



HARUMFRODITE

NEWSLETTER OF THE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MUSEUM

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From 20 through 24 July, the Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps history convened to review the accomplishments of the past year in the entire Marine Corps historical program and suggest approaches to the immediate and distant future. The Committee membership is selected from senior Marine officers and civilian scholars in order to give a mixed and more valid approach to the problems of military history and museology. This year the Committee included the following members: Professor Philip A. Crowl, University of Nebraska, Professor William M. Darden, U. S. Naval Academy, Lieutenant General Raymond G. Davis, USMC, (Chairman), Brigadier General Gordon D. Gayle, USMC (Ret), Brigadier General Frederick P. Henderson, USMC (Ret), Professor Robert Seager, II, University of Maine and Colonel Roger Willock, USMCR (Ret). Among the Committee's recommendations were increases in the staffing and funding of both the Museum and the Marine Corps Historical Division. Moreover, the report emphasized the necessity of increasing contact with the professional and academic communities. In relation to the strictly Museum aspects of the Marine Corps historical program, the Committee recommended increased exhibits beyond the confines of Quantico and the Washington, D. C. area; immediate acquisition of suitable space for the Manuscripts collections; and that the up-dating of the Museum's displays mentioned in the Exhibits Section of this issue be implemented as quickly as possible.

During the past several months the Museum has been increasing its efforts to acquire more space. The present quarters long have been inadequate and any additional space will be welcomed. Hopefully this situation may be resolved, although only temporarily, in the near future. Negotiations are in progress to obtain an unused building at Quantico for temporary office and workshop facilities and to gain the area vacated for expanded exhibits in the Museum proper.

In early May the Museum underwent a preliminary feasibility study toward establishing its susceptibility to automation. The resulting report suggested that much could be done in the area of inventory control and bibliographical reference. Therefore, to a limited degree, the Registrar has begun restructuring the Museum's records to a machine adaptable format. It is hoped that in the near future the necessary equipment to complete the change-over will be acquired.



A portion of the weapons exhibit which soon will be replaced by a new display.

HISTORIC SITES

Special Project Officer: R. A. Long

During the spring, a number of exploratory probings and test holes were made in the accessible and unpaved areas of the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C. The site is one of the earliest used by the Marine Corps and has been continually occupied by Marines since 1801. Early 19th Century brick and field-stone foundations were located and may be those of the original 1801 barracks buildings. A specific target of the exploration was the Armorer's trash pit which is known to have existed in the area and if found could be an unrivaled source of early military artifacts. The probings have been halted for the summer 1970 parade season, but will be continued in the fall.

MARINE BAND

Historian: Warrant Officer Joan Ambrose, USMC

Work continues apace on processing the extensive John Philip Sousa Collection, which is temporarily housed in the old Pension Building pending acquisition of more permanent quarters in the Washington area during fall 1970. A number of other collections are being pursued but final transfer of them to the Museum has been deferred until the anticipated move mentioned above is completed.

AVIATION

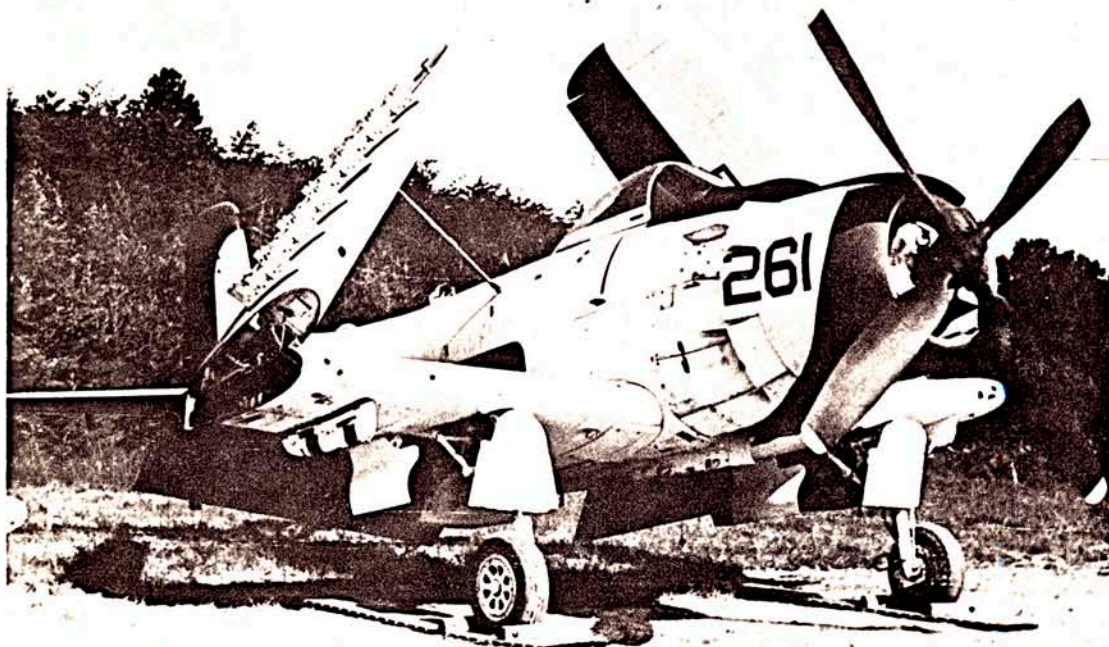
Curator: Clyde Gillespie

During the past two months several aircraft have been added to the aviation holdings. Among these are a Goodyear FG-1D Corsair which Marine pilots used to good effect in World War II, a Douglas AD-4B, which served the Marines in the Korean War and forms an important weapon in the arsenal of the Republic of Vietnam today, and a Douglas F3 D-2, affectionately called "Willie The Whale" by Marine aviators. The F3 D-2 was the first Marine jet nightfighter to shoot down an enemy aircraft, a feat which was accomplished during the Korean War. These aircraft are all in excellent shape and require little more than repainting in color schemes reflecting their use by the Corps.

EXHIBITS

Exhibits Specialist: John DeGrasse

Beginning in July the Museum's weapon exhibit area is being redone in order to update the overall exhibits spectrum to include post Korean war material. Among the displays planned are a Vietnamese habitat with captured weapons, uniforms and associated equipment. This renovation is long overdue and it is hoped that it will do much to enable the Museum to maintain continuing revitalization of its displays. During the week preceding Armed Forces Day (May 11-16), the Museum exhibited a series of slides at the Tyson Corner mall, a major shopping center in the Washington, D. C. area, covering the history of the Corps together with a number of original paintings from the Marine Corps Combat Art program.



The Museum's most recent aircraft acquisition, a Douglas AD-4E

MANUSCRIPTS

Curator: Charles A. Wood

Since early May the Manuscript program has been particularly active. Preliminary arrangements have been accomplished on the Clayton B. Vogel collection and it is now open for research although no finding aid has yet been prepared. The collection includes 6 lineal feet of official and personal correspondence relating to Vera Cruz 1914, Haiti, Nicaragua, World War II, and a wide diversity of other subjects.

Collections recently accessioned include those of Lieutenant General Julian C. Smith, who was one of the Marine Corps' outstanding leaders in the field of amphibious warfare. General Smith commanded the assaults on Tarawa and Peleliu during the Second World War and during the 1920's and 30's, served in a variety of assignments including Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, and in the Bureau of the Budget, and his collection is quite substantial.

The papers of Major General William Stickney were also accessioned and reflect his career as a Marine Reservist. General Stickney participated in reserve activities until called to active duty in 1940. During the ensuing years he participated in the Guadalcanal landings, the capture of Saipan and the occupation of Japan. In later years General Stickney served for 9 years as a member of the Reserve Forces Board, and completed two tours as Director of the Marine Corps Reserve.

A notable addition to the collection is a cook book. It was written in long hand and was compiled from the vocal wishful thinking of the fellow prisoners of Major George H. Potter. Potter, today a retired Brigadier General, was captured while serving as a executive officer of 1st Marine Defense Battalion, Wake Island Detachment, and was held in prison camps in Guam and Japan for almost 4 years.

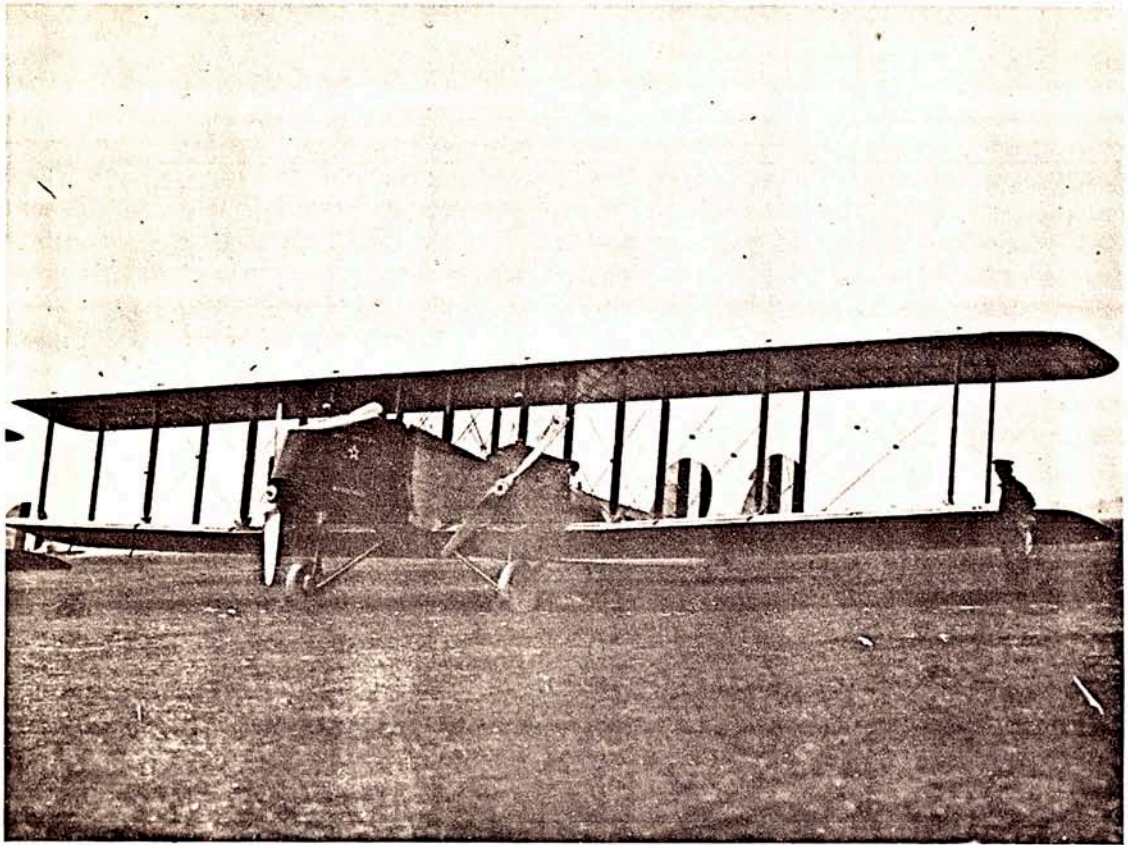
He compiled the cook book as a keep-busy project and it contains recipes from Antique Bueayo to Yam Pineapple and is an interesting reflection on the gastronomical desires of prisoners of war.

Mrs. Harry T. Blackwell has donated a number of letters, logbooks, and other documents of her late husband Major H. T. Blackwell. One of the most significant of these donations is Blackwell's account in a letter to his mother, of the April 1923 transcontinental flight of 4 Marine Corps Martin bombers. At the time, Blackwell was a First Sergeant and was the flight mechanic on one of the aircraft. In a passage which says much for the early aviator's faith in himself and his equipment, Blackwell wrote "On the night of the 18th, the Navy turned over to us the Martin bombers, T1, T2, T3, and T4, as in perfect condition to make the cross-country flight. I drew the T2 with my flight commander, Capt. Page, as chief pilot, and Lt. Hall as assistant pilot, both old acquaintances, whom I had known in Haiti. I was lucky in pilots, but not so lucky in ships as the Navy had run both motors without water until they siezed, causing loss of compression and low R.P.M., but I could not find enough fault with them to refuse acceptance."

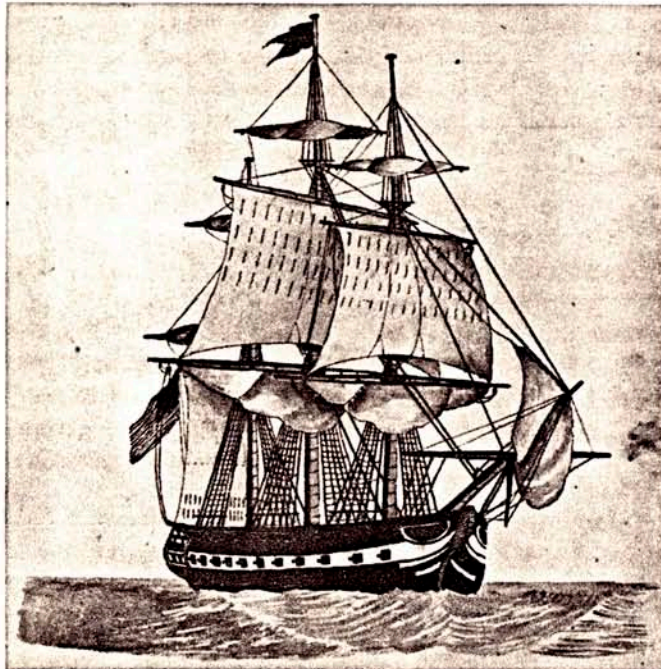
PUBLICATIONS

Senior Historian: Jack B. Hilliard

The Journal of Frank Keeler should be in print by the time HARUMFRODITE reaches the public. Keeler, an enlisted Marine, served in the Spanish American War and took part in the seizure of Guantanamo Bay from the Spanish. His account, actually written from notes upon his return to the United States is an interesting and informative footnote to one of the major incidents in the formation of the Marine Corps mission of amphibious assault. A new program will see a number of brief studies prepared



One of the Martin Bombers flown across the continent in April 1923



A watercolor of an American frigate taken from the journal kept by Acting Midshipman F.B. McKean, USN, during his cruise aboard the U.S. Raze Independence 1846-47

in cooperation with George Washington University and the Smithsonian Institution. The various collections are being used by several graduate students under the guidance of the Museum staff. The students will prepare research papers which will exploit specific aspects of the holdings and which will be available to the museum for whatever publication and/or exhibit value they may have. Present subject areas include a brief discussion of the Museum's Maxim Gun--an original specimen, a pamphlet designed around the recruiting posters collections, and an exhibit built on the substantial lantern slide segment of the Cochrane collection.

REGISTRATION

Registrar - Doris S. Davis

The Museum recently began the monumental task of integrating all its records into a single, automated inventory control system. This program requires that all the records previously kept by individual section be converted to machine readable format and added to a central data file. With the rapid addition of new material the curatorial record files are rapidly expanding beyond the control of individual curators. The

new system should allow an up to date inventory and location list to be made available to the Director on a regular basis.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Special Projects Officer - Richard A. Long

Research is continuing on the identification and location of material relative to Archibald Henderson, one of the most important Marine Corps figures of the past. Henderson was Commandant for thirty-nine years from 1820 to 1859 and though his impact on Marine Corps organization and esprit is still widely felt, little of his personal memorabilia and papers are presently available for research and exhibit. Occasionally, something emerges from an attic or root cellar and is donated to the Museum but it is hoped that a single large source of Henderson material will be located and substantially augment the existing collection.

Readers who wish to communicate with the Museum for reasons inspired by HARUMFRODITE please address: Senior Historian, Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, Virginia 22134 or call (703) 640-2606.



Red Beach at Tarawa-- one of the Museum's historical dioramas



A Continental Marine officer brandishes his sword in this example of scrimshaw carving on a Revolutionary War powder horn. This is the only Marine uniform depiction known from the Revolutionary War era. Elsewhere on the surface of the powder horn appears more decoration - of the ship Alfred, a smaller vessel probably the messenger ship Fly, and a message:

“In defense of Liberty Property
& Independance; Liberty or Death

“I powder with my brother ball
A heroe like do conquer all”

The powder horn is the oldest relic of Marine equipment in the Museum's exhibits and is inscribed August 20, 1776.

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QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134

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