

# FORTITUDINE

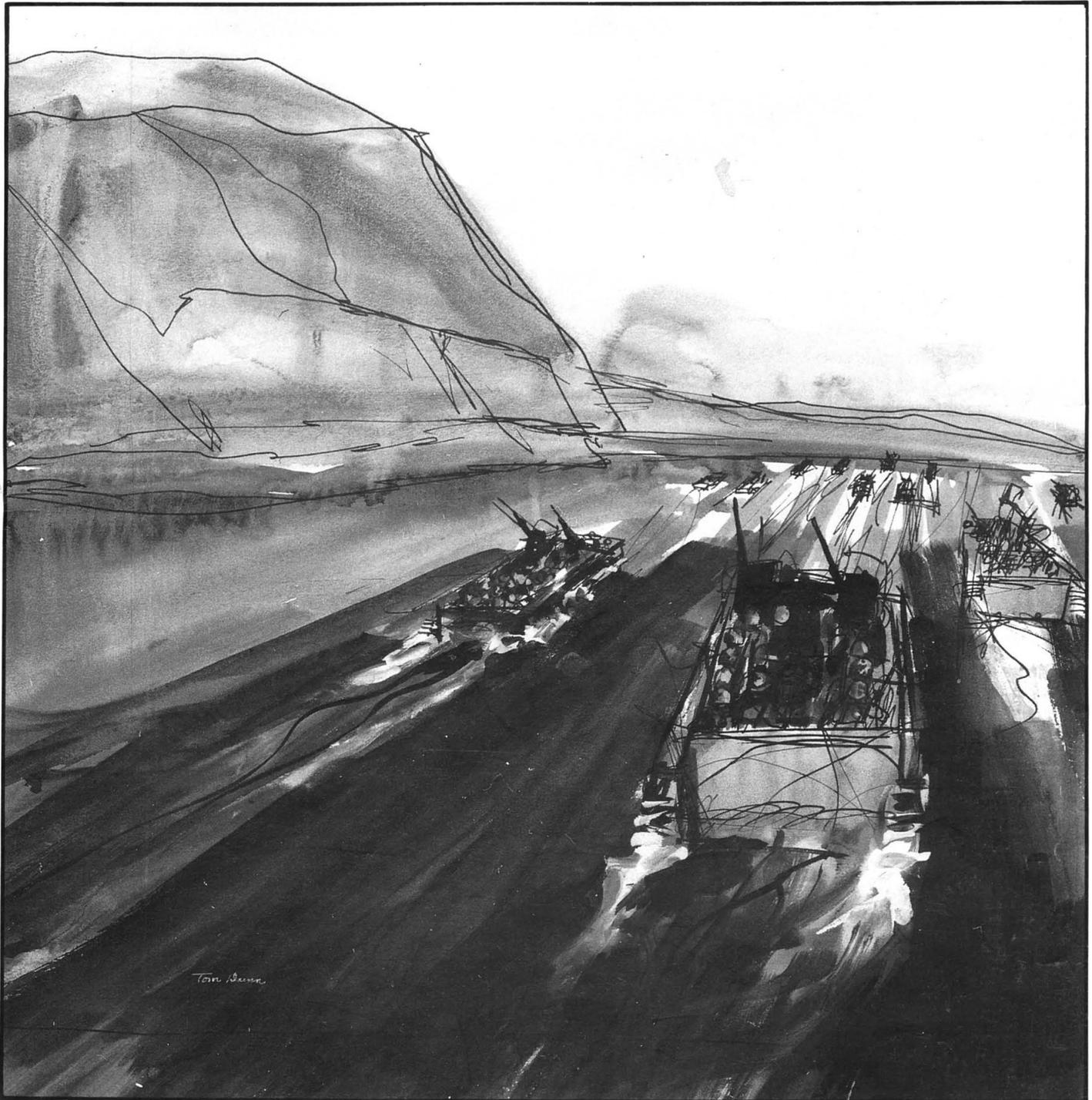
BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXVI

WINTER 1996-1997

NUMBER 3

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'ALLIGATOR MACHINES AND MARINES' SUBJECTS OF NEW LVT MUSEUM AT CAMP DEL MAR . . . TRIBUTE TO A SCHOLARLY AND GENTLEMANLY MARINE, MAJOR GENERAL JOHN P. CONDON . . . NEW BATTLE HONORS ADDED TO 'IWO JIMA MEMORIAL' . . . GEN BARNETT'S MEDALS, SOME NOW HARD TO FIND, GO TO MUSEUM

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*Senior Editor/Editor, Fortitudine*

# FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Volume XXVI

Winter 1996-1997

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This quarterly bulletin of the Marine Corps historical program is published for Marines, at the rate of one copy for every nine on active duty, to provide education and training in the uses of military and Marine Corps history. Other interested readers may purchase single copies or four-issue subscriptions from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. The appropriate order form appears in this issue.

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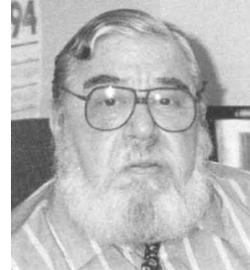
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## ABOUT THE COVER

"Alligator Landing Craft" loaded with assault Marines move toward a Pacific island beach in this pen-and-ink drawing with watercolor wash by combat artist Tom Dunn, completed in the late 1940s. "Alligator Machines and Marines" are the subjects of the new World War II and Korean War IVT Museum, created by the Assault Amphibian School Battalion at Camp Del Mar at Camp Pendleton, California. Historian Charles R. Smith describes this new museum facility and its complement of fully restored Landing Vehicles, Tracked, in a feature beginning on page 12. Elsewhere in the issue, Chief Historian Benis M. Frank recommends that Marine veterans get busy writing the histories of their battalion- and company-level units, before these memories pass into oblivion, in the article beginning on page 14.

*Fortitudine* is produced in the Editing and Design Section of the History and Museums Division. The text for *Fortitudine* is set in 10-point and 8-point Garamond typeface. Headlines are in 18-point or 24-point Garamond. The bulletin is printed on 70-pound, matte-coated paper by offset lithography.

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Benis M. Frank

## An Eagle is Downed: Major General John P. Condon

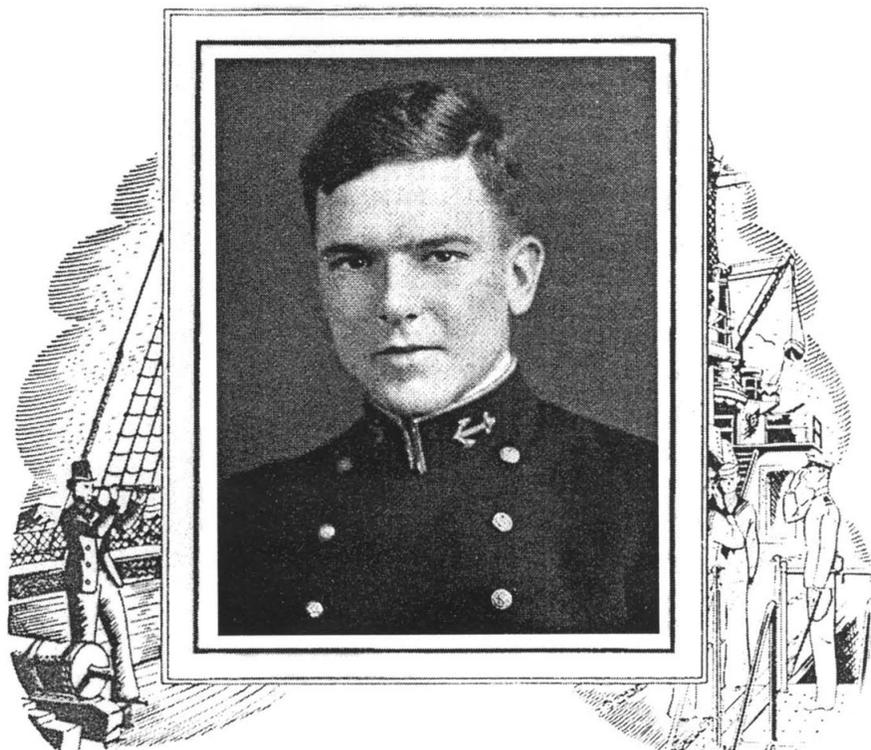
RETIRED VETERAN Marine aviator MajGen John Pomeroy Condon died of an aneurysm and lymphoma at his home in Alexandria, Virginia, on 26 December 1966, just six days after his 85th birthday.

Gen Condon was a native of the upper peninsula of Michigan, where it was often said that "Summer was on Tuesday this year." He became interested in the United States Naval Academy early as a result of knowing of the experiences of other young men of the area who were attending. He first went to Severn School, in Severn, Maryland, a famed preparatory school which graduated many candidates for entry into either the United States Military or United States Naval Academy.

Easily passing the entrance examinations, Condon entered the Naval Academy in June 1930 with the rest of the Class of 1934. He said, in his oral history, that the most influential factor in his choice to become a Marine was the presence of his roommate, Philip H. Torrey, Jr., son of Marine MajGen Philip H. "Philip the Hard" Torrey. Of his classmates, those who opted to become Marines were Victor H. "Brute" Krulak, Frank Tharin, Harold O. "Hap" Deakin, Ralph "Rollo" Rottet, and Henry W. "Bill" Buse, among others. All of these men eventually became general officers.

GEN CONDON HAD very warm memories of his time at the Academy, and often agonized about the hard times that it has come upon as a result of the recent flurry of unfavorable publicity about certain incidents occurring there. In his years, he was the captain of the lacrosse team, and, in fact, was elected to the All-American lacrosse team.

Following graduation and commissioning, as were all new second lieutenants, Gen Condon was assigned to Basic School, which, at the time, was located in the Philadelphia Navy Yard. His was a remarkably small class of 35 boot lieutenants, in fact the last small Basic School class in modern history. His first assignment was



JOHN POMEROY CONDON  
"Johnny" "Chippewa" "Ogpa"  
HOUGHTON, MICH.

FROM the icy land of furs, copper and Paul Bunyan phantasmagoria comes the black haired John Pomeroy Condon. Deserting his tribesmen, he donned his snowshoes and set out on the long trek to the Naval College.

A versatile athlete, he has reached the acme of his desire, that of captaining the lacrosse team. The beautiful legged Apollo can be seen any afternoon, mesmerized by the copper faced god, Lacrosse, grunting, sweating and pirouetting with a grace which would have inspired the envy of the Chippewa who must have been his very close neighbors.

Coming from the *Ancien Nobless* of the Upper Peninsula he has the persuasive charm of a Chesterfield which gives him ready access to the hearts of Gynocracy the world over. Of late he has become more or less monogynous, but, as far as we know, he has not yet been bound by the *vinculum matrimonii*.

Aside from all the verbage, Johnny has the respect, admiration and friendship of his classmates. He is a true friend and has a smile for everyone. *Honi soit qui mal lui pense.*

Lacrosse 4, 3, 2, 1. "N" 3, 2, 1. Captain 1. Football 4.  
G. P. O.



in the USS *Pennsylvania*, to the Marine detachment commanded by Capt Emery Ellsworth "Swede" Larson, who was well known for his exploits as both football coach and player on the famous Quantico teams of the early 1930s. Gen Condon really wanted to go into flight training, and, in fact, had orders to Pensacola for the February 1935 class. Capt Larson talked him out of accepting them because he felt that young Lt Condon should experience duty with the ground forces before learning to fly. After his cruise in the *Pennsylvania*, in June 1936 he was assigned to command the machine gun platoon of Company H, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines. His decision regarding his future was quickly made, for as he recalls in his taped memoirs:

After a few mornings of turning out for troop and inspection with my . . . platoon and, instead of finding four [machine gun] carts and about 30 to 40 Marines, I'd find one cart and three Marines. I found out that the rest of them were out cutting grass, doing odd jobs or picking up papers around the base and what not, a continuous thing. I said, 'I think I've had enough of this,' so I reinstated my request for flight training and I was ordered to Pensacola in October [1936], following my July reporting to the 6th Marines.

It was while he was undergoing flight training that he met Jane Anson, who belonged to a prominent Pensacola family and who not too much later became his wife. Gen Condon recalled that he enjoyed his flight training and, in retrospect, felt it made "for a very well rounded appreciation and understanding of current aircraft and air power . . ." and also was a generalized approach which introduced the student aviator to his new environment.

UPON COMPLETION of his flight training in December 1937, he was designated a naval aviator and assigned to Marine Fighting Squadron 1 (VMF-1) at Quantico. He remained with the squadron until shortly before the attack on Pearl Harbor. As he recalled, while at Quantico he flew with some rather notable Marine pilots, among them " 'Paddy Mac' McKittrick and Oscar Brice," both of whom



*2dLt Condon had his photograph taken during flight training in January 1937 at the Pensacola, Florida, Naval Air Station.*

served as general officers in World War II. As a new member of the squadron, he continued his training, including instruction in fighter plane tactics. He had to go through a whole series of checks under the scrutiny of some of the more experienced pilots in the squadron. Before the United States entered World War II, he was a considerably seasoned Marine pilot who had

*On Guadalcanal in 1943, LtCol Condon, operations officer, Fighter Command, seated center, talked with, from left, LtCol L. S. Moore, executive officer, MAG-12; Col E.L. Pugh, commander, Fighter Command; and assistant operations officer LtCol J. W. Sapp.*



flown most of the aircraft in the Corps' inventory at the time. In June 1941 he was transferred to VMF-121 and assigned duties as squadron executive officer.

SHORTLY AFTER THE Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the squadron was transferred to San Diego, and in March 1942, Condon was transferred to Marine Aircraft Group (MAG) 12, as group operations officer. In January 1943, the group went forward to Noumea and then up to Efate in the New Hebrides. When his group commander, Col Ed Pugh, was ordered up to Guadalcanal to relieve Col Sam Jack, the fighter commander of Aircraft, Solomons (AirSols), Condon went along also to be the operations officer.

On 16 April, RAdm Marc Mitscher, Commander of AirSols, received a highly classified message signed by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. It was based on translated radio intercepts of Japanese transmissions and stated that Adm Isoroku Yamamoto, the architect of the Pearl Harbor attack and senior Japanese naval officer, was to make an inspection tour of Japanese bases in the Rabaul-Bougainville-Kahili area. The message contained his exact schedule. The AirSols

command interpreted Knox's message as directing them to intercept Yamamoto's plane and shoot it down.

**A**S GEN CONDON recalled in an interview some years later:

Colonel Pugh and I were called into Rear Admiral Marc Mitscher's ComAirSols headquarters on the 16th . . . . We sat down with Admiral Mitscher . . . . We discussed the message . . . and who was involved. We read the detail of the message to the minute, where Yamamoto would be and at what time, where he would board a boat to make the run to the seaplane base, when he would come back to fly over to Kahili for the return to Rabaul. It was very detailed, and we talked about how best to do the job. Well, in the course of the conversation and the discussion, it became pretty clear that we had no aircraft that had the range to do that except the P-38s . . . .

. . . it was P-38s that we needed, and additional long-range tanks, extra drop tanks, to make that long, low altitude mission . . . . It was to be out of sight of land, down on the deck, which was a hell of a long way to go, at one hundred feet max over the water. That's about close to a two-hour flight without ever getting above a hundred feet . . . .

Those parameters of the mission were already discussed, including the need for radio silence, the need to avoid any possible detection from observers on islands, either visually or by radar. These requirements were now mentioned, and then, based on the intercept schedule, the discussion went into where the highest probability of success would be achieved. When he was landing at Ballale, with all its AAA? When he was in the boat enroute to the seaplane base? . . . And [it was] felt that the time it would take to go from Ballale over to the sea plane base on Shortland would allow for some flexibility. In other words, if you were two minutes late in making the air intercept, you weren't going to see him, he would be gone.

In the final analysis, it was decided that Maj John Mitchell, USAAC, who was to

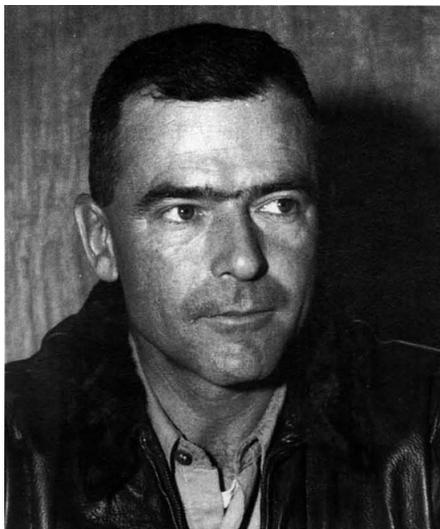
command the flight, should decide how the intercept was to be made, and he said, "I like the air intercept because, although the probabilities might be fairly low at that distance . . . if it's made, it's a *sure* thing . . . if we shoot that plane down, nobody is going to survive.

Condon went back to the AirSols Fighter Command headquarters, and:

We had a table there with a chart of the area, and we went over the parameters of the mission as laid down by the admiral: No closer than 20 miles to any land until Bougainville, and the need for precisely maintaining the courses, speeds, times, and legs that were prescribed, because otherwise there would be no intercept . . . .

By that time it was late in the afternoon on the 17th, and I sat down at that table and plotted with parallel rules and so forth, the true course and true air speeds that had to be maintained to work the intercept selected, all based on Yamamoto's schedule . . . . We had to make some assumptions, and an important one involved the Japanese penchant for precise performance, punctuality, etc. . . . They were not going to be one second off the timed schedule. And furthermore, I felt that they would do the same with the airplanes. We thought the bomber . . . would be all shined up and waxed up and everything, and so I even added five knots to what

*Col Condon, in warm leather flight jacket, was an aircraft group commander in Korea when this photo was taken in 1952.*



we normally gave them as a cruising speed.

**T**HE FINAL RESULT of this mission was that the P-38s intercepted Adm Yamamoto's flight exactly as planned and shot his bomber down, which caused a morale crisis in Japan when news of his death was released to the Japanese people. Based on the planning for the mission, a task in which then-Maj Condon was a major player, the assignment was successfully carried out by Army Air Corps pilots flying twin-engine P-38s. Because of his role as AirSols operations officer and planner for this mission, for many years Gen Condon was considered the "duty expert."

LtCol Condon accompanied the AirSols command in the invasion of Bougainville on 1 November 1943. The missions of AirSols were to supervise the building of the Piva strips and to direct the operations of Allied aircraft which rose from the new airfield to strike Rabaul, the heart of enemy strength in the area. In January 1944, Condon returned to the States for assignment as executive officer of Marine Base Defense Aircraft Group 45 on the west coast, at Miramar, California. In October he was reassigned as executive officer of Marine Aircraft Support Group 48, which was tasked with training and qualifying Marine squadrons for service on board escort carriers to fill the Navy's need for additional carrier-borne planes in the final days of the war.

Gen Condon returned to the Pacific to join MAG-33 on Okinawa as executive officer, and later joined MAG-14 as commander. During the occupation of Japan, he served as executive officer of MAG-31 at Yokosuka. In the period 1946-1948, he was assigned in Washington to the staff of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air (Military Requirements), and back he went to duty with Marine Corps air. In the post-WWII period, he commanded several groups and squadrons. One of these was VMF-311, the first Marine jet squadron "stood up." Gen Condon stated in his memoirs that he was given this squadron because he had been instrumental in getting jet aircraft for the Corps when serving in the office of DCNO (Air). He went to the Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base in 1949 and, following graduation, was assigned back to Washington for duty in the Weapons Systems

Evaluation Group in the office of the Secretary of Defense.

**I**N 1952, COL CONDON went to war once more when he took command of MAG-33 at Pohang in Korea. After six months, he was given command of MAG-12, which had the last of the Corsairs and ADs in the Corps. Following his return to the United States in early 1953, he was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps to sit on a board to examine the structure of Marine Corps aviation. In August he went down to Quantico, to the Marine Corps Education Center, where he was one of three aviation colonels in a group of 10 colonels working on Marine Corps problems associated with the advent of nuclear warfare. After a year in the First Advanced Research Group, Col Condon was assigned in 1954 as the chief of staff of the Education Center, and in 1956 as chief of staff of the 2d Marine Corps Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point. Two years later, promoted to brigadier general, he went to Paris, France, to become Assistant J-3 on the staff of the U.S. European Command.

Following his tour in Europe, in 1961 Gen Condon was assigned as Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, in Iwakuni, Japan. At the same time, he wore two other hats: Commander, Task Force 79

(Seventh Fleet), and Commander, Joint Task Force 116 (CinCPac). He was given his second star as a major general in 1961, and was ordered back to the States to command the 3d MAW in July 1962. He retired in 1962, after more than 28 years of active service.

In his retirement, he spent 14 years with North American Aviation and Rockwell International as a program manager and executive at the division and corporate levels. During this time, he acquired a master of science degree in business at the University of California, Irvine, and in 1975, a doctorate in administration from the same institution. He retired from Rockwell in 1976, and moved to Alexandria, Virginia, where he resided until his death.

**H**E BECAME ACTIVE in the affairs of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation from its beginning, serving as a member of the board and as president. His leadership during its formative years did much to shape its subsequent course and direction. Shortly before his death he delivered a completed history of Marine aviation on carriers in World War II for publication by the Naval Institute Press.

At its annual meeting in November 1996, Gen Condon was awarded the Marine Corps Historical Foundation's Heritage Award in recognition of "his ac-

complishments in the Marine Corps, his lifetime interest in Marine Corps history, and his services to the Foundation. In all things, John Condon epitomizes the ideal of officer, gentleman, and scholar." Gen Condon was too ill to accept the award at the meeting, so the Foundation President, retired LtGen Philip D. Shutler, visited him at home to present the well-deserved honor.

For a decade or more, Gen Condon was working on his carrier history and also a history of Marine Corps aviation in a carrel around the corner from my office. He knew all of the Center's staff personally and by name, and was generally accepted as an ex-officio staff member. Every day that he was in the Center, he would join me in a cup of coffee for far-ranging discussions of the current and past Marine Corps, of Marine Corps personalities we both knew (and not necessarily loved, although he was gentler than I), the news of the day, and politics. It is very difficult to accept that he will no longer do this. I will miss him.

A funeral mass attended by the Commandant and numerous other dignitaries was celebrated for him at the Naval Academy chapel, and he was interred in the Naval Academy cemetery with full military honors on 31 December 1996. □1775□

*A career highlight occurs on 7 August 1961 at Iwakuni, Japan, as 1st Marine Aircraft Wing commander Condon's new two-star insignia are pinned on by, from left, Marine Corps IG BGen T. F. Riley and assistant wing commander BGen R. L. Kline.*



# New Battle Honors Added to Marine Corps Memorial

by Col Michael F. Monigan, USMC  
Acting Director

FOR ONLY THE third time since its dedication in 1954, additional battle honors have been added to the Marine Corps War Memorial, better known as the Iwo Jima Monument, near Arlington National Cemetery. The Persian Gulf, Panama, and Somalia have taken their places of honor in chronological order on the second band of the frieze, expertly carved and gilded by Mr. Thomas H. "Tom" Winkler of Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

The original band of battle honors, which was chiseled into the black granite base prior to installation, starts with the REVOLUTIONARY WAR and ends with KOREA in an unbroken line, spanning the entire frieze. In 1974, prior to the end of the conflict, VIETNAM was added, without dates, commencing a second band on the north facade of the granite frieze. This placement was intentional, so as to avoid the front three panels of the Memorial and therefore maintain the integrity of Dr. Felix DeWeldon's original concept. This second band was added to further in 1986 and contains honors for LEBANON 1958, placed before VIETNAM; the dates were added to VIETNAM, 1962-1975; and DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1965, LEBANON 1981-1984,



The inscription for the peacekeeping mission in Somalia, 1992-1994, incised by stonecarver Tom Winkler, is so far the sole battle honor on the second band of its panel.

and GRENADA 1983 also were added.

The most recent battle honors were appropriately completed in time for the annual wreath-laying ceremony which was conducted this year on the morning of 9 November 1996. The emblazoned sequence of the second band now reads: LEBANON 1958 \* VIETNAM 1962-1975 \* DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1965 \* LEBANON 1981-1984 \* GRENADA 1983 \* PERSIAN GULF 1987-1991 \* PANAMA 1988-1990 \* SOMALIA 1992-1994.

Rumor has it that this update all started with a question posed to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC), General

Charles C. Krulak, by a Marine sentry. "Sir, when will we put the Persian Gulf War on the Iwo Jima Memorial?" Whatever the genesis, General Krulak decided it was time and set in motion the process which culminated in the addition of the new inscriptions. The Marine Corps War Memorial is, of course, a national monument and as such, does not belong to the Marine Corps. Ownership of the Memorial was relinquished to the National Park Service for perpetual care by the now-defunct Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation. This Foundation had raised the original \$850,000 to create this national treasure and the organization disbanded shortly after the dedication ceremony. Since federal funds cannot be expended to embellish or add to an existing national monument, a funding source had to be identified. The Marine Corps Historical Foundation was briefed on what the Marine Corps intended to do and quickly volunteered to underwrite the project.

*New inscriptions for the Persian Gulf War, 1987-1991, and the intervention in Panama, 1988-1990, close out the second band of inscriptions on one panel of the base.*



THE REQUEST TO add the three battle honors which were approved by CMC was forwarded to the National Park Service (NPS) on 9 April 1996. What followed was a series of meetings, deliberations, and decisions made by the Marine Corps, the National Park Service, and the Commission of Fine Arts, in concert, on how to proceed. Several crucial conferences ensued. The proposed updates required more space than that which was available on the panel containing the last entry, GRENADA 1983. One of the key artistic



*Thomas H. Winkler of Wheat Ridge, Colorado, added the new inscriptions while attending to questions from tourists.*

decisions made called for the additional honors to be broken apart. GULF WAR and PANAMA would close out the panel containing GRENADA, the rear dedication panel would be skipped, and SOMALIA would be added to the follow-on panel, continuing the line of the band. Ultimately, the Marine Corps was issued a work permit by the NPS on 9 October 1996 to commence work. This permit was made possible by the personal involvement and indispensable assistance of Mr. Gary Pollock, Mr. Creg Howland, and Mr. Glen Demar of the National Park Service and Mr. Thomas Atherton, Secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts.

Simultaneously, the Marine Corps Historical Foundation initiated a fund drive and solicited bids from three prominent architectural sculptors. Mr. Winkler was selected for the commission and was notified of this action by the Director Emeritus, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), on 14 August 1996. Mr. Winkler came to Washington, D.C. in early October to take a rubbing of the existing battle honors and to meet with the officers of the National Park Service and Mr. Atherton. Upon his return to Colorado, he submitted scale-drawings of the

proposed addition which were hung in place on the memorial and approved unanimously.

**T**OM WINKLER, the stonecarver, is a powerful man, his burly frame hinting at his profession. He returned to Washington and took up residence in Arlington on 16 October 1996. With little fanfare, he commenced work immediately. This no-nonsense but affable gentleman spent long hours each day at the Memorial and it became apparent that this was not the first major undertaking for the Coloradan. His precision hand-chiseling quickly brought to life the inscriptions in beautifully shaped letters, numerals, and devices meticulously incised into the smooth granite surface. The constant interruptions from tourists, curious about his work, never flustered him.

He obviously enjoyed the interaction with the never-ending flow of visitors, his outgoing personality and easygoing nature accommodating all. He became, in fact, an ambassador for the Marine Corps and bonded easily with the sense of pride and respect all Marines feel for our Memorial. Mr. Winkler fastidiously completed all work on Sunday, 3 November 1996 and final acceptance being approved, he returned home the next day to continue work on a project for the University of Denver.

The criteria established for battle honors submitted to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for ultimate approval are: the operation must be a definable military action, participation must be recognized by the award of an expeditionary streamer or appropriate campaign streamer, and that Marine fatalities resulted at the hands of

*The majestic scale of sculptor Felix de Weldon's conception of the Iwo Jima flagraising is made apparent by contrast to the size of stonecarver Winkler, at work atop his scaffold.*





*Winkler prepares the gilding for the new inscriptions, all three of which were supported by the Marine Corps Historical Foundation. The Foundation has created a fund for which donations are welcome to finance this and future updates to the memorial.*

a hostile force while engaged in this action. The prominent, wreath-decorated dedication reads, "IN HONOR AND

MEMORY OF THE MEN OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES TO THEIR

COUNTRY SINCE 10 NOVEMBER 1775." The Commandant stated it best on the clear and bright morning of 9 November 1996, as he addressed the large turnout of Marines, distinguished guests, and spectators: "Today we engraved three new battle honors onto this symbol of uncommon valor and common virtue—Persian Gulf 1987-1991, Just Cause 1988-1990, and Somalia 1992-1994. In doing so, we are reminded that yet another generation of Marines have engraved, by their sacrifice, their commitment to this great Nation of ours. It is those Marines and the ones who went before, that we honor today."

The Marine Corps Historical Foundation is accepting donations for this and future updates to the Marine Corps War Memorial. Those who care to help should send their contributions to: War Memorial, Marine Corps Historical Foundation, P.O. Box 420, Quantico, Virginia 22134-0420. □1775□

## High-Tech Shelving Expands Space for Reference Section's Burgeoning Files

*by Danny J. Crawford  
Head, Reference Section*

A MAJOR, TWO-MONTH renovation project designed to increase the file storage capacity of the Reference Section greatly, while at the same time improving the appearance of its work spaces, was completed in November 1996.

Since the opening of the Marine Corps Historical Center nearly two decades ago, in spring 1977, the section's files have grown dramatically to the point where their cabinets were filled to capacity and the number of cabinets had doubled, with space for no more. These five groups of files—subject, unit, biographical, geographic, and photographic files—are the "life's blood" of the Reference Section, enabling the historians to respond to nearly 8,000 requests each year. New files are added each week on all sorts of topics relating to Marine Corps history, but the space available in the Historical Center is more or less fixed.

A solution came in the form of a "modular mechanical assist aisle saver system," or high-density moveable shelving, that would allow for a 40-50 percent expansion of the files. Work began in late September with the first challenge being to move 50 loaded five-drawer file cabi-

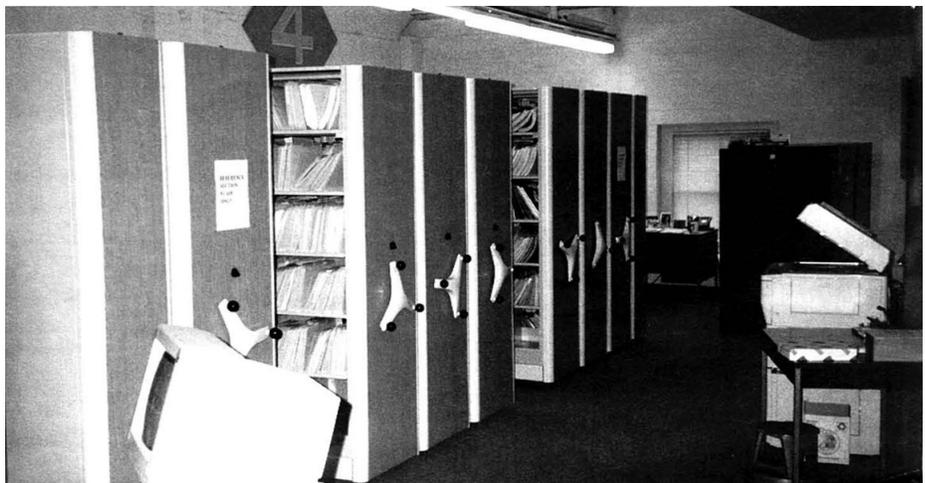
nets out of the section into the adjacent multi-purpose room so that the new shelving could be installed. Aside from the sheer magnitude of moving all these materials, which would be accomplished with the excellent support of the Center's enlisted Marines, the challenge was to keep these files organized and accessible so that the staff could continue to respond to the requests that pour into the section each workday.

WITH THE FILE cabinets moved out, installation of the moveable shelving commenced, and within a week, the reference staff was beginning the time-

*The "modular mechanical assist aisle saver system" is a boon to reference historians, who respond to nearly 8,000 public requests for detailed information each year.*

consuming task of bringing the contents of 50 file cabinets back into the section and into the new shelving. As historians split their time between phone calls and visiting researchers, and their filing tasks, they awaited the final stage of the renovation process—the installation of new carpet. In late October, nearly all of the remaining furniture was moved out to allow installation of the carpet.

Similar plans are in the works for renovation of the Archives Section and its Personal Papers Unit during the next two years, as part of the overall plan to continue to modernize and refurbish the Marine Corps Historical Center. □1775□



# 12th Commandant's Medals Provide Puzzles for Staff

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas  
Curator of Material History

OF THE MORE THAN 4,000 medals in the Marine Corps Museum's collection of decorations and medals, the most noteworthy are those awarded to Marines who had a significant impact on the history of the Marine Corps. Among them are such Marines as SgtMaj Dan Daly, remembered for their acts of selfless valor, and former Commandants and other senior officers who shaped the destiny of the Corps. In this latter category are the medals of MajGenComdt George Barnett, which were donated to the Museum this past summer by his step-grandson, George Barnett Gordon.

Gen Barnett's tenure as Commandant is clearly one of the most important periods in the history of the Corps during this century. Commissioned into the Marine Corps upon his graduation from the Naval Academy in 1881, Barnett served a series of sea-going tours, interspersed with the usual barracks and special duty tours, through the Spanish-American War, during which he landed in Cuba with Col Robert W. Huntington's Battalion. Prior to being selected as the 12th Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1914, he spent three years on expeditionary duty in Cuba and, most importantly, organized and commanded the First Advanced Base Brigade at Philadelphia's League Island Naval Shipyard.

WITHIN THREE MONTHS of assuming the post of Commandant, Gen Barnett organized and dispatched a brigade of Marines to support the U.S. Navy's seizure of the Mexican port of Vera Cruz, an act directed by President Woodrow Wilson to halt arms shipments to the Mexican rebels. In the next year, Marines came ashore at Port au Prince, Haiti, in what would become a 19-year occupation, while next door, in the Dominican Republic, Marines landed the following year and occupied that country until 1924.

However, the greatest test of the Marine Corps during this period was America's entry into the war which had been raging in Europe for the previous two and one-half years. In 1917, the strength of the Ma-



Gen Barnett's medals include, from left, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, "Sampson" West Indies Medal with the four bars, and Navy West Indies Campaign Medal.

rine Corps stood at little more than 18,000 officers and men, but would expand to more than three times that number by the Armistice. Two brigades of Marines were sent to France, with one of them covering itself with glory at the battles of Belleau Wood, Soissons, Saint Mihiel, Blanc Mont, and the Argonne Forest. More Marines were guarding the oil fields in Texas and naval bases around the country, and providing garrisons in Cuba, Haiti, China, and the Dominican Republic, as well as serving with the fleet. The large Marine base at Quantico, Virginia, was purchased and the recruit depot (also acquired under Gen Barnett's tenure) at Parris Island, South Carolina, was expanded.

In spite of his many achievements and although widely regarded as a popular and competent officer, Gen Barnett was relieved as Commandant in a controversial move by the Secretary of the Navy two years after the end of World War I, and was assigned to be the first Commander of the Department of the Pacific until his retirement in 1923. Gen Barnett died in 1930.

Gen Barnett's medals were given to his step-grandson when his widow, Mrs. Lelia Barnett, passed away. When the medals arrived at the Museum, there were several questions raised by the staff concerning the condition and configuration of the medals. In the first place, most of the medals were either suspended from the wrong ribbons, or were turned backwards from the attaching clasps. Secondly, the ribbon with the rarely seen West

Indies medal was different from that shown in Gen Barnett's official portrait. This handsome oil painting which had been executed in 1917, was the genesis of the History and Museums Division's series of Commandants' portraits (see "The Commandants' Portraits", *Fortitudine*, Winter 1994-1995). Mr. Gordon had no idea why the medals were incorrectly mounted and stated that they were in that condition when they came into his possession. The staff conducted research on the medals and was able to reconfigure them properly. The question on the difference in the ribbon colors was solved when the staff found that the ribbon on the West Indies campaign medal had, as had both the Army and Navy versions of the Spanish Campaign medal, changed from red and yellow (as seen in his portrait) to blue and yellow in 1913. Gen Barnett appears to have had this medal re-ribboned after World War I when he had the group remounted to include his World War I medals.

THE HIGHEST DECORATION in the group is the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, which was presented to Gen Barnett for his outstanding service during World War I. (The French government also conferred a Legion of Honor medal on Gen Barnett, but, sadly, this medal is not included in the group.) Included in the grouping is his World War I Victory Medal with a "France" clasp (he visited the front during the war) and the Maltese cross which was worn on the ribbon bar to represent the "France" clasp.

In addition to these are his medal for service during the Cuban Pacification (Serial Number 335) and his Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal (Serial Number 4486), with a numeral "4" on the ribbon. Both of these medals have the serial numbers impressed on their rims. The general's Navy/Marine Corps West Indies 1898 Campaign medal (Serial Number 9) with its blue and yellow ribbon, of course, is also included.

This scarce medal was among the first series of campaign "badges" awarded to American servicemen shortly after the turn

of the century, and confusion soon arose over its use. The medal was given to those Marines and sailors who had served on board ship in the West Indies, but it was later discontinued because it could not be worn with the Naval Campaign-West Indies "Sampson" medal which had been authorized as early as 1901, and most of the participants were eligible for both medals. In order to rectify this situation and to regularize the issuance of medals among the services, the Navy/Marine Corps counterpart to the Army's Spanish Campaign medal was authorized for issue

to all combatants serving in any of the theaters during the Spanish-American War.

The prize of this medals group is the "Sampson" West Indies medal with both its "USS *New Orleans*" bar and the three "Santiago" bars shown suspended on the medal in Gen Barnett's portrait. The edge of the medal is marked "1st Lieut George Barnett USMC" in capital letters. All of the medals, with the exception of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, are mounted together and arrived in a vintage leather case. □1775□

## Contract to Purchase Slave Among Commandant's 200-Year-Old Papers

by Amy Cantin Cohen  
Personal Papers Unit

THE MARINE CORPS' Personal Papers Archive is generally comprised of primary source materials that give a first-hand perspective on historical Marines and Marine operations. Typically these are one person's view of events in which they participated or which they witnessed, documented in various forms: diaries, letters, manuscripts, and photographs. Most focus on wartime situations.

The Archives' LtColComdt Franklin Wharton Collection in some ways is an exception. Within it there are no journals or diaries describing daily events, and there are no letters written home to his family. It is an unusual collection, but it does contain documents which are primary sources. One of these gives perspective on American society of the nineteenth century: it is a slave sale contract, dated 1814.

On 5 May 1814, the 3d Commandant of the Marine Corps purchased a "negro man" named Natt for the amount of \$450 from Alexander H. Boteten. The transaction occurred in the tenth year of Wharton's 14 as Commandant (1804-1818). Within the contract, Boteten stipulates that the man can be Wharton's property "for twelve years and no longer." After that, he "is and shall be free." It is probable that Boteten had an agreement with the man and was thereby ensuring that the arrangement would be honored over time.

IN THE MULTIRACIAL, multicultural America of today it is astounding to learn that Wharton owned slaves, and more so to read that he purchased a slave

while serving as Commandant of the Marine Corps, the first to occupy the Commandant's House. However, in the context of the times it is not really so surprising. Two hundred years ago, many high-ranking officials of the United States Government were members of affluent families, a great number of which were slave holders. Then, by some accounts, Wharton's own family was the wealthiest in Philadelphia. His brother Robert was the mayor of Philadelphia for 15 terms, his brother Samuel was a prosperous merchant, his brother Joseph was a well-known author, and his cousin Thomas was gover-

nor of Pennsylvania.

Looking upon the society of the period, it seems almost to be expected that Wharton, as other men of substantial wealth, owned slaves. Perhaps his decision in that regard was more of a reflection of his society than a dark act which overshadows his talents and abilities, the success of his tenure as Commandant, or the early growth of the Marine Corps as an institution. Indeed, one of the insights gained from using the Archives is to find that all Marines in some way, for good or ill, reflect the civilian society from which they come. □1775□

*Handwritten in Georgetown in the District of Columbia in May 1814, the sale contract stipulates that after a full term of 12 years the man Natt "is and shall be free."*

George Town May 5<sup>th</sup> 1814. This day I have sold my Negro man named Natt unto Lieut. Col. Franklin Wharton... for the sum of Four hundred and fifty Dollars — to be paid to me in Ninety days from this date, and then receive his promissory note for the same, and I hereby bind myself, my heirs, Executors, or administrators, to give to the said Col. Franklin Wharton — a complete till to the said Negro man, named Natt, for and during the full term of Twelve years, and no longer, at which period the said Negro man is and shall be free, and it is explicitly understood, that this obligation is not to be binding on me, unless the said sum of money is paid at the expiration of Ninety days from this date — Alexander H. Boteten  
Witness M. S. Nicholls

# LVT Museum Preserves Pendleton's Amphibian Heritage

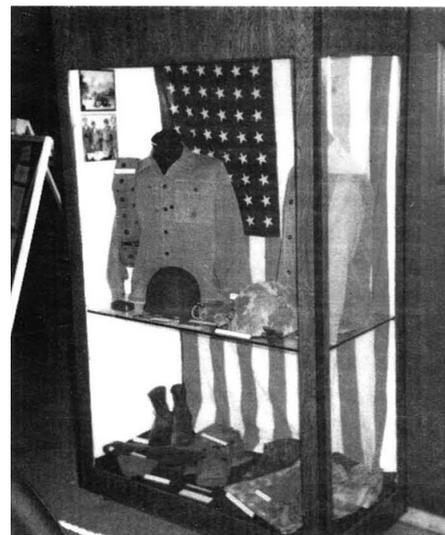
by Charles R. Smith  
Historian

A WORLD WAR II-era Quonset hut built in 1944—originally used for tracked vehicle maintenance—is home to seven meticulously restored period amphibian tractors and armored amphibians used by the Marine Corps during the Pacific War, and later in Korea. The Assault Amphibian School Battalion officially dedicated the World War II and Korean War LVT (Landing Vehicle, Tracked) Museum at Camp Del Mar, MCB Camp Pendleton, California, last spring.

Although the museum focuses on the restored LVT 1, LVT 2, LVT 3, LVT 3 (C), LVT 4, LVT (A) 1, and LVT (A) 5 (modified) amphibians, it also features two rebuilt LVT engines (the massive radial Continental and V-8 Cadillac), uniforms and equipment displays, photographs, and artwork. Interpretive displays trace the development, operational employment, and impact of these "Alligator Machines and Marines" on the conduct of amphibious and ground combat operations and the history of the Corps.

For more than 50 years, assault amphibian vehicles used in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam sat in an outdoor lot on the corner of Vandegrift Boulevard and Rattlesnake Canyon Road at MCB Camp Pendleton. Over the years, exposure to the sun, rain, and salt air took its toll. Several years ago, the decision was made that those vehicles of historical importance to the Marine Corps would be maintained at Camp Pendleton, while the remaining, largely prototype, vehicles would be sent to the Marine Corps Logistics Base at Barstow, California, for safeguard and perhaps future restoration.

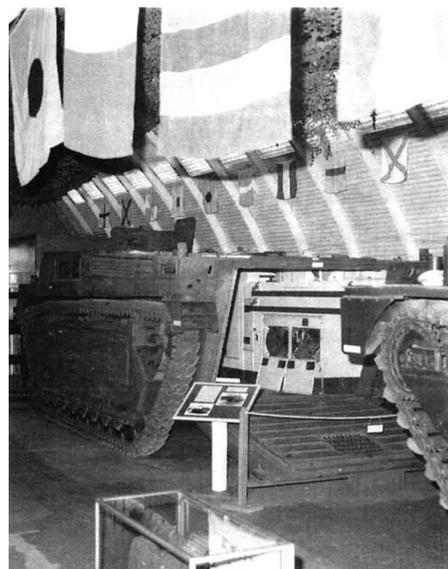
FOR THOSE VEHICLES remaining at Camp Pendleton, something needed to be done. Thoughts of preservation soon evolved into ideas for creating an amphibian tractor museum. Previous attempts to preserve and display the amphibians had run out. *Envisioned as an unarmored cargo-carrying vehicle, the Museum's LVT 1 was one of the first production models delivered to the Marine Corps. The vehicle would see service on Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Tarawa, and Cape Gloucester during World War II.*



*Among the LVTs, the Museum also offers amtrackers' uniforms and memorabilia.*

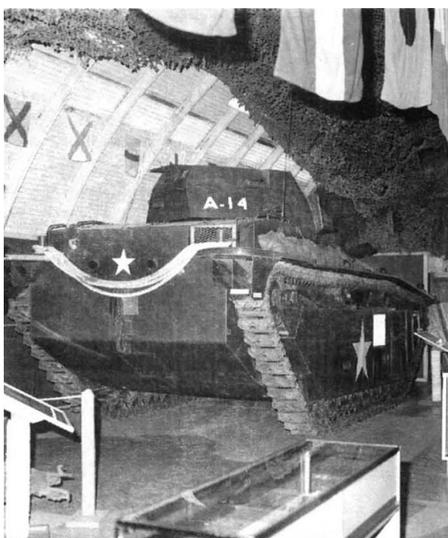


*On display in the Del Mar Quonset hut are the World War II-era LVT (A) 1, above, and the Korean War-vintage LVT 3 (C), below.*

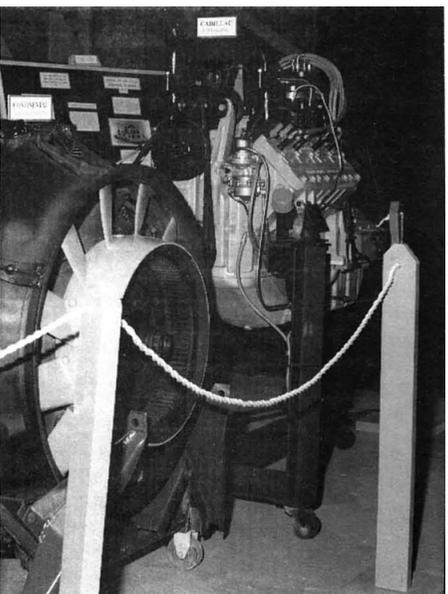




*The LVT 3 and a roadside sign call attention to the museum created by the Assault Amphibian School Battalion at Pendleton.*



*Complementing the modified LVT (A) 5, above, are Continental and Cadillac V-8 engines, below, that powered amphibians.*



of steam because of logistical problems. However, early last year, Marines working under LtCol Clayton F. Nans, commanding officer of the Assault Amphibian School Battalion, began the process of establishing a museum.

Building 21561, one of the last World War II-style Quonset huts, was cleaned out and two World War II amphibian tractors moved in. Eventually, a total of seven tractor variants were added. Over the next several months, Marines from the Assault Amphibian School Battalion, Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch, General Support Maintenance Company, and several local volunteers cleaned, scraped, painted, and even fabricated new steel cleats for several of the vehicles, all in an effort to stabilize the historic vehicles.

While the museum provides a home for these antique amphibian monsters, it also provides the school a unique training tool, exposing students at all levels—the “1800 basic crewman,” the “1803 basic assault officer,” and the “1833 advanced unit leader”—to the historical origin of their MOS.

Asked why the museum was established, LtCol Nans said, “Because we are amtrackers and proud of the traditions and valor of Alligator Marines.” Speaking at the museum’s dedication, guest of honor Col Victor J. Croizat, who as a young Marine lieutenant commanded a company of tracked vehicles at the landing on Guadalcanal, said: “For me, it’s like going back in time. Think of putting 30 men in one of these boxes and dropping them off on an unfriendly beach. It’s very challenging just to do the navigation, much less hit the beach with people shooting at you.” □1775□



*The Museum’s dedication and opening day ceremony featured guest of honor Col Victor J. Croizat, USMC (Ret). Then-2dLt Croizat was executive officer of Company A, 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion, which was assigned to support the 1st Marine Division on the day following Pearl Harbor and took part in the Guadalcanal landing.*



# 'Homemade' Histories Can Preserve Marine Fact and Lore

by Benis M. Frank  
Chief Historian

I RECEIVED A LETTER in early October from Jerry Brooks, in which, among other things, he made a cogent observation concerning unit histories. He said: "Formal Marine Corps official unit histories are seldom made at levels below the regimental level. Most of us in units at the battalion level [and below] have to be content being footnotes or sentences or paragraphs in the larger histories unless we work together to compile our lower level unit histories. In my opinion, many WWII Marine combat units are now passing into oblivion as [their] last members are passing on. Sad."

He also went on to say, "Most of us don't realize that we can combine our remembrances, photos, and documents and compile an interesting, accurate, and informative unit history book. The unit history books will outlive us by a hundred years in many of our own local libraries . . . ."

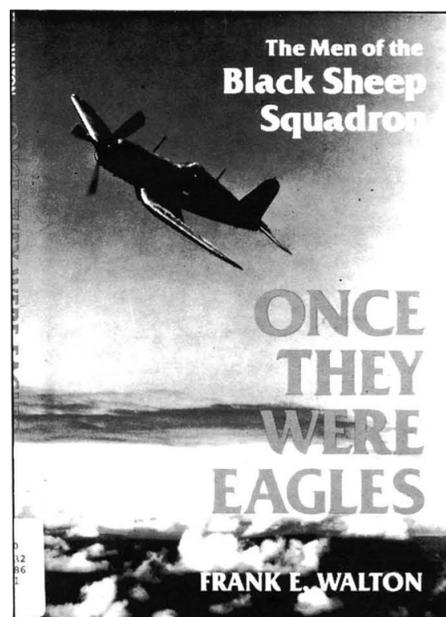
Mr. Brooks is exactly right. In our own five-volume official *History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II*, and our five-volume *U.S. Marines in Korea, 1950-1953*, the nature of each World War II landing and the overall campaign in Korea, the immensity of these operations, did not permit us to go below battalion level except when a company or platoon was involved in extraordinary action. In our soon to be 11-volume *U.S. Marines in Vietnam* series we did go below battalion

*The original members of the "Black Sheep Squadron," photographed here on Vella Lavella in the Pacific in December 1943, are the subjects of Frank E. Walton's Once They Were Eagles, a "unit history" with the added distinction of commercial success.*



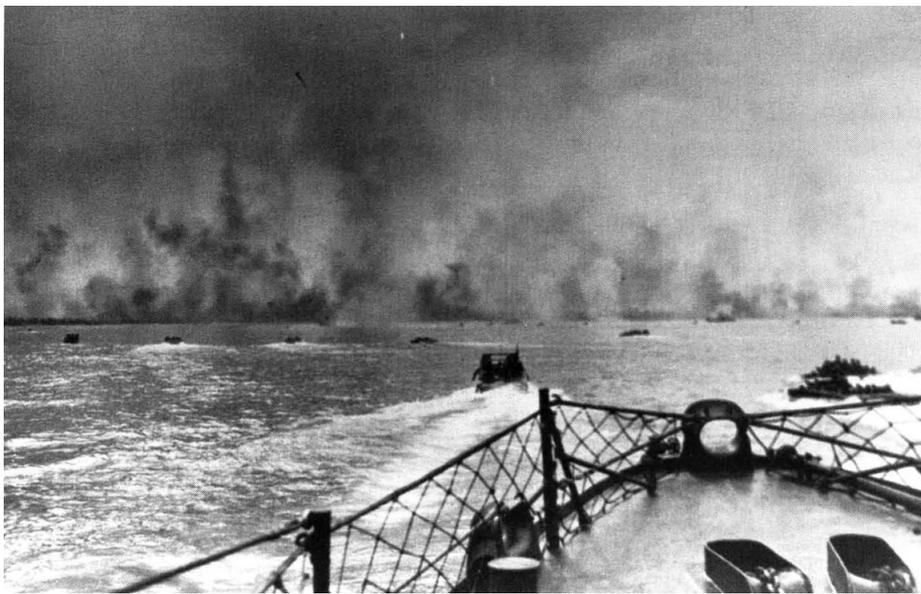
and sometimes even below company level just because it was a small-unit war, for the most part. Again, the nature of combat in Vietnam dictated how we would write its history. Then, in our official Persian Gulf War history, we will be dealing with battalions, regiments, divisions, and the I Marine Expeditionary Force. Those who have read the Gulf War monographs we have published to date will note this to be the case.

HAVING SAID THIS, I will now take up Mr. Brooks' other comment, i.e., unless individuals and postwar unit associations undertake to write their own histories, the institutional memory may very well be lost. This is all too true. However, with the advent of the 50th anniversary of World War II and with the approaching commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, some excellent autobiographical histories have already been published. The first of these which comes to mind is Dr. Eugene B. Sledge's *With the Old Breed from Peleliu to Okinawa*, which tells of his experiences as a mortarman in Company K, 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, in those two amphibious assaults. This outstanding work has seen many editions and has been acclaimed by such noted military historians as John Keegan as being one of the exemplar autobiographies to come out of World War II. As a veteran of those two opera-



tions and, as is Gene Sledge, a 1st Division Marine, I can attest to the accuracy of his descriptions. With relation to the Korean War, I have just read a moving autobiography by 1stLt Joseph R. Owen, USMC (Ret), who served with Company B, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, in Korea. The book is entitled *Colder than Hell: A Marine Rifle Company at Chosin Reservoir*. It was recently published by the Naval Institute Press, and I recommend it. There are similar works both in and out of print, but these are two good examples of how institutional memories of events, periods, campaigns, and units can be kept alive.

In the Historical Center Library, we have a number of unit histories which were written by individuals who were former members of the unit about which they wrote, or the history was a team effort by unit members. A few titles from among this group of histories are: Edward W. Farmer, *A View from the Rear Rank: A Story of Marine Air Warning Squadron Eight in World War II*, published by the author, an AWS-8 member, in 1992; John J. Forster, *The History of the Eighth Field Depot and Eighth Service Regiment, U.S. Marines in World War II*, 1992; Charles L. Henry, *2d Airdrome Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, United States Marine Corps, a.k.a. 17th Defense Battalion, 17th Antiaircraft Battalion, 17th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion, from 28 October, 1942*



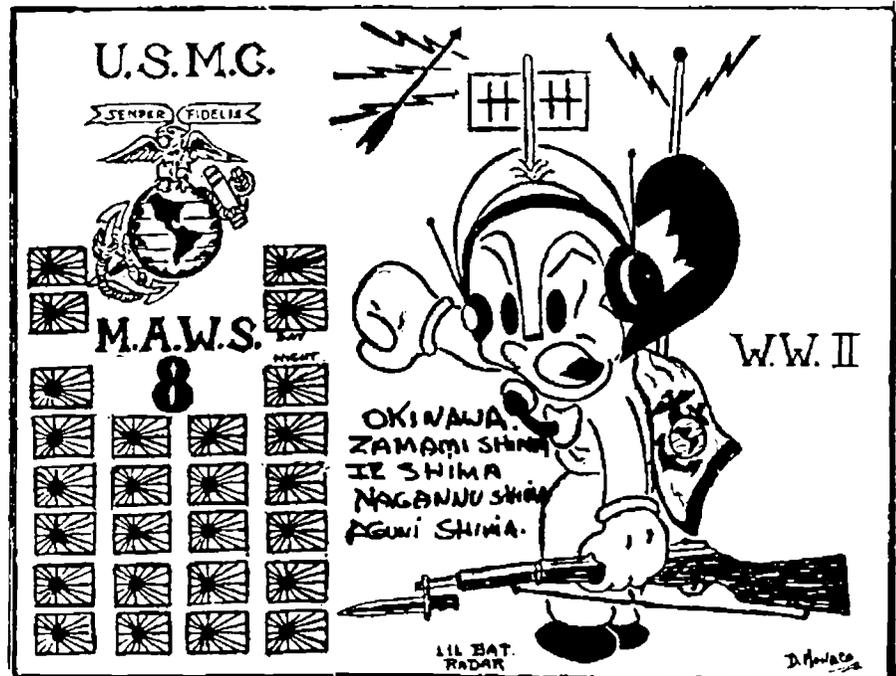
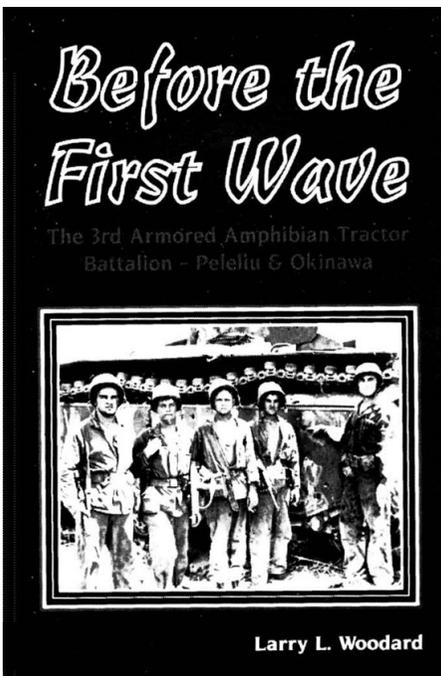
Histories such as Larry I. Woodward's *Before the First Wave: The 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion—Peleliu and Okinawa* provide the detail that often is lacking in official histories. Above, landing craft head toward the heavily bombarded Peleliu beaches.

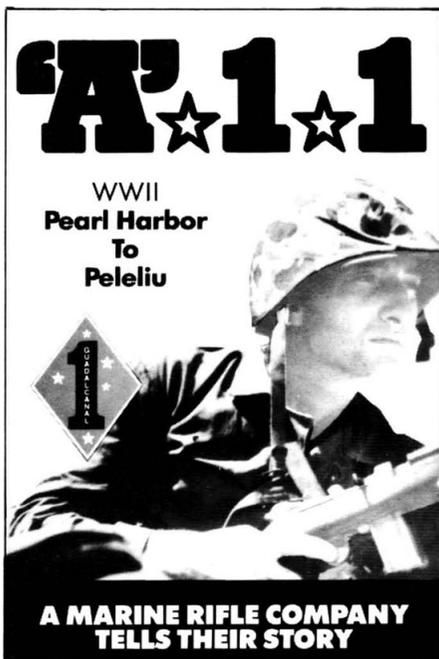
to 6 December, 1945, 1985; Hugh Morse and George Head, *A-1-1, Pearl Harbor to Peleliu*, published in 1993 by the A-1-1 Book Committee; Ezell Odom, *A Montford Point Marine: Fleet Marine Force Pacific: A Few Experiences by one of the Chosen Few*, 1993; Raymond S. B. Perry, *The Bombers of MAGSZAM: A History of Marine Bombing Squadron 611*, published in 1987 by the author; *2nd Armored Amphibian Battalion. USMC, WWII: Saipan, Tinian, Iwo Jima*, 1991; Frank E. Walton, *Once They Were Eagles: The Men of the Black Sheep Squadron*, University Press of Kentucky, 1986; Arthur W. Wells, *The*

*Quack Corps: The Men of the Second Marine Amphibian Truck (DUKW) Company*, 1992; Larry I. Woodward, *Before the First Wave: The 3rd Armored Amphibian Tractor Battalion—Peleliu and Okinawa*, Sunflower University Press, 1994; and *Super Breed I: A Journal of the First Marine Engineers, Pioneers, and Seabees*, Wyatt Publishing Company, 1990. In addition, we hold a history of the 9th Defense Battalion, written by the son of one of its members, retired Marine Maj Charles D. Melson, whose last tour of duty was as a "Lil Bat," a radar-equipped mascot, adorns the history by Edward W. Farmer. *A View from the Rear Rank: A Story of Marine Air Warning Squadron Eight in World War II*.

historical writer in the Marine Corps Historical Center.

If someone reading this gets a hankering to do a unit history, well, the Historical Center is the place to begin his or her research, and the History and Museums Division staff is here to give professional guidance. This Center was the brainchild of the former Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), who conceived it as being a "one-stop Marine Corps history resource," wherein a scholar researching Marine Corps history could find most, if not all, of the material he or she was seeking. To begin with, our Archives Section has, or knows how to retrieve, the war diaries and after-action reports of both World War II and Korea, and the command chronologies of the Vietnam and the Persian Gulf Wars. The Archives Section can also retrieve operation orders for most, if not all, of the Marine Corps' wars in the 20th century. Another rich source of information within the Archives Section is our Personal Papers Unit, which holds the personal papers (letters, orders, photographs, and the like) of Marines, from private to flag rank, who served in the Civil War, and earlier, as well as those who served in more modern times. This is an enormously rich source of 2,656 processed personal collections, and about 500 which are undergoing processing. Many a visiting scholar has supped heavily on the





material in this collection, as well as on the contents of the Marine Corps Oral History Collection. This group contains the transcripts of interviews conducted with most past Commandants, beginning with Gen Clifton B. Cates, and ending with Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr. The collection also contains the transcripts of more than 300 former and retired prominent Marines, many of whom were junior officers in World War I and rose to general officer rank in World War II. Interviews in this group also relate to the Korean War as well as Vietnam. With respect to Vietnam, we

*Denizens of 'Boot Camp'—oversized mosquitoes and gnats—illustrate Farmer's Marine Air Warning Squadron 8 history.*

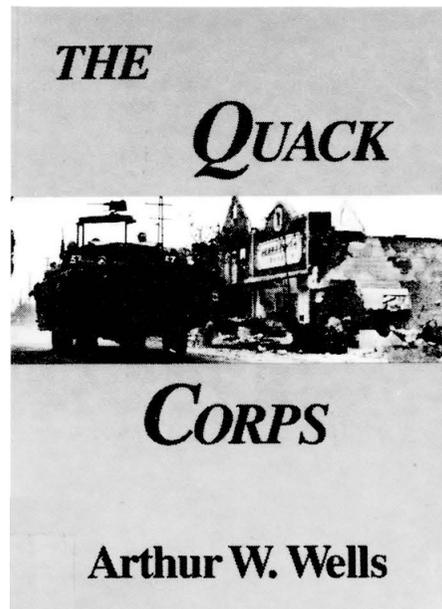


have close to 6,000 interviews conducted in the field in Vietnam, many of them with Marines who had just come in from patrols or after close combat with the enemy.

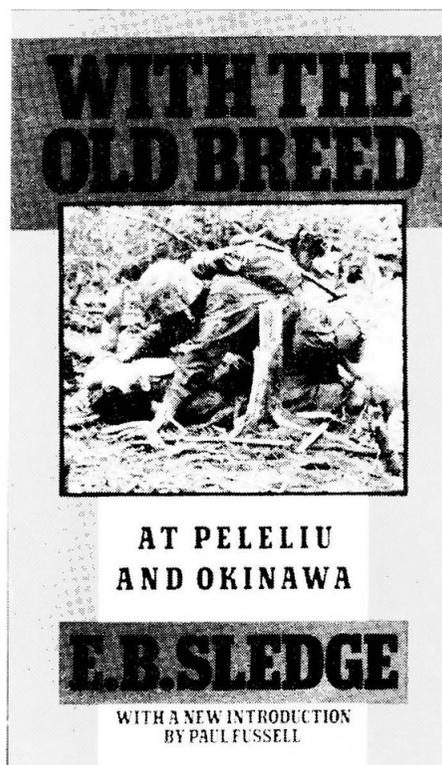
THERE ARE A couple of other sections in the History and Museums Division which can be of assistance to the aspiring researcher. One such area is our Historical Library, established in 1843 by Colonel Commandant Archibald Henderson as the library for Marine Corps Headquarters. Since that time, it has grown to where it now holds more than 41,000 bound volumes and periodicals; 4,000 reels of microfilm; and a growing collection of videotapes and CD-ROMs. The book collection concentrates on Marine Corps history; histories of amphibious warfare and related naval history; American history; museum studies; and histories of military uniforms and weaponry. If the library doesn't have a book which a researcher needs, it can most likely be obtained through an interlibrary loan.

Another important area for researchers is our Reference Section. Each year, the Section's Reference Historians respond to upwards of 8,000 written, telephoned, and walked-in requests. The section holds thousands of subject, geographical, unit, and biographical files. The subject files include an extensive collection of materials on events, issues, and wars of the Marine Corps from its founding to the present. The geographical files contain a collection of records on locations where Marines have landed or been stationed. Histories of Marine Corps bases and barracks are also found here. The unit files contain working files on all Marine Corps units, past and present. Within these files on both air and ground units are histories of each unit, commanding officer lists, and unit lineage and honors records. Our biographical files provide information on more than 15,000 prominent Marines, such as former Commandants and recipients of the Medal of Honor, and other notables who had an impact on the history of the Corps. The Reference Section also holds the microfilmed muster rolls of the Corps going back to 1798. These are important to anybody who is working up a command list, or just looking to see the names of all the Marines who served in a certain unit at a certain time.

In any case, anyone who wants to write



a unit history, or research primary sources around which a unit history is to be written, will have to visit the Marine Corps Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard. Here, experienced professional Marine Corps historians can guide a researcher's efforts and direct him to the areas which hold the material which will advance his efforts. Marine historians encourage such efforts because they often mean that a hitherto-unexplored area of Marine Corps history will at last be revealed. The final product will help fill in the "gaps" in Marine Corps history. And that is always to the good. □1775□



# Awards Cite Veteran Pilot Condon and Author Moskin

by Charles R. Smith  
Historian

FOR HIS LIFELONG interest in Marine Corps history and service to the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, MajGen John P. Condon, USMC (Ret), was presented the support group's Heritage Award at its fall 1996 Awards Ceremony. MajGen Condon subsequently died in December 1996 [see "Memorandum from the Chief Historian" on page 3 of this issue].

Condon entered the Marine Corps in 1934 upon graduating from the Naval Academy and earned his wings as a naval aviator in 1937. As a young pilot he was one of the Marine Corps' pioneers who flew from aircraft carriers, an experience which would influence his appreciation of the flexibility of Marine Corps aviation down to the present day.

In World War II he served on Guadalcanal, in the Northern Solomons, and at Okinawa, where he commanded Marine Aircraft Group 14. During the Korean War, he commanded MAG-33, the first Marine aircraft group to fly jet aircraft in combat, and MAG-12, the last group to fly the legendary Corsair against the enemy. Later, he commanded both the 1st and 3d Marine Aircraft Wings. Following his retirement in 1962, he completed a doctoral degree and embarked upon a second career in the aerospace industry.

ONE OF THE earliest senior officers to affiliate with the Historical Foundation, MajGen Condon served successively as vice president, president, and chairman of the board. His leadership of the Foundation during its formative years, noted Foundation President LtGen Philip D. Shutler, Sr., USMC (Ret), "did much to shape its subsequent successful course and direction." Recently, MajGen Condon, working at the Marine Corps Historical Center, drafted a history of Marine Corps aviation and completed a history of Marine aviation on board carriers in World War II, which is scheduled to be published by the U.S. Naval Institute Press. "In all things," concluded LtGen Shutler, "John Condon epitomizes the ideal fighter pilot, officer, gentleman, and scholar."



Former commander of both 1st and 3d MAWS, MajGen John P. Condon also was a president of the Historical Foundation.

Mr. J. Robert Moskin received the Distinguished Service Award, the Foundation's highest award, at the 26 October 1996 ceremonies for his extensive accomplishments in American and Marine Corps history and his service to the Foundation as a director, member of the awards jury, and seminar chairman. A native of New York and a graduate of Harvard University, Moskin's long relationship with the Ma-

J. Robert Moskin, right, accepts the Marine Corps Historical Foundation's Distinguished Service Award from Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen Richard I. Neal.



rine Corps began in 1956 after the tragic Ribbon Creek incident at Parris Island. Then a senior editor with *Look* magazine, he made an in-depth study of the Marine Corps which ultimately led to his writing *The U.S. Marine Corps Story*, a comprehensive history of the Corps, published in 1977 and subsequently revised and expanded. His other works include *The Decline of the American Male*, *Turncoat*, *Among Lions*, and his most recent, *Mr. Truman's War*, the story of the period between the end of World War II in Europe and the final victory over Japan.

"In sum," the Foundation concluded, "Mr. Moskin has made a superb contribution to American history, to military history, to the Marine Corps, and, most especially, to the Marine Corps Historical Foundation."

DR. DONALD E. BITTNER, professor of history at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, was this year's winner of the Colonel Robert Debs Heinl, Jr., Award, presented to the author of the best article pertinent to Marine Corps history. His article, "Shattered Images: Officers of Royal Marines, 1867-1913," was published in the January 1995 issue of *The Journal of Military History*.

Dr. Bittner received his doctorate in history from the University of Missouri in 1974. He served in the Marine Corps from 1963 to 1989 with the 2d Field Artillery Group, Marine Barracks, Keflavik, Iceland, and on board the *Talladega*, before retiring as a lieutenant colonel. His publications cover a wide variety of military subjects from Britain and Ireland during World War II to the portrayal of the British Army in Jane Austen's novels.

The General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Award, given to the author of the outstanding nonfiction book pertinent to Marine Corps history, was presented to Dr. Eric Bergerud for his *Touched with Fire: The Land War in the South Pacific*, published by the Viking Press. Through careful research and numerous interviews with participants, he presents a vivid account of World War II fighting men who adapted to an environment that tested the limits of their endurance.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota and the University of California at Berkeley, he received a fellowship from the Army's Center of Military History that enabled him to write two books on the Vietnam War. He currently teaches history at Lincoln University, a small college in San Francisco.

ESTABLISHED BY Col Robert G. F. Hanke, USMCR, in memory of his father, Wing Commander Ralph Hanke, Royal Air Force, the General Roy Geiger Award is given to the author of the best article published in the *Marine Corps Gazette* in the field of Marine Corps aviation during 1995. This year's recipient was Dr. Eliot A. Cohen for his article, "Airpow-

er, the Next War, and the Marine Corps," published in the November 1995 issue.

A graduate of Harvard University, Dr. Cohen has written extensively on a variety of subjects in strategic studies and military history, including net assessment, the nature of war in the Third World, and problems of intelligence analysis. A consultant to the White House, CIA, Department of Defense, and the Commission on Roles and Missions, Dr. Cohen currently is a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and professor of strategic studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

THE SERGEANT MAJOR Dan Daly Award was presented to LCpl Chance D. Puma, USMC. The award, funded by *Leatherneck* magazine, is given for superior writing pertinent to Marine Corps history by an enlisted author for a Marine Corps post or station periodical. LCpl Puma received the award for his article, "Bugle Calls," published in *Pass in Review*, which outlined the history of Marine buglers and highlights Marine Barracks Washington as the only Marine Corps post still using a live bugler.

LCpl Puma began his Marine Corps career in 1994. Following basic training at Parris Island and Marine combat training at Camp Geiger, he attended the Defense Information school at Fort Benjamin Harrison, completing the basic journalism and broadcasting courses. He reported to Marine Barracks Washington where he was assigned as a staff writer and combat correspondent for the post magazine, *Pass in Review*. LCpl Puma became editor af-

ter attending the Defense Information School's editors' course.

The Colonel John H. Magruder III Award for excellence in depicting Marine Corps history in exhibits or displays in a museum or similar setting was presented to the IVT Museum, Assault Amphibian School Battalion, Camp Pendleton, in recognition of an immaculately restored collection of all operational types of IVTs, making use of an existing historic structure [see article, page 12].

Two Colonel John H. Magruder Special Recognition Awards were made. The first was given to LtCol Charles V. Mugno, USMC, for the MajGen Paul J. Fontana display at the MCAS Cherry Point Officer's Club, a historical display in a non-museum setting. The large encased wall panel displays photographs, memorabilia, and biographical information of MajGen Fontana, a distinguished Marine Corps aviator and leader.

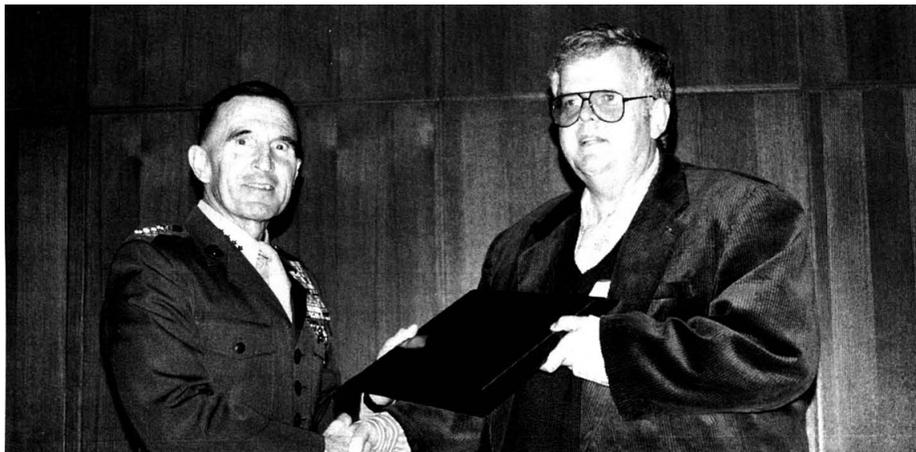
Special recognition also was made of the Brooks Detachment of the 1812 Marine Brigade, a living history group. The detachment was formed three years ago to develop an educational program that would show the life of a War of 1812 Marine. It is named for Lt John Brooks, son of a governor of Massachusetts, who died while commanding the Marine detachment at the Battle of Lake Erie.

COL EDWARD M. CONDR A III, USMC (Ret), was this year's recipient of the Colonel John W. Thomason, Jr., Award for his positive and continuing contributions to Marine Corps art. The Thomason Award, named for the highly decorated combat officer and artist, is given for excellence in the fine or applied arts, including photography, in depicting the historical or contemporary Marine Corps.

Holder of degrees from several prestigious art schools and universities, Col Condra entered the Marine Corps in 1960 and served two combat tours in Vietnam as an engineer officer and field commander. He has also been an author, visual communications instructor, and director of the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia. As a combat artist, his pictorial coverage of Marines and the wars in Vietnam and Lebanon have been reproduced widely, and more than 100 pieces of his work form part of the permanent Marine Corps Art Collection.

□1775□

*Dr. Eric Bergerud, right, cited for his recently published Touched with Fire: The Land War in the South Pacific, received the General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Award for the best nonfiction book pertinent to Marine Corps History, presented to him by Gen Neal.*



# Reservists Aim to Fill in Blanks in 4th Division History

by Maj Craig A. Swanson, USMCR  
Historical Detachment, 4th Marine Division

THE CELEBRATED World War II history of the 4th Marine Division is well known. Activated at the height of the war in August 1943 at Camp Pendleton, California, the division participated in some of the most bitterly contested amphibious assaults of the war, against the Japanese-held islands of Roi and Namur in the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas Islands, and finally, Iwo Jima. In its short but eventful two years, three months, and thirteen days of wartime existence, eight members of the 4th Division were awarded the Medal of Honor. The division itself earned a Presidential Unit Citation Streamer with one Bronze Star, a Navy Unit Commendation Streamer, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Streamer with four Bronze Stars, and the World War II Victory Streamer. The World War II history of the 4th Division is described in many general historical works on the war in the Pacific, and is the subject of two books concentrating entirely on the division's exploits. What is less well known is what the 4th Division has done since the end of the Second World War.

Shortly after the conclusion of the war, Marines of the 4th Division were either

discharged or reassigned as it was deactivated in September 1945. On 8 June 1962, however, the division was formally reactivated, this time as the Marine Corps Reserve's ground combat component. Where once the Reserve had existed as a collection of disparate units stationed around the country with little or no contact with one another, the reactivated 4th Division encompassed all of the ground combat elements of the Reserve. Objectives were to enhance training, administration, mobilization, unit cohesion, and combat effectiveness. The 4th Marine Division was to serve as the Marine Corps' strategic reserve, ready at short notice to mobilize and provide the same capabilities as active-duty divisions. Development from an ideal to a reality, however, took literally decades to fulfill.

IN THE 1960s, the 4th Division's new headquarters was formed, again at Camp Pendleton, and basic questions were addressed over the role the division would play in Marine Corps planning. In the 1970s, the division's readiness continued to improve as training steadily became more realistic and both the quality and quantity of assigned Marines rose dramati-

cally. In the 1980s, training improved further, with greater variety and more ambitious exercises as funds became available to equip the Reserve with the same weapons and equipment as its active-duty counterpart. In the 1990s, with the division's extensive participation in the Persian Gulf War, it came full circle from its World War II origins. Once again, Marines of the 4th Division were engaged in combat. Unlike the post-World War II period, however, after this war the 4th Division was not deactivated, but instead became increasingly important in a period of austere defense budgets and different national security concerns.

The complete story of the 4th Marine Division has, until now, not been presented in any serious way. The need for filling the gap in the historical record from World War II to the present was first addressed in June 1995 when the division's Commanding General, BGen Frederick R. Lopez, issued the order to bring the division's story up to date with a hardbound, book-length, illustrated history. Members of MTU-NY05 were assigned to the special task with a projected completion date of April 1997. (While the project has been in progress, MTU-NY05 was formally

*Marines of the 4th Division hurl grenades toward an enemy foxhole on Saipan in 1944. The valiant World War II history of the*

*division, the subject of two books concentrating entirely on it, is well known. The division's role in the post-war Corps is not.*





*Marine Reservists were represented in large numbers in the Persian Gulf War. Here, in January 1991, Marines of Battalion Landing Team 1/4 disassemble a Soviet-built ZPU-1 machine gun, previously operated by Iraqi forces on Miradam Island in Kuwait.*

redesignated as the Historical Detachment, 4th Marine Division). Work began immediately to accomplish the basic research for text, photographs, and original art from sources including the Marine Corps Historical Center, the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Hoover Institution Library and the archives of the Marine Corps University. Research material includes a myriad of both primary and secondary sources including command chronologies, periodicals, the *Congressional Record*, maps, Marine Corps orders and other documents, personal papers, base newspapers, Marine Corps Historical Center publications, photographs, art-

work, oral histories, independent research reports, and material submitted by the various units of the division.

The goals of the ambitious project are both to present a detailed and lively chronological narrative of what the division has done during its existence and to address a number of related thematic issues. For example, the work will examine subjects important to the history of the division such as the impact of the ending of the draft and the implementation of the Total Force concept, the transitions from control from Marine Corps districts to the 4th Division's headquarters, the relations between Instructor/Inspector staffs

and Reserve units, and mobilization planning and implementation. In this way, the work is intended to be both interesting to the general reader curious about the history of the division, and useful to policymakers seeking serious insights into the 4th Division's past in order to better chart its future.

**W**HILE THE WORK is intended to meet rigorous standards of historical scholarship, it also should prove lively and informative, with liberal use of photographs and artwork and a focus on the individual Marines who have been members of the division over the years. As a valuable adjunct to existing research material, the 4th Division Historical Detachment is also in the process of conducting additional oral histories of key individuals in the division's past and of its current leaders.

Anyone interested in contributing any material (old letters, photos, documents, old 4th Marine Division publications, oral histories, etc.) to enrich this project should contact the Officer-in-Charge, 4th Marine Division Historical Project, Col Richard Van Horne, in care of the Marine Corps Historical Center. The new history is scheduled for completion in the late spring or early summer of 1997. Distribution will be made by the 4th Marine Division and, since the book will be published through the Government Printing Office, it may also be available for purchase through GPO bookstores. [1775]

## Historical Quiz

# Marine Corps Aviation

*by Midn2C Richard M. Rusnok, Jr.  
United States Naval Academy  
Reference Section Intern*

1. When did Marine Corps aviation "get off the ground?"
2. What were the two primary aircraft used by the Corps during World War I?
3. Which airplane, originally found unsuitable for carrier operations, was used with great success by Marines in the Pacific during World War II?
4. What was the name given to the Japanese airfield captured after ferocious fighting on Guadalcanal in World War II?
5. What squadron was commissioned in 1948 to experiment with rotary wing flight?
6. Which Marine pilot and baseball star flew 38 combat missions during the Korean War?
7. How many aircraft were downed by Marine pilots during the Korean War?
8. Which helicopter appeared first in Viet-

- nam in 1966 and continues to provide close air support to Marines today?
9. What is the nickname of the Lockheed KC-130F aircraft flown and maintained by Marines, which is used to support the Blue Angels flight demonstration team?
10. Which aircraft entered Marine service in 1983 and served as a replacement for the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom and the Grumman A-6 Intruder?

*(Answers on page 22)*



# Letters from Women in Uniform Make Absorbing Text

by Jena Beth Antal

Marine Corps Historical Center Volunteer

THE LIBRARY of the Marine Corps Historical Center receives many recently published books of professional interest to Marines. Most of them are available from local bookstores and libraries.

*We're in This War, Too: World War II Letters from American Women in Uniform.*

Judy Barrett Litoff and David C. Smith. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. 260 pages. This book offers a different perspective from most wartime writing. These two history professors have combined their skills to present the reader excerpts from more than 30,000 wartime letters spanning the lives of women in every branch of the Armed Forces. We are taken from the military build-up in Hawaii prior to Pearl Harbor to eyewitness accounts of the Battle of the Bulge. \$27.50

*What They Fought For: 1861-1865.* James

McPherson. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1994. 85 pages. This Pulitzer Prize-winning Princeton history professor offers a look at excerpts from the letters and diaries of nearly 1,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who, contrary to popular belief, did know why they were fighting and were articulate and informed concerning the issues of the day. Both Union and Confederate soldiers, according to McPherson, saw themselves as custodians of the legacy of 1776. \$14.95.

*Fields of Battle: The Wars for North America.* John Keegan. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996. 334 pages. In Keegan's indomitable style, he takes his readers into our past, discovering the character of the American terrain and climate, and the competition for the land's natural resources. These factors, according to the

author, dictated why men fortified where they did, campaigned as they did, and were drawn to such battlefields as Yorktown, Gettysburg, and Bull Run. He discusses the famous engagements in our military history. The narrative ends with U.S. and Canadian troops saving Keegan's native Britain and liberating France from Germany during WWII. \$30.00

*Sailing on the Silver Screen: Hollywood and the U.S. Navy.* Lawrence Suid. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1996. The author provides a fully documented history of the making of the Navy's image on film from the earliest days of the movies to the present. His history covers films from pre-World War I to post-Cold War, more than 100 films as varied as *Annapolis* and *Hunt for Red October*. \$45.00

□1775□

## Answers to the Historical Quiz

## Marine Corps Aviation

(Questions on page 20)

1. The official birthday of Marine Air is 22 May 1912. On that date Lt Alfred A. Cunningham reported to the Marine Barracks at the Philadelphia Navy Yard to begin flight training. He soloed on 20 August 1912 in Massachusetts and became Naval Aviator number five and the first Marine pilot.

2. The Marines used DeHaviland DH-4 and DeHaviland DH-9 bombers, which were obtained through a special deal with the British. They were used for both scouting and basic ground attack missions.

3. The Vought F4U Corsair had many difficulties in its carrier suitability trials. The Marines, however, handily proved the prowess of this aircraft while the Navy sorted out the problems with its airframe. Many Marine Corps aces piloted the Corsair, including perhaps the most widely known Marine ace, LtCol Gregory "Pappy" Boyington.

4. After the Marines captured the partially constructed airstrip on the fifth day of

the battle, they completed it using abandoned Japanese equipment. The airfield became known as Henderson Field, named in honor of Maj Lofton R. Henderson, who was killed at the Battle of Midway leading a dive bombing run. This airfield proved critical to the success of the Pacific campaign.

5. Marine Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) was established at Quantico to evaluate the feasibility of the doctrine of vertical envelopment. The squadron continues to exist today primarily to provide helicopter support to the President of the United States and White House operations.

6. Boston Red Sox outfielder Ted Williams, arguably the greatest hitter of all time, was also a captain in the Reserves. He interrupted his baseball career during both World War II and the Korean War.

7. Marine pilots accounted for 27 enemy planes shot down. All but six were accomplished by Marines flying the North

American Aviation Inc. F-86 Sabre. Five other kills were the result of Marines flying in the venerable Corsair and a single kill was recorded by an Douglas AD Skyraider.

8. The Bell AH-1 Huey Cobra was derived from the UH-1 Huey airframe. Armed with rockets and a 20mm cannon, it was the first dedicated helicopter gunship in the U.S. inventory. With planned upgrades, the AH-1 will continue providing support well into the next century.

9. The Lockheed KC-130F is nicknamed "Fat Albert," in reference to the aircraft's appearance and in honor of the famous cartoon character of the same name.

10. The McDonnell Douglas F/A-18A Hornet entered service in January 1983 and the first squadrons deployed in July 1983. Many squadrons have since outfitted themselves with the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18C Hornet. The McDonnell Douglas F/A-18D Hornet replaced the Grumman A-6E Intruder beginning in the late 1980s.

## July-December 1948

by Robert V. Aquilina  
Assistant Head, Reference Section

**F**ortitudine's chronology feature continues with a selection of events in the Marine Corps from July-December 1948, including the issuance of a Presidential Executive Order banning color bias in the Armed Services, the enlistment of women into the regular Marine Corps, and the continuation of civil war in China.

**18 Jul**—In Palestine, a provisional Marine Consular Guard was detached from the 21st Marines on board the USS *Kearsarge* at Tripoli, and sent to Jerusalem to protect the U.S. Consul General in that city.

**20 Jul**—In Washington, D.C., President Harry S. Truman issued a Presidential Proclamation calling for the registration, during the period 30 August-18 September, of all men between the ages of 18 and 25 for military service. The first inductions were to be held after 1 October 1948.

**22 Jul**—The Marine Corps announced that due to increased voluntary enlistments, the Corps would not need any draftees in 1949.

**26 Jul**—President Harry S. Truman issued an Executive Order banning color bias in the Armed Services.

**25 Aug**—2dLt John Earl Rudder, the first African-American Marine officer to receive his commission into the regular Marine Corps, began training in the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia.

**30 Aug**—Registration for the second peacetime military conscription in U.S. history began.

**31 Aug**—The Marine Garrison Forces, Pacific, command was PFC John W. Davis, USMCR, and MSgt Gilbert H. Johnson perform administrative duties at Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, on 27 July, one day after President Truman issued his executive order banning color bias in the Armed Forces.



deactivated, and the Commanding General, FMFPac, assumed administrative control of all Marine security forces and supporting establishments in the Pacific Ocean Areas.

**13 Sep**—The 4th Marines (Rein) left Morehead City, North Carolina, to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

**18 Oct**—Col Katherine A. Towle reported for duty at Headquarters Marine Corps as first Director of the Corps' permanent peacetime component of Women Marines.

**10 Nov**—On the 173d anniversary of the Marine Corps, eight former members of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve were enlisted into the Regular Marine Corps.

**17 Nov**—A platoon of Marines was sent to Nanking to protect the American Consulate when the fall of that city to Communist forces appeared imminent. The guard was withdrawn in April 1949 when the Communists refrained from looting the city.

**18 Nov**—A 62-man Marine guard was sent to Haifa and assigned to the U.S. Military Observer Group, which had been stationed there during the Arab-Israeli War.

**23 Nov-16 Dec**—In China, increased pressure by Chinese Communists caused the United States to transfer Marine Battalion Landing Team 9 (BLT 9) from Guam to Shanghai to aid in the evacuation of American nationals.

**31 Dec**—Marine Corps active strength was 88,000; women in the regular Marine Corps or active Reserve numbered 24 officers and 300 enlisted women. □1775□

*Colonel Katherine A. Towle, who had been an administrator at Stanford University in California, became the first Director of Women Marines at Headquarters, Marine Corps, on 18 October.*



## Royal Marines in U.S. Stage Birthday Party at Center

by Capt Dave W. H. Wilson, RM

*Royal Marines Administration and Operations Officer, British Embassy*

ANNUALLY THE ROYAL MARINES serving in the United States of America assemble in Washington, D.C., on or around 28 October to celebrate the birth of our Corps. We take this opportunity to hold a birthday party reception to which we invite as many members of our brother Corps as we can, as well as former USMC exchange personnel and retired Royal Marines living in the USA, not only to swap a few war stories, but also to thank those with whom we work over here and whose assistance, cooperation, and hospitality we enjoy on a daily basis.

Our 332d anniversary reception was held on 31 October 1996. Very generously, the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums offered us the use of the Special Exhibits Gallery of the USMC Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard which, with its splendid displays charting the history of the USMC, proved to be the ideal and most fitting venue that we have had the privilege to use to date.

On arrival guests were greeted by Col Andrew Pillar, the British Embassy Marine Attache, and his wife, Shirley. Her Majesty's Royal Marines Plymouth Band was flown across from England especially for the occasion and added some flourish to the evening with "Beat Retreat" on the quarter-deck and its own rendition of the U.S. Marine Corps Hymn. Col Pillar made a brief address to the assembly, in which he said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen and fellow Marines, thank you all very much for being here this evening to mark the 332d anniversary of the birth of the Royal Marines. Firstly, on behalf of all the Royal Marines stationed in the USA, most of whom are here tonight, I would like to express my gratitude for the many congratulatory messages I have received from the United States Marine Corps and Attache Corps. I would like to say a public thank you to BGen Simmons, Col Monigan, and their staff for affording us the use of this magnificent Museum in which to hold our birthday party and for all their assistance. I cannot think of a more appropriate setting for this event, surrounded as we are by images and exhibits of the valiant

exploits of our somewhat younger, but considerably larger, brother Corps with which we have shared so much throughout our respective histories and with which we enjoy so much in common today . . . .

"Now, although we are celebrating our birthday on 1 November, our Corps was actually founded on 28 October 1664, when at the outbreak of the Second Dutch War a regiment of 1,200 land soldiers was raised by order of the Lord Admiral, later King James the Second.

"Titled 'The Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot,' and also 'The Admiral's Regiment,' its men were kitted out in yellow coats, red breeches, and stockings and hats bound with gold braid. It seems we still have a proclivity for making a sartorial statement! The regiment served with distinction during the Dutch Wars and in 1690 was expanded and styled the Marines.

"In 1827, when it was decided to present a new color to each of the four Royal Marines divisions, King George IV was presented with a list of no less than 106 battle honors, in order that he might select those that should be emblazoned on the colors. His Majesty, finding it impossible, directed: 'That the globe circled with a laurel wreath should be the distinguishing badge as the most appropriate emblem of a Corps whose duties carried them to all parts of the globe—in every quarter of which they had earned laurels by their valour and conduct.' The Corps subsequently assumed the crest and badge we wear to this day and we were bestowed with the motto 'Per Mare Per Terram'—By Land and by Sea.

"Since those formative years the Royal Marines have taken part in more battles on land and sea than any other branch of the British Forces and although we have grown considerably tougher and leaner in more recent years our Corps is in remarkably good health as we approach the millenium.

"Again, thank you all for joining with us to celebrate our birthday anniversary and, as a finale, the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Plymouth will beat retreat."