

*"Jiggs," the Corps' bulldog mascot purchased by Smedley Butler at Quantico in 1921, became known far and wide as the athletic teams were called "Fighting Bulldogs." (Quantico Photo 012-3225-3-75).*

robberies and interference with mail distribution. Losses due to mail theft amounted to millions of dollars that year. On 7 November 1921, the President told the Secretary of the Navy to provide enough Marines to protect the mails, and 53 officers and 2,200 enlisted Marines from Quantico's 5th Regiment hurried off. The actual order to send Marines was dated 10 November—the anniversary of the Corps' birthday. The Marines were used to guard mail distribution centers, post offices, and mail trains. General Vandegrift recalled: "We armed our people with .45 automatic pistols, 12-gauge riot shotguns, and Thompson submachine guns. We publicized both their armament and Butler's personal orders, "Come back with your shields or upon them."<sup>34</sup> By March 1922 the situation had improved so dramatically that the Marines were allowed to return home.

Airfields No. 1 and 2 were officially dedicated as "Brown Field" in May 1922 in memory of Second Lieutenant Walter V. Brown, the football star who was killed in an airplane crash in June the preceding year. At the same time, a causeway across Chopawamsic Creek and adjacent swamps was named after Captain John A. Minnis who had been killed in September 1921 during a night flying exercise off Shipping Point. Apparently, Minnis was trying to avoid a searchlight beam and flew too low, crashing into the Quantico Creek bank. The area crossed by the Minnis causeway was later to be filled in and become a more extensive, modern airfield.<sup>35</sup>

General Butler's summer maneuvers for 1922 took place at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. About 4,000 Quantico Marines participated in the annual drama, complete with a platoon of light tanks and heavy artillery. Quantico's 1st Aviation Group, as it was called then, took part in the maneuvers with three Martin bombers, six De Havilland DH-4s, six Vought VE-7s, and observation balloons.

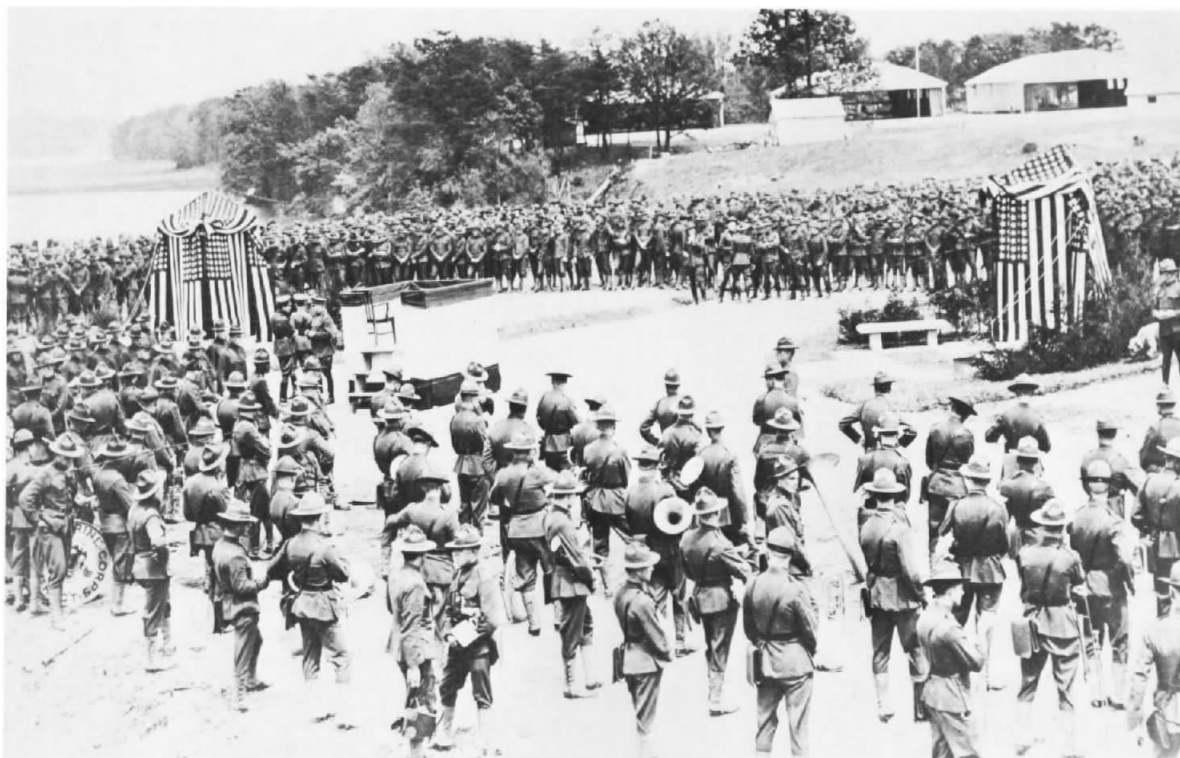
On the way to Gettysburg, Butler marched his Marines through Washington, D. C., where they were reviewed by President Harding from the south portico of the White House. Harding also made the trip to Gettysburg and, along with thousands of Civil War buffs from all over the East Coast, he witnessed the Marines reenact the famous Pickett charge. The Marines' camp at Gettysburg was named, "Camp Harding."

Although the Marines played Civil War games to draw favorable publicity and attention, they also executed modern attacks over the Gettysburg terrain and learned much concerning coordinated staff work and modern tactics. Most of the Marines came from the 10th Regiment.<sup>36</sup>

A student officers' Basic Course was convened during 1922 after plans had been laid two years earlier. The first class consisted of 17 new second lieutenants and 11 Marine gunners (warrant officers) and was designed to train young officers to be infantry leaders as well as to be proficient in all the myriad duties of Marine lieutenants.

The 1st Regiment left Quantico in late 1922 for Santo Domingo. Units of the 1st were disbanded piecemeal over the next two years as conditions permitted, and its personnel were absorbed by other units or returned to Quantico.<sup>37</sup>

By late fall of 1922 Quantico's new military schools were in full swing. The Field Officers School had 21 students, 40 company grade officers were enrolled in the Company Officers Course, and 22 students were in the Basic Course. At the



*Dedication ceremonies of Brown Field at Quantico, May 1922. The two markers were in memory of Captain John A. Minnis and Lieutenant Walter V. Brown. The markers were removed later to make way for the new channel of the Chopawamsic Creek. (USMC Photo 516005).*

end of the year, amphibious landings were staged at Culebra and Guantanamo Bay by small units from Quantico.<sup>38</sup>

Quantico received four more torpedo planes from the Navy in April 1923. These aircraft were flown to Quantico from California in 11 days. All arrived safely and on the same day after one of the longest air delivery projects on record. The achievement was hailed as one of the most noteworthy accomplishments by American aviators.<sup>39</sup>

During the summer months General Butler led his Marines to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia for training exercises which culminated in a reenactment of the Civil War battle of New Market. Cadets of Virginia Military Institute took the part of Confederate troops, as did their predecessors of the 1860s, while the Marines played the part of Union troops—who lost the battle. The trip there was on foot; it took 30 days, 28 days of which were through heavy rain.<sup>40</sup>

Landing exercises were held in Panama and off Cape Cod, Massachusetts, by battalion-sized organizations from Quantico during the fall of 1923.<sup>41</sup>

In the Commandant's report to the Secretary of the Navy submitted after the close of the fiscal year ending 30 June 1923, he indicated that Quantico housed the headquarters and auxiliary troops of the 4th Brigade, the 5th Regiment (infantry), part of the 6th Regiment (infantry), the 10th Regiment (artillery), and assorted supporting units of engineers, signal troops, and gas defense personnel.

The Commandant pointed out that much construction at Quantico had been completed during the preceding fiscal year. Concrete foundations had been placed under all the temporary wooden barracks left over from World War I, and he noted that many would have to be replaced very soon. Officers' quarters had been built from these temporary barracks when they became excess following postwar reductions in force, and other materials had been obtained from dismantled buildings from the Naval Base, Hampton Roads, Virginia. Expense to the taxpayers for this work, the Commandant said, was kept to a minimum through the use of salvaged materials and Marine labor.



*Quantico Marines went to Culebra during fleet maneuvers in 1924. Landing exercises in Virginia and in the Caribbean tested the amphibious warfare doctrine and techniques developed at Quantico. (USMC Photo 515096).*

Up in Washington, the Marine Corps was still lobbying to make the offensive amphibious warfare concept a reality, and to ensure the permanence of the Advanced Base Force or a similar organization. Lejeune told the Navy's General Board in February 1922 that there were tremendous advantages to be realized by having a highly mobile Marine Corps force that could conduct offensive land operations against a hostile naval base, and he strongly urged that there be sufficient personnel and equipment maintained in complete readiness for such a venture. Such forces were to be located on the East Coast and the West Coast as nuclei for whatever Marine Corps organizations would be necessary to ensure success of a naval expedition.<sup>42</sup>

Stemming from these discussions and recommendations submitted from within the Corps during 1922, the title, "Advanced Base Force," was dropped in 1923 in favor of "Marine Corps Expeditionary Force," a less restrictive title more consistent with what the Corps had been doing since before the Spanish American War, and cer-

tainly more in keeping with what the Corps foresaw as necessary.

The term "Expeditionary Force" applied to all Marine units—permanent or temporary—which were available for duty with the Fleet. Quantico's portion became the East Coast Expeditionary Force and the San Diego group, formally added in 1925, became the West Coast Expeditionary Force.<sup>43</sup>

On 5 January 1924 Smedley Butler left Quantico on a leave of absence from the Marine Corps to become the Public Safety Director for Philadelphia.

Summer maneuvers in 1924 were held in the vicinity of Sharpsburg, Maryland, where more than 3,000 Marines from Quantico conducted field exercises and wrapped up their training with the staging of the Civil War battle of Antietam with a few modern embellishments. On the way home, the reinforced brigade marched through Washington, D.C., where it was reviewed by President Calvin Coolidge.

Also in 1924 the Basic School at Quantico completed a move to the Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, due to the shortage of suitable classrooms and officers' billeting at Quantico. At Philadelphia the school trained about 30 students per year in courses varying from three to 11 months long, but averaging six, depending on the demands of expeditionary duty. The Basic School technically remained a part of Marine Corps Schools at Quantico, although it operated pretty much on its own. Three years later, this situation was remedied, and although the school remained physically separate, it was firmly under Quantico control.

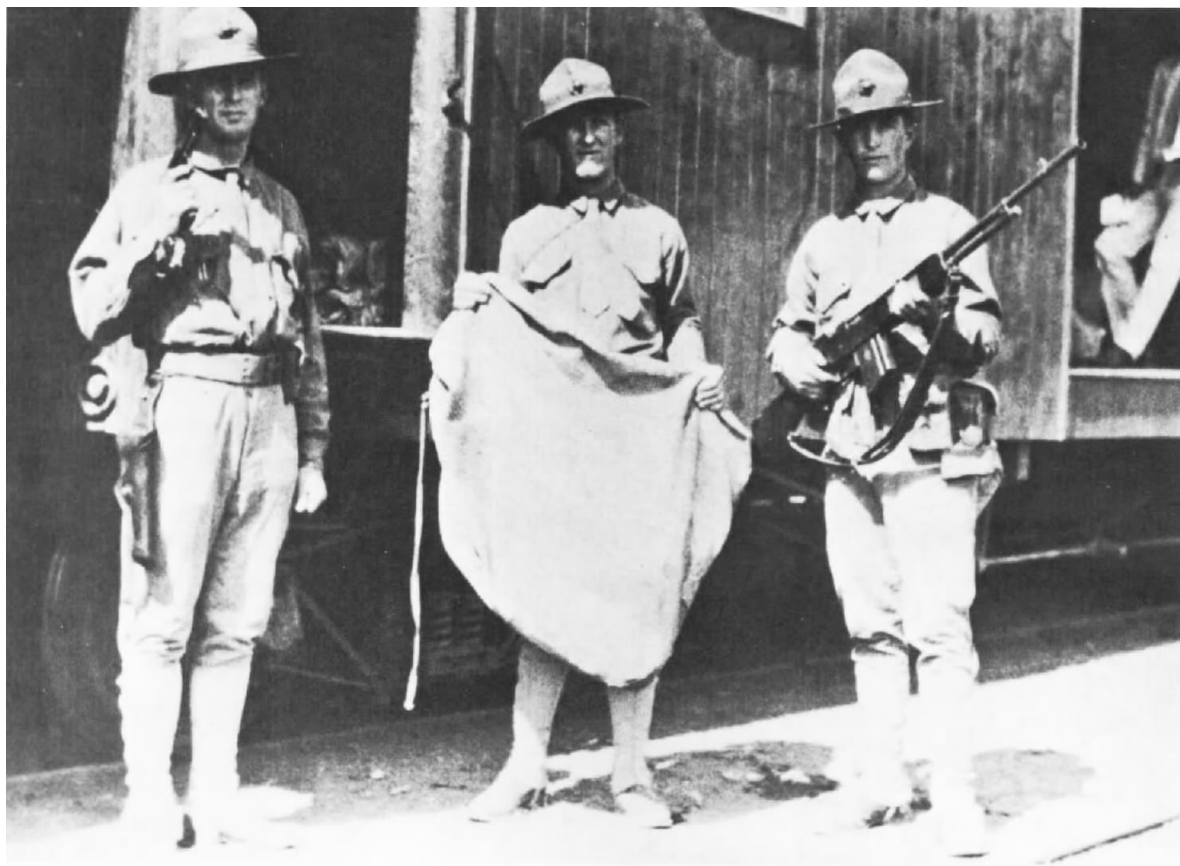
By the end of 1924 Quantico had 14 full-time instructors in its schools; five in administration, four in tactics, two in law, and three in topography.

On the other side of the world, 1924 was an especially active one for Marines in the Pacific. Since August 1920, Marines from Pacific stations

and the Asiatic Fleet had been landing bit-by-bit in China to reinforce legation detachments and protect American nationals while Chinese warlords fought each other for control of northern China. Two years after the first landings, a battalion had been organized from fleet Marine detachments and landed at Tientsin. In August 1924, the 4th Regiment was pulled out of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and returned to San Diego in anticipation of a need in China.

Although no major units left Quantico for China duty, numerous small units and individual replacements were sent to the Pacific to beef up units in China and to replace Marines pulled off other Pacific duty.

Two landing exercises involving reinforced regiments were held at Culebra and Panama during 1924. In the Caribbean in 1924 the 1st Air Squadron left the Dominican Republic in July and returned to Quantico. By 18 September the last Marines had left Santo Domingo and



*Twice during the 1920s, Quantico Marines answered the President's call to guard the U.S. mails against theft, (Quantico Photo 012-1150-4-75).*

come back to Quantico, leaving the security of the republic in the hands of a Marine-trained police force.

As Marines rotated back from the Caribbean, Quantico collected, evaluated, and studied the data produced by experiences in the field. A variety of manuals and textbooks were produced concerning operations against insurgents and were distributed throughout the Corps. The first of these, produced in 1922, *The Strategy and Tactics of Small Wars*, laid the groundwork for later counterinsurgency operations by Marines. This book was expanded and revised to become *Small Wars Operations*, a Quantico textbook in 1935. By 1940 an updated version, *Small Wars Manual*, was put out by the Government Printing Office.<sup>45</sup>

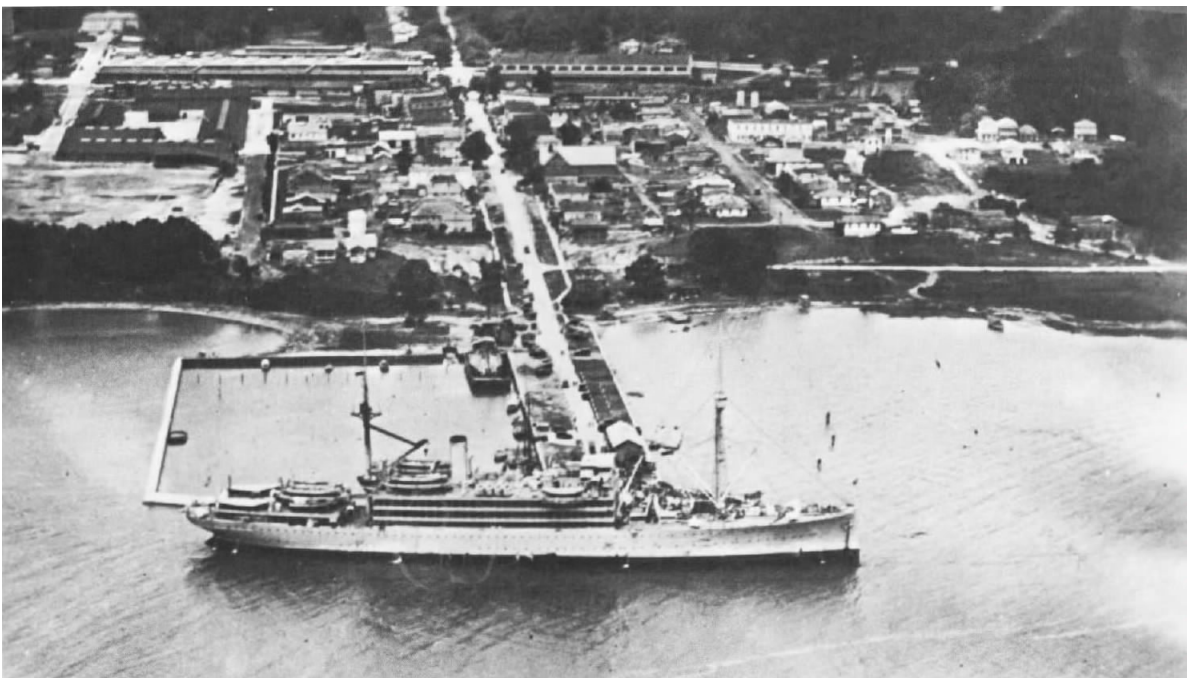
The 1st Regiment was reorganized again during March 1925 and later that year Marines from Quantico had a grand opportunity to put their classroom work and amphibious warfare lessons to practical test. Joint Army and Navy training exercises were held off Oahu, Hawaii, in March and April 1925. About 1,500 Marines—half of them from Quantico—took part in this first huge exercise and simulated a 42,000-man landing force. The staff for this Marine Corps Expeditionary

Force consisted of staff and students from the Field Officers School at Quantico which had suspended classes for this far more realistic classroom in the field.<sup>46</sup>

The main unit from Quantico was the 692-man 1st Provisional Battalion of the 10th Regiment, which had trained for a week near San Diego before embarking for Hawaii with infantry units from the West Coast.

From the Corps' point of view, the exercises in the Pacific dramatically pointed up the need for special landing boats to move Marines and their equipment from ship to shore, and the need for more extensive classroom work to perfect this very complex maneuver. There was still very much to learn. The Commandant of the Marine Corps ordered the schools at Quantico to include more comprehensive instruction on amphibious operations in both the field grade and company grade officers schools at Quantico.<sup>47</sup>

In 1925 only about a half dozen hours of instruction at each of the schools were devoted to landing operations. After the Hawaii exercises and the Commandant's directive, this block of instruction increased almost tenfold by the following year. For the 1927–1928 school year massive revisions of the curriculum were implemented



The town of Quantico as seen from an aircraft over the Potomac River on 25 May 1925. The USS Henderson is docked at the pier. The ship is named after Archibald Henderson, 5th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Visible in the upper left of the photograph is the Post Headquarters. (USMC Photo 515892).

and the courses were greatly expanded. That portion devoted to amphibious operations was almost tripled over that in the 1926 school year, and experts from other military services were invited to address the Marine students.

To expand the audience of the expanding Marine Corps schools, correspondence courses were added in 1926 that essentially paralleled the resident instruction and were opened to both regular and reserve Marine officers as well as senior enlisted men. Courses such as "Infantry Basic," "The Infantry Company," and "Infantry Advanced," were popular. Special courses were devised as the need arose or commanders asked for them, for example, "The Tenth Regiment Artillery Course." In those days, the number of students enrolled in correspondence courses averaged about 400 per year.

Aerial observation courses were inaugurated at Quantico during mid-1926 in response to the needs of Marines fighting in the Caribbean. As dive-bombing and other aviation support of ground troops techniques were coming to light through experimentation in the Caribbean, the developments were fed back to Quantico where they were incorporated into the schools and field training problems. Marine aviators conducted two extensive courses at the School of Aerial Observation at Quantico during 1926, and students worked directly with the 5th Regiment to perfect air-ground coordination. As procedures were refined, they were given back to the Marines in the Caribbean for further test and use in a complete cycle of integrating field experience with classroom and field training.

On 1 September 1926 Quantico's First Aviation Group was renamed Aircraft Squadrons, East Coast Expeditionary Force.<sup>48</sup>

President Calvin Coolidge called out the Marines again on 20 October 1926 to protect the U.S. Mail from a resurgence of robberies. Some 2,500 Quantico Marines were among those dispatched to guard distribution points and mail trains. The troops came primarily from the 5th and 10th Regiments. By the end of the year, the situation had returned pretty much to normal and the Marines were relieved from postal duty to get prepared for more expeditionary duty. All Marines were off postal duty by 20 February 1927. This time, Marines were needed in China and in Nicaragua.

In China the situation that erupted in 1920 grew progressively worse and American diplomatic missions and the large international settlement were threatened by Chinese warlords. On

9 February 1927, Marines from the Asiatic Fleet landed and on the 16th of the following month the 4th Marine Regiment landed at Shanghai. But still more Marines were needed and less than two months later the 6th Regiment unloaded at Shanghai to join the 4th Regiment as the 3d Brigade. General Smedley Butler left his post as Philadelphia's Public Safety Director to command this brigade.

Trouble in the Caribbean was in Nicaragua and the first large Marine unit that landed there in early 1927 was a battalion of Quantico's 5th Regiment which had been rushed over from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Cuba's constitution after the Spanish-American War was accepted by Cuba and the United States in June 1901, and a provision provided for a U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay. Small Marine units remained at the base which served primarily as a training area for Caribbean forces.

The number of Marines at Guantanamo Bay fluctuated over the years as the force was built up and then reduced according to the unrest and insurgencies in Cuba and the anticipated need for intervention by U.S. forces, or the need for increased protection of the naval base.<sup>49</sup>

Beginning in March 1926, battalions of the 5th Regiment had been going to Guantanamo Bay for five months at a time for training. It was one of these battalions that was called when trouble broke out in Nicaragua.

When the president of Nicaragua resigned in late 1909, the United States refused to recognize his successor because of his anti-American sentiments and activities. In 1910 American troops landed to prevent a government victory over its opposition and the revolution succeeded. When a new civil war broke out in 1912, Marines from Panama landed to support the new president, Diaz. For a number of years Marines kept the government in power and maintained an uneasy peace. By August 1925 things seemed peaceful enough and Marines were pulled out.

Another revolution broke out and with the aid of 2,000 Marines landed during January-March 1927, Diaz returned as a compromise president and things were put back in order. Marines supported the government during numerous later revolts instigated by a revolutionary leader named Sandino. Finally, an acceptable new president was inaugurated in 1933 and the Marines left for good. Compromises were made with opposing factions and order was maintained by a Marine-trained National Guard. The last Marines were out of Nicaragua by 2 January 1933.<sup>50</sup>



*Marines of the 5th Regiment board the USS Henderson for Nicaragua in February 1927. (USMC Photo 529003).*

Quantico's aviation units were involved in the 1927 expeditionary service. Two observation squadrons were trained and readied at Quantico during the early part of the year, and one, consisting of six aircraft, was shipped to China in March in less than three days after the word to go was received. In May a squadron of about the same size was sent to Nicaragua with only a day-and-a-half advance warning.

During the campaigns in Nicaragua First Lieutenant Christian F. Schilt earned the Medal of Honor for his determined support of ground troops, flying in desperately needed supplies and taking out wounded Marines while under heavy enemy fire. His actions and those of many other courageous Marine aviators laid the groundwork for the air-ground teamwork that evolved into the Marine doctrine of close air support.

As one group of Marine aviators flew in the Caribbean wars, others from Quantico became

famous by taking part in countless air shows, flying demonstrations, and aircraft races in the United States and Canada.

The 11th Regiment was organized again in May 1927 for duty in Nicaragua where it served until September and was disbanded. In March 1928 it was formed again for Nicaraguan service and served until the end of August 1929, when it was disbanded while en route to Quantico. The 6th Regiment, disbanded at Quantico in October 1925, was formed again in March 1927 as units left for China or the Caribbean. It was disbanded again the end of March 1929.

While activity in the Caribbean was at a peak in 1927 and activity at Quantico slowed to support the "banana wars," the Marine Corps' offensive role in amphibious warfare as discussed in the Navy's Orange Plan, a restatement of Major Ellis' Pacific operation plan, was elaborated in *Joint Action of the Army and Navy*. Issued by

the Joint Board, this publication defined the responsibilities of the services in joint operations. The functions assigned to the Marine Corps confirmed the responsibilities in the Orange Plan and directed that the Corps be prepared for "... land operations in support of the Fleet for the initial seizure and defense of advanced bases and for such limited auxiliary land operations as are essential to the prosecution of the naval campaign."<sup>51</sup> The board also said that, "... Marines organized as landing forces perform the same function as . . . the Army, and because of the constant association with naval units will be given special training in the conduct of landing operations."<sup>52</sup> The offensive amphibious mission of the Marine Corps had been confirmed.

Immediately after World War I with the reduction in Marine strength, the town of Quantico returned to its prewar occupations of selling timber and railroad ties, commercial fishing, and shipping. There was also sulphur mining nearby that the town took advantage of. In the early 1920s as the Advanced Base Force and then the East

Coast Expeditionary Force made their home at Quantico, the town was revitalized and numerous businesses were established to serve the Marine garrison.

The town of Quantico was established in late 1927 and was officially incorporated on the first day of 1928. A mayor and town council were elected, and the population of the town was about 1,000—including Marines who lived there. During the 1920s and 1930s, the town's progress closely followed that of the neighboring Marine base. The Marines quickly became the town's major business, and Quantico came to be known as the "town that cannot grow," surrounded on three sides by Marines and on the fourth by the Potomac River. Travel writers of the period described Quantico as "a little town . . . stretching out from the railroad station, (with) neon-festooned restaurants, little hotels and other structures."

Others used these words to describe the surrounding area: "Great arterial highways were paved and widened for trucks and cars that dashed



*Marines returning from Nicaragua in 1933 march up Potomac Avenue. Waller Hall is visible on the hill. (Leatherneck Magazine).*



through the county on north-south and east-west journeys. Service stations in flamboyant colors and neon-decorated eating places rose overnight to contrast with the peaceful charm of a countryside redolent of bygone days.”<sup>53</sup>

Among the many improvements at the base itself in the years after World War I were a new rifle range, a new machinegun range, parade grounds, officers' quarters, and, completed in the 1930s, an officers' club. Much of the improvement work, renovations, and repairs were done by Marines themselves.

Since Quantico's founding, continuous efforts had been made to obtain appropriations for the construction of permanent buildings to replace the hastily-built World War structures. The buildings thrown up during the war were only temporary and were not expected to last more than a couple of years.

In his annual report to the Secretary of the Navy, the Commandant said in mid-1924:

The housing situation . . . is in urgent need of remedy. The barracks and many other buildings are of wartime construction and have reached the stage of deterioration where they are practically beyond repair. The labor of the Marine garrison has been utilized to the greatest extent possible, without interference with the necessary training, in performing maintenance work and certain new construction which has been urgently required. The results have been particularly gratifying, both as to the amount of work performed and to the extraordinary low cost of performing this work. It is believed, however, that unless appropriations are available to assist in the work of new construction that the task of keeping the post in suitable condition will exceed the capacity for accomplishment which the Marines of this post have demonstrated.<sup>54</sup>

Although Marine Corps leaders tried long and hard to interest Congress in maintaining the base, the government economy waves that swept the nation following World War I left Quantico at the end of a long pipeline of funds. Coupled with the lack of money was the reduced strength at Quantico which made maintenance and renovation even more difficult. Reports indicate that weeds ran wild in spots, duck-board walks were rotting and some little used buildings were falling apart.<sup>55</sup>

Finally, the 69th Congress authorized the Secretary of the Navy to begin construction of permanent structures at Quantico. This act, approved by President Coolidge on 15 February 1927 gave the Navy permission to replace a number of temporary structures of World War vintage. The building plans called for enough barracks for a regiment, three storehouses, a commissary, bakery, cold storage plant, ice plant, disciplinary

barracks, motor transport garage and repair shop, power plant with equipment, apartment houses for officers, sidewalks, landscaping, and an electrical distribution system. Appropriations came to over \$2,200,000.<sup>56</sup>

Another \$1,650,000 was made available for construction in late December 1927, and by that time construction of the buildings was well underway with some of the smaller ones already completed. The first major permanent buildings—three large brick barracks facing Barnett Avenue, were completed in 1929.

During 1928 the professional schools at Quantico were almost closed down because of the personnel needs of the force in the Caribbean. Many Quantico instructors were shipped out to meet the need for experienced officers in Nicaragua.

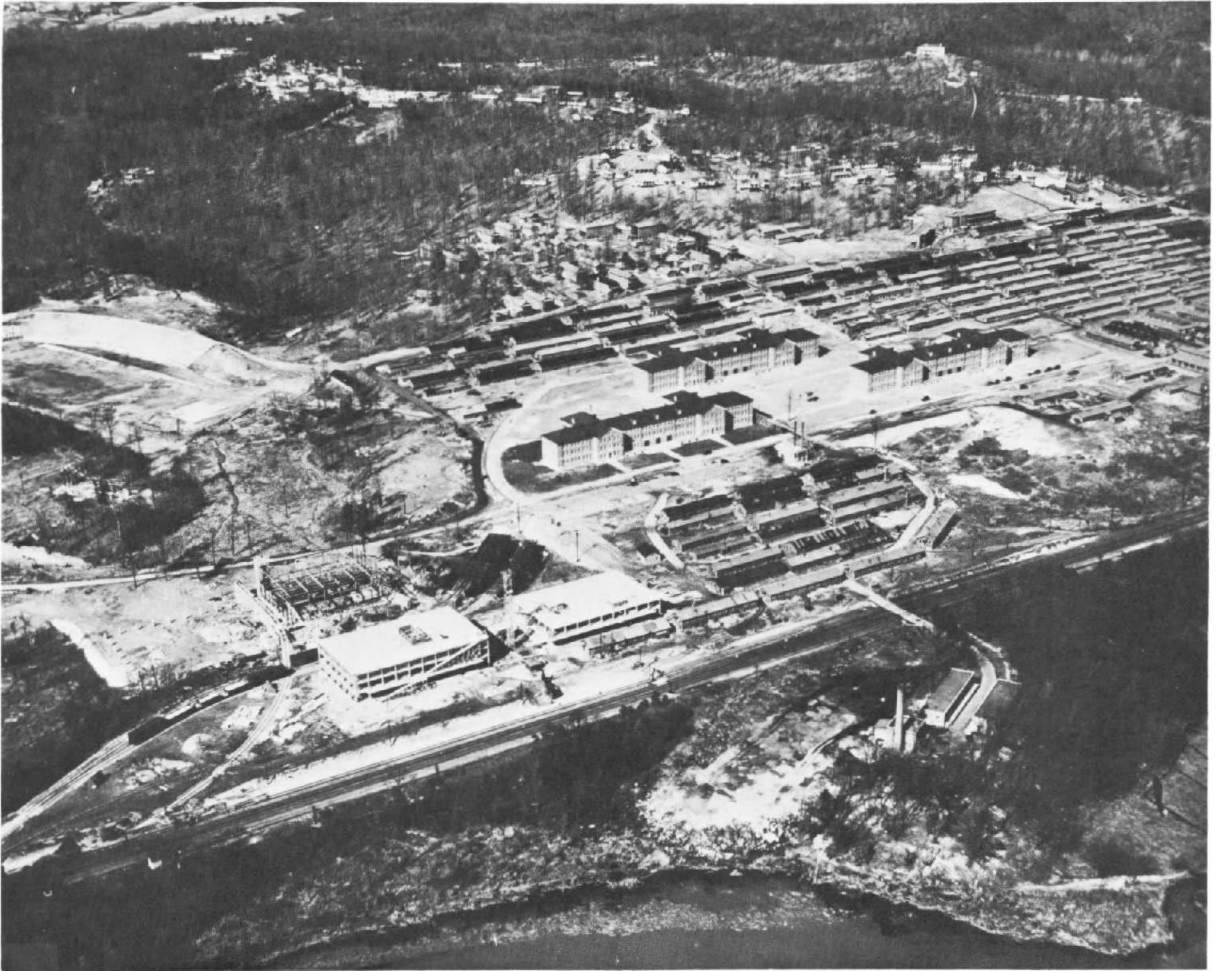
The move of Quantico Marines to the Caribbean on more expeditionary duty included an observation squadron tasked with support of the ground troops in Nicaragua and Haiti.

For many years Haiti had been having difficulty maintaining a stable, solvent government, and keeping the opposition in line. United States concern with Haiti was partly economic, but there was also a fear before and during World War I that Germany might try to build up influence in Haiti and perhaps even acquire territory. In July 1915 a Haitian mob murdered the president because of his massacre of political prisoners, and chaos reigned. U.S. Marines immediately intervened to restore order, a new president was elected, and a treaty was imposed. The treaty allowed the United States to train a local constabulary, and a brigade of Marines remained to do the job.

Marines were involved in suppressing revolts during the early years of the treaty, and in 1922 Brigadier General John H. Russell was appointed U.S. High Commissioner. Under Russell, conditions improved, education was formalized, public works were built, and stability returned. By 1931 the state of martial law established by Marines in 1915 was finally lifted. In 1930 an American civilian commissioner had been appointed.

A treaty was finally worked out in 1933 that was agreeable to all parties and the Marines were withdrawn in August 1934. The Marine-trained constabulary maintained order from that point on.<sup>57</sup>

In 1929 the 11th Regiment was disbanded while en route to Quantico from Nicaragua, and the 3d Brigade was disbanded in China.



*By April 1929 new construction was beginning to replace the wooden barracks. (USMC Photo 531598).*

General Butler returned to Quantico to take command in July 1929, after his tour as brigade commander in North China. Butler was promoted to major general upon his return and, at age 48, was the youngest major general ever to have served in the Marine Corps to that point.<sup>55</sup> Butler took up where he had left off several years earlier, pushing varsity sports of football, baseball, and basketball, putting the “Quantico Marines” in the big leagues throughout the East Coast. As before, Quantico teams competed with the best the area had to offer. The football team had slacked off a bit during Butler’s absence, and upon his return he set the players building the team back to the status it once had.

The possibly apochryphal story goes that when the team was up to Butler’s standards, he invited a Navy team to play his Marines in the partially completed stadium. In October 1928 Butler and

his officers watched the Marine team get trampled by the Navy to a score of 42-0 at the end of the first half. As Butler fumed, the Navy Band played “Anchors Aweigh” as part of half-time ceremonies, and the Navy Drum Major proceeded to kick the Marines’ mascot, Sergeant Jiggs, down the field. Butler raged, and when the spectacle reached the 50-yard line, he stood up, pointed to the Navy side of the stadium, and screamed, “Chaaarrge!” The angry Marines poured out of the stands and a good old fashioned riot broke out. Fortunately, the Navy Band quickly struck up the “National Anthem,” and the rioters stood at attention. The story says that it took 16 choruses before order was finally restored. Even General Butler took part in the fight, ending up with a split lip.

The Marines lost the game and Butler reportedly got a telegram from a high official in



*Major General Smedley D. Butler leads a cheer at a football game at Franklin Field, Philadelphia, on Armistice Day, 11 November 1930. The Quantico team was playing an American Legion team. (USMC Photo 307658).*

Washington asking him to immediately deemphasize football and other body contact sports. To a friend, Butler responded with a typical, "It was almost worth it, watching a squad of charging Marines in action."<sup>59</sup>

Butler became a "spit-and-polish" general, earning the nickname, "Old Gimlet Eye," for his legendary ease in noting inspection discrepancies from incredible distances and even in the dark. He decided to make Quantico the showplace of the Marine Corps, and built a tradition of precision drills, parades, immaculate roads, and grounds.

As part of this cleanup effort, Butler gave the town of Quantico his close attention and cleaned up the prohibition bootleggers and other nefarious activities that frequently spring up in the vicinity of military bases. Butler explained:

The little town of Quantico had been loading up my Marines with bootleg poison. Before I came at least 70 men were in the brig for drunkenness every pay day. I boycotted the town, and the merchants drove out the bootleggers in double quick time. They didn't want to lose the Marines as customers, their chief source of revenue. When the town was dried up, I led a parade down the main street, with our bands playing. Legitimate business was briskly resumed.<sup>60</sup>

Polo in the Corps had long been a popular sport, but before 1929 there had been no organized Marine team in the United States. In July of that year a group of polo enthusiasts, veterans of the playing fields of China and Haiti, organized the Marine Corps Riding and Polo Association at Quantico. The polo teams did not reach the prominence of football and baseball at Quantico, but they did meet a variety of other service teams around the area during the 1930s. The pages of the *Quantico Sentry* newspaper from 1935 on depict polo as a very popular sport among Quantico's officers.

In 1929 Butler initiated another unique Quantico tradition by appointing Mrs. Katherine "Mother" De Boo the Official Hostess for the command. Mrs. De Boo, wife of Sergeant Major Michael De Boo, had come to Quantico in 1925.

Her home on base quickly became a cordial, friendly haven for hundreds of Quantico enlisted Marines who needed help, understanding, or just a motherly woman to talk to. Her smile and warm interest in Marines earned her the honorary name, "Mother," and she represented friendliness and security for young men away from home.

On every Mother's Day, she would receive flowers, gifts, and messages from Marines all over the world. Mrs. De Boo also was known for introducing lonely young Marines to equally lonely young women in the northern Virginia area, and she is credited with laying the groundwork for many happy, lasting marriages.

In the summer of 1929 General Butler called on Mother De Boo for a major assignment on behalf of the command. Traditional friendship between Quantico Marines and the citizens of Baltimore, Maryland, had flourished through the exchange of sporting events. A friendly rivalry grew over the years, but the city and Quantico also shared much friendship and good will.

To repay Baltimore for its many gestures of courtesy, Quantico had invited a delegation of distinguished visitors to tour Quantico during the summer of 1929, to dine with Marines, and be entertained in high style. As most of the visitors were women, General Butler asked Mother De Boo to be their escort and he appointed her the official Marine Corps hostess for Quantico.

From that day forward, Mrs. De Boo served as Quantico's hostess in a wide variety of functions. She welcomed visiting parents, chaperoned girls, participated in weddings, arranged dinners, witnessed baptisms and, in times of sorrow, became an understanding and sympathetic friend.

Wherever Quantico Marines went, Mother De Boo was with them. She went with the Marines to the New York World's Fair and was asked to review the parading Marines from Quantico, and was the honored guest at a special dinner.

When the Quantico Marines played the American Legion football team in Philadelphia in 1930, Mother De Boo served as hostess along with Mrs. Smedley Butler. The story goes that as the two ladies were standing in a crowded hotel lobby where the Marine contingent was quartered, the doorman stared at Mrs. De Boo each time a Marine passed her and greeted her as "Mother." Finally, the doorman turned to her and asked, "Lady, are all these men your boys?" Mother De Boo proudly replied that they were. The astonished attendant gasped, "What a remarkable woman!"

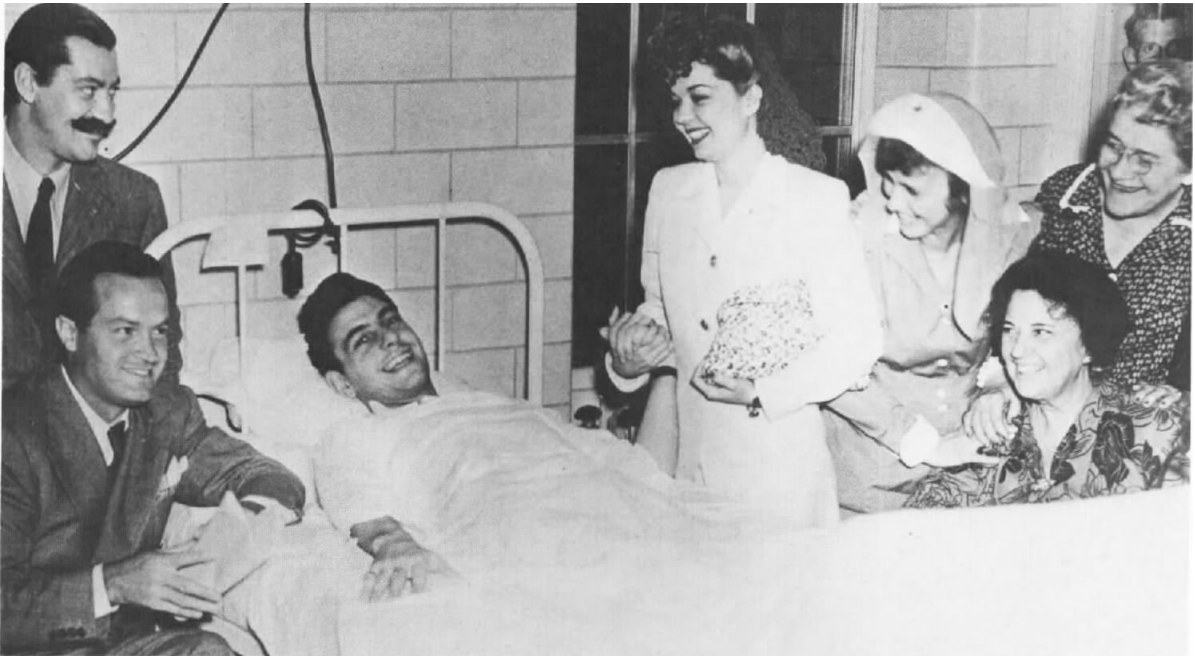
"Mother" was a source of consolation and good advice to Marines. She was described as being as tender as a mother with a baby, yet she apparently also could be as caustically critical as a tough first sergeant. Mrs. De Boo was known nationally as word of her efforts on behalf of Marines spread. Leading stars of the screen and theater paid her tribute. Olsen and Johnson, Kate Smith, Kay Kyser, Bob Hope, Rubinoff,

and many others saluted her in song and on programs.

In the fall of 1941 she made a trip to the West Coast to visit the Marines there and posed for photographs with Dorothy Lamour, Jimmy Lyden, and Freddie Bartholemew. On Christmas Eve 1941 she participated in a national radio broadcast about Christmas in a Marine noncommissioned officer's home. She extended Christmas greetings over the airwaves to Marines everywhere, wishing cheer to "the fightinest men in the world."

During her final illness in the hospital at Quantico, she spent most of her time helping Marine patients write letters, greeting visiting parents, listening to young men's troubles, and helping out wherever she could. As word of her illness spread throughout the Corps, thousands of cards, calls, messages, letters, and bouquets of flowers flowed in from Marines throughout the world. A long procession of daily visitors paid tribute to her.

During this last illness she recorded a radio message to be broadcast to Marines fighting in the Pacific. Marines who fought on Guadalcanal later wrote back that they had heard her message while on the island.



*"Mother" DeBoo and the cast of the Bob Hope Show visit Private Philip Hughes, USMC, at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Quantico, on 6 November 1942. From left: Jerry Colonna; Bob Hope; Pvt Hughes; Frances Langford; Mrs. Mary E. Fenton, a Quantico "Grey Lady" who arranged the visit; Mrs. Clarence Hughes, mother of the patient; and "Mother" DeBoo. (Photo courtesy of Mrs. Mary E. Fenton, USMC Photo 529537).*



*By 1935 the construction of Turner Field on a land fill had begun to take on its final shape, while active aviation units operated south of the rerouted Chopawamsic on Brown Field No. 2 (Quantico Photo 6-28-35).*

Mrs. Katherine "Mother" De Boo died at Quantico in April 1943 at the age of 65.<sup>61</sup>

In 1930, flying activity continued at a high pace with reserve officer training, night flying, cross-country flying, and aircraft support of troops in training. Despite all this activity, however, Quantico's squadrons were not in the best possible shape. On 25 July 1930, Smedley Butler dashed off a letter to the Commandant of the corps inviting attention to the shortage of airplanes. In fact, Butler said, one squadron was short two aircraft, another's planes were all obsolete, and the third squadron had only one aircraft suitable for anything other than spraying mosquitoes.<sup>62</sup>

As activity increased and aircraft became larger, faster, and heavier, it soon became obvious that the existing Brown Field runways were inadequate. Work began in 1930 on a new airstrip near

the mouth of Chopawamsic Creek. The old No. 1 Field was a single, cross-wind runway bordered by hazardous trees, hills, a swamp, powerlines, and a railroad. Much of the existing field east of the railroad tracks had to be cut away as fill dirt, and the creek channel was rerouted. Considerable dredging was necessary, and the marshland between present Air Station headquarters and what later became Larson Gymnasium had to be filled in to make the new airfield. Hangars along old Brown Field No. 1 were taken apart and carried piece by piece to the west side of the railroad tracks where Field No. 2 was located.<sup>63</sup>

The challenge of building an airfield out of creeks and swamps was not easily overcome. Brigadier General Edward C. Dyer, a Quantico aviator at the time, recalled some of the problems:



*The Potomac River served for the simulated combat landings of the advance base exercises held at Quantico in the 1920s to put theory into practice. (Quantico Photo 012-1150-5-75).*

They had trouble filling in the place and making the proper foundations for the hangars, and this was to plague us years later, when the concrete ramps fell through when we had heavier equipment . . . they put down piling after piling after piling as a foundation for the hangars. They put these pilings down and they just disappeared in the mud. I know one night as I understand it a bulldozer was left out in the field and it disappeared overnight. Just vanished.<sup>64</sup>

In August 1930, Brigadier General Randolph C. Berkeley, the first general officer to head Quantico's schools, came to Quantico and set about the task of formalizing embryo Marine Corps amphibious operations doctrine. The appointment of a general officer to direct Marine Corps Schools was significant in that it demonstrated the importance placed on the professional education system by the Commandant of the Corps.

Berkeley formed a special committee under Colonel Charles F. B. Price, consisting of selected officers of the Field Officers School and, in 1931, the committee began work on a manual of Marine Corps landing operations. Berkeley later expanded the task of this committee and charged it with preparing the basic doctrinal publication for landing operations and small wars. This later board was named the Landing Operations Text Board.<sup>65</sup>

Along with this textbook group he formed a Landing Lighters Board, more commonly called the "Boat Board," to investigate the need and requirements for Marine landing craft and a Curriculum Board to ensure that Quantico's courses were up to date with developments in landing operations. This latter board came up with the recommendation that the Marine Corps

concentrate its small war and landing operation instruction and training problems using only Marine Corps organizations, weapons, and equipment. This recommendation was important in light of the fact that the Corps until that time had borrowed almost all instruction material used from the U.S. Army.

In June 1931, a Corps-wide change put "Marines," in regimental titles and organizations such as the 5th Regiment became the 5th Marines.

On the other side of the world, the Japanese military conquest of Manchuria began anew after the "Mukden Incident" of 18 September 1931. The 1st Marines was disbanded at Quantico in November 1931, and in January 1933 the 5th Marines followed suit after returning from Nicaragua.<sup>66</sup>

The Commandant's report to the Secretary of the Navy at the close of fiscal year 1933 reported significant revisions in the "Marine-izing" of the training at Quantico. Training problems, for example, were no longer based on Army tables of organization and equipment, but on Marine Corps data. Committees had been formed to develop appropriate textbooks on those aspects of warfare which were uniquely Marine. The developing science of naval gunfire support of landing operations was to be pursued, and special emphasis in the schools was to be given to amphibious operations and small wars.

Instructors and students underwent indoctrination on the evolving roles and missions of the Corps, and time was specifically allowed for individual student research on military campaigns of the past—particularly those which included Marine-type operations. The new science of amphibious warfare was rich with ideas for research projects, and the students at Quantico contributed much toward an evolving doctrine.

Brigadier General James C. Breckinridge took up where Berkeley left off at Quantico and made a special point to complete the job of doing away with Army texts and instructional materials, and set his staff of instructors to the task of rewriting the entire school curriculum with a strictly Marine Corps orientation. All Army manuals were finally discarded and everything became "Marine."

Breckinridge insisted that his instructors be highly qualified officers in their fields of specialty, that they be highly skilled instructors, but most of all that they be "experts" in what was frequently referred to as "Marine Corps science." There was still a lingering fear that the Marine

Corps would become just another army unless it were unique in as many respects as possible.

By the early 1930s, the Corps had had sufficient experience with expeditionary forces operating in combination with the fleet, and was sufficiently convinced of the accuracy of Ellis' predictions of the Corps' role in future war, that serious thinking was being given to establishing a permanent striking force as part of the fleet. This new concept called for a permanent structure under a standing staff that would be integrated into the fleet and under operational control of the fleet commander. It replaced a system that consisted of hurriedly thrown together organizations that may or may not have had experience with the Navy, and which operated with no standardized structure or experienced staff.<sup>67</sup>

Major General Ben H. Fuller was Commandant of the Corps in 1933 and he put his assistant, Brigadier General John H. Russell, to work on this idea. Two large tasks were required to be accomplished before the concept became a reality, a firm doctrine had to be established and a force of Marines had to be organized with the appropriate staffs and supporting elements to execute the doctrine.

Work was underway during 1933 at Quantico to develop the necessary doctrine. Efforts by students and staff, however, were often interrupted by requirements in the Caribbean, especially with the mobilization of the 7th Marines for duty in Cuba. Finally, Quantico asked the

Commandant for permission to discontinue the Field Officers School temporarily so that all might devote full time to the task of developing a doctrine in the shortest possible time.

The Commandant agreed and on 30 October 1933, Quantico was told to begin work on a manual for landing operations, and work was to start no later than the middle of November. On 14 November classes at Quantico were suspended and work began.<sup>68</sup>

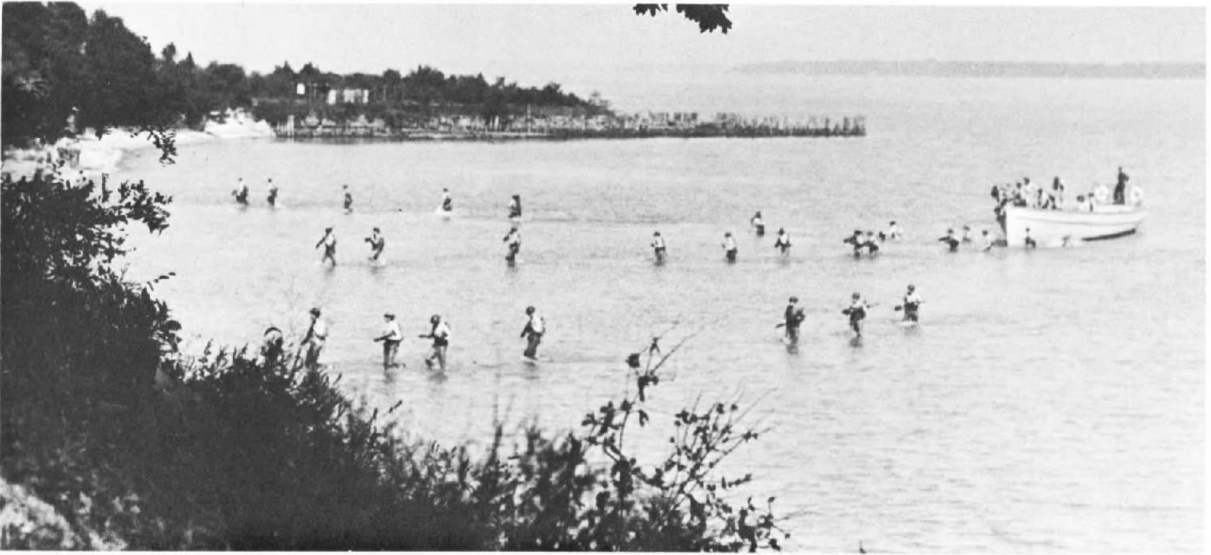
On the other aspect of implementing the new concept—the formation of a permanent, properly organized, trained, and equipped force—Russell had suggested in August 1933 that the old expeditionary force idea be done away with and that the new force, to be called either a Fleet Base Defense Force or a Fleet Marine Force, be established in its place. Much groundwork had been laid concerning the formation of such a force, and Russell's proposal came as no great surprise to Navy and Marine planners. It did, however, force a decision.

After a few months of deliberation, the Secretary of the Navy bought the idea and the name of "Fleet Marine Force" was picked as being the most descriptive of the offensive as well as defensive missions of the force instead of the more limiting "base defense" title.

In late 1933 the Marines in Haiti and Nicaragua began returning to Quantico as the situation in the Caribbean improved. The availability of these combat troops and their equipment made



*A 75mm pack howitzer battery of the Fleet Marine Force, ready for action. (USMC Photo 529211).*



*Early exercises of the Fleet Marine Force demonstrated the need for landing craft that would improve the conditions for ship-to-shore operations. (USMC Photo 515152).*

possible the formation of a new fleet-oriented assault force, the Fleet Marine Force.

Navy Department General Order No. 241 of 7 December 1933, officially established the Fleet Marine Force: "The force of Marines maintained by the Major General Commandant in a state of readiness for operations with the Fleet is hereby designated as Fleet Marine Force (FMF), and as such shall constitute a part of the organization of the United States Fleet. . . ." On 20 December 1933, Quantico's aviation units became Aircraft One, Fleet Marine Force.

Within the first few days of January 1934, the students and staff at Quantico had come up with an outline for a manual that was to be the basis for the Fleet Marine Force doctrine, and a conference was held on 9 January with representatives from Headquarters Marine Corps, Quantico, the new Fleet Marine Force, the Navy, and the Army to discuss the outline and assign the writing of various chapters to committees formed from the attendees.

By the middle of June 1934, the tentative manual had been completed and was submitted to the Commandant for approval. Initially called the *Tentative Manual for Landing Operations*, the title was changed to *Manual for Naval Overseas Operations* within a month after it was completed. Quantico schools used rough versions of the manual for classes during the 1934–1935 school year. A noteworthy feature of this first manual was the

doctrine of "close air support"—which traced its inception to the efforts of Quantico aviators who had gone to the Caribbean with the 15th Regiment in 1919, and who had developed, tested, and refined this principle through a decade and a half of operations.

Beginning in 1934 the new Fleet Marine Force conducted annual exercises, and the results of these practical tests of organization, doctrine, and coordination—plus the results of classroom studies—provided material for revising the original draft of the manual. Revision boards were convened yearly several months after the conclusion of the annual fleet exercises to make the necessary changes to the landing manual.

The revision board of 1935 changed the title to the *Tentative Landing Operations Manual* and wide distribution was made throughout the Marine Corps and Navy. In 1937 the manual became the *Landing Operations Doctrine, U.S. Navy*, and after the 1938 board it was published as *Fleet Training Publication 167* but retained the *Landing Operations Doctrine* title. A major change was issued in mid-1941 incorporating the latest developments in equipment, communications, and organization, and was used by the Marine Corps as it entered World War II. The Army borrowed it in 1941 and published a verbatim copy titled *FM 31-5, Landing Operations on Hostile Shores*.<sup>69</sup>



The organization of the new Fleet Marine Force called for two reinforced brigades, one to be stationed at Quantico and one at San Diego, California. Brigadier General Charles H. Lyman was the first commander of the Fleet Marine Force and maintained his headquarters initially at Quantico. Later, command of the Fleet Marine Force moved to San Diego under Brigadier General Douglas C. McDougal.

The 1st Brigade had been known as the 1st Advance Base Brigade since March of 1914 when it was formed for duty in Veracruz, Mexico. In 1915 elements of the brigade were sent to Haiti and in the following year a major portion went to Santo Domingo. In early 1917 the brigade became the Provisional Brigade, and in July 1921 it became the brigade headquartered in Port Au Prince, Haiti.

The 1st Brigade had spent 19 years in Haiti and was disbanded on the way back to the United States. Almost all of its Marines were sent to Quantico to fill up the ranks of the new Fleet Marine Force. When enough of these Marines and their equipment were on hand, the 5th Marines was organized again and the Commandant implemented the Navy's General Order No. 241 by issuing Marine Corps Order No. 84 on 18 December 1934, and the Fleet Marine Force became a physical reality.

Within a short time, the Quantico brigade of the Fleet Marine Force consisted of the 5th Marines of two infantry battalions, the 1st Battalion of the 10th Marines (artillery), an engineer company, a brigade headquarters which included signal, intelligence, motor transport, and chemical units, and Aircraft One of six aircraft squadrons. A light tank section was later added.

As the Fleet Marine Force became organized and started functioning, it made a significant impact on Quantico's schools. Maintaining the Fleet Marine Force became the main concern of the

Corps, and the schools' curriculum became oriented toward this goal. Before long the curriculum and training was aimed at preparing officers for duty with the Fleet Marine Force.

Formation of the Fleet Marine Force and the beginning of work on a manual for amphibious operations were not the only highly significant events at Quantico in 1933.

Along with the realization that a special force was needed and that force required a special doctrine to ensure its success, it was apparent from Marine Corps experience that special equipment was needed to make this force and its doctrine most effective. Furthermore, the items required were just not available in the military inventory.

In 1933 the Major General Commandant directed the establishment of a Marine Corps Equipment Board at Quantico to examine what was available from civilian industry that could be easily adapted to Marine Corps use, and to provide him with factual information on the efficiency and practicality of equipment being considered. Development of new equipment for the Corps was not a function of this early board.

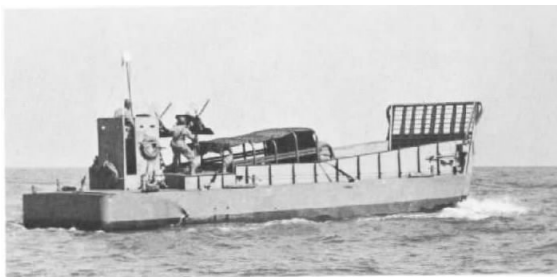
At first the 11 members of the new board did their equipment evaluating in addition to their regular assignments, but as the Fleet Marine Force became a reality and doctrine was formalized, the board grew in size and importance and its members found themselves with fulltime jobs.

One of the most obvious equipment requirements for the Marine Corps was that of a suitable ship-to-shore boat that could carry troops and equipment. This need had been recognized long before the establishment of the Equipment Board, but no satisfactory solution to the problem had been found. It became one of the first and most important of many special problems faced by the board.

Marines over the years had conducted their landing operations using standard ships' boats. These were too slow for assaults; they were vulnerable to rough seas and surf and could not carry heavy equipment. The standard Navy 50-foot motor launch was also unsatisfactory for artillery and other bulky items.

A civilian boat builder named Andrew Higgins from New Orleans visited the new Equipment Board in 1934 to talk about the Corps' need for a suitable boat. No one had any money at the time to purchase a prototype from Higgins, and he returned home without accomplishing anything more than stirring up interest.

In 1935, after amphibious doctrine had been



*A LCM(6) with load of one 6X4 truck in training operations in August 1943. (U.S. Navy Photo 85148).*

set down and the Fleet Marine Force set about testing its effectiveness, the Navy turned to the civilian world and asked for bids for commercial boats that would meet the Corps' needs.

By early 1936 the Navy had five modified civilian boats available for testing by Marine units. Testing by the 5th Marines began off Cape May, New Jersey, and continued for several years. Higgins did not respond to this first request for bids. But in late 1936, as testing was well underway, Higgins spoke up again and announced that he had the boat that could fill the job. Negotiations between Higgins and the Navy began.

While the Marines were testing one batch of landing craft and working with Higgins to adapt his version, a picture story was published in 1937 in *Life* magazine about a weird tractor used in the Florida Everglades as a rescue vehicle. According to the story, the strange craft could travel on water as well as on land.

News of this innovation eventually made its way to the Equipment Board and a member was immediately sent to Clearwater, Florida, to check out the story's claims. He submitted an enthusiastic report to the board upon his return, and the tractor's builder, Donald Roebing, son of a wealthy manufacturer who had built the vehicle as a hobby, was asked to submit plans for a Marine Corps version.<sup>70</sup>

Higgins' "Eureka" boat, meanwhile, was accepted for testing at Hampton Roads, Virginia, in 1938 and was tentatively accepted for operational use in 1939, after yeoman service during that year's fleet exercises.

It was not until 1940, however, that the Navy Department had sufficient funds to officially adopt the Higgins boat as a primary landing craft for Marines. Also in 1940 Roebing had come up with a design for a Marine version of his "alligator," and a test model was shipped to Quantico in November. By then the Navy's financial situation had improved and the Higgins boat was adopted.

The Alligator received extensive testing at Quantico in the creeks, rivers, and swamps, and went to the Caribbean with the Fleet Marine Force at the end of the year. Marines were ecstatic over the capabilities of the craft, and after some design changes, an order for 200 of the Landing Vehicle Tracked (LVT) was given to Roebing in February 1941. The first ones rolled off the assembly line in mid-1941.<sup>71</sup>

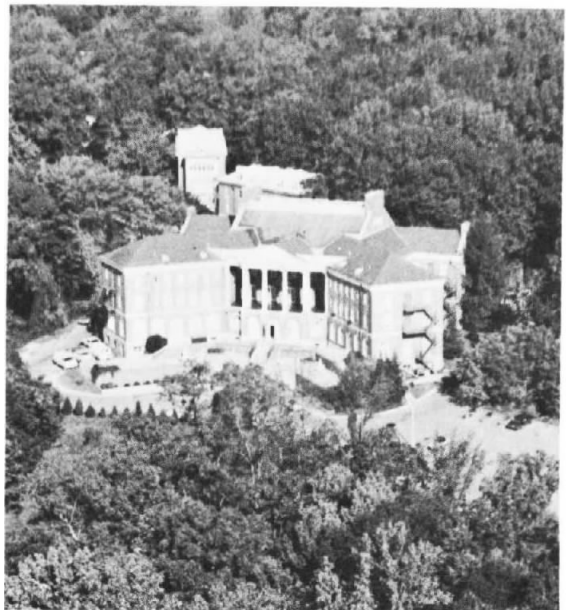
In May an Amphibian Tractor Detachment was organized at Quantico. The unit of four offi-

cers and 36 enlisted Marines went to Dunedin, Florida, and began training with the new vehicles. Later in the year the unit grew to 25 officers and 90 men and was authorized to organize and train two tractor battalions.<sup>72</sup>

While the Fleet Marine Force was testing the Alligator in the Caribbean, Higgins was back at Quantico to talk with the Equipment Board about a photograph of a Japanese landing craft that featured a bow ramp. The Marines were impressed with this innovation and convinced Higgins of the necessity for such a feature. In less than a year he built his own version of the Japanese boat, and it received extensive testing. The Navy and Marine Corps quickly accepted the new model, and the 36-foot Higgins boat, or Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVP), became part of the Marine Corps inventory.

Once the Equipment Board had found a good friend in Andrew Higgins, they presented him with another problem that the Corps had been wrestling with for years—the need for a large landing craft to ferry vehicles, tanks, and artillery to the beach. No suitable boats had been found for this purpose, either within or without the Navy.

Higgins had a commercial 45-foot boat that might just do the job. When Higgins sold the



*Harry Lee Hall, the officers' club, was constructed in 1935 and named in honor of Major General Harry Lee, former Commandant, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico. Engineers from the 10th Marines cut the stone from a nearby quarry. (Quantico Photo 012-3523-16-76).*



*The leaders of the Corps celebrate the Birthday of the Corps at Quantico on 10 November 1935. From left: Generals David D. Porter, Louis M. Little, Frederic Bradman, Major General Commandant John H. Russell, Charles H. Lyman, Richard P. Williams, and Thomas Holcomb. (USMC Photo 516305).*

Corps his bow ramp version of the 36-foot landing craft, he also provided the Corps with a 45-foot boat with a bow ramp to satisfy the heavy equipment requirement. This boat, too, was quickly accepted, except that the contract called for increasing its size to 50 feet to accommodate the growing size for artillery and tanks. This Higgins boat became the Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM).

In 1934 the Marine Corps came up with the idea of the Platoon Leaders Course, selecting students from certain colleges that did not have Reserve Officers Training Corps.<sup>73</sup> In the spring of 1935, platoon leaders classes were organized at Quantico and at San Diego. Under this new program, college graduates were appointed second lieutenants in the Marine Corps Reserve after two six-week summer training periods, and were given further training as new lieutenants at the Basic School. Lieutenant Colonel Clifton B. Cates commanded the first session at Quantico when 200 students reported in July 1935. Units of the 1st Brigade assisted by organizing and conducting field exercises and demonstrations.<sup>74</sup>

During April 1934 the East and West Coast Fleet Marine Forces joined for maneuvers at

Culebra, Puerto Rico. From 19 January to 13 March 1935 Fleet Marine Force units took part in Fleet Landing Exercise No. 1 at Culebra, under command of Brigadier General Charles H. Lyman. From 1935 until World War II these annual Fleet Marine Force exercises became a tradition. Exercises were held either in the Caribbean or off Southern California, and they enabled the Fleet Marine Force to develop and test doctrine, equipment, and organization.<sup>75</sup>

Near the end of July 1935 work began on a hard-surfaced, wet weather parade ground at Quantico, which is now used by Officer Candidates School. On 31 September aircraft from Quantico took part in the Cleveland Air Show while Quantico's VO-9 Squadron took part in hurricane relief work in the Florida Keys.<sup>76</sup>

Headquarters of the Fleet Marine Force moved from Quantico to San Diego, California, effective 9 August 1935, as the Corps' attention became more and more directed toward the Far East.

When General Thomas Holcomb was in command at Quantico in mid-1935, he established a research department at the schools which was focused on amphibious warfare. Detailed studies were made of every amphibious operation in his-



*A dress parade at Quantico in 1937. Motor Transport Bldg 2013, on the left, faces Barnett Avenue beyond. (Leatherneck Magazine).*

tory, and a comprehensive library on amphibious warfare was set up that quickly became the best in the world on the subject.<sup>77</sup>

In the mid-1930s, Quantico brought the Marine Corps its first newspaper. Chaplain August Hohl and Mrs. Ruth Hamner had planned a newspaper for some time and in May 1935 the *Quantico Sentry* was conceived and published as a newspaper “for Marines by Marines and written with the dignity and traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps.”

When the first issue began circulating, the optimism paid off. Even then Quantico was thought of as the crossroads of the Marine Corps, and it was only appropriate to those Marines of the 1930s that such a showplace should have the first Marine Corps newspaper. Within a short time demands poured in from all over the world wherever Marines were stationed for copies of the *Sentry*.

Within a year special sections of the newspaper were set aside for important news from San Diego, Parris Island, Norfolk, Pensacola, and the Virgin Islands. The *Sentry* was strictly a civilian effort, unhampered by military regulations. Nothing was sacred. Freedom of the press flourished and the *Sentry* became known as a newspaper of unique importance the world over.

One of the most spectacular aviation feats up until that time took place during Fleet Landing Exercise No. 2 in the Caribbean at Culebra, Puerto Rico, during 12 January to 17 February 1936. The 1st Brigade took part in the exercises as it had the year before, and Aircraft One went

along. The aviators, under Lieutenant Colonel Roy S. Geiger, conducted a 50-plane flight in formation to Culebra from Quantico and return, a distance of about 4,800 miles—most of it over the open sea. During the field exercises, the aviators carried out a variety of ground support and reconnaissance missions without a single mishap to personnel or equipment, either while in the Caribbean or on the long trip there and back.<sup>78</sup>

During the summer of 1936, 900 1st Brigade Marines again staged a Civil War battle, this time at Manassas, Virginia, for the First Battle of Bull Run. Spectators were estimated at 50,000. The Marines, who took the role of the defeated Union forces, included elements of the 5th Marines and 10th Marines artillery. Like all the Civil War dramas, the participating organizations carried Union and Confederate flags and took the names of Civil War organizations. Marines wore blue dungarees to simulate Union uniforms, and even Civil War chevrons were sewn on for the event.<sup>79</sup>

The efforts at Quantico’s airfield to fill in the swamps and reroute Chopawamsic Creek continued during 1936. The vast project, which had begun in 1930, was not completed until the end of the decade. However, the field-to-be was formally dedicated on 1 July 1936 in honor of Colonel Thomas C. Turner who had been killed in Haiti during the last months of 1931 in an aircraft accident.<sup>80</sup>

For the last three months of the year, the 1st Brigade busied itself with extensive field exercises and amphibious landings along the Potomac.



*A mess hall, Quantico, 1940. (USMC Photo 529261).*

Testing the new landing craft recently acquired by the Marine Corps was included in these exercises.

By late 1936 the schools at Quantico had 14 officers enrolled in the Senior Officers Course (formerly the Field Officers Course), 45 in the Junior Officers Course (the old Company Officers Course), and 7 in the Base Defense Weapons Course. All courses were nine months long. The Basic Course at Philadelphia was five months long with 94 second lieutenants enrolled. In the Correspondence Course, located at Quantico, enrollment numbered more than 3,800 students in Peiping, Guantanamo Bay, Shanghai, Hawaii, Panama, the Philippines, and the Virgin Islands.

The staff of instructors numbered 36 at Quantico and 16 at Philadelphia. The instructors were all graduates of at least one military school of higher education, including Quantico's schools, the Naval War College, Army schools, or the Ecole de Guerre in Paris. The Corps had two officers at the Ecole de Guerre and one at the Ecole d'Application d'Artilerie at Fontainebleau, France. These officers were destined to join the Quantico staff upon graduation.

By the mid-1930s the Basic Course built on the previous general education of new officers and laid the groundwork for experience and further learning. The purpose was to qualify officers for leadership in infantry units and for duty on battalion staffs. Instruction included administration, law, drill, topography, command, infantry weapons, and tactics.

After a number of years service, officers were expected to attend the Junior Course. By that time they were presumed to know the fundamental subjects of their profession: map reading, topog-

raphy, forms for plans and orders, infantry weapons, organization, tactics, landing operations, and small wars. These were not ignored in the Junior Course, but included as "refresher" subjects.

The Junior Course featured tactical operations, with command functions of all units up to and including the battalion, and staff functions through regimental level. Marine units were studied as independent units and as part of a naval landing force. The seizure of advanced bases, the occupation and defense of bases, small wars, and emergency operations were studied. The mission of the school was to train officers for wartime duties of company and battalion commanders, and for duty on battalion and regimental staffs by studying employment of units to regimental size, and coordination of supporting arms—including aviation.

At an equivalent level with the Junior Course, the Base Defense Weapons Course was designed to prepare officers for artillery service in the Fleet Marine Force. The course consisted primarily of technical and practical instruction in base defense weapons, mathematics, topography, gunnery, and the tactics and techniques of base defense weapons including actual field training and firing. A part of the course was devoted to landing operations and the defense of advanced naval bases with emphasis on the relationship of naval, field, and anti-aircraft artillery to the whole scheme of defense. One of the motivating factors behind establishment of this course was the growing im-



*Major "Tony" Biddle, USMCR began his visits to Quantico in World War I and continued to give special classes in bayonet training, fencing, and boxing from time to time. Even though well into his 70s when World War II began he once again volunteered and conducted classes in self-defense. (USMC Photo 524715).*

portance of aviation. The Marine Corps had added 3-inch antiaircraft artillery and .50 caliber machineguns to its inventory to combat the aviation menace, and it needed officers trained to employ these weapons effectively.

Upon completion of either of these two courses, the officer normally returned to his regular duties. The next stage of progression was the Senior Course. This was designed for field grade officers and captains selected for major. It was not a direct continuation of the Junior Course, but a logical next step after Junior Course graduates had acquired field experience.

Part of the Senior Course was devoted to a review of topography, tactics, and techniques of the separate combat arms, map problems, and terrain studies based on traditional land warfare. It then moved into the field of naval landing operations with emphasis on the Marine brigade and the Fleet Marine Force acting independently or as part of the Fleet. Command and staff functions in all types of organizations and operations were studied, as were small wars of the Caribbean variety.

The final step in a Marine officer's formal education in the mid-1930s was considered to be the Naval War College. Courses at Quantico at all levels were designed to adequately prepare Marine officers for this final, top-level school.

Seven years was the minimum time expected between the resident courses at Quantico, and the whole sequence was intended to take up the first 20 years of an officer's career. In the intervening periods between schools, officers were expected to keep abreast of new developments in the rapidly changing military science through correspondence courses.

In early 1937 the Quantico Fleet Marine Force took part in Fleet Landing Exercise No. 3 in conjunction with the West Coast Marine brigade and U.S. Army units. The exercise, which took place in the San Clemente and San Pedro area, lasted from 27 January until 10 March and included a number of Quantico pilots and aircraft flying crosscountry to San Diego to support ground troops.

Later in the spring, Quantico Marines aided the city of Fredericksburg in recovering from a disastrous flood, and on 30 April, 1,200 Marines took part in the reenactment of the Civil War Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, Virginia, about 90 miles south of Quantico. Their "Confederate" opponents were cadets of Virginia Military Institute and the Virginia National Guard.<sup>81</sup>

A few weeks later during late May, President

Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Vice President, numerous Congressmen, and about 1,200 members of the National Press Club had a grandiose picnic at Quantico.

Two hundred Marines were rushed from Quantico to Lakehurst, New Jersey, the same month to guard the German airship, *Hindenburg*, which had crashed and burned on 6 May.<sup>82</sup>

The beginning of 1938 found the Quantico Marines again taking part in amphibious operations. This time, Fleet Landing Exercise No. 4 took place at Culebra, Puerto Rico, from the middle of January until the middle of March, and was the most complex and comprehensive landing operation to date. In February, the 6th Marines left China when things seemed to settle down.

The first several months of 1939 were taken up by Fleet Exercise No. 5 in the Caribbean, lasting from 13 January through the middle of May. Ground forces of the Fleet Marine Force were again organized into two brigades effective 30 May. The 1st Brigade was to be at Quantico and the 2d at San Diego, each supported by a corresponding numbered Marine aircraft group. Each brigade consisted of an infantry regiment, artillery battalion (howitzers), an antiaircraft artillery battalion, tank company, engineer, and chemical troops. Total Fleet Marine Force strength numbered about 4,600.<sup>83</sup>

The aviation side of Quantico had grown to four squadrons of 69 aircraft, including bi-plane bombers, fighters, scout bombers, transports, and observation planes. An aviator was assigned as an air liaison officer to the 1st Marine Brigade staff for the first time to facilitate air-ground coordination and mutual support.<sup>84</sup>

At Quantico's schools, a doctrine for the successful execution and control of naval gunfire in support of ground troops had evolved and received considerable practice in both the Caribbean exercises and in Southern California. Bloodsworth Island in Chesapeake Bay had been acquired for firing ranges, and special schools at Quantico trained shore fire control parties and air spotters to implement the new doctrine and techniques.

By the end of 1939 almost half of the 1,100 hours of instruction at Quantico's schools was devoted to some aspect of landing operations.

Work had also begun on a new medical dispensary at a cost of almost one million dollars. This dispensary, being built on the old Shipping Point land that was earlier the site of Confederate gun batteries and more recently an important shipyard, was to become the Naval Hospital, Quantico.



*By November 1932, the new barracks were completed and Barnett Avenue (with the vehicles on it) had been relocated. (USMC Photo 529015).*

The first Marine Corps Reserve Officers Class was formed at Quantico in 1939. This six-week course was instructed by 10 officers of the 1st Marine Brigade.

Major General Louis McCarty Little took over command at Quantico after tours as commander of the Fleet Marine Force, of Marine Corps Base at San Diego, and as Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. During his tour at Quantico, many beneficial changes were brought about.

During Little's command, the chapel was improved and enlarged, Butler Stadium was finally completed, and a part of the new Hostess House intended for a post office was made into a lounge and game room for enlisted Marines. Old fire traps, especially in the 1100 block, were razed and modern dwellings erected. One hundred prefabricated houses for married noncommissioned officers were constructed, and General Little personally helped design nurses' quarters, porches for quarters, and garages.

Sidewalks were finally built, parking lots provided, roadways improved, and bridges built. Contractors who were having problems with the settling ground at Turner Field received General Little's personal engineering assistance to solve the problem. Under Little's supervision, an experiment was tried and laminations of asphalt, concrete, and soil were built up to make Turner Field the best of its kind.

The enlisted men's club was enlarged, the family hospital renovated, a bachelor noncommissioned officers' mess and club were created, and the gymnasium was converted from an old movie hall. Little also purchased buses and beach wagons for the convenience of Quantico personnel.

Newspaper reports of the time say that the greatest monument the Littles left behind was the Post School—a building dedicated in early 1942 that was the joint effort of Mrs. Little and most of the teachers and administrators.<sup>85</sup>

Fleet Landing Exercise No. 6 was held in the



*In the foreground is what is now Hockmuth Hall, headquarters of the Development Center. The building was built in 1939–1940 as the original FBI Academy. In the rear is the Computer Science School. (Quantico Photo 012-3525-57-76).*

Caribbean from 11 January to 13 March 1940, and involved the 1st Marine Brigade and the 1st Marine Aircraft Group under Brigadier General Holland M. Smith, who gained fame a few years later as an amphibious leader.<sup>86</sup>

In the spring of 1940, the first students of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's new academy moved into a new, three-story colonial brick building on Quantico's Barnett Avenue. Before this time, FBI training had been conducted at numerous military installations around the Washington, D.C., area—including Quantico. This situation was clearly unsatisfactory to FBI officials since it meant that the FBI had no permanent facilities of its own in one spot for its important training. Students and training were spread all over the Washington-Virginia-Maryland countryside. A Marine Corps invitation to locate a pro-

posed FBI academy at Quantico was quickly accepted, and construction began in the fall of 1939.

Quantico was an ideal spot for the academy. It was out of the rush of metropolitan Washington business, all support facilities and weapons ranges were readily available, and—most of all—it permitted the fledging FBI Special Agents to all live, work, and train together at one location.

President Roosevelt declared a limited national emergency in June 1940 and the Corps began in earnest the prodigious task of getting ready for war. Expansion of the Marine Corps to 34,000 was authorized by the President, and officers' retirements were halted in some cases. Within a couple of weeks, more than \$1 million was authorized for emergency construction at Quantico to improve the airfield and build a post exchange and other buildings and facilities.<sup>87</sup>



One important task assigned to Quantico was the training of new officers. Colonel Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr. set up a special unit at Quantico to train potential officers in the "... fundamentals of military discipline, and in the school of the soldier, squad and platoon . . . and to select those qualified for commission in order to provide capable and well-fitted officers for the Marine Corps Reserve." Soon thereafter, training officers became the primary job of Quantico's schools.<sup>88</sup>

During July 1940 the Joint War Planning Committee developed a plan for an expeditionary force to depart New York City around the middle of the month to occupy Martinique in the Caribbean. Martinique was the Western Hemisphere center for France's colonies and possessions. The 1st Marine Brigade from Quantico was designated as the initial landing force for this venture.

Three hundred recruits from Parris Island, South Carolina, arrived at Quantico on 15 August 1940, to continue their recruit training which had been violently interrupted by a hurricane which caused \$3,000,000 worth of damage at the recruit training depot. Within a week, a huge tent city was erected along Barnett Avenue and training went on as usual. All recruit training at Quantico ended on 30 September, and almost 900 new Marines had been trained on behalf of Parris Island.<sup>89</sup>

The 11th Marines was formed again at Quantico in September 1940 from a battalion of the 10th, and became a part of the 1st Marine Division when it was formed the following year.

A formal plan for an amphibious assault on Martinique was published by the Navy during October 1940. The plan called for the 1st Marine Brigade of about 2,800 Marines to make the

landing, followed by two Army regiments.<sup>90</sup> Plans were announced in mid-October 1940 for formation of a Marine Corps museum at Quantico, and a week later the San Francisco World's Fair offered its vast collection of automatic weapons and machine guns to Quantico for the new museum.<sup>91</sup>

During the fall of 1940 Quantico's aviators, as part of Marine Aircraft Group One, kept busy supporting small unit special landing operations in the Caribbean.

As the war year of 1941 dawned, Quantico was busy getting ready for its expected role.

On 1 February the East and West Coast brigades of the Fleet Marine Force were officially activated as the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions, respectively, and, around a core of experienced Marines, new enlistees were placed to fill up the ranks.<sup>92</sup> The nucleus of the 1st Division, the commanding general, his staff, the 5th Marines and a battalion of the 11th Marines—amounting to 3,000 men—were quartered at Quantico pending completion of construction at New River, North Carolina. Shortly afterwards, the 1st Marines was organized again at Quantico.

Another \$1 million was authorized for additional construction at Quantico for a new rifle range, barracks, and more work on the hospital. The Corps' strength was authorized to increase to 60,000 under the current emergency.<sup>93</sup>

One of the Corps' more unique schools that was hosted briefly by Quantico was the Barrage Balloon Training School formed in June 1941.<sup>94</sup> Balloons were not new to the Corps or to Quantico; the Corps' first unit to use balloons was formed at Quantico in 1918 to aid artillery spotting. The unit was disbanded in early 1919, al-



Married enlisted quarters in the 1940s. (USMC Photo A550971).



*The Naval Hospital, Quantico (right center) and supporting buildings, located on Shipping Point. Quantico Creek is above the complex and the Potomac River below. (Quantico Photo 012-3523-54-76).*

though experimentation with balloons of various sorts continued at Quantico until late 1929.

As Marine planners saw new organizations and techniques coming to light in the war in Europe, their thinking turned to adopting some of these innovations for the Corps. The use of barrage balloons for air defense was one of these. The responsibility for air defense of advanced naval bases was given to the Marine Corps, and this included the use of barrage balloons. After studies based on British experience, the Corps was authorized in March 1941 to organize two balloon squadrons, each to consist of 10 officers, 200 Marines, 24 balloons, and 24 balloons in reserve.

Several Marine officers attended the Navy's balloon school at Lakehurst, New Jersey, in the spring of 1941, and then returned to Quantico where they established the Corps' Barrage Balloon Training School on 12 June of that year. Due to a lack of balloons—and, as a result, students—the school staff spent most of the time doing research and developing techniques for the use of barrage balloons. It wasn't until the school moved to New River, North Carolina, in September 1942 that it went into full operation.

A couple of weeks after the Barrage Balloon School was formed, Captain J. B. Pollard, USN, became the first commanding officer of the new

Naval Hospital on 1 July. The original building, erected in 1939 as a dispensary for Marine Barracks personnel, cost almost \$1 million. The hospital area included about 40 acres on old Shipping Point.

Prior to establishment of the Naval Hospital—which served Marine families as well as Marines—dependents of Marines were treated at a "Family Hospital," and almost all families belonged to the Family Hospital Association, an organization supported by donations, dues, and low cost treatment. Navy and Marine officers formed a Hospital Council that governed operation of the service.

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was organized at Quantico on 7 July 1941. The new wing had two fighter squadrons, two scout bomber squadrons, one dive bomber squadron, and one utility and observation squadron.<sup>95</sup>

While the Barrage Balloon Training School was getting organized, Quantico formed another of the Corps' more unique organizations—the 1st Parachute Battalion.<sup>96</sup> The idea of dropping men with parachutes was not completely new. As early as 1927, a dozen Marines had proved the value of such a technique by parachuting from transports flying near Washington, D.C. With the successful use of this technique by the Germans in Europe and an intensive U.S. Army parachute training

program, the Corps took another look at the value of airdropped Marines.

The Commandant had tasked his planners in May 1940 with coming up with a plan for the employment of such a parachute force, visualizing an infantry battalion with supporting artillery as an appropriate size. As more information and studies were accumulated, this concept changed to one where each Marine infantry regiment was to contain a battalion of Marines organized and trained to be transported by air, and within these battalions there was to be a company of parachutists. The remainder of the air-transportable battalion was to be trained as glider troops. This concept, too, was later changed to one where the Corps was to have two complete battalions of parachutists instead of parachute companies divided among the regiments.

Training of Marines in parachute operations began at Lakehurst, New Jersey, in late October 1940. This was exclusively tower training, and as Marines qualified in that two-week phase, they were sent to Quantico for additional training and conditioning before actually jumping from aircraft.

A company of parachutists was formed at Quantico on 28 May 1941, as Marines became qualified in this new technique. About six weeks later a battalion headquarters was organized and the 1st Parachute Battalion itself was formed in mid-August. With the addition of a trained company from San Diego in late September, the battalion was two-thirds complete.

On 28 September, the 1st Parachute Battalion left Quantico for New River, North Carolina, for more training, where it remained until July 1942, when it left for the Pacific and took part in the Guadalcanal landings.

The Sixth Reserve Officers Course began on 1 November with 300 students most of whom had just graduated from the Third Candidates Course. The ROC also included 42 older officers taking a "refresher" course. The Reserve Officers Course had been recently extended to 14 weeks but was

shortened to 12 just over a month after it began, and later to six weeks. The schedule called for field trips and terrain exercises at most nearby Civil War battlefields.

In September 1941, Major General Holland M. Smith was named commander of the Atlantic Amphibious Force consisting of the 1st Marine Division, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and a Base Depot. The force was located at Quantico except for the Base Depot which was at Charleston, South Carolina.

Also in September an officers' Aviation Specialist School was opened at Quantico and by the 26th of the month, the newly formed 1st Marine Division completed a move to New River, North Carolina—later to become Camp Lejeune—since the division-size Fleet Marine Force had outgrown Quantico's facilities. A huge tent camp awaited the division in North Carolina.

Quantico's airfield was renamed on 1 December 1941, from Base Air Detachment One, Marine Barracks, to Marine Corps Air Station, Quantico. The first commanding officer of the new air station was Major Ivan W. Miller, and his command was placed under control of the Commanding General, Marine Barracks, Quantico. Simultaneously, Cunningham Field at Cherry Point, North Carolina, became a Marine Corps Air Station for developmental purposes to take some of the strain off the Quantico aviation facilities.

Within days after Quantico's flying field became a full-fledged air station, all of Quantico's tactical aircraft squadrons began moving to the West Coast. Quantico became a training base for aviators and an overhaul and repair facility for aircraft, rather than a home for Fleet Marine Force tactical air squadrons.<sup>97</sup>

With the departure of the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing shortly thereafter, Quantico ceased to be a major training base for Fleet Marine Force units, and its primary mission—with a few minor exceptions—came to be the training of individual Marines instead of entire organizations.