan*, which is dedicated to the memories of the war dead and contains "things memorial to the wars that this nation has fought, and some weapons from old and new ages." We were given a guided tour of the shrine museum by its head, MajGen Daitche Shirosuke. This place was established in 1882, and as Japan went through the Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War, and World War I, the facility was enlarged by continual remodeling and construction of an annex. The museum was quite cold when we visited it. While it holds a large collection of early Japanese weapons and armor, it also houses a number of exhibits dedicated to Japan's World War II heroes and events, with pictures, uniforms, medals, samurai swords, and other artifacts. In the large exhibit hall there was an impressive diorama depicting *kamikaze* attacks on the U.S. fleet at Okinawa, a *kaiten* (a human torpedo such as those found at Okinawa), as well as a World War II tank and a "Judy," a carrier-based, single-engined Aichi bomber.

**T**HE MONDAY MORNING session of the conference began with Mr. Y'Blood's paper on "Air Support on Okinawa." Y'Blood related the story of the operations of

the Tactical Air Force, Tenth Army, and its Air Defense Command, both comprised primarily of Marine Corps units and headed by Marine general officers. He also spoke of the maturing of close air support on Okinawa and the control of that support by the Marine landing force air support control units. He concluded that close air support was successful at Okinawa, but that there were some ripples which still needed to be ironed out.

In the afternoon, LtCol Masahiro Kawai spoke about his considerable research into a relatively unknown Japanese unit when he discussed "The Operations of the Suicide-Boat Regiment in Okinawa." LtCol Kawai pointed out that while the *kamikaze* (Divine Wind) special air corps created within both the Japanese army and navy in late 1944, and the *Kaiten* (Herculean Task) suicide torpedo corps of the navy were well known, another special unit was not so well publicized. This was the army's suicide-boat regiments, which were organized and operated completely as a hidden force. They were neither publicized nor have they ever been researched to any great degree since the end of the war. One good reason, perhaps, is that they never achieved any great success, while their casualties were staggering. LtCol Kawai stated that "out of the total 1,800-member first-time Army 'special' shipping officer cadet corps, as many as 1,185 were killed in action." These special cadets were recruited in December 1943 from among the third- and fourth-grade students of the five-year Japanese high

school system, and were no more than 16 or 17 years old. LtCol Kawai pointed out that "in no other part of modern Japanese military history would one come across an instance where the minors constituted the vast majority of any operating group and so many of them were lost in battle." He indicated that he is now in the process of finishing a detailed account of the suicide-boat regiments, the background leading to their creation, and the actions of each. In his paper, he dealt with the role of the regiments at Okinawa.

Professor Yoshio Sugino-o of the National Defense Academy addressed the fate of Okinawan civilians in his paper, "Evacuation of Inhabitants on Okinawa." The sad fact of the matter is that well above 100,000 Okinawans died during the battle for their island. Some of this number were just caught in the middle of the fighting and could not get out of the way. Some civilians were killed as they were being evacuated by the Japanese to the southern part of the island. And yet others were sealed in caves by Americans who thought that they were enemy forces. Dr. Sugino-o discussed Japanese plans for protecting Okinawans before the American landing, their evacuation after the landing, and finally the several causes leading to civilian casualties.

**T**UESDAY AFTERNOON, Dr. Greenwood read a paper, "The Battle of Okinawa: Various Aspects of Ground Opera-

*At Wednesday lunch, LtCol Takeichi, with his calligrapher's brush, some paper, and ink, drew a beautiful example of his art.*



tions," written by Dr. Arnold G. Fisch, Jr., also of the Army Center of Military History. Essentially, Dr. Fisch's paper provides a broad picture of the ground battle, and the grinding efforts on the part of both sides to succeed. He concluded: "In many ways, the battle for Okinawa came down to a struggle in which the basic tactical unit on each side was a pillbox supported by infantry." In the case of the Americans, it was an infantry-supported, fairly vulnerable, tank attack, while the Japanese used "almost invulnerable but immobile pillboxes, the fortified caves." He also validly noted that "For the average weary soldier or Marine, the battle of Okinawa, together with the earlier bloody struggle for Iwo Jima, ominously showed how difficult the final conquest of the Japanese home islands might be."

My presentation on the Marine role in the battle for Okinawa was given the morning of 21 February, which happened to be my 71st birthday. As I was about to begin my paper, I was pleasantly surprised by Col Hiroshi Shiraishi, chief of the Military History Branch of the Staff College, carrying in a birthday cake, with candles, and a tiny Marine Corps flag in the middle. What a nice and generous touch! I began my talk by thanking our hosts for their generosity and graciousness, and then I told them that some 51 years ago on Okinawa, never in my wildest imagination could I have ever thought that someday I would be giving a lecture about the battle to a group of Japanese officers in Tokyo. I also told them that this trip is undoubtedly the height of my professional career.

And then I delivered my paper. After discussing the Marine Corps order of battle for Okinawa, and the major aspects of the fighting vis-a-vis Marine units, I concluded by saying: "I was a member of the 1st Marine Division who fought on Okinawa. I had also participated in the battle for Peleliu, another fierce and costly fight" and that I was mightily relieved when I heard that the Empire of Japan had surrendered to the United Nations. "All that I could say was that I was mightily relieved, for I had been in the midst of two fiercely fought campaigns and emerged without a scratch. I was not so certain of this being the case, or of my own immortality, had I been part of the forces which were to invade Japan." I am positive that most of the troops in the Pacific or destined to be deployed to the Pacific for Operation

Olympic had the same mindset.

AT THE END OF my presentation, Dr. (formerly Col) Hara, director of the National Institute for Defense Studies Library, corrected an error that has existed for more than 50 years. He pointed out that Hagushi, the little town at the mouth of the Bishi Gawa, the river on Okinawa which served as the border between III Amphibious Corps and XXIV Corps in the landing, was really named Togushi. Apparently someone at the Joint Intelligence Center, Pacific Ocean Areas, (JIC-POA), had mistranslated a Japanese map of the island, and so historians had been misnaming the town and the beaches over which the Tenth Army landed in 1945.

I was taken to a Chinese restaurant for lunch that afternoon by Professor Sugino-o and LtCols Ginjiro Takeichi and Kazumi Kuzehara, who had trained on Okinawa with Marines there. When we finished lunch, my hosts presented me with several gifts, and LtCol Takeichi, whom I learned was a member of the Calligraphers Guild in Tokyo, whipped out some paper, a brush, and ink, and designed a beautiful piece of calligraphic art for me. The main message reads from left to right, "Honor," and from right to left, "Glory." It is inscribed down the left, "To my big brother Ben Frank," and he signed his name with a flourish. What does one say to such generosity, except "thank you."

That afternoon we heard two emotion-

ally moving presentations by two Japanese veterans of Okinawa. The first was 76-year-old LtCol Tadashi Kojo, who was a captain and commander of the *1st Battalion, 22d Regiment*, in the battle around Shuri. He was captured and returned to Japan in March 1946. From 1947 to 1954, he was an interpreter/translator for U.S. Forces, Japan. In 1954, he enrolled in the JGSDF and was commissioned a captain. He retired in his present rank in 1970. The second veteran was 1stLt Yoshinaka Yamamoto, who lost his left arm in the Okinawa fighting. His arm was so badly injured that he removed it with his own sword, and buried both arm and sword. He owes his life to an Okinawan woman who carried him on her back to an aid station in the Japanese rear. One could see that our Japanese colleagues were very moved by what both of these survivors had to say, and so, too, was the American delegation.

AFTER THE TWO Japanese veterans of Okinawa spoke, as part of the closing of the conference, the Americans and the Japanese exchanged "presentos." Each of the U.S. representatives gave our colleagues something symbolic of their individual Services. Through the courtesy of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, I gave each of the Japanese a Marine Corps tie tac.

As we returned to our hotel to prepare for the evening reception, at the invitation

*The only three veterans of the Battle of Okinawa meet at the conference. Mr. Frank shakes the hand of 1stLt Yamamoto as former battalion commander LtCol Kojo looks on. During the battle, Lt Yamamoto removed his own badly damaged arm with a sword.*





of Dr. Hara, we visited his library/archives and were given a tour. We viewed some old and interesting documents which survived the bombing of Tokyo.

The final evening of our stay in Japan was marked by a reception the American delegation gave for our Japanese hosts. Both LtCol Kojo and Lt Yamamoto, and the latter's granddaughter, were present. Almost every member of the Japanese delegation wore the Marine Corps tie tac. It was with a warm feeling of collegiality that we toasted each other and looked forward to the next MFX, which is to be held in February 1997 in Washington, with the

## Readers Always Write

# Profiled Marine Compiled the Corps' 'Little Red Book'

**MAY HAVE HELPED FINANCES**  
Ms. Amy Cantin has written an interesting biographical profile of Col Luther Brown in her "Seniors Monitored Young Marine's Career, Papers Show" in the Winter-Spring 1996 *Fortitudine*.

However, she has missed what was undoubtedly Col Brown's most far-reaching accomplishment. He was the compiler of *The Marine's Handbook*, the mainstay of enlisted instruction from the mid-1930s through World War II. Generations of Marines learned the fundamentals of their trade from his "Red Book," as it was called. Written when he was a first lieutenant and probably at least in part motivated by his perennial financial problems, *The Marine's Handbook* was first published by the U.S. Naval Institute in 1934. Sale was authorized in all Marine Corps Post Exchanges (and purchase required of all recruits). It was in catechism format, that is, "*The Marine's Handbook* is a complete set of questions and answers on all subjects of training for Marine Corps enlisted personnel, as enumerated under Marine Corps Order Number 41."

The book had 25 chapters beginning with "The Service Rifle" and going through to "Combat Principles (Company)." The book went through at least seven editions and revisions, expanding to 30 chapters in 1940, by which time Brown was a major.

My memory fades a bit at this point, but I believe all this knowledge was available for a dollar.

After World War II Brown's "Red Book"

battle for Saipan the theme.

Some odd thoughts about Japan: First of all, it is a given that all Japanese children are cute, and they are. Second, it seems as though everyone in Tokyo has a cellular phone and is calling everyone else in the street with it. The Tokyo traffic is horrific, but it is also that way in Washington, New York, and also Paris and London, I hear. I don't think that I would ever want to drive in Tokyo. The roads for the most part are very narrow, alleys most of them. Many Tokyo citizens drive as though they were get-away men. I noted that there were many new and expensive cars on the

roads and I was told that it can and does cost up to \$500 a month for a parking space, because space is so limited in Tokyo. This is obvious when you see the many extraordinarily narrow buildings and apartment houses in the city.

The trip back to Washington, with a stopover in San Francisco to change planes, was anticlimatic. It was difficult to sort out my thoughts on the homeward-bound journey. One could only hope that the conference and the meeting of new colleagues and friends was as meaningful for the Japanese as it was for me. □1775□

metamorphosed into the *Guidebook for Marines* published by the Leatherneck Association.

Careful Reader

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** "Careful Reader," a retired Marine with a seemingly encyclopedic knowledge of the Corps' customs and traditions, and who also values his privacy, has been firing off letters to *Fortitudine* from time to time for more than a quarter of a century.

## **SPLENDID ACQUISITION**

I read of the donation of "Cates' Vented, Dented WWI Helmet" to the Marine Corps Museum (*Fortitudine*, Winter-Spring 1996). What an acquisition! I had read about this occurrence to Lt. Cates in other publications. I eagerly look forward to your publishing the history of Marines in World War I.

Robert A. Tunis  
Globe, Arizona

## **TO THE DIRECTOR EMERITUS**

I recently read, with interest and great admiration, your "Memorandum" on "Why You Should Study Military History" (*Fortitudine*, Fall 1995). It immediately called to mind a brief essay by President John F. Kennedy, published after his death in the February 1964 issue of "American Heritage." Fortunately, I am a pack-rat with reading material, and I was able to locate this 32-year-old volume and make the enclosed copy for you. I think your piece is as eloquent in its more specialized

ized analysis as President Kennedy's on history generally.

Frank S. Craig, Jr.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** President Kennedy began his American Heritage article with this paragraph: "There is little that is more important for an American citizen to know than the history and traditions of his country. Without such knowledge, he stands uncertain and defenseless before the world, knowing neither where he has come from nor where he is going. With such knowledge, he is no longer alone but draws a strength far greater than his own from the cumulative experience of the past and a cumulative vision of the future."

Just received my *Fortitudine* Fall 1995 issue and as usual it is great. Thank you and the Corps in Albany, Georgia, for sending it. The saddest thing I learned in this . . . issue . . . was the fact that we are losing you to retirement . . . You have more than earned your retirement but you are still going to be missed by all those who have come to enjoy the efforts you have put into your duties and especially your work in making *Fortitudine* such an excellent source of information . . . Congratulations on a career serving the United States for an amazing 55 years. You should be very proud. We are proud of you. I hope you will continue to keep in touch with *Fortitudine* and hopefully continue to contribute articles and share your thinking with us.

Clarence W. Martin  
Bethany, Connecticut

# Marine History Now Available World-Wide, on the Web

by Danny J. Crawford  
Head, Reference Section

EARLIER THIS YEAR, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, inaugurated "MarineLink," the Corps' own home page on the World Wide Web. MarineLink provides access to a wide range of information about today's Marine Corps, including news releases from around the Corps, a fact file on current weapons and equipment, information on recruiting, and schedules of upcoming public events featuring Marine bands and ceremonial units.

Of particular interest to the history-minded is an ever-expanding body of histories, articles, fact sheets, and listings covering a wide range of topics, which are accessible by "clicking on" the history section of MarineLink. Among the more popular items found on MarineLink are lists of Marine Corps commandants, assistant commandants, and sergeants major; fact sheets on World War II, the Korean War, and Desert Storm; information on Marine Corps customs and traditions; and various lists of Marine Corps casualties and strengths spanning the Corps' history.

Prior to the establishment of MarineLink, a U.S. Marine Corps home page, begun in 1995, was housed and maintained by the Administration and Resource Management Division at the Navy Annex in Arlington, Virginia. Updates to the home page were difficult at that time, as such work had to be done manually, a slow, laborious process. Beginning in September 1995, an Internet Working Group was convened at HQMC to look for ways to enhance the dissemination of Marine Corps information and to formalize the process for selecting appropriate materials for the Internet.

UNDER THE DIRECTION of Maj Elizabeth Kerstens of the Public Affairs Division, the group made progress toward the goal of direct, easily updated, Marine Corps participation in DefenseLink, the Department of Defense's official World Wide Web information service. DefenseLink is accessible via web browsers, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at:

<http://www.dtic.dla.mil/defenselink/>

In December 1995 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Head-

quarters Marine Corps and the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) on housing the Marine Corps' home page at DTIC at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. By agreeing to house a Lotus Notes-equipped server (provided by the Marine Corps) on their premises, this agreement with DTIC would allow the Marine Corps to automatically update home page items through Lotus Notes.

By late January of this year, MarineLink was up and running and by the early reviews was a huge success. The following are a sampling of some of the comments received during MarineLink's first few months of operation:

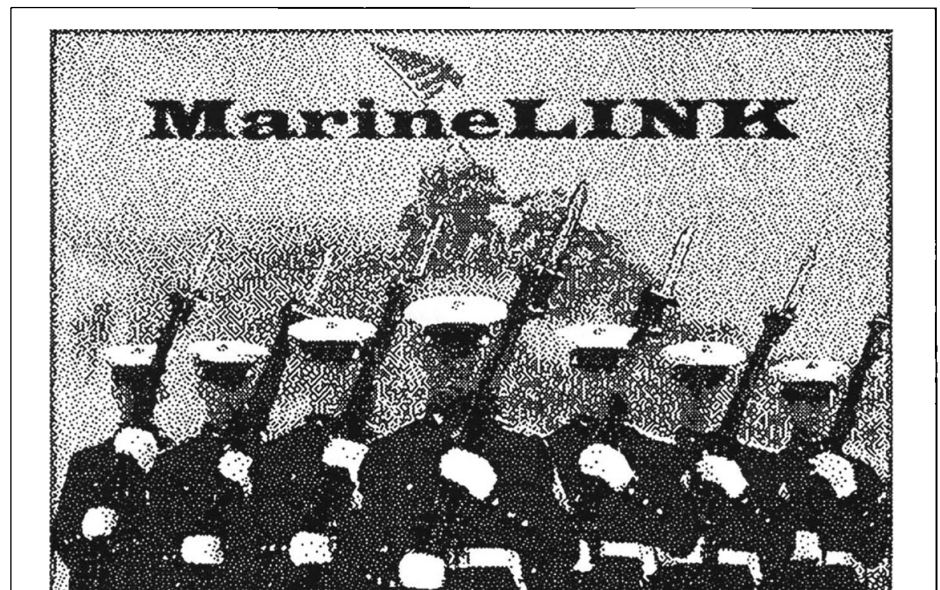
"Nice to see the Corps online and into the 21st century. Keep up the good work."

"A most excellent page!"

Visit MarineLink at:

<http://www.usmc.mil/>

New information is being added daily, sometimes hourly. Among the items to be added to the Marine Corps history section of MarineLink in the coming weeks are an updated list of Marine deployments since World War II, a brief history of tanks in the Marine Corps, and a number of articles dealing with Marine operations in Vietnam. You can also download the "The Marines' Hymn," as played by the Marine band. □1775□



*From the halls of Montezuma, to the shores of Tripoli, We fight our country's battles in the air, on land and sea. First to fight for right and freedom, and to keep our honor clean; We are proud to claim the title of United States Marine.*

*-The Marines' Hymn-*

**Welcome to MarineLINK, the official  
WWW information service of the United States  
Marine Corps.**

**News:** News about the Marine Corps.

**Opportunities:** Recruiting information and other opportunities within the Marine Corps.

**Public Events:** Marine Corps events open to the public, including Marine Band performances.

**Fact File:** Fact sheets on Marine Corps weapons and equipment systems.

# Archives Sending Cuban Missile Crisis Papers to Storage

by *Yashica Best, Center Intern*  
and *Frederick J. Graboske, Head, Archives Section*

**M**ARINE CORPS records held in the Archives Section related to the Cuban Missile Crisis are now being sent to storage, as new ones dealing with Caribbean refugee issues are arriving.

The missile crisis started when intelligence reports reached Washington in September 1962 confirming that the Soviet Union was building missile sites in Cuba. The Kennedy Administration determined that the presence of Soviet missiles was an intolerable threat to the security of this country; the President demanded their immediate removal. The launch sites were not yet operational, so they did not yet pose an actual threat, but the intelligence experts estimated that the sites would reach operational status by the end of the year. Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba to prevent the delivery of any more missiles or of materials for the launch sites. Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev backed down. Soviet freighters displayed the missiles on their decks as they were removed from the island; this process was complete by December. The crisis probably was the closest the two great powers ever came to nuclear war.

These were very dramatic weeks. The United Nations Security Council debated the issue and the debates were televised nationally. Pictures of the missile sites were shown to the world. An "invasion force"

was assembled rapidly in south Florida. Six Latin American nations sent naval vessels to join in the blockade of Cuba. Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles in exchange for Kennedy's promise not to invade Cuba and for the removal of American missiles from Turkey by 1964.

**T**HE MARINE CORPS played a role in preparations for the "invasion" of Cuba. The Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board has requested that the military services turn over to them the records of this aborted operation. In order to accommodate this request we have photocopied all of our records, a total of 2 cubic feet. A set of copies of the records will go to the Board and will become a part of its permanent records in the National Archives. The originals will be retired to storage at the Archives' Records Center at Suitland, Maryland, where they will remain a part of the permanent record of the Marine Corps.

More than 30 years later Cuba again became important to Marine commanders. In 1994 thousands of refugees fleeing Castro's Cuba in flimsy craft were brought to the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo, Cuba. Additional thousands of Haitians fleeing their poverty-stricken nation also were brought there. Marines stationed in Guantanamo were tasked with the

problems of sheltering and feeding these individuals as part of Operation Sea Signal 94. One cubic foot of records of these humanitarian efforts were collected for us by a former member of the Historical Center staff, Capt David A. Dawson.

The Sea Signal 94 records provide an excellent example of cooperation between a command historian and the History and Museums Division. When a command historian such as Capt Dawson takes the time to gather and preserve the minute records of operations, the records are maintained as part of the history of the Marine Corps. Marines often are deployed to provide assistance in the wake of natural disasters or to extract American citizens from zones of armed conflict. Seldom are detailed accounts of these activities forwarded to us. If units are to receive proper historical credit for the work performed, the commanding officer and command historian must ensure that complete and accurate documentation is created and sent to the History and Museums Division.

A shipment of hundreds or thousands of pages to us via the chain of command should be preceded by an e-mail or letter notifying us of the shipment, and records should be shipped separately from the command chronology, which must be forwarded via the chain of command.

□1775□

## Awards of Doctoral and Master's Degree Fellowships at Center Announced

by *Charles R. Smith*  
*Secretary, Marine Corps Historical Foundation*

**T**HE MARINE CORPS Historical Foundation's 1996 General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Dissertation Fellowship was awarded to Zhiguo Yang, a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Maryland, College Park. A native of Tsingtao, China, Mr. Yang completed graduate studies at Beijing University before coming to the United States. His dissertation will examine the influence on the Chinese Civil War of the Marine Corps' occupation of Tsingtao from 1945 to 1949, first led by then-MajGen Shepherd as commander of the 6th Marine Division.

A second, partial Dissertation Fellowship was awarded to John Cashman of

Boston College for his study of a little-known episode in Marine Corps history, the 19th-century interventions at Navassa Island. This small, American-owned island, located midway between Jamaica and Haiti in the Windward Passage, was mined for phosphate after the Civil War using, and often abusing, contract laborers from the United States. Riots and irregularities prompted several visits by Marine landing parties, with the most serious occurring in October 1889, as a result of a breakdown in order and health standards.

Maj Timothy J. Jackson, USMCR, received the Lieutenant Colonel Lily H.

Gridley Master's Thesis Fellowship for his proposed thesis: "Special Trust and Confidence: Command Relationships in Northern I Corps Sector of the Republic of Vietnam, 1967-1968." Currently serving on active duty with the II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, Maj Jackson is pursuing his graduate studies at Western Carolina University at Cullowhee. A second Master's Thesis Fellowship was awarded to Scott D. Welch of Pepperdine University for a thesis on Marine Corps humanitarian and disaster relief missions. The Marine Corps' recent involvement in a number of these missions raises the level of current interest in this topic. □1775□

# Pendleton Salvages Historic Marine Chapel From Flood

by Carrie Maffei  
Camp Pendleton

IT WAS MORE THAN THREE years ago when a river of water raged over a levee, across the grounds, and through the walls of the chapel of the Santa Margarita Ranch House complex on Camp Pendleton. The ranch house, which is home to the I Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, and the bunkhouse, which serves as a museum to visitors, sustained minimal water damage. The chapel did not fare so well.

"Nothing could have prepared me for what I saw the morning after the flood," said Episcopal Chaplain R. Stephen Powers. Pews and other furnishings and articles were strewn about the chapel; some of them were carried outside and came to rest several hundred yards away. The chapel, which had been the subject of change throughout its long existence, had only recently experienced what many thought would be its final renovation.

As the articles were recovered, and a contracted survey team deemed the structure salvageable, thoughts of a reconstruction project for the historic chapel brewed. "There wasn't money readily available to

*All but one of the stained glass panels swept out in the flood were located in the thick residual mud. Photo from June 1993 shows the chapel missing one of its walls.*

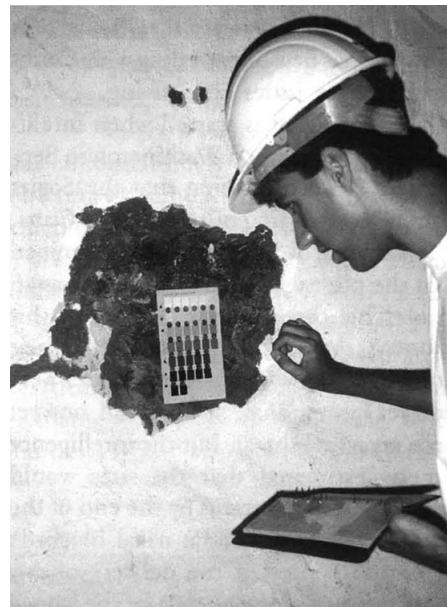


reconstruct, so we got together to keep the hopes of reconstruction alive," Ann Rothwell, chairwoman of "The Friends of the Chapel," said. The non-profit organization raised nearly \$30,000 through fund-raisers and private donations. In addition, a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Defense's Legacy Resources Management Program was approved.

COL JOHN H. ROBERTUS, USMC (Ret), former assistant chief of staff for facilities, noted that the structure was not only an historic site, but also an actively used chapel at the time of the flood. Once the State Historic Preservation Office gave the go-ahead to begin work, the work force, consisting of volunteers, base facilities personnel, and an outside consulting element, began "to reconstruct the chapel, while salvaging as much of the original material as possible," according to the base historian at the time of reconstruction, Nick Magalousis.

The project sparked a wealth of interest. Volunteers with special abilities dedicated their time and talents in a variety of ways—from labeling artifacts and photos

*The now fully restored chapel glistens in the California sun. Organizers of a group called The Friends of the Chapel raised \$30,000 in donations toward the restoration. The building was constructed in 1810, making it the oldest one on Camp Pendleton.*



*Volunteers took accurate readings of the color and consistency of the chapel's adobe walls as part of the conservation process.*

to replicating missing artifacts. Carpenters, painters, masons, sheet metal workers, electricians, heavy equipment operators, and other specialists worked endlessly to rebuild the chapel, according to Hunter Newman, project manager. Because many

