



*Dedication of the Navy-Marine Corps Bicentennial Museum at Treasure Island included this opening scene. Adm James L. Holloway, III, Chief of Naval Operations (third from left) was keynote speaker; BGen Simmons represented the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Sponsoring the museum are the 12th Naval and Marine Corps Districts represented by RAdm John T. Coughlin (center) and Col Broman C. Stinemetz (left), respectively.*

# Treasure Island Museum

The Navy-Marine Corps Bicentennial Museum at Treasure Island, Calif., opened its doors to the public following colorful ribbon-cutting ceremonies on 2 October. Adm James L. Holloway, III, Chief of Naval Operations, and BGen Simmons, representing Gen Wilson, led the list of military and civilian officials on hand for the opening, and cut the ceremonial ribbon with a sword to clear the passage for the museum's first visitors.

The museum is a combined Bicentennial project undertaken by the Commandant, 12th Naval District and the Director, 12th Marine Corps District, serving to celebrate the Navy's (13 October 1775), Marine Corps' (10 November 1775) and Nation's 200 birthdays. It is dedicated to the millions of men and women who have served with, and in support of, the Navy and Marine Corps as well as those who will do so in the future.

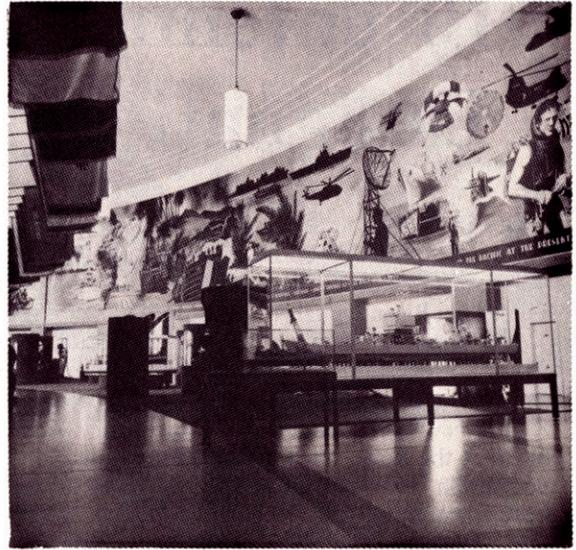
The museum is in the former main center of the 1939 World's Fair. Its theme is naval operations in the Pacific since 1813.

Col Houston Stiff, USMC (Ret.), was recalled to

active duty to serve as the Marine liaison in developing the project. Under his supervision pieces of Leatherneck memorabilia were received and developed into the displays. The Museums Branch assisted throughout.

Included in the Marine artifacts that may be seen are various authentic and replica period uniforms dating back to the mid-1800s; the Medal of Honor won by Sgt John Basilone on Guadalcanal during World War II; amphibious tractor models; a cannon captured in the Spanish-American War; Joe Rosenthal's press credentials and vials of sand taken from the beach during the Iwo Jima landing; and a uniform of Jacob Zeilin, an officer in early California who became a Commandant of the Marine Corps. The list of donors and loaners of the various artifacts includes the Naval Historical Center, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, the Marines Memorial Club, and hundreds of individuals.

Serving visitors every day of the week, the Navy-Marine Corps Bicentennial Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. through 31 December 1976.



*Mural in former administration building of the 1939 World's Fair was especially commissioned for Navy-Marine Corps Museum to show naval history in the Pacific since 1813. It was designed by New York artist Lowell Nesbitt and accomplished by a team of a dozen Bay area painters. The mural depicts 11 historic events balanced between Navy and Marine Corps subjects. It is 251-feet long and 26-feet high and includes, Nesbitt says, "136 figures, 26 ships, and 22 planes, not counting parachutists and submarines."*

*Exhibits in Treasure Island Museum try to show Navy and Marine activities during similar periods, such as the World War I uniforms, left, and the modern-day uniforms of women in the two services, right.*



# Bicentennial Designation

Designation as a "Bicentennial Installation" was the unusual honor bestowed on the History and Museums Division 3 November by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

The honor is similar to that awarded full-scale posts and stations—Headquarters Marine Corps and most other Marine posts also have received it—but has never been tendered to a staff office. ARBA said that the exception was made for the division in recognition of its efforts for the Bicentennial, especially noting the recent publication of the definitive *Marines in the Revolution* and the paintings commissioned for the work.

ARBA said that all other armed services recipients are either installations or commands. As of December 1975, a total of 256 designations had been made: Air Force 81, Navy 86, Army 40, Coast Guard 11, and Marine Corps 38.

Word of the designation came by telegram from Virginia Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr. In sending his congratulations, he noted that the division "enjoys a rich heritage and has had her name associated with an impressive list of distinguished Americans truly deserving of this recognition."

Signifying the designation is a Bicentennial certificate and the official flag, here being examined by division staffers LCpl Denise Alexander and Miss Cathy Stoll.



## E P I T A P H

### ON A MARINE OFFICER.

HERE lies, retir'd from busy scenes,  
A First Lieutenant of Marines,  
Who lately liv'd, in peace and plenty,  
On board the ship the Diligente ;  
Now stripp'd of all his war-like show,  
And laid in box of elm below ;  
Confined in earth, in narrow borders,  
He rises not till further orders.

*Bicentennial research by Historian Charles R. Smith located this "Epitaph On A Marine Officer" in the 11 April 1789 issue of The Pennsylvania Mercury and Universal Advertiser. More literary than factual, the epitaph was in honor of those Marine officers who fought and died during the Revolution.*

## Memorabilia

Although several universities and historical repositories are actively soliciting senior Marines for donation of their personal papers and memorabilia, the History and Museums Division is the Marine Corps' official repository for materials of this nature.

Dispersal of these important papers to isolated repositories hampers serious scholarship by placing additional expense and effort on the researcher in order to use them. Putting them in a non-Marine collection also introduces the danger that they will not be understood, appreciated, or properly maintained.

The facilities of the division and its professional personnel are the cornerstones of a very active program that currently includes more than 500 collections from former Marines.

The deposit of personal papers and memorabilia in the Corps' official repository will assure future Marines and historians that the finest collection of primary source materials will always be available for review and research and that these segments of Marine Corps history will be properly preserved.

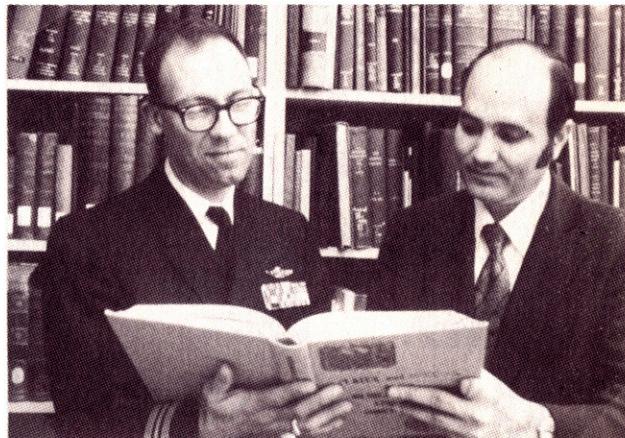
Further information on the collections can be obtained from the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HDM), Washington, D. C. 20380.

# People and Places

An additional "hat" has been given the division's director with the Commandant's appointment on 4 November of BGen Simmons to be the president of the Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board. The general denies rumors that this will result in the Continental Marine uniform of 1776 being readopted for the Corps of 1976. BGen Simmons also spoke to several groups during the fall, including the veterans of the Battle of Tarawa on 20 November at the Center House Mess, Marine Barracks, Washington.

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Five division members attended sessions of the Southern Historical Association's annual conference in Washington 15-17 October: Chief Historian Henry I. Shaw and Historians Charles R. Smith, Ralph W. Donnelly, Dr. Russell Parkinson, and Dr. Martin Gordon. Attending the Army Museum conference at Ft. Riley, Kansas, 27-30 October, were Col Brooke Nihart and Chief Curator Jack Hilliard. LtCol



*An ecclesiastical atmosphere was almost evident in the division's Reference Section this fall with these two "clergy-in-residence" pursuing research projects. LtCdr Ray W. Stubbe (left), chaplain of the 7th Marines, spent a two-week leave period researching the history of 1st Force Reconnaissance Company. A former recon and force recon chaplain, he is writing a detailed history as a personal project. At right is the Rev. Alvaro Arguello, S. J., Director of the Central American Historical Institute and Professor of Nicaraguan History at the Central American University, Managua, who spent two months researching records in an attempt to reconstitute and consolidate those relating to Marine Corps activities in Nicaragua. His activities at the division included conducting a seminar on his findings.*

*Bicentennial has rival for division attention in exhibits prepared this fall with a Civil War theme. Marine connection to Antietam was theme of exhibit case in Headquarters Marine Corps lobby (left). It and display of Marines in the Civil War (right) were shown in Antietam Battlefield headquarters, then Hagerstown, Md., Library, and finally at Civil War Round Table National Congress in October at Manassas, Va. Manassas National Battlefield Superintendent Richard Hoffman examines the display in this photograph.*

