# Revolutionary Marines in California

Members and friends of the History and Museums Division brought the Continental Marines to the West Coast this spring in the unlikely setting of an Army-oriented conference at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History.

Army-oriented might not be quite the best description as it was pointed out that Marine participation was so high that "it was like a meeting of the Marine Corps League." Actually the occasion was the 9th Military History Conference of the Council on Abandoned Military Posts (CAMP), a 1,200-person organization of military historians and buffs. It was meeting in Los Angeles and San Diego 23-26 April and the annual banquet on 26 April also marked the formal opening of an exhibition of Maj Charles Waterhouse's 14-painting series, *Marines in the Revolution.*

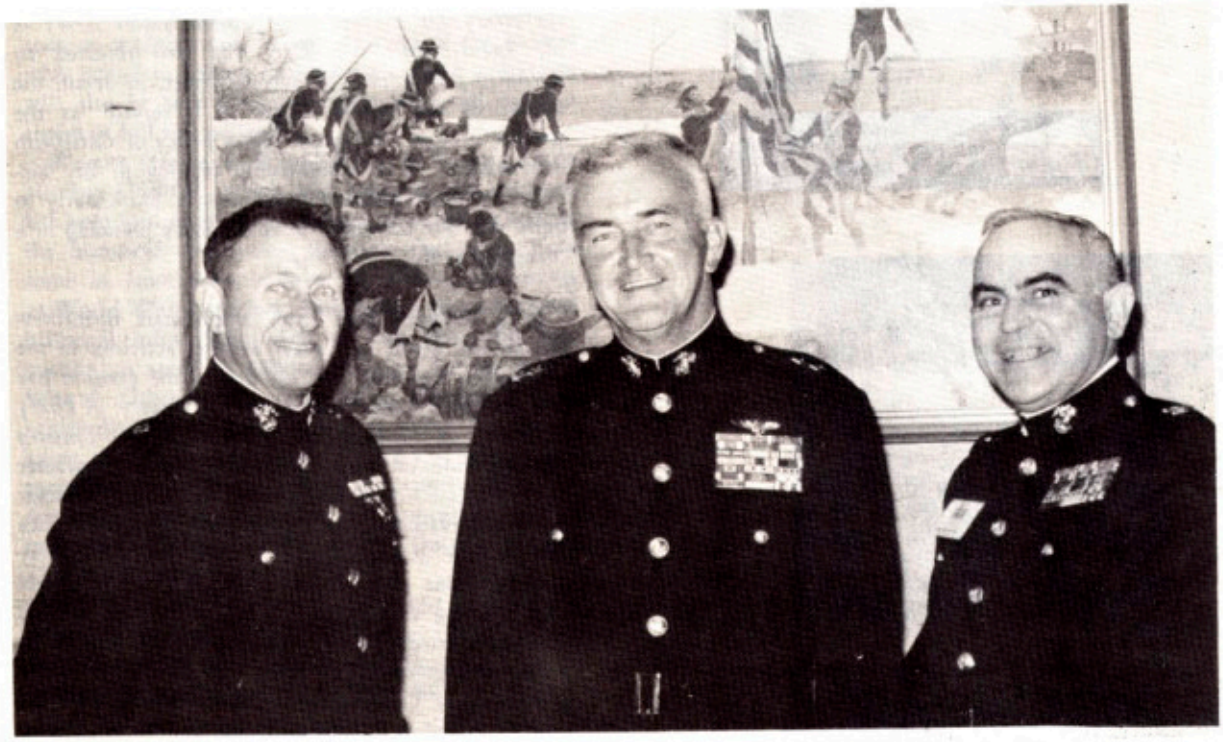
Senior Marine present at the banquet was MajGen William R. Quinn, commanding general of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing. Representing the History and Museums Division was Col Herbert M. Hart, Deputy Director for History, who also spoke at one of the sessions earlier in the week. Maj Waterhouse was on hand to discuss his paintings. He had just completed a research trip to historic Marine Corps sites and modern bases in California for a projected series of paintings on 19th century and modern Marine activities there.

At the banquet Gen Quinn presented a History and Museums Division Certificate of Appreciation to Konrad Schreier, military history consultant for the motion picture industry, for his help to Waterhouse during his visit. This was the first presentation of the newly designed certificate.

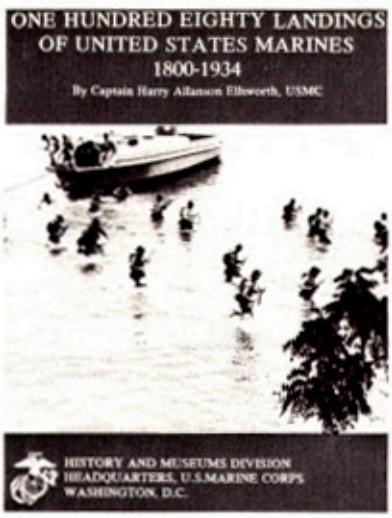
Other friends of Marine Corps history participating in the meeting included Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., former Commandant, and LtGen Victor H. Krulak, former CG FMFPac, who presided at a San Diego luncheon on 25 April.

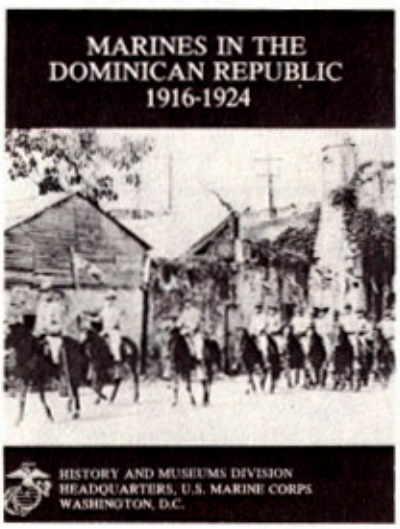
The paintings remained at the LA Museum through 19 May, then were moved to San Francisco. A formal champagne reception was hosted by the mayor on 27 May to open their two-week showing in the San Francisco City Hall.

*Painting of the flag raising at New Providence provides a background to Marines at CAMP banquet: Maj Waterhouse; MajGen Quinn; Col Hart.*



# New Publications



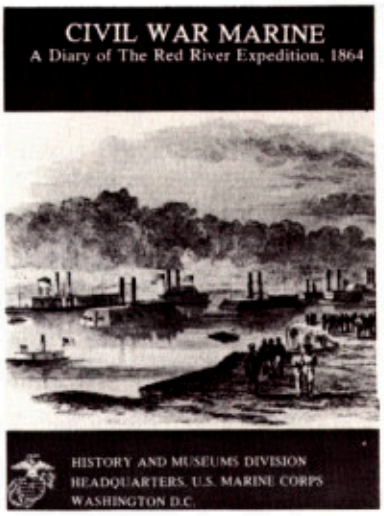

*One Hundred Eighty Landing of United States Marines 1800–1934* by Captain Harry Alanson Ellsworth, USMC was written in 1934. The work was reprinted in 1964 and due to the number of requests for copies of the booklet, it has been reprinted for the second time. Like the first reprint, this second run is an exact facsimile of the original mimeographed edition. Although no attempt has been made to edit or validate the text, Mr. Ralph Donnelly of the Reference Section has written an illuminating preface expanding upon international landings by Marines and has provided biographical information about the author. Mr. Donnelly sets to rest the legend that Marines have a special privilege of landing upon foreign soil with immunity toward diplomatic ramifications.

*Marines in the Dominican Republic 1916–1924* is a joint effort on the part of Captain Stephen M. Fuller, USMCR and Dr. Graham A. Cosmas. Captain Fuller served on active duty from 1968 to 1971. Since then he has spent two summers with the division doing research on this monograph and making preparation for a forthcoming monograph on Marines in Haiti. He has a PhD in History from the University of New Mexico. The co-author, Dr. Cosmas, has been with the division since December 1973. He holds a PhD in History from the University of Wisconsin and most recently taught at the University of Guam. His book, *An Army for Empire: The United States Army in the Spanish-American War*, was well received by scholarly reviewers. The authors cover, in detail, the actions of the Marine Corps as it served "as the striking arm of the United States policy of Caribbean intervention." It is enlightening reading to any historian or professional military person, particularly to those who are interested in contingency planning in a changing world.

In a different vein from amphibious operations around the world and peace-keeping activities in the Dominican Republic are two diaries the division has just published. One, *Marine Flyer in France: A Diary of Alfred A. Cunningham, November 1917–January 1918*, provides on interesting insight into the character of the Marine Corps' first aviator. Detailing Cunningham's observations during an inspection trip to France and Britain during World War I, the day-by-day diary contains information of airfields, aircraft, and pilot training schools, mainly in France, and reveals that the Marine flew on a combat mission himself as a rear seat gunner. The diary was discovered in the processing of Cunningham's papers, which were recently donated to the Marine Corps by Mrs. Alexander

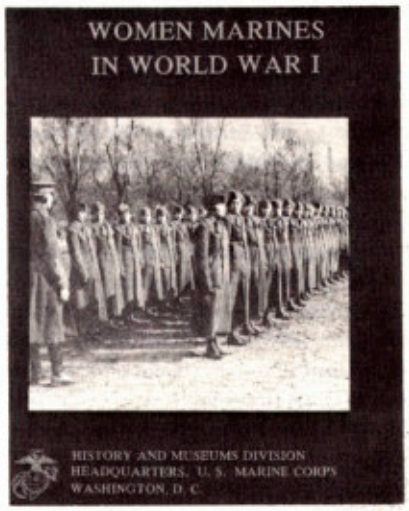
H. Jeffries, sister-in-law of the late Mrs. Alfred A. Cunningham. Dr. Cosmas edited the manuscript for publication and included a number of contemporary photographs which are also from the Cunningham collection.

The second diary is that of Lt. Frank L. Church, a Civil War career officer, who commanded the Marine guards on the USS *Black Hawk*, a steamer that was RAdm David Dixon Porter's flagship of the Mississippi Squadron, and the USS *Cricket*, a tinclad that was Porter's flagship in the Red River Expedition. The diary was obtained by Dr. Edward F. Keuchel and edited and annotated by him and Dr. James P. Jones, both of Florida State University. *Civil War Marine: A Diary of The Red River Expedition, 1864*, a vivid account of riverine warfare, has been illustrated with contemporary photographs and maps.




Another new publication of the division, *Making A Continental Marine Uniform*, is intended for limited distribution only to those seriously interested in undertaking the considerable effort necessary to reconstruct an authentic period uniform. Compiled by Mrs. Doris S. Maley and Mr. Jack B. Hilliard of the Museums Branch, the booklet contains information on the materials needed, use of patterns, and sequence of cutting and sewing operations for making a Continental Marine's coat, waistcoat, shirt, breeches, and half gaiters. Information is included as well on making a fatigue shirt, stocks, hats, and cockades. Those persons or organizations receiving a copy of the booklet who intend to follow through on making a uniform will also be sent (on application with full details) copies of full size patterns.

*Women Marines in World War I* by Captain Linda Hewett, USMCR, which was released last summer, has been well received by the general public as well as the historical community. Requests for copies have come in from many women identifying themselves as World War I Marines. Most letters give additional historical information such as that from the only woman to serve in Marine aviation during World War I. Other letters reveal that the ladies have achieved prominence in their own right—from managing the careers of Hollywood stars to holding responsible positions in colleges and universities. All responses have been warm and concerned, giving reviewed testimony to the adage, "Once a Marine, always a Marine."




Copies of all the above publications may be obtained by writing Director of Marine Corps History and Museums (Code HD), Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, Washington, D. C. 20380.

*British sailors cheer as Wilcox's ship, the USS* New York, *leads the American fleet into Scapa Flow. Painting by Bernard F. Gribble.*

# Personal Papers

China, World War I, and the Caribbean are the scenes of two sets of personal papers recently accessioned, inventoried, and made available to researchers. They span the Marine Corps careers of Cols Adolph B. Miller and Julian P. Willcox.

The Miller collection was received in part from him prior to his death in 1971 and in full from his widow and daughter soon after. It spans 1905 through 1943.

Col Miller was born in Buffalo, N.Y., on 9 September 1885, was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1909 and the Marine Officers School, Port Royal, S.C., the same year. Classmates at Port Royal included the future Commandant of the Marine Corps, Alexander A. Vandegrift, and the father of Marine Corps aviation, Alfred A. Cunningham.

Aspects of his career which are touched upon in the papers range from sea duty through trench service in France. As a second lieutenant he commanded the Marine detachment in the gunboat USS *Helena* on the China station in 1911. At the outbreak of the riots that would lead to the establishment of the Chinese Republic, he landed his troops at Hankow, China, and remained for five months guarding American interests.

In Haiti in 1915, Miller participated in the two-day battle of Dipitie, 24-25 October 1915, against the Cacos. As a captain and commander of the 74th Company with the 6th Marines, 4th Brigade, 2d Division, AEF, Miller was severely gassed and temporarily blinded on 13 April 1918 in the Verdun sector. Following tours as a recruiting officer in Kansas City, Mo., and in Chicago, Miller was Commander, Fort San Felipe, Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, from October 1922 to September 1924.

From May 1926 to March 1927 he commanded the Marine Barracks at Lakehurst, New Jersey. It was from this duty station that Miller and his command were directed in April of 1927 to proceed "with all

haste" to the west coast to join the Marine contingent headed for China, where he served as commander of the 2d Battalion, 6th Regiment, Tientsin, China and of the 3d Battalion, 4th Regiment, Shanghai, China.

The remaining years of Miller's career were spent with the recruiting service until he was retired for physical disability on 1 October 1942. Col Miller was recalled to active duty on 1 December 1942, as Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, Naval Air Station, Opa Locka, Florida, a tour of duty that lasted until he re-retired from the Corps as of 26 November 1944.

The Miller collection reflects the career of an early twentieth century Marine. From his diary chronicling his midshipmen's cruise of 1906 on board the USS *Denver*, the collection includes three other diaries, two dealing with the mobilization of the 6th Regiment for duty in China, 1927, and one dealing with his tour in Haiti in 1916 through his activities with the 74th Company in Verdun, France, 1918. The collection also includes many scrapbooks, numerous yearbooks related to his class at the Naval Academy, and class bulletins issued over the years by the secretary of the Class of 1909.

The personal papers and memorabilia of the late Col Julian P. Willcox, USMC, have been received from his son, LtCol Julian Willcox, USMC (Ret.)

Col Willcox' service in the Corps spanned the years 1905 through 1935, when he retired as a lieutenant colonel and was advanced to colonel on the retired list. He was recalled to active duty in World War II and re-retired in 1942.

Unique among his papers is a file of naval signals received by the battleship USS *New York* from Commander-in-Chief Grand Fleet, Adm Sir David Beatty, while *New York* was flagship of the American Sixth Battle Squadron. Willcox was Commanding Officer, Marine Detachment and Squadron Intelligence Officer in *New York*.

The signals file begins with the order for observing the end of World War I. Col Willcox's diary entry for the day says: "Nov. 11 Rosyth, Scot. Word received that armistice between allies and Germany had been signed at 5:00 a.m. Hostilities stopped at 11:00 a.m. today. General celebration throughout fleet. Bells, whistles, and searchlights kept going until about midnight."

The collection of naval signals continues to chronicle Operation ZZ, the surrender for internment of the German High Sea Fleet at Scapa Flow on 21 November 1918. The messages are further elaborated upon in the diary notes. The collection also contains numerous photographs related to Willcox's career, copies of orders and correspondence from 1905 to 1946, and a few publications.

# Buying Out

A discharge prior to expiration of enlistment could be purchased by a soldier almost until World War II. A similar practice was concurrently in force in the Marine Corps but when it was terminated is not known, although probably before World War I.

Recently, such a special discharge dated 7 May 1833 came to the Marine Corps by way of a friend of the Museum. It was given to him for such a purpose by Mr. Kenneth H. Cornell of Olean, New York.

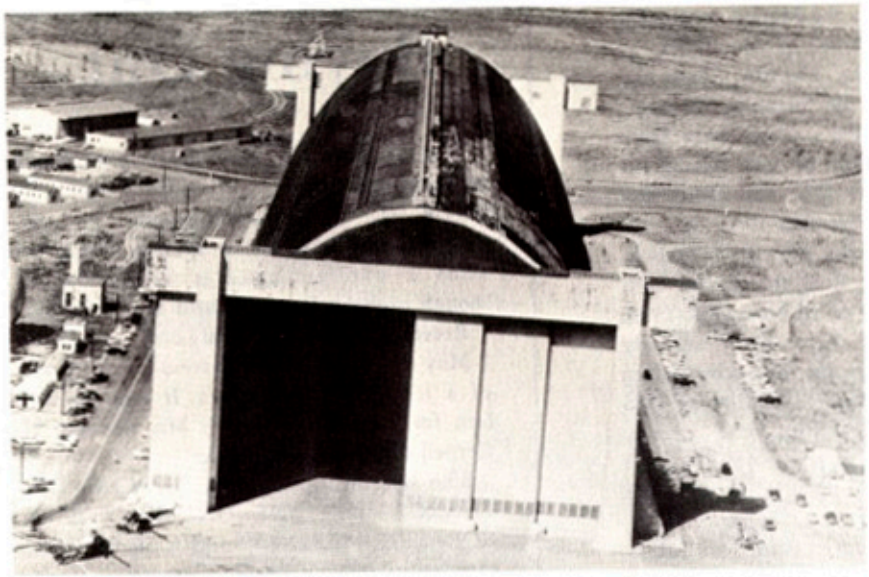
The document is headed "SPECIAL DISCHARGE from THE UNITED STATES' CORPS OF MARINES" and is signed "Arch Henderson, Lieut. Col. Commd't Marine Corps." It states, in part, "To all whom it may concern, This is to Certify, That *Maurice Souney*, a *Private* of Marines . . . . is hereby DISCHARGED from the service of the UNITED STATES; *By order of the acting Secretary of the Navy, on furnishing substitute, leaving two months pay, and paying all expenses.*"

Two months pay at the time was $14.00 plus 60 rations at $0.12½ per ration. Expenses were noted by the Quartermaster underneath Commandant Henderson's signature as:

| | |
|---|---|
| "Due the United States for clothing drawn but not served for | $7.02 |
| " do do for Portion of premium | $1.66 |
| | $8.68 |

So Souney's discharge cost him $22.68 plus whatever additional it cost him to recruit a substitute. The nature of the "premium" for which he owed is not known but may have been like an enlistment bonus.

Souney had to wait another 20 days before the discharge returned to Marine Barracks, New York where he was stationed. His signature, dated May 27th is affixed to the statement, "I *Maurice Souney* hereby acknowledge to have received all my pay, clothing and emoluments of every description whatsoever, from the commencement of my enlistment in the MARINE CORPS, to the day of my discharge."



*Marine Corps' newest entry on the National Register of Historic Places includes this lighter-than-air hangar at Santa Ana, one of two at the station.*

# Historic Sites

Marine Corps sites and several others with a Marine Corps interest have recently been entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

As part of a program of the Department of the Interior to implement preservation laws and Presidential executive orders, the Register affords a degree of protection to historic sites placed on it. Non-federal locations also are eligible for types of preservation funding.

Nominations to the Register followed a DOD-wide program last year in which all services were directed to inventory their potential historic sites. Those places meeting the criteria for the Register were to be nominated. Meanwhile, all properties having the potential for listing were to be protected by the owning service, whether or not they were on the list.

Five Marine Corps sites had previously been entered on the Register: The Commandant's House, Marine Barracks, and Marine Barracks site, all at 8th and Eye in Washington, D.C., and the Ranchhouse and Los Flores Adobe, both at Camp Pendleton.

The first entry on the Register after the History and Museums Division took over administration of the Marine Corps Program was Charles Forte, the site of the original French fort at Parris Island, S.C. This was the first reported structure in South Carolina and the first French post in North America. Established by Jean Ribaut in 1562, the fort was a blockhouse of logs and clay, thatched with straw, surrounded by a ditch. Including four bastions, it supposedly measured 96 by 78 feet. The fort was used for only a few months then burned by the Spanish who later built forts of their own nearby, one in 1566 and another in 1580.

The last traces of the fort were razed by the Marine Corps in 1919. It is now marked by a stone column erected in 1925.

The newest Marine Corps additions to the Register are the lighter-than-air hangars at Santa Ana, Calif. These two structures, completed in 1943 to house anti-submarine airships, are considered to be among the largest wood supported structures in the world. Similar hangars were built at nine other locations in the country. Since most have been demolished, the remaining Marine Corps buildings have become even more significant.

Each hangar is 178 feet high, 1,088 long, and 297 wide, and was capable of housing six airships, an entire squadron. Today they are performing similar roles, housing the helicopters of MAG-16.

Veterans of the Guam campaign of World War II

will be interested in three sites on the island which have been entered on the Register: the Agat invasion beach, Matgue River valley battle area, and Hill 40.

Agat invasion beach is the site of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landing on July 21, 1944: Yellow 2, White 1, and White 2. The beach and areas behind it were strongly fortified with obstacles, including wire and mines, and a series of trenches. More than 25 pillboxes were in the area. The remains of these defenses still exist, including several pillboxes and concrete gun emplacements.

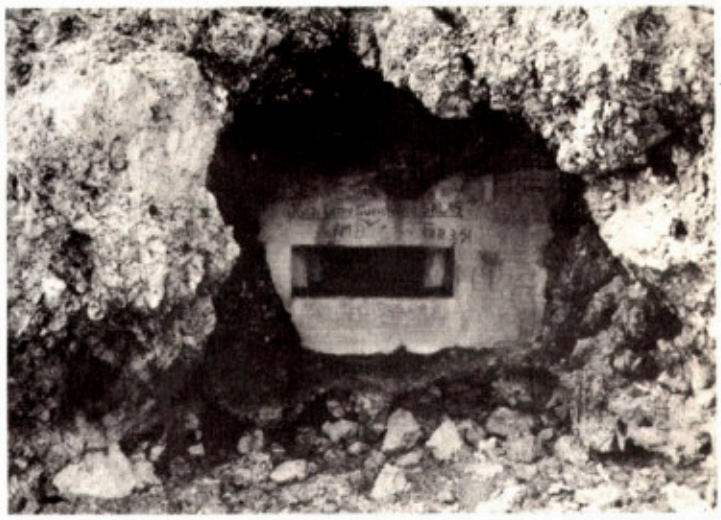
Hill 40 was the scene of some of the most vicious fighting during the Agat invasion. It was captured by the 4th Marines on D-Day, lost during the Japanese counterattack that evening, then regained that night. The Japanese attempted a second counterattack the morning of July 22. This was unsuccessful and signalled the end of Japanese resistance on the right flank of the beachhead. Today only slight surfaces depressions remain on the hill.

The Matgue River valley was the scene of a critical counterattack by two battalions of the Japanese 18th Regiment against elements of the 9th and 21st Marines. Although severe, the attack was beaten off with heavy casualties to the Japanese. This action was part of the night counter-attacks of July 25-26. Their failure, with an estimated 3,500 casualties, resulted in a general retreat to the north and are considered the turning point in the campaign for Guam. No remains of the battle exist except for a few caves dug into the sides of the valley.

The final site of Marine interest recently added to the Register dates to one of the earliest Marine actions, that of the Battle of Penobscot, Maine, in 1779. An amphibious operation became an American defeat because of command indecision and misjudgement, Penobscot included 300 Continental Marines aboard the 19 Continental and state navy ships and privateers.

The initial landings were successful but command indecision caused a delay in pursuing the attack. This allowed sufficient time for a British relief fleet to arrive in August 1779, causing the American fleet to scatter and, in many cases, the ships to be sunk.

One of these was the privateer Defence, a 16-gun brigantine that had supported the Penobscot landings. She was engaged by the Camilla, a British frigate, and sunk on August 15, 1779. Almost 200 years later, in 1972, the wreck of the Defence was located by a joint project of the Massachusettes Institute of Technology and the Maine Maritime Academy. It is in 15 to 23 feet of water in the harbor of Stockton Spring, Maine. Some artifacts have been brought up, but no additional recovery is planned until improved facilities can assure proper preservation of the objects.



*This concrete gun emplacement still exists in a cave near the Agat invasion beach. (Bishop Museum photograph courtesy the National Register of Historic Places).*

*Artifacts recovered from the wreck of the Defence include this 16 pounder. (Photograph by Maine Maritime Academy courtesy of the National Register of Historic Places.)*

*MajGen Graves B. Erskine, USMC (Retired).*

# Erskine on Leadership

One of the outstanding leaders of Marines in our history was the late Gen Graves B. Erskine, known as "Bobby" to his close friends and contemporaries, and affectionately as "The Big E" to his admirers and subordinates for his manner of initialing correspondence. Not only was he a highly capable and qualified Marine, he looked every inch a general. He celebrated his 21st birthday as a Marine platoon leader in the front lines in France in World War I and his subsequent pre-World War II career was almost equally divided between staff and command assignments, with considerable schooling in between both as an instructor and as a student. In World War II, General Erskine commanded the 3d Marine Division at Iwo Jima and later, during the Korean War, FMFLant.

In the course of one of the sessions of his Marine Corps Oral History Program interview, he was asked what he thought were the essential elements which make a good field commander, from platoon level on up. His answer was to the point and almost classic in its simplicity:

> "The first thing, a man should know his business. He should know his weapons, he should know the tactics for those weapons, and he should not only be qualified for the grade that he is assigned in, [but] at least for the next higher grade. He must be a man who has a great deal of dedication, he must have . . . a very high regard for accomplishment, and a feeling for his men. He should be a man who never thinks about the number of casualties that he may get when he goes into combat, but one who thinks of every possible way to train his men so he can bring the maximum number back . . . Regardless of the casualties, we want to bring every possible man back, and the way to do that is to have them as highly trained as you can possibly do within your ability."

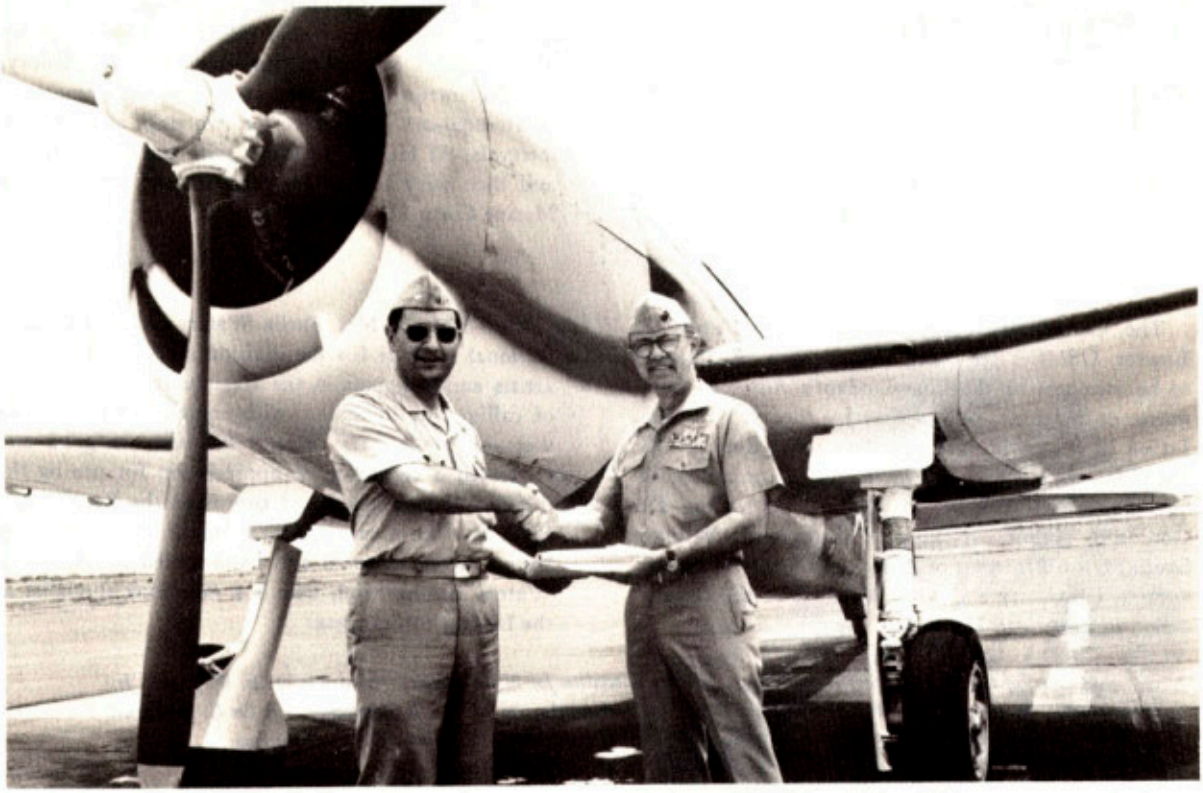
# People and Places

On 28 March the History and Museums Division hosted an afternoon's visit at HQMC of the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Committee on Naval History. The Secretary's Committee has 13 members (nine were in attendance) and meets for two days at 18-month intervals. At HQMC they met with the Commandant and then were briefed on progress and plans of the Marine Corps Historical Program.

The Commandant has named LtGen Alpha L. Bowser, USMC (Ret.) and Dr. Richard W. Leopold to be members of the Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History for the 1975-78 term. LtGen Bowser, who last served as active duty as CG, FMFLant, will act as chairman of the committee relieving MajGen Donald M. Weller. Succeeding Dr. Gordon A. Craig, Dr. Leopold is currently William Smith Mason Professor of American History at Northwestern University and Vice President of the Organization of American Historians.

In mid-March Mrs. Sheila Waters conducted a professional seminar for the division staff and interested artists and designers in the Headquarters on the uses of calligraphy in design, with emphasis on its use in thematic maps. Mrs. Waters has also designed and engrossed a certificate of appreciation for use by the division and designed and engrossed the Benefactors' Book for the Commandant's House. The book was bound in red morocco and hand tooled by Mr. Peter Waters, her husband, who is a rare book specialist at the Library of Congress.

*Members of the 1975 Secretary to the Navy's Advisory Committee for Naval History. Seated, l to r; Dr. W. J. Bell, Jr.; Dr. R. W. Leopold; Dr. W. M. Whitehill; Dr. C. P. Haskins; MajGen J. D. Hill. Standing, l to r: Dr G. B. Turner; Dr. F. C. Pogue; VAdm E. B. Hooper, Director of Naval History; Dr J. H. Kemble; Dr. D. R. Jackson.*



*LtCol Tom D'Andrea, Deputy Director of Museums, accepts delivery of a Grumman F6F-3 Hellcat from Navy Capt Walter Ohlrich.*

At the annual Marine Corps aviation homecoming held at Quantico's air station on 10 May, the museum put eight of its aircraft on display. Four of the planes, an F6F Hellcat, an SBD-5 Dautless, an OIE Bird Dog, and a PBJ Mitchell, were able to taxi into position much to the delight of the large audiance.

Reference Section historian Martin K. Gordon achieved a long-sought goal when he was awarded a PhD in American Civilization by the George Washington University on 4 May.

Dr. Russell J. Parkinson joined the History and Museum Division on 8 May. Dr. Parkinson, who holds his graduate history degrees from Duke University, was most recently Professor of History at Point Park College in Pittsburgh. He has also taught at Duke, Stephens College, and the Naval Academy. An Air Force veteran of the Korean War, Dr. Parkinson has written several articles on military aviation topics. He is assigned to the Histories Section.

Two civilian employees of the History and Museums Division were presented awards for their service to the Marine Corps and to the federal government. In a special ceremony on 26 March 1975, the Commandant of the Marine Corps presented a 30-year award for federal service to Mr. Morris E. Perry of the Reference Section. Mr. Benis M. Frank, Head of the Oral History Unit, was presented a 20-year award for federal service. Mr. Perry retired at the end of June.

At the invitation of the Bangor Historical Society, the Chief Historian, Mr. Shaw, spent two days in early May in Maine exploring the area of the ill-fated Penobscot Expedition of 1779. Next January, Mr. Shaw is scheduled to give a lecture at Bangor on the military aspects of the expedition, the largest American amphibious operation of the Revolution. Following the May trip, Mr. Shaw joined Gen Simmons and LtCol Rogers in Boston for the 25th Annual Meeting of The Company of Military Historians, whose theme was "British Boston–1775." At the meeting, the governors of The Company elected BGen Simmons as Treasurer.

The Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums, Col Nihart, recently spent the month of May in Europe on a busman's holiday touring military museums in France and England. While there he attended the International Military Museum Conference in Paris and had the opportunity to preview the new Royal Marines Museum at Eastney, which was due to open in August.

A Marine Corps theme was inserted into the Army's Bicentennial Symposium on the Military History of the Southwest at Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., 17-21 June. At the invitation of the Army, Col Hart, deputy director for Marine Corps history, gave a talk on the Navy and Marine operations in Old California, 1846-47—operations which, he said, captured California from Mexico before the Army arrived "to serve as occupation troops." Although outnumbered by an Army audience, Col. Hart was amply protected by the Marine contingent at Ft. Huachuca which turned out in force for the talk.

On 18 February, the director, BGen Simmons, spoke at the dinner meeting of the Military Classics Seminar at Fort Myer Officers Club on "Solzhenitsyn as a Military Historian," essentially a critical review (highly favorable) of the Russian novelist's *August 1914*. On 22 February the director attended the Third Annual General Wilburt S. Brown Memorial Military Conference at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. The subject was the Civil War. Next year's conference will have the American Revolution as a theme. On 28 February and 1 March, BGen Simmons was the Commandant's representative at Louisville and other points in Kentucky in an event-filled double-barreled observance of the 30th anniversary of the Iwo Jima flag raising and the beginning of the Marine Corps' 200th Birthday year. Among the honored guests was Joe Rosenthal, the Associated Press photographer who took the famed picture of the flag going up over Mt. Suribachi. (The flag is now in the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico.)

A treasure trove of legislative and fiscal publications relating to the Marine Corps, some going back to the post-Civil War period, were recently given to the division. Several hundred volumes were turned over to our library through the good offices of MajGen Wilbur F. Simlik, Fiscal Director of the Marine Corps. MajGen Simlik's gift was one of several such donations of historical doucments which have been discovered recently in the files of various offices at Headquarters Marine Corps.

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