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FORTITUDINE

was the motto of the U. S. Marine Corps in the 1812 era.

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Cover Mr. John C. DeGrasse is the Museums Branch exhibit and design technician and no mean artist as the cover illustration makes obvious. Mr. DeGrasse is a retired Marine whose service included a tour as an illustrator for Leatherneck, a combat artist during the Korean War, and as Art Director of the Marine Corps Gazette. The cover is his interpretation of the statue "Crusader for the Right" behind which appears the facade of the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, Virginia.

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Director's Page

In the Spring issue of FORTITUDINE I said that Col Frank Caldwell was "the first Director of Marine Corps History." A careful reader has brought to my attention that this was in error and that at least three other individuals had borne the title before Frank. A little research has substantiated the Careful Reader's allegation.



Maj Edwin N. McClellan (who might well be considered the "first Director of Marine Corps History" in fact if not in name) was designated the "Officer-in-Charge" of the Historical Section, Adjutant and Inspector's Department, when it was organized on 8 September 1919. In May 1943 the Historical Section became the Historical Division and was transferred to the Personnel Department. By that time Col Clyde H. Metcalf was "Head" of the Division and was so entitled. On 1 November 1946 the Division was redesignated the Historical Section and assigned to the Division of Public Information. On 17 June 1949 the Section, then headed by LtCol Gordon D. Gayle, became a Division again, but under a rather curious organizational arrangement. From June 1949 until 14 February 1952, the Public Information, Recruiting and Historical Divisions were nominally separate divisions but were all three under one general officer who bore, in each capacity, the title "Director." Thus, during this period, BGens John T. Selden, Clayton C. Jerome, and John C. McQueen were the "Directors of Marine Corps History." The actual heads of the Historical Division carried the title "Assistant Director of Marine Corps History." Then on 15 February 1952, the Historical Division became the Historical Branch, G-3 Division, an arrangement which would last until 1 November 1969 when it once again became a separate Division. The title "Director of Marine Corps History" was revived on 17 December 1968 when the Chief of Staff approved its use by Frank Caldwell who was then the Head, Historical Branch.

If Frank were not the "first Director of Marine Corps History," he may well be the last, because when I was assigned to this billet on 1 December 1971 my title was made "Director of Marine Corps History and Museums" to reflect the addition of museum and combat art activities to the Division. More importantly, whatever their billet designation, a number of well-known and distinguished Marines have headed the historical activities of the Corps. A complete listing, showing names and tenure, is at page 4.

Thinking also that our readers might want to know something more about the historians of the Corps, we have begun with this issue a series of biographical profiles. As his first subject,

Ralph W. Donnelly (Assistant Head, Reference Section, and no mean historian himself) has taken the 19th Century Marine Corps historian Maj Richard S. Collum.

Historical Section, Adjutant and Inspector's Department

Maj	Edwin N. McClellan	8 Sep 1919-31 May 1925
Maj	Edward W. Sturdevant	1 Jun 1925-15 Aug 1928
Capt	Lucian W. Burnham	16 Aug 1928-31 Jul 1929
Mr.	James C. Jenkins	1 Aug 1929-26 Sep 1929
	(Administrative Assistant-in-Charge)	
Capt	Jonas H. Platt	27 Sep 1929-19 Jun 1930
Maj	Edwin N. McClellan	20 Jun 1930- 2 Mar 1933
Capt	Harry A. Ellsworth	3 Mar 1933-30 Aug 1934
Maj	Alphonse DeCarre	31 Aug 1934- 5 Feb 1935
Maj(LtCol)	Clyde H. Metcalf	6 Feb 1935-31 Dec 1938
Mr.	James C. Jenkins	1 Jan 1939- 4 Oct 1942
	(Administrative Assistant-in-Charge)	
Col	Clyde H. Metcalf	5 Oct 1942-30 Apr 1943

Historical Division, Personnel Department

Col	Clyde H. Metcalf	1 May 1943-15 Apr 1944
Capt	Philips D. Carleton(Acting)	16 Apr 1944- 2 May 1944
Col	John Potts	3 May 1944- 2 Jan 1946
Col	Howard N. Kenyon	3 Jan 1946-15 Oct 1946
LtCol	Ellsworth N. Murray	16 Oct 1946-31 Oct 1946

Historical Section, Division of Public Information

LtCol	Ellsworth N. Murray	1 Nov 1946-20 Dec 1946
LtCol	Robert D. Heinl, Jr.	21 Dec 1946-12 Jun 1949
LtCol	Gordon D. Gayle	13 Jun 1949-16 Jun 1949

Historical Division

LtCol	Gordon D. Gayle	17 Jun 1949-13 Aug 1951
LtCol	Francis O. Hough	14 Aug 1951-14 Feb 1952

Historical Branch, G-3 Division

LtCol	Francis O. Hough	15 Feb 1952- 8 Jun 1952
LtCol	Harry W. Edwards	9 Jun 1952-17 Jul 1955
Col	Charles W. Harrison	18 Jul 1955-24 Jul 1959
Maj	Hubard D. Kuokka	25 Jul 1959-17 Aug 1959
Maj	Gerald Fink	18 Aug 1959- 7 Jan 1960
Col	William M. Miller	8 Jan 1960-31 Jul 1961
Col	Thomas G. Roe	1 Aug 1961-30 Jun 1962
Maj	John H. Johnstone (Acting)	1 Jul 1962- 8 Nov 1962
Col	Joseph F. Wagner, Jr.	9 Nov 1962-31 Aug 1963
LtCol	Richard J. Schening	1 Sep 1963-14 Nov 1963
LtCol(Col)	Frank C. Caldwell	15 Nov 1963-31 Oct 1969

Historical Division

Col	Frank C. Caldwell	1 Nov 1969-30 Nov 1971
BGen	Edwin H. Simmons	1 Dec 1971-

CMC Advisory Committee Meets

The Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History held its annual meeting at Headquarters Marine Corps from 18-20 July 1973. This year's committee considered an agenda that included as general items the conversion of Building 58 in the Washington Navy Yard to the Marine Corps Historical Center, opportunities for contributions to the Historical Division's Research Grant Fund, and the possibilities of a Marine Corps Bicentennial Historical Conference. As Historical Branch agenda items, there was discussion of the Vietnam histories, both monographic and case-bound, unit histories of regiments and squadrons, and the history of Continental Marines in the Revolution. The Museums Branch agenda items included consideration of Building 198 in the Washington Navy Yard as an exhibits and research center, the establishment of a master catalog and inventory control system for museum collections, progress on setting up satellite, locally-oriented museums at various major bases, the establishment of an air-ground annex to the museum at Quantico, and the development of a mobile exhibit program.

Aside from briefings and discussions on various agenda items in which knowledgeable members of the Historical Division participated, the committee members were the guest of honor at a Commandant's reception held at Center House Mess at the Marine Barracks, Eighth and I Streets, on 18 July. In addition to the host, Gen Robert E. Cushman, Jr., former Commandant Gen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., as well as the present Chief of Staff at Headquarters, LtGen Foster C. LaHue, were present. Invited guests included the senior military and civilian members of the other Service historical agencies. Former members of the Advisory Committee in the Washington area and the field grade officers and senior civilians of the Historical Division rounded out the attendees at the informal gathering, which provided an excellent opportunity for committee members to acquaint themselves with the leaders and programs of the military historical community in Washington.

The Advisory Committee is composed of three retired general or field grade officers and three civilian members with BGen Simmons serving on the committee ex officio. The chairman is the senior retired officer; in the case of this year's committee as well as last year's, he is MajGen Donald M. Weller. MajGen Weller, a graduate of the Naval Academy in the class of 1930 where he was the roommate of former Commandant Gen Greene, served on active duty from 1930-1963. During his early years he was an artillery officer and is considered by many to be the prime mover in the development and refinement of naval gunfire

support doctrine through his service in World War II and at the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, following the war. Graduating from the Naval War College in 1950, he served at Headquarters Marine Corps in various capacities, then at Camp Lejeune and Quantico. Following his promotion to brigadier general in 1955, he served in Paris as Deputy J-3 to Commander-in-Chief, European Forces and then returned to Washington where he was the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1 at Headquarters. In 1960, he took command of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa for a year and then served as Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific until his retirement. For most of the past decade, Gen Weller was a member of the International Studies Division of the Institute for Defense Analysis and now serves as a consultant in defense studies.

Joining the committee this year for the first meeting of his three-year term was MajGen Norman J. Anderson, USMC (Ret.), a veteran Marine Corps aviator who served on active duty from 1936-1972. A graduate of UCLA with a year of graduate work at Stanford, MajGen Anderson received his wings in 1937. During World War II he served overseas as a transport and medium bomber pilot and in Korea as a fighter pilot. After graduation from the National War College in 1953, he served in various command and staff positions, eventually serving as Deputy Chief of Staff (Air) at Headquarters, as Commanding General, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, and as Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Vietnam. Upon his retirement as Deputy Chief of Staff, Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic, MajGen Anderson became the Executive Director, MacArthur Memorial Foundation, in Norfolk.

Left to right: Dr. Lundeberg, MajGen Anderson, Mr. Sherrod, BGen Simmons, MajGen Weller, Dr. Craig, and Col Aldridge.



The third military member of the committee, serving his third year, is Col Frederick S. Aldridge, USMC (Ret.), a veteran artillery officer, who served on active duty from 1937-1964. Following his retirement, he earned a PhD in history from American University and taught in several southern colleges before becoming as he is today, Head, Department of History, Chairman, Division of Social Studies, and Director, Urban Studies Center of Jacksonville University in Jacksonville, Florida.

The veteran civilian member of the Advisory Committee, serving his third year like Col Aldridge, is Dr. Philip K. Lundeborg, Curator, Division of Naval History, U. S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution. He earned his PhD in history at Harvard and is a retired naval reserve commander who served on active duty in World War II (destroyers) and Korea (Naval History Division). He has taught at St. Olaf's College and the U.S. Naval Academy, is the author of several books and articles on naval history, and is active in museum and historical associations.

Dating his membership from 1972 like Gen Weller, is Dr. Gordon A. Craig, Professor of History at Stanford University. A former Rhodes scholar at Oxford, he received his PhD from Princeton in 1941 and served on active duty with the Marine Corps in the Pacific during World War II; he was placed on the honorary retired list as a captain in 1958. Dr. Craig is the author of many highly regarded histories and studies, particularly in the field of German militarism. After World War II he chaired the editorial board of The Princeton University Marine Corps History Project which resulted in a truly landmark study, The U.S. Marines and Amphibious War: Its Theory and Its Practice in the Pacific by Jeter A. Isely and Philip A. Crowl.

The newest civilian member of the Advisory Committee, starting a three-year term, is Mr. Robert L. Sherrod, a man very familiar to students of Marine Corps history in World War II. Mr. Sherrod, as a war correspondent with Time and Life covered many Marine assault landings and wrote of his experiences in Tarawa: The Story of a Battle and On to the Westward. After the war he was chosen to be the author of the History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II. Currently a free-lance writer, he is working on a history of the NASA space programs.

The Advisory Committee closed out its 1973 session with a meeting with the Commandant on 20 July to discuss its findings. Its written report, prepared by Gen Weller as chairman, is currently being staffed at Headquarters and will be reported on in the next issue of FORTITUDINE

Henry I. Shaw, Jr.

The "George" Medal

The medal/illustrated on the following page is legendary among 1st Marine Division veterans of Guadalcanal. Only about 50 (some say as few as 20) were cast in Australia before the mold gave out.

The medal commemorates the difficult situation of the division during the early days on Guadalcanal when ammunition and food were short and the Japanese plentiful.

When the issue was no longer in doubt, Marines had time to reflect on the D+3 Navy withdrawal, in the face of increasing Japanese air attacks and surface action, which left the division in such a tight spot.

In the recollection of then-Capt Donald L. Dickson, adjutant of the 5th Marines, the Division G-3, then-Col Merrill B. Twining, resolved to commemorate the occasion. Twining told Dickson in general terms what he had in mind. Artist Dickson went to work designing an appropriate medal using a fifty-cent piece to draw a circle on a captured Japanese blank military postcard.

Dickson's design was approved and when the division got to Australia a mold was made by a local metal craftsman and a small number were cast before the mold became unserviceable. They are now an even greater rarity than at the time.

The obverse design depicts a hand and sleeve dropping a hot potato in the shape of Guadalcanal into the arms of a grateful Marine. In the original design the sleeve bore the stripes of a vice admiral intended to be either VAdm Robert L. Ghormley, ComSoPac, or VAdm Frank Jack Fletcher, Commander Joint Expeditionary Force, but the final medal diplomatically omitted this identification.

Also on the obverse is a barrel cactus, hardly indigenous to Guadalcanal, but the code name for the operation, still in effect, was "Cactus." The obverse inscription is Faciat Georgius, "Let George Do It," thus, the George Medal.

The medal's reverse pictures a cow (the original design showed a Japanese soldier) and an electric fan and is inscribed, "In fond remembrance of the happy days spent from Aug. 7th 1942 to Jan. 5th 1943. U.S.M.C."

The suspension ribbon was made, appropriately, of the pale green herringbone twill from some Marine's utility uniform.

Legend has it that to be authentic the utilities from which the ribbons were made had to have been washed in the waters of Guadalcanal's Lunga River. Some medals were provided with the oversized safety pin used to identify laundry bags in Navy shipboard laundries.

The George Medal shown here was recently donated to the Marine Corps Museum by BGen James J. Keating, USMC (Ret.), who, on Guadalcanal, commanded 3d Battalion, 11th Marines, the last 1st Marine Division unit to leave Guadalcanal, 5 January 1943.

This George Medal was displayed together with other 1st Marine Division memorabilia at the Maryland Historical Society in connection with the 1st Marine Division Association Reunion, 2-5 August.

The Museum would like to acquire another George Medal so that both sides could be shown in a display. Also, there is believed to have been a citation certificate which accompanied the medal which the Museum does not have but would like to acquire for display.

F. B. Nihart

Obverse

Reverse



Historians Of The Corps

Richard Strader Collum, the first uniformed historian of the Marine Corps, was born in Madison, Indiana. He attended the U. S. Naval Academy for three years but resigned in 1857. Two months after leaving the Academy he applied to the Secretary of the Navy for appointment as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps, but his commission was delayed until the outbreak of the Civil War created a vacancy. Assigned to the frigate St. Lawrence, Collum participated in numerous activities along the Atlantic Coast during the first year of the war, and was promoted to first lieutenant in December 1862.



He served a year with the Mississippi Squadron and then was transferred to the New Ironsides in the Atlantic, serving from August 1862 to April 1865. This assignment brought participation in the two attacks on Fort Fisher. Later he commanded the Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., during the confinement of those arrested in the conspiracy to assassinate President Lincoln.

Collum was commissioned captain in March 1872 and sent to the Marine Barracks in Boston, Massachusetts. He was assigned to Headquarters in Washington from February to June 1875 before going to the Asiatic station.

In 1874 Collum turned over various official reports and other documents, as well as a rough draft of a history of the U.S. Marine Corps to Messrs Henry L. Shepard and Co., Publishers of Boston. Shepard apparently enlisted the services of a Boston journalist, M. Almy Aldrich, to edit Collum's material to publishable form. This first edition, attributed to Aldrich coming on the centennial year of the Corps, made a notable contribution in defending its separate existence at a time when this was being seriously questioned.

Aldrich died in Chicago, Illinois, on 24 March 1921, at the age of 77 years. A veteran newspaper editor and author, his career included being managing editor of the Boston Globe, the Worcester Spy, the St. Louis Star and the Chattanooga Times. For fifteen years, when a resident of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he

covered the proceedings of the Wisconsin legislature for the Chicago Tribune. He was the author of a "History of the United States Marine Corps" (1875). A book review of Aldrich's 1875 edition opens the door to the criticism of today's professional historians. According to the review:

Whenever it has been possible, Mr. Aldrich - himself a journalist - has chosen vivid accounts of battles, &c., printed in newspapers, in preference to official documents, because he believes that "the unprejudiced newspaper reporter is the real historian of the age."

Just how he was able to distinguish the prejudiced from the unprejudiced reporter is not explained.

Articles by Collum began to appear in print during the next decade. His duty in Asiatic waters led to "The First Englishman in Japan" and "Dai Nippon," both published in 1880 in The United Service magazine. The following year he contributed a brief article entitled "Foreign Marine Corps" to L. R. Hamersly's A Naval Encyclopedia. Evidently utilizing material intended for his own version of the history of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1882 saw publication of "Our Marines in the Levant" in The United Service magazine. This article reflected research on the burning of the Philadelphia in Tripoli harbor, O'Bannon and the Derne Expedition, and the landing at Alexandria, Egypt, in 1881.

Five years later he published a short article "Services of the Marines During the Civil War" which evidently served as an outline for his forthcoming history. An article entitled "The Antiquity of Marines and their Relations to the Navies of the World" appeared in 1888 in the Journal of the Military Service Institution of the United States. This was followed by "The Capture of Philadelphia and the Attack of the British Fleet on the Defenses of Delaware-1777" in The United Service magazine. The article was based on advance sheets from his impending history.

At the end of December 1890, Collum's new History of the United States Marine Corps was published. The Army and Navy Register gave it a laudatory book review as a follow-up on an 1875 attempt and characterized it as "a contribution of lasting value." Adm Stephen B. Luce, who had contributed a chapter, gave it high praise and remarked on its value against Marine Corps detractors in showing the constant value of the Corps. He commented almost prophetically, "These periodical attacks on the corps must be expected; but they never amount to much."

Following his history, Collum published several more articles including one in February 1904 in The United Service magazine, "The First Time Our Marines Went to Panama (1885)". This was firsthand experience as Collum had participated in this ex-

pedition. He was commissioned captain and assistant quartermaster in charge of the Depot of Supplies, Philadelphia, on 4 May 1885, and except for a brief tour of 20 months at Headquarters, remained there until his retirement at the rank of major in June 1897.

Some time after retirement, he took the position of Commandant of the State Soldiers' Home at Erie, but failing health compelled him to resign. Maj Collum died at his home in West Philadelphia on 3 January 1905, in his 67th year and was buried at Woodlands Cemetery.

While Collum used much of the same material as given in Aldrich, his edition reflects additional study, particularly in the Revolutionary War period. Unfortunately, Collum introduced the story of Fort Mifflin or Mud Island into his Marine Corps history, implying Marines were involved and enumerating the officers by name and the number of Marines of the Pennsylvania State Navy on the Pennsylvania ships in 1776-1777. A myth was created here that achieved a high degree of respectability in 1956 with the publication of the article, "Hell's Half Acre," which ascribed much of Fort Mifflin's heroic defense to the Marines.

Aldrich credits just two Marine officers by name with participation in the battle of Bladensburg, 24 August 1814, Capt Samuel Miller and Alexander Sevier. In his expansion of the story, Collum erroneously credits William Hall and Joseph L. Kuhn with being present. Neither edition credits Lts Benjamin Richardson, William Nicholls, Charles Lord, or Edmund Brook with being present - as they were.

Collum's version of the Defense of Baltimore in September 1814 left the impression that Marines and seamen from the flotilla were present at Fort McHenry during the famous bombardment. While not true, the legend still persists. In its lead-in to the Civil War, the Aldrich edition credited the Star of the West with carrying 250 artillerists and Marines on the unsuccessful attempt to re-enforce Fort Sumter. Collum retained this item in his edition. In spite of the diligent efforts made by several researchers, the presence of Marines on this expedition has not been proved, and nothing has been located to make their presence at all probable.

While modern academicians might regret his lack of documentation or the journalist suggest that his writing style was somewhat stilted, Richard Collum successfully began the effort to remove the U.S. Marine Corps experience from the realm of oral tradition and he will always be remembered as the First Historian of the Corps.

Ralph W. Donnelly