

# FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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NUMBER 4

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'THE PRESIDENT'S OWN' U. S. MARINE BAND CELEBRATES 200 YEARS OF BRINGING MUSIC TO CORPS AND COUNTRY . . . PIONEERING AFRICAN-AMERICAN NCO'S MEMORABILIA ENRICH MUSEUM COLLECTION . . . CONCLUDING PAMPHLETS PUBLISHED IN WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATIVE SERIES . . . COSTLY BELLEAU WOOD BATTLE RECALLED

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# FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Volume XXVII

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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**

*Memorandum from the Chief Historian: No Stranger to Danger*  
*Charles D. Melson* ..... 3

**Museum Gets Pioneering NCO's Memorabilia**  
*Jennifer L. Castro* ..... 5

**Historical Quiz: Marines in Vietnam, 1968**  
*Lena M. Kaljot* ..... 6

**First LVT (1) Ashore Never Left Tarawa Beach**  
*SSgt Dieter Stenger, USMC* ..... 7

**Gen Jones Always Considered 'One of the Best'**  
*Col James A. Donovan, USMC (Ret)* ..... 9

**Cruise Books Wanted**  
*Evelyn A. Englander* ..... 9

**Spirit of H. M. Smith Imbues Conference Room**  
*Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas* ..... 10

**'The President's Own' Marks 200 Musical Years**  
*Charles R. Smith* ..... 12

**New Books: America's Early Years, Black Military History**  
*Evelyn A. Englander* ..... 16

**Series Ends with Free Philippines, Japan Defeat**  
*Charles R. Smith* ..... 17

**Marines in Spanish-American War Spotlights**  
*Dr. Jack Shulimson* ..... 18

**Answers to Historical Quiz: Marines in Vietnam, 1968**  
*Lena M. Kaljot* ..... 20

**Marine Corps Chronology: 80 Years Ago: Belleau Wood Battle, June 1918**  
*Robert V. Aquilina* ..... 21

**Foundation Establishes Raider Fellowships**  
*Charles R. Smith* ..... 24

**ABOUT THE COVER**

Certainly no figure is more representative of "The President's Own," the United States Marine Band, than its great nineteenth-century leader, John Philip Sousa, "the March King." Accordingly, in honor of the band's 200th anniversary this summer, History and Museums Division Visual Information Specialist W. Stephen Hill places Sousa (and his conductor's baton) in full uniform squarely in the center of the collage he made on his "Mac" for this issue's cover. Other elements are a copy of Sousa's "Semper Fidelis" March, which was dedicated to the officers and men of the Marine Corps, and a photograph of the band arrayed outside the White House, which is in fact where the band is frequently heard. A capsule review of the band's two centuries appears within the article by historian Charles R. Smith, beginning on page 12. This issue of Fortitudine also welcomes Charles D. Melson, who writes his first "Memorandum from the Chief Historian" as the new occupant of that post. Melson, a retired Marine major, was a member of the division historical staff while he was in uniform, and went on to become a museum director and college instructor before returning here. He takes note of the sad and untimely passing of an authentic Marine hero, aviation great MajGen Marion E. Carl, beginning on page 3.

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## No Stranger to Danger

**M**ajGen Marion E. Carl's legacy spans three-and-a-half decades of Marine Corps service. The aviation hero was born 1 November 1915 in Hubbard, Oregon, and he was tragically killed in retirement during a housebreaking at his home in Roseburg, Oregon, on 28 June. After memorial services in Oregon and at Fort Meyer, Virginia, he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with a 21-gun salute and a fighter flyover on 9 July.

Gen Carl logged in more than 13,000 hours of flight time in both heroic and technical contributions rivalling those of the best-known aviation personalities. His Marine Corps assignments reflected the Corps' approach to air-ground cooperation. His military recognitions included two Navy Crosses, four Legions of Merit, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, and

*The young aviator Marion E. Carl, here gazing optimistically skyward on Vella Lavella in 1944, quickly became a World War II Marine Corps ace in the Pacific war with a tally of 18.5 kills before leaving for home.*



an impressive fourteen Air Medals. His aviation honors included an Octave Chanute Award and induction by the Naval Aviation Hall of Honor at Pensacola, Florida.

After graduating from Oregon State College with a degree in mechanical engineering, Carl entered the Marine Corps in August 1938 and was designated a naval aviator in December 1939. As a fighter pilot in World War II, he found himself first in action during the Battle of Midway. On 4 June 1942, as a flight leader with Marine Fighting Squadron (VMF) 221, Carl and his section attacked superior Japanese bomber and fighter formations using a characteristic inverted overhead pass that took them through the center of those formations. He obtained his first credited kill, a "00 Isento XI" navy Zero fighter. Gen Carl commented later that "I guess I got the last airplane that was hanging around the island . . . ."

**D**uring the extended Battle of Guadalcanal, Carl flew with VMF-223 and became the first Marine Corps "ace" of the war on 26 August 1942. In a 16-day period he destroyed 10 enemy aircraft and subsequently was credited with a total of 18.5 kills for the entire war. After he was shot down and reported missing for five days before he was located, Carl was sent home and promoted to major. This was followed shortly, in July 1943, by another overseas tour that took him from Hawaii to the New Hebrides, Vella Lavella, Guadalcanal, and Emirau, again with VMF-223. On "V-J" Day, August 1945, Carl was promoted to lieutenant colonel while assigned to the Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland.

Peacetime aviation contributions followed at an accelerated rate: As a

test pilot, Carl conducted the initial take-offs and landings of jet-powered aircraft from carrier decks. He is considered the first designated Marine helicopter pilot. He flew both the Douglas D558 Skystreak and Skyrocket for the U.S. Navy at Muroc Dry Lake, California, attaining an unofficial altitude record of 83,235 feet. On 2 September 1953, at 1,143 miles-per-hour, Carl set an official record for speed for military pilots. He later recalled that he flew this on a "three kilometer course and you had to fly it close to the ground, and I believe at an altitude of less than 75 meters, and you had to make two passes . . . ."

**C**ommand tours included the Marines' first jet squadron, VMF-122, at Cherry Point, North Carolina,

*Major General Carl, seen here in 1967 after having taken the 1st Marine Brigade to Vietnam and also serving there as Assistant Wing Commander for the 1st MAW, capped his career with a tour as Inspector General of the Marine Corps.*



*Charles D. Melson*



Three distinguished veterans of World War II rode the same vehicle in 1965 as retired Gen Holland M. Smith, right, reviewed troops at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, accompanied by LtGen Victor H. Krulak, left, Commander of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, and BGen Carl, soon to be in Vietnam.

and organizing a pioneering jet acrobatic team. After completing the Senior Course, Carl flew photographic missions over Korea and China while commanding a Marine Reconnaissance Squadron (VMJ) and was the operations and executive officer of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG-) 11 in Japan. This was followed by a tour as 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW) safety officer, command of MAG-31, and promotion to colonel. Upon graduation from the U.S. Air Force Air War College, Carl served on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon and at Headquarters, Marine Corps, through 1963.

With his promotion to brigadier general, Carl assumed command of

the 1st Marine Brigade in Hawaii, taking it to Vietnam in 1965, and commanding Task Force 79 during the initial American deployment. There Carl also found time to fly helicopters in combat and was an early proponent of arming these aircraft for more than just self-defense—so “I would have a little firepower,” he noted. This was followed by a transfer to the 1st MAW as assistant wing commander during the critical air buildup in Southeast Asia.

In 1966, Carl commanded Marine I Corps Air Bases Eastern Area; Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point; and the 2d MAW. As a major general in 1970, Carl became the Inspector

General of the Marine Corps and held the post until his retirement in May 1973. He was the IG at a time when the Marine Corps was leaving combat in Southeast Asia and recovering from the impact of this prolonged war.

My thanks to the Director for allowing me to use this space to make inaugural contributions to *Fortitudine* as Chief Historian. I am both honored and humbled to have the opportunity to comment on the contributions of a Marine who proved himself on air, land, and sea. I can say that our careers crossed, as much as a small-unit commander can enjoy the all-pervasive attentions of an “IG” inspection. I sincerely hope that Mrs. Edna Carl recovers well from her injuries under these difficult circumstances, and I extend to her the division’s heartfelt condolences.

Material in this article came from MajGen Carl’s oral history transcript of 1978 and information from the Reference Section. See also Marion E. Carl and Barrett Tillman, *Pushing the Envelope: The Career of Fighter Ace and Test Pilot Marion Carl* (Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1994). □1775□

*Then-Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen Robert E. Cushman, left, presided at the retirement ceremonies for MajGen Carl on 31 May 1973, presenting him his fourth award of the Legion of Merit.*



# Museum Gets Pioneering NCO's Memorabilia

by Jennifer L. Castro  
Registrar

The Marine Corps Museum received a varied donation from Mrs. Beulah Huff, wife of deceased Marine SgtMaj Edgar R. Huff, at a Black History Month Celebration held at Headquarters, Marine Corps, on 17 February. One of the items that Mrs. Huff donated was her husband's field hat that he used as a drill instructor at Montford Point, as well as his M1 helmet and liner from World War II and Korea, and the walking stick he used that has 20 copper rings on it engraved with the many battles and operations in which he participated, including "Okinawa," "Saipan," and the "Punch Bowl".

The donation was accepted at the ceremony by Assistant Commandant Gen Richard I. Neal on behalf of the Commandant. BGen Clifford L. Stanley, Director, Division of Public Affairs, gave introductory remarks on SgtMaj Huff at the ceremony. BGen Stanley may be one of the few Marines

*Mrs. Edgar R. Huff presents SgtMaj Huff's walking stick with its 20 copper rings, each for a major engagement in which the famous NCO participated, to Gen Neal.*



*Fronting a photographic portrait of the African-American Marine whose distinguished career began at Montford Point, North Carolina, in 1942, are the cover he wore as a drill instructor, his walking stick, and his World War II helmet.*

still on active duty who knew SgtMaj Huff. He recalled the first time he met Huff when he was a second lieutenant stationed on Okinawa, and had gone to Huff with a complaint about not being saluted by an enlisted Marine and ended up being educated on the ways of the Marine Corps.

SgtMaj Huff was one of the first African-Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps when its ranks opened to blacks in 1942 with Executive Order 8802, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This order allowed African-Americans to be recruited into the Armed Forces and SgtMaj Huff was one of the first to enlist. He trained at

Montford Point, New River, North Carolina, with the 51st Composite Defense Battalion and then later returned as both a drill instructor and the field sergeant major. SgtMaj Huff's combat experience included the Saipan and Okinawa Campaigns during World War II, and service during the occupation of North China. He was also company gunnery sergeant with the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, in the Punch Bowl area during the Korean War, and the sergeant major of III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam. His other tours included duty as the post sergeant major, Marine Barracks, French Morocco; base sergeant major at Marine Corps Base,





BGen Clifford L. Stanley, left, director, Division of Public Affairs, was the introductory speaker at the ceremony, recalling for Mrs. Huff, Gen Neal, and the audience his own experience as a second lieutenant on Okinawa of meeting and getting some good advice from SgtMaj Huff.

Camp Pendleton, and a tour as the sergeant major of the 2d Marine Air Wing. His final tour was as the base sergeant major for MCAS, New River, North Carolina, until his retirement on 30 September 1972. SgtMaj Huff was

the first African-American to be promoted to the rank of sergeant major and he held that rank for 17 years.

SgtMaj Huff's personal decorations include the Purple Heart (three awards), Bronze Star Medal with

Combat "V" (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" (three awards), Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal (eight awards), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with device, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Vietnam Service Medal with five stars, Republic of Vietnam Staff Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation. SgtMaj Huff died 2 May 1994.

SgtMaj Huff was the author of a book entitled *Roots of Two Black Marine Sergeant Majors* and was featured in several books including *Bloods* by Wallace Terry, *Blacks and Whites - Together Through Hell* by Perry E. Fisher and Brooks E. Gray, and the 1985 edition of *Who's Who Among Black Americans* (4th Edition).

One of the items Mrs. Huff donated to the Museum will be used in a corridor display honoring black servicemen at the Pentagon that opened in August of this year. The remainder will be used in the Marine Corps Historical Center's Time Tunnel and for future exhibits. □1775□

## Historical Quiz

# Marines in Vietnam, 1968

By Lena M. Kaljot  
Reference Historian

1. Who was Commandant of the Marine Corps during 1968?
2. How many Medals of Honor were awarded to Marines for actions in Vietnam during 1968?
3. The first black Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously received the nation's highest award on 21 August 1968. Who was this Marine?
4. Who was the first Marine security guard killed in the line of duty in Vietnam?
5. Units of which two Marine regiments began Operation Hue City during February 1968, to drive the NVA out of the city?
6. What were the codenames for Marine operations at Khe Sanh?
7. During the summer of 1968, the Marine Corps made its first use of this fixed-wing turbo-prop as an observation and counter-insurgency aircraft. What was it?
8. This former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and Medal of Honor recipient served as the Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, from May 1968 to April 1969. Who is he?
9. He served as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, at the rank of lieutenant general, from March 1964 until he retired from active duty in May 1968. Who is he?
10. This major Marine combat base in northern Quang Tri Province, which supported the garrison at Khe Sanh, was deactivated 28 December 1968, after being in existence for more than two years. What was it called?

(Answers on page 20)

# First LVT (1) Ashore Never Left Tarawa Beach

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

**D**-Day, 20 November 1943: Clouds of black smoke and brown dust billow skyward as the battleships *Maryland* and *Colorado* saturate the Japanese garrison on the fortress atoll named Tarawa. Below the thundering 16-inch batteries whose destructive power is reassuring to most, the LVTs (Landing Vehicles, Tracked) bob and wallow, soaking Marines of the 2d Marine Division who patiently wait for H-Hour.

For the first time, LVTs are to be tactically employed as troop carriers rather than for their intended use as cargo delivery vessels. Driving LVT 49 *My Deloris*, an earlier model LVT (1) (Alligator), is then-PFC Edward J. Moore of the 2d Amphibian Tractor Battalion. Making a left flank across the line of departure heading east to west, leading the first wave while acting as the right guide vehicle for the first assault wave, PFC Moore is the first across the reef and the first to hit what would become the bloody beaches of Tarawa. Nicknamed "Bloody Tarawa" for the 3,407 casualties, an amphibious assault launched into the teeth of the Japanese-held Gilbert Island group, it was the first in a series of battles that revolutionized



*One of the first LVTs, or "Amphibian Alligators," to come to the Marine Corps from testing in Dunedin, Florida, in 1941, is examined by Marines, including John H. Moore, Jr., third from right in campaign hat, brother of retired MSgt Edward J. Moore, who was the driver of LVT (1) 49, My Deloris.*

amphibious warfare.

U.S. seizure of the British Gilberts was intended to further distance the Japanese threat to Allied communications in the South Pacific, and to provide a platform from which the Marshall Islands could be bombed in

preparation for penetration. Operation Galvanic was to be carried out by the new Fifth Fleet under VAdm Raymond A. Spruance. The V Amphibious Force under RAdm Richmond K. Turner would conduct the landings, led by the venerated MajGen Holland M. Smith, commanding the V Marine Amphibious Corps (VMAC). The initial landings were to be made by the 2d Marine Division on Betio Island in the Tarawa atoll that held the key to control of the Gilberts. CinCPac Operations Plan 13-43, issued on 5 October 1943, confirmed these agreements and decisions.

**T**arawa was protected by powerful Japanese defenses that had been built on the 18-mile-long and 12-mile-wide atoll, especially on Betio Island, equipped with an airfield and 20 coastal gun emplacements. The shoreline around Betio Island was skirted by a reef extending 500 yards seaward, and was further protected by 31 heavy automatic weapons, 25 field pieces, 7 light tanks, and an array of

*LVT (1) 49, My Deloris, the first vehicle ashore on Betio, lies in her final resting place amid death and destruction, including a disabled LVT (2) from a follow-on assault wave. Maintenance crews attempted to salvage the tractor, moving her eastward of the landing point on the Bird's Beak, but she was too riddled with shell holes to restore.*





*In November 1994, during the 50th anniversary of the battle for Tarawa, John H. Moore, Jr., MSgt Moore's brother, shows the flag at the site where the rusty remains of LVT (1) 49 and her companion LVT (2) lie partially buried in the sand of the Betio beach. MSgt Moore collected a bag of sand there.*

light infantry weapons. Barbed wire, mines, tetrahedrons, and sea walls further deprived the movement inland by attackers; manned by 2,600 combat troops and 2,000 construction personnel, under the command of RAdm Keiji Shibasaki.

The landings on Tarawa were to be conducted from the north or landing lagoon side, against unfavorable odds. It would be carried out using maximum strength at the assault point. The assault was tasked to Col David M. Shoup's 2d Marines and 2d Battalion, 8th Marines. The assault companies of 3/2, 2/2, and 2/8 would go ashore in amtracs at Red Beaches 1, 2, and 3, respectively, proceeding inland before debarkation. The first wave of 42 LVT (1)s carrying 18 Marines each crossed the line of departure at 0824. Three hundred yards behind the first wave, 24 LVT (2)s carrying 20 Marines each formed the second wave, and another 300 yards to the rear a third wave, consisted of 21 LVT (2)s, each carrying another 20 Marines.

Additionally, eight LVT (1)s and five LVT (2)s, all empty, followed the initial force as replacements for tractors that might break down along the way. As the amtrackers came within 3,000 yards of the beaches, small-arms fire,

anti-boat guns, and artillery air-bursts intensified. Although many of the amtrackers were hit enroute to the beach, none were knocked out. Casualties were light until troops began to debark. Within two hours, two assault companies lost half their men with little or no advance.

Although casualties were alarming, shore build-up continued to the point that by nightfall several tanks and pack howitzers had been landed and put into action. The situation remained precarious, but the Japanese failure to conduct counterattacks solidified the beach-heads established by the Marines. While credit for the seizure of beach-heads goes to all the participating Marines, perhaps most deserving of honors were the amtrackers, who repeatedly shuttled additional troops, ammunition, and supplies back and forth across the reefs.

At 0500, D+3, the Japanese on Tarawa were defeated. Of the nearly 5,000 Japanese on Tarawa, most were killed. Marines killed in action numbered 1,070. From the 2d Amphibian Tractor Battalion, the numbers were 33 killed in action, 100 wounded, and 47 missing. Of the 125 LVTs in the operation, only 35 remained operational. Out of the 90 vehicles lost, eight failed mechanically and the rest

were knocked out by enemy fire. Two were blown up by mines, nine caught on fire crossing the reef, and 10 were hit and destroyed on the beach. Twenty-six were hit on the reef and knocked out of action, and 35 disappeared, presumably sunk as a result of bullet and shell holes that had pierced their hulls.

In 1996, the WWII-Korea LVT Museum was opened at the Assault Amphibian Vehicle School at Camp Pendleton, California. From scuttlebutt within today's amtrac community, *My Deloris* was one of the fortunate tractors and was returned Stateside to support war bond drives. The last place this famous amtrac was supposedly seen was at the Tracked Vehicle Test Branch, located at Del Mar down the road from the AAV school house. And so the story of *My Deloris* lived on, vaguely, but immortalizing the LVT and the Marines who stormed the beaches of Tarawa.

Two years after its opening, the former Curator of the LVT Museum and now Ordnance Specialist at the Museums Branch at Quantico, SSgt Dieter Stenger, USMC, received a tip and contacted the driver of *My Deloris*, MSgt Edward J. Moore, USMC (Ret), only to find that *My Deloris* had never left Tarawa. Based on numerous photographs taken in 1993, 50 years after the battle, the rusted hulks of an LVT (1) and an LVT (2) lay side by side, no different than when they were left in 1943 on the Bird's Beak (the dividing line between Red Beaches 1 and 2). According to Moore, his vehicle was disabled by machine gun fire while attempting to breach the coconut-tree barricades. After the battle, *My Deloris* was taken off the wall and attempts were made to rejuvenate her, although all proved to be unsuccessful. Moore was wounded and evacuated on 20 November 1943, one of the many casualties taken by Marines.

MSgt Moore's documents will be incorporated into and stored in the Personal Papers Collection at the Marine Corps Historical Center, Building 58, at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. □1775□



# Gen Jones Always Considered ‘One of the Best’

by Col James A. Donovan, USMC (Ret)

When the NCOs of the 6th Marines were training the Western Platoon Leaders Classes in 1937 they spotted PFC Bill Jones as a good prospect and assigned him as “acting” officer in our PLC parade and drill formations. Two years later, in 1939, when 2dLt William K. Jones, USMCR, returned to the 6th Marines following graduation from the University of Kansas and the 1st Reserve Officers Class at Quantico, one of his senior NCOs promised to “make W. K. Jones a good officer if it kills me.”

Bill Jones stayed on in the 6th Marines for the next six years, moving up in rank and duties from platoon leader, battalion staff officer, and company commander, to battalion commander at the age of 26. He performed so well at Tarawa commanding 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, that he was awarded a rare “spot promotion” to lieutenant colonel at age 27. He was then considered “one of the best” by his seniors and fellow Marines.

MSgt Lewis J. Michelony, Jr., USMC (Ret), who served with Bill Jones as first sergeant of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, during the battles for Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian, submits that “Willie K., as he was affectionately referred to by his men, was accomplished in the art of leadership. He was one of the few officers with whom I served who was able to demonstrate that special combination of strong combat and administrative leadership needed for the effective training and tactical employment of Marines.

*The writer, Col James A. Donovan, USMC (Ret), was in the 6th Marines from 1940 to 1945 and served with W. K. Jones in Iceland, the battles for Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian, and as instructors at The Basic School at Quantico. Col Donovan lives in Atlanta, Georgia.*



*LtGen Jones photographed in 1951.*

“As a battalion commander he used his time to train his leaders. He taught them to strive to become better combat Marines and to work more effectively with their individual teams, whether they be companies, platoons, squads, fire teams, or in support duties. The results were proven effective and professional in combat.

“At bloody Tarawa many of his wounded Marines refused evacuation for fear of transfer into another unit less well trained or without such strong leaders and high esprit. It was well known that Marines of 1/6 hid their wounds rather than risk a transfer.

“I was with him on the beach at Saipan on D-day and well remember during the heat of battle LtCol Jones established his CP [Command Post] inland a small distance behind our assault companies. The situation was chaotic but ‘Willie K.’ kept his calm and maintained control of his units. His orders were clear and forceful. He expected his leaders to do as he had trained them—move forward and destroy the enemy.

“He always gave his men credit for any battle successes. Those of us who survived in turn thanked his excellent leadership and management skills.

Such leadership inspires young Marines to great sacrifice and proud combat performance.”

Bill Jones went on to a distinguished career of personal leadership and training of Marines during peace and subsequent wars: instructing at The Basic School; commanding The Basic School; commanding the Recruit Training Regiment at Parris Island; commanding the 1st Marine Regiment in Korea (1954), and eventually, as a major general, commanding the 3d Marine Division in South Vietnam and, in 1970, on Okinawa. He retired in 1972 as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific.

His many decorations included the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, three Distinguished Service Medals, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and numerous other awards.

This writer was fortunate to be his executive officer, with him day and night during the battles for Saipan and Tinian, and can attest to his cool courage and good humor in times of great stress, loss of close comrades, and satisfying successes. Bill Jones remained a lifelong friend. The Corps lost one of its best when he died in April. □1775□

## CRUISE BOOKS WANTED

The Library of the Marine Corps Historical Center continues to welcome gifts of cruise books from ship's detachments, yearbooks from the Marine Corps recruit depots, *Leatherneck* magazines from World War II, and any other publications relating to Marine Corps history and the history of amphibious warfare. Address: Marine Corps Historical Center Library, HDS-3, Building 58, Washington Navy Yard, 901 M St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20374-5040. For questions phone: 202-433-3447/e-mail: eenglander@notes.hqi.usmc.mil.

# Spirit of H. M. Smith Imbues Conference Room

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas  
Curator of Material History

The Commandant of the Marine Corps' new Pentagon conference room reflects the life and times of Gen Holland M. Smith, thanks to the efforts of the Marine Corps Museums Branch staff, in consultation and coordination with the project manager and the Commandant's staff. In a project that has been underway for more than a year, the museum staff has installed art and sculpture which also reflects the historic and present posture of the Marine Corps, and additionally compliments the decor of the room.

When the Museums Branch was first contacted about assisting with the upgrade of the room, the project officer, Maj Brian Pagel, USMC, escorted staff members through a Pentagon office area which was still in use and, as many of the offices there, was divided into a series of cubicles. The entire area was measured, sketches and Polaroid photographs were made, and initial plans were floated. Months later, when the room was gutted, another visit confirmed earlier projections concerning the size and location of art. At this time, a closer look was



*Bust of Gen Holland M. Smith by Col John Rogers, USMCR (Ret), occupies a place of honor, resting on a cherry-wood plinth custom-built by the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum at Quantico.*

taken at the theme and, with the assistance of the Commandant's Senior Aide, LtCol John Allen, candidate

works of art were reviewed. It was at this time that the Commandant's Military Secretary, now-retired Col Russell "Russ" Appleton, gave further guidance on the theme and expectations for the room's ambience. Opinions as to the choice of colors, wall coverings, and furniture styles were solicited from the Commandant's social officer, LtCol Nancy L. Visser, USMCR. While construction progressed, plans for the art were confirmed and finalized.

One of the first suggestions by the Museums Branch staff was to include a large, impressive bust of the current Commandant's godfather, Gen Holland M. Smith, and this suggestion was enthusiastically endorsed by Col Appleton. The bust itself was sculpted by Col John Rogers, USMCR (Ret), and came to the Museum from the H. M. Smith facility at the Little Creek Amphibious Base, when it closed years ago. Since then, it had been on exhibit in the Historical Center's library, along with busts of other notable Marines. During the early autumn of 1997, Ronnie D. Alexander,

*"The Assault at Derne" a large-scale acrylic painting by Col Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR (Ret), enjoys prominence on the back wall of the Commandant of the Marine Corps' new Pentagon conference room. The Museums Branch worked*

*with project planners to select paintings and sculpture from the Marine Corps' collection which support the theme of a historically forward posture for the Corps.*





the exhibits specialist at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, built a four-foot-high cherry-wood plinth, custom-fitted to accept the wooden base of the bust. The plinth was stained and hand-finished to be a match for the cherry-wood table, chairs, and other wooden furniture slated for the room.

Col Appleton's guidance was to surround conference participants with a history of the forward posture of the Marine Corps through the ages. One large area in the room called out for a monumental painting. After carefully considering several suggestions, Col Appleton asked for a painting of the action at Tripoli. Accordingly, the "Assault at Derne" by Col Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR, was suggested and accepted. This original acrylic painting was already hanging in the conference room at the Navy Annex, and Waterhouse's "Change to Green, 1835" was later substituted for it, when the room was finally ready and the art was hung in the early spring. In two other areas near Gen Smith's bust, it was decided to display art which reflected some aspect of his career. Two salon-quality reproductions, one of the Tarawa operations by Sgt Tom Lovell and the other of the



*Frank Schoonover's recreation of the World War I Battle for Belleau Wood is hung in one of two niches along the conference room's south wall. The second niche showcases Sgt Tom Lovell's painting of the Marine landing on Tarawa atoll in World War II.*

Belleau Wood battle by Frank Schoonover, were hung in niches in the south wall. Both of these familiar pieces are representative of the quality photographic reproductions on canvas that have been used by the museum for some years. Their use makes good art more accessible to a wider audience and, at the same time, protects the originals from inadvertent

damage. (The originals of both of these pieces were already hanging in high visibility areas and could not be "swapped out" for other art.) Reproduction art of this type has been used very successfully throughout the Pentagon, to include the "Commandant's Corridor" and the passageway outside the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps' office suite.

*Contributing to the room's theme by bringing it into the modern era are two additional paintings: "Command Post Forward," left, a scene from Operation Desert Storm by Col Avery Chenoweth, and "Patrol at Marble Mountain," an evocation of the Vietnam War by celebrated American watercolorist John Groth.*



An original painting by Richard M. Gibney entitled "Down the Nets" also was hung in the area, as it also pertains to Tarawa. Bringing the room up to the present time are two other original paintings: John Groth's watercolor, "Patrol at Marble Mountain," from Vietnam, and Col Avery Chenoweth's painting from Operation Desert Storm, "Command Post, Forward." Both of these large paintings follow the room's theme and compliment the colors chosen for the wall covering.

The outer passageway is also being given a face-lift and already a salon-quality reproduction of Gen Smith's portrait has been completed for installation. A series of five other supporting pieces pertaining to Gen Smith's career are being reproduced, and when they are installed, they will complete the exhibit. □1775□



# 'The President's Own' Marks 200 Musical years

by Charles R. Smith  
Historian

Two hundred years ago, on 11 July 1798, President John Adams signed legislation creating the United States Marine Corps and calling for "thirty-two drums and fifes." The act officially brought the United States Marine Band into being.

To mark the Marine Band's bicentennial, the History and Museums Division has published *Historical Perspective on The President's Own*. Written by MGySgt D. Michael Ressler, an accomplished musician and chief librarian of the band, the highly illustrated pamphlet covers the history of the band from its humble beginnings in 1798 to the present. From 32 drummers and fifers, the band has grown into the premier service band and an extraordinary musical organization.

The Marine Band, according to the author, has had a colorful and important history—a history closely entwined with the Corps and the Presidency. Little is known about the first musicians to join the Corps in 1798, Ressler points out. Some of the earliest "Musics," as they were then called, served on board ship while others assisted with recruiting. Still others were retained in Philadelphia, then the nation's capital and largest city, to form a military band under Drum Major William Farr, its first official leader.

On Independence Day in 1800, there was "elegant entertainment at the City Tavern at which the toasts were given, accompanied by the military music of the Marine Corps of the United States." This was to be the band's last concert in the former capital. Later that month the Marine Band moved to Washington with the government and the President. The band camped for a few months in Georgetown on a hill overlooking the Potomac and the future site of the Lincoln Memorial.

On 21 August, the band played its first hillside concert. Although informal, it was one of Washington's first



Photo courtesy of The White House  
*President Thomas Jefferson was an avid music lover and is credited with giving the Marine Band its title, "The President's Own."*

public music performances. Following its summer concerts, the band grew increasingly popular with President Adams and Vice President Thomas Jefferson. On New Year's Day 1801, just two months after President and Mrs. Adams moved into the unfinished White House, the president invited the band to make its White House debut.

*The 1828 ground-breaking for the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was the occasion for the band's first performance of "Hail to the Chief" for the president, then John Q. Adams, a tune which it subsequently has played uncounted times. Artist LtCol Donna J. Neary, USMCR, recreated the scene.*



Thomas Jefferson, an avid music lover and amateur violinist, took great interest in the Marine Band and is credited with giving the band its title, "The President's Own." In March 1801, the band performed for Jefferson's inaugural and has performed for every presidential inaugural since that time. That same year the band moved to its present home at Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, S.E., Washington, D.C.

As it is for the first musicians, little is known of the band's early directors except that they led the band resolutely during its formative years. The band's second director, Charles Ashworth, in 1812 wrote and published a method book for drummers. The book became the standard for rudimentary drumming and was approved by the Department of War for use by the Navy, Marine Corps, and Army. Another early leader, Venerando Pulizzi, was recruited in Italy and served as the band's director in 1816 and from 1818 to 1827.



*The Marine Band, in another print by LtCol Neary accompanied President Lincoln to Pennsylvania, where the president gave his famous Gettysburg Address. Lincoln was said to have switched railway cars, leaving his own filled with politicians and dignitaries, in order to enjoy the company of the musicians.*

In 1828, at the ground-breaking for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the Marine Band first performed "Hail to the Chief" for a president when it performed the now familiar music for John Quincy Adams. It would be years later, though, that "Hail to the Chief" would be used for official presidential honors. Julia Gardner Tyler, the young second wife of President John

Tyler, reportedly asked the band to play the song whenever the president made an official appearance. However, it is First Lady Sara Polk who is credited with using "Hail to the Chief" for presidential honors. The band's musical responsibilities in and around Washington continued to grow in the mid-1800s. Regular public concerts on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol began

*The first known photo of the Marine Band was taken on the parade deck at Marine Barracks, 8th and I Streets, S.E., Washington, D.C., in 1864. The Commandant's House, looking much the same as it does today, is just behind the assembled musicians. During President Lincoln's*

*Administration the band played weekly public concerts on the White House grounds. The President is said to have liked to lie on a sofa in the Blue Room with the shutters closed and listen to the music.*







*John Philip Sousa, who became director of the band in 1880, wrote the marches that were to earn him the enduring title of "The March King." His "Semper Fidelis" march is dedicated to the officers and men of the Marine Corps.*

band's reputation began to spread well beyond the capital city.

During his tenure as director, Sousa began to write the marches that were to earn him the title of "The March King." Among his marches was "Semper Fidelis" (1888), which he dedicated to the officers and men of the United States Marine Corps. He later said that he felt this was his finest composition. Sousa also organized the band's first concert tour in 1891. The musicians toured for five weeks, performing throughout New England and the Midwest. The following year, the band crossed the United States to the Pacific Coast.

The band's fall tour became an annual event, interrupted only by the Spanish-American War and World Wars I and II. During these periods, the band played additional performances in Washington and at the White House, boosting wartime morale.

The Marine Band was one of the first musical ensembles to be immortalized on Thomas Edison's revolutionary invention, the phonograph.



*The band was one of the first musical ensembles to be recorded for Thomas Edison's new invention, the phonograph. Beginning in 1889, the band as seen here recorded dozens of waltzes, polkas, and Sousa marches on cylinders. By 1892 more than 200 such recordings were available for sale.*

Beginning in 1889, the band recorded dozens of cylinders, featuring waltzes, polkas, and the marches of John Philip Sousa. By 1892, more than 200 cylinders were available for sale, placing Sousa's marches among the first and most popular pieces ever recorded, and the Marine Band as one of the world's first "recording stars." The band would later participate in early recording experiments by Emile Berliner, the inventor of the flat-disc phonograph.

From the turn of the century, the Marine Band grew in size and reputation. Radio was still in its infancy in 1922 when the nation became more familiar with the Marine Band through its radio broadcasts from the Anacostia Naval Station and later the Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks. In 1931, the band inaugurated the weekly series, "The Dream Hour," which aired on NBC until 1960. By the time it was discontinued, it was the longest-running series on network radio.

*From 1931 to 1960, the band reached out to the nation via its weekly "The Dream Hour" radio program. In the midst of a full program of morale-boosting concerts during World War II, the popular band posed for a photograph at the Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks, 8th and I, in May 1944.*







*Following a concert at the White House, President Ronald Reagan greets LtCol John R. Bourgeois, the director who later was to lead the band on its first overseas concert tours. Reagan described the band as “a national institution and a national treasure.”*

During the next 30 years, the band continued its long and distinguished association with the presidents. In 1943, during the darkest hours of World War II, the band performed a special wartime concert at the White House for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Braving a downpour, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill stayed on to join in singing “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” at the concert’s conclusion.

On a visit to Marine Barracks in 1962, President John F. Kennedy expressed his personal affection for the band when he said: “The Marine Band is the only force that cannot be transferred from the Washington area without my permission and, let it be hereby announced that we, the Marine Band and I, intend to hold the White House against all odds.” A little more than a year later, Mrs. Kennedy asked the band to lead President Kennedy’s funeral procession.

In the 1970s women joined the band, marking another milestone in the band’s history. While women were never excluded from the Marine Band, very few had pursued membership. This changed in 1973 when Ruth Johnson of Saginaw, Michigan, won

an audition on French horn. Two more women joined the band in 1973, one in 1974, and four in 1975. Today, a third of the band’s members are women. Also during the decade, the band, under the leadership of Col John R. Bourgeois, presented its first overseas concerts, performing in the Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, and England. In 1990, Col Bourgeois led the band on an historic 18-day concert tour of the Soviet Union as part of the

*The band, with LtCol Bourgeois on the podium, performs in the flag-bedecked October Hall in Leningrad on 21 February 1990. The Marine musicians made an 18-day concert tour of the Soviet Union as a part of the first U.S.-U.S.S.R. Armed Forces Band Exchange.*



first U.S.-U.S.S.R. Armed Forces Band Exchange.

“The President’s Own” continues to maintain Sousa’s standard of excellence. Band musicians are selected at auditions much as those of major symphony orchestras. Auditionees perform behind a screen to ensure anonymity. The audition committee makes its selection based on musical ability and a subsequent personal interview. Most current members are graduates of the nation’s most prestigious music schools, often holding advanced degrees in music. Members are enlisted as staff sergeants on a limited duty contract “for duty with the United States Marine Band only” and cannot be transferred to any other duty station. They remain in Washington, D.C., for their entire enlistment. More than 90 percent are career professionals who serve with the Marine Band for 20 or more years. The band today is comprised of 126 performing musicians with an additional 17 members on the support staff for a total of 143. This makes it the smallest of the four service bands located in Washington.

Since 1798, the Marine Band’s mission has remained to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine

Corps. The Marine Band currently performs more than 700 commitments annually, with nearly 200 of these at the White House. These performances range from a solo pianist or harpist to the full concert band. The Marine Band has a number of performing ensembles, including the concert and marching bands, chamber orchestra,

string ensembles, dance band, and Dixieland band. Members of the band may play in several or all of these ensembles, making versatility an important requirement for each member.

As America's oldest professional musical organization, the Marine Band's omnipresent role in events of

national importance has made it part of the fabric of American life. As President Ronald Reagan said: "Whether serenading Adams or Jefferson, accompanying Lincoln to Gettysburg, or performing here at the White House, the Marine Band has become a national institution and a national treasure." □1775□

## New Books

# America's Early Years, Black Military History

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 or online bookstores and through local libraries.

*Angel in the Whirlwind: The Triumph of the American Revolution.* Benson Bobrick. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997. 553 pp. By the author of *East of the Sun: The Epic Conquest and Tragic History of Siberia*, this is a new one-volume history of the American Revolution. In his preface the author explains how his ancestral heritage lead him to write this book. He weaves together the social, political, and military history of the struggle into one compelling narrative. A variety of voices is represented: English and American, loyalist and patriot, soldier and civilian; foreign adventurer coming to aid the revolution; and German mercenary hired to serve in the King's army. \$30.00

*Black Jacks: African American Seamen in the Age of Sail.* Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1997. 310 pp. The author points out that seafaring was a significant occupation for both enslaved and free black men between 1740 and 1865. Thousands of black seamen sailed on lofty clippers and modest coasters, on whalers, warships, and privateers. Some were slaves, but by 1800 most were free men, seeking liberty and economic opportunity on board ship. Because of their mobility, these sailors were the

eyes and ears to worlds beyond the horizons of black communities ashore. Bolster traces the story of black seamen until the end of the civil war, presenting this chapter in the history of African-Americans from a fresh and different perspective. \$27.00

*One Hell of a Gamble: The Secret History of the Cuban Missile Crisis; Khrushchev, Castro, and Kennedy, 1958-1964.* New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1997. 420 pp. Making use of documents from the Russian archives, the authors have prepared a full account of the years leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 22 October 1962. Once the Russian missiles were in place on Cuban soil, the authors explain that it was indeed Khrushchev's intent to use nuclear weapons against any U.S. invading force. Along with detailing what lead up to the missile crisis, the authors also place it in the broader context of world events, to explain what made it so important in recent world history. \$27.50

*Good-bye to Old Peking: The Wartime Letters of U.S. Marine Captain John Seymour Letcher, 1937-1939.* Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1998. 242 pp. Capt. John Letcher was the author of *One Marine's Story* and *Only Yesterday in Lexington, Virginia*. These letters, edited by his daughter Katie, and by Roger B. Jeans, were written by Capt Letcher from 1937-1939 while he was in Peking commanding a company of U.S. Marine Embassy Guards. They were written to his parents, describing his experi-

ences as a westerner in the exotic imperial city. He also witnessed the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese war and the occupation of Peking. Written on the eve of WWII, these letters provide a perspective on these times. \$34.95

*Foxholes and Color Lines: Desegregating the U.S. Armed Forces.* Sherie Mershon and Steven Schlossman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998 (A Rand Book). 26 July 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of President Truman's Executive Order 9981, which mandated the desegregation of the U.S. armed forces. This book, covering the period from WWII to the Vietnam War, traces the progress of desegregation within the military. The book is divided into three phases: First phase, 1940-end of WWII, with segregated services. Second phase, 1943-1954 (with slight overlapping of phase I) is the time of actual desegregation in the services. Third phase, mid-50's to mid-60's resulted in the removal of any lingering restrictions based on race within the military. Off-base racial problems were also addressed at this time. The authors explain how military policies reflected changes within the country as a whole and how they were influenced by the growth of the civil rights movement. They also note the effects of good military leadership on desegregation policies, and they describe how the military structure itself influenced change within the services, in contrast to changes within our country as a whole, with its less regulated social structure. \$34.95 □1775□



# Series Ends with Free Philippines, Japan Defeat

by Charles R. Smith  
Historian

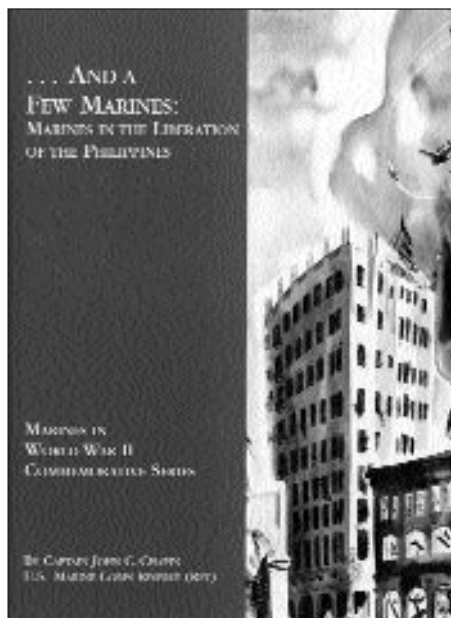
With the publication of . . . *And a Few Marines: Marines in the Liberation of the Philippines* and *Securing the Surrender: Marines in the Occupation of Japan*, the History and Museums Division completed its 25-pamphlet Marines in World War II Commemorative Series.

Written by Capt John C. Chapin, USMCR (Ret), the author of two other pamphlets in the series, . . . *And a Few Marines* describes how small Marine contingents had an important impact on the massive U.S. Army and Fifth Air Force Philippine campaign. The account begins with the seven weeks of support rendered by the Marine V Amphibious Corps artillery, then follows with the dramatic five-week story of the Grumman F6F Hellcat night fighters of VMF(N)-541—22 enemy planes shot down and an the award of Army Distinguished Unit Citation.

Then there were the Vought F4U Corsair squadrons of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 12, complemented by MAG-14 on Samar, during the battle for Leyte and subsequent campaigns which were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation. During the invasion of Luzon and other islands, the Marines made a wholly different and unique contribution—truly close air support of infantry by SBD dive bombers of MAGs-24 and -32. Originally subject to Army reluctance, they came to be greatly sought after. Col Clayton C. Jerome and LtCol Keith B. McCutcheon were driving forces in the success of the SBDs.

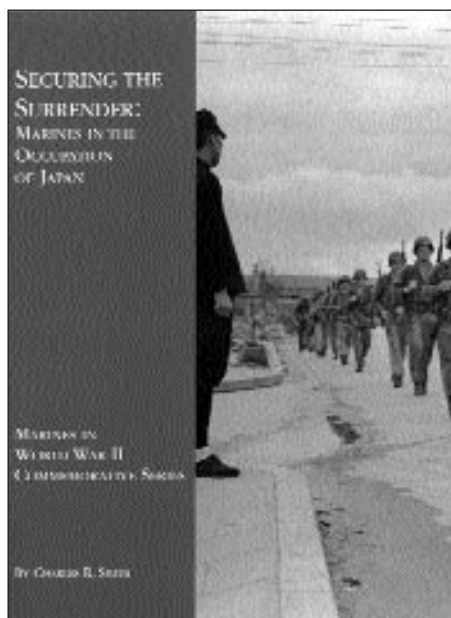
The final weapon in the Marine arsenal was the PBJ North American medium bomber used by Marine Bomber Squadron 611 on Mindanao and nearby islands. There were, as Capt Chapin points out, only “a few Marines, but they made their presence felt!”

The final pamphlet in the series describes Marine activities during the occupation of Japan. In this pamphlet, the author, Charles R. Smith, tells the



story of the initial landing and subsequent occupation of Yokosuka Naval Base by the 4th Marines and others under the overall command of BGen William T. Clement, USMC.

Years of bitter experiences caused many Allied commanders and troops to view the emerging picture of the Japanese population as meek and harmless with a jaundiced eye. From the beginning, the Japanese were



instructed to comply with the surrender terms—noncooperation or opposition of any kind would be “severely dealt with.”

Like many Allied commanders, BGen Clement took a stern stance upon his arrival ashore:

He asked for the senior officer and was sent the chief of police. Not to be fooled, again he asked for the senior officer. He then told this officer [VAdm Michitore Totsuka, commander of the First Naval District] he wanted the names of all officers. When he received this list, he asked for all side arms and their swords. As he told them, the Japanese took our swords in the Philippines, including his, and we do not fight with our swords, but this is what they do with theirs and he produced pictures where they beheaded our prisoners with their swords. He told them, they use their swords as a weapon, and we do not.

In addition to the activities of the 4th Marines, the pamphlet also recounts the role played by the squadrons of MAG-31 and MAG-22.

The landing of V Amphibious Corps troops on the west coast of Kyushu and their deployment throughout the island is also told. Like the 4th Marines, Marines of the 2d and 5th Divisions, with little inkling of what to expect, arrived combat-ready to repel all anticipated Japanese reaction to the occupation. What they encountered was a people sick of war and ready to cooperate for the sake of peace with the occupying forces. For the many combat-hardened Marines who had fought across the Pacific, this was a satisfying and relieving situation. Although most Marines who took part in the occupation found it a pleasant experience, they looked forward ardently to returning to the States and a discharge. □1775□



# Marines in Spanish-American War Spotlited

by Dr. Jack Shulimson  
Head, History Writing Unit

In this the 100th anniversary of the War with Spain, the History & Museums Division is publishing an anthology relating to the U.S. Marine participation in this conflict. The two explosions that ripped through the U.S. battleship *Maine* lying at anchor in Havana harbor on a goodwill mission on 15 February 1898, broke not only the silence of the Cuban night, but also the peace between Spain and the United States. The result was the entrance of the United States on the world stage and to a certain extent marked the birth of the modern Marine Corps.

The editorial team, headed by Dr. Jack Shulimson, Head, History Writing Unit; Mrs. Wanda Renfrow, editorial assistant; Ms. Evelyn Englander, Historical Center librarian; and LtCol David Kelly, USMCR, of the Division's

Reserve Mobilization Training Unit (History) DC-7, discovered a trove of new writings (and some old) relating to the Marine Corps participation in the war that deserved further exploration. Both Dr. Shulimson and LtCol Kelly contributed essays to the anthology, which reprints Shulimson's article, "Marines in the Spanish-American War," that appeared in James Bradford's *Crucible of Empire*, published by the Naval Institute Press in 1992. LtCol Kelly wrote his piece as part of his Reserve assignment, to honor the veterans of the war.

The other anthology contributions include the Spanish-American War chapter from Director Emeritus BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret) revised history, *The United States Marines: A History*, 3d Edition, U.S. Naval Institute Press, 1998, which

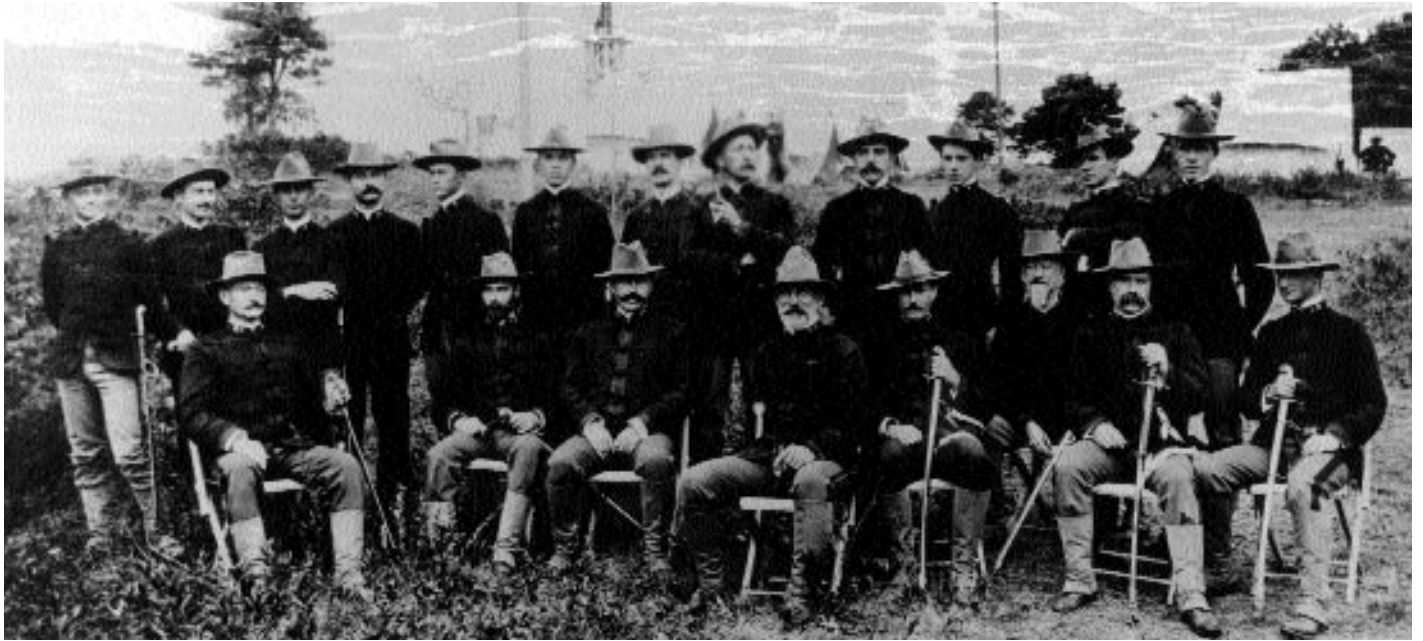
gives a brief overview of the Marines in the Spanish-American War. Col Allan R. Millet, USMCR (Ret), the Gen Raymond E. Mason, Jr., Professor of Military History at Ohio State University, provides a more analytical account of the war that is reproduced from his seminal work *Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine Corps*, the revised and expanded edition, the Free Press, New York, New York, 1991. Trevor K. Plante, an archivist with the National Archives, gave permission for the inclusion of his "New Glory to Its Already Gallant Record, The First Marine Battalion in the Spanish American War," *Prologue, the Journal of the National Archives*. While providing a more or less traditional interpretation of the Marine battalion's experience, he offers new documentary material from the holdings

*U.S. Marines at Guantanamo repel one of several Spanish night attacks with the aid of naval gunfire and searchlights from the USS Marblehead in the early morning of 12 June*

*1898. Three Marines died in this bloodiest night ashore for the Battalion.*

National Archives Photo 127-N-521285





Defense Department (Marine Corps) Photo 521218

*Gathered at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, following their stint in Cuba during the Spanish-American War are members of "Huntington's Marines," a number of them constituting a fair share of the Marine leadership in years to come. 2dLt Smedley D. Butler is standing third from right. Col Huntington, with a white beard, is seated fourth from left, in a row with 1stLt Wendell C. Neville, at far right. Standing with Lt Butler are, in no order, such other rising officers as 2dLt George C. Reid, Capt George F. Elliot, 2dLt Louis J. Magill, and 2dLt Melville J. Shaw.*

of the National Archives.

Two previously unpublished works are also introduced in the anthology. These are Dr. James F. Holden-Rhodes' "Crucible of the Corps" and Col Robert R. Hull, USMC (Ret), a former senior communications officer, "Report on June 10-15, 1997 Research Trip to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba." In his account taken from his uncompleted biography of Henry Clay Cochrane, who served as the executive officer of the 1st Marine Battalion on Guantanamo, Dr. Holden-Rhodes, a senior policy analyst in the New Mexico state government, focuses upon the near evacuation of the Marine battalion, which he holds would have changed the entire nature of the Cuban campaign. Col Hull states in his field research report on Guantanamo that his team reached a consensus on the location of the principal areas occupied by the battalion including the route taken by Capt George F. Elliott's expedition to Cuzco Well, which was the only source of fresh water for the Spanish troops there.

The editors also incorporate into the anthology two contemporary

accounts, a modified version of the 1898 annual report of the then-Colonel Commandant of the Marine Corps, Charles Heywood, and novelist Steven Crane's impressionistic eyewitness account "The Red Badge of Courage was his Wig-Wag Flag." Heywood's report includes correspondence from LtCol Robert Huntington, the commander of the Marine Battalion on Guantanamo, and Marine Capt George Elliott, as well as comments by Cdr Bowman H. McCalla, the naval commander at Guantanamo, relating to the actions ashore. Crane in his story describes the attack on Cuzco Well and how a "spruce young sergeant of Marines, erect, his back to the showering bullets, solemnly and intently wig-wagging to the distant (U.S. Navy warship) *Dolphin*, directed naval gunfire support for the Marines.

While all of these articles have different perspectives they have a common thread. In the words of LtCol Kelly, "The War with Spain gave the Marines the opportunity to show the Navy and, more importantly, the nation, the many roles that Marines were in a unique position to fill as the United States became a world power."

Holden-Rhodes concludes that if the flag-raising on Iwo Jima assured the existence of the Marine Corps for another 150 years, the raising of the flag on Guantanamo "ensured that there would be a Marine Corps."

As well as the nine articles, the anthology contains three useful appendices: a select annotated bibliography on the war, a chronology, and a listing of Marines awarded the Medal of Honor during the war. Historical Center summer intern U.S. Air Force Cadet First Class Craig Prather assisted the editors in the preparation of the chronology and in the final review of the bibliography and Medal of Honor listing.

The History and Museums Division wants to thank the Naval Institute Press; Trevor K. Plante; Professor Allan R. Millett; Simon & Schuster; Dr. James F. Holden-Rhodes; University Press of Kansas; Col Robert R. Hull, USMC (Ret); BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), Director Emeritus, History and Museums Division; and the University Press of Virginia for their permission to publish articles in the anthology. □1775□





## 80 Years Ago: Belleau Wood Battle, June 1918

by Robert V. Aquilina  
Assistant Head, Reference Section

*Fortitudine* readers will recall our earlier commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the Spanish-American War (Fall 1997) and the 30th anniversary of the Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War (Winter 1997). This latest in our current series of commemorations will focus upon the 80th anniversary this summer of the epic struggle for Belleau Wood during World War I.

**The Chemin des Dames offensive** launched by the German High Command in late May 1918 rolled back the French 43d Division and opened a four-kilometer gap in the Allied lines. The German troops drove virtually unchecked to Chateau-Thierry on the Marne River east of Paris. The Allied Commander-in-Chief, Gen Ferdinand Foch, had no reserve troops left to stem the German onslaught, except the newly arrived American forces, in whom he reposed little confidence. The stubborn Gallic general had no choice, however, in view of events, and the fate of the French capital, and to a large degree, the Allied cause, was left in the untested hands of the 2d U.S. Division, which included the 4th Marine Brigade.

**On 30 May 1918**, the 2d Division deployed along either side of the Paris-Metz highway, northwest of Chateau-Thierry. As Marines of the 4th Brigade took up their positions in the Chateau-Thierry sector, they encountered thousands of French soldiers and refugees fleeing from the German juggernaut. At the suggestion of a dejected French officer that the Americans would be advised to join the



*A wounded Marine is given first aid in the trenches before a jolting ambulance ride back to a field hospital. By the end of the battle, the 4th Maine Brigade would log some 55 percent casualties, almost 5,000 Marines killed or wounded in action.*

*Photograph taken of officers of the 2d Battalion, 6th Marines, who survived the Belleau Wood fighting, contains two who are identified as future Commandants of the*

*Marine Corps, Maj Thomas C. Holcomb and Lieutenant Clifton B. Cates, and a third equally well-known Marine, Lieutenant Graves B. Erskine.*







*Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., back to camera, renders a salute during the ceremony unveiling a monument in Belleau Wood to the men of the 4th Brigade of Marines who lost their lives there. In*

*November 1955 are, from left, LtGen Gerald C. Thomas, commandant of Marine Corps Schools; VAdm G. L. Rebuffel, assistant chief of staff of the French Navy; and, facing camera, LtCol Gordon H. West, aide to Gen Shepherd.*

general retreat, Marine Capt Lloyd W. Williams is said to have angrily responded, "Retreat hell, we just got here!" Orders to the units comprising the 4th Marine Brigade were simple and direct: "No retirement will be thought of on any pretext whatsoever."

**German forces began their advance** towards American positions at dawn on 2 June, and quickly received a lesson in rifle marksmanship from the entrenched Marines. As the heads of the German columns came into range at approximately 800 yards, they were raked by Marine infantry and machine-gun fire. Although their lines were broken, the disciplined German infantry reformed and advanced a total of three times against the merciless Marine fire. Unable to break through the American lines, the Germans increased the intensity of their artillery barrage on Allied positions. American artillery responded in kind. By 5 June, the

German advance had stalled, and their drive on Paris was halted. Unaccustomed to retreating during four years of fighting on the Western Front, the stubborn but proud enemy troops consolidated their positions in a dark patch of woods and tumbled boulders called the Bois de Belleau—Belleau Wood—which was situated directly south of the villages of Torcy and Belleau, and to the west of the village of Bouresches.

**At 4 a.m. on 6 June**, the 4th Marine Brigade began its advance on German positions in Belleau Wood. The operational plans for the attack included a French regiment to the Brigade's left, and the 23d U.S. Infantry to its right; the 4th Marine Brigade assumed the responsibility for the main attack on Belleau Wood. Miscalculating the German strength in the southern portion of the wood, an unsupported attack by the 6th Marines to seize its objective was

repulsed by deeply entrenched enemy forces. On 9 June, Allied artillery shells struck German positions, but the barrage failed to break the stubborn enemy resistance. The next day, elements of the 5th Marines and the 6th Marines assaulted enemy positions in a complex converging attack, mounted from both the west and the south. In desperate fighting, the Marines hammered their way up the long axis of Belleau Wood, and by 12 June had driven the remaining German forces to the northern sector of the Marines' objective. The final days of the battle very quickly became a vicious, bloody business of reducing German machine-gun nests with grenades, rifles, and bayonets.

**Individual courage was common** among the thousands of Marines who participated in the assault and capture of Belleau Wood. The American war correspondent, Floyd Gibbons, before falling wounded himself, heard the impetuous voice of GySgt Dan Daly shouting to his hesitant platoon, "Come on, you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?" Unaccustomed to accepting battlefield defeat, the German command brought fresh divisions to the front, but nothing could turn back the determined Marines. On 26 June, American Expeditionary Force Headquarters received the message: "Belleau Wood now U.S. Marine

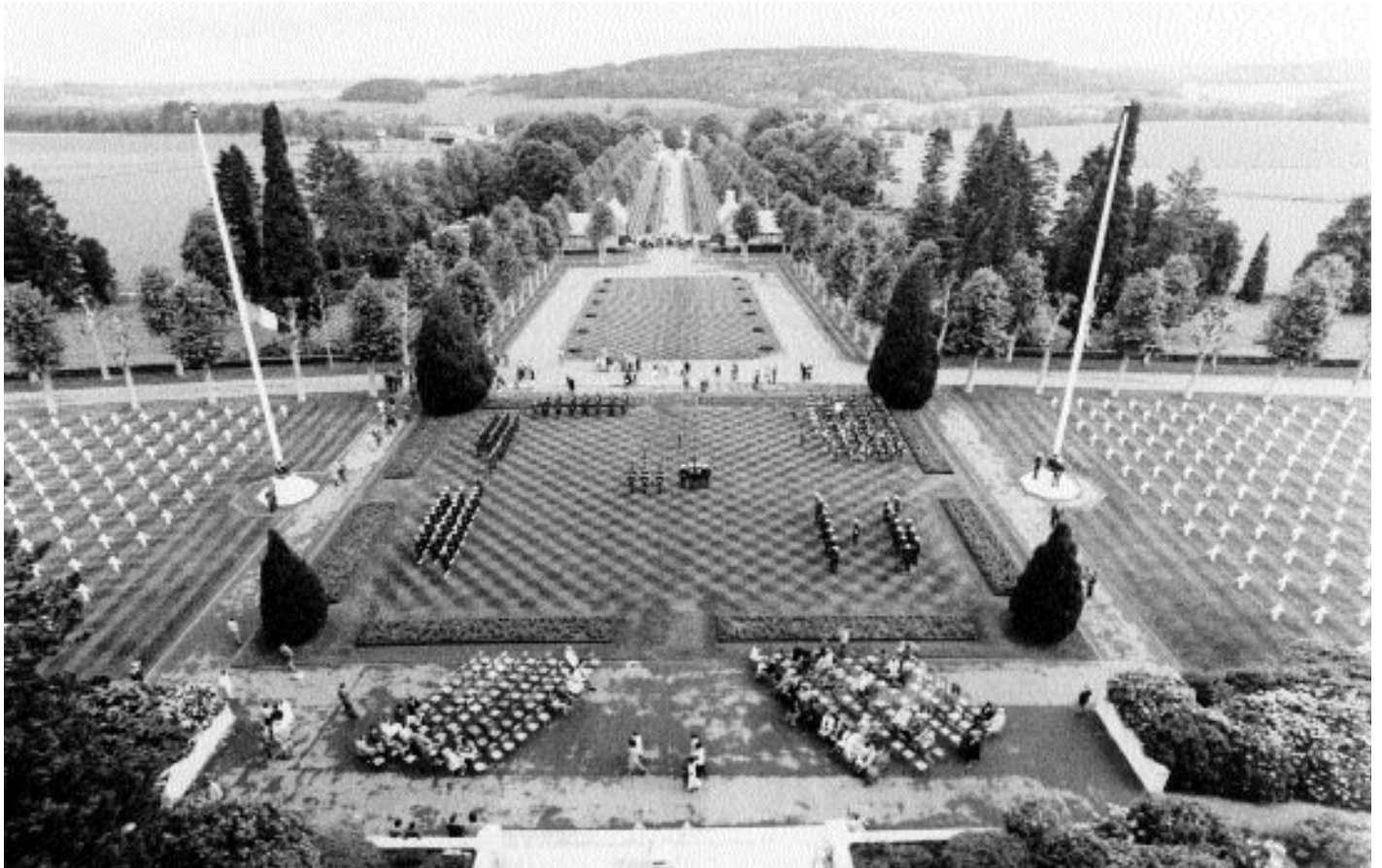
*The Aisne-Marne Cemetery at Belleau Wood contains the remains of 2,288 Americans, 249 of them listed as unknown. A ceremony in May 1988, seen in the photograph below, marked the 70th anniversary of the battle. Four days after the fighting ended in 1918, a French Sixth*

Corps entirely." The U.S. Army's 3d Brigade shortly thereafter assaulted and captured the town of Vaux to the south, thus completing the immediate Allied counterattack.

**The struggle for Belleau Wood** had cost the 4th Marine Brigade some 55 percent casualties, almost 5,000 Marines killed or wounded in action. Additional U.S. Army casualties during the Allied offensive, which included Belleau Wood, would push the 2d Division's casualties to more than 8,000. The fighting ability and courage displayed by the Marine brigade did not pass unnoticed by its French allies. Four days after the conclusion of the battle, a French Sixth Army order officially redesignated Belleau Wood as the "Bois de la Brigade de Marine," and the entire 4th Marine Brigade was cited by the French Army command.

**Today, the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery** at Belleau Wood is the final resting place for 2,288 Americans, 249 of whom are listed as unknown, who gave their lives for the cause of freedom. Their sacrifice has not gone unnoticed; each year, the cemetery at Aisne-Marne receives tens of thousands of visitors who come singly, or in groups, to pay their respects to the bravery and fighting spirit of the soldiers and Marines of the 2d Division. □1775□

*Army order officially redesignated Belleau Wood the "Bois de la Brigade de Marine," the Marine Brigade's Wood, in honor of the fighting ability and courage displayed by the American Marines.*





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# Foundation Establishes Raider Fellowships

*by Charles R. Smith  
Historian*

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, in its continuing effort to promote the study of Marine Corps history and tradition, has established the B. Michael Beeler-Marine Raider Fellowship. The fellowship was endowed by and is named for B. Michael Beeler, a World War II enlisted Marine, and the Marine Raiders, the unit with which he fought.

The \$2,500 fellowship, to be awarded each year, is to encourage graduate-level and advanced study of the combat contributions of enlisted Marines, either individually or as a group. Within this context, topics may encompass biography, training and education, small unit tactics, and leadership. In all cases, the research must result in a finite product which directly furthers or illuminates some aspect of the combat contributions of enlisted Marines. Examples of such finite products are a publishable monograph



or essay, a biography, or an in-depth oral history project.

This program, as with other Foundation-supported grants and fellowships, will be administered by the History and Museums Division, which will screen applicants before making recommendations to the Foundation. This evaluation considers academic achievements, recommendations, demonstrated research and writing ability, and the nature of the proposed topic and its relationship to the subject of the fellowship and potential value to the Marine Corps Historical Program. Final selection of the fellow is by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. All awards will be based on merit, without regard to race, color, creed, or gender. The deadline for filing applications and all supporting documents will be 1 May of each year.

□1775□