

FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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WINTER 1997-1998

NUMBER 3

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THE MARINE CORPS MUSEUM'S WORLD-CLASS COLLECTION OF MAXIM GUNS . . . COLONEL'S PROMOTION OPENS ANOTHER CHAPTER IN 'MARINE FAMILY'S' STORY . . . LIEUTENANT HARRIS' 'OTHER' CIVIL WAR-ERA SWORD . . . TWO NEW WWII PAMPHLETS . . . DIVISION SETS TECHNOLOGICAL GOALS . . . ADMIRAL DEWEY'S OPINION OF THE MARINE CORPS

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FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Volume XXVII

WINTER 1997-1998

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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

<i>Memorandum from the Director: Fellow Marines and Friends</i> <i>Col Michael F. Monigan, USMC</i>	3
Errata for 'Vietnam 1968' <i>Editor</i>	4
Historical Quiz: Marines in the Spanish-American War <i>Lena M. Kaljot</i>	4
WWII Memories Stirred by Londonderry Visit <i>LtCol George O. Ludcke, USMC (Ret.)</i>	5
Answers to Historical Quiz: Marines in the Spanish-American War <i>Lena M. Kaljot</i>	7
Solis, Frank Honored by Historical Foundation <i>Charles R. Smith</i>	8
Marine Corps Family Affair at Historical Center <i>LtCol Leon Craig, Jr., USMC</i>	10
Maxim Guns Recall World War I Fighting <i>Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas</i>	12
German Defense Plan Made Belleau Wood a 'Massive Machine Gun Nest' <i>SSgt Dieter Stenger, USMC</i>	15
New Pamphlets Tell of Bougainville and Bataan <i>Charles R. Smith</i>	16
Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum Opens for Twentieth Year <i>Charles Anthony Wood</i>	16
Hollywood and the Navy Department <i>Dr. Laurence H. Suid</i>	17
New Books: Making a World War Easier to Understand <i>Evelyn A. Englander</i>	18
Acquisitions: Lieutenant Harris' Pair of Interesting Swords <i>Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas</i>	19
'Tiger Team' Sets Division's Technology Goals <i>Dr. David B. Crist</i>	21
Marine Corps Chronology: January-April 1968 <i>Robert V. Aquilina</i>	22
Dewey's Praise of Marine Accomplishments <i>Frederick J. Graboske</i>	24

ABOUT THE COVER

This sketch of the statue of "Iron Mike" at the Parris Island Recruit Depot in South Carolina is the work of the late combat artist MSgt John C. DeGrasse, who himself trained at Parris Island and, indeed, sold pencil sketches of other recruits to them for \$1 each to supplement his then-paycheck of \$21 a month. Art Curator John T. Dyer, Jr., selected DeGrasse's sketch for this issue because "Iron Mike" is toting a Maxim machine gun, a reknowned collection of which is a part of the holdings of the Marine Corps Museum and also the subject of an article by Material History Curator Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas, beginning on page 12 of this issue. Elsewhere in the issue, Oral Historian David Crist, who is leader of a History and Museums Division Tiger Team, reports on the team's vision of a Marine Corps Historical Center more completely supported by electronic technologies as it enters the new Millennium, on page 21.

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

Fellow Marines and Friends



Col Michael F. Montigan

I am honored that the Commandant of the Marine Corps has entrusted me with this diverse Division and I am most impressed with the calibre of the staff supporting the Marine Corps historical program and the continued generous backing of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. My goal is to continue the important work and well-charted course of our Director Emeritus, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), and to invest in modernization which holds the promise of improving our collection management posture, as well as enhancing our overall ability to service our reference and research customers. The senior staff of the Division has developed a cogent five-year plan to convert the

center from a paper-based research facility to one of digitized/integrated databases automating the access and retrieval of information while protecting the original documentation and material history. This is a critical step in both preserving our perishable records and documentation and positioning the Division in order to migrate to the proposed Marine Corps Heritage Center at Quantico. This new center is envisioned as a multi-use complex devoted to the preservation, presentation, and propagation of Marine Corps history, professional military education opportunities, and the centralized administration of Marine Corps history and museum activities. Primarily, it will be the state-of-the-art

showcase for our Marine Corps heritage.

My pressing concern is for appropriate resourcing. As you know, we are spread very thin in human resources. People are the organization and our most important resource. Although I have requested additional staffing, I am not optimistic about ultimate approval. Therefore, I am turning to you, in hopes of your interest and assistance. I have asked Col Sonny Laine, USMC (Ret), to take on the responsibilities as Volunteer Coordinator for the Division. In an effort to improve our organization, I look to the varied interests and talents available through our staunch supporters residing in the local area to assist us in all aspects of the historical program. I believe we have needs in all areas which could match your individual aspirations or areas of interest/expertise. Please be good enough to give Col Laine or me a call and let us discuss your interests and talents. I encourage you to visit the Marine Corps Historical Center or the Air-Ground Museum at Quantico in order to see our operation first-hand and formulate your own opinion on where and how you would like to volunteer. Any time you could devote during the week would substantially assist us in completing the consequential work of the historical program. Please feel free to contact me directly at (202) 433-3838. I'll be glad to answer your questions personally.

Col James Leon, USMC (Ret), is a longtime volunteer worker in the Archives Section. Among his many contributions to the Marine Corps' archives of official and personal papers is the development of an early computerized system to track collections of Marines' own papers donated to the archives.



I look forward to meeting you and to having your valued assistance. Together, we can improve our management and stewardship of the historical program. I believe you will find the work both rewarding and enjoyable. Thank you. ☐1775☐

Errata for 'Vietnam 1968'

History and Museums Division generally has received praise for its final volume in the Vietnam War series, *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968*. Some readers, however, have noted errors. When errors occur in its publications, it is the Division's policy to acknowledge and correct them. Recently, MSgt Robert D. Caulkins, USMC (Ret), took us to task for mistakes in photo captions of *The Defining Year*:

"I have not as yet read very deeply into the text because I was distracted by a photograph on page 132 which was selected by someone and printed with very obvious crop marks in the center of the photo This led to my reviewing all of the photos in the book resulting in the following errors in fact

"Page 181: Lower picture. The [indicated] Marine has four extra *magazines*, not clips. Clips are used

in [firing] the M1 Rifle.

"Page 186: There is no ammunition box strapped to the Marine's back. The rectangular shapes on the Marine's back are armor plates contained in the flak jacket worn by the Marine.

"Page 203: The fixture attached to the machine gunner's M60 is a bipod. A tripod has three legs. However, in this photo, the Marine is using neither; he is holding the gun in his left hand, his left arm supported by the tree trunk, and is firing the gun with his right hand.

"Page 432: A typographical error in pages and pages of copy is almost inevitable, but a typo in a caption consisting of 30 words is sloppy. In this case the word Horseshow should be Horseshoe.

"Page 440: Lower Picture. The artillery piece shown in the foreground is a 155mm howitzer, not a 105mm howitzer as the caption asserts.

"Page 537: The weapon shown is not an M109 self-propelled 155mm howitzer, it is an M53 155mm howitzer which the Marine Corps had in its inventory for more than 20 years."

MSgt Caulkins then goes on to say that on page 558, "the most egregious error . . . is to call SSgt Robert D. Iverson [pictured in the photo] a 'drill sergeant' " rather than drill instructor.

In a letter responding to MSgt Caulkins, the volume's first author, Dr. Jack Shulimson, thanked him for his close reading of the captions and observed that "one does make errors, even egregious ones, when working with a manuscript of over 1,500 typewritten pages and over 300 photographs." He noted, however, that "one lesson learned from this process is that we must place as much scrutiny on captions as we do on the text."—*EDITOR*

Historical Quiz

Marines in the Spanish-American War

By Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Section

1. Twenty-eight Marines lost their lives in this incident which helped trigger the Spanish-American War.
2. Who was the Commandant of the Marine Corps during the Spanish-American War?
3. In April 1898, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Battalion, commanded by this Marine officer, sailed from New York on board the USS *Panther* via Key West, Florida, for Cuba.
4. Who was the Marine officer in charge of the Marines from the USS *Baltimore* who landed at Manila, Philippine Islands, and raised the American flag?
5. How many Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions during the Spanish-American War?
6. Twelve of the Medals of Honor awarded during the Spanish-American War were presented to Marines who participated in which action?
7. During the battle for Cuzco Well on 14 June 1898, this Marine earned the Medal of Honor for his courage in exposing himself to enemy fire in order to signal the guns of the USS *Dolphin* to concentrate on Spanish positions instead of the line of Marines and Cubans.
8. On 3 March 1899 the Naval Personnel Act raised the Commandant's rank to what?
9. On 10 August 1898, this future Commandant of the Marine Corps led a detachment of 37 men from the USS *Cincinnati* ashore at Cape San Juan, Puerto Rico, to protect a lighthouse previously seized by United States forces.
10. Early in July 1898, the first group of prisoners arrived at this east coast U.S. site, established to detain Spanish soldiers and seamen captured during the conflict.

(Answers on page 7)

WWII Memories Stirred by Londonderry Visit

by LtCol George O. Ludcke, USMC (Ret)

The whole affair was like a prolonged, vivid, and very interesting dream for me.

I had many fond memories, during the past 55 years, of the nearly two years I spent in Northern Ireland as a young company commander in the 1st Provisional Marine Battalion. Our duty was to guard the various outlying installations of the U.S. Naval Operating Base at the city of Londonderry during the early years of World War II. All three of the Marine guard companies were ultimately consolidated at Beech Hill, a few miles from Londonderry, in 1943.

The Republic of Ireland, south of the Ulster border, was neutral during WWII, so there were both German and Japanese embassies operating there and it was thought that there might be attempted sabotage of the Allied war effort. The Marines were there to forestall any such activity, but it never materialized.

It was with much surprise that I received a phone call on 24 April 1997 from Dr. Mary Pat Kelly, a New Yorker representing the Tourist Bureau of Northern Ireland. Her message concerned the proposed dedication of a memorial to the Marines to be presented by the Beech Hill U.S. Navy-Marine Friendship Association, and she asked if I could participate in the ceremony there, with the Secretary of the Navy, John Dalton.

My name had been suggested to Ms. Kelly by LtCol Harry Edwards, a lifelong friend of mine whose last active duty had been as head of the History Section of Marine Headquarters in Washington, D.C. In retirement LtCol Edwards had written an account of the little-known Marine activities in Europe during World War II. He had headed the American Marine Embassy Guard in London, England, after combat duty in the Pacific, and our paths had crossed when I left Londonderry to join the 2d



LtCol Ludcke poses with the memorial at Beech Hill House to U.S. Marines who served in Northern Ireland during World War II.

Division in the Pacific Theatre in early 1944.

When I told Ms. Kelly that I would be honored to represent the Marines at the Beech Hill dedication, she indicated that there were many details to be pinned down, but that she would keep me advised. This she did, and on 16 June she called to ask if Mrs. Ludcke and I could be ready to fly to Northern Ireland on 26 June. Our response was an enthusiastic affirmation, and on that day we took a comfortable Northwest Airline flight to LaGuardia airport where Mary Pat met us. Our flight to Belfast, Northern Ireland on a chartered 757 from Kennedy Airport was much briefer and pleasanter than the trip which the Marines had taken on board a slow, converted cruise ship, the *Santa Rosa*, through the German submarine-infested waters of the North Atlantic in late April 1942!

At the Belfast airport, Patrick McAlister, a Beech Hill neighbor, was waiting to take us on the 70-mile drive to Londonderry by car. On the way I realized how much the roads had improved since 1942, even though the emerald-green countryside looked as clean and beautiful as it did then. Beech Hill is now a privately-owned Country House Hotel, located just two miles from the heart of the historic walled city of Londonderry. Built in 1729, it was the home of the Skipton family of English merchants until the late 19th century. The picturesque Georgian-style mansion has been carefully restored and modernized, but it retains its original charm and character.

Memories came flooding back as I recalled the time, as a 24-year old lieutenant, I billeted Company C of the Provisional Battalion in quonset huts among the stand of beech trees adjacent to the Beech Hill residence. Among those recollections was the “working convent” nearby where the Marines discovered their laundry could be done for a very reasonable price and much better than we could do it in the nearby creek. My middle initial is “O,” and my laundry came back marked “Lt George O’ Ludcke.” From then on that’s who I was to my Irish friends!

Shortly after getting settled at Beech Hill, which is not far from Fincairn Glen where our company guarded a major ammunition storage dump, I had a call from Mrs. Frances Nicholson, then the owner-resident of the estate. “Could you please,” she asked, “turn down the volume” of the amplified reveille bugle calls? (They started our routine at 0530 daily.) We obliged.

Fond memories also came back of the Christmas parties which the Marines held at Beech Hill for the children from nearby farms and villages. Marines vied for the role of

“Father Christmas” (Santa Claus) to hand out gifts to these youngsters for whom such wartime luxuries were scarce.

Horses all had to be put to some war effort in the British Isles in 1942 and my friend, Lt Donald Kennedy, and I each bought a riding horse which we used to inspect the Marine sentinels in the more remote areas. We rented a pasture from Lord Bersford Ashe, whose estate bordered Beech Hill.

When we came back to Beech Hill in 1997, Mary Pat, whose managerial skills we were beginning to appreciate, introduced us to the warm and gracious present-day proprietors of the Beech Hill Country Hotel: Seamus Donnelly, Patsy O’Kane, and their father, Leo Donnelly. They were our hospitable hosts throughout our four-day stay at their very comfortable and attractive facility. The first night, when the O’Kanes thought that a wedding party at Beech Hill might spoil our sleep, they insisted that we stay at their home in nearby Londonderry.

Neighbor McAllister took us on a tour of Derry (as the natives call Londonderry) which included the city’s historic Guild Hall and the massive Great Wall of Derry which still marks its original boundaries. An idea of the city’s age was conveyed by a stop at the church which is located on the site of the original monastery established by St. Colmcille, patron saint of the city, in what was then an oak grove in the year 500 AD!

The next day we spent two hours in the Derry museum, a new and very interesting addition to the city which offers a detailed account of Derry’s 1,500-year history. That afternoon one of our hosts, Joe O’Kane, who is a primary school principal, and his father-in-law, Leo Donnelly (chairman of the U.S. Navy-Marine Friendship Association), were our escorts on a tour which included a stop at Lisahally, some five miles from Derry on the Foyle River. In 1942 this was a little rural village and the site of a small wooden pier used for limited shipping. Today there is no trace of

either the village or the quonset huts of Company C of the Marines who guarded the pier. Instead there are large factories and warehouses of many industrial firms, several from the U.S.A., including DuPont and Seagate. A large steel and concrete pier which accommodates transatlantic ships has replaced the old pier. This change was one of the most dramatic of the many I noted in Northern Ireland.

That afternoon we crossed the Foyle River over the new suspension bridge which boasts the largest unsupported span in Europe. It goes to County Donegal in Eire, known as the Irish Free State. This country was forbidden territory to American servicemen during WWII, because of its neutrality, but today there are no border restrictions at all.

Our trip took us up the Donegal Peninsula to the picturesque town of Moville, very close to the North Atlantic, and across the Foyle from McGilligan Head in County Derry. There we had lunch at McNamara’s, which would compare favorably with any “stateside” restaurant.

In the evening, back at Beech Hill, I looked in vain for any remnant of Camp Holcomb, named for the Commandant of the Marine Corps at the time. The four companies comprising the 1st Provisional Battalion were consolidated at Beech Hill in 1943, but today the site is occupied by a riding academy. However, I did attend a service at the old church nearby and later I happened to meet Mary McCourt, a retired school teacher who still resides at the location where her father ran a small “pub” not far from Beech Hill. Ms. McCourt was a nine-year old girl at that time, but recalls the “Yank Marines” quite vividly.

The Secretary of the Navy, Hon. John H. Dalton, and his wife arrived the following day, accompanied by his staff and military aides Col James Batalini, USMC, and Maj Derek Donovan, USMC. That evening Secretary Dalton and our group visited the home of one of the signers of America’s Declaration of Independ-

ence and later enjoyed a dinner at a nearby country estate, Ardtara. The dinner was sponsored by the head of the Northern Ireland Travel Bureau.

This was a very congenial affair, marked by vocal contributions from the Marine and Navy personnel present as well as the Hon. John Hume, member of Parliament from Londonderry County.

Mr. Hume, a personable man, has earned a respected following among both factions of the sensitive “Northern Ireland question” by his moderate, common-sense approach to the problem. It is his hope that a reasonable accommodation may be reached which will rebound to the ultimate benefit of all concerned, and eliminate the violence which has marked the behavior of extreme militants on both sides.

In his remarks at the dinner, Mr. Hume recalled that, as a young boy of 10 years in 1943, he was taught to play baseball by the Marines at Springtown Camp in Derry!

Monday, 30 June was the memorial dedication day and with Mary Pat Kelly’s remarkably astute orchestration, the ceremony went off without a hitch.

A lady with a beautiful soprano voice (a native of Derry who had once sung professionally in Minneapolis) rendered “Danny Boy” (also known as “Londonderry Air”) and then led the audience in “God Bless America.”

An appropriate memorial, created by Eamon McLaughlin, president of the Beech Hill Navy-Marine Friendship Association, was unveiled by Secretary Dalton and myself. It faces the entrance to the Beech Hill house and commemorates all 450 of the U.S. Marines who were stationed there early in WWII, from 1942 to 1944.

In his remarks at dinner Secretary Dalton stated, “It is seldom that one country would invite the citizens of another to unveil a plaque sited within that country to commemorate citizens of a foreign country.

“It demonstrates once again the great strong ties that exist between

Ireland and the U.S. and long may they continue.”

After the dedication, a buffet luncheon was served by the Beech Hill Country House and Irish dancers performed, accompanied by a trio of Irish instrumentalists.

On the evening of 30 June, the Secretary's party, our Beech Hill hosts, and Mrs. Ludcke and I, attended a banquet at Hillsborough Castle.

The castle is an imposing structure, the original dating back to 1758, and it played many roles in the convoluted political history of the area. Its impressive gardens and beautifully appointed interior and its oil paintings would do justice to any museum.

Other guests at this function included high-ranking members of the government of Northern Ireland and executives of both American and British firms which have established branches in the six counties of modern Ulster.

Speeches included appropriate

comments by Secretary Dalton, who was introduced by Adam Ingraham, minister in the Northern Ireland government.

Our trip home via Dublin, accompanied by faithful Mary Pat, started the next day with a trek from Derry south to the famous Belleek potteries on the border of County Fermanagh. M.P. Hume generously lent us his chauffeur, Don McQuillen, to take us on this segment of the trip which included the town of Virginia in County Cavan, Eire. This was of particular interest to me as my maternal great-grandfather, Robert Seney, had emigrated as a young man from there to the U.S., via Port Hope, Canada, in 1820.

Mary Pat, who is an enthusiastic Irish-Ophile (new word), took us on a walking tour of Dublin (another story in itself) and we then took a smooth, fast Irish train west across the breadth of Ireland to Limerick where we boarded a cab to the Great Southern Hotel which is immediately adjacent to the Shannon airport.

There we boarded a transatlantic flight to Kennedy Airport where Mary Pat's husband, Marty, met us and took us to LaGuardia where we caught a Northwest 757 flight to Minneapolis in time to watch the 4th of July fireworks from our condo.

It is not easy to put into words our appreciation for this memorable trip. It was a humbling experience to be asked to represent the many Marines who served in Northern Ireland so long ago—most of whom served later in the Pacific and several of whom then made the final sacrifice for their country.

In retrospect we find that we were much impressed by the physical changes that have taken place in Ireland these past 55 years: the larger population, the better roads, the establishment of successful businesses. But the things that have remained unchanged are the scenic beauty of the Emerald Isle and the warm, hospitable, witty nature of those we know as the Irish. □1775□

Answers to the Historical Quiz

Marines in the Spanish-American War

(Questions on Page 4)

1. On 15 February 1898, the battleship USS *Maine* mysteriously exploded and sank in the harbor of Havana, Cuba.
2. A week after Congress passed a resolution of intervention, then-ColComdt Charles Heywood ordered a Marine battalion formed to fight in Cuba.
3. LtCol Robert W. Huntington and the battalion sailed to establish a forward naval base at Guantanamo Bay. On 10 June, they landed on the eastern side of the bay, meeting no opposition.
4. On 3 May 1898, 1stLt Dion Williams took a detachment ashore and occupied the arsenal and dockyards of the Cavite naval station.
5. 15
6. On 11 May 1898, Marines and seamen from the USS *Marblehead* and USS *Nashville* cut the transoceanic cable off Cienfuegos, Cuba, in order to isolate the island and hinder the movement of Spanish warships.
7. SgtMaj John Quick later distinguished himself in operations on Samar in 1901, at Vera Cruz in 1914, and at Belleau Wood in France during World War I.
8. Brigadier General
9. Then-1stLt John A. Lejeune later served as the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1 July 1920 to 4 March 1929.
10. Four officers and 114 enlisted Marines, commanded by Col James Forney, comprised the Marine guard at Camp Long, Seavey's Island, a few miles from Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Solis, Frank Honored by Historical Foundation

by Charles R. Smith
Historian

LtCol Gary D. Solis, USMC (Ret), a former History and Museums Division historical writer and now professor of law at the United States Military Academy at West Point, was this year's winner of the General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Award. Presented to the author of the outstanding nonfiction book pertinent to Marine Corps history, the award was given to LtCol Solis at the Marine Corps Historical Foundation's annual awards dinner held at the Army-Navy Club on 31 October for his book, *Son Thang: An American War Crime*, published by the Naval Institute Press. The book examines the February 1970 killing of women and children in the Vietnam village of Son Thang and the aftermath of the tragedy.

LtCol Solis served in the Marine Corps for 26 years, including two tours in Vietnam as an assault amphibian officer, the first in 1964 as a platoon leader and the second in 1966 as commanding officer of B Company, 3d Amtrac Battalion. He received law degrees from the University of California and George Washington University, then served for 18 years as a judge advocate and a general court-martial judge before retiring in 1989. He is the author of numerous articles and a volume in the official series on Marines in Vietnam, *Marines and Military Law in Vietnam: Trial by Fire*.

The Foundation's most prestigious award, the Distinguished Service Award, was presented to the division's former Chief Historian, Benis M. Frank, for his "extensive accomplishments in Marine Corps history and his service in numerous capacities to the Marine Corps Historical Foundation."

Mr. Frank's long association with the Corps began with his enlistment in 1943 at the age of 18. He served in the Pacific, became a member of the 1st Marine Division band, saw action at Peleliu and Okinawa, and, at war's



Photo by John T. Dyer, Jr.

From left, 1997 Foundation awards recipients are LtGen Charles G. Cooper, Tom Dunn, LtCol Michael Howard, LtCol Gary D. Solis, David H. Hugel, Maj Philip E. Grathwol, Rudolph G. Rosenquist, and Sgt Lance M. Bacon. Benis M. Frank, who later was presented the Distinguished Service Award, is not pictured.

end, had occupation duty in North China. On discharge from the Marine Corps, he continued his college studies but maintained his affiliation with the Corps by taking a reserve commission which subsequently brought him back to active duty during the Korean War.

In 1961, an opportunity arose for him to join the Historical Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps as a historian and he seized it, beginning what would be 36 years of uninterrupted service. He co-authored the last volume in the official history of Marine operations in World War II, *Victory and Occupation*, in addition to writing several monographs, notably *U.S. Marines in Lebanon*, and two books on Okinawa and a biography of Adm William Halsey, published commercially. The acknowledged dean of military oral historians, Mr. Frank conducted more than 500 interviews with Marines ranging from commandants to

corporals in the field, recording their insights and experiences. In 1991, he became Chief Historian, and oversaw the highly successful series of World War II 50th anniversary commemorative pamphlets as general editor. Mr. Frank retired from government service in October of last year and was unable to attend the awards ceremony due to the effects of recent surgery.

His citation read, "From the depth of his knowledge of the historical craft and the Marine Corps, he has aided a wide spectrum of persons interested in Marine Corps history, ranging from well-established historians to interns of high-school age. All are indebted to him. For this life-time of service to the Marine Corps and Marine Corps history, this award is well-deserved."

The Colonel Robert D. Heinl, Jr., Award, given to the author of the best article pertinent to Marine Corps history, was presented to LtGen Charles G.

Cooper, USMC (Ret), for his article, "The Day It Became the Longest War," published in the May 1996 issue of the *Naval Institute Proceedings*. The article recounts a series of events on a day in November 1965 when as aide-de-camp to the Chief of Naval Operations, then-Maj Cooper stood in the Oval Office as the Joint Chiefs of Staff briefed President Johnson on the war.

Gen Cooper served 35 years on active duty, commanding units in each of the three active divisions and in five of the nine infantry regiments. He saw combat service in Korea and Vietnam, commanded Marine Barracks, Washington; Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune; Recruit Depot, San Diego; the 1st Marine Division and 1st Marine Amphibious Force; and Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. In addition to being a writer and consultant and lecturer on leadership and political and military affairs, Gen Cooper is leading the current effort to preserve the integrity of the grounds surrounding the Marine Corps War (Iwo Jima) Memorial.

Established by Col G. F. Robert Hanke, USMCR, in memory of his father, Wing Commander Ralph Hanke, Royal Air Force, the General Roy S. Geiger Award is given to the author of the best article published in the *Marine Corps Gazette* or other military journal in the field of Marine Corps aviation during 1996. This year's recipient was Maj Philip E. Grathwol, USMC, for his article, "How Long Must We Wait for Osprey," on the V-22 and the need to build it quickly, published in the May issue of the *Gazette*.

Commissioned in 1987, Maj Grathwol is a qualified CH-46 pilot who deployed with the *Tarawa* in Operation Desert Storm and subsequently served as a platoon commander at the Officer Candidate School. As a member of HMX-1 he commanded a White House helicopter and currently serves as an operational test pilot.

The Sergeant Major Dan Daly Award was presented to former Sgt Lance Bacon. The award, funded by *Leatherneck* magazine, is given for superior writing pertinent to Marine

Corps history by an enlisted author for a Marine Corps post or station periodical. Sgt Bacon received his second Daly Award for a series of articles published in the *Camp Lejeune Globe* on the famous sniper, Carlos Hathcock.

Sgt Bacon began his Marine Corps career in 1989 as an antitank assault guided missileman and served on board the *Independence* during Operation Desert Shield. Following his reenlistment in 1992 and a change of MOS to public affairs, he became a combat correspondent. Named Marine Corps Print Journalist of the Year in 1995, his prize-winning feature stories and photos have appeared in numerous service publications. Sgt Bacon left active service in September 1997 and is now managing editor of the Kinston, North Carolina *Free Press*.

The Colonel John H. Magruder III Award for excellence in depicting Marine Corps history in exhibits or displays in a museum or similar setting was presented to the U.S. Marine Raider Museum in Richmond, Virginia. The 2,800-square-foot museum presents the history of the four World War II raider battalions through photographs, maps, and artifacts, ranging from weapons and equipment to personal memorabilia. The brain-child of Rudolph G. Rosenquist, who served in the 3d Raider Battalion and later with the "new" 4th Marines, the museum was opened in 1986 with the help of Robert Buerlein, president of the American Historical Foundation.

A Colonel John H. Magruder Special Recognition Award for excellence in exhibitry was made to LtCol Michael Howard, SgtMaj Robert Burns, and the 6th Engineer Support Battalion, Marine Corps Reserve, Portland, Oregon. Through the use of photographs and biographical information, the indoor portion of the exhibit honors Oregon's Marine heroes from 1841 to Operation Desert Storm, while the outdoor exhibit features a one-of-a-kind TD-18 armored bulldozer. The special citation commended the Portland engineer reservists for their tireless efforts in "telling the Marine Corps story" in a unique way.

Former Marine combat artist Tom Dunn was this year's recipient of the Colonel John W. Thomason, Jr., Award for his contributions to Marine Corps combat art. Mr. Dunn joined the Marine Corps in 1942 and served as a combat engineer and then combat artist at Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima. While some of his works were lost at sea following World War II, a surviving number were selected to illustrate two books, *Marines on Iwo Jima* and *Iwo Jima: Legacy of Valor*. Since the war he has illustrated numerous books, taught, and for more than 10 years was a courtroom artist for ABC television. A resident of northern New Jersey, he currently concentrates on drawing and painting portraits, waterfowl, and nautical subjects.

The Heritage Award was presented to David H. Hugel for his "outstanding service to the Foundation from 1988 to 1997." A member since 1986, he has served as secretary, counsel, contributing author, photographer, and editor of the Foundation's newsletter, member of the Heritage Center Committee, and chairman of the By-Laws Revision Committee.

Dave Hugel enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1960 and, after graduating from Naval Photographic School at Pensacola, was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station, Quantico. In 1963 he was assigned to photographic units at Da Nang where he was involved in photo activities ranging from aerial reconnaissance to acting as Gen Wallace M. Greene's official photographer during the newly appointed Commandant's in-country tour.

Upon separation, he worked as a radio and television news reporter while attending undergraduate school. Later, following his admission to the Bar, he served as an assistant state's attorney for Baltimore County, Maryland, and then as Maryland's first State's Attorneys Coordinator. In addition to lecturing extensively on media relations, criminal law, and highway safety issues, he has written articles on his Vietnam experience and the Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

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Marine Corps Family Affair at Historical Center

by LtCol Leon Craig, Jr., USMC
History and Museums Division Executive Officer

Col Anne Rathmell, USMCR, was promoted to her present rank on 30 January in the Special Exhibits Gallery of the Marine Corps Historical Center. Although this promotion is the result of years of dedicated hard work, it goes deeper than that. In a microcosm, it was the story of a Marine Corps family whose members each heeded the call to arms and took up the challenge. This is a story about the Rathmell family and its Marine Corps members.

MajGen Earl B. Hailston, the current Director for Strategic Planning and Policy, J-5, USCinCPac, did the honors. Although he was not born into, or married into, the Rathmell family, he is a family member whose honored position was forged more than 29 years ago.

The first of the family to earn the title Marine was John Nicely Rathmell who, along with his wife, Bernice, sat quietly in the audience as the younger of their two children, and only daughter, reaffirmed the oath of allegiance, then pinned on the rank of colonel. A member of the "old Corps," for the father this was unheard of when he was on active duty, but nevertheless, that thought only served to heighten his pride. Mr. Rathmell enlisted in the Marine Corps on 11 January 1942 at the age of 29. The United States had been officially involved in World War II for just over one month and he felt duty-bound to serve. Despite the fact that he was already a successful businessman, and held a bachelor of science degree from Penn State College (later Penn State University), and a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, he enlisted, completed boot camp, and was subsequently assigned to Marine Corps Air Station, Quantico, for duty as a weather forecaster. He soon made corporal, and subsequently the Marine Corps discovered that he held two college degrees and sent him to Candidate Class, 12th ROC. Lt John N. Rathmell graduated in November 1943.

As a new second lieutenant,



In the Special Exhibits Gallery of the Marine Corps Museum, MajGen Earl B. Hailston, CinCPac J-5, delivers remarks upon the promotion in January of long-time family friend Col Anne Rathmell, USMCR.

USMCR, he was ordered to Camp Lejeune in December 1942 where he underwent training as a basic combat engineer for the next two months. After graduation from the Engineer School on 1 March 1943, he deployed to Melbourne, Australia, and joined the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, right after the campaign at Guadalcanal. He subsequently fought in the battles of New Guinea, Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, and Okinawa. After the war, in August 1945 he was assigned to Quantico until his discharge from active duty on 1 December 1945. Capt Rathmell returned to his home and resumed running the family business in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He subsequently resigned his commission 1 March 1948.

Col Rathmell speaks of her father and notes "despite his short tour in the Marine Corps he is the epitome of 'once a Marine . . .'" While he is not an "organization joiner," he has stayed in touch faithfully with the friends made in the Marine Corps, trading life stories and insults for the last 50-odd years. He still believes the Marine Corps represented the best of the best, and he learned a lot of lessons from his time in the Corps that have helped him through his life."

A little over nine months after Capt Rathmell was discharged from active duty, his son, Henry Porter Rathmell, was born. According to Col Rathmell, like his father, Porter was a particularly "clean-cut guy who was just an

average student and averagely active in sports." After high school he attended Colgate University in Hamilton, graduating in May 1968. "Starting in 1962 at age 15 he was a counselor each summer at the Vagabond Ranch, Granby, Colorado, including the summer of 1968, before he departed for Officer Candidate School. Vagabond Ranch combined a lot of the features of *Outward Bound* in a working ranch setting, and Porter was called upon to work, teach, and advise children from ages 8 to 16. That experience stood him in good stead in the Marine Corps."

Just as his father did 26 years prior, Porter joined the Marine Corps at a time when his country was embroiled in a war. This time, however, public sentiment for supporting the war was drastically different from what it was when his father enlisted during WWII. Col Rathmell opined, "Given the emotions surrounding the Vietnam War, it is difficult to say that Porter demonstrated the kind of heroism that gave us the WWII heroes who live in the movies." But she likes to "think that he did, because it took a lot of guts to join the Marine Corps and seek combat . . . it would have been relatively easy for him to either opt out of (or delay) military service; it would have been easy to join another branch of service which would not have placed him so immediately in harm's way. Undoubtedly, Porter thought if something was worth doing it was worth

doing right and to the best of his ability, so he joined the Marine Corps.”

Henry Porter Rathmell was commissioned a second lieutenant upon graduation from Officer Candidate School on 14 November 1968, and reported immediately to the Basic School (TBS). It was during his stay at TBS that he developed a friendship with another student, 2dLt Earl B. Hailston. This friendship would endure and eventually forge strong social bonds between both lieutenants' families.

Lt Porter Rathmell excelled as a student at TBS and was named to the Commanding General's Honor List (number 8 of 242 in class), and graduated on 16 April 1969. Three days later, he was married, and Lt Hailston was one of two Marines from their TBS Class who participated in the wedding party. “Since these guys had graduated from TBS, the weekend of the party was a raucous good time at the Rathmell's house.” That was the first time that the Rathmell family met Lt Hailston, and thus the beginning of a lifelong friendship. Immediately after TBS, Lt Porter Rathmell attended the U.S. Army's School of Infantry Ranger Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Lt Hailston was assigned as a rifle platoon commander with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Marine Division, at Camp Pendleton. During this period, the two Marines maintained correspondence with each other, and the Rathmell family to the greatest extent possible given their very busy schedules. In July 1969 Lt Hailston was transferred to the Western Pacific (WestPac) for duty with ground forces, and was assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Republic of Vietnam (RVN). The very next month, 27 August 1969, Lt Porter Rathmell graduated as the Distinguished Honor Graduate (ranking first among 230 students) from the U.S. Army's Ranger Course. Three weeks later, on 21 September, he too departed the U.S. for duty in the RVN, and was assigned to the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division. The operation tempo (optempo) was indeed high in the RVN at that time, and in less than

one and a half months (28 September-6 November 1969), Lt Porter Rathmell participated in six long-range reconnaissance patrols. Like everything he had done thus far in the Marine Corps, he was professional and was successful at his trade. He was only in-country a relatively short time, however, before his entire division began to redeploy to Okinawa. The two lieutenants continued to maintain correspondence with each other and the Rathmell family.

“When the 3rd Marine Division was withdrawn to Okinawa in late 1969, Lt Rathmell, now a combat Marine, was involved in perfecting the helicopter rappelling technique that is used to this day to insert and extract Marines in certain environments. He departed the RVN on 7 November 1967 and returned to Okinawa. He was insistent that he was not going to end his tour in WestPac sitting on Okinawa being an instructor, so he sought reassignment to the 1st Marine Division which was still in the RVN. He was successful in that effort and was reassigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion.” This was undoubtedly an exciting reassignment as it reunited him with his TBS buddy, Lt Hailston. Undoubtedly, both first lieutenants were delighted to be able to once again work together, and this service in combat would cement their friendship for life. True friendships that are forged in a combat zone are forged forever, regardless of the final outcome.

Col Ann Rathmell reflects on her

brother's final assignment in the Corps. Two months after he returned to Vietnam, he was killed in action while trying to recover the remains of a downed pilot. He was killed on 12 April 1970, one week prior to his first wedding anniversary. Leading a team of Marines which was to be helo-inserted into thick foliage, he was the first man of the team to deplane. “I have the feeling that he chose to be first because he wasn't going to ask his men to do anything he would not do . . . , and because he believed a true leader leads from the front.” For his actions during this situation, he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal with the distinguishing Combat V device.

Lt Hailston wrote a very difficult letter to the Rathmell family and expressed his own sorrow for their loss and his sorrow at the loss of his buddy. He further explained that he learned of Lt Rathmell's death the day afterwards when he returned to camp from a patrol. He volunteered to escort Lt Porter Rathmell's body back home, but was denied permission.

Since the day of Lt Porter Rathmell's wedding in April 1969, then Lt Hailston continued to maintain communications with the Rathmell family. That incident in Vietnam less than one year later strengthened their family ties. On several occasions, Gen Hailston visited the Rathmell's home with his mother and sister, and later his wife and daughters. For the Rathmells, Gen Hailston became a surrogate son.

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Col Rathmell's father, retired Marine Capt John N. Rathmell, helps with pinning on her new eagles as Gen Hailston and other family friends look on, in an area of the Gallery filled with World War II memorabilia.



Maxim Guns Gift Recalls World War I Fighting

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas
Curator of Material History

When two New York-based Marines safely delivered a pair of World War I-period German Model M1908/15 light machine guns to the Air-Ground Museum at Quantico, on 16 October 1997, they helped augment an automatic weapons collection which has enjoyed world-wide recognition for the past 40 years. These two guns had been surrendered several years ago to the Suffolk County Police Department, on Long Island, New York, and the Department had promised to transfer the guns to the museum at such time as opportune transport became available. Through the kind services of the Inspector-Instructor of the 2d Battalion, 25th Marines, the guns were transported to the Museum where they were photographed and cataloged before being placed, for the time being, in the storage/reference collection. At present there are several possibilities for exhibit of these German Maxims; they may be displayed in one of the two recruit depot command museums, or they may be used in a tentatively planned exhibit on Belleau Wood.

Being placed in an exhibit on Belleau Wood would certainly be appropriate, as this was the action in which Marines first encountered automatic machine gun fire to any appreciable degree, and the German Maxim



Two German soldiers carry their M1908/15 light machine guns on slings during the summer campaign of 1918. Marines faced their first substantial use of Maxim guns by the Germans during the Battle of Belleau Wood.

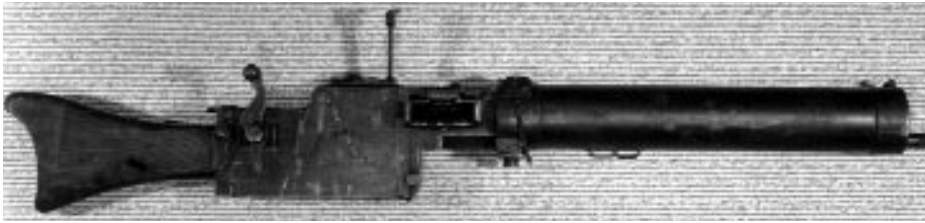
machine guns took a deadly toll in that hard-fought battle. The sunny wheat fields through which the Marines attacked to reach the woods were completely covered by interlocking fields of fire, and once in the woods, the Marines found that each machine-gun nest was mutually supported by others. Fiercely defending their dug-in positions, German crews

manned the heavy, sled-mounted Model 1908 guns, while two-man teams fired the light Model 1908/15 machine guns. One after another, these machine gun nests were finally conquered by Marine rifle fire, grenades, and bayonets, but only after a cost of about 5,000 Marine casualties in a contest which dragged over four weeks, from June to July 1918.

This Model 1908/15 Maxim light machine gun is complete to its drum magazine. These weapons ordinarily were fired by two-man crews.



Following Belleau Wood, Marines faced the slow, but deadly, rattle of German Maxims in the Vierzy Ravine at Soissons in the next month, at the St. Mihiel salient in September, at Blanc Mont in October, and finally, in the Argonne Forest at the Armistice on 11 November. Each weapon that the Marines captured was prized as a trophy, and today, the Marine Corps Museum's collection boasts at least four trophy weapons: one heavy and three light Maxims. The heavy machine gun, which was featured in the Museum's popular special exhibit on World War I (see *Fortitudine*, Spring 1980), was captured by the 5th



This light Maxim machine gun was captured by Marines of the 4th Brigade, American Expeditionary Force, in France during the last night of World War I, and presented to then-Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt by the brigade commander, MajGen John A. Lejeune.

Marines at the Bois de Vipre, near Blanc Mont. It is now on exhibit on the west side of the second deck of the Marine Corps Historical Center. Two of the light Maxims are in the museum's reference collection at Quantico; one light Model 1908/15 has a brass plate on its butt stock which states that it was retrieved from the battlefield of Blanc Mont by BGen Charles L. McCawley in 1918, while the brass plate on the other machine gun states only that it was "captured by Marines in the World War." In 1979, BGen James Roosevelt, USMCR (Ret), presented the third "pedigreed" light 1908/15 to the museum. It had been captured on the last night of the war by elements of the 5th Marines in their famous attack across the Meuse River, and was then presented to his father, later-President Franklin D. Roosevelt, by MajGen John A. Lejeune in 1919, when then-Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt was visiting the 4th Brigade of Marines in Germany. At the suggestion of the registrar at the

Roosevelt home in Hyde Park, New York, retired MGySgt Wendell A. "Tex" Parks, the weapon was transferred to the Marine Corps Museum (see *Fortitudine*, Spring 1979) where it has been on display in the "Time Tunnel" ever since.

Longtime visitors to the Marine Corps Museum will recall that these World War I German Maxims are only a small part of the Museum's automatic weapons collection. This collection traces its beginnings to the study collection which famed weapons expert Col George Chinn, USMCR, gathered when he wrote his definitive work on the technological history of automatic weapons. Sponsored by the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Ordnance in the 1950s, this multi-volume work is considered one of the "Bibles" on the world's machine guns. At the urging of the Museum's founder, Col John H. Magruder III, the collection of nearly 60 machine guns was displayed in a large room at the entrance of the old

German soldiers, some with uniforms skirted by hand-grenades, prepare to move to the front with their Maxim guns on small, wheeled carts. The ominous "rattle" of these guns was heard at most of the famed battles of World War I, from Soissons to the Argonne Forest.



The idealized Marine of the statue "Iron Mike" at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, carries a captured Maxim gun across his shoulders .

Marine Corps Museum at Quantico. This impressive array included groupings of every early machine gun type, and featured a whole section of Maxim guns, most of them with beautiful brass water jackets and mountings. When that museum was closed and moved to the Marine Corps Historical Center in 1977, space limitations dictated that only selected highlights of the collection could be displayed in the new museum (See *Fortitudine*, Winter 1977), and the balance were moved to the Museum's reference collection in Quantico. The weapons left behind included German, Austrian, and South American export models, and British examples. One of the British guns is identical to the guns used by Cecil Rhodes' "private army" during the 1893 Matabele Campaign, in what is now Zimbabwe, during which Maxim machine guns were used for the first time in combat.

Included in the new exhibit at the Navy Yard were a prototype Maxim, usually referred to as serial number 1,



The prototype Maxim machine gun, above, was on display at the original Marine Corps Museum at Quantico from 1960 to 1976. It is now displayed at the Marine Corps Historical Center at the Washington, D.C. Navy Yard. Below, Sgt Tom Lovell's painting, "In Belleau Wood," provides the backdrop for a M1908 Maxim heavy machine gun which was captured by the 5th Marines during World War I at Blanc Mont.



a M1910 Russian Maxim on its wheeled and armored mount, and the later M1915 British Vickers derivative. The prototype Maxim was donated to the Museum in the early 1950s by Val Forgett, the founder of the Navy Arms Corporation, after he had acquired it in a private auction. (Soon after, he also gave the Museum a one-of-a-kind .22-caliber Maxim prototype sub-machine gun.) When the Museum's "Marines in Miniature" gallery was erected in the early 1980s, it replaced the automatic weapons display, and the machine guns were moved to the second deck, where yet another new acquisition was added to this nearly priceless collection. In 1977, the Cape May, New Jersey, Sheriff's Department had seized an American-made M1904 Colt Maxim machine gun which had been abandoned in a derelict building and, following the suggestion of the armorer at the local U.S. Coast Guard installation, they transferred the weapon to the Coast Guard which, in turn, offered it to the Museum. It was eagerly acquired, as it is one of only about 250 which had been made by the Colt Firearms Company, under license. (Two years before, the same armorer had been instrumental in assisting the Museum to acquire its unaltered M1895 Colt "potato digger" machine gun, which was still chambered for the 6mm Navy cartridge and one of only a handful not converted after the turn of the century to fire the .30-caliber Army "Krag" round. It is on exhibit in the "Time Tunnel.")

Since the acquisition of the M1904 the one Maxim which we have accepted is a complete camouflage-painted M1908 which was donated by BGen Robert M. Gaynor, USAR (Ret). Captured by Pennsylvania National Guardsmen of the 28th Division in the Argonne Forest during World War I, it was later loaned by the Museum to the Heritage Gallery National Guard Museum in Washington, D.C., where it was on exhibit for six years, until being returned to the Museum's reference collection. For the past 40 years, this significant collection has been used by scores of serious researchers who spend hours, and sometimes

days, examining the details of our weapons. Perhaps the most well-known researcher in recent years is Dolf Goldsmith, who spent days on end, assembling data for his exhaus-

ive publications on early machine guns. Several of our guns and accouterments are featured in his work on the Maxim gun, *The Devil's Paintbrush*, and he also went through our

British guns searching for information prior to the publication of *The Grand Old Lady of No Man's Land*, his acclaimed study on the Vickers machine gun. □1775□

German Defense Plan Made Belleau Wood 'A Massive Machine Gun Nest'

by SSgt Dieter Stenger, USMC, Ordnance Unit, Air-Ground Museum, Quantico

Following the remarkable success of the German surprise attack of 27 May 1918 on the Chemin des Dames that effectively threatened the fall of Paris and caused great panic within the French capital, French Forces abandoned their positions and left the American Expeditionary Force to hold a thin and overextended line. The German success in the Paris sector was not, however, anticipated by the German High Command, with the bulk of their strength lying in the north opposite the British where they planned to renew the attack with reserve forces. Unable to exploit their unexpected break-through towards Paris, the Germans called for a general halt once they reached the line held by the Marines.

Under orders of the French corps commander, Allied troops began a general advance on 6 June to secure better positions. In conjunction with French Forces, the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments moved into position for the attack. On the far left of the Marine Brigade, the first advance began with elements of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, under the command of Maj Julius S. Turrill. With this action representing the first Marine attack in France, Turrill made gains in the north by advancing 1,000 yards along an 800-yard front, supported by divisional artillery and a company of the Marine 6th Machine Gun Battalion, under the command of Maj Edward B. Cole. The next attack would be launched against the German positions in Belleau Wood.

The first Marine attack proved to go well against the Germans, thus leaving them in a salient at Lucy-le-Bocage. Marshal Ferdinand Foch, the Allied commander, ordered the salient reduced as Marines made plans to attack against Belleau Wood and Bouresches, thereby straightening the front line along the northeast edge of Belleau Wood.

Belleau Wood was approximately one mile in length and consisted of thick, heavily wooded terrain, cut by a deep

U.S. Marines capture a Maxim machine gun nest in this detail of a painting by Frank Schoonover of the fighting in Belleau Wood.



ravine at the southern end, and spotted with large, sporadic boulders. These terrain features made excellent machine gun and trench mortar positions that provided excellent protection for entrenched infantry. The German positions at Belleau Wood were held by the 461st Infantry Regiment, 237th Division, at a strength of 1,169 men and auxiliary troops.

Two battalions held the defensive lines, and one was placed in reserve, within the wood, and additional support was provided by protective artillery barrages. The Germans' main line of resistance curved to the southeast, with three lines of trenches, turning Belleau Wood into a massive machine gun nest. The first trench line faced the villages of Lucy-le-Bocage and Bouresches from the southern edge. It was a natural fortress high on a plateau, scored with brush-filled ravines. Among the huge mossy boulders, 15 heavy machine guns were emplaced so as to provide themselves with interlocking fields of fire. If one were captured, the others could immediately expose it to flanking fire. The second line of trenches ran from east to west through the center of the wood. Protected by a line of barbed wire, trench mortars, and sharpshooters, this portion of the defensive line had trees that stood so close together that visibility was reduced to 15 feet or less. The third and final trench line, the strongest of them all, ran across the northern edge of the wood. In addition to the barbed wire and trench mortars, the avenues of approach were registered and covered by artillery batteries located behind the village of Torcy. The sum of machine guns emplaced in and along the edge of Belleau Wood, against which the Marines would attack, totaled nearly 200. Although the German troops were well-armed and seasoned veterans, their stamina was poor due to food rationing and sickness.

The Marine attack advanced in "line of sections," a standard French formation that was, by now, well rehearsed by the Marines. This formation provided that each company formed a two-platoon front, with two platoons supporting. Each platoon was divided into four sections, with two sections forward and spaced about 40 yards apart from the two remaining in the rear proper. As the attack began, Maj Turrill ordered his men to "move out" after a short artillery barrage and preparatory machine gun fire. Capt George Hamilton, leading a company of Marines through a wheat field that sloped gently upward toward a patch of trees remarked:

We hadn't gone fifty yards when they cut loose at us from the woods ahead—more machine guns than I had ever heard before. I have a vague recollection of urging the whole line on—faster, perhaps, than they should have gone, . . . shooting wildly at several retreating Boche (Germans). Farther on we came to an open field, a wheat field full of red poppies, and here we caught hell. Again it was a case of rushing across the open and getting to the woods.

Another inspiring episode was that of GySgt Dan Daly who led a platoon against the machine guns emplaced in the woods. Leading his men through the hail of bullets, he cried, "Come on, you sons of bitches! Do you want to live forever!?"

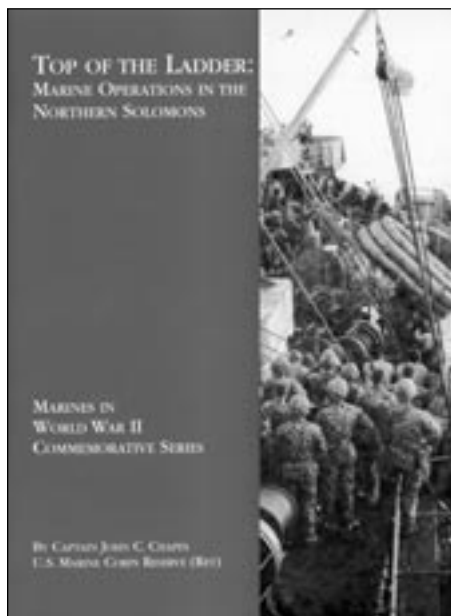
New Pamphlets Tell of Bougainville and Bataan

by Charles R. Smith
Historian

Two more pamphlets have been added to the official 50th anniversary commemorative series on Marines in World War II. *Top of the Ladder: Marine Operations in the Northern Solomons*, which tells the story of the 3d Marine Division seizure of the vital Cape Torokina beachhead, on Bougainville, was written by Capt John C. Chapin, USMCR (Ret), author of three other accounts in the series.

Beginning with the assault on 1 November 1943, the Marines had a tough two-month battle against well dug-in, determined Japanese. Equally a problem was an oppressively hot, humid climate, endless insects, and Marine foxholes where the men were up to their hips in water. By the end of December, the division had fought its way through battles with names like Coconut Grove, Numa-Numa, Piva Forks, and Hellzapoppin Ridge.

The campaign cost the Marines more than 1,800 casualties, but it produced two airstrips which would then launch planes to pound the key Japanese base of Rabaul. From the painful start in 1942, at Guadalcanal at the bottom of the Solomon Islands chain, the Marines had now successfully reached the top of the ladder.



Written by J. Michael Miller, formerly of the History and Museums Division Personal Papers Collection and now senior archivist at the Marine Corps University at Quantico, *From Shanghai to Corregidor: Marines in the Defense of the Philippines*, tells the tortuous story of not only the 4th Marine Regiment, which departed Shanghai for the Philippines in November 1941, but also of the 1st Separate Marine Battalion at Cavite which was later redesignated the regiment's 3d Battalion.

Readers of the series will recall that

From Top of the Ladder, as seen from a beached landing craft, these Marines are under fire while wading in the last few yards to the beach

National Archives Photo 80-G-54384



sidebars on specific subjects seldom exceeded one page. Although this pamphlet contains only three sidebars, all written by Richard A. Long, head of the Division's Oral History Unit, they deal extensively with Marine activities on the ill-fated Bataan Peninsula. For the first time the story of the Marine Guard Detachment with U.S. Army Forces in the Far East and Marine Radar Detachment, Army Air Corps Air Warning Service are told.

While American Army and Philippine survivors of the Bataan Death March have related their experiences, the record of the Marines largely has been silent. Now the experience of the four officers and nearly 70 enlisted Marines is told. Although many of the Marine survivors have passed on, some as prisoners of war, Long was able to find 10 living enlisted Marines who related the events of the infamous march. □1775□

Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum Opens for Twentieth Year

The United States Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, Quantico, Virginia, reopened for its twentieth season on Wednesday, 1 April. The Museum, housed in three vintage aircraft hangars on Brown Field, MCCDC, highlights the Marine Corps integrated approach to combat operations emphasizing the combined use of air and ground tactics and equipment. Featured within the three hangars are a series of exhibits of aircraft, artillery, tanks, and other specialized equipment arranged in a self-guided chronological tour. Admission is free; hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The Air-Ground Museum is closed on Mondays.

Hollywood and the Navy Department

by Dr. Lawrence H. Suid
Film Historian

Although the Marine Corps and Navy co-exist within a single department, they have usually gone their separate ways in assisting filmmakers. Each service ultimately obtained its own message films. The Navy found great benefit from cooperating on the making of *Destination Tokyo*, *Bridges At Toko Ri*, and *Top Gun*. The Marines' appearances in movies began during World War I with *The Unbeliever*, and continued in such classics as *What Price Glory*, *Sands of Iwo Jima*, and *Battle Cry*.

On occasion, both services have appeared on screen together, usually complementing each other in combat. Disagreements over rendering developed only if one service perceived it would suffer at the hands of the other in a proposed production.

For the most part, the 1920s and 1930s saw few disputes because the peacetime films usually ignored important issues, and within the Navy Department, the Navy then enjoyed the superior position. Of course, both services agreed on the need to create only positive images in movies receiving military assistance.

In 1931, a script titled "Summerville Number Four" received initial approval from the Navy. However, the captain of the USS *Colorado*, on which the filmmakers planned to shoot some scenes, voiced his objection to the CNO, saying the completed film would "bring no credit to the Navy and might give the public an entirely wrong impression of discipline on board ship."

The captain focused his concern on the portrayal of a Marine bugler's efforts to smuggle a girl aboard in a seabag with two-thirds of the story portraying "the adventures of the bag. The climax of the picture occurs when the girl sits on a switch which presumably controls all activities on the ship. When she does this the anchors are let go, all boats are lowered, the turrets are fired, the whistle blows and the band marches around the quarter-

deck playing "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Ultimately, the Navy Department's Motion Picture Board agreed that approval should be rescinded, thanks in part to the Marine member's comment that "the picture is an undesirable burlesque involving persons in the uniform of this Corps."

In contrast, Marine and Navy fliers joined together during the production of the 1935 *Devil Dogs of the Air*. The film, featuring a 10-minute sequence of a combined air-sea assault on a beach near San Diego, remains the only movie to show Marine fliers taking off from an aircraft carrier. However, the film did not mention the on-going debate over the missions which each air branch on board a carrier should perform.

During World War II, Hollywood portrayed at least one joint Marine-Navy operation, showing a submarine in *Gung Ho* carrying Marines to Makin Island. Perhaps better than any other submarine film, it conveyed the claustrophobia on board an undersea craft thanks to the reactions of the Marines preparing for the raid in the confined quarters.

During the post-war recreations of fighting in the Pacific Theater, filmmakers regularly portrayed the Marines and Navy combining to assault Japanese-held islands, whichever service was being featured on the screen. Despite the desire for technical accuracy, however, both services usually permitted filmmakers dramatic license in their productions, if the stories contained positive images. For example, the Navy story *In Harm's Way* includes a sequence in which paramarines carry out an air drop against an enemy-held island, something which never happened.

In contrast, neither service would assist on *Seven Days in May* since it portrayed an attempted military coup against the government. To be sure, the Marines may well have wanted to become involved since a Marine

colonel foils the plot which the commander of the Navy's Sixth Fleet had abetted.

During the Vietnam War, Hollywood seldom portrayed the military in positive terms and the Marines suffered some of the worst indignities in the cinematic recreations of the conflict. In contrast, the Navy was less tarred by the war and continued to appear on the screen in *Ice Station Zebra*, *Midway*, and *Final Countdown*. However, the war changed forever the free and easy relationship between Hollywood and the military and even in films which received assistance, portrayals were not always flattering.

The Marines accepted this reality and wanted to cooperate on *The Great Santini* despite the character flaws of the Patton-like Marine aviator. However, for the only time since the service became an independent branch within the Navy Department, the Navy tried to prevent the Marines from cooperating on a movie, claiming the story brought disrepute on both services. Ultimately, the Navy backed down and the Marines assisted the filmmakers with men and equipment, even allowing the director to disguise Marine jets as Navy fighters. Of course, the Marine pilots beat the Navy fliers in the aerial training exercise.

Again, with *An Officer and a Gentleman*, the Navy refused to cooperate because of the four-letter words, graphic sex, and the suicide of a Navy aviation cadet after he flunks out of the program. However, the Marines loved the portrayal of its D.I. and provided a technical advisor to Lou Gossett to help create his role. The service also allowed off-duty Marines to play aviation cadets.

The Navy finally exacted revenge in *A Few Good Men*, on which the Marines adamantly refused to assist because one of its officers orders the hazing of an enlisted man and then lies about it when the Marine dies.

(Continued on page 20)

Making A World War Easier to Comprehend

by Evelyn A. Englander
Historical Center Librarian

The library of the Marine Corps Historical Center receives many recently published books of professional interest to Marines. Most of these books are available through local bookstores and libraries.

American Heritage New History of World War II, revised and updated by Stephen E. Ambrose. New York: Viking Press, 1997. 628 pp. The introduction explains that the "aim here is to cover, in words and pictures, the essential history of this greatest of human tragedies, and to recreate a feeling of what it meant in terms of people who were swept up by it." This updates the *American Heritage Picture History of World War II*, first published in 1966. This revision incorporates the last 30 years of WWII scholarship, along with new analysis of postwar global alliances and the Cold War. \$50.00

Biographical Dictionary of World War II. Mark H. Boatner III. Novato, California: Presidio Press, 1996. 733 pp. This dictionary provides detailed accounts of more than 1,000 notable individuals from the war years. It includes cross-references and suggestions for further reading. Other works by the author include *Military Customs and Traditions* and the *Civil War Dictionary*. Includes bibliography. \$50.00

The Reluctant Sheriff: The United States after the Cold War. Richard N. Haass. New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1997. 148 pp. The author, director of Foreign Policy Studies at Brookings and Senior Fellow on the Council on Foreign Relations details this country's search in the post-Cold War world for balance between engagement and isolation. For example, he sees Desert Storm as an example of the U.S. as global sheriff with its coalition or "posse" of cooperating states working together to

accomplish a specific task. \$24.95

Reader's Companion to Military History. Robert Cowlely and Geoffrey Paker, eds. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996. 573 pp. This reference book includes more than 600 articles by more than 150 contributors (e.g., the entry on "Marines" is by Dr. Allan Millett; "Military Medicine" is by Dr. Robert Joy, M.D.; "Clausewitz" is by Michael Handel; and "Civil War" is by Williamson Murray.) Global in perspective, it spans the timeframe from the origins of warfare to the Gulf War. Entries include suggestions for further reading. \$45.00

Doing Battle: The Making of a Skeptic. Paul Fussell. Boston: Little, Brown, and Co., 1996. 310 pp. By the author of *The Great War and Modern Memory* and *Wartime: Understanding and Behavior in the Second World War*. In this memoir the author writes how his combat experience in World War II changed his outlook on everything coming before and after. This is a thought-provoking account of the effect of war on an individual. \$24.95

The Buffalo Soldiers. William H. Leckie. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967. 290 pp. The black soldiers who wanted to remain in the Army after the Civil War were organized into the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Regiments. For the next 20 years they served on the Great Plains controlling hostile Indian tribes. This is a history of their service. The men of these regiments were dubbed "the buffalo soldiers" by their Indian opponents as a tribute to their skill and courage. Includes bibliography and black-and-white photos. \$14.95

The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History. Don Oberdorfer. Reading: Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley. 472 pp. A narrative history covering both North and South Korea over the past

25 years. By the author of *Tet and The Turn: From Cold War to a New Era*. Now retired from the Washington Post, he is journalist in residence at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. With the struggle between the two Koreas repeatedly claiming headlines and with close to two million troops including 37,000 from the U.S. on duty in North and South Korea and along the DMZ, this text places this all into historical context and explains why the situation with the two Koreas exists as it does today. \$30.00

Facing Fearful Odds: The Siege of Wake Island. Gregory J. W. Urwin. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1997. 725 pp. Dr. Urwin has written a comprehensive history of the December 1941 siege of Wake Island. He describes how for 16 days 449 U.S. Marines with a handful of sailors and soldiers and a few hundred civilian construction workers withstood repeated attacks from numerically superior Japanese forces. He based his work on interviews with more than 70 Japanese and American survivors. Includes black-and-white photographs and bibliography. \$59.95

Foxholes and Color Lines: Desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces. Sherrie Mershon and Steven Schlossman. Johns Hopkins University Press. March, 1998. \$34.95

New and forthcoming titles of Marine Corps interest (not yet received in the library): From Battery Press in Nashville, Tennessee, a new reprint in one volume of Edward McClellan's *History of the U.S. Marine Corps in World War I* and *Where Marines Fought in France*. This volume is available from Battery Press, P.O. Box 198885, Nashville, Tennessee 37219, phone: 615-298-1401. Price: \$39.95 plus shipping and handling. □1775□

Lieutenant Harris' Pair of Interesting Swords

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas
Curator of Material History

This past autumn, the Marine Corps Museum was given yet another sword which had been carried during the Civil War by 1stLt John Campbell Harris, USMC, the nephew of the Commandant, Col John Harris. This sword is the standard Model 1850 U.S. Army infantry officer's sword which was prescribed for Marine officers upon the adoption of the 1859 *Uniform Regulations*. The Army sword effectively replaced the Model 1826 Mameluke-style sword for the next 15 or so years, until the re-adoption of the Mameluke in 1875, and nearly all Marine officers carried this type of sword during the Civil War. 1stLt Harris wore this sword from his commissioning in 1861 until he inherited his uncle's sword upon the death of the Commandant in 1864. Although there is one extant photograph of 1stLt Harris wearing his uncle's M1826 Mameluke sword, and physical evidence points to his alteration of his uncle's sword belt for his own use (see *Fortitudine*, Summer 1993) 1stLt Harris may well have carried both swords until his resignation from the Marine Corps in 1869. When he resigned to take a role in the business operated by his wife's family, he had acquired quite an enviable record as an officer of Marines.

John Campbell Harris, a descendant of both Scots and English families, was born near Philadelphia in 1840.

The Model 1850 infantry officers' sword, shown here with its scabbard, was carried by 1stLt Harris during the Civil War. Harris commanded the Marine guard on board the Pensacola in the attack on New Orleans.

Photo by LtCol Charles V. Mugno, USMC

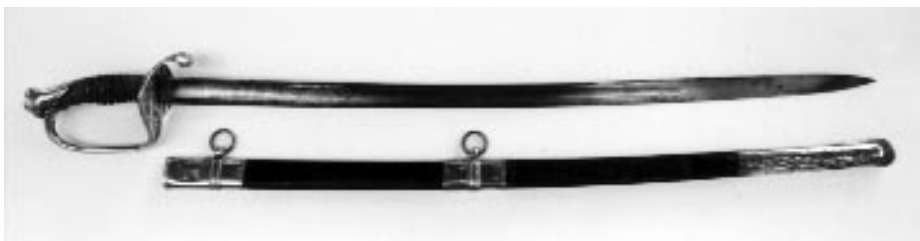


Photo by LtCol Charles V. Mugno, USMC

The newly donated foot officer's sword is an excellent example of its kind, based upon a French design surviving today in a slightly altered form as the Marine noncommissioned officer's sword.

Shortly after being admitted to the bar, he volunteered for service in the Marine Corps in 1861, was commissioned, and took part in the garrisoning of Fort Washington on the Potomac. He was a witness to the first battle of Bull Run (or Manassas) prior to being placed in command of the Marine guard on the USS *Pensacola*. He later sailed down the Potomac on the *Pensacola* with President Abraham Lincoln and some of his cabinet, but returned after being fired upon by the Confederate batteries in the vicinity of modern-day Quantico. The *Pensacola* then sailed for Hampton Roads, where it waited for the expected arrival of the Confederate iron-clad CSS *Virginia*, but left the area in February 1862 for

Key West, Florida. Arriving in Key West, the ship was refitted before sailing to join Adm David G. Farragut's fleet, Adm David Porter's mortar flotilla, and MajGen Benjamin "Beast"

1stLt John Campbell Harris, USMC, posed in his undress uniform for a Civil War-period portrait photograph. The city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, takes its name from his father's family



Butler's army for the attack on New Orleans.

The *Pensacola* fought at both Fort Jackson and Fort Philip, and Harris was brevetted for "gallant and meritorious service" after being wounded during the attack on the Chalmette batteries. He landed with his detachment of Marines in New Orleans three times before Gen Butler's troops arrived to secure the city. After the surrender of New Orleans, the *Pensacola* remained in the area for a year, but young Harris volunteered for service at the siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana. In April 1863, 1stLt Harris was ordered to the Charleston area, and was made adjutant of a newly raised battalion of 500 Marines which had recently arrived from New York. He led a storming party of this battalion against Fort Wagner (which had withstood the desperate assault of the 54th Massachusetts so movingly portrayed in the recent film, *Glory!*) and the Union forces this time took both this fort and Fort Gregg. Following this action, he volunteered to serve in the night attack on Fort Sumter.

However, service in the tropics had taken its toll on him, and he was sent

north to recuperate. His postwar assignments included extended cruises on both the USS *Ticonderoga* and *Franklin*, calling at ports in Europe and Africa, and often traveling into the interiors of the countries at which the ships docked. When he left the Corps in 1869, he had amassed a record of having more "sea service" than any of the officers who had entered at the same time that he had or after him.

The sword is an excellent example of the U.S. Army foot officer's sword which was adopted by the Army in 1850, and subsequently by the Marine Corps in 1859. It is based on a French design, and survives today in a slightly altered form as the sword still carried by Marine Corps noncommissioned officers. This example was sold by the best-known supplier of military goods during the mid-19th century, William Horstmann and Sons, of Philadelphia.

Thanks to the untiring efforts of one of 1stLt Harris' great-grandsons, Benjamin Pepper, of Alexandria, Virginia, James Jenkins of Rindge, New Hampshire (another great-grandson), the owner of the sword, was urged to donate it to the Marine Corps.

Mr. Pepper had also been instrumental in the donation of the "Harris" Mameluke sword which the museum acquired earlier. This new sword has been selected for display in the soon-to-be renovated "Civil War" exhibit in the Museum's "Time Tunnel." □1775□

Marines in Hollywood

(Continued from page 17)

And the Navy prosecutor, Tom Cruise, slays the Marine dragon after forcing him to admit on the stand his complicity in the incident.

The end of the Cold War has caused problems to both services. Who will serve as their new enemy? Terrorists, the IRA, Russian Nationalists, drug dealers, or even Sadam all seem pale threats compared to the old Soviet Union. The Navy beating the Marines in *A Few Good Men* is certainly more interesting and more dramatic than either service fighting small-time trouble makers. Nevertheless, inter-departmental feuds on the screen do not help the image of either service. So, movie goers are probably doomed to more movies like *G.I. Jane*, *True Lies*, *Down Periscope*, and *Crimson Tide*. □1775□

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'Tiger Team' Sets Division's Technology Goals

by Dr. David B. Crist
Oral History Unit

Over the past year, History and Museums Division (HD) has studied ways to incorporate advances in computer technology to enhance our ability to serve both the Marine Corps' and the public's access to our holdings. In January 1997, the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, Col Michael F. Monigan, directed the formation of a technology team (Tiger Team) to examine developing a three-to-five-year incremental plan to expand the Division's use of computer technology, concentrating on internal interoperability and integration of diverse collections, which would allow a linking of all HD assets to better serve the needs of our Marine Corps and civilian publics. The result of this tasking has been the development of a blueprint designed to catapult HD into the forefront of government historical agencies in the use of current technological advances.

As a number of work sections were already thinking along these lines, the first chore for the Tiger Team was to consolidate our efforts into a unified, comprehensive approach that would minimize duplication while serving each section's requirements. The team is comprised of representatives from all sections within the Division. The initial meetings centered on identifying both the current state of computerization within HD, and identifying the needs of each section regarding technology objectives. In some areas, HD has done quite well in keeping abreast of technology changes. The Editing and Design Section uses state-of-the-art scanners and desktop publishing software and the Library places its holdings into a database. Several years ago the Museums Branch purchased both a digital camera and CD ROM read/write hardware, advanced technology even for today. But overall, the

team quickly ascertained that HD lagged behind our counterparts in the other Services' historical programs in computerization, particularly regarding an Internet homepage and use of computer databases. However, this provided the Tiger Team the benefit of levying off the other agencies' "lessons learned" and afforded HD the opportunity to examine the strengths and weaknesses of its software choices and programs at large.

The Tiger Team proposed a plan which, interestingly, closely parallels the Library of Congress' approach to upgrading technology, albeit on a much smaller scale, in that it addresses the problem along three concurrent tracks: 1) digitization of important material, 2) development of comprehensive, linked databases which allow for key word searches, and 3) expanded use of the Internet to reach the public. HD plans to implement all three aspects, although not necessarily in this order. All are intertwined. First and foremost is the acquisition of software for a division-wide database. This would allow for easier retrieval and sorting of HD's holdings and would eventually allow researchers to conduct key-word searches via the Internet of portions of HD holdings, such as the archives or oral histories. Digitization of primary source material is critical, not only for preservation of degrading documents, but ultimately also to allow researchers to view some of our material without ever coming to the Center. Lastly, a History and Museums Division homepage will provide a new medium in which both our databases and digitized documents can be viewed, in addition to allowing the Reference Section to answer many frequently asked questions concerning the history of the Marine Corps.

At its heart, HD plans to focus on enhancing the Division's ability to

export its holdings or information about them, in electronic form, to researchers via Division Intranet and the Internet. This entails a series of linked databases, residing on separate servers, backed up and exported via a read-write CD-ROM capability. Each section would be responsible for updating and maintaining its own specific database (with appropriate support), all of which would be linked by a common retrieval system that would allow for a single search of all or selected databases. Each database would serve as a finding aid for both internal accountability of each section's holdings as well as provide an easily searchable mechanism for researchers. A researcher could access the Division's holdings from either a kiosk located in the multi-purpose room or via the Internet.

While still a work in progress, the vision of HD for the next century is to develop the infrastructure needed to bring the mountain to Muhammad. No longer will a researcher have to come to the Washington Navy Yard or Quantico to access our holdings. A Marine on board ship in the Arabian Gulf could access a wealth of historical material on Desert Storm as easily as a veteran filing a VA claim in Alabama could view his unit's Vietnam Command Chronology. Further, these changes will allow HD to comply with an increasing number of Federal regulations designed to cut costs and promote designation of information in electronic form, such as The Paperwork Reduction Act and the 1996 Electronic FOIA Act. While the electronic highway remains studded with surmountable obstacles, the initiatives taken over the last year have begun the changes needed to carry History and Museums Division into the new millennium. □/775□

January - April 1968

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

The Fall 1997 issue of *Fortitudine* noted the upcoming observances during 1998 of several significant historical anniversaries, and the Chronology section of our quarterly bulletin reported on the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American War. Our second installment of memorable anniversaries will examine four months during 1968 in the Republic of Vietnam that would forever change the course of America's involvement in the Vietnam War. Readers interested in this period of Marine Corps history should consult the recent History and Museums Division publication *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968*, which provides a definitive examination of Marine Corps activities and operations in Vietnam.

1 Jan - Marine Corps strength totaled 298,498, of which 81,249 Marines were serving in the Republic of Vietnam.

In the fighting to clear enemy forces from the old imperial city of Hue, LCpl C. D. Bradford, a radioman with Company G, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, takes a wary look around as his unit's advance continues.



On 9 February, Marines of Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, fire from the window of a house in Hue as North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces are routed from their positions south of the Perfume River.

3 Jan - The 5th Marines concluded operation Auburn, south of Da Nang. The operation resulted in 37 reported enemy casualties, with 24 Marines killed and 62 wounded.

20 Jan - The second battle for Khe Sanh began when Marines from the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines, attacked a North Vietnamese battalion between Hills 881 North and South. More than 100 of the enemy were killed.

21 Jan - North Vietnamese forces began a bombardment of the Marine Corps base at Khe Sanh and outposts in the surrounding hills. This rocket, mortar, and artillery barrage would continue for the next 77 days.

22 Jan - The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, reinforced the garrison at Khe Sanh.

23 Jan - Special Landing Force Bravo, consisting of BLT 3/1 and HMM-165, began operation Badger Catch near the Cua Viet River. Three days later, the operation was renamed Operation Saline. The Marines in Badger Catch continued to work in conjunction with Operation Napoleon, a similar effort by the 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion to keep the Cua Viet River supply line open.

27 Jan - The seven-day Communist ceasefire for the Tet holiday began, and was followed two days later by the allied ceasefire, with the exception of I Corps.



On 12 February, Marine tanks rumble into the Citadel, at the heart of Hue, to assist men of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, in bitter street-to-street fighting to regain control of the ancient capital.

29-31 Jan - North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces launched attacks against some 105 cities and towns throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

1-9 Feb - Elements of the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, and 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, cleared enemy forces from Hue south of the Perfume River. In a house-to-house battle, they were able to retake the province headquarters, jail, and hospital from enemy forces. By 9 February, the last organized resistance in the city south of the river ended, with more than 1,000 enemy dead.

5 Feb - A North Vietnamese battalion attempted an assault on the western slope of Hill 861A near Khe Sanh, but was driven back by a counterattack by Company E, 2d Battalion, 26th Marines. The enemy lost 109 killed; the Marines lost 7 killed in action.

7 Feb - The *66th North Vietnamese Regiment, 304th Division*, captured the U.S. Special Forces camp at Lang Vei, six miles southwest of Khe Sanh. Marine helicopters rescued 14 of the 20 "Green Berets" and more than 70 South Vietnamese at the camp.

12 Feb - The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, entered the Citadel in Hue to help secure the old imperial capital from enemy forces. The resulting fighting caused heavy Marine Corps casualties.

17 Feb - The 27th Marines arrived in Vietnam, and immediately began operations in the "rocket belt" area south of Da Nang.

23 Feb - The Khe Sanh Combat Base received more than 1,300 rounds of rocket and artillery fire. During the entire month of February, the enemy fired more than 4,000 rounds at Khe Sanh.

25 Feb - The city of Hue was declared secure after a bitter 25-day battle. A combined force of Marines, Army, and South Vietnamese forces had accounted for an estimated 2,500-5,000 Communists killed along with the capture of large amounts of supplies.

1-7 Mar - Sharp fighting broke out in several areas along the Demilitarized Zone. At Khe Sanh, the enemy began digging trenches near the 26th Marines' perimeter. Fighting broke out northeast of Con Thien and near the Cua Viet on the South China Sea.

31 Mar - Operation Scotland, the codename for Marine operations at Khe Sanh, ended in Quang Tri Province, with 1,561 enemy dead. Marine casualties included 204 killed and 1,622 wounded in action. The operation included the defense of the besieged garrison of Khe Sanh.

31 Mar - President Johnson announced a partial halt in the bombing of North Vietnam, and also that he would send an additional 13,500 troops to South Vietnam. In a surprise move, the President declared that he would not run for re-election due to the war in Vietnam and public unrest at home.

1 Apr - The 1st Air Cavalry Division, USA, together with units from the 1st Marines and the ARVN, began Operation Pegasus from the Marine base of Ca Lu to relieve the Marine garrison at Khe Sanh.

9 Apr - U.S. troops retook the Special Forces Camp at Lang Vei, southwest of Khe Sanh.

15 Apr - Operation Pegasus ended with the relief and resupply of Khe Sanh. The operation resulted in 1,044 reported enemy casualties with 51 Marines killed and 459 wounded. The 1st Air Cavalry Division suffered 41 personnel killed and 208 wounded.

Men of Company A, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, depart a Hue church after successfully ridding it of North Vietnamese soldiers. Hue was declared secured on 25 February, with an estimated 2,500-5,000 enemy killed and the capture of large quantities of supplies.



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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Dewey's Praise of Marine Accomplishments

*by Frederick J. Graboske
Head, Archives Section*

One of the current projects in our Personal Papers Unit is the arrangement and description of the 40 cubic feet of files of the papers of Col Edwin McClellan, the first historian of the Marine Corps. The volunteer working with the collection brought to my attention a document he considered relevant for the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American War. Admiral of the Navy George Dewey sent a letter, dated 14 January 1909, to the Subcommittee on Naval Academy and Marine Corps, Committee on Naval Affairs, House of Representatives. Paragraph 3 describes Dewey's opinions of the Marines in action in the Spanish-American War and how they could have assisted him in the Philippines.

"It is the policy of the department to employ the Marines as an integral part of the navy, and our war plans are worked out accordingly; but when embarked they will be on ships especially fitted to carry expeditionary forces and advanced base material. I regard it as a matter of very great importance for the Navy Department to have under its orders, ready for immediate use at any time, an expeditionary force of sufficient size to assist the fleet in capturing and holding an advanced base. The Marine Corps supplies this force. If

there had been 5,000 Marines under my command at Manila Bay, the city would have surrendered to me on May 1, 1898, and could have been properly garrisoned. The Filipinos would have received us with open arms and there would have been no insurrection. The capture and occupation of Guantanamo during the Spanish-American war, giving the fleet a base, without which the difficulty of blockading and capturing Santiago would have been immeasurably increased; the Peking relief expedition, and the recent occupation of Cuba, which was accomplished by the Navy and Marine Corps in the most expeditious manner, the first detachment arriving about two days after the President gave the order, are excellent examples of the need of such a corps to cooperate with the fleet and to be under the orders of its commander in chief."

What is interesting is that Col McClellan copied only that part of the Dewey letter that was favorable to the Marines. Actually Adm Dewey deftly and without ruffling Marine Corps feathers was supporting a Presidential Executive Order that would have removed Marines from the crews of Navy warships. The paragraphs that are omitted are num-

bered 4 and 5 and read as follows:

"4. Since the marines will not have to be split up into small detachments for the various ships of the fleet, an organization better suited to their most important function can be maintained, while their mobility can be kept at a high degree of perfection by suitable drills in conjunction with the fleet. On the other hand, it will not ordinarily be necessary to withdraw the crews from any guns of the fighting ships for landing parties, and the morale of the blue jacket will be improved by not having a separate corps on board ship for police and sentry duty. As a consequence, I firmly believe that the efficiency of both the navy and Marine Corps will be materially increased by restricting the marines to the . . . necessary duties enumerated in Executive Order No. 969.

"5. Only about 20 per cent of the Marine Corps were serving on board cruising ships when this executive order went into effect. The remaining 80 per cent were serving on shore and on station ships. The men withdrawn from the ships are needed to form an expeditionary force for each fleet and to supply the men needed to properly garrison our naval bases at Guantanamo and Pearl Harbor."