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FOR TITUDINE

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

Volume VII

SUMMER 1977

No. 1



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THE COVER

A unique and unforgettable air battle of the early silver screen was the aerial attack against King Kong in the RKO classic of 1933. GySgt Paul A. Lloyd has re-created the familiar scene. For more on the subject, see the Director's Page.

Director's Page



BGen Simmons

Nothing else that we have published in Director's page these last five years has evoked the reader response we have had from our Spring 1977 comment on the television series *Baa Baa Black Sheep* and its relationship to the long line of Marine Corps aviation movies stretching back to the 1929 motion picture *Flight*, starring Jack Holt and directed by Frank Capra.

Col Capra has written us:

How can I ever forget *Flight* and the wonderful flying Marines. Oh, yes, how can I ever forget *Flight*! I met my wife on North Island.

But is my face red over remembering Bill Wallace as Bill Williams. I had no diary or collection of clippings for any research purposes. That came later when my wife took over the job. But everything before my marriage was practically from memory. Anyhow, you guessed right when you say that I meant William J. Wallace instead of Bill Williams as the 1st Lieutenant who commanded the VO-10M at San Diego.

The word Fallbrook also wells up a flood of memories, mostly precious, and the day your letter reached me in the High Sierra we saw for the first time a *Baa Baa Black Sheep* on the TV screen. The segment we saw we liked very much. I am sure it will bring nothing but credit to the Marine fliers and "Pappy" Boyington.

LtGen Richard C. Mangrum, USMC, retired and living in Southern Pines, North Carolina, and a member of our Advisory Committee, writes:

I was delighted to be reminded of "Flight" in 1929. I was there, having just reported as a fresh-caught 2d Lt for my first tour of duty. Bill Wallace or Jerry Jerome have some good yarns to tell about that enterprise. Not least, playing touch football in late Saturday night festivities at the Coronado Hotel — with, for the football, Jack Holt's toupee!

Regrettably, LtGen Wallace won't be able to expand upon that story. He died 7 July in San

Diego at age 81. LtGen Jerome is in ill health and is hospitalized in the Washington area.

BGen William J. Fox, USMC (Ret.) wrote a lengthy letter from Mexico, a condensation of which follows:

... I agree with Joe Foss's comments on the point that both "boozing and women" just didn't exist in that area of the Pacific where Joe and Greg Boyington piled up their kill records. As Commanding Officer of Henderson Field and Marine Air Base Guadalcanal at the time (1942-43) I knew both of these great pilots. I didn't know anything about the series *Baa Baa Black Sheep* until I was admitted to the USAF Medical Center at Lackland AFB last November for minor surgery. Some of the other patients asked this lone Marine if I knew "Pappy" Boyington and if I was going to look at the TV on Tuesday night. Well, I saw *Baa Baa Black Sheep* and I was thrilled. It did me more good than all the pills the medicos were giving me.

They could have put Joe Foss in there and built the series around him. The basics would have been much the same. In fact, Joe had a much tougher job of it in many ways. Joe and his boys didn't have F4U Corsairs. Joe and his gang were flying F4F Wildcats and the Zero could out-turn, out-climb, out-run, and fly higher than any fighter we had at Guadalcanal.

How do I know? I flew the first Zero that we captured on 16 December 1944. I found it to be a superior fighter plane. When we got the F4U in December 1942 (only a few at a time at first) that was the fighter we all wished for. But the big difference was what was strapped to the seat of the cockpit. The Japanese was good, never assume otherwise if you want to live, but all things added up, he just wasn't good enough. Joe and Greg, and John Smith and Marion Carl and Bob Galer and a lot of others proved that in no uncertain terms.

There were other letters, some liking *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, but most emphatic in their distaste.

"I think the current issue of Fortitudine is especially good," wrote one correspondent. "It

does contain some surprises: somebody, anybody endorsing the awful *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, for example.”

A much-decorated Guadalcanal squadron commander wrote, “I’ve pretty much held my nose in re B. B. Sheep because I, too, ‘couldn’t correlate it with any known set of facts.’ Fortunately, a preferred program on another channel at the same time is available.”

But the most definitive statement came from Col Frank Walton, USMCR (Ret.). Col Walton was the intelligence officer of VMF-214 and its careful historian. In an article in the 23-29 April 1977 *TV Guide* Col Walton wrote that *Baa Baa Black Sheep* “is as phony as a three-dollar bill.” What sticks in Col Walton’s throat (and for that matter in the throats of BGen Fox and others) is the portrayal of the Black Sheep as misfits and screwballs.

Col Walton had prepared a brochure on VMF-214 for a reunion held last November in Honolulu. After a two-year search he had traced down all 51 of Boyington’s Black Sheep. There were 34 survivors and 18 of them, including Col

Boyington, attended the reunion. Most were just as successful in civilian life as they had been in combat. For the reunion, Col Walton wrote a short history of the squadron and, for the record, we have printed it elsewhere in this issue of *Fortitudine*.

Perhaps the most unexpected embellishment came from MajGen John L. Winston, USMCR (Ret.). He enclosed an article from the January 1976 Hilton Head *Islander* that tells of how one weekend in the spring of 1932, while a first lieutenant with Marine Corps reserve squadron VMO-6MR based at Floyd Bennett field outside of New York, he was ordered to fly a special assignment. He and two other pilots were told to take a three-plane section of Curtiss OC-2 Helldivers and “jazz the Empire State Building.”

“All we knew was that some jokers were making a movie and we were to dive at the spire of the Empire State Building and make like we were shooting it up,” recalled Gen Winston. “At the time we didn’t even know where the cameramen were, much less the fact that there was an ape involved.”



Col Bill Fox flight testing the Japanese Zero at El Toro on 16 Dec 1944. The U.S. insignia was painted on to keep trigger happy gunners at bay.

The Readers Always Write

Fortitudine readers are a faithful and feisty lot and quick to take up the pen or tap at a typewriter. From time to time in the past we have printed some of their letters. Beginning with this issue, a letters department will be a regular feature.

Sir:

Herewith on the subject of the Philadelphia Basic School, a "nit" for the record from another "Careful Reader." It belongs in the record and, besides, how many of us ever get a chance to correct Bob Heinl?

No argument that 1936 was the last year Basic School fired weapons at Sea Girt, N.J. as stated. It is not accurate to say that "Thereafter, all field training, weapons included, was at Indiantown Gap. . . ." In August of 1940, that class was split roughly into two companies one of which proceeded to Indiantown Gap on 21 August where it fired individual weapons. The other company went to Cape May for the same purpose.

Lest I too stand corrected by someone with good memory, I will amend the above statement to say that the two companies fired the rifle range at Indiantown and Cape May. Of the other individual weapons I am not, thirty-seven years later, sure. Maybe Brooke Nihart remembers. He and I both went to Indiantown.

Naturally those who had been to Cape May reported to Indiantown full of stories of the "lovelies" who had been vacationing at the New Jersey resort. Those of us who had been banished to Indiantown had to be a bit more careful (accurate?) in describing the charms of the young ladies in Lebanon and Hershey for our Cape May compatriots had the rest of the field training period until 1 November

to check the accuracy of our intelligence.

Henry Aplington II
Colonel, USMC (Ret.)

Col Aplington is living in Warner, New Hampshire, and is a frequent correspondent. Col Nihart remembers that all crew-served weapons firing was at Indiantown. Anyone have any photos of those pre-World War II days at Cape May and Indiantown Gap?



Sir:

I always look forward to getting my copy of *Fortitudine* and read it from cover to cover. Was interested in the remarks made by MSGT Robert W. Anderson, USMC (Ret.) on page 7 of the Spring 1977 issue. What he said might have been SOP at the Basic School in 1936. But when I received my bayonet training while going through Boot Camp in San Diego which started January 28, 1930 we used bare bayonets on two training sessions.

Then in reply to "Careful Reader" on page 8, paragraph 4 where it says the "campaign hat" was a "field hat." That might have been true in 1936, but Marines in 1930 called it the "campaign hat." Not many veterans of Nicaragua, Haiti, or China would know what you were talking about if you called it a "field hat." Am not saying that in the Uniform Regulations that the hat was not listed as a "field hat" but every Marine knew it as and called it a "campaign hat."

Clem D. Russell
National Vice Commandant
Southern Division
Marine Corps League

Apparently the term shifted from campaign hat to field hat in 1912 when the design was changed to that of the peaked hat similar to the modern drill instructor hat. It was designated as campaign hat in the 1900 uniform regulations but as the field hat in the regulations of 1912, 1917, 1922, 1929, and 1937.



Sir:

After reading the comment on *Baa Baa Black Sheep* I must see it.

It is of no consequence, but the airplane pictured on page 17 (Spring 1977) is powered by a Hispano Suiza engine. Distinguishing features are, (1) the covered overhead camshaft, (2) the radiator, larger than the one for OX5 and rounded on the bottom. This was one of the early 'Hispano' conversions using the original JN-4. The airplane had only upper ailerons. Later the 'Hispano' (150 H.P.) conversions had both upper and lower ailerons and were designated as JN6H.

Early in 1922 I instructed in JN6Hs at NAS, North Island. This plane with 150 H.P. plus upper and lower ailerons was a far better acrobatic plane than the OX-5. In 1923 I flew a JN4D, San Diego to Seattle; in 1925 I flew a JN4 with OX-6 (100 H.P.) Annapolis to North Island; in 1927 I obtained JN6 wings from Army Air Corps to improve lateral control. Used it in acrobatic contests around Los Angeles. In 1928 I flew it east to Leroy, N.Y. and cracked it up.

D. W. Tomlinson
Captain, USNR (Ret.)

Capt Tomlinson, a pioneer barn-stormer and naval aviator and friend of many Marine aviators of the 1920s and 30s, has a sharp eye and an encyclopedic memory for aeronautical detail. Several times he has assisted us in aircraft identification.



Sir:

I do doubt that Dave Shoup would approve of your calling Wally Greene "senior former CMC in the Washington area." (Spring 1977, p. 10) Also (p. 20): Johnny McQueen's work on Attu wasn't in 1942 (that was the year the Japanese took the island), but in 1943 (the year we took it back). I first met Johnny up there, with Howlin' Mad and Bob Hogaboom.

Robert Sherrod

Mr. Sherrod, a distinguished journalist-historian and good friend to the Marine Corps, is the author of History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II, Tarawa, and On to Westward.

Setting the Record Straight on the Black Sheep Squadron

Col Frank E. Walton, USMCR (Ret.)

So much hogwash has been written and portrayed about our Black Sheep that it seems in order to set the record straight, not for those of us who were a part of the Black Sheep Squadron (we know better) but for our relatives and friends and for any others who are interested in facts. The Hollywood hokum which has been put out by the TV series has so many errors, both factual and technical, that it seems imperative that they be corrected.

Contrary to the TV series, the original Black Sheep were *not* misfits. They had not, as Robert Conrad recently said on a TV talk show, "failed in everything they'd ever done." They were not, as he said, "people who couldn't make it anyplace else."

Of course Conrad doesn't know anything about it. He was just mouthing words given him by someone else.

The squadron was formed on 7 September 1943 on the island of Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides (a group of islands in the South Pacific south of the Solomons Islands). Members of the squadron were a combination of experienced and replacement pilots who were available for duty because Marine Corps pilot losses had been lower than anticipated.

The commander of Marine Fighter Squadron 214, Major Bill Pace, had been killed in action shortly before the end of its tour. When the tour ended, the squadron was disbanded and the men sent to Sydney for R&R. Our group was formed and activated as the *new* Marine Fighter Squadron 214.

Boyington (then 30 years old, not 35 as the TV series had it) had been Executive Officer of another squadron for his first tour of combat duty. During the barroom incident at a rear base between tours, he had suffered a broken leg and had been sent to New Zealand for hospitalization. Now back at Espiritu Santo he'd been looking for an opportunity to command

his own squadron and was a logical choice to command the new 214.

Our flight surgeon was Dr. Jim Reames, who had been in the South Pacific for some eight months. Most of his time had been spent flying in hospital planes between Espiritu Santo and Guadalcanal.

From the 1st Marine Air Wing Intelligence Headquarters, I was selected as the squadron intelligence officer. I had been in the South Pacific for just two months.

Altogether, for the first tour, we were a total of 30; 28 pilots, the flight surgeon and I. Of the 28 pilots, 10 were combat experienced; nine of them already had enemy planes to their credit. None of them had ever been (again contrary to the TV show) courtmartialed and none was facing any kind of disciplinary action. Their average age was 23 compared with Boyington's 30. Seven, including Boyington, were married.

Less than one week after the squadron was activated, we moved to the Russell Islands via Guadalcanal. The pilots flew their first combat mission on 14 September escorting Army Air Force B-24s in a bombing strike on the Japanese air base at Kahili, on the south end of Bougainville. No contact was made with enemy aircraft. Another B-24 escort mission was flown on 15 September without contact with enemy planes.

It was about this time that we gave our squadron its name. Here, again, the TV series had it completely wrong. Our original thought, suggested by one of the pilots, was to call ourselves "Boyington's Bastards" but Captain Jack DeChant, a Marine Corps combat correspondent, recommended against it because of the word "bastard." Newspapers, he said, wouldn't print that word. Since then, considerable more leeway is granted. It was DeChant who suggested the name "Black Sheep."

The Black Sheep emblem, with its floppy-eared black sheep, its shield topped by a head-on

ACCOMPLISHMENT RECORD OF THE
"BLACK SHEEP" SQUADRON

Two Tours: 12 September, 1943 - 24 October, 1943
27 November, 1943 - 8 January, 1944

- 96 Enemy planes destroyed in aerial combat (95 of them fighter planes, 93 of them over enemy territory).
- 34 Enemy planes probably destroyed in aerial combat.
- 50 Enemy planes damaged in aerial combat.
- 21 Enemy planes destroyed on the ground.
- 201 Total enemy planes destroyed, probably destroyed or damaged.

- 1 100-foot AK destroyed.
- 1 50-foot AK destroyed.
- 1 70-foot Japanese-operated Chinese junk destroyed.
- 1 70-foot steam launch destroyed.

- 20 Japanese barges destroyed.

- 3 Japanese barges loaded with troops destroyed.

- 1 Raft loaded with enemy troops destroyed.
- 15 Other craft probably destroyed.
- 125 Japanese bivouac and concentration areas and A.A. positions in New Ireland, New Britain, Buka, Bougainville and the Shortlands strafed.
- 4 Japanese airfields strafed; Kahili, Kara, Ballale, and Borpop.

Successfully intercepted enemy formation attempting to attack task force reinforcing Barakoma.
Relieved Bougainville ground troops in an untenable position by strafing enemy mortar positions.
Participated in over 200 combat missions, flying 4,195 combat hours.

This combat record was established with the loss of 11 pilots killed and 7 wounded in action.

Information provided by Col Frank E. Walton, USMCR (Ret.)

view of a Corsair, and the bar sinister, was designed by the pilots, primarily Bill Case as I recall. With so many squadrons settling for Walt Disney bugs and bees and bunnies, we thought we should have something more original for our squadron. We had the emblems made up in Sydney on our R&R leave and wore them on our second combat tour.

On 16 September 1943, the squadron had its first aerial combat. In an escort mission covering torpedo and dive bombers, they engaged 30 to 40 Zeros. The result was 11 Zeros shot down (not 18 as the TV series claims). It was here that we suffered our first loss: Captain Bob Ewing, our flight officer. He was an experienced combat pilot on his second combat tour.

During the next 35 days, flying from the Russell Islands and from Munda, the squadron shot down an additional 46 planes to bring its total to 57 Japanese planes shot down along with 23 probably shot down and 16 destroyed on the ground.

This was not without cost, however, in addition to Ewing, we lost Lieutenants Walt Harris, Bob Alexander, and Virgil Ray and seven Black Sheep were wounded: Lieutenants Begert, Mullen, Groover, Rinabarger, Harper, Matheson, and Case.

At the conclusion of our first tour, during which the pilots had run up this outstanding combat record and during which the Black Sheep had begun to get nationwide publicity because of their exploits, we had an all-too-brief one week R&R trip to Sydney, Australia.

It was upon our return, when we expected to re-organize and get replacement pilots and prepare for our second combat tour, that Pappy had his conflict with the man he describes as "Colonel Lard." The conflict developed because "Colonel Lard" had transferred Boyington out of the Black Sheep and to an operations job. This was, in effect, grounding a proven combat squadron commander into a desk job and neither Greg nor we liked this at all.

Greg had just two choices: take the reassignment without protest, or go over Colonel Lard's head. He chose the latter. He grabbed a jeep and drove across the island to call on General James T. Moore, the Marine Air Wing Assistant Commander.

Commencing about four in the afternoon and

on into the night, the small Dallas hut which I shared with Boyington was visited perhaps a dozen times by Colonel Lard's aides. I was to tell Pappy that he was to present himself to Colonel Lard's office immediately upon his return to camp.

Greg rolled in late at night, somewhat under the weather: I didn't know whether he'd been celebrating or drowning his sorrows. In any case, he was promptly restricted to quarters the next day; the *only* Black Sheep so far as I know who *ever* was put in hack.

The payoff came when General Moore ordered Boyington's transfer orders cancelled; the squadron was to go forward for its next combat tour after being brought up to strength.

Twenty-one new pilots (seven of them combat experienced) joined us, nine to replace the four we'd lost in combat and the five who'd completed their South Pacific duty, and an additional 12 to bring our squadron up to its new authorized strength of 40 pilots instead of 28. Thus, these 21, along with our original 28 pilots, Doc Reames and I, constitute Boyington's Black Sheep. There were 51 of us altogether.

After a couple of weeks of training, the squadron flew via Guadalcanal to Vella Lavella, where our second combat tour commenced on 28 November 1943.

For over two weeks no contact was made with enemy aircraft. Missions consisted primarily of dawn patrols, milk runs and observation flights along with protection of the shipping supplying our ground forces.

Then, on 17 December, the Black Sheep supplied eight planes to an 80 plane fighter sweep over Rabaul. Thirty-two Marine Corsairs, 24 Navy planes and 24 New Zealand P-40s participated. The plan was to be free to engage the Japanese planes without having to be concerned with protection of bombers. Three Japanese planes were shot down by Black Sheep pilots without any losses of our own.

On 23 December, 16 Black Sheep participated in a combined air strike/fighter sweep on Rabaul. Twenty-four Army Air Force B-24 Bombers were escorted by 24 Marine and 24 Navy Fighters while an additional 20 Marine Corsairs along with 28 Army Air Force P-38s conducted a fighter sweep. The formation totaled 120 planes.

The Japanese responded in force as the air over

MEMBERS OF BOYINGTON'S BLACK SHEEP SQUADRON

(7 September 1943 to 10 January 1944)

Both Tours

- *ASHMUN, Geo. M. (24)
- BOLT, John F. (22)
- BOYINGTON, Gregory (30)
- @BRAGDON, Robt. M. (26)
- EMRICH, Warren T. (23)
- FISHER, Don H. (21)
- GROOVER, Denmark, Jr. (21)
- HARPER, Edwin A. (23)
- HEIER, Wm. D. (23)
- HILL, James J. (23)
- MAGEE, Christopher L. (26)
- MATHESON, Bruce J. (21)
- McCLURG, Robt. W. (24)
- *MOORE, Don J. (22)
- #MULLEN, Paul A. (23)
- OLANDER, Edwin L. (26)
- REAMES, Jas. M. (26)
- RINABARGER, Rolland N. (22)
- SIMS, Sanders S. (22)
- TUCKER, Burney L. (23)
- WALTON, Frank E. (34)

First Tour Only

- *ALEXANDER, Robt. A. (22)
- #BAILEY, Stanley R. (26)
- BEGERT, John F. (24)
- BOURGOIS, Henry M. (22)
- CASE, William N. (22)
- *EWING, Robt. T. (23)

- *HARRIS, Walter R. (23)
- McCartney, Henry A. (25)
- *RAY, Virgil G. (22)

Second Tour Only

- AVEY, Fred V. (31)
- *BARTL, Harry R. (22)
- BOWERS, Glenn L. (22)
- @BROWN, John S. (25)
- *BRUBAKER, Jas. E. (21)
- *CARNAGEY, Pierre (27)
- CHATHAM, Rufus M., Jr. (21)
- CORMAN, J. Ned (22)
- ¢CROCKER, Wm. L., Jr. (23)
- DOSWELL, Gelon H. (23)
- *DUSTIN, J. Cameron (22)
- *FFOULKES, Bruce (25)
- ¢HOBBS, Wm. H., Jr. (22)
- HOLDEN, Herbert, Jr. (22)
- JOHNSON, Alfred L. (23)
- JOHNSON, Harry C. (22)
- LANE, Perry T. (22)
- LOSCH, Fred S. (22)
- MARCH, Marion J. (28)
- MARKER, Alan D. (21)
- MILLER, Henry S. (30)

Age at time of joining Black Sheep ()

Total Black Sheep 51
 *Killed in action
 with Black Sheep . . . 11
 ¢Killed in action after
 leaving Black Sheep . 2
 #Killed in operational
 accident after war . . 2
 @Died since war 2
 Total Black Sheep
 who have strayed . . . 17
 Black Sheep who have
 survived (1 November 1976) . 34



Information provided by Col Frank E. Walton,
 USMCR (Ret.)

Rabaul filled with enemy fighters. The Black Sheep shot down 12 Japanese planes but three Black Sheep were lost, including Executive Officer Pierre Carnagey, Jim Brubaker and Bruce Ffoulkes. Boyington accounted for four of the Zeros, bringing his total kills (counting his six with the Flying Tigers in China) to 24, just two short of the record of 26 held by Marine Corps ace Joe Foss.

In the next two weeks the Black Sheep accounted for an additional 22 planes but the cost was high: J.C. Dustin, Harry Bartl, Don Moore, George Ashmun, and, we thought at the time, Pappy himself were lost.

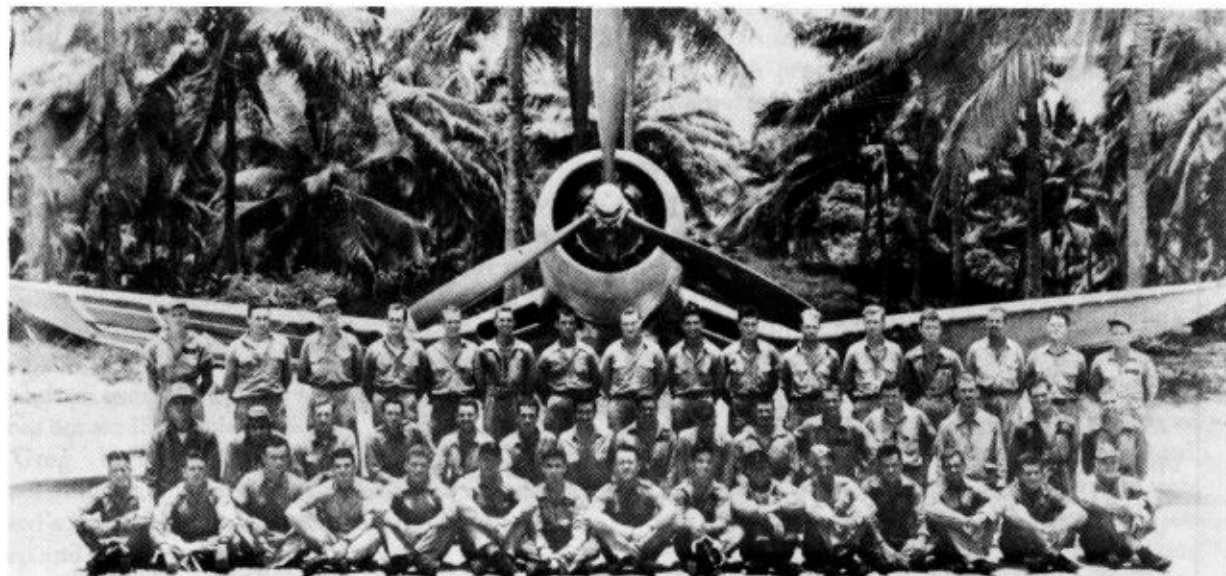
In the two tours of combat duty which totalled just 84 days, the Black Sheep had run up an enviable record. They had flown 1766 individual missions totalling nearly 4200 hours. They had shot down 95 Japanese fighter planes and one bomber in aerial combat and had scored an additional 34 "probables." Twenty-one Japanese planes had been destroyed on the ground and a number of barges, junks, steam launches and other Japanese supply and transport ships had been sunk.

But we'd had to pay: 11 of our Black Sheep had been lost. However, we knew then (although much of our country today seems to have forgotten) that you always have to pay a price. America was fortunate to have men like these who were willing to lay their lives on the line.

I suppose it would be too much to ask for a little accuracy in the TV series. That's show biz? We were *not* misfits. We did *not* engage in fist fights (I never saw two pilots in a fist fight, *ever*). People in the combat theaters do *not* wear barracks caps and uniform ties, not even Colonel Lard. The rank insignia goes on the *right* side of the cap, not the left as some of the TV Black Sheep wear them. The "buildings" we used in the combat areas were tents, not frame houses. The squadron flew four plane formations, not five plane formations and not three plane formations. There were no paved roads where we served our combat tours; and no nurses.

If the producers of the TV series intended (as it appears) to copy "Mash" or "Hogan's Heroes" why didn't they call it "Squash," or better yet: "Garbage?" Or "Grogan's Zeroes?"

The technical errors are of interest primarily to us as technicians. My major concern is to be maligned as a "misfit" who'd "failed in everything they did." That certainly cannot set too well with the families and friends and associates of those of us who have been successful in the world of business and government service. Among our Black Sheep are high ranking military and government officials, business executives, successful lawyers and architects. Can these be the brig rats, all facing courts martial, who made up the famous Black Sheep squadron?



The Black Sheep squadron on Vella Lavella during its second tour.



Official opening of the Historical Center was signalled by Gen Wallace M. Greene Jr., center, senior former Commandant of the Marine Corps in attendance, on 12 May. Remarks also were made by Gen Louis H. Wilson, right, present Commandant.

Open Houses Draw Many to New Historical Center

A series of open houses and special events at the Marine Corps Historical Center began on 12 May 1977 with a reception hosted by Gen Louis H. Wilson, Commandant of the Marine Corps. More than 450 retired and active duty general officers from all services, governmental dignitaries, leaders in the historical and museum professions, and other invited guests attended to hear Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., senior former Commandant present, officially open the center.

Two days later, on Saturday afternoon 14 May, about 350 Marines, civilians, and their families from Headquarters Marine Corps offices and the Marine Barracks attended an open house at the center. On 22 June, 90 historians from the three other official military history offices visited

the center and met with their counterparts. Thirty of them joined members of the division for a luncheon later at the Officers' Club. This group included MajGen John W. Huston, USAFR, Chief of the Office of Air Force History, and BGen James L. Collins, Jr, USA (Ret.), Commander of the Army's Center of Military History.

There were three special sessions in July. On 26 July, the wives of the officers attending the General Officers' Symposium were hosted at a coffee in the center by the Marine Officers' Wives Club, particularly by those who are helping as docents in the museum. Two days later, on 28 July, three seminars of the General Officers' Symposium were held in the center. This included a tour of the center and a briefing by



Sculptor of Iwo Jima statue, Mr. Felix DeWeldon, was greeted at the Historical Center opening by Gen Wilson and Mrs. Wilson. One of Mr. DeWeldon's small plaster versions of the statue is on display in the center.



Names prominent in Marine Corps history were at the 12 May opening, including Gen Gerald C. Thomas, right, and Col Robert D. Heintz, once head of the Historical Branch, left, with Gen Wilson.



Listening to Gen Greene's remarks at the opening was another former Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Robert E. Cushman, Jr., at right, under whom the plans for the center were concluded four years ago. Others in this photograph include Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower, Reserve Affairs, and Logistics) Edward Hidalgo, RAdm Ralph H. Carnahan, Commandant of the Naval District of Washington, and Mr. Robert L. Sherrod, author of History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II.

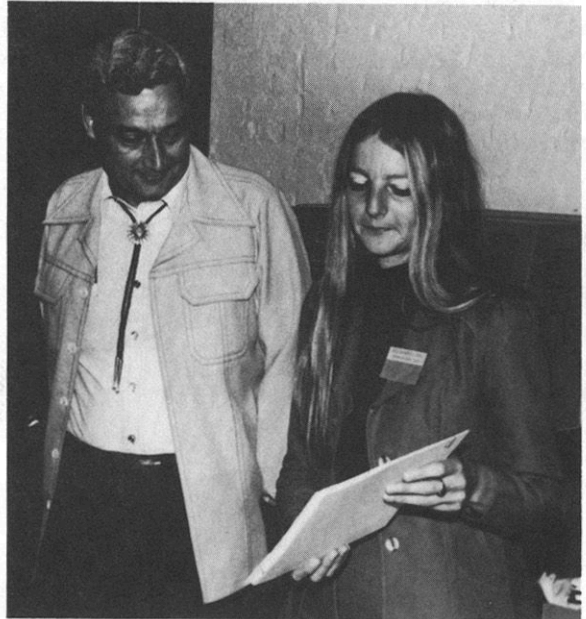


Original flags raised at Iwo Jima were viewed by military historians at the 12 August open house. Here the family of Dale Floyd, National Archives, compares the photographs of the two flag raisings and the flags used in each.

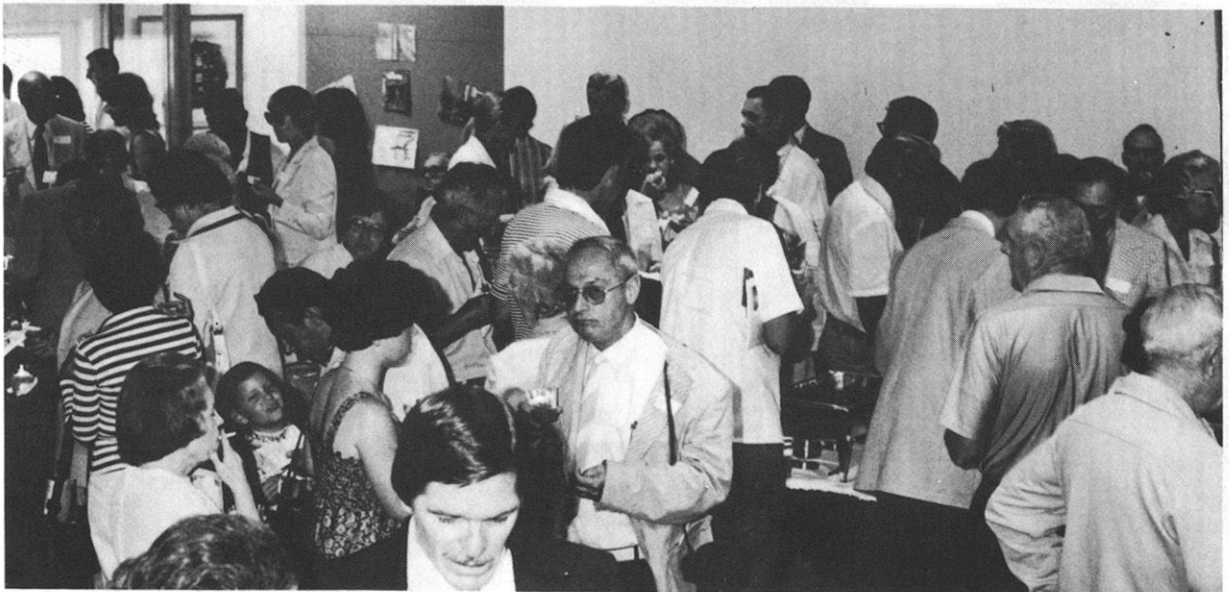
BGen Simmons, the Director, on the historical program.

On 30 July, more than 400 retired Marines from the metropolitan Washington area attended a reception at the center and on 12 August the largest crowd was registered: 600 persons representing the official government historical agencies and colleges, universities, and military history organizations in the area.

The military historians' open house included attendance at the barracks' evening parade. In addition, more than 350 enjoyed a buffet dinner at the Officers' Club.



Publications production capabilities of the division were explained at the military historians' open house by Miss Cathy Stoll, right, publications production staff member, to Robert M. Utley, Deputy Executive Director of the Presidential Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Miss Stoll explained how division publications, including Fortitudine, are set in type in the Historical Center.



Retired Marines congregated around the snack table on the top floor of the center during their open house on 30 July. The reception was so popular that it exceeded its announced time by an extra hour.

Vietnam and Helicopter Histories Published

The first volume of a planned series on Marine activities in Vietnam as well as the first book of a two volume history of the development of the helicopter in the Marine Corps have been published by the History and Museums Division.

U.S. Marines in Vietnam, 1954-1964, to be followed by eight other chronological monographs, traces the Vietnam-related actions of Marines through the first 10 years of American military assistance that followed the French-Indochina War.

The author, Captain (now Major) Robert H. Whitlow, is a Marine reservist who was a member of the division from September 1972-August 1974. The narrative focuses on a number

MARINES AND HELICOPTERS

1946 - 1962



U.S. MARINES IN VIETNAM

THE ADVISORY & COMBAT ASSISTANCE ERA

1954-1964



of events during this relatively obscure and often neglected chapter of Marine Corps History.

The text is footnoted throughout and is supplemented by a number of useful appendices, charts, maps, and photographs.

Marines and Helicopters, 1946-1962 is a comprehensive, detailed study of the men and events that have made the U.S. Marine Corps the leader in amphibious helicopter tactics. It was written by LtCol Eugene W. Rawlins and edited by Maj William J. Sambito, both experienced helicopter pilots. The author skillfully guides the reader step-by-step through the early stages of helicopter development as the Marine Corps acquires, develops, and realizes the enormous potential of the new aircraft.

The book's 113 pages contain many rare photographs of early model helicopters and of the pioneers of the helicopter industry who developed and flew them. It includes a chronology, informational appendices, and a detailed index to help the reader.

Both histories will be available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 in case-bound editions; *Marines in Vietnam, 1954-1964* for \$6.75 and *Marines and Helicopters, 1946-1962* for an anticipated \$6.00. Automatic distribution of both histories will be made Marine Corps-wide down to and including company level.

VTU (Historical) 1-8 Has Active Duty at Historical Center

Fifteen members of Volunteer Training Unit (Historical) 1-8 met at the Historical Center during the last two weeks in July for their first periods of active duty. Half of the group spent two weeks on active duty while the other half spent only one week.

Under the direction of Col Joseph B. Ruth, Jr., VTU commanding officer, who was already on active duty working on the reserve regimental history series, the 15 officers embarked on projects that ranged from an historic sites inventory at Quantico to examining the laws regarding women in the services. As much as possible their active duty assignments took into account their experience and civilian careers.



Administration of the VTU was handled by LtCol Harold O. Bigelow, Tucson educator, above left, and Col Ruth, CO. LtCol Bigelow opened records on all members and will be point of contact throughout the year.

Capt Stephen M. Fuller, left photo, law professor at Brigham Young University, returned to the division to work on his monograph on Marine activities in Haiti. He was no stranger to the division; he is holding the monograph Marines in Dominican Republic, 1916-1924 completed by him during extended active duty in 1973-74.



Laus occupied two attorneys in the VTU. Col Ira C. Houck, Pittsburgh, Pa., researched the law pertaining to women in the military to support the monograph being prepared by Col Mary V. Stremlow, center, reserve officer on a one year period of active duty to prepare a monograph on Women Marines, 1946-1977. Col Elmer D. Davies, Jr., District Attorney General in Franklin, Tenn., right, prepared an analysis of the application of the new Privacy Act to the public release of muster roll and unit diary information.



Three of the VTU members were assigned to the manuscript collections. Capt Ronald H. Bryson, standing, Library of Congress research analyst, conducted a preliminary inventory of the World War I papers of the late Gen Clifton B. Cates while, sitting, LtCol David A. Ballantyne, Indiana, Pa., salesman, and Maj Richard G. Nuss, state auditor in Springfield, Ohio, reviewed the papers of the late Gen Keith B. McCutcheon.



Photographs covering 100 years of Marine Corps History were sorted and inventoried by CWOs William B. Spillman, Waynesboro, Va., and Lloyd V. Rogers, Monterey, Calif. Although originally intending only to sort the photography into eras, they were able to locate some materials immediately useable in monographs in preparation. CWO Spillman, president of the Waynesboro News-Virginian, a daily newspaper, is continuing the project at home on inactive duty, while CWO Rogers' inactive duty assignment will be to research the history of Marines at the Naval Post-Graduate School, Monterey.



Some reserve units will be getting bad news as the result of the assignment of LtCol Gary F. Burchfield, advertising firm owner in Lincoln, Neb. He reviewed the command chronologies of 163 reserve units, found 3 excellent, 14 very good, 124 satisfactory, and 22 either incomplete or in improper format.



Records of the 14th Marines were researched by Capt Jeremiah J. Ashcroft, academic dean in Swainsboro, Ga., and Ronald J. Brown, teacher and coach in Detroit, Mich. The results are expected to contribute to the reserve regiment series.



Historic sites at Quantico were searched by two officers who do this in civilian life, Maj Frank V. Sturgeon, architect with the State Department of Beaches and Parks in Sacramento, Calif., and Col John A. Huffman, president of Architects and Planners Collaborative, Kansas City, Mo. Accompanied by Maj David Buchner, historical writer from the division, and Mr. Charles McKinney, National Park Service archeologist, they surveyed Quantico both by helicopter and foot and are preparing a nomination of Quantico to the National Register of Historic Places as a "multiple resources" historic place, including sites dating from pre-Colonial to pre-World War II days. The survey was required by historic preservation laws and similar projects will be carried out at other bases in the future.

Marine Wives Serve As Museum Docents

Marine wives on both coasts are making significant contributions to the Marine Corps historical activities in their areas. Acting as volunteer museum hostesses and guides, the "docents", as they are properly called, are supporting both the Camp Pendleton Historical Program and the new Marine Corps Museum in the Washington Navy Yard.

The Camp Pendleton program was started two years ago to assist the Camp Pendleton Historical Committee with tours at the ranch house, base museum, and the ranch house chapel and to provide a consistent, well-rounded tour guide program.

According to Mrs. Rita Nastri, "the original concept was to have the docents as part of the Joseph H. Pendleton Society of Marine Corps Historians." The docent group has since developed a program to operate independently under the auspices of the Base Historical Committee.

According to Mrs. Nastri, "plank owner" of the docent group, "the first letters of recruitment sent to the Officers' Wives Club and the Staff Noncommissioned Officers' Wives Club came from the Base Historical Committee. Of course, membership is open to wives of all active duty and retired military personnel." Mrs. Nastri, appointed the volunteer coordinator in the initial establishment of the group, worked closely with the secretary of the Base Historical Committee, Miss Shirley Sullivan, in formulating a training program and other plans of organization. Because the program was initiated in the middle of the club year, and because both the response and need were intermittent at the onset, a cyclic training program was utilized stressing on-the-job training. It has since developed into a more formalized program.

The largest undertaking that faced the program was the Armed Forces Week Bicentennial Activities at Camp Pendleton when the base was open from 0900 to 1630 for eight days. As the bunkhouse and chapel was part of the tour program, it was necessary for nearly 100 women

to volunteer their time. Since the original docent program was too small to assume this responsibility, a push for a one-time assist was made by the group with an invitation to continue participation.

With 15 new members recruited in September, a weekly training program, presented by Mrs. Nastri, was begun in October. Classes were held in the chapel. The initial class consisted of introductions, review of policies, instructions on

Photos Needed

With the Vietnam operational monograph series underway, the need for illustrative materials has become acute. The History and Museums Division has good coverage of Marine activities for the years 1967 and 1968, but there is a shortage of photographs for 1969.

Anyone having photographs, combat or otherwise, who is willing to loan them to the division for possible use in its publications, please write Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code HDS-1, Washington, D.C. 20380.

The photographs will be copied and the originals promptly returned. Accreditation or anonymity, as desired, is guaranteed.

Also needed is a photograph of "Mother" DeBoo, who was the unofficial hostess at Quantico from 1929 until her death in 1943. Any photograph which includes Mother DeBoo would be appreciated and considered for inclusion in a forthcoming history of Quantico. It will be copied and the original returned.

costumes and preparation, and tours of both chapel and museum. The next class was a lecture on California history and the part that the Rancho Santa Margarita played in it.

The third session was a working session in the chapel and museum, taking each room with its artifacts individually. It was important to point out just what each piece was and, if possible, its origin and use. The use of 3 x 5 note cards was encouraged for the first tours. Each new recruit was also encouraged to come to as many tours as possible before she started out on her own. Each tour is an individual presentation, the basic facts being given and extra information added from the suggested readings.

With the help of the resident-expert, Mrs. Carl W. Hoffman, wife of the commanding general, the new docents were formally oriented to the ranch house, its history, and artifacts. When all the areas had been covered, each new docent was encouraged to take only one area on her initial venture; i.e., either the ranch house alone, the chapel, or the museum.

The booking of tours was coordinated by Miss Sullivan with the Joint Public Affairs Office. At present, the scheduling of tours and docents as well as a record of volunteer hours is done by the volunteer chairman. In order to effect an ongoing monthly training program, various trips to other historical places of interest, both on base and in surrounding communities, were taken by the volunteers. Because the docents are representatives of the command to the public, they must be well-schooled on the base's military history and its ecology programs.

"This whole program had been undergoing changes to meet the needs as they develop," added Mrs. Nastri. "Having had a year to work out the teething problems that any new program would have, we have been rewriting the training schedule to include a single packet of information, more guest lecturers, and more scheduled trips. A slide show is being written by two of the volunteers for presentation on tours. This is truly a program where a volunteer can almost receive more than she gives."

At the new Marine Corps Historical Center, in Washington, D.C., volunteers from the Marine Officers' Wives Club are playing a significant role in welcoming and assisting visitors to the Marine Corps Museum. Coordinated by Mrs. Pat Riley

and Mrs. "Shortie" Simmons, they have initiated a program of operating the Museum gift shop during the six hours the museum is open every weekday, the five additional evening hours on Fridays when the nearby Marine Barracks has a parade, and the five hours on Sundays and holidays. Without their help, the museum gift shop—which generates profits for the Research Grant Fund—would not be able to operate.



Docents in the Marine Corps Museum at the Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard man the gift shop which provides profits for research projects. Two of the volunteers, shown here stacking gift items at the shop's storeroom, are Mrs. Russell B. Tiffany and Mrs. Robert L. Simmons.

People and Places

Honoring the late distinguished Marine Corps general, the University of Alabama has announced the program for the Sixth Annual General W. S. Brown Memorial Military History Conference 4 February 1978.

The conference theme will be "The Role of the Military in Modern World Affairs: The Influence of Weaponry upon Modern Warfare." Papers will be delivered by Professor Jay Luvaas, Allegheny College, on the 18th century; Professor Grady McWhiney, the University of Alabama, 19th century (military); Professor Robert E. Johnson, the University of Alabama, 19th century (naval); and Professor Stephen Ambrose, University of New Orleans, 20th century.

Information can be obtained from Mr. George M. Faulk, P. O. Box 2967, University, Ala. 35486.



On a June visit to the United Kingdom, Mr. Henry I. Shaw, Jr., Chief Historian, gave a talk on the U.S. Marine Corps historical program to the annual meeting of the Royal Marines Historical Society at Southsea, Hampshire. (Mr. Shaw is a founding member of the society.) He also had occasion to visit the museum of the Royal Welch Fusiliers at Caernarvon Castle, North Wales, where he was able to show the Hon. Curator, Maj E. L. Kirby, how the regiment's gift to the Marine Corps, a trophy cannon captured at Tientsin in 1900, was prominently displayed at the new Marine Corps Museum.



Col Brooke Nihart, Deputy Director for Museums, took a month's leave in May and June to attend the 11th triennial meeting of the International Congress of Museums in Leningrad and Moscow. In addition to meeting many of the 1,400 delegates from around the world and



Mr. Shaw examines museum brochures with Maj Kirby at the entrance to the Queen's Tower, Caernarvon Castle, North Wales, home of the Royal Welch Fusiliers Museum.

visiting numerous Russian art, history, and historic house museums, he participated in special tours of the Soviet Navy Museums and Soviet Artillery Museum in Leningrad and the Central Museum of the Soviet Armed Forces and the Soviet Air Force Museum in Moscow. On his way home Col Nihart revisited the now completed Royal Marines Museum at Eastney near Portsmouth where he was received by the curator, Maj Tony Brown. Maj Brown will be visiting the Marine Corps Historical Center and attending the U.S. Army Museum Conference in October. Col Nihart also visited the Fleet Air Museum at the RAF Station, Yeovilton, and the National Army Museum in Chelsea where he was received by the respective directors, Cdr Dennis White, RN, and Mr. William Reid.



Two division members are featured in the current issue of *By Valor & Arms*, quarterly military history magazine published at P. O. Box 2243, Fort Collins, Colorado 80522. The division's artist-in-residence, Maj Charles H. Waterhouse, is the issue's honored military artist with four-color reproductions of several *Marines in the Revolution* paintings, including the cover, sketches he made in Vietnam, and a short biographical sketch. A chapter from *Marines in the Revolution*, the division's Bicentennial book by Charles R. Smith, also appears in the issue.

Mr. Charles R. Smith of the Historical Branch presented a paper entitled "The Annapolis Convention, 1776: An Overview," at the Third Annual Conference of the Middle Atlantic States History Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities held on 16 April 1977 at Misericordia College, Dallas, Pennsylvania.



On 24 June Col Brooke Nihart and Messrs. Ben Frank, Dick Long, and Tim Wood attended the First National Maritime Preservation Conference in Baltimore which was sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The 300 conferees represented historic ships, maritime museums, and "tall ships" sail-training types and endeavored to exchange information and share experiences through a series of short



Women Marines of the division fared well during recent reserve promotion boards. LtCol Mary V. Stremlow, below, was promoted to colonel on 10 August in a ceremony at the center. BGen Simmons was assisted by Colonel Stremlow's husband, LtCol George J. Stremlow. Col Stremlow is on a year's active duty to write the history of the Women Marines from 1946 to 1977. GySgt Laura Dennis, above, received her promotion to master sergeant from the Director on 30 June. MSgt Dennis has been assisting Col Stremlow since January in a non-pay status three days a week in addition to two weeks active duty in April.





Unfinished business was passed to the new Deputy Director for Marine Corps History, Col John E. Greenwood, left, when he relieved Col Herbert M. Hart on 19 August. Col Greenwood came to the division from the 2d Marine Division where he commanded the 2d Marines; previously he had been aide to Secretary of the Navy John Warner. A Naval Academy graduate, he also taught at the academy. Col Hart had been with the division for four years; his new assignment will be with the Naval Training and Education Command as Chief of the Professional Education Branch, a duty location in Arlington, Va., only two miles from Headquarters Marine Corps.

presentations. The conference was held in conjunction with the Baltimore Maritime Heritage Festival and the American Sail Training Association's race from Norfolk and included a visit to the inner harbor where frigate USF *Constellation*, the replica Baltimore schooner *Pride of Baltimore*, and 30 ships which had completed the race were tied up.



The History and Museums Division's series of monthly professional seminars resumed on 15 June with a presentation by Col Frederick T. Kiley, USAF. Col Kiley is currently assigned to the OSD Historian's office, where he is the co-author of a soon-to-be published two-volume history of American POWs in the Vietnam War; the subject of his talk.

The second professional seminar in the center took place on 12 July, when Dr. Guenther Lewy, a professor at the University of Massachusetts who has spent considerable time researching in the division's archives, spoke about his forthcoming book *America in Vietnam*. The book ex-

amines the way the war was fought, and the way it was explained to the American public. After his talk, Dr. Lewy met separately with the Director and the Vietnam historians to expand further on his theses.

On 3 August, a third professional seminar was held with Mr. Lawrence Suid, recent recipient of a Marine Corps Historical Program Research Grant, speaking about the results of the research on his project. Mr. Suid has made a study of the Marine Corps on films—commercial movies,



Mr. Suid



Col Kiley

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training films, and newsreels—dating from World War I to the present. In the course of his research, Mr. Suid had investigated the holdings of film repositories in the Washington area and has reviewed what is held by the film archives in Quantico. As a result of his efforts, Mr. Suid had prepared a list of nearly 1,000 titles, considerably more than had previously been thought to exist.



Mr. Henry B. Davis, curator of the MCLSBPac Museum at Barstow, Calif. will be returning to the U.S. Army museum system having been named curator of the Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee, Va. Davis came to Barstow from the Cavalry Museum, Fort Riley, Kan.

What is the origin of the colored recognition squares worn by Shore Party and other beach units on their utility uniforms?

Col James J. Harp, head of the Engineer, Motor Transport, and General Support Branch in the Installation and Logistics Department at Headquarters Marine Corps, has been working with the FMFPac Engineer's Office on the topic and asks if *Fortitudine* readers can be of help.

The patches are 1-inch squares of four

different colors, red for member of the Shore Party, blue for the Naval Beach Group, yellow for Amphibious Construction Battalions, and white for beach augmentation personnel. Col Harp has been able to run their use back to the Tinian operation but has had no luck in establishing who introduced them and when and on what authority.

If any reader has information, Col Harp can be contacted at Code LME, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380 or phone (202) 697-3618.