

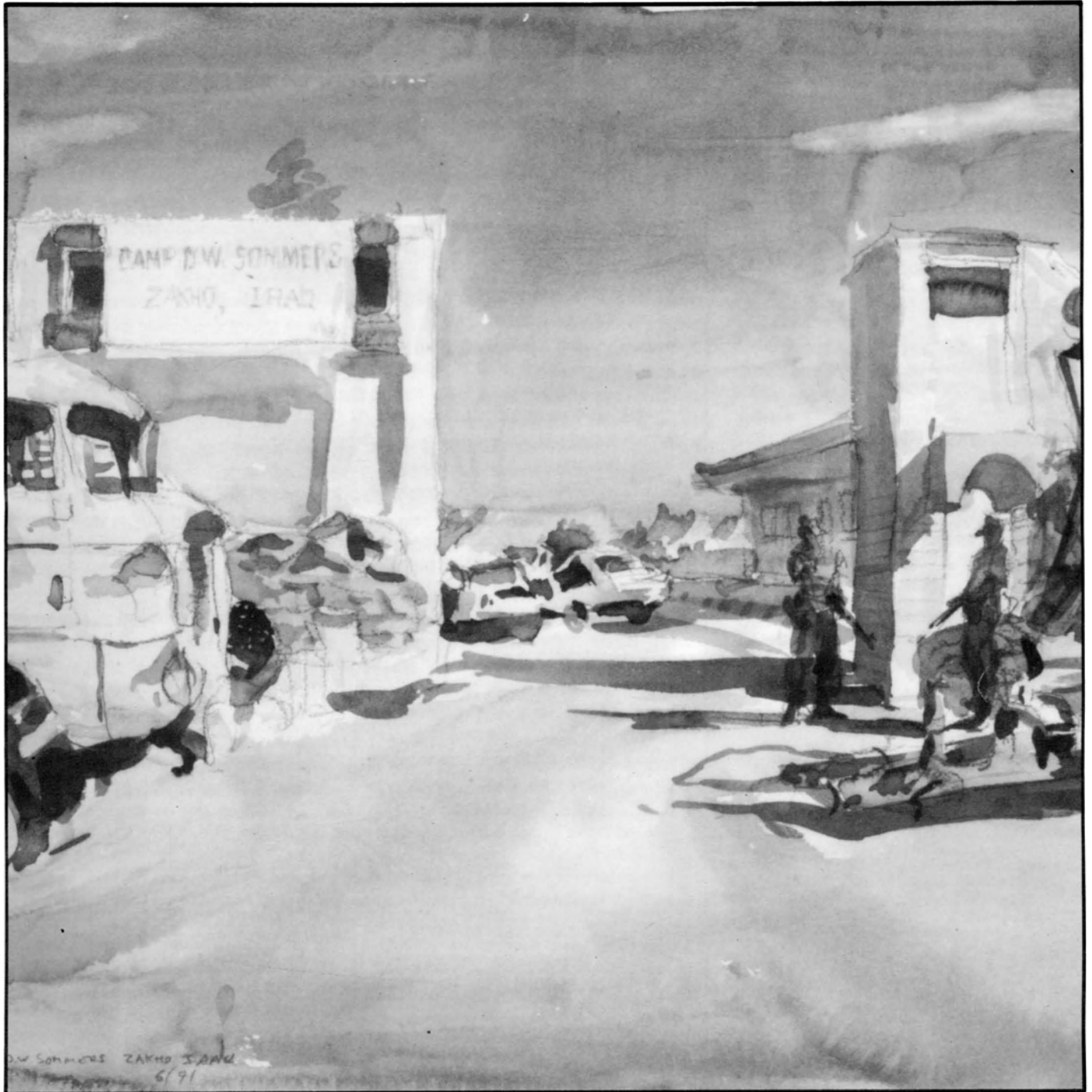
FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXI

SUMMER 1991

NUMBER 1



HISTORICAL TRAINING UNIT'S EXPERIENCE IN THE GULF WAR . . . REMEMBERING THE FIRST PLATOON OF BLACK MARINES AT MONTFORD POINT . . . EXHIBITION HONORING MARINES IN 'DESERT STORM' OPENS WITHIN WEEKS OF WAR'S CLOSE . . . CENTER HISTORIANS HAPPY TO MEET VISITING POLISH COUNTERPARTS



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FORTITUDINE

Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era.

Historical Bulletin Volume XXI

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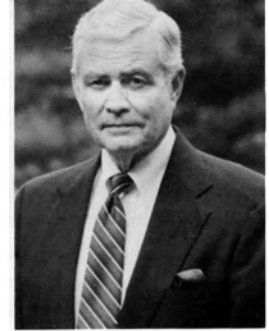
THE COVER

Joining the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit at its base at Camp D. W. Sommers near Zakho in northern Iraq, was Col Peter M. "Mike" Gish, USMCR, veteran naval aviator and, in his "second career," a well-known American artist and teacher. The 24th MEU was in the midst of conducting a sizeable share of Operation Provide Comfort, the international relief effort for Kurdish refugees, and Col Gish was along to record those activities. His watercolor on the cover suggests tight security at the Camp Sommers gate. Beginning on page 12, others of his works illustrate the Provide Comfort story told by historian LtCol Ronald J. Brown, USMCR, who also outlines the historical program for Operation Desert Storm, beginning on page 9.

Errors in the automated distribution of the Spring 1991 issue of *Fortitudine* meant that some official and institutional addressees received too many copies, while others received none. Delivery to paid subscribers was unaffected. Marine Corps units, other agencies, and institutions normally receiving copies, but which got none of this issue, should inform the History and Museums Division (HDS-1) so that others can be sent.

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BGen Simmons

Montford Point Marines

THIS PAST MAY, Mr. Gene Doughty, then the national president of the Montford Point Marine Association, invited me to attend the Association's convention in Chicago. The purpose would be to discuss, with its leadership, how the contribution of black Marines in World War II could best be observed in the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the war.

I accepted with alacrity because the invitation fit into the WW II anniversary plans of the History and Museums Division. We would have been going to the Montford Point Marine Association (MPMA) for help in any case.

Membership in the Association is now open to all Marines—present or former; black, white, or any other ethnic background; male or female—but the bedrock membership is made up of black Marines who did their recruit training at Montford Point Camp at Camp Lejeune in the years 1942 to 1949.

AS IT TURNED OUT, the deputy convention director was an old friend, Capt Samuel F. Saxten, USMC (Ret). The convention was held in the McCormick Center Hotel in Chicago.

I checked in on Friday, 12 July. That afternoon I met with the officers and executive committee of the Association, Saturday morning I spoke to the business meeting, and Saturday evening I was one of the banquet speakers. In between times and before my departure on Sunday morning there were many one-on-one and small group discussions. The underlying theme was always the same: "We Montford Point Marines served in the Marine Corps in World War II, we are proud of that experience, and we do not want to be forgotten."

There were a hundred or more Montford Point Marines at the business meeting and I was able to tell them that the U.S. government plans a major observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II. The Secretary of the Army is the execu-

tive agent for the observance which will be a blend of public affairs and historical activities. Recently retired Army LtGen Claude M. Kicklighter is the Secretary's Special Assistant for the 50th Anniversary. MajGen John P. Condon, USMC (Ret), is the Marine Corps' member of the Secretary's advisory committee. BGen Thomas V. Draude, Director of Public Affairs, and I are the Marine Corps members of the World War II executive committee. The first major event will be the Pearl Harbor observance on 7 December.

WITHIN THE Marine Corps, such anniversary observances as band concerts and ceremonies will come under the purview of the Division of Public Affairs. In the History and Museums Division, we plan to issue over the next five or six years a series of 30 or more highly illustrated pamphlet histories covering Marine campaigns and special units. This year we will be publishing "Opening Moves: The Marines Gear Up for War," by former Chief Historian Henry I. "Bud" Shaw, Jr., and "Marines in Iceland, 1941," by Iceland

veteran Col James A. Donovan, USMC (Ret).

The pamphlet series will be paralleled by a number of exhibits at the Marine Corps Museum. One of the pamphlets and one of the exhibits will be "Black Marines in World War II." In addition to being shown in the Museum, these exhibits will travel. As I told the Montford Pointers, the exhibit on "Black Marines in World War II" might well appear at a future convention of the MPMA. But while we hope that these pamphlets and exhibits are a source of satisfaction to World War II veterans, our primary objective is to reach today's Marine Corps and today's Marine.

I had thought that most of the members of MPMA would be familiar with *Blacks in the Marine Corps*, an official history written by Bud Shaw and the late Ralph W. Donnelly, the former assistant head of the Reference Section, but learned that was not necessarily the case even though Mr. Shaw worked closely with the Association in writing the history.

There were no known blacks in the Ma-

Top recruits of the first black platoon to graduate from boot camp became the first black drill instructors at Montford Point. They are, from left, PFCs Mortimer A. Cox, Arnold R. Bostick, Edgar R. Davis, Jr., Gilbert Johnson, Edgar R. Huff, and Charles E. Allen.



rine Corps when World War II began, and, in the prevailing ethos of the time, the Marine Corps wanted none. In January 1942, the Major General Commandant, Thomas Holcomb, had testified that "there would be a definite loss of efficiency in the Marine Corps if we have to take Negroes . . ." But President Franklin D. Roosevelt had created the Fair Employment Practices Commission in 1941 and had stated that the Armed Forces "shall lead the way in erasing discrimination over color or race."

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY Frank Knox overrode General Holcomb's protests and decreed that enlistment of black Marines would begin on 1 June and that there would be a complete black Marine combat battalion.

A Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, study recommended that the blacks should serve in a messman's branch similar to the Navy's, but to meet Secretary Knox's requirement that there be a combat battalion, it was decided that the required battalion could best be a defense battalion.

Col Samuel A. Woods, Jr., a graduate of The Citadel and a 25-year veteran with service in France in World War I and duty in Cuba, China, the Dominican Republic, and the Philippines, was chosen to form the new unit, it being supposed that a patrician South Carolinian would know how to handle blacks. He estimated that with a minimum of 1,000 reserve black recruits he could field a defense battalion in six months. Training was to be done at Mumford (later respelled "Montford")

Still Available

Blacks in the Marine Corps by Henry I. Shaw, Jr., and Ralph W. Donnelly, from which much of the material for this article was drawn, was first published in 1975. Reprinted in 1988, copies are still available. Marine Corps units, academic or educational institutions, veterans organizations, and seriously interested individuals may obtain copies by writing:

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Point at the new Marine base, soon to become Camp Lejeune, at New River, North Carolina. Construction of the Montford Point camp was budgeted at \$750,000. The camp was approached by a narrow mile-long road that turned off Highway 24 near Jacksonville and consisted chiefly of a headquarters building, chapel, theater, dispensary, mess hall, a small officers' club, and 120 green prefabricated ("cardboard") huts, each designed to billet 16 men.

RECRUITING BEGAN, as required by Secretary Knox, on 1 June 1942, but black recruits were not immediately shipped to Montford Point. On 18 August a cadre of white officers and NCOs, with Col Woods as commanding officer, activated the 51st Composite Defense Battalion. The best claim to being the first black to reach Montford Point seems to go to Howard P. Perry, of Charlotte, North Carolina, who arrived on 26 August. By September three recruit platoons were in being. The recruiting target was 1,200, but by the end of October there were still fewer than 600 blacks in the camp.

The first drill instructors were white, with exceptional recruits being singled out as "Acting Jacks," or assistant drill instructors. A sprinkling of recruits had previous military experience, including, most notably, Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, who, at the venerable age of 37, had behind him six years in the Army's black 25th Regiment. More recently he had been an Officers' Steward, 2d Class, in the Navy. He wangled a discharge so as to enlist in the Marine Corps as a private. Another of the first black drill instructors was Edgar R. Huff, who had a long career in the Marine Corps ahead of him.

The 51st was fairly well along on the way to having its ranks filled, when, on 5 December 1942, voluntary enlistments were halted for all the Services. Henceforth the call-up would be only through the Selective Service System with estimated 10 percent of those to be drafted up to be black. The Marine Corps, with an increase in strength of 99,000 authorized for 1943, would have to find a place for as many as 9,900 (eventually the number would approach 20,000) blacks, far more than the 1,200 planned for the 51st Defense Battalion. In January 1943 the first drafted Marines arrived at Montford Point.

To absorb this influx, Secretary Knox

authorized an all-black Messman Branch (later "Stewards Branch"), and a second defense battalion was contemplated.

COL WOODS, as commander of an expanded camp, had his hands full. In March he relinquished command to LtCol W. Bayard Onley, Naval Academy 1919. Command of the Recruit Depot Battalion went to LtCol Theodore A. Holdahl, a World War I enlisted Marine, and more recently Woods' executive officer. A Messman Branch Battalion was organized under Capt Albert O. Madden, another World War I veteran.

Promotion opportunities for black Marines were both spelled out and circumscribed by confidential Letter of Instruction (LOI) 421, issued by MajGen-Comdt Holcomb on 14 March 1943. Commanders were to exert every effort to locate blacks "having the requisite qualities of intelligence, education, and leadership to become noncommissioned officers." At the same time, in no case would there be black NCOs senior to white Marines in the same unit, and it was desirable that few, if any, be of the same rank.

A new category of black Marine units, Depot Companies, was authorized. Depot companies, organized into two platoons, were to have three officers and 110 enlisted Marines. Minimally trained and armed only with rifles, carbines, and submachine guns, the depot companies were to serve as stevedores and cargo handlers. The 1st Depot Company, under Capt Jason M. Austin, Jr., was activated on 8 March. Three weeks after its organization the 1st Depot Company was on its way by train to San Diego, where it embarked on 16 April in the destroyer USS *Hunt* (DD 674) for Noumea, New Caledonia, where it joined the 1st Base Depot.

TWO DEPOT COMPANIES a month were to be turned out by Montford Point. By the war's end there would be 49 depot companies and they had expanded to three platoons with a total of 163 officers and men. In commenting on their minimal training, SgtMaj Edgar Huff, who was the first sergeant of the 5th Depot Company after being field sergeant major of recruit training at Montford Point, years later observed wryly:

But a depot company, all they needed was a strong back, so he already had that and so there was

no use training him because that's all he was going to do, to load and unload ships and haul ammunition and supplies into the line for the fighting troops. Because the fighting troops, at that time, were all white Marines.

By May all the white drill instructors were gone from Montford Point, replaced by black sergeants and corporals, and late that month Sgt "Hashmark" Johnson became the Recruit Battalion's field sergeant major, in charge of all drill instructors.

In September 1943 (by which time ten depot companies had been formed and shipped) still another category of black Marine unit was created. These were the ammunition companies, designed to complement the all-white ordnance companies in the base and field depots, the World War II equivalent of today's Field Service Support Groups. The ammunition companies were big companies, eight officers and 251 enlisted men. Policy was to replace the white NCOs in the depot companies as quickly as possible, but the requirement to have technically qualified ordnance specialists and the workings of LOI 421 kept black Marines in the ammunition companies from reaching the staff noncommissioned officer ranks. In September 1944 the final total of 12 ammunition companies was reached.

EARLIER, IN APRIL, at about the same time that the 1st Depot Company departed Montford Point for the South Pacific, the 51st Composite Defense Battalion received a new commanding officer, LtCol Floyd A. Stephenson, just returned from service with the 4th Defense Battalion at Pearl Harbor and in the New Hebrides. Stephenson found he had a half-strength battalion, scarcely five hundred men. Within two weeks Stephenson was recommending that the 51st become a regular defense battalion, stating "that there is nothing that suitable colored personnel cannot be taught." Col Woods sent forward the recommendation with a strongly favorable endorsement. On 28 May it was approved by the powers in Headquarters Marine Corps and the term "Composite" was dropped from the battalion's designation by July. In September the battalion moved across Scales Creek into an old Civilian Conservation Corps camp now re-designated Camp Knox and in October reached a strength of 1,700. In



The legendary MSgt Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson instructs PFC John W. Davis in his battalion administrative duties at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in July 1948.

November an inspecting party, including Secretary Knox and General Holcomb, came down to Onslow Beach to see the battalion's 90mm Antiaircraft Artillery Group shoot. The towed target was shot down within a minute after "Open fire." LtCol Stephenson said laconically to General Holcomb, "I think they're ready now."

IN EARLY DECEMBER, Stephenson went to Headquarters Marine Corps to get his orders to take his battalion overseas and learned to his dismay that he was going to lose 400-odd Marines as a cadre for a 52d Defense Battalion which was to be formed. In early January 1944 the first of 175 freight cars started rattling out of Camp Lejeune bearing the impedimenta of the 51st. By the night of 19 January only a handful of the 51st was still at Camp Knox. There was a farewell party that got out of hand. (Such shivarees were almost a tradition for departing units, black and white.) Shots were fired. A random shot wounded a drill instructor slightly. The well-liked Stephenson was relieved. The new commanding officer was Col Curtis W. LeGette, a veteran artillery officer who had begun his Marine Corps service with an enlistment in 1910 and who had just returned from command of the 7th Defense Battalion in the Ellice Islands.

All the weapons and equipment laboriously packed and shipped remained on

the West Coast. The 51st, with nothing much more than personal property, embarked at San Diego on 11 February in a merchant transport, SS *Meteor*, and learned its designation was the Ellice Islands where it was to relieve LeGette's old command, the 7th Defense Battalion in place, taking over the 7th's property and weapons. Half of the battalion went to the island of Nanomea, the other half to Funafuti. The most exciting thing that happened to the 51st in the Ellice Islands was on 28 March when its 155mm guns on Nanomea fired 11 rounds at a suspected Japanese submarine. (At Chicago I talked to several Montford Pointers who remain firmly convinced that they did sink an enemy submarine.)

ACTIVATED ON 15 December 1943, the 52d Defense Battalion had much less troubled getting organized than the 51st. Because of the cadre taken out of the 51st, one out of three of its black Marines had some experience in antiaircraft, seacoast, or field artillery. The commanding officer was Col Augustus W. "Old Gus" Cockrell who had spent a year at West Point and four years as an enlisted Marine before being commissioned in 1922. More recently he had commanded the 8th Defense Battalion in Samoa and on Wallis Island. In July, Col Cockrell moved up to take Col Woods' place as camp commander. Command of the 52d was taken over by LtCol

Joseph W. Earnshaw, Naval Academy 1927 and an experienced artillery officer.

At about this same time, all Marine defense battalions, white and black, lost their seacoast artillery groups and were reorganized as antiaircraft artillery battalions. Only the 6th, 51st, and 52d retained the designation "Defense Battalion"; all the rest were renamed "Antiaircraft Battalions."

FIRST COMBAT FOR black Marines came on D-Day, 15 June 1944, at Saipan in the Mariana Islands, but not to the defense battalions. The 7th Field Depot, supporting the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions of the V Amphibious Corps, had assigned to it the 3d Ammunition Company and the 18th, 19th, and 20th Depot Companies. The 3d Ammunition Company's chores included the precarious task of working the pontoon barges serving as floating dumps at the reef's edge. Ashore, PFC Leroy Seals of Brooklyn was mortally wounded. (He would die the following day.) That night the ammo company Marines found themselves woven into the beachhead perimeter and helped to repel a Japanese counterattack, knocking out a machine gun in the process.

The three depot companies were similarly employed. Capt William M. Barr of the 18th Depot Company reported:

Mortar shells were still raining down as my boys unloaded ammunition, demolition material, and other supplies from amphibious trucks. They set up "security" to keep out snipers as they helped load casualties aboard boats to go to hospital ships. Rifle fire was thick as they rode guard on trucks carrying high octane gasoline from the beach. A squad leader killed a Jap sniper that crawled into a foxhole next to his. They stood waist deep in surf unloading boats as vital supplies of food and water were brought in . . . there were only a few scattered snipers on the beach. My boys accounted for several of these.

Capt William C. Adams, commanding the 20th Depot Company, was equally laudatory of the performance of his black Marines. His runner, Pvt Kenneth J. Tibbs of Columbus, Ohio, was wounded on D-

Day and, by dying before PFC Seals, would become the first black Marine fatality. Capt Adams noted that his lightly armed Marines "were very provident, and by the second day had all types of arms they had never been issued, such as . . . machine guns . . ."

GUAM WOULD follow Saipan. D-Day (called "W-Day" in this case) was 21 July 1944. During shore party operations, the 2d Ammunition Company was in direct support of the 3d Marine Division landing north of Agana, and the 4th Ammunition Company was in support of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade landing near Agat. I was with the engineer company of the 5th Field Depot and I don't think I had seen a black Marine until I met up with elements of the 4th Ammunition Company on the beach and learned that their commander was my old friend from Quantico, 1stLt Russell S. ("Frenchy") LaPointe. That night a platoon of the 4th intercepted a party of explosive-laden Japanese headed for the brigade ammunition dump and killed 14 of them.

Even after the island was officially declared "secured," there was considerable fighting on Guam. Ammunition dumps were in remote areas and attracted Japanese. On 27 September, in one such action, PFC Luther Woodward, who had grown up in the bayou country of Mississippi, organized a patrol that tracked the Japanese back into the bush. He himself accounted for at least two with his rifle. By then I was the adjutant of the 5th Field Depot and I was pleased to help "Frenchy" LaPointe prepare the recommendation that got Woodward a Bronze Star, later raised to a Silver Star.

ON 19 AUGUST 1944, while the depot and ammunition companies were embroiled in the Marianas, the 52d Defense Battalion entrained at Camp Lejeune for California. After a month spent in the brown hills of Camp Pendleton, the battalion embarked in the USS *Winged Arrow* (AP 170) at San Diego, destined for the Marshall Islands. In mid-October, Detachment A, half the battalion, relieved the 1st AAA Battalion at Majuro, and Detachment B, the other half, relieved the 15th AAA Battalion at Roi-Namur. There had been hard fighting there nine months earlier but by now the war had moved on to the west and the pos-

sibility of a Japanese air attack was remote. Boredom was relieved by reconnaissance patrols sent to neighboring atolls. One such patrol brought back three Japanese prisoners held by the native Marshallese.

The black Marine experience at Peleliu, D-Day 15 September 1944, was much the same as Saipan and Guam. The 16th Field Depot, which included the 7th Ammunition Company and 11th Depot Company, was in support of the 1st Marine Division in that bloody operation. With 17 WIA, the 11th Depot Company had the highest casualty rate of any black Marine unit in World War II.

Concurrently with Peleliu, the 51st was gathered together at Funafuti and moved forward to Eniwetok in the Marshalls, where it relieved the 10th Antiaircraft Battalion with emplacements on Engebi, Parry, and Porky Islands as well as Eniwetok itself. No enemy aircraft ever appeared.

ON GUAM, on Christmas 1944, I was having dinner with the officers of the 2d and 4th Ammunition Companies (their small mess always fed well; souvenirs traded well on ammunition ships for refrigerated Navy chow) when Condition Black was set by Island Command. We had occasional Condition Red, meaning air raid imminent, and usually resolving itself into a false radar signal or an unidentified plane wandering into Guam's air space, but Condition Black meant invasion imminent, which made no sense.

I roared back in my jeep to 5th Field Depot's base camp—we were in tents—at the base of Orote Peninsula and learned that an island-wide race riot was in progress, something that we later called the "Third Battle of Guam." Trouble had been building for some time. On the day before a white sailor had shot and killed a black depot company Marine in an altercation over a brown girl; and a jittery depot company Marine on sentry duty shot and killed a 3d Marine Division white Marine, one of three who had been taunting him.

Whites and blacks, primarily white Marines and black sailors, had been fighting in Agana, once, no doubt, a most picturesque Spanish colonial town, but now blasted flat. Island Command declared the town out of bounds to all hands, but the black sailors, who were members of poorly disciplined port companies which provided stevedore labor to the Naval Sup-



Post-World-War-II Marine Commandant Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift, center, travelled to Camp Lejeune in November 1947 and, assisted by MSgt Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, cut the Corps' 172d birthday cake and celebrated at the Montford Point camp.

ply Depot that was building on Orote Peninsula, suspected that whites were still allowed in Agana. They sallied forth from the Naval Supply Depot in commandeered trucks, heavily armed with pilfered weapons, including machine guns, and re-occupied Agana. By the time I got back to the Fifth Field Depot camp, the Island Command military police had driven them out of Agana and had pressed them back into the Naval Supply Depot where they barricaded themselves in the giant prefabricated steel warehouses.

I remember an MP captain asking me if the 5th Field Depot could provide some half-tracks to blast the recalcitrants out of the warehouses. I think the depot commander's decision was that they could borrow the half-tracks but that the depot would not provide the crews. In any case the fighting did not escalate to that level.

SOME OF THIS, but not all, got through wartime censorship and into the press back home. There were demands for an

investigation and a Court of Inquiry was convened to determine the cause of the "riot and affray." Col Samuel Woods came out to be the president of the court.

William W. White, light-skinned, blue-eyed, and the long-time executive director of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) arrived to observe the court and was allowed by Col Woods to question the witnesses. I was his escort officer for a good part of his stay. The black Marines, while not blameless, acquitted themselves well before the court.

While these events were taking place on Guam, four black Marine companies, as part of 8th Field Depot, fought at Iwo Jima. The 8th Ammunition and 36th Depot Companies landed on D-Day, 19 February 1945. They were joined on 24 February by the 33d and 34th Depot Companies who had been working as ships' platoons at the start point of the unloading process. Two Marines of the 36th

Depot Company, Pvts James M. Whitlock and James Davis, received Bronze Stars.

In late March 1945, Detachment A, 52d Defense Battalion, came forward from Majuro to Guam, going into camp near Barrigada village, not far from the camp of the 5th Field Depot's depot companies. Threat of air attack was remote but there was patrolling to do against the hundreds of Japanese stragglers who still infested the island. The 52d got its first kill on 1 April within a thousand yards of its camp.

OKINAWA WOULD SEE 11 black Marine companies employed. On D-Day, 1 April 1945, three ammunition companies—the 1st, 3d, and 12th—and four depot companies—the 5th, 18th, 37th, and 38th—arrived off the island as part of the 7th Field Depot. Later in the month the 20th Depot Company came in from Saipan, followed in May by the 9th and 10th Companies from Guadalcanal and the 19th Company from Saipan. Distances from the beaches to the front were much greater than they had been in the earlier island campaigns. Torrential spring rains turned the rudimentary road net into a quagmire. Black Marine casualties were scattered but continuous. Altogether, including members of the Stewards Branch (who often volunteered as stretcher bearers), more than 2,000 black Marines served on Okinawa.

In early May, Detachment B, 52d Defense Battalion, joined Detachment A on Guam. The battalion commander was now LtCol Thomas C. Moore, Jr., a Georgian who had been with the 3d Defense Battalion in the Guadalcanal campaign. His Marines expected to move forward to Okinawa, where there was a real enemy air threat. Loading out had actually begun when a change of orders directed that the battalion stay in place to relieve the 9th AAA Battalion which had been on Guam since the landing a year before. Morale plummeted and not even the arrival of "Hashmark" Johnson to be the battalion's sergeant major could offset the disillusionment.

A YEAR BEFORE, in August 1944, with the organization of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, all the field depots and base depots were brought together into a Supply Service. This designation did not help the battered morale of many of its members. BGen Merritt A. Edson, the chief of

staff of FMFPac, undertook a personal study of the problems of the Supply Service. This was "Red Mike" Edson, hero of the Coco River patrol in Nicaragua, commander of the 1st Raider Battalion and the 5th Marines at Guadalcanal, also present at Tarawa and Saipan, and holder of the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross, and the Silver Star.

On 1 June 1945, Supply Service, FMFPac, was redesignated as Service Command, FMFPac. The 7th and 8th Field Depots became the 7th and 8th Service Regiments. (I was plucked from what was now the 5th Service Depot and sent, as an embryonic public relations officer, to Okinawa to see if I could not get some favorable publicity for the 7th Service Regiment.)

Meanwhile, on Guam, on 12 July, the

52d Defense Battalion began providing working parties to Island Command and by the end of the war in August had become a de facto labor battalion. The anti-aircraft emplacements were stood down and on 30 September 1945 operational control passed to the 5th Service Depot.

In November the 52d departed from Guam, half to go to Eniwetok and half to Kwajalein (a detachment of the 51st had gone there in June) to relieve the 51st. With the war over no one even pretended that the move was tactical. The same ships that brought the 52d in, took the 51st out. With some detours the 51st sailed for home, most reaching Montford Point by Christmas. On 31 January the 51st Defense Battalion was disbanded.

THAT SAME MONTH the 52d Defense Battalion returned to Guam. Priority for return to the States and discharge for all the U.S. Services was determined by a complicated point system that gave an individual so many points for months of service, months overseas, time in combat, wounds, and so forth. Low-point men in the 52d were transferred into the Heavy Antiaircraft Group (Provisional) Saipan, which was to be a post-war black unit. High-point men sailed for San Francisco in February, moved to the receiving barracks at Camp Pendleton, and were discharged. The shrunken remainder of the 52d left Guam for San Diego in March 1946. Men eligible for discharge, who had enlisted west of the Mississippi, were dropped off at Camp Pendleton. The rest of the battalion went on to its old camp at Montford Point where, after the discharge of most of the remaining old-timers, it was redesignated as the 3d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion (Composite).

The first depot company to be disbanded after the war's end was the 4th Marine

Depot Company on Guam on 31 October 1945. All 49 depot companies and all 12 ammunition companies served in the Pacific, but only seven ammunition companies and 12 depot companies saw combat. The remainder were destined to stay in the backwaters of the war performing unglamorous, but necessary, duties: the 4th Service Depot on Banika in the Russell Islands, the 5th Service Depot on Guam, the 6th Base Depot on Oahu, and in various other service and supply units. The last depot companies to be disbanded were the 8th and 49th Companies, also on Guam, on 30 September 1947. Their wartime *nom de guerre*, sometimes said with an approving smile, sometimes with a deprecatory sneer, was "Ration Box Commandoes." □1775□

Information Wanted

Mrs. Ann Ferrante will be writing the anniversary pamphlet, "Black Marines in World War II." It will not be simply a reprint of the World War II chapters of the earlier history. The Marine Corps Historical Center already has a considerable amount of new material, including oral histories, and is searching for more. Readers of *Fortitudine* who have memories or material, particularly wartime correspondence, articles, and photographs, pertinent to Montford Point or black Marines in World War II, are urged to share them with the Center. Inquiries or material should be addressed to:

Mrs. Ann Ferrante
Reference Section, Historical Branch
History and Museums Division
Marine Corps Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374-0580

New Tenants

In the spring of 1949 recruit training of black Marines was transferred from Montford Point to Parris Island, South Carolina. Twenty-five years later, on 19 April 1974, the old Montford Point Camp, by then a modern facility bearing almost no resemblance to the wartime camp, was officially designated Camp Gilbert H. Johnson. SgtMaj "Hashmark" Johnson, USMC (Ret), had died on 5 August 1972 of a heart attack while addressing a testimonial dinner given him by the Camp Lejeune Chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association. Camp Johnson now houses most of the schools of Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, including Motor Transport, Food Service, Supply, Personnel Administrative, Financial Management, Instructional Management, Combat Water Survival Swimming, and Field Medical Service.

Marine Units May Request, Use World War II Commemorative Logo

THE LOGO DEVELOPED by History and Museums Division to support the Department of Defense and Marine Corps commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II, beginning this year, continues to be available for use by Marine Corps units and agencies.

The logo, produced by division graphic artist W. Stephen Hill, focuses on Marine achievements in the war by featuring the



Marine Corps War Memorial. The "base" of the memorial contains the dates of the war's duration, 1941-1945; the anniversary observance will extend from 1991 to 1995.

Reproduction copies of the logo in various sizes are available by writing to History and Museums Division (HDS-1), Marine Corps Historical Center, Building 58, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0580.

Historical Training Unit Proves Mettle in 'Desert Storm'

by LtCol Ronald J. Brown, USMCR
MTU (History) DC-7

IN OCTOBER 1990 History and Museums Division activated two Reserve officers, Col Charles J. Quilter II and LtCol Charles H. Cureton, for deployment to Saudi Arabia to cover Marine activities during Operation Desert Shield. Both are members of Mobilization Training Unit (History) DC-7, a Reserve unit tasked to provide field historians to the Fleet Marine Force.

Col Quilter, the unit's commanding officer, is a captain for Delta Airlines from Laguna Beach, California. As a naval aviator he flew McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom II jets in Vietnam while on active duty, then served in a wide variety of staff and command billets after joining the Marine Corps Reserve. He is the author of "A Brief History of VMFA-531," a monograph scheduled for future publication by History and Museums Division.

LtCol Cureton is a staff historian for museum affairs, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia. He was an amphibian tractor platoon commander while on active duty and has served with the MTU since becoming a Reservist. He is the author of several Army publications and has written extensively on military uniforms of the 19th century; some of his drawings and profiles have appeared in the *Marine Corps Gazette*.

BOTH MARINES deployed to Saudi Arabia on 9 November 1990 where they were assigned duties as I Marine Expeditionary Force historians. Col Quilter

At the site of the Al-Khafji battle near the Saudi Arabia-Kuwait border, LtCol Brown establishes the presence of the historical team sent to the Persian Gulf by MTU DC-7.



In desert camouflage in Saudi Arabia are Marine Corps Reserve historians, from left, LtCol Frank V. Sturgeon, Col Charles J. Quilter II, LtCol Charles H. Cureton, and LtCol Ronald J. Brown. Col Quilter is commanding officer of the training unit.

was designated an assistant chief of staff, G-3 (history) and LtCol Cureton served as his deputy. The I MEF was located at Al Jubayl, a city on the Persian Gulf about 250 miles northeast of Riyadh and more than 100 miles south of the Kuwait border.

Their letter of instruction from the Director, History and Museums Division, tasked them to cover significant events during Operation Desert Shield; to collect and preserve important documents; to collect and preserve important artifacts; to

record important events using still photography, motion pictures, and videotape; to conduct interviews for the Oral History Program; and to write command chronologies. A major implied task was to create a viable history program. The history office wrote the MEF Command Chronologies for November and December, developed and published command chronology guidelines for commanders, briefed commands on historical preservation of documents, interviewed key personnel, and made field trips to gather materials.

In January of this year the history office was reorganized. Col Quilter remained as command historian, but assumed the additional duty of covering Marine air operations. LtCol Cureton was attached to the 1st Marine Division to cover its activities. LtCol Dennis P. Mroczkowski, a museum specialist and curator of the Casemate Museum, Fort Monroe, Virginia, was activated and assigned to the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He volunteered to serve as the division's historian. In February LtCol Ronald J. Brown and LtCol Frank V. Sturgeon were activated. Brown is a high school history teacher from Novi, Michigan. He was an infantry officer in Vietnam and is the



LtCol Brown takes smiling possession of a Soviet made T-72M, the best tank in the Iraqi arsenal. The tank was captured south of Al Jahrah by the 2d Marine Division.

author of the official publication *A Brief History of the 14th Marines*. LtCol Sturgeon is the principal architect for Kaiser Engineering, Baltimore, Maryland. He and his family reside in the Washington, D.C. area. He was an engineer platoon leader in Vietnam. Both Sturgeon and Brown were MTU "plank holders," meaning they were members of the unit when it was founded. LtCol Sturgeon was assigned to cover logistics and engineering. LtCol Brown was originally scheduled to cover amphibious operations, but he was appointed I MEF deputy command historian when he reported to the command.

COL QUILTER WAS able to cover the initial Marine air strikes using a video recorder and was afforded the opportunity to listen to the debriefs when the pilots returned on 17 January 1991. In his role as I MEF command historian, he moved with the MEF's Command Post from Al Jubayl to Safaniyah and then to Kibrit. During the ground war he roamed the battlefield in the MTU's Jeep Cherokee which had been painted desert tan and sprouted black tactical markings (including the omnipresent inverted "V" and a palm tree).

LtCol Cureton coordinated the 1st Marine Division's Combat Camera and Combat Art Programs and wrote the division's historical annex to the operations order for Desert Storm. During the ground war he was attached to the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion. Calling on his active-duty experience, he rode in an AAV when his unit

breached the minefield, advanced to Kuwait City, and participated in the capture of Kuwait International Airfield.

LtCol Mroczkowski monitored the 2d Marine Division's attack from the forward command post and visited combat units. LtCol Brown's post was at the I MEF command post at Al Jubayl. LtCol Sturgeon arrived at Kuwait International Airport after the ceasefire, but actively gathered artifacts, photographs, and interviews at Kuwait City and sites of combat in Saudi Arabia.

AFTER RETURNING TO Jubayl following the end of hostilities, Col Quilter, assisted by LtCol Cureton, began compiling and writing the I MEF command chronology covering the conflict (January and February). LtCols Cureton, Mroczkowski, Brown, and Sturgeon busied themselves gathering documents and conducting interviews. LtCol Cureton accompanied the 1st Marine Division from Kuwait to Manifah Bay, Saudi Arabia, before returning to I MEF on 20 March. LtCol Mroczkowski remained at the 2d Marine Division command post at Al Jarah, Kuwait, until returning to Al Jubayl in early April.

In early March LtCol Cureton pioneered a unique collection effort. Using his experiences as a historian and museum curator, he selected and acquired complete sets of clothing and equipment worn by specific individuals during Operation

Desert Storm. This was believed to have been the first time such items were selected and preserved as complete sets, documented as to historic purpose, and meant to be displayed exactly as worn in the field.

In mid-March Col Quilter and LtCol Brown made a field trip to Kuwait to locate artifacts. Tanks, artillery pieces, and anti-aircraft guns were discovered, recovered, and shipped to Al Jubayl.

In early April, it was time to locate, secure, identify, preserve, and ship the artifacts and documents that had been collected. More than 300 small arms of all types, numerous uniform items, a large number of captured documents, and heavy weapons were handled by LtCols Brown and Sturgeon. Two Conex boxes and a large storage lot were used to safeguard them. Computer inventory lists were generated to account for all the items which were spread from Kuwait City to Bahrain and varied in size from Iraqi Eagle badges to SU-25 122mm self-propelled howitzers. All vehicles had to be moved, cleaned, secured, and shipped to the United States; this was a massive undertaking and occupied most of LtCol Sturgeon's time from March to May.

LT COL CURETON departed the Gulf on 8 April and Col Quilter left about a week later. LtCol Brown became the command historian at that time. Brown wrote the March and April I MEF command chronologies and supervised the transfer of historical properties. On 8 May he departed for duty with Combined Task Force Provide Comfort, an international humanitarian relief effort in northern Iraq. LtCol Sturgeon departed after a visit to Shaik Isa Air Base, Bahrain. His departure ended the MTU's participation in Desert Storm.

The historians returned to the Marine Corps Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard. Each was assigned to prepare a brief monograph or "occasional paper" covering different Marine activities. Col Quilter concentrated on an overview of MEF operations and currently is working on describing the Marine contributions during the air war. LtCol Mroczkowski returned to Fort Monroe after completing a rough draft of "2d Marine Division Operations during Desert Shield and Desert Storm."

LtCol Cureton is splitting time between

Fort Monroe and the Historical Center. He has been very active assisting in the creation of related Marine Corps Museum displays and is writing about the 1st Marine Division. LtCol Sturgeon is gathering data about combat service support. LtCol Brown was the last to return from overseas. He was initially sent to Camp Pendleton on a special mission, then returned to the Historical Center. He is working on two

monographs: "Amphibious Operations" and "Marine Operations in Support of Provide Comfort." He also is editing Desert Storm monographs by other team members.

THESE FIVE HISTORIANS, all recalled Reservists, deployed quickly, fought the enemy, and returned home to record their experiences. Despite many hardships

and obstacles (one member went from 130-degree heat in Saudi Arabia to below freezing temperature in northern Iraq within 48 hours), they accomplished their mission; their efforts resulted in one of the finest historical collections amassed by U.S. Services from Desert Storm, and in the single largest artifact collection ever gathered by History and Museums Division. □1775□

New Books

Important Additions to Marines' Professional Libraries

by Evelyn A. Englander
Historical Center Librarian

THE LIBRARY of the Marine Corps Historical Center searches out recently published books of professional interest to Marines. These books are available from local bookstores or libraries:

Sandino: The Testimony of a Nicaraguan Patriot, 1921-1934. Edited and translated by Robert Edgar Conrad. Princeton University Press, 516 pp., 1990. The first time in English, the words of the Nicaraguan leader Augusto C. Sandino are to be found here. From 1927 until 1933 American Marines fought a bitter jungle war in Nicaragua, with Sandino as their guerrilla foe. The documents here constitute a record not only of Sandino's life but also of a crucial aspect of the relationship between Nicaragua and the United States. \$17.95

Guadalcanal. Richard B. Frank. Random House, 800 pp., 1991. In preparing his 800-page history of the battle of Guadalcanal, the author used translations of official Japanese Defense Agency accounts not previously available and also recently declassified U.S. radio intelligence. \$34.95

Iwo Jima: Monuments, Memories, and the American Hero. Karal Ann Marling and John Wetenhall. Harvard University Press, 312 pp., 1991. Traces the Joe Rosenthal photograph of the flag raising as it appears over the following 40 years in bond drive posters, stamps, Hollywood movies, political cartoons, and sculptures, notably the Felix de Weldon Marine Corps War Memorial at Arlington Cemetery. The authors also look into the lives of the flag raisers and the other Iwo Jima veterans,

concluding with their 40th reunion gathering in 1985 and their return to Iwo Jima. \$24.95

Fortunate Son: The Autobiography of Lewis B. Puller, Jr.; The Healing of a Vietnam Vet. Grove Weidenfeld. 389 pp., 1991. In his autobiography, Lewis B. Puller, Jr., the son of Marine LtGen "Chesty" Puller, describes his life from his early years to his Vietnam experiences where he was so severely wounded that he would never walk again. He tells honestly and compellingly of the challenges and adjustments facing him subsequent to Vietnam, and of his family, especially his extraordinarily supportive wife, Toddy. \$21.95.

Coping with Sexism in the Military. Col Mary Stremlow, USMCR (Ret). Rosen Publishing Group, 171 pp., 1990. A career guidance book for women in high school and college considering a military career. Col Stremlow also is the author of History and Museums Division's *A History of the Women Marines, 1946-1977.*

New Battery Press reprints include *Recapture of Guam, Defense of Wake and Marines at Midway; Guadalcanal Campaign;* and *The New Breed: The Story of the U.S. Marines in Korea* (The Battery Press, P.O. Box 3107, Uptown Station, Nashville, Tennessee 37219. (615) 298-1401)

Death in the Desert: The Namibian Tragedy. Morgan Norval. Selous Foundation Press, 318 pp., 1989. In a book as current as today's headlines, the author details the background to a low-intensity conflict that is of professional interest to Marines and is an addition to military reading lists.

Norval, a former Marine, has travelled extensively in former Southwest Africa and has a first-hand perspective on the conflict that has been fought there between the Communist/Angolan-backed forces of the South West African People's Organization and the South African/South West African forces of Namibia. The area is a familiar one for veterans of South Atlantic Amity deployments and the "choke-point" theory of sea control. It is recommended by LtGen Victor H. Krulak, USMC (Ret), as "powerful evidence that a guerrilla campaign can be defeated." Maps and photographs. \$24.95.

Struggle for Survival. R. A. C. Parker, Oxford University Press, 328 pp., 1989. A one-volume history of the Second World War tracing its causes, how it was fought, and the consequences for the world. The author is fellow, tutor, and praelector in modern history at Queens College, Oxford, and also is the author of *Europe, 1919-1945.* *Struggle for Survival* is written from an international perspective giving no special emphasis to British and European concerns. \$22.50

General of the Army: George C. Marshall, Soldier and Statesman. Ed Cray, W. W. Norton and Co., 847 pp., 1990. A one-volume biography tracing Marshall's career from his service in World War I to his work as Roosevelt's Army Chief of Staff in World War II, through his postwar career as Truman's Secretary of State and creator of the European Recovery Act. Many of his personal relationships emerge in these pages, among them Eisenhower, MacArthur, and Truman. \$35.00 □1775□

Historian Documents Marine Assistance to Refugees

by LtCol Ronald J. Brown, USMCR
MTU DC-7 (History)

TWO MARINE RESERVISTS, Col Peter M. "Mike" Gish and LtCol Ronald J. Brown, have returned to the Marine Corps Historical Center after participating in Operation Provide Comfort, an international humanitarian effort to aid more than 760,000 displaced civilians in southeastern Turkey and northern Iraq.

Col Gish is a retired naval aviator who teaches art at Fairfield, Connecticut. He volunteered for duty in the Persian Gulf in April and in June was sent to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, to cover the activities of Combined Task Force (CTF) Provide Comfort. Col Gish left active duty in 1947, joined the Marine Corps Reserve, then was recalled to active duty in 1952. A former helicopter squadron commander, he merged his military and civilian interests in 1967 when he was assigned as a combat artist to cover Marine operations in Vietnam.

LtCol Brown, a history teacher and the author of the History and Museums Division publication, *A Brief History of the 14th Marines*, was activated for Operation Desert Storm. He served as deputy, and later command historian, of I Marine Expeditionary Force. As he was preparing to leave Saudi Arabia and return to the United States, LtCol Brown received orders to report to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), via CTF Provide Comfort in Turkey on 8 May.

Col Gish drew this likeness of LtCol Brown at Incirlik, Turkey. When not on active duty, Brown is a teacher in Michigan.



Col Peter M. Gish describes the Marine Corps airfield at Sirsenk, Iraq, which he recorded in watercolors, as having been badly damaged by bombing. But "the Seabees had it operational in just over a week." It handled the bulk of equipment for Provide Comfort.

OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT was instituted when the United States joined an international humanitarian relief effort. More than a million displaced civilians, most Kurdish refugees, fled for their lives when Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein apparently ordered a campaign of annihilation of those who opposed his government. Iraqi tanks, artillery, and helicopter gunships fired indiscriminately on women and children, as well as the Pesh Merga guerrillas. The only safe haven for the Kurds appeared to be the rugged Taurus Mountains along the Turkish border.

Families fled the towns and cities of Kurdistan on foot, carrying all of their possessions on their backs. Columns up to 30 miles long stretched along the roads leading into neighboring Iran and Turkey. Soon, both countries were overwhelmed by the influx of refugees and shut their borders.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III reported that more than a half million starving and freezing people were literally clinging to the sides of barren mountains. An estimated 1,500 people were dying each day, mostly young children and

the elderly. In late March, Massoud Barzani, a Kurdish leader, pleaded with the United States to end the "genocide and torture" of his people. On 6 April CTF Provide Comfort was formed in Europe and ordered to Turkey to conduct humanitarian operations.

ORIGINALLY PLANNED as a 30-day emergency relief operation, Provide Comfort eventually included more than 20,000 military personnel from 17 countries who distributed more than \$400 million of humanitarian aid in about 90 days. By the end of the operation, more than 700,000 people moved back to their homes in northern Iraq and resumed normal lives under the protection of an international military force. Civilian relief workers had predicted it would take seven months to stabilize the population and doubted that many actually would return to Iraq; CTF Provide Comfort accomplished these tasks in seven weeks.

CTF Provide Comfort, commanded by LtGen John M. Shalikhvili, USA, served as the command element of the relief effort. The Marines played a large role on the CTF staff: the chief of staff was BGen



Historical Office at Incirlik and living in the field first with 24th MEU at Silopi, Turkey, and then in Zakho, Iraq.

COL GISH MADE many sketches in the field, depicting helicopter operations, the 24th MEU Combat Operations Center, infantry operations, service support operations, and operations afloat with Amphibious Squadron 8 (Phibron 8) on board the USS *Guadalcanal* (LPH 7), the USS *Austin* (LPD 4), and the USS *Charleston* (LKA 114). He also sketched the Kurdish refugees and Pesh Merga fighters, as well as soldiers from many nations. Some of his sketches are now on display in the Historical Center's Desert Storm exhibit.

LtCol Brown observed operations, collected documents, advised commanders on historical affairs, wrote scripts and citations, took photographs, and conducted interviews. He coordinated his historical collection work with SMSgt Thomas L. Raab, USAF, and SSgt Thomas A. Traynor, USAF, of the CTF Historical Office, who proved to be outstanding hosts as well as skilled historians.

COL GISH AND LtCol Brown have both returned to the Historical Center to complete their work. Col Gish is producing finished artwork and LtCol Brown is writing monographs about both Provide Comfort and Desert Storm. □1775□

Col Gish, right, photographs members of Navy Cargo Helicopter Squadron 4 at Incirlik Air Base near Adana, Turkey. Incirlik hosted the headquarters of Combined Task Force Provide Comfort. Gish uses photos as aids to memory when preparing watercolors.

Anthony C. Zinni and the plans officer was Col Daniel P. Pender. Many Marines served in the Joint Operations Command Center and more served on the CTF Liaison Team. The task force was divided into three major subordinate commands: Joint Task Force Alpha, commanded by BGen Richard W. Potter, Jr., USA; Joint Task Force Bravo, commanded by MajGen Jay M. Garner, USA; and Combined Support Command, commanded by BGen Harold E. Burch, USA. Marine ANGLICO teams

supported JTFs Alpha and Bravo. The 24th MEU of Col James L. Jones, Jr., joined Britain's 3 Commando Brigade as one of JTF Bravo's maneuver elements. An unmanned aerial vehicle detachment from 2d SRIG, commanded by Capt Wayne O. Outz, provided general intelligence support for JTF headquarters. LtCol Robert A. Bailey's Contingency MAGTF 1-91 supported the CSC.

Col Gish and LtCol Brown covered all Marine activities operating from the

An internationally known artist, "Mike" Gish made many sketches in the field, including seaborne, helicopter, infantry, and service support operations. He also sketched individual Kurdish

refugees and soldiers from allied nations. Below, in June the satellite dish at the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit headquarters in Zakho, Iraq, provided a subject for the famed watercolorist.



Artifacts' Arrival Allows Early Start for Gulf War Exhibit

by Col Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret)
Deputy Director for Museums

THE MARINE CORPS Museum's biggest exhibition in several years, "Marines in Operation Desert Storm," enjoyed two openings. The first was on the Fourth of July to complement the national celebration. After the addition of more photographs, art, weapons, uniforms, and equipment an "official" opening and reception was held on 10 August in cooperation with the Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

"Marines in Operation Desert Storm" itself established two firsts. The show in Washington, D.C. filled the 2,000-square-foot Special Exhibits Gallery, plus a portion of the main museum floor, thus making it the Museum's largest exhibition to date. And, it was the first exhibition of events in near real time; the war of January and February reflected in a definitive show in July of the same year.

The show is hailed by a banner across the Navy Yard's Kidder Breese Street, at the south end of the Historical Center. When the visitor enters the Museum and reaches the reception desk he is greeted by a tactical courier (we used to call them

dispatch riders) in special helmet and face mask, mounted on a desert motorbike, and pointing the way to "Kuwait City."

ON THE CURVED WALL at the end of the Time Tunnel is a large yellow ribbon bow symbolizing our troops abroad and their homecoming. It is flanked by waving United States and Marine Corps colors. This handsome dramatic display serves to symbolize the exhibition. At the end of the Time Tunnel's standing exhibits wall space was available for hanging some of the art of our mobilized Reserve artists.

Col Peter M. "Mike" Gish joined 24th MEU for its relief efforts of Operation Provide Comfort in Kurdistan and recorded his observations in a series of watercolors. LtCol Keith A. McConnell shows several of his hardedge paintings and also the detailed line drawings for which he is noted. Some of the art of Sgt Charles Grow, one of our first two artists in Saudi Arabia, is also displayed here. Grow's effort ranged from humorous sketches to serious line portraits, to finely finished paintings. Some of his sketches were done when on

motorized patrols with division recon units along the border before the ground war began.

Just outside the Special Exhibits Gallery is a more focused theme exhibit, a life-sized six-figure tableau replicating the painting by LtCol Donna J. Neary, USMCR, of the uniforms, special clothing, and equipment worn by Marines in the Persian Gulf area. Moreover, the uniforms were those actually worn by I MEF Commander LtGen Walter E. Boomer, MAG-11 CO Col Manfred "Fokker" Riesch, and others.

THE VISITOR enters the gallery through a simulated ruined stone arch and immediately encounters a mannequin in the captured uniform of an Iraqi major. He stands beside an Iraqi-made 60mm mortar. Across the gallery is an unusual weapon not seen before in the museum's extensive weapons collection. It is a Soviet 30mm automatic grenade launcher—roughly comparable to our Mark-19 40mm launcher. The big story of the Marine Corps' part in Operation Desert Shield, the defensive build-up in Saudi Arabia, was its rapid concentration of elements of Fleet Marine Forces from both coasts, WestPac, and the high seas. Afloat expeditionary units moved in; expeditionary brigades flew to Saudi Arabia and married-up with their heavy weapons and equipment carried in maritime prepositioned ships; air squadrons arrived on carriers, on amphibious shipping decks, or flight ferried to Saudi air bases; other expeditionary brigades mounted out from U.S. ports in amphibious shipping. Then came the magic of their coalescing into 1st and 2d Marine Divisions and a very heavy 3d Marine Aircraft Wing ready to fight as an air-ground team under the banner of I Marine Expeditionary Force.

This story is told by two world maps showing the units, their home stations or positions afloat, and their routes to the Gulf. One map illustrates the defensive buildup, the other shows the offensive buildup in late 1990 and early 1991. The maps are backed up with colored finished sketches by Col H. Avery Chenoweth, who was illustrating the operation even before

Atmospheric entrance for the "Marines in Operation Desert Storm" exhibition was constructed by the Marine Corps Museum's Exhibits Section. At right is painting by combat artist Sgt Charles Grow of Marine field music sounding morning reveille.



he was called to active duty. Living outside Beaufort, South Carolina, he rushed over to the Marine Corps air station to draw the mountout of MAG-31. Then he drove to Morehead City, North Carolina, for the embarkation of 4th MEB and repeated his earlier performance. These pictures were exhibited at Headquarters, Marine Corps before the deployment was completed.

OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS photographers also were at work during the mountout, transit, and offloading, and the result is shown together with a model of a maritime prepositioning ship.

Berets are universal military headgear, except, that is, for the U.S. Marine Corps. Here the visitor encounters the first of several Iraqi berets. We haven't yet broken the beret color code so we can't identify the type of unit each represents.

Next to the beret is a portrait of Saddam Hussein. "Why?" we have been asked. "Because it was liberated from a captured Iraqi bunker" satisfies most questioners. For the skeptics we give BGen Edwin H. Simmons' answer, "Because Saddam contributed the most to this exhibition."

Shown here on wall panels are the saloon photographs of *Dallas Morning News* photographer David Leeson. Leeson, a repeated Pulitzer Prize finalist and winner of many other awards, accompanied Marine attacking units into Kuwait. His work has been widely shown in his paper and in the several heavily illustrated books on the war. The main part of the exhibition is in eight titled segments on panels down the center line of the gallery. The desert camouflage netting theme already encountered at the entrance continues to unify all the panels. The first segment is titled, "Getting There," and it adds to the deployment story already begun. Photographs, more art, and one of our modular exhibit cases with relevant artifacts, in this instance an M16A2 rifle, M9 Beretta pistol, a commercial plastic water bottle, and a photograph of a Marine quaffing from just such a bottle.

The next segment is "Desert Shield," or the defensive buildup and training. The principal artifact displayed here is a PLARS (Position Locating and Reporting System) set. This little, green-boxed transmitter with its connected input keyboard was carried by each company-sized unit and kept division and force commanders informed

in real time of each unit's location. Also in the case is an example of the much maligned American field ration, the MRE or meal, ready to eat.

"The Air Campaign" segment features the LASER guidance package that fits on the nose of large bombs, and also photographs and art of air base activity and the destruction wrought by aircraft on Iraqi installations.

NEXT COMES "The Battle of Khafji," the first ground action of the war, where Marine recon and Marine artillery supported Saudi units while Marine air stopped Iraqi reinforcing units attempting to exploit the situation. Captured items from that action are displayed: a Soviet-style tanker's helmet, a tank signal flag, and heavy mittens for handling hot shell cases.

More weapons are on display at the far end of the gallery: a wheeled Soviet ZPU-1 14.5mm antiaircraft machine gun and 73mm recoilless rifle, a Iraqi-made 82mm mortar, and a mannequin wearing the uniform and gear of an Iraqi soldier armed with an Iraqi-made RPG-7 antitank rocket.

Two additional flags are presented. The first, a United States flag sent to 1stLt Scott

F. Pryce, 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Light Armored Infantry (LAI) Battalion by his father, flew over the Capitol dome in Washington. It was the first American flag raised at Kuwait International Airport. As are many of the objects in the exhibition, it is stained by the oily fallout from the oil well fires. The second flag is a replica Marine Corps color which was donated by Cpl Todd J. Brown, who flew it from the antenna of his LAV-25 of 2d Platoon, Company B, 1st Light Armored Infantry Battalion, the first into Kuwait City. More flags, the national flags of 13 of the principal coalition partners, are hanging high on the walls of the gallery's south end.

BENEATH THE national flags are 14 oil paintings by Col Chenoweth done upon his return from the Gulf from sketches made on the scene. Returning on the west side of the gallery the visitor will view four more thematic segments. "Deception" deals with our two expeditionary brigades and one unit afloat in the Gulf poised for an amphibious assault on the Kuwaiti coast. The threat pinned down at least six Iraqi divisions in coastal defense, keeping them out of the battle for Kuwait until too late for them to be a factor. Ira-

(Continued on page 24)

Above paintings of Desert Storm scenes by Col H. Avery Chenoweth, flags of the 13 principal coalition partners are arrayed. Also visible are a captured Soviet 73mm recoilless rifle, right, and an oil-stained replica Marine Corps color, the first into Kuwait City.



Chronology of the United States Marine Corps—1990

by Ann A. Ferrante
Reference Historian

TO OUTLINE THE SIGNIFICANT events and dates in contemporary Marine Corps history, the Reference Section has been compiling ongoing, current chronologies since 1982. The chronologies have grown from 85 entries in 1982 to 124 entries in 1990.

Numerous primary and secondary sources, consisting of literally hundreds of pages, are researched each week to build the current chronology of the Marine Corps. Sources include official records such as Marine Corps operational summaries, unit command chronologies, and summaries of activities for Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. Secondary sources are also reviewed for items of interest. They include a variety of magazines, journals, newspapers, and press releases.

The current chronology of the Corps continues to serve as a source of information on significant events in Marine Corps history. It has proven to be particularly useful as a yearly summary of the Marine Corps as well as a helpful tool for documenting notable dates and anniversaries.

Selected entries from the 1990 Marine Corps Chronology are:

31 Jan—Operation Just Cause in Panama concluded. Launched on 20 December 1989, the mission of the operation was to protect American lives, restore the democratic process, and preserve the integrity of the Panama Canal Treaty. One Marine, Cpl Gareth C. Isaak, was killed and three others were wounded during the operation.

2-3 Feb—Nearly 1,000 Marines and sailors of the 37th Marine Expeditionary Unit participated in Exercise Valiant Usher 90-4 at Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. The exercise provided the opportunity to review and practice contingency plans in support of U.S. forces stationed in the Subic Bay area. The Marine Air-Ground Task Force augmented existing security forces from the Marine Barracks by conducting amphibious landings and heliborne operations.

19 Feb—This date marked the 45th anniversary of the assault on Iwo Jima. The battle for Iwo Jima pitted the 3d, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions against a determined force of well-entrenched Japanese defenders. A (second) flag raising by five Marines and one Navy corpsman was photographed by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal. The Pulitzer Prize-winning photo became one of the most famous battle photographs of World War II, and was the inspiration for the Marine Corps War Memorial, Washington, D.C.

Apr—The AV-8B Night Attack Weapons Systems Trainer, the newest advancement in aerial combat capability, arrived at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma,

Arizona. The new trainer would allow pilots to perform a night attack mission to include engine starts, field and carrier takeoffs and landings, air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons deliveries, threat avoidance, and tactical navigation. The new simulator would provide pilots a complete night attack training environment.

20 Apr—7 May—Marines of the 28th Marine Expeditionary Unit participated in Exercise Ocean Venture 90 in the Caribbean. The five-Service joint task force was designed to demonstrate U.S. power projection and rapid deployment capability in the Caribbean. Unlike Exercise Ocean Venture 88 that involved dozens of ships and 40,000 military personnel, the 1990 exercise involved only 12 ships and 14,000 troops—a result of budget cuts curtailing large-scale joint exercises.



II Marine Expeditionary Force, behind its colors, musters at Camp Lejeune for pre-deployment review by the Commandant.

1 May—Two prototypes of the new air defense variant of the light armored vehicle, the LAV(AD), were delivered to the Marine Corps at Twentynine Palms, California. The LAV(AD) is a highly mobile, low-altitude antiaircraft weapons platform that can incorporate three different weapons—a 25mm automatic gun, a 2.75-inch Hydra 70 rocket system, and a Stinger launcher. The prototypes were supplied by two different firms.

14 Jun—John Philip Sousa, 17th Director of the President's Own, United States Marine Band, was honored when a "star" was unveiled on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. It was a tribute to his contributions to American music.

3 Jul—The Department of the Navy grounded its fleet of Navy and Marine Corps CH-46 "Sea Knight" helicopters for the third time in two months after an investigation into a 22 June helicopter crash, which killed four Navy crewmembers, revealed problems

with the aircraft's rotor system. The initial grounding of the CH-46s came after an investigation into the 4 May accident at Twentynine Palms, California, that injured 17 Marines. The CH-46s were again grounded on 30 May after a Marine helicopter landed with an oil leak near the rotor head of the aircraft. The CH-46 is used by the Marine Corps for both combat support and search and rescue.

6 Jul—One of the oldest and most versatile attack aircraft in Marine Corps history, the A-4 Skyhawk, retired from the Corps' active aviation structure after more than 30 years of service. The last two OA-4M Skyhawks from Marine Aircraft Group 32 flew their final flight from Cherry Point, North Carolina, to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, where they would be used to support ongoing naval testing exercises.

18 Jul—An earthquake registering 7.7 on the Richter Scale rocked the northern provinces of Luzon in the Philippines. Responding to the call for help were approximately 200 Marines assigned to Marine Air Ground Task Force 4-90. The Marines searched for survivors and provided emergency relief.

5 Aug—On this date, 237 Marines from the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) flew into the American Embassy compound in Monrovia, Liberia, to bolster security and assist in the evacuation of Embassy employees and American citizens. The Marines, who were stationed off the Liberian coast for 62 days as part of the 22d MEU assigned to Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group 2-90, assisted in evacuating 79 people during the first day of operations. By the end of the month, they had evacuated more than 1,700 foreign nationals, including 139 Americans, from the crisis-torn West African country.

7 Aug—President Bush ordered U.S. military aircraft and troops to Saudi Arabia as part of a multinational force to defend that country against possible Iraqi invasion. The Persian Gulf crisis was triggered on 2 August when Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded neighboring Kuwait with overwhelming forces and subsequently positioned assault elements on the Saudi Arabia-Kuwait border. On 6 August, the United Nations Security Council approved a total trade ban against Iraq. A major deployment, the largest since the Vietnam War, was underway for Operation Desert Shield that eventually would include major units from all four services.

15 Aug—Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps announced the commitment of 45,000 troops to the Persian Gulf area. They consisted of elements of the I Marine Expeditionary Force to include units from 1st Marine Division and 1st Force Service Support Group (FSSG), 3d Marine Aircraft Wing (MAW), and 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB). Also en route were elements of the 4th MEB to include units from 2d Marine Division and 2d FSSG, and 2d MAW. Additionally, Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron 2 (MPS-2) had been at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The five-ship squadron contained 7th MEB's equipment and enough supplies to sustain the 16,500-person force for 30 days. Ultimately the Marines would comprise a portion of approximately 200,000 U.S. ground troops.



Snipers from the 1st Marine Division keep a wary eye on Iraqi Army troops across the Saudi Arabia-Kuwait border during the tense weeks of Operation Desert Shield. The Marine Corps announced the commitment of 45,000 troops in mid-August.

22 Aug—President Bush ordered the first mobilization of U.S. military reserves in 20 years and declared the call-up “essential to completing our mission” of thwarting Iraqi aggression in the Persian Gulf. Most of those summoned to active duty in the initial mobilization were Army Reservists.

24 Aug—The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait was ordered closed. Marine security guards were with approximately 100 U.S. officials and citizens transferred to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad by the Iraqi government. They were among an estimated 1,000 Americans being held hostage in Iraq.

18 Sep—A new, 40-acre training facility for Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) was dedicated by the Commandant of the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The new facility is a full-scale model of a small city complete with a several-story hotel, 30 other buildings and single family dwellings, a full-size sewer system, and a soccer stadium. The MOUT facility would test Marines’ combat skills in a variety of urban environments.

8 Oct—The first fatal accident for Marines in Operation Desert Shield claimed the lives of eight when two UH-1N Huey helicopters crashed into the North Arabian Sea during a night training mission. The

Marines were assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164 for deployment.

10 Oct—The first unit-sized activation of Reservists came when Marines from Combat Service Support Detachment 40 reported to Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe, Hawaii. The mission of the unit was to maintain and refurbish equipment left behind by I Marine Expeditionary Force as it deployed to Saudi Arabia to marry up with its prepositioned equipment on board Maritime Prepositioning Ship 3.

26 Oct—SgtMaj Allan J. Kellogg, Jr., the last active-duty enlisted Medal of Honor recipient, retired from the Marine Corps after 30 years of service. SgtMaj Kellogg was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry while serving with Company G, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines in Vietnam during 1970.

15-21 Nov—About 100 miles south of the Kuwait border, American and Saudi Arabian military forces participated in Exercise Imminent Thunder. The exercise included an amphibious landing by more than 1,000 Marines of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade and tested the military’s ability to command, control, and coordinate air and ground forces. It included air-to-air mock fighter combat and close air support of ground forces. At the same time, only 25 miles south of Kuwait, another 1,000 Marines from

the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade conducted field exercises ashore.

22 Nov—President Bush addressed U.S. Marines and sailors, and British soldiers, during his visit to Saudi Arabia. Standing before a crowd of more than 3,000 front-line forces, the president reaffirmed his resolve to see Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein ousted from Kuwait. The President and Mrs. Bush then joined the Marines for a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal.

30 Nov—The evacuation operation from Monrovia, Liberia, ended after 185 continuous days of Navy and Marine Corps presence. During Operation Sharp Edge, 2,438 persons from 30 countries were evacuated out of the capital city. Marines and sailors also provided humanitarian assistance, airlifting more than 14,000 pounds of fuel, food, and medical supplies to Monrovia.

10 Dec—More than 24,000 Marines of the II Marine Expeditionary Force mustered on the parade ground at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for a pre-deployment review by the Commandant of the Marine Corps and the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet, in what was the largest formation of Marines in modern history. Commanded by LtGen Carl E. Mundy, Jr., the units included the 2d Marine Division, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, 2d Force Service Support Group, and the 2d Surveillance Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group. The units would deploy to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Shield through the month of December.

18 Dec—Rollout ceremonies for the Corps’ new M1A1 tank were held at the General Dynamics Land Systems Division in Warren, Michigan. The M1A1 “common tank” is outfitted to Marine Corps specifications with such features as ship tiedowns, a deep-water fording capability, and position locating and reporting system capability. The tank would replace the aging M60A1. The 2d Tank Battalion based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, would use the new tank in the Persian Gulf while other tank battalions would operate the M60A1s.

27 Dec—Company A from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., the oldest post of the Marine Corps, departed for Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to join elements of the 2d Marine Division deploying for Operation Desert Shield. Marines from the barracks were last deployed in 1906 when a detachment was assigned to the expeditionary battalions sent to Cuba for pacification duty. □1775□

Historical Quiz

Marines in the Persian Gulf

by Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Historian

Identify some of the events, equipment, and symbols of the war in the Persian Gulf.

1. When did the air war begin?
2. When did the ground war begin?
3. How many countries made up the coalition forces in Operation Desert Storm?
4. What is “MOPP” gear?
5. What was the purpose of the inverted “V” symbol used on vehicles during Operation Desert Storm?

6. What is a “smart bomb?”

7. What was the date that President Bush established a Southwest Asia Service Medal?

8. What is a “humvee?”

9. What was the date of the ceasefire?

10. What is the name given to the multinational relief effort to provide humanitarian assistance to Kurdish refugees?

(Answers on page 19)

Gen Roosevelt, Marine Raider, FDR's Son, Dies at 83

by *Benis M. Frank*
Chief Historian

BGen James Roosevelt

BGen James Roosevelt, USMCR (Ret), 83, the last surviving child of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, died of a stroke 13 August at his home in Newport Beach, California. He was buried with full military honors at a private cemetery in Newport Beach on 17 August. Gen Roosevelt was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1936, and served as his father's aide and on active duty for training. In the face of considerable political criticism directed at him for having received a lieutenant colonelcy with no previous military experience, he resigned his commission in October 1939, and was recommissioned a captain in the Reserve the next month. He was a member of the Los Angeles-based 22d Battalion, USMCR, when it was mobilized in November 1940.

In April 1941, accompanied by then-Maj Gerald C. Thomas, he undertook a diplomatic mission for his father which involved a trip to the headquarters of the British command in Egypt via the Philippines, China, and thence to Cairo, with a side-trip to Crete to deliver a message to the King of Greece at a time when the island was under German attack. He reported back to HQMC, and was assigned to the office of Major General Commandant Thomas Holcomb.

BGen Roosevelt in 1979



In February 1942, Maj Roosevelt was assigned executive officer of the 2d Separate Battalion, 2d Marine Division, which was redesignated that month as the 2d Marine Raider Battalion, commanded by LtCol Evans F. Carlson. He took part in the Makin Island raid in August 1942, for which he was awarded the Navy Cross: "... risking his life, over and beyond the ordinary call of duty, Maj Roosevelt continually exposed himself to intense machine gun and sniper fire to insure effective control of operations from the command post. As a result of his successful maintenance of communications with his supporting vessels, two enemy surface ships were destroyed by gunfire. Later, during evacuation, he displayed exemplary courage in personally rescuing three men from drowning in the heavy surf . . ."

After the Makin raid and promotion to lieutenant colonel, he returned to Camp Pendleton to take command of the 4th Marine Raider Battalion. He held the command long enough to take it overseas, but was hospitalized and returned to the States. In October 1943 he joined the Troop Training Unit, Amphibious Training Command, Pacific Fleet, as an intelligence officer, and was an observer assigned to the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion during its opposed landing on Makin. For gallantry in action, LtCol Roosevelt was awarded the Silver Star Medal by the Army. He remained with the TTU until December 1944, when, as a colonel, he joined FMFPac for duty as an intelligence planning officer.

He was released from active duty in October 1945, but remained active in the Marine Corps Reserve until his retirement in October 1959, when he was advanced to brigadier general for having been decorated in combat.

After the war, Gen Roosevelt remained active in public life, both as an elected and appointed official. In March 1979, he presented to the Marine Corps Museum a German Model '08/15 Maxim light machine gun which Gen Lejeune gave to his father, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, in 1919 when he visited the Marines

in occupied Germany. The weapon was held in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park until it was moved to the Museum in the Marine Corps Historical Center.

William H. Russell

Professor William H. Russell, 79, died of natural causes 6 June at a retirement community in Gwynedd, Pennsylvania. A graduate of Haverford College in 1933, he received a master of arts degree in history from Harvard University the next year.

Mr. Russell was a professor of history at the Naval Academy from 1946 until his retirement in 1972. He was a particular friend of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps history, and is reputed to have influenced many young midshipmen to opt for a Marine Corps commission. In the 1950s and 60s, Professor Russell hosted members of the staff of the then-Historical Branch of Headquarters Marine Corps, who spent a day with Academy history classes telling about the Marine Corps history program.

Professor Russell wrote numerous articles concerning Marine Corps and military history for the *Marine Corps Gazette* and other professional journals.

Dr. Philip A. Crowl

Dr. Philip A. Crowl, 76, a renowned historian and author, died 5 May after a

Dr. Crowl



lengthy illness with cancer. Crowl was a native of Dayton, Ohio, and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Swarthmore College. He did some graduate work at Yale University, received his master of arts degree at the University of Iowa, and his doctorate in history from Johns Hopkins University.

He started teaching at Princeton University before being commissioned in the Navy and then was assigned to teach at the Naval Academy before he went to the Pacific. He commanded an LCI in the invasion of Leyte and was decorated with the Silver Star Medal for his services there. After the war, he returned to teach at Princeton where, together with the late Jeter A. Isely, he became involved in the Princeton University Marine Corps Historical Project, which culminated in the writing of the classic *The U.S. Marines and Amphibious War* (See *Fortitudine*, Winter 1988-1989, pp. 16-18).

As he recalled in his taped memoirs for the Marine Corps Oral History Program, when the Marine Corps proposed and Princeton agreed to undertake the amphibious war study, the head of the history department approached Crowl and Isely and asked if they were willing to do it. "Our pay at the time at Princeton was peanuts and this promised a little supple-

ment to that, which is the main reason we both got involved." At a conference between the Marine and Princeton principals for the project, the Marine Corps promised that the authors would have complete access to all classified documents that were in the custody of the Marine Corps historical office at Headquarters, and those held at Quantico. In addition, MajGen Gerald C. Thomas promised on the part of the Marine Corps, there would be no censorship of what was written, ". . . that the Commandant will have no competence to alter or modify the findings of the authors or the conclusions reached in the study." The contract for the project was signed 28 April 1947 and the book was published in 1951.

Before the book was published, Crowl became an Army historian, followed by a tour as an intelligence officer at the Department of State for 10 years—1957-1967—during which time he also directed the John Foster Dulles Oral History Project at Princeton. Subsequently he headed the history department at the University of Nebraska, and then joined the Naval War College, from which he retired several years ago. He served on the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History, and was a member and director of the

Marine Corps Historical Foundation. Dr. Crowl was the author of a number of historical works, three of which were World War II military histories written for the Army. In recent years, he wrote several historical travel guides to the British Isles.

LtCol George P. Hunt

LtCol George P. Hunt, USMCR (Ret), died at the age of 72 at his home in Hobe Sound, Florida, on 6 July following a long bout with cancer. He began his career in the publishing business in 1940 as an office boy at Time, Inc. A Reserve officer, he left for active service and was commander of Company K, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines at Cape Gloucester, for which service he was awarded the Silver Star Medal. He led his company ashore at Peleliu on the extreme left flank of the 1st Marine Division, and after 72 hours of hand-to-hand combat, secured a vital objective called "The Point." More than 750 Japanese were killed by Hunt's 235 Marines, of whom just 79 survived. He received the Navy Cross following this operation. Hunt wrote of the ordeal in the classic *Coral Comes High*, published in 1947. He rejoined Time, Inc., after the war and later became managing editor of *Life*.

□1775□

Answers to Historical Quiz

Marines in the Persian Gulf

(Questions on page 17)

1. 16 January 1991.
2. 24 February 1991.
3. 32 (Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Syria, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States).
4. Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear. In response to the Iraqi chemical and biological warfare threat, each Marine was issued a gas mask and two sets of charcoal-lined protective clothing.
5. To prevent casualties by friendly fire, allied forces used this tactical marking system. This particular symbol was selected because it is simple to draw, easy to recognize, and visible from a distance. All allied tactical vehicles were ordered to display the device after 1 February 1991.
6. The Rockwell Glide Bomb Unit (GBU-1), developed during the 1970s and used in the latter stages of the Vietnam War for first-shot, pinpoint accuracy in bombing, was the result of converting standard munitions into an electro-optical, day or night delivery system.
7. On 13 March 1991, President Bush established a medal for members of the U.S. Armed Forces who deployed to Southwestern Asia or in contiguous waters or air space on or after 2 August 1990, and participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.
8. The High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) is a no-frills military utility vehicle designed to replace the jeep. The HMMWV, incidentally, will be available to the civilian market next year.
9. On 27 February 1991, Iraq delivered a letter to the U.N. announcing its intentions to comply with the ceasefire terms.
10. Operation Provide Comfort.

Polish Military Historians' Visit Delights Marine Hosts

by Benis M. Frank
Chief Historian

IN MAY 1990, Henry I. Shaw, Jr., then Chief Historian of the History and Museums Division, visited Poland for a five-day guided tour of that nation's Military History Institute as well as military museums and memorials both in Warsaw and elsewhere. Mr. Shaw, along with other Department of Defense historians, made the trip at the invitation of the Polish Ministry of Defense. (See *Fortitudine*, Summer 1990, pp. 15-18.)

Responding to the Poles' hospitality and apparent desire to establish a professional relationship, on behalf of the U.S. historians who went to Poland, the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Historical Office invited several Polish military historians to an exchange visit to the United States.

Accordingly, the Polish delegation arrived in Washington on Sunday, 16 June this year, ready to begin a week's round of visits and tours. The delegation consisted of Professor Doctor Andrzej Zahorski, director of the Polish Military Institute of History and chairman of the delegation, and Colonel Doctor Tadeusz Panecki, deputy director for scientific affairs; Navy Captain Jerzy Przybylski, head of the Department of Humanities, Polish Naval Academy, Gdynia; and Mr. Wladyslaw Krzysiak, the delegation's interpreter. The JCS interpreters accompanying the visitors were LtCol Ilona Kwiecien, USA; Maj Marek Swiderski, USAF; and MSgt Bart Bardasz, USAF. Both Kwiecien and Bardasz interpreted for the American

The Poles are greeted at the Historical Center. From left: BGen Edwin H. Simmons, Director; Col Brooke Nihart, Deputy Director for Museums; and delegates Mr. Wladyslaw Krzysiak; Capt Jerzy Przybylski; Prof Andrzej Zahorski; and Col Dr. Tadeusz Panecki.



Exchanging observations, publications, and mementoes are, from left, Col Panecki, BGen Simmons, and Capt Przybylski. LtCol Ilona Kwiecien, USA, and Maj Marek Swiderski, USAF, came along as interpreters from the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Col Nihart shows Prof Zahorski, head of the delegation, some of the Marine Corps Museum's Polish military holdings.

historians in Warsaw. Col Andrew Porth, USAF, who speaks fluent Polish and is to become the U.S. Defense Attache in Warsaw in January 1992, was the Joint Staff escort officer.

ON MONDAY, their first day in Washington, the visitors were taken to Arlington Cemetery, where they laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and were taken to the *Maine* memorial, in the base of which lie the remains of Jan Paderewski, the first president of Poland and a national hero. The Poles appeared quite moved at this experience. Later that morning, they met at the Pentagon with the heads of Defense Department and Service historical offices, and their chief historians. At this time, Dr. Zahorski and his colleagues were welcomed and each U.S. historical director gave a short briefing about his individual program. The rest of the day was spent in the Pentagon at a luncheon and in JCS briefings. That evening, the senior Polish military attache hosted a reception at the Polish Embassy.

Tuesday began with a visit to the National Defense University, where the visitors were briefed and in turn gave a presentation on the nature of war in Central Europe from the end of World War I (1919) to the beginning of World War II (1939). The Marine Corps Historical Center hosted Dr. Zahorski and the other Polish historians at a lunch at the Officers' Club in the Washington Navy Yard, following which they toured the Center.

Here, as elsewhere when he was called upon for remarks, Dr. Zahorski reiterated the fact—much as did the Russian military historians when they visited Washington—that he and his colleagues will have to rewrite most if not all of the military history of Poland in World War II to introduce reality, and he called upon the American historians for assistance.

THE POLES SPENT Wednesday, the fourth day of their visit, with historians of the Naval Historical Center, where they were briefed on the Navy historical program and toured the center. They then

went to the Naval Academy in Annapolis where they spent the rest of the day, and joined the midshipmen at evening meal in Bancroft Hall. The Navy historians then brought the visitors back to the Navy Yard for a tour of the Navy Museum and to see the Navy's summer pageant at the waterfront.

Thursday saw the Polish historians at the National Archives for a tour in the morning, and lunch and the rest of the day with the Office of Air Force History. That evening they visited the Kennedy Center for a performance of the Houston Ballet Company. On Friday, the last full

day in Washington, the U.S. Army Center of Military History hosted the Poles with a tour of the Center's offices, and then a trip to Antietam Battlefield for a guided tour.

THAT EVENING there was a farewell dinner at the Officers' Club in the Washington Navy Yard. Afterward, the entire group went to Marine Barracks, 8th and I, for the Sunset Parade.

Saturday was spent by the Poles at the Smithsonian Institution's Air and Space Museum, and then some shopping, before they left for Dulles for their return trip home to Warsaw. □1775□

Oral History Report

'Just Cause' and 'Sharp Edge' Interviews Transcribed

by Meredith P. Hartley
Acting Head, Oral History Section

SINCE THE LAST report, the Oral History Section has completed the transcription of interviews pertaining to Marine deployment in Panama in early 1988 and participation in Operation Just Cause in December 1989. These interviews will be used extensively in the writing of an official monograph on Marines in Operation Just Cause.

In addition, the section has almost completed another series of issue-oriented interviews, these newest ones concerning the Marine deployment to Liberia and participation in Operation Sharp Edge. Of these, only one major interview remains to be conducted and all the interviews done so far have been transcribed. The interviews were made during two trips to Camp Lejeune, one by veteran oral historian Mr. Benis M. Frank and the other by the author. Between us we interviewed 17 Marines who had been deployed to Liberia.

Among those interviewed were: Col William C. Fite III, CO, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit; LtCol Stephen R. Labadie, XO, 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit and member of 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit Forward Command Element; Maj Glen R. Sachtleben, XO, Battalion Landing Team 2/4 and member of 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit Forward Command Element; and Capt James K. Shannon, CO, Company K, Battalion Landing

Team 3/8. All these officers gave detailed interviews. Along with the interviews, Mr. Frank and I both returned with many pertinent documents and artifacts.

ON THE CAREER interview side of the house, the Oral History Section has accessioned an interview with Maj Earl J.

Wilson, USMCR (Ret). Maj Wilson was a combat correspondent during World War II, serving at Tarawa, Kwajalein, Guam, Peleliu, and the Philippines, and, after the end of the war, in North China. After his Marine Corps service, he became an information officer in overseas offices of the U.S. Information Service. □1775□

Then-Capt Earl J. Wilson, USMCR, was photographed on Guam in 1944, when he was coordinating combat correspondents for the Marine aircraft wing in the Pacific. He is thought to have made the first radio tape of live dive bombing during this period.



The U.S. Marine Corps and the Vietnam War: 1971

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

Part VIII of *Fortitudine's* continuing chronological series on Marine Corps participation in the Vietnam War focuses on 1971, which saw the departure of the last Marine air-ground team, the 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade, from Vietnam's embattled I Corps Tactical Zone, the five northern provinces of the country. By May 1971, the Marine Corps' extensive commitment to the war in Vietnam had largely come to an end. The majority of the following entries were excerpted from the History and Museums Division monograph, *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970-1971*. Readers desiring a more detailed examination of Marine Corps activities and operations in Vietnam during 1971 will find it in that volume.

1 Jan—The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) allies ceased to have Tactical Areas of Responsibility (TAORs). Instead, only the RVNAF had them, while allied units were assigned Tactical Areas of Interest (TAOIs), which generally encompassed the same areas as their previous TAORs. From then forward the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) assigned areas of responsibility to allied commands.

6 Jan—Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced that Vietnamization was running ahead of schedule and that the combat mission of American troops would end the following summer.

11 Jan—The 1st Marines began Operation Upshur Stream, to stem the number of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) rocket attacks against the Da Nang area. The operation concluded 29 March with a total of 13 enemy dead.

30 Jan—Phase I of Operation Lam Son 719, designed as a "spoiling action to prevent a large-scale enemy offensive into Military Region I," began with elements of the U.S. Army's 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) advancing from Fire Support Base (FSB) Vandegrift toward Khe Sanh. On 8 February the ARVN entered Laos to begin Phase II. The RVNAF units swept

Marine Cpl James R. Huyck, with his .50 caliber machine gun, in February has a commanding view of the terrain around Hill 218, 25 miles south of Da Nang. He is attached to the 11th Marines.



In mid-February, members of the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, by convoy leave Fire Support Base Ross for the last time. With the closure these Marines are on their way home to the United States.

areas of operation from 7-16 March during Phase III and began Phase IV, the withdrawal, on 17 March. The last South Vietnamese soldier exited Laos on 6 April. During Operation Lam Son 719, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW) provided RVN and allied forces "heavy-lift" capability by way of CH-53s, and through the U.S. Seventh Air Force, was tasked for tactical air support.

3 Feb-10 Mar—During the RVNAF-coordinated Operation Hoang Dien 103, units of III Marine Amphibious Force, 2d Republic of Korea Marine Corps Brigade, 51st ARVN Regiment, 146th Popular Force Platoon, 39th Regional Force Company, and the People's Self-Defense Force combed the Da Nang TAOR lowlands and lowland fringes, killing 330 enemy, while the allies lost 46 killed, including two Americans.

8 Feb—President Nguyen Van Thieu of the Republic of Vietnam announced that South Vietnamese troops entered Laos in Operation Lam Son 719. No American ground troops or allies crossed the border.

12 Feb—Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) Alpha/31st Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) arrived off the coast of North Vietnam, 50 miles east of the city of Vinh. From then until 6 March the ARG/MAU conducted daily amphibious and communications exercises in an effort to cause the North Vietnamese to divert forces to respond to a potential raid at Vinh while Lam Son 719 was ongoing.

2 Mar—Brigade 147, Vietnamese Marine Corps (VNMC) made a heliborne assault into Laos during Lam Son 719, at FSB Delta, and relieved ARVN forces operating there.

28 Mar—Headquarters, 1st MAW stood down officially, but continued flight operations and essential staff functions.

29 Mar—An estimated two battalions of the 38th NVA Regiment reinforced by two Viet Cong battalions, attacked Duc Duc district headquarters just southwest of An Hoa, killing 103 civilians and kidnapping 37, and destroying 1,500 homes.



About one mile north of Fire Support Base Ross in February, 1st Division Marines man a high-altitude, well-bunkered 60mm mortar installation with a long view looking west from Hill 218.

14 Apr—III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) relocated to Okinawa and 3d Marine Amphibious Brigade (3d MAB) was officially established in RVN. LtGen Donn J. Robertson, CG, III MAF, relocated to Camp Courtney, Okinawa. MajGen Alan J. Armstrong, CG, 1st MAW, assumed command of all units remaining in RVN, reporting to CG, XXIV Corps for operational control as CG, 3d MAB. Command of 1st MAW was passed to CG, 1st MAW (Rear). MajGen Charles F. Widdecke, CG, 1st MarDiv relocated to Camp Pendleton, California, reporting to CG, FMFPac for operational control.

15 Apr—The strength of 3d MAB on its activation was 1,322 Ma-

At the end of March, a three-man crew from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division fires a 105mm howitzer at a suspected major enemy staging area from a fire support

rine and 124 Navy officers and 13,359 Marine and 711 Navy enlisted men. The ground combat element was the 1st Marines and the air elements consisted of two aircraft groups, MAG-11 and MAG-16. The MAB also included numerous combat support and service support units.

15 Apr—The last four Combined Unit Pacification Program (CUPP) squads of Company M, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines were deactivated, ending the CUPP program. In 18 months of existence, the CUPP program accounted for 578 enemy killed, while Marines lost 46 killed.

30 Apr—President Richard M. Nixon welcomed home the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton.

3-4 May—Marines from Quantico and Camp Lejeune were deployed in Washington, D.C., to assist the police in controlling antiwar protestors. Police arrested more than 12,600 demonstrators.

7 May—3d MAB units ceased ground combat operations and fixed-wing aviation operations.

11 May—The 2d Combined Action Group (CAG) headquarters was deactivated, signalling the end of Marine Corps pacification and civic action campaigns in Vietnam.

12 May—Operation Imperial Lake ended in which 305 enemy were killed and Marines lost 24 killed.

13 May—The Vietnam War peace talks in Paris entered their fourth year.

4 Jun—The 3d MAB turned over its last piece of real estate in Vietnam, Camp Books, to the U.S. Army.

21 Jun—American troop strength in RVN was down to 244,900.

26 Jun—The 3d MAB closed its headquarters.

27 Jun—The 3d MAB was deactivated. □1775□

base located on Hill 510 in the Que Son Mountains south of Da Nang. III MAF troops continued to support South Vietnamese military operations until the middle of the next month.



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Timely Receipt of Artifacts Advances Show's Opening

(Continued from page 15)

qi weapons and photographs of embarked units complete the segment.

Wall panels display photographs of the graffiti on Marine vehicles, use of the inverted "V" on vehicles and equipment as a recognition device, and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit in the only amphibious operation in the Gulf War. The 13th MEU landed on Faylaka Island off Kuwait on 3 March to take the surrender of 1,400 troops of Iraq's 440th Marine Brigade: a rare instance of Marines against Marines.

The "Ground War" comes next with captured Iraqi uniform and equipment items and photographs of Marine operations and destroyed Iraqi tanks. A mannequin uniformed as a Marine tanker is displayed here as well as a 1:50,000 scale map of the Kuwait front with the Marine scheme of maneuver and Iraqi defenses outlined on the acetate overlay.

A photo essay detailing the sequence of operations in breaching the berms and minefields is displayed on a wall panel.

Visitors are greeted by a Desert Storm "tactical courier" and his desert motor-bike pointing the way to "Kuwait City."



The next-to-the-last panel is on "Close Air Support" with a half-scale Maverick air-to-ground missile model and a cutaway model of a Hellfire fire-and-forget missile, both featured in Marine air's attack against Iraqi armor.

"COMING HOME" is the final segment and it includes photographs of welcoming events, the 8 June parade in Washington, and also the continuing operation—"Provide Comfort"—with 24th MEU acting as the providers. Also featured are a sampling of the posters used to show support for our troops and to welcome them home.

The exhibition continues to grow as more photographs and art are submitted and more interesting artifacts are discovered among the booty now being inventoried at Quantico. "Marines in Operation Desert Storm" will continue showing until August 1992.