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FORTITUDINE

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

Volume IX

Winter 1979-80

No. 3

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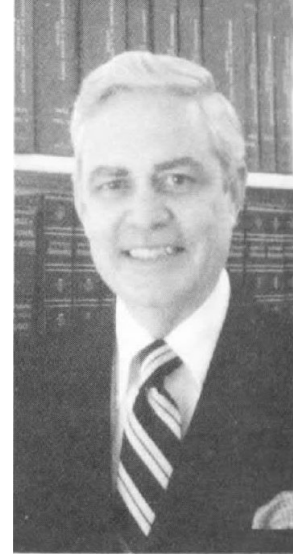
Marines who accompanied Commodore Matthew C. Perry on his 1853 diplomatic mission to Japan as seen through the eyes of an unknown Japanese artist.

The Marines, who were commanded by future Commandant Maj Jacob Zeilin, were portrayed several times on a 40-foot-long scroll loaned by the University of Tokyo for the Center's inaugural art exhibit. (See page 10 for a feature article on Marines and the State Department.)

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Director's Page

Progress Report



BGen Simmons

Each year we submit to the Commandant a "Marine Corps Historical Program Progress Report" in which we report accomplishments for the past year (glossing over any shortfalls that may have occurred), and lay out, for his approval, our goals for the new year as well as mid-range and long-range objectives.

I think at the top of the list for last year I would put the incorporation (on 9 January 1979) and implementation of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation. The Foundation finished the year with 182 charter members. Elsewhere in this issue is an article on the first meeting of the elected Board of Directors.

And, although it may seem a mundane thing, I would put near the top of the list the completion of MCO 5750.1E, "Manual for the Marine Corps Historical Program."

It was a good year for historical publications. We published:

Marines and Helicopters, 1962-1973, by LtCol William R. Fails, USMC.

U. S. Marines in Vietnam: The Landing and the Build Up, 1965, by Jack Shulimson and Maj Charles M. Johnson, USMC.

Quantico: Crossroads of the Marine Corps, by LtCol Charles A. Fleming, USMC, Capt Robin L. Austin, USMC, and Capt Charles A. Braley III, USMC.

Five squadron histories—*HMM-161*, *VMFA-312*, *VMA-223*, *VMFA-232*, and *VMA-311*.

This year we expect to publish:

The U. S. Marines in the Mexican War, 1846-1848, by Gabrielle M. Santelli.

Marines in Haiti, 1915-1934, by Capt Stephen M. Fuller, USMCR, and Graham A. Cosmas.

Two regimental histories—*7th Marines* and *25th Marines*.

Two squadron histories—*VMO-6* and *HMM-262*.

Nearing completion we have:

U. S. Marines in Vietnam: The Expanding War, 1966, by Jack Shulimson.

A History of Women Marines, 1946-1977, by Col Mary V. Stremlow, USMCR.

Chaplains and Marines in Vietnam, by Cdr Herbert L. Bergsma, ChC, USN.

Short Official History of the Marine Corps.

A Brief History of the 10th Marines.

All of the sequential Vietnam histories, carrying the war through to the evacuation of Saigon and the *Mayaguez* incident in 1975, are scheduled for publication by the end of FY-1982. The series of regimental histories should be completed in the same year. We have a goal of publishing a minimum of three squadron histories each year using the "buddy" system wherein the parent squadron furnishes the writer and we supply research, editorial, and production support. Currently three histories—those of *HML-367*, *VMA-124*, and *VMFA-112*—are being pursued under this system.

On the museums side the largest accomplishment of 1979 was probably the completion of the "Early Years 1912-1940" segment of the Marine Corps Aviation Museum at Quantico. This hangar was opened briefly on 10 November and then closed with the rest of the Aviation Museum for the winter. Because of the lack of climatic controls (for which read "heat") in the old hangars that house the Aviation Museum, the open season is limited to mid-May through mid-November. The two major restorations



One of only 27 built, the Aviation Museum's Boeing FB-5 is the world's sole restored specimen.

of the year were a Boeing FB-5 and a cut-away North American SNJ-5.

Two major art exhibits were prepared and hung during 1979. One was "Our Time in Hell," World War II art by Kerr Eby. This very powerful collection, after being exhibited here in the Marine Corps Historical Center, moved on to the Naval War College Museum in Newport, Rhode Island.

The second exhibition was "Marines in the Conquest of California," 12 major paintings and many drawings and studies, by LtCol Charles Waterhouse, USMCR. This exhibit is about to come down from the Special Exhibits Gallery here to move to the West Coast where we expect it to be hung in San Francisco, Monterey, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Camp Pendleton.

This coming year will see the re-opening of New Hall in Independence National Historic Park, Philadelphia. This Marine Corps Museum and Memorial, which is operated for us by the National Park Service, will be dedicated to the Continental Marine and will have all new exhibitry. It will be the permanent home of LtCol Waterhouse's "Marines in the Revolution" paintings which have been touring the country since 1975.

As we promised last year but did not get done, we have in preparation an "Exhibits Catalog" which will provide a shopping list for the potential exhibitor of exhibits, both art and artifact, that we have available. Also in 1980 we expect to publish a "Personal Papers Collection Catalog" which will parallel our "Oral History Collection Catalog," a revised edition of which came out last year.

All of the above is a very quick summary of the ac-

complishments and objectives which I think are of the most immediate interest to our readers. It does not do justice to the many other things that the History and Museums Division did in 1979 and has planned for 1980, nor does it even touch on command historical programs. The number of units scoring "excellent" or better in the Inspector General's review of their historical programs has gone up dramatically this past year. We think that use of the new MCO 5750.1E, "Manual for the Marine Corps Historical Program," will cause even greater improvement.

Official distribution of the new order is now underway. If, however, you would like a personal copy (and this includes our readers who are outside the Marine Corps), write to:

Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HDS)
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps
Washington, D.C. 20380

For a closer, more detailed, look than I have given above on what we are doing and have planned you can ask for a copy of the "Marine Corps Historical Program Progress Report, FY-1980."

To stay abreast of our publications, a request to the same address will get you a copy of "Marine Corps Historical Publications in Print, 1978," with its 1979 addendum.

And finally, if you want more information on the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, write to:

Mr. Henry I. Shaw, Jr., Secretary
Marine Corps Historical Foundation
Building 58, Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374

The Readers Always Write

COL BOB HEINL

As always, the arrival of *Fortitudine* today is a joy. IX-2 is particularly interesting on two counts.

First is that I, in company with everyone who knew Bob Heinl, have many fond memories of him. My favorite dates from the after-Haiti period when he was being investigated because of that article in *Life*. Carter Berkeley and I came up from lunch in the Annex cafeteria and found a great crowd outside Dave Shoup's office door. In the middle was Bob complete with Guardee moustache and accent giving a press interview (hence the crowd) and making his points with waves of a swagger stick. At that point I was sure that Bob should have been a General and equally sure that he wouldn't be.

Second is the article concerning MCO 5750.1E. ["Command Chronologies—Grist of History"] It so happens that some months ago I ran across a musty file which had in it the Guam Air Target Map folder, a portion of the 1/3 unit journal, and several pages of day-to-day notes covering the days not shown in the journal. During the patrol phase after the island was secured I had started to get the dope in shape to write what you now call a Command Chronology. I was detached in September and returned to the States and never did anything more about it until a month or so ago when I started what I called "Reminiscences of a Battalion Commander." It is now in its second draft and keeps getting expanded as memories return.

Henry Aplington II
Col, USMC (Ret.)

QUANTICO HISTORY

. . . *Quantico: Crossroads of the Marine Corps*. . . is very well done: well researched, factual without being tedious, informative yet entertaining. I don't know how it could be improved. The trio of authors should be congratulated.

I particularly enjoyed that portion dealing with the inter-war period, 1919-39. Most people I know seem little acquainted (other than in a most general way) with what went on down there during the Butler regime. Col Will Lee saw it all, and from him I first

heard the gory details. But all the building during the Depression years, the development of the flying fields, etc. was always taken for granted: few persons realized how much the USMC did with practically no funds, on a shoestring. Meanwhile the entire Corps was practically on a continuous expeditionary basis during much of the period 1919-34, and manpower was short at home.

Roger Willock
Col USMCR (Ret.)

Thank you for the copy of *Quantico: Crossroads of the Marine Corps*. I was not aware that the history was in existence, and am particularly pleased to receive a copy because I served four tours of duty there (the first one June-July 1917) for a total of eight years; and two of my three sons were born there.

Alas!!! While perusing through it I came to page 47 and the astounding statement that (in describing the hike to Gettysburg and the subsequent maneuvers): "Most of the Marines came from the 10th Regiment." Shades of Col Bradman (who I think commanded the 5th Marines at the time)!!! I know I commanded a company of the 1st Bn., 5th Marines at that time, and that three battalions of the 5th, and I think, one battalion of the 6th, participated in the Gettysburg effort.

Nevertheless, it is a fine publication, and I thank you again for sending it to me. If I come across what I think are some discrepancies I shall bring them to your attention.

Merwin H. Silverthorn
LtGen, USMC (Ret.)

Gen Silverthorn is correct. The 1922 Gettysburg maneuvers were not mainly a 10th Regiment show. Examination of the July 1922 Marine Corps East Coast Expeditionary Force muster rolls reveals the following troop list:

Force Headquarters, Headquarters Company—BGen Smedley D. Butler
Force Train and Service Company—Capt Samuel C. Cumming
Military Police Company, MCEF—Capt Emmett W. Skinner
Service Company, Medical Battalion—1stLt Frank S. Flack

Third Company (Signal), MCEF—Capt Ernest E. Eiler
4th Brigade, Headquarters Company—Col Frederick L. Bradman

Headquarters Detachment, Marine Flying Field—Maj Roy S. Geiger

Engineer Battalion—Maj Woodman G. Emory

10th Regiment—LtCol Chandler Campbell

1st Battalion—Maj Arthur J. White

2d Battalion—Maj Samuel P. Budd

5th Regiment—LtCol James Tracy

1st Battalion—Maj Clark H. Wells

2d Battalion—Maj Tom D. Barber

3d Battalion—Maj William P. Upsbur

6th Regiment—Maj Calvin B. Matthews

1st Battalion—Maj Harold L. Parsons

2d Battalion—Maj Chester L. Gawne

3d Battalion—Maj Edmond H. Morse

Then—Capt Silverthorn commanded the 49th Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment.

IWO FLAG-RAISINGS

I read with great interest your excellent article on the Iwo Jima flag-raising in the fall issue of *Fortitudine*. I continue to learn more details of the raising each time articles on the subject appear, however, I found your article to be the most complete account of the event I have read to date.

I am left with one nagging question and wonder if you may enlighten me and possibly some of your other readers. Except for Ira Hayes (because of the movie), I have never been able to find where the other men in the picture are individually identified. Being a native Texan and proud of the Lone Star State's many heroes, I am particularly interested in identifying Corporal Harlon H. Block of Yorktown, Texas. I would also like to know his place of burial.

Every man who has ever loved being called Marine lays claim to being a part of the Iwo Jima Monument. It represents Marines past and present as it will continue to do forever.

B. L. Williams
LtCol, USMC

... I want you to know that your article on the Iwo Jima flag-raising was fascinating to me. Having just come off the line that morning as the left flank com-

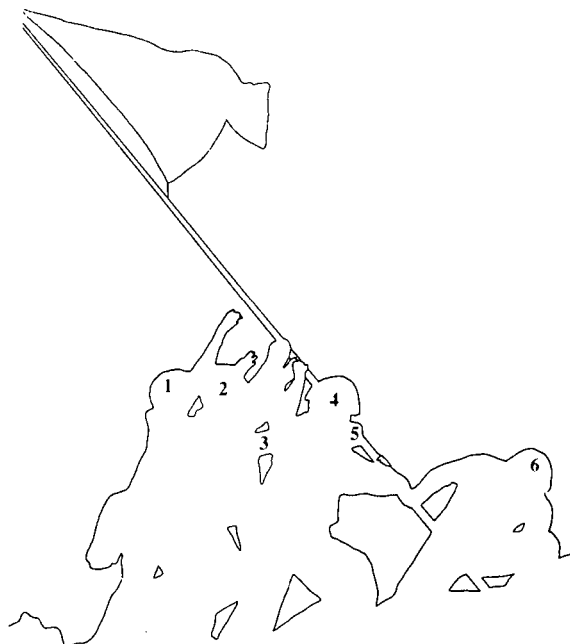
pany on Iwo's western beaches, the sight of Old Glory on Mt. Suribachi was truly majestic.

We did not know, or care, that there had been two flag-raising. The fact that the American flag stood on the summit was inspirational at a time when we really needed a boost.

I thought I had seen just about every picture ever taken on Suribachi, but Pvt Campbell's shot of Joe Rosenthal taking his "gung-ho" picture was new to me.

Congratulations also on the display of both flags in the Historical Center. What a treasure! . . .

Allen M. Barrett



The Iwo Jima flag-raisers, as shown in the Rosenthal photograph, left to right, are: PFC Ira H. Hayes (with poncho hanging from belt), PFC Franklin R. Sousley (with slung rifle), Sgt Michael Strank (barely visible on Sousley's left), PhM2 John H. Bradley (with empty canteen cover hanging from right side of belt), PFC Rene A. Gagnon (helmet barely visible beside Bradley), and Cpl Harlon H. Block (at foot of pole). Cpl Block was killed in action on 1 March 1945, and was initially buried in the 5th Division cemetery on Iwo Jima in Plot 4, Row 6, Grave 912. His body was later returned to the United States for private burial in Weslaco, Texas.

Acquisitions

On the Registrar's return from Great Britain in early November 1979, he and the Chief Curator travelled to the Philadelphia area to visit Mr. R. Alexander Montgomery and accept his valuable donation of five experimental Swiss assault rifles. These weapons are very rare and are an important addition to our weapons research collection.

Subsequent to the cataloging of LtGen Leo D. Hermle's extensive collection, one other item was sent to the Museum. This was a long-barrelled German Luger pistol, complete with shoulder stock and holster. Usually referred to as the "Artillery Model" or "Model 1917," this weapon will be on temporary display in the upcoming special exhibit "Through the Wheat." The exhibit will open in early spring 1980 and will feature art and selected artifacts from the Marines' service in France during WW I.

In addition to the pistol, several other donations of WW I items were received during the late fall and winter. Mr. William Nord donated photographs and personal papers dealing with Pvt Paul V. Brossard's service in France and later service in China during the 1920s. Included in this donation was an ornate WW I German brass cigarette case inscribed "Gott Mit Uns" (With God On Our Side).

An interesting group of medals owned by the late John J. Tallent was donated by his widow, with the assistance of Mrs. William J. Miller. It includes several scarce commemorative medals of the various WW I battles, as well as a Victory Medal with four battle clasps and a Good Conduct Medal. Mrs. Samuel J. Henry also donated a set of miniature medals belonging to famous Marine aviator, Col Thomas C. Turner, Sr. These included nearly all of his awards and were made by the well-known medalists, Spink's of London. In order to fill a gap in our "Through the Wheat" exhibit, SSgt Craig Ingersoll of the USMC Recruiting Station in Watertown, New York, sent a captured German identity disc from WW I. SSgt Ingersoll was instrumental in arranging for Mr. Lawrence W. Benson's donation this fall of a WW I musical program which was performed for the 6th Regiment on its way to France on board the USS *Von Steuben*.

The 8th Defense Battalion Reunion Association solicited its members for papers, maps, and photographs dealing with the unit's activities in WW II. This group donation was forwarded to the Museum to serve as a nucleus for future accretions to the collec-

tion. Special thanks must be given to Mr. James Hugh Powers, secretary of that organization, for directing the project and for his donation of papers. In addition, Mr. Michael Yusko, Mr. Andrew G. Scheblein, Mr. John A. Vollinger, and Col George R. Fletcher, USMCR (Ret) have our thanks for their participation. Col Fletcher has been a continual supporter of the Museum in his past donations of Japanese weapons.

Coincidental to the Museum's planning of an exhibit on the 4th Marines in Shanghai and Corregidor was the donation of three items which were immediately incorporated into the exhibit. CWO3 Floyd O. Schilling, USMC (Ret) sent in two cloth shoulder insignia worn by members of the 4th Marines in the 1930s. The hilt from a Marine officer's sword, excavated on Corregidor in 1976, was donated by Mr. Zoeth Skinner. The artifact, in relic condition, will be included in this projected display.

WW II-era donations for this period include a Japanese battle flag captured on Saipan which was given by Mr. William D. Dutcher and autographed by the members of his company. Mr. Don Minium donated photographs, papers, and Japanese ordnance to the collection while LtCol Frank W. Martino, of the Historical Center staff, brought in a CRI-43044 transmitter-receiver radio for the collection.

Through Capt Ernest W. Peterkin, USNR (Ret), Mr. John R. Brown donated his "Mae West" life preserver and pilot's knee pad which he used as a dive-bomber (SBD) pilot with VSMB-245 in the Pacific theatre. Both of these items have been placed on display in the Marine Corps Museum.

After years of study, testing, and justification, the Marine Corps Museum's accessioning and cataloging process soon will be fully computerized. As early as 1971, both the Director and Col Nihart saw it was counter-productive to catalog manually the Museum's vast collection in view of alternate available resources. In order to cross reference all of the thousands of artifacts held by the museum system, they felt that a computer was the only feasible solution.

Now, a "mini" computer is being procured by the Museum which will be able to sort all our holdings by donor, nomenclature, manufacturer, collection, era of use, and as many as 20 other different categories. This will streamline the Museum's operation, eliminating a multitude or redundant operations in the cataloging of and subsequent research on donations and acquisitions. It is expected that a feature-length article on the computer will appear later in *Fortitudine* when the system is installed and in full operation. KLS-C

Mrs. George Barnett

'Mother of Marines'

Maj Merrill L. Bartlett

Historians conducting research in the George Barnett papers, Personal Papers Collection, Marine Corps Historical Center, may be attracted to three manuscript boxes containing hundreds of letters to or from Mrs. Barnett in an ill-defined role as "Mother of Marines." Much of the correspondence is addressed to the wife of the Commandant of the Marine Corps asking for assistance in solving personal problems. Others are notes of affection expressing appreciation for whatever Mrs. Barnett did to improve the lot of young enlisted Marines. This collection of letters covering the period 1916-20 offers only a hint of the warmth and strong character of what may well be the most unusual and striking lady to grace the famous residence at "Eighth and Eye."

Born in 1875 in New Rochelle of an old and proud southern family, Lelia Montague Barnett's family moved to Baltimore during her teenage years. There she met and married Basil Gordon, a rising young Virginia politician. The marriage was short-lived, however, as Gordon succumbed to consumption in 1902.

Finding the required lengthy period of mourning not to her liking, the beautiful young widow left Baltimore and took up residence on DuPont Circle in the Nation's Capital. It was while being introduced to Washington society that she met the handsome and dashing commanding officer of the Marine Barracks, LtCol George Barnett, USNA '81. With a persistence characteristic of Marines, Barnett outmaneuvered rival suitors, including several titled Europeans on diplomatic duty in Washington, and the couple were

married in 1908. The Commandant, MajGen George F. Elliott, sent part of the Marine Band to play at the wedding.

The newlyweds lived in Peking for the next two years where Barnett commanded the Legation Guard. It was while in China that the dominant characteristic of Mrs. Barnett's contribution to her husband's career became clear. Wherever they lived, Mrs. Barnett became the doyenne of society. Those who knew her claim she "put the Marine Corps on the social map." Suitably impressed, the foreign community in Peking presented Mrs. Barnett with a decoration, "The Order of the Open Door," to commemorate her charm and personable contribution to the social life of the diplomatic circle.

Socially, the years 1910-14 were little different as the Barnetts joined the mainstream of Philadelphia while he commanded the barracks there. It was also apparent that Mrs. Barnett was pushing very hard for her husband to gain the commandancy. Her machina-

Maj Bartlett has served as a history instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy since 1977. In 1979 he was the recipient of a Naval Academy Research Council grant to edit the autobiography and papers of George Barnett. Gen Barnett is also the subject of Maj Bartlett's doctoral dissertation in progress at the University of Maryland. A register prepared by Maj Bartlett of Barnett papers held in the Personal Papers Collection is in process of publication.



tions were obvious to at least one disappointed observer, Smedley Butler: “[to his wife in 1914] . . . I suppose Mrs. Barnett is wild. Poor poor Colonel Waller [a rival candidate for CMC] . . . my disappointment is nothing to his.”

During Barnett’s tenure as Commandant, 1914-20, Mrs. Barnett was reported to set one of the better dinner tables in Washington. Society columns referred to her as being one of the capital’s most prominent hostesses, and a national magazine included her in a list of America’s celebrated beauties.

Perhaps Mrs. Barnett’s most interesting participation in her husband’s commandancy was that of being “Mother of Marines.” Especially after America entered the war in Europe, Mrs. Barnett began to respond to hundreds of letters from young Marines, most of whom had problems of some sort. Each letter to Mrs. Barnett in the manuscript collection has affixed the typed carbon of the response. In some cases, Mrs. Barnett was able to provide help as the following example illustrates:

I have been talking to some of the boys in regards to my general court martial and how unjust it was and they advised me to write to Mrs. George Barnett and that I would get justice . . . I maintained a good record in France. I was then transferred to Santo Domingo . . . I have been sentenced to be confined for a period of five years, then to be dishonorably discharged [charges—using profane language to an NCO and accidental discharge of a weapon] . . . there were no witnesses present either for or against the defense but I have been sentenced to five years which I think and all the rest think it was very unjust. Hoping that I have not put you to any trouble and thanking you for any help you may lend me.

[Mrs. Barnett’s response] I have taken the case up with the Major General Commandant, and in view of all the circumstances, he has recommended to the Naval Department that the period of confinement in your case be reduced to two years, and I have no doubt that this will be the case.

Other letters reflect thanks for someone “up there” showing concern for the lowly enlisted man:

My Dear Marine Mother:

That is how we all regard you, Mrs. Barnett, and you may be sure that we consider it a great privilege that you permit us to do so. You know troops in the field are primarily fighting men and consequently rough. There are just two occasions when I have heard them betray any of the gentler emotions and that was when they spoke of their own mothers and of you. You occupy a very sacred place in the heart of every Marine and I am certainly no exception. To have your picture is more than I even hoped for and you know I shall treasure it highly. My appreciation is difficult to express but please believe that you have made me prouder and happier than you will ever know.



MajGen and Mrs. Barnett pose with an old Japanese gentleman who reputedly observed Commodore Matthew C. Perry’s landing in Japan in 1853. Members of the Naval Academy Class of 1881 and their wives visited Japan in 1922 as guests of Adm Baron Uriu, himself a class member.

Mrs. Barnett’s compassion for young Marines was not limited to enlisted men. Perhaps acquainted with the hard life of Marine officers in training at Quantico by her son, 2dLt Basil Gordon, Jr., she opened the Commandant’s home to them on weekends. As she put it, “it may be used as a club and will serve as a meeting place for friends and relatives of Marine Corps officers.”

For a socially prominent woman so much a part of her husband’s career, nothing could strike so deep as the abrupt dismissal of Major General Commandant Barnett in 1920. Convinced that a cabal existed consisting of the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels; the Butlers, Smedley and his Congressman father; and Lejeune, Barnett’s successor, Mrs. Barnett spent the rest of her days intermittently involved in various recriminations against those whom she thought had conspired to end her husband’s career. Dying in 1959, she survived Gen Barnett by almost 30 years.



二月廿五日
五月廿三日
熟人殺之
怖之圖

東方新聞
小柳常吉肖像

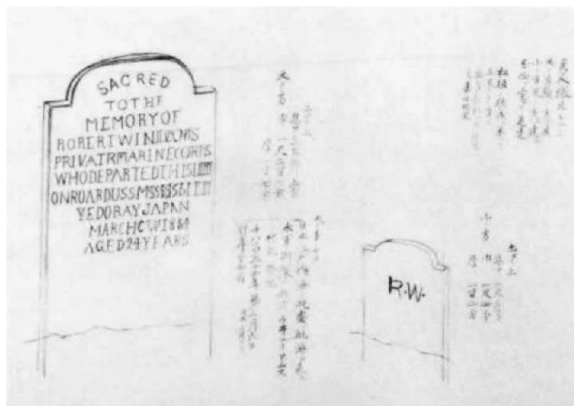
A detail from the University of Tokyo's Perry visit scroll. Curious Marines inspect a sumo wrestler.

Marines and the State Department 'In Every Clime and Place'

Danny J. Crawford

The events of the past year at United States embassies and consulates abroad have focused national attention on a select group of Marines who usually take a back seat to the exploits of their fellow Marines on the battlefield. Marine Security Guards on duty at U. S. diplomatic missions in 104 countries around the

From the same scroll that provided the cover art, the tombstone of Pvt Robert Williams in Yedorary (Yokohama), Japan. Williams, a member of Brevet Maj Jacob Zeilin's USS Mississippi detachment, was the first American to be buried in Japan.



world time and again have faced riots and demonstrations directed against U. S. embassies and have responded in an exemplary manner. Their recent delaying actions at the embassies in Iran and Pakistan bought sufficient time for the destruction of most of the classified material in both missions.

The History and Museums Division has been called upon several times in the past year to provide background on the historic relationship between Marines and the State Department. The Reference Section has responded to numerous phone calls and letters inquiring about the history of Marine Corps association with the Foreign Service. In addition, it has provided the Division of Public Affairs with information needed to respond to the many press queries received on the subject.

Recent events abroad coupled with a resulting heightened interest in the history of Marine Security Guards have brought to the forefront an ongoing effort by the History and Museums Division to research and

prepare a history of Marines and the State Department. The Histories Branch had maintained and updated files on this subject in the Reference Section over the years. Then in 1976, the Marine Corps Historical Program Progress Report listed as a long-term objective the "Publication of a history of Marine activities with the State Department." This resulted in special emphasis being placed on documenting the activities of Marines at embassies abroad.

The efforts made in this regard included establishing a working relationship with the MSG Battalion to insure that detailed incident reports accompanied the command chronologies submitted to the Archives Section by the various detachments abroad. The oral history program also intensified efforts to conduct interviews with Marines returning from embassy posts where significant incidents had occurred. Official message traffic as well as media coverage concerning MSG detachments continued to be reviewed and accessioned by the Reference Section.

While these efforts were underway, research was also undertaken to examine the two-century-long, close working relationship between the Foreign Service and the Marine Corps. For 200 years American diplomats have expended much of their energies in protecting the interests and persons of American citizens in countries which did not or would not abide by the generally accepted canons of international practice. The presence of American warships, with their complements of Marines ready to land and protect American lives and property, lent credence to the representations of our local diplomatic agents. Experience quickly welded the diplomat and the Marine into an effective team for protecting American interests.

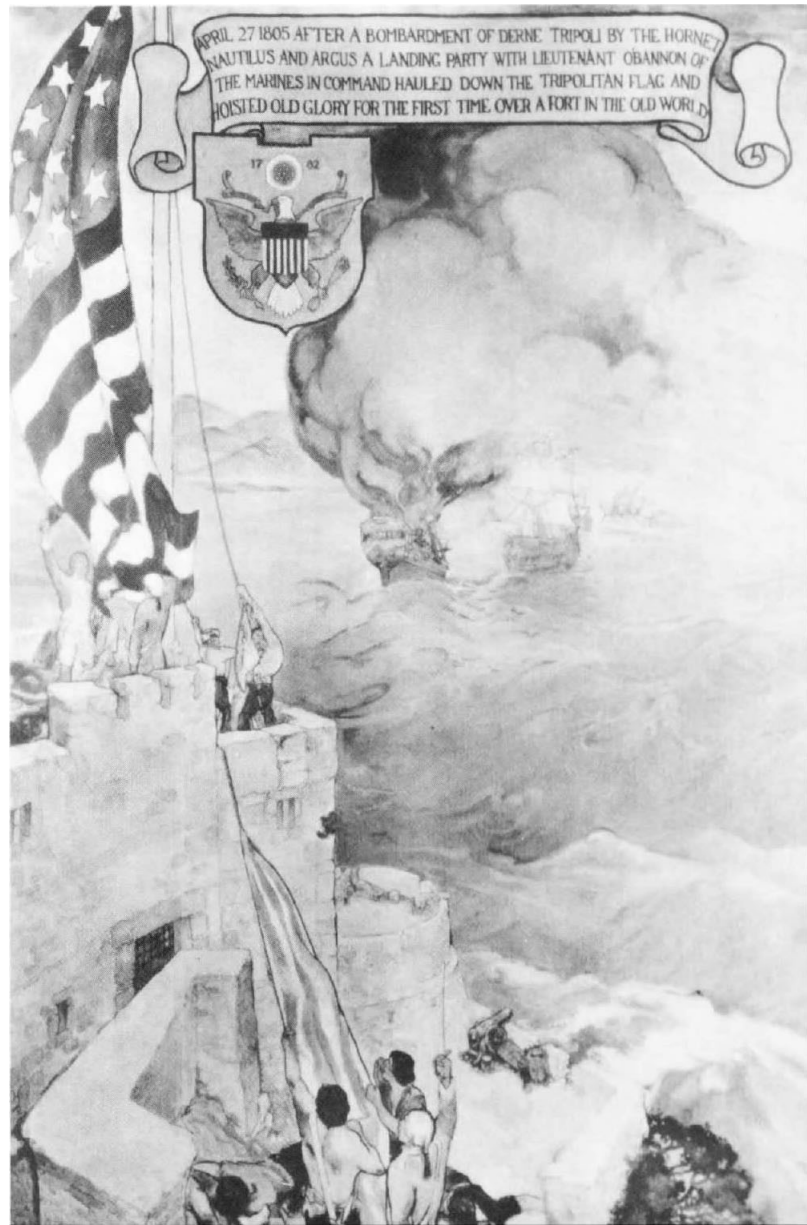
Long before the first specially trained Marine Security Guards were assigned to their embassy posts in January 1949, Marines had been called upon to defend our national honor and vital national interests. As early as 1801 in North Africa during the Tripolitanian War, the Bashaw of Tripoli, dissatisfied with his share of tribute from abroad, ordered the flagstaff cut down in front of the U. S. Consulate and declared war against the United States. Several naval battles ensued

Marines who formed the backbone of American Minister Cyrus Eaton's punitive mission to Tripoli in 1805, raise the American flag over the captured fortress of Derna. This imaginative portrayal of the events is by the late LtCol Joseph J. Capolino, USMCR.

before a small landing party of Marines, accompanied by the American Consul, Cyrus Eaton, and a rag-tag force of Greek mercenaries and Arabs, trekked 600 miles from Egypt and stormed the fort at Derna, Tripoli, supported by the fire of three American warships. This assault, along with the effects of a naval blockade, forced the Tripolitanian leader to make peace. It started the Corps' close association with the Foreign Service and provided the line "to the Shores of Tripoli" for the future Marine Hymn.

Dating from the October 1833 landing of Marines and sailors from the sloop *Natchez* at Buenos Aires, there have been numerous times when Marines landed to protect the lives and property of American citizens. Most of these were the result of a request from the local American diplomatic representative.

In July 1853 Marines of Commodore Matthew C. Perry's East India Squadron served as escort to the historic diplomatic mission to Japan. A battalion of Marines under Maj Jacob Zeilin, later to be Comman-





Capt John T. "Handsome Jack" Myers, commander of the combined Marine detachments from the USS Newark and USS Oregon that helped defend the foreign legations in Peking, 1900. Meyers retired in 1935 as a major general.

dant of the Marine Corps, landed at Yokohama with Perry after stopping en route at Okinawa and in the Bonins. Within the next year, after a second visit in February 1854, two ports were opened to trade and the modernization of Japan had begun.

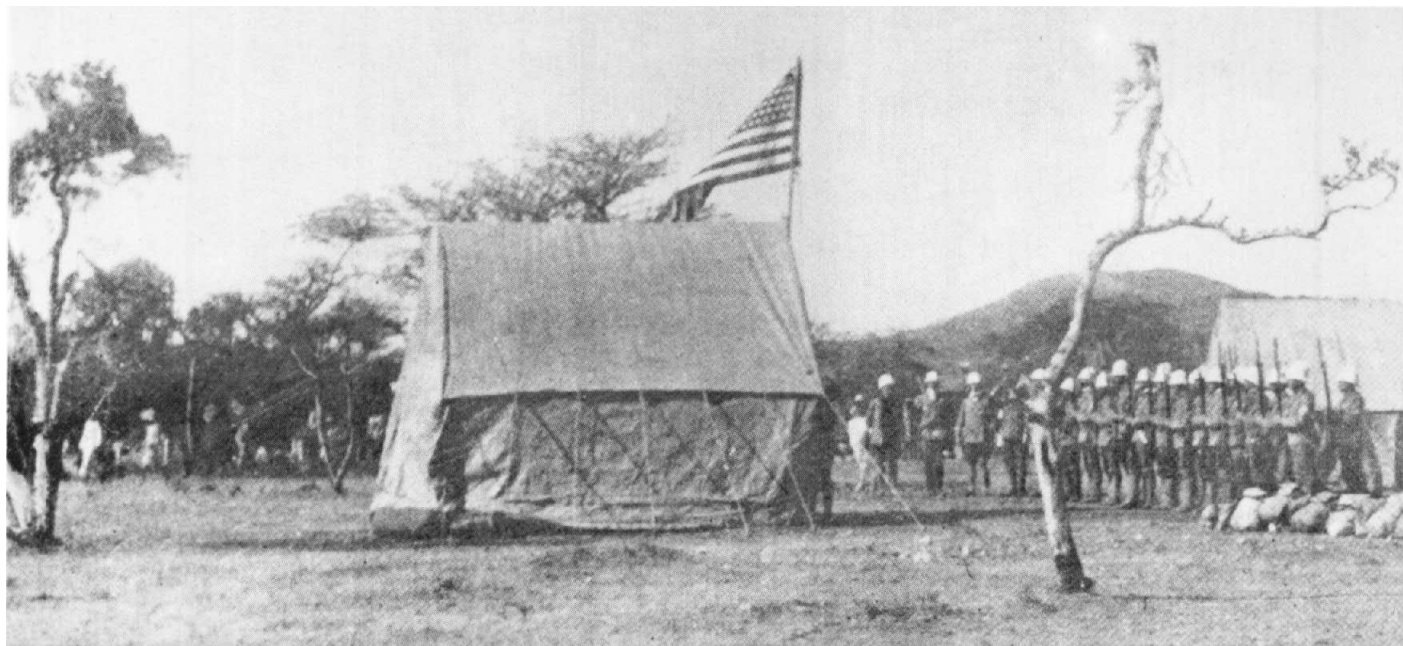
In several instances Marines landed to protect American diplomats as they did in Nicaragua in 1854. Late the previous year the American Minister to that country was assaulted and virtually kept prisoner before finally being released in San Juan del Sur (Greytown), Nicaragua. Several months later Sgt James E. Thompson and the Marine Guard of the *Cyane* along with 15 sailors were dispatched as a landing force to seek redress as the local authorities had refused to apologize for the assault. The landing party captured field pieces, muskets, and destroyed a quantity of powder before returning to the *Cyane*, wherefrom

the following day the town was bombarded and then destroyed by the same landing force.

Two years later Marines were called upon to lead the assault and capture of the barrier forts of Canton. This action was in retaliation for the unprovoked attack by the Chinese on a U.S. ship flying the American flag. Also involved was the protection of the U. S. consulate and trading stations in Canton. In 1866 the U. S. consul at Yingkow, China was assaulted by Chinese outlaws. When Chinese authorities failed to bring the culprits to justice, Marines from the *Wachusett* did and then stood guard over them until they had been tried and sentenced by the Chinese authorities. Later, in 1871, when five ships of the Asiatic Squadron were attempting to convey the American Minister to Seoul, Korea, they were fired upon by forts guarding the Han River. A landing force led by a two-company Marine battalion was landed and the forts were captured.

Perhaps the most famous incident involving Marines in support of the Foreign Service occurred in the summer of 1900. China was torn by rebellion. The rebels, known as Boxers, had shown a particular hatred for foreigners and vowed not merely to expel them but to exterminate them all. By June thousands of Boxers had laid siege to the capital and most foreigners had fled to the Legation Quarter, hoping for protection. The Boxers, however, refused to recognize diplomatic immunity and continued their attack. Fortunately, a small party of Marines, about 50 men, led by Capt John T. Myers, had managed to reach the

Honor guard of Marines in camp at Dire-Dacuah, Abyssinia (Ethiopia). This was the first camp set up by the American Diplomatic Treaty Mission to that country. It is interesting to note how little change there has been in the appearance of field tents in the intervening 77 years.

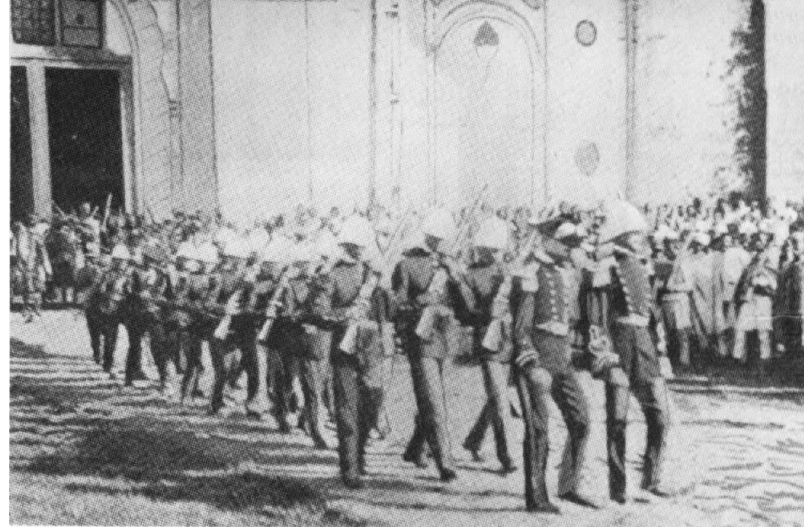


city before the perimeter closed and, with small contingents of other international troops, took up defense of the compound. Against overwhelming odds, the defenders held off hordes of fanatical Chinese for 55 days until finally relieved by a column of international forces, which again included U. S. Marines.

One of the most colorful missions during which Marines escorted American diplomats occurred in Africa in 1903. Capt George C. Thorpe commanded a detachment of 19 Marines which, along with 6 sailors, accompanied the American Consul General to Addis Ababa for the negotiation of the first treaty of commerce and friendship with Ethiopia. This odd-looking caravan of Arabs, Abyssinians, and Marines on camels and mules trekked 300 miles of Ethiopian deserts and mountains for nearly a month before reaching its destination. On the way the Marines had to put down a mutiny among the camel drivers and had to defend the party's camp against hostile tribesmen. Entering Addis Ababa in their full-dress uniforms, the Marines passed "thousands of warriors and chiefs dressed in lion or leopard skins and decorated with lion manes or ostrich feathers . . . all were well mounted on splendid Arab horses or zebra-like mules" The Emperor was quite impressed with the appearance, bearing, and excellence at drill of the Marines and presented the Menelik Medal to all the enlisted men and the Star of Ethiopia to Capt Thorpe. During the detachment's 10-day stay in the city, details for escort duty were constantly in demand as the consul general went to the palace for audiences with the Emperor or paid calls on the diplomatic corps. On the return trip the Marines convoyed two large elephant tusks and two lions, gifts to the President of the United States from the Emperor.

During World War I Marine non-commissioned officers were used by the Department of State as diplomatic couriers in Europe. This was not their first experience with courier missions, though, for back in 1846, 1stLt Archibald H. Gillespie was selected to carry dispatches from President Polk to the American Consul in California. Disguised as a Scotch-whisky salesman, Gillespie sailed to Veracruz, proceeded overland across Mexico, and finally delivered his memorized dispatches along with his observations of the conditions in Mexico.

Marine guard detachments were established in various troubled capitals for varying periods of time from 1870 to 1930. This was the case in Seoul, Korea where a legion guard was established in 1888, 1894-96, and 1904-05; in Tokyo, Japan, 1869; and



Marine guard returning from the first interview of the American Diplomatic Mission with Emperor Menelik in Addis Ababa, Abyssinia, December 1903. This heavily retouched photograph shows Capt George C. Thorpe, USMC at the head of the detail.

in Managua, Nicaragua, 1913-25. In fact, President Theodore Roosevelt, at the request of the Department of State, issued a Presidential Order just after the turn of the century which established guards at certain embassies and legations similar to those employed today.

There have been several instances in this century where individual Marines have served with distinction in diplomatic capacities. In 1918, BGen Eli K. Cole was commended for his assistance in drawing up the new Haitian constitution. Four years later, in February 1922, BGen John H. Russell was appointed as High Commissioner of the United States to Haiti with the rank of Ambassador, an unusual position for an officer of the regular service. For nearly 9 years he served in this delicate position as the direct representative of the President of the United States. Gen Thomas Holcomb is another example of the interrelationship between the Marine Corps and the Foreign Service. Having served with the Marine Legation Guard in Peking for several tours early in his career, Gen Holcomb returned to diplomatic service as American Minister to the Union of South Africa after retiring as Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1944.

In March 1946, when the United Nations established its temporary headquarters at Hunter College in



Cole, Russell, Holcomb

New York, the Marines were called upon to provide a guard force at the request of Secretary General Trygve Lie. The honor guard of 75 enlisted men and 4 officers performed their 10-month diplomatic mission with distinction as is evidenced by this letter from Lie to Secretary of the Navy James F. Forrestal:

30 December 1946

The Honorable
James F. Forrestal,
Secretary of the Navy,
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

With the approach of the end of the tour of duty which a detachment of United States Marines has served with the Secretariat of the United Nations, I should like to convey to you my personal appreciation and that of all the Member States of the United Nations for the splendid service which they have rendered during their ten-month tour of duty with us.

Their help was particularly valuable in the early days after the arrival of the Secretariat in New York, and again during the Session of the General Assembly which ended a short time ago, and I should be very grateful if you could bring to the notice of all Marine Officers, non-commissioned Officers and enlisted men who have at any time served in this detachment, our sincere appreciation of their services.

I have the honor to be Sir,
Trygve Lie
Secretary-General

The Marine Security Guard program, which today has more than 1,100 Marines serving at more than a hundred diplomatic missions around the world, had its beginnings shortly after World War II. At that time the Department of State was re-examining the problem

Then-Secretary of State Dean Rusk personally presented diplomas to the 69 graduates of the October 1961 MSG School class. He spoke to the Marines on their importance of their jobs as "Military Ambassadors."



of obtaining sufficient guards of appropriate caliber for the protection of Foreign Service posts. In a period of growing international tension, thoughts turned toward the establishment of a guard force which was alert, highly trained, and well disciplined. Section 562 of the Foreign Service Act of 1946 provided that:

The Secretary of the Navy is authorized upon request of the Secretary of State, to assign enlisted men of the Navy and the Marine Corps to serve as custodians under the supervision of the principal officer at an Embassy, legation or consulate.

After discussions between the Department of State and the Navy Department during 1948, a "Memorandum of Agreement" was signed on 15 December. In early January 1949, 83 Marines were assigned to the Foreign Service Institute for training, and on 28 January 1949 the first 15 Marines departed Washington on their assignments, 6 for Bangkok and 9 for Tangier. The program developed rapidly, and by the end of May 1949, 303 Marines were assigned as Marine Security Guards at posts throughout the world.

As the number of Marine Security Guards rose from 300 in 1949 to nearly 700 in 1953, it became increasingly apparent that an enlarged and improved training program would be to the mutual advantage of both the Department of State and the Marine Corps. An agreement was quickly reached for establishing a 4-week Marine Security Guard course which would prepare 40 to 50 Marines each month for their new assignment. The first class began its training at Henderson Hall at Headquarters Marine Corps, Arlington, Virginia, in November 1954.

Since the Marine Security Guard program has been in existence, Marines on duty at embassies around the world have had their training as Marines and as MSGs tested many times. The increasing frequency of mob action at Foreign Service installations since World War II, inspired by Cold War politics, ultra-nationalists, and more recently, terrorist groups, has resulted in an increasing emphasis on security needs. Marine watchstanders, on numerous occasions, have been the only line of resistance to riotous mobs bent on the destruction of American persons or property.

In January 1956, for example, when a mob of about 100 persons attempted to force its way into the American Consulate in Jerusalem, only the two Marines on duty stood in their way. MSgt Bertrum E. Strickling and Cpl Thomas E. Rhodes resisted the rioters with tear gas and small arms fire. Strickling was stoned by the attackers when he prevented a local policeman from lowering the American flag in the

Consulate garden in response to the crowd's demands. The heroic efforts of the Marines won the time needed for a company of Arab Legion reinforcements to arrive and disperse the mob.

Later that year a Marine guard at the American Embassy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, found himself in the midst of rifle and machinegun fire and exploding mortar rounds. While the Charge d'Affaires and his staff were absent from the embassy, a Honduran garrison quartered only 200 yards from the embassy building mutinied. The Honduran government quickly sent loyal troops to restore order and a night-long battle ensued. Sgt Lloyd E. Shank, the sole Marine on duty, stood fast despite the heavy fire which made it impossible for anyone to reinforce him. He was later commended by the Charge d'Affaires for the "coolness, calmness, composure, and good humor which he consistently maintained."

In May of 1957, the Marines of the Taipei Security Guard detachment were faced with a screaming mob of several thousand Chinese. The small Marine guard, realizing that any show of force could result in the death of the embassy staff including several women, proceeded to evacuate the staff from the building. One Marine was wounded in the evacuation.

Marine Security Guards have been wounded or injured on several other occasions over the past 30 years. In February 1961 a Marine guard was injured when a mob of 200 Africans, protesting the death of Patrice Lumumba in the Congo, stoned the American Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. In January 1962, a bomb exploded on the seventh floor of the American Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela. A Marine guard stationed near the point of explosion was injured by the blast which destroyed several rooms and shattered more than 50 windows.

A London-based MSG chats with two members of the Black Watch in the early 1950s.



Showing the effects of the 1968 Tet attack, the battle-scarred seal of the United States Embassy, Saigon, South Vietnam, is now displayed at the MSG School at Quantico, Virginia.

The recent death of Cpl Steven Crowley during the mob attack on the American Embassy at Islamabad, Pakistan, marks the fifth time that a Marine Security Guard has been killed in the line of duty. The first Marine killed while defending American embassies abroad was Sgt James Marshall, killed in Saigon during the 1968 Tet offensive. In the early morning of 31 January, a team of Viet Cong sappers armed with rocket launchers, automatic weapons, and explosive charges blasted their way into the walled compound of the United States Embassy. Over the next 6 hours, Marine guards along with military police counterattacked and repulsed the Viet Cong attackers. Sgt Marshall was killed by sniper fire during the attack which also saw four Army MPs killed and several Marines and MPs wounded. Sgt Marshall had remained on the roof throughout the fighting and had accounted for several of the Viet Cong dead and wounded.

Three years later Sgt Charles W. Tuberville was killed and four other MSGs were wounded when Communist terrorists attacked U. S. Mission personnel with hand grenades during an embassy softball game in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The attack also caused the death of an embassy employee and the wounding of six other civilian employees.

The remaining two MSG Marines killed in the line of duty were Cpl Charles McMahon, Jr., and LCpl Darwin D. Judge. Both were killed 29 April 1975 in

an artillery attack during the Saigon evacuation while providing security for the Defense Attache Office at Tan Son Nhut airport. The MSGs throughout Southeast Asia were repeatedly called upon during the spring of 1975 to perform tasks which were above and beyond the call of duty. At Da Nang, a detachment of six Marines led by SSgt Walter W. Spark III, after assisting in the destruction of classified material, led the American personnel from the consulate safely on board the SS *Pioneer Contender*. They then oversaw the loading of some 5 to 6,000 refugees and helped maintain order throughout the voyage to Cam Ranh Bay. On 29 April 1975 the general evacuation of all U. S. personnel remaining in Vietnam was announced. The six-man detachment at the American Consulate at Can Tho, led by SSgt Boyette S. Hasty, assisted in securing the consulate. They then proceeded with all American personnel by river craft down the Bassac River to the South China Sea where they were picked up by units of the Seventh Fleet.

At Saigon the MSG detachment secured the embassy against large crowds while the evacuation of 7,000 U. S. citizens and refugees proceeded. Company commander Maj James H. Kean and 10 MSGs remained in the embassy to the end completing the destruction of classified material. They were lifted by

helicopter from the roof of the embassy at approximately 0730 30 April, thereby being the last official U. S. Government personnel to leave Vietnam.

In 1976, at the unveiling of the American Foreign Service Association memorial plaque commemorating the four MSGs and two foreign service employees killed while serving at embassies in Southeast Asia, former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger lauded "the brave men of the Marine Corps with whom we have been through so much, side by side." His dedication speech pointed out, once again, the long tradition of service and association between the Marine Corps and the Foreign Service.

Today, 1,100 Marine Security Guards continue the tradition of protection of the Foreign Service. While on post, Marine Security Guards are under direct operational control of the Chief of Diplomatic Mission. The primary mission of MSGs remains the safeguarding of classified material and U.S. Government and locally hired personnel. Their duties are defensive in nature and are based on the fact that overall protection of our embassies and personnel is the responsibility of the host governments. In the recent embassy sieges, Marine Security Guards have carried out their orders to the letter.

Command Historical Sections Established

As a result of recent table of organization changes, all major Fleet Marine Force commands, Marine Amphibious Brigade (MAB) level and above, will be provided with historical sections in the event of mobilization. Members of Mobilization Training Unit (History) DC-7 are prime candidates to fill these new billets. This strengthened historical organization will greatly enhance the Corps' capability to capture historical data and material in future periods of conflict, crisis, and national emergency.

The Division's participation in the preparation of the Marine Corps Mobilization Management Plan caused a review of the Corps' historical mission during periods of conflict. Specific historical functions were identified and historical sections were established to accomplish them. Historical functions were identified as collection of artifacts (for example, enemy weapons), submission of command chronologies, conduct of field interviews, and the supervision of combat art and combat photography programs. Historical sections were established at Fleet Marine Force, Marine Amphibious Force, Division, Wing, Force Service Support

Group (FSSG), and MAB levels. Heretofore, only FMFPac and III MAF contained historical sections, neither manned, and both reflecting an outmoded, Vietnam-era organization.

Historical officers, who will be special staff officers reporting to the chief of staff, will range in rank from colonel to major/captain and all but the FSSG and MAB will be provided with an assistant historical officer. The three- to five-man sections will include both administrative and photographic capabilities. Sections normally will be activated only during conflict, national emergency, or mobilization, and will not affect the peacetime manning level of the Marine Corps.

MTU (Hist) DC-7, the Reserve historians' unit, will be tasked with the preparation of standing operating procedures (SOP) and orders for historical sections and with identifying members to fill historical section mobilization billets. One or more sections may be activated for brief periods to test the adequacy of SOPs during a NATO exercise or a major joint-Service exercise in the United States such as the annual Solid Shield exercise at Camp Lejeune.

Oral History Report

BGen Victor F. Bleasdale, USMC (Ret.) whose permanent home is in London, called at the Marine Corps Historical Center in December, and was interviewed about his Marine Corps career. This well-decorated veteran of World Wars I and II enlisted in the Marine Corps on 14 May 1915, compelled to do so, he said, in reaction to the sinking of the *Lusitania* just a week earlier.



BGen Bleasdale

Gen Bleasdale reminisced about his pre-World War I tours in Norfolk and Haiti and his assignment to the 15th Company, 6th Machine Gun Battalion, in which he served both as an enlisted Marine and later as an officer after he received a battlefield commission. Gen Bleasdale participated in all the major battles in which the 4th Brigade was engaged, during the course of which his performance under fire rated the awards of a Navy Cross, an Army Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star, and the Croix de Guerre with Palm. Coincidentally, his brother, who served with the 3d Infantry Division, was also awarded the DSC, the Croix de Guerre, and a Purple Heart. It is believed the Bleasdales were the only pair of brothers who were so similarly decorated in World War I. Gen Bleasdale was awarded a second Navy Cross in 1927 in Nicaragua.

During the interwar years he acquired quite a reputation in the Marine Corps as a machinegun expert. At the outbreak of World War II, Gen Bleasdale was chief of staff of the 2d Brigade and accompanied it to Samoa. Little more than a year after arriving in the Pacific, he was transferred to Camp Lejeune to become chief of staff of the training center there, a billet he filled until August 1944, when he assumed command of the 29th Marines and the next year led it in battle on Okinawa. Following a full 31-year career, Gen Bleasdale retired in November 1946 and devoted himself to world travel. He moved to London in 1950.

In the fall of 1978, Gen Bleasdale led then-LtCol Richard H. Esau, Assistant Naval Attache in London,

and several others on an historic walk of Belleau Wood. (See *Fortitudine*, Winter 1978-79.) LtCol Esau taped Gen Bleasdale's on-the-scene reminiscences of his experiences there 60 years earlier. It was noted that although Gen Degoutte, commanding the French Sixth Army, decreed on 30 June 1918 "Henceforth, in all official papers Belleau Wood shall bear the name, 'Bois de la Brigade de Marine,'" on the 1961 and 1975 official maps published by the French Institut Geographique National, the World War I scene of fighting is still designated "Bois de Belleau."

Another interview recently completed was one with BGen Robert C. Kilmartin, USMC (Ret.), long a Marine Corps legal expert and remembered by his Basic School students in their oral history memoirs with great respect and affection. A native of the District of Columbia, Gen Kilmartin recalled how, as a young second lieutenant, he was detailed to the very important job as legal aide to BGen Harry Lee, the Military Governor of Santo Domingo. Other equally important assignments followed during his career. He was with the 1st Brigade at Guantanamo when it was redesignated the 1st Marine Division in February 1941 and as Division G-1, was very close to Gen Vandegrift, the division commander. At the time of the Guadalcanal landing, Gen Kilmartin was assigned as chief of staff of BGen William H. Rupertus' ADC group in the assault on Tulagi. Like Gen Bleasdale's interview, Gen Kilmartin's has yet to be transcribed and otherwise processed before accession into the Oral History Collection.

One recently accessioned interview is with Col Ralph M. Wismer, USMC (Ret.) whose Marine Corps service was from 1939 to 1966. A communications specialist for most his career, Col Wismer's interview contains many insights into that specialty, with com-



BGen Kilmartin



Col Wismer



LtGen Axtell



Gen Wilson



MajGen Puryear



Col Heinl

ments on the development of equipment, training of personnel, and the Marine Corps communications experience in the two wars in which he served. His final assignment was as commander of the Marine Barracks, Fort Meade, where he was instrumental in organizing a drum and bugle corps and an historic pageant which appeared at Fort McHenry to wide acclaim.

Another recently completed interview is one conducted with retired LtGen George C. Axtell to support the on-going Vietnam history writing program. The interview is concerned solely with Gen Axtell's tour of duty in Vietnam with III MAF as chief of staff and then commander of Force Logistics Command.

Prior to his retirement last July, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Louis H. Wilson, began a series of interviews with BGen Simmons. Because the interview was not completed before Gen Wilson retired, the Director plans to visit him in Mississippi in February to finish off the sessions.

Mr. Frank has begun interviews with BGen Gordon D. Gayle and Robert H. Williams, and MajGen Bennet Puryear. As these interviews are completed and accessioned, the contents of each will be discussed in future issues of *Fortitudine*.

An interview which, unfortunately, will never be completed is one begun in June 1972 with the late Col Robert D. Heinl, Jr., whose untimely and deeply regretted death precluded such an eventuality. After 28 interview sessions, resulting in more than 1,400 pages of transcript, Col Heinl had only reached that time in his career prior to his detachment from Quantico for service in Korea. Mrs. Nancy Heinl has agreed to review the transcript and to complete the interview with her own reminiscences of that portion of Col Heinl's career we were unable to record.

In this section of earlier issues of *Fortitudine*, mention has been made of the close cooperation between the Marine Security Guard Battalion and the History and Museums Division on a project of mutual interest. Recently returned Marine security guards are sent to the Oral History Section to be interviewed about their experiences at State Department posts overseas. These interviews not only provide the battalion with an extremely interesting and valuable collection of lessons learned, they also support a projected history of Marines as State Department guards to be prepared by this division. Upon his return to this country, we interviewed GySgt Willie Sutton, who was the NCOIC of the Tehran detachment during the February 1979 takeover of the embassy. More recently, Sgts David Walker, Ladell Maples, and William Quarles, and Cpl Westley Williams, the four Marine hostages expelled from Iran in November, were interviewed in the Historical Center. Also interviewed in December was MSgt Loyd G. Miller, the NCOIC of the detachment in Islamabad, Pakistan, at the time of the sacking and burning of our embassy there. The contents of these interviews, as well as those conducted with security guards who served in such faraway places as Peking, Nicosia, Beirut, Havana, Asmara, and Taipei present a living picture of discipline and devotion to duty.

BMF



BGen Gayle



BGen Williams

VMA-311 Revisited

Response to the five squadron histories recently published by the History and Museums Division (*Fortitudine*, spring 1979) has been gratifying. New information plus correction of the record has come from former squadron members and commanding officers. This data has been added to our research files, is available to researchers, and will be incorporated in future editions of the squadrons' histories.

Rather than publish these sometimes lengthy letters in our *Readers Always Write* department, we have decided to incorporate the essence of letters written about particular squadrons in article form. This issue features VMA-311. As correspondence regarding the other squadrons' histories accumulates, they too will be treated in the same manner.

Col Harry B. Hooper, Jr., as a major, commanded VMF-311 from 1 June to 22 October 1942 and retired in 1962. He was extremely helpful as a commentator on the VMA-311 manuscript and provided the author, Maj William J. Sambito, with useful information and photographs, some of which were incorporated in the history.

A post-publication letter from Col Hooper made the following points:

Major Sambito's comments relative to "stability of leadership" are well taken. To set the records straight, however, in July and August 1943 I was in VMF-422 in Santa Barbara—not in VMF-311 (pg 3). In mid-September the then Lt. Col. Rottet got me transferred back into VMF-311 while MAG-31 was in San Diego awaiting shipment to Samoa. So there was a break in my command of VMF-311 of two months. In March 1943 I flew and trained with the squadron but as the S-3 of MAG-31 and did so until taking over as Squadron Commander on June 1, 1943. So except for the above two months I had the opportunity to work, fly and train with a group of officers and men who were to be together for a 20 month period. Having later commanded three other VMF's and MAG-33 I can say that I never had the opportunity to realize the benefits of stability of personnel and leadership. It is a very important factor that goes a long way towards improving combat efficiency.

After reading Col Hooper's comments, we retreated to the Reference Section and re-researched VMA-311's muster rolls for the July-September 1943 period. Much to our chagrin we discovered that Maj Jack D. Kane, who had been commanding officer of the "Tomcats" prior to Col Hooper, replaced him



Korean War-era VMF-311 patch donated by BGen John F. Kinney, USMC (Ret)

as commanding officer from 6 July to 13 September, at which time Col Hooper returned as commanding officer. Our apologies to Maj Kane for the oversight; we have made the necessary correction to our reference files.

Col Hooper also amplified the history regarding VMA-311's switch from the fighter to the attack role.

Without getting too long-winded, hopefully, I would like to mention some of our early VMF-311's work in developing attack (rather than fighter) tactics. Charles Lindberg, in his *Wartime Journals* (Publisher Howard G. Jovanovich Inc.) devoted several pages to VMF-311's efforts to improve the bombing capability of the F4U in the field.

Because of the lack of enemy air resistance in the Central Pacific area VMF-311 turned to attack missions using bombs on 14 May 1944 as correctly stated on page 5. At that period we had received our newer version of the F4U with modifications that included a centerline bomb rack. VMF-311's 1stLt (later Capt) Francis Clark, a pilot and an excellent engineering officer, modified three of our planes so that they could carry three bombs instead of only one. By removing the two catapult hooks Clark made a very professional in-the-field modification so that the three bombs could be carried and selectively dropped. As we started

testing increasingly larger bomb loads the Group Commander limited us to three 500 bombs. Very shortly after this Charles Lindberg happened by and became interested in our test work. He flew with VMF-311 for about 2 weeks working with one of our modified planes and Clark. On his final flight he dropped a 2,000 pound GP bomb and two 1,000 pound GP bombs on enemy held positions on Wotje Island.

While Col Hooper admits to our facts about his taking some hits from Japanese anti-aircraft gunners, he denied ever ditching a plane.

Here is a correction of the records. On page 5, first column, the history states "Major Hooper . . . ditched. . . ." While I was hit on a number of occasions and was on that flight on that date, I never have ditched a plane (luckily). The event that was described was the first of the two times that Capt Mike Curran was shot down. Later, the history describes his last flight. On this flight, however, I covered Mike after his water landing on the windward side of Wotje. Later, when Dumbo (a PBY) arrived, the water was too rough for a landing so I turned over the watch to them and returned to base. Much later a destroyer arrived and picked Mike out of the water, but not until after it had taken a direct hit from the shore batteries on Wotje. There were casualties on board the destroyer.

BGen John F. Kinney commanded the squadron as a lieutenant colonel from 11 March to 27 July 1951. He provided us with his account of the Siniju Airfield mission, which was mentioned on page 18 of the history, and gave us some insight into the tactics utilized by the VMA-311 aircraft.

I was asked by General Partridge of the 5th Air Force if we would lead the attack. The MiGs were not too familiar with the F9F's since the Yalu River area was beyond their normal range. I made some calculations and decided that we could spend at least 15 minutes in the area if we stayed above 35,000 feet. Our mission was to arrive first, fly up and down our side of the river and try to suck the MiGs up to chase us; This was planned to get the MiGs to use up their fuel before the AD's, F4U's, F-51's and other attack aircraft arrived. Our squadron of F9F's was to be relieved by F-86's and F-84's.

The only way that VMF-311 could perform this mission was to make our take off in two plane sections and proceed

directly on course and to 40,000 feet. As my section reached planned altitude, we reduced power to wait for the following sections. In this plan we were all joined before we crossed the bomb line. The reason for this was fuel savings and the fact that GCA was limited to launching and landing two aircraft at a time in instrument weather; the field width was limited. We were towed to the end of the runway and started in pairs there was no spare fuel to make a circle for the rendezvous. The mission went as planned; General Partridge observed our operations from a judicious distance in his TV-2, calling out as another group of MiGs took off to accept the bait. Fortunately for VMF-311, the MiGs flew up and down their side of the river expending their fuel. They seemed confused. The mission was a complete success; VMF-311 had lead the largest coordinated raid of the Korean War to that date. No aircraft were lost in the raid and considerable damage was inflicted on the aircraft on the airfields being readied on this side of the Yalu.

The general also included a copy of a *Stars and Stripes* which described the attack and a VMA-311 patch from Korea.

BGen Henry W. Hise, executive officer of VMF-311 from March to August 1952, served 1 week, 3-9 June 1952, as its commanding officer. He provided us with the story of the "hairiest flight", found on page 23 of the history, and took the time to philosophize about WW II:

There was a feature of World War II that Korea and Vietnam did not have. That was the uncertainty of the outcome. There was no doubt in the latter two wars about the ability of the nation to survive. Personal survival is always a concern, but nothing I experienced ever compared with the intensity, effort, and uncertainty of the first few days on Guadalcanal. The Midway veterans who were in MAG-23 thought that the Japanese aircraft were greatly superior to ours and they felt we were on a kind of suicide mission. After that myth was dispelled everything in combat zones got easier until officers in the General's mess, in Vietnam, could "bitch" if the steak was tough or the sourdough biscuits a little hard. I sometimes wonder what would happen to our present combat forces if their supply lines were broken for a week .

We thank those Marines who took the time to comment on the history of VMA-311 and welcome further comment on all published squadron histories.

The five squadron histories published to date are available for purchase from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. All are soft cover.

<i>A History of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161</i>	\$2.40	008-055-00130-7
<i>A History of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 312</i>	\$1.50	008-055-00131-5
<i>A History of Marine Attack Squadron 223</i>	\$1.80	008-055-00132-3
<i>A History of Marine Attack Squadron 311</i>	\$2.75	008-055-00133-1
<i>A History of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232</i>	\$1.50	008-055-00134-0

Events at the Center

MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

The first meeting of the elected Board of Directors of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation was held at the Historical Center on 3 December 1979. The busy meeting, which was open to all Foundation members, was attended by more than 45 of them and their guests. Prior to the business portion of the meeting, Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Honorary Chairman of the Foundation, greeted the attendees and commented on the membership drive, relating this to the organization's future financial condition.

As MajGen Donald M. Weller, acting Foundation president, was unavoidably detained until late in the morning, acting vice president, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum of the directors, elected earlier by mail ballot, was present.

The directors so elected are:

(For 1 year terms) MajGen Donald M. Weller, Col Franklin B. Nihart, Col Thomas M. D'Andrea, Mr. Robert L. Sherrod, and Mr. Benis M. Frank.

(For 2 year terms) BGen Samuel R. Shaw, Col Archie J. Clapp, Col Barry Zorthian, Col Herbert M. Hart, and Mr. J. Robert Moskin.

(For 3 year terms) LtGen Donn J. Robertson, MajGen John P. Condon, BGen Frederick P. Henderson, BGen Gordon D. Gayle, and Mr. William R. Crim.

Based on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee, the following officers were elected by the directors: MajGen Donald M. Weller, President; BGen Edwin H. Simmons, Vice President; Mr. Gordon F. Heim, Treasurer; and Mr. Henry I. Shaw, Jr., Secretary. By presidential appointment, BGen James F. Lawrence became Foundation Counsel.

In his report, Secretary Shaw noted that as of 30 November the Foundation had 101 members, of which five (Mr. Crim, Col Nihart, Mr. Moskin, BGen Richard Hayward, and Col Patrick Kirby) were sustaining members. (As of 30 January, the Foundation listed 183 members.) Mr. Shaw also noted the fact that Mr. Crim had made a special contribution to the

Foundation in memory of the late Col Robert D. Heinl, Jr., one of the Foundation's nine founding members. The Directors later voted to use this donation for a membership for Mrs. Nancy Heinl, Col Heinl's widow.

Other business conducted at this time included consideration and approval of Treasurer Gordon Heim's report, and a change in the Articles of Incorporation to bring them into complete conformity with IRS requirements for a non-profit educational organization.

Mrs. Robert Simmons next reported on the operation of the Museum Shop, which now comes under the direct cognizance of the Foundation.

Following the adjournment of the business meeting, Gen Simmons and his staff briefed Foundation members on the status of the historical program overall and on individual programs such as those of the Marine Corps Museum, the Aviation Museum, and Oral History.

The Foundation's program for the day ended with a luncheon buffet followed by a tour of the Historical Center by those Foundation members who had not previously visited it.

ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES, AND PROMOTIONS

Three long-standing vacancies in the Historical Center's staff have been filled in the past few months. Mr. Robert J. Cressman, who has worked for the past 3 years in the Naval Historical Center's Ships Histories Branch, has joined the Reference Section as Dr. Martin Gordon's replacement. Mr. Cressman holds his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of Maryland and has been a prolific writer on naval subjects in a variety of journals.

Mr. V. Keith Fleming, Jr., a history PhD candidate at Ohio State, whose dissertation will concern itself with the Marine Corps response to the Ribbon Creek incident, has joined the Histories Section as Dr. Graham Cosmas' replacement. Mr. Fleming has 3 years of Marine Corps enlisted service and 10 years of commissioned service. He served as an infantry platoon leader in the Dominican Republic in 1965 and as an infantry company commander in Vietnam in 1966-67. Following his Marine Corps service, he obtained a BA and MA in anthropology from the University of Alabama.

Mr. Robert E. Struder has filled the position of Publications Production Editor vacated by Mr.

Douglas Johnston. Mr. Struder, who was a newspaper editor during his 1962-1965 Army service, has held several editorial positions with the Alexandria, Virginia, *Gazette* and automobile industry house organs and was the managing editor of the *Journal of Personalized Instruction* for the past 5 years.

Three new Marines, two assigned to the Administrative Section, have joined the Division in the past few months. Sgt Anthony Rogers, a supply clerk, transferred to the Center from the staff of the Marine Security Guard Battalion. Clerk-typist Cpl Michael S. Dotson's most recent duty was with the S-1 Section, 1st Tracked Vehicle Battalion on Okinawa. Cpl Marvin D. Hale, a clerk-typist assigned to the Museums Branch, also came from Okinawa, where he served with the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines.

Col John E. Greenwood, Deputy Director for Marine Corps History and Head, Historical Branch for the past 2½ years, has put in for retirement and is now on terminal leave. Col Greenwood, as of 15 January, became the new editor of the *Marine Corps Gazette*, professional journal of the Marine Corps Association. Col Greenwood, who completely reorganized and regularized the Marine Corps' sitenaming program and was responsible for a number of innovative design and layout concepts for Center publications, will be sorely missed. His Marine Corps career encompassed over 30 years, including enlisted service at the end of WW II, the Naval Academy (Class of 1950), combat service in Korea (with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines) and Vietnam (commanding 1st Battalion, 27th Marines and the 4th Combined Action Group), Marine Corps aide to Secretary of the Navy John Warner, and commanding officer of the 2d Marines. Mr. Shaw has assumed Col Greenwood's duties.

SSgt Garland L. Hamilton, who was the illustrator in the Exhibits Section, has been transferred to the Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Arizona.

Gunnery Sergeant Jerry L. Jakes, who was the illustrator in the Publications Production Section, is now assigned to the Command Center, Operations and Training Department, HQMC.

All the Center's assigned enlisted Marines are now non-commissioned officers. Cpl Paul W. Gibson, a typesetter in the Publications Production Section, was promoted in November.

In January, CWO3 Robert M. Skidmore, the Division's Administrative Officer, was promoted to CWO4, the highest grade of commissioned warrant officer, with his wife, Gayle, and Gen Simmons pinning on his new bars.

RESEARCH

Since the last issue of *Fortitudine*, 67 researchers have availed themselves of the Center's facilities. As usual, the purpose of their research varied widely and included personal, commercial, academic, and governmental reasons.

Researchers have come from the *Chicago Tribune*, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, *Bill Moyer's Journal*, the 2d MarDiv Association, *Surface Warfare Magazine*, the Marine Corps Institute, Command and Staff College, the *National Geographic Magazine*, the U.S. Army Center of Military History, Systems Planning Corporation, Time-Life Books, American Data Research, the University of Massachusetts, the Naval Investigative Service, the Navy Nuclear Test Personnel Review Board, the Vietnam Veterans Association, Cornell University, the U.S. Naval Academy, The Basic School, Nippon Television, Andrews Air Force Base, WNET/13, World Photo Press, the 6th ROC Association, the National Rifle Association, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, The Institute de Savegard du Patrimoine National, the Dorchester Historical Society, and the Marine Barracks, Earle, New Jersey.

Subjects researched covered a broad range and included participants in nuclear tests, the Marine landing at Da Nang, VMFA-232 and VMF-115, muster rolls from 1910 to 1930, Marine communications, POW repatriation, the Saipan invasion, amphibian tractor battalions, 5th MarDiv Japanese language personnel, the *4th Marines Annual*, Tarawa, 3d Reconnaissance Battalion 1965-1966, medals and recruiting posters, close air support, Perry's Japan expedition art, USMC contingency operations (Dominican Republic and Lebanon), China Marines, camouflage, past directors of the Education Center, MABS-32, the Korean War, the Marine Corps of the 1920s and 1930s, Nagasaki and Hiroshima studies, New Caledonia, the 5th MarDiv (RVN, 1966-1968), Haitian-American relations, the 1st MarDiv (RVN, 1968), current Marine Corps aircraft and individual weapons, Japan's Imperial family, WW II armor, VMFA-321, the M103 heavy tank, RF4-B aircraft, WW I Marines, LtGen Pedro A. del Valle, the M-16 rifle, tanks in Korea and Vietnam, III MAF and MACV command relationships, restoration and identification of Haitian monuments during the U.S. occupation, Khe Sanh and Hue, and the 2d Topographic Company.

MARINE MOVIES

As a result of Mr. Lawrence Suid's Marine Corps Historical Research Grant project to develop a catalog of Marine-oriented commercial, documentary, and training films (See *Fortitudine*, Winter 1977-1978), the History and Museums Division decided to create a collection of commercially produced feature films in which Marines have either appeared or have been portrayed. This collection is to be used for research and study of the development of the Marine image as perceived by the public through films. Also to be part of the collection are Marine Corps-made documentary and training films.

Once Mr. Suid had identified the commercial films, the Director wrote letters to the heads of a number of studios requesting the donation of Marine Corps-related films they had made. Response to these requests generally has been favorable and the Division has already received such films as "The Outsider," the story of Ira Hayes starring Tony Curtis, "The D.I.," with Jack Webb, and "Battle Cry," featuring Van Heflin and James Whitmore—himself a WW II Marine who served in the Pacific with the 4th MarDiv. A copy of "The Unbeliever," a silent film made by Edison Studios in 1917, was purchased earlier from the Library of Congress. It is anticipated that as this collection slowly grows, provisions will be made for the viewing and study of the films in the Marine Corps Historical Center.

REPRINTS OF INTEREST

Two books of general interest to Marines recently have been republished. Both are available from The Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company of America, 1958 Old Annapolis Boulevard, Annapolis, Maryland 21402.

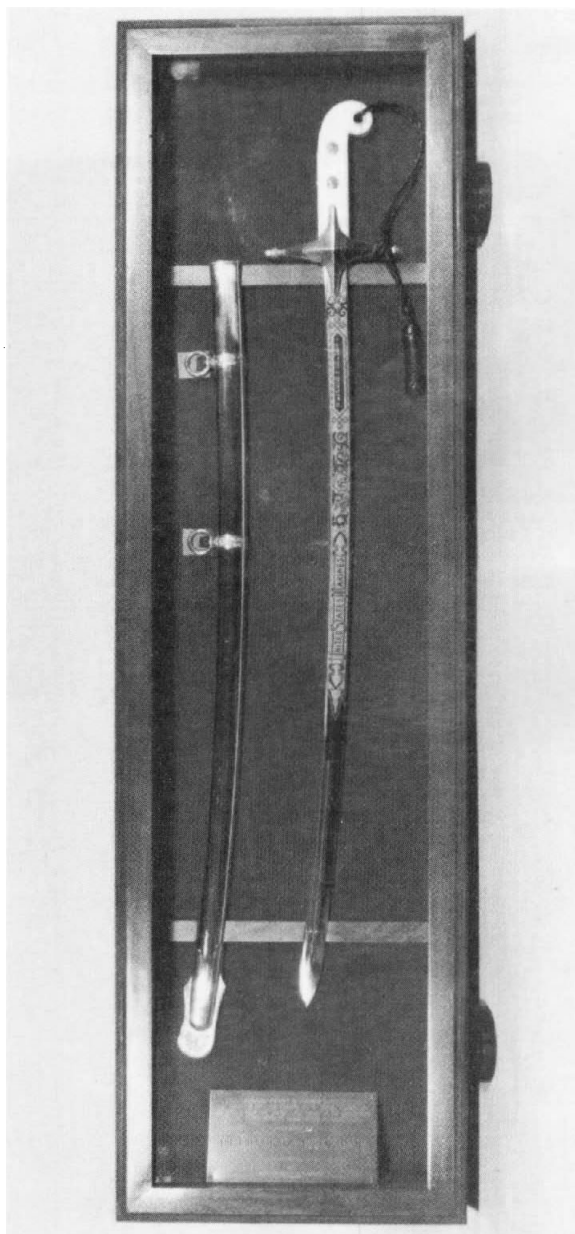
The Battle for Guadalcanal, BGen Samuel B. Griffith II, USMC (Ret.), hardback, 282 pp, maps, 1979. definitive account of the battle by the XO and, later, CO of the 1st Marine Raider Battalion. \$15.95.

Victory at High Tide, Col Robert Debs Heintz, Jr., USMC (Ret.), hardback, 307 pp, maps and charts, 1979. Brilliant account of the 1st Marine Division's epic landing at Inchon and subsequent drive to recapture Seoul written against a backdrop of national strategy, politics, and inter-Service rivalry. \$16.95.

O'BANNON'S SWORD

The latest U.S. Navy ship to bear the name of a

Marine is the destroyer USS *O'Bannon* (DD 987), which commemorates 1stLt Presley N. O'Bannon, conqueror of Derna, Tripoli, in 1805. Commissioned on 15 December 1979 at Pascagoula, Mississippi by Mrs. Robert H. Barrow, wife of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the *O'Bannon's* wardroom displays a Marine officer's sword in a custom-built walnut case. The Barrows donated the sword which, like all Marine officers' swords, is patterned after the Mameluke scimitar presented to O'Bannon by Hamet Karamanli, while the case was designed and crafted by the Marine Corps Museum's Exhibit Section.



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Quantico. Individuals desiring their own personal copies, however, are invited to fill out, staple, and mail the below form.

<p style="text-align: center;">Fold Here</p> <p>Please send to me at the below address: () FORTITUDE: Newsletter of the Marine Corps Historical Program.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Rank & Component _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">zip code _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cut Here</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cut Here</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY History and Museums Division (Code HD) Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps Washington, D. C. 20380</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OFFICIAL BUSINESS PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300</p> <p style="text-align: center;">POSTAGE AND FEES PAID DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY DOD-317</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p style="text-align: center;">History and Museums Division (Code HD) Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps Washington, D. C. 20380</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NAVMC 10886 (REV. 1-73) (2700) SN: 0900-004-0103</p>
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