

FORTITUDIN

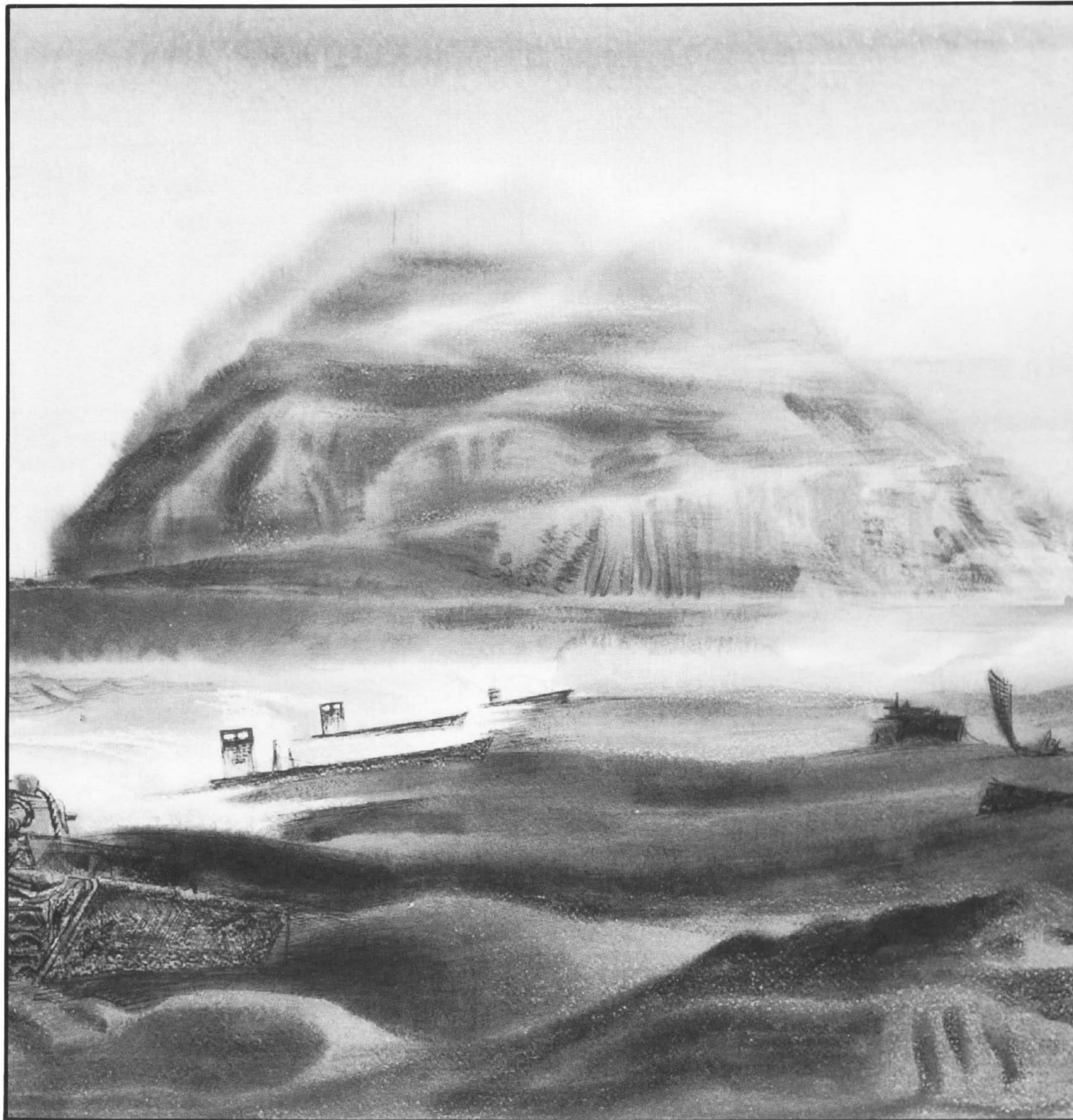
BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXIV

SPRING 1995

NUMBER 4



50 YEARS LATER, AN EVENTFUL DAY ON IWO JIMA . . . COMMAND MUSEUM TAKES ACTIVE EDUCATIONAL ROLE FOR SAN DIEGO RECRUITS . . . VIETNAM BOOBYTRAP BIBLE ADDED TO COLLECTION . . . PENDLETON VOLUNTEERS OVERHAUL AND RESTORE 40-YEAR-OLD LVT . . . THE SATISFYING MARINE CAREER OF 'FOG' HAYES

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Senior Editor/Editor, Fortitudine

FORTITUDINE

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

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THE COVER

"Two Jima: The Beach at Dusk," by Lt Mitchell Jamieson, USNR, is a product of a visit by the soon-to-be-famous artist in the months following the ferocious World War II battle for the island, to the scene of the Marine landing. "... the tragic section of beach below Suribachi becomes unearthly and ghostlike in the fading light The beach is deserted except for the wrecks which litter its entire length," Lt Jamieson annotated the watercolor which is now a part of the U.S. Navy Art Collection. Visiting Iwo Jima 50 years later, BGen Simmons joined U.S. and Japanese veterans at memorial services and walks, and heard Navy Secretary John Dalton announce the nomination by the President of the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Charles C. Krulak. Gen Simmons writes about his participation in his "Memorandum from the Director," beginning on page 3. In a decision which underscored the historic nature of the change of command, before taking office Gen Krulak located his transition office at the Marine Corps Historical Center in Washington, D.C., and subsequently released the space to Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr., the 30th Commandant, also for use as a transition office. Gen Mundy is organizing his official papers and additionally leaving the Historical Center an oral history of his career experiences of more than 40 years.

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A Day Spent on Iwo Jima



BGen Simmons

IWO JIMA IS NOT impressive as you come in upon it from the air, just a low gray-green lump standing starkly in the sea. It has a somber, uninviting look and lacks the coral necklaces and flora exuberances of the Pacific atolls to its east and south. Even so, approaching it stirs up excitement, particularly if you are a Marine.

So it was on the morning of 14 March as the Commandant's C-9 transport circled the island and prepared to land. It was a bright, clear, sunny day with white puffy clouds against a brilliant blue sky. On board, in addition to the Commandant, Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr., were LtGen Charles C. Krulak, Commander, Marine Forces, Pacific, and their respective sergeants major, Harold G. Overstreet and Lewis G. Lee.

Arriving on separate aircraft were former Vice President Walter Mondale, now the U.S. Ambassador to Japan; Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton; and Adm Richard

C. Macke, USN, the tall, lean, and personable Commander-in-Chief Pacific. The airfield, now totally Japanese, stretched across the wide part of the island, near the northern tip called Kitano Point, which is where the World War II fight for Iwo Jima had ended. The runway more or less followed the trace of a wartime field, where after the capture of Iwo Jima, the damaged B-29s, returning from overflying Japan, could land. Probably not since the war's end in 1945 had the airfield bustled with such activity. It is now a small, handsome airfield, well-maintained, as you would expect, by current occupants, the Japanese Self-Defense Force.

IWO HAD REVERTED to Japan in 1968. The Americans, military and civilian, were on the island with the forbearance of the Japanese and under conditions set by them. The veterans, most of them Ma-

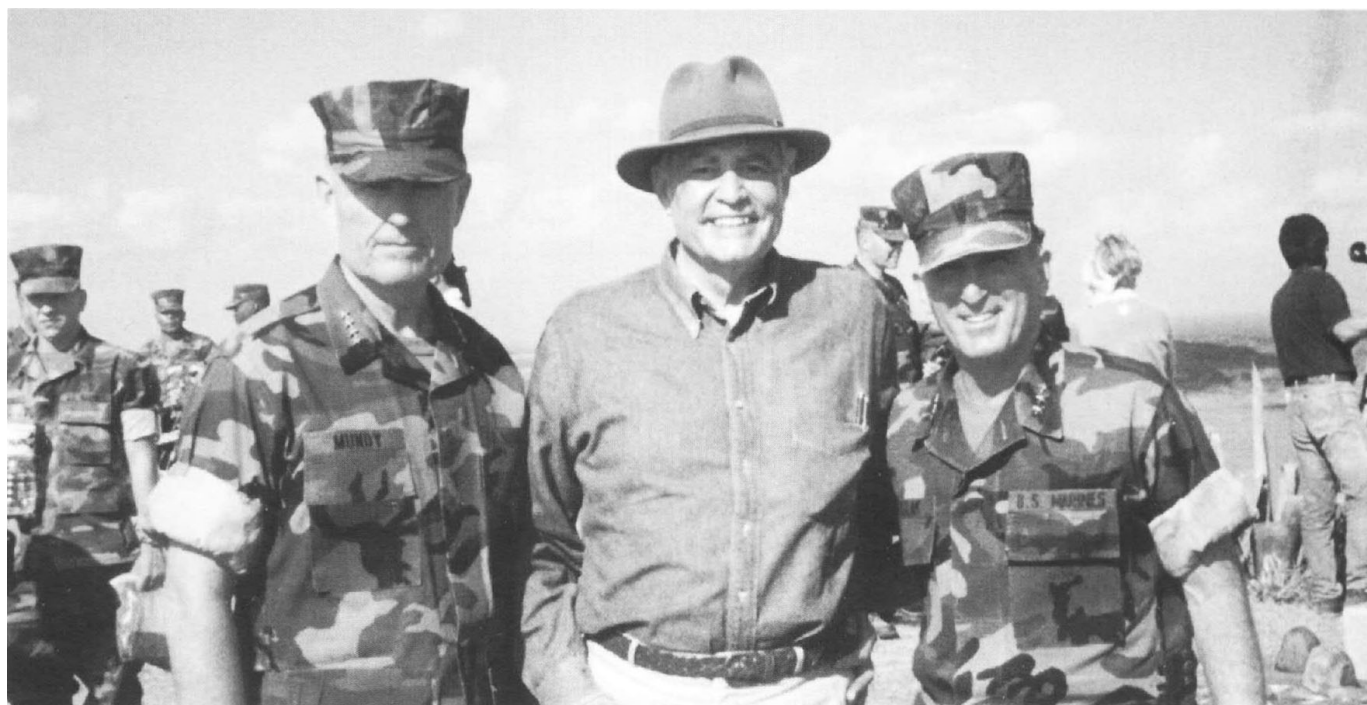
rines, began arriving from Saipan and Guam in sleek Boeing 727 jets belonging to, or at least leased by, Continental Micronesia. The Japanese had backed off an earlier agreement to allow three DC-10s to land, saying they were too heavy for the runway, so Continental Micronesia had to scratch to find six of the smaller 727s which would be permitted.

Counting wives, children, and others, including just interested persons, there were about nine hundred of these American visitors. Iwo had no overnight accommodations for them so they had to arrive on the morning of the ceremonies and be off the island by nightfall.

The 727s taxied almost to the doors of the large Japanese-built hangar that was being used as a visitors center. The III Marine Expeditionary Force band serenaded the visitors' arrival. The band was unofficially augmented by a drummer and piper set uniformed in Marine Corps utilities, both

Atop Suribachi, 30th Commandant Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr., left, joined Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, center, and LtGen Charles C. Krulak, Commander, Marine Forces, Pacific, who moments before heard the

announcement of his nomination to become 31st Commandant. Gen Simmons, a China Marine, veteran of World War II and Korea, and a senior commander in Vietnam, joined other Marine veterans at the day-long commemoration of the island battle.





The volcano Mt. Suribachi is the dominant feature in this 1945 photograph of the Marine landing on Iwo Jima. The island, five miles long and two and a half miles wide, was defended by nearly 23,000 Japanese troops manning, among other positions, 642 blockhouses, pillboxes, and gun emplacements. Suribachi itself was a fortress, with seven successive galleries of defenses.

somewhat older than the Marines in the band. They were, it was said, from Atlanta, Georgia.

A RAGGED RECEPTION line formed with Gen Mundy as the focal point. He greeted virtually every arrival with a handshake, a few words of welcome, and a clap on the back.

Three sides of the interior of the hangar were lined with modular World War II exhibits from the Marine Corps Historical Center, and other displays. Tables in the middle were laden with folders that contained, among other things, copies of our World War II pamphlet, *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*.

Leader of the veterans group was LtGen Larry F. Snowden, who retired as chief of staff of Headquarters, Marine Corps, in 1979. On 19 February 1945 he had landed at Iwo as a captain and company commander in the 23d Marines, 4th Marine Division. Wounded early and evacuated to Guam, he absented himself without leave from the hospital, found his way back to the island, and finished out the battle with his company.

Also prominent among the Marine veterans were retired LtGen Alpha L. Bowser, who commanded a 105mm howitzer battalion, the 3d Battalion, 12th Marines; and retired MajGen Fred E. Haynes, who as a captain had landed with the 28th

Marines, 5th Marine Division, the left flank regiment at Iwo.

IWO JIMA HAS BEEN compared, over and over again, to a bad-smelling pork chop, burned black and sizzling in a frying pan. The location of Iwo Jima is what made it strategically important. Five miles long and two and a half miles wide, about eight square miles in all, it lay at the midpoint of a straight line drawn from the B-29 bases in the Marianas to Tokyo.

The Japanese had completed two airfields on the island and were working on a third. Interceptors from these airfields threatened the B-29s. Even more importantly, the B-29s, on their way back from Japan, needed a recovery site if they were damaged or low on fuel. They were flying at extreme range and there was that business of the 200-mile-an-hour head winds over the Empire, as the B-29 pilots always called the Japanese home islands.

LtGen Tadamichi Kuribayashi commanded the Japanese at Iwo. He had published a set of "Courageous Battle Vows" and these were pasted to the inner walls of the concrete emplacements of which there were many. One of the vows was "Each man will make it his duty to kill ten of the enemy before dying." In all, there were between 21,000 and 23,000 Japanese defenders. Photo interpreters counted a total of 642 blockhouses, pillboxes, and

gun emplacements. The bony knob at the shank end of the pork chop was 556-foot-high Mt. Suribachi. Suribachi, with seven successive galleries of defenses, was a fortress in itself.

LTGEN HOLLAND M. SMITH was the Commanding General, Expeditionary Troops, for the assault against Iwo. Landing Force was the V Amphibious Corps under MajGen Harry Schmidt, with the veteran 3d and 4th Marine Divisions and the new 5th Marine Division. The 4th Division, commanded by Clifton B. Cates, would come forward from Hawaii, as would the 5th Marine Division under Keller E. Rockey, to be in the assault. The 3d Division, coming from Guam and under Graves B. Erskine, would be in floating reserve.

Intermittent Army Air Force and Navy air attacks pounded the island for 74 days before the landing. The immediate prelanding naval gunfire preparation was limited to three days, not as much time as the Marines would have liked.

Prevailing winds dictated a landing across the eastern beaches. As there was no barrier coral reef, landing craft and ships would be able to beach. Seven battalions were in the assault. The first wave of armored amphibian tractors touched down at 0902. The troop-carrying tractors



Photo by Cpl Paul S. Royston, USMC
Marines of the 31st MEU provided support, including transportation for veterans in five-ton trucks to Suribachi ceremonies.

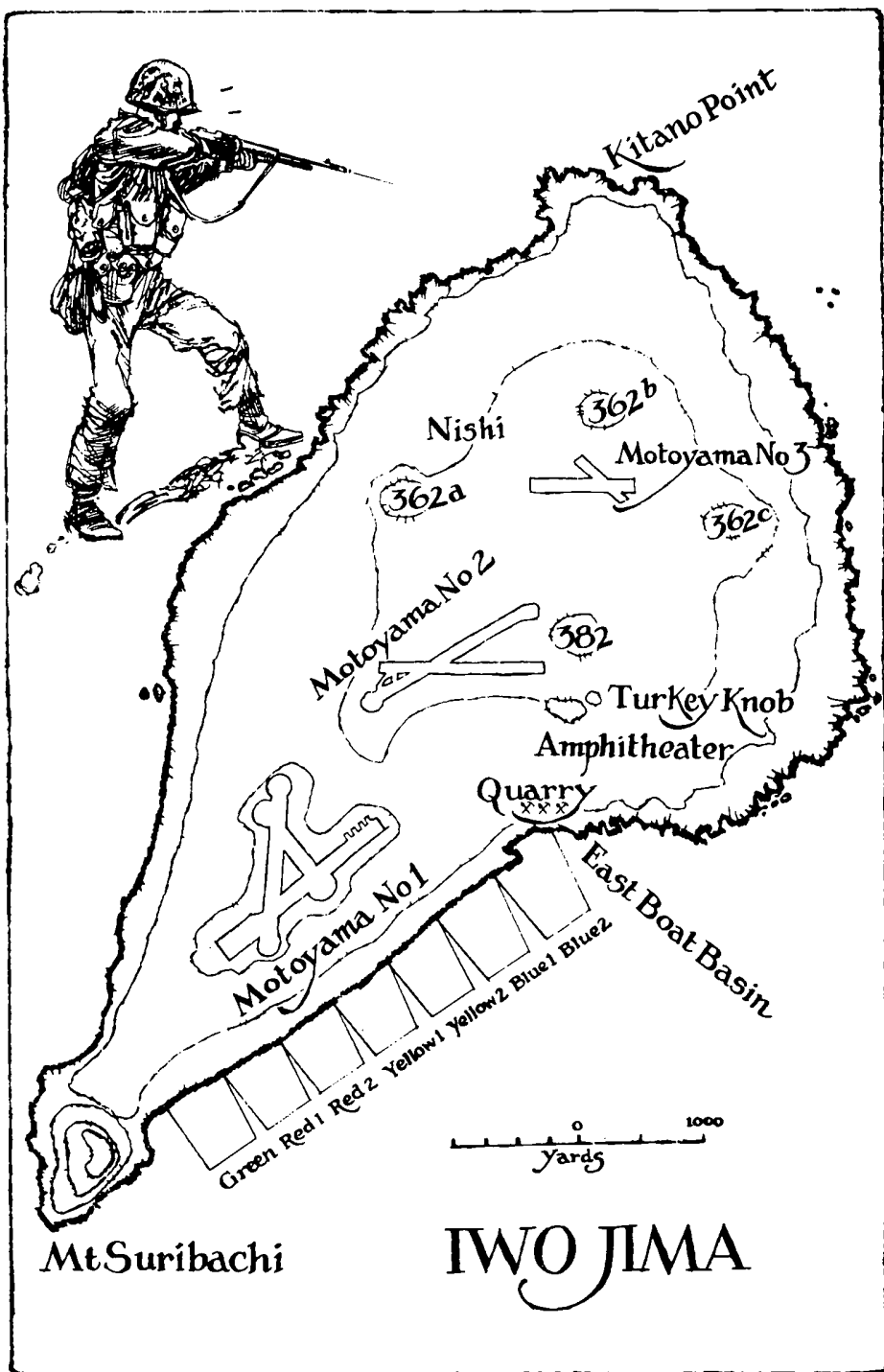
began disgorging their passengers three minutes later.

CATES' 4TH DIVISION landed on the right, its 23d and 25th Marines coming across Yellow and Blue beaches. Their immediate objective was Airfield No. 1. Rocky's 5th Division landed on the left, across Green and Red Beaches, the 27th Marines on the right and the 28th Marines on the left.

Suribachi was taken on 23 February and the flags had gone up, but the main attack northward came almost to a halt. The belt of fortifications between Airfields No. 1 and No. 2 had no flanks and it was worse than Suribachi. The 21st Marines from the 3d Division came ashore and put into the attack against Airfield No. 2. Soon thereafter Erskine landed with the remainder of the 3d Division, except for the 3d Marine Regiment which was held in floating reserve.

With three divisions abreast, Harry Schmidt drove toward the north coast of the island. On 16 March, Kuribayashi sent a last message to Imperial General Headquarters: "I . . . humbly apologize to His Majesty that I have failed to live up to expectations. . . . Bullets are gone and water exhausted. . . . Permit me to say farewell . . ."

Marines think of Iwo Jima as solely a Marine Corps battle, but the Marines were not entirely alone. As always, there were Navy chaplains and Navy doctors and hospital corpsmen. Some Army and Army



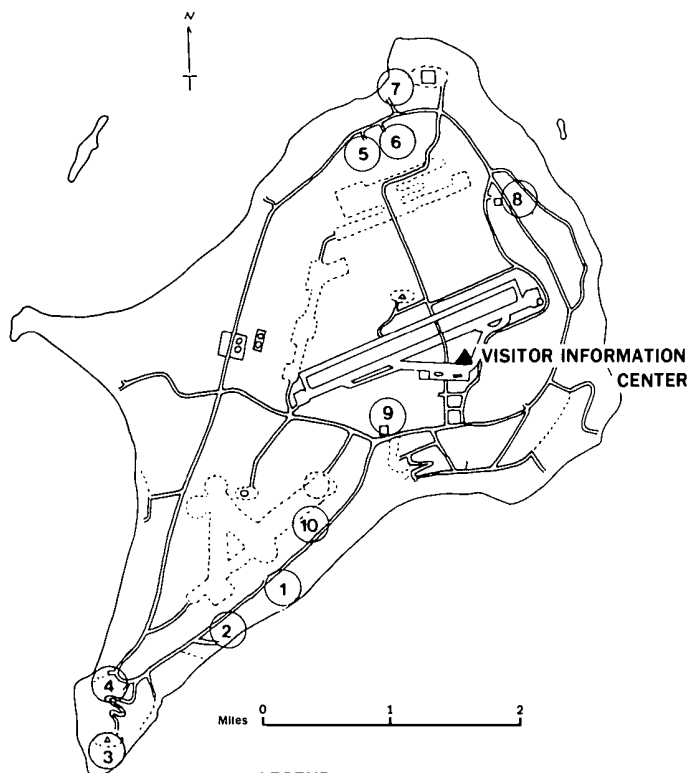
Map by Col Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR

Air Force personnel also came ashore. Among the first of these to land were the Army's 471st and 472d Amphibian Truck Companies. Unlike the Marines' amphibian tractors, these Army amphibian trucks (better known as "DUKWs") had large rubber tires and were very useful in landing artillery and artillery ammunition. The truck drivers in these companies were African-Americans. The DUKW drivers were not the only black Americans on the beach at Iwo. The Shore Party included an ammunition company and three depot companies of black Marines.

ON 26 MARCH, Kitano Point, the northernmost point on the island, was taken and the island was declared secured. Adm Nimitz could well have been speaking for both attacker and defender when he said of this bitterly fought battle, "Uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Twenty-seven Medals of Honor were given for Iwo; 22 to Marines, of which 12 were posthumous, and five to Navy men, of which two were posthumous. In all of World War II, only 81 Marines received the Medal of Honor, and almost a third of

IWO JIMA TODAY



LEGEND:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Reunion of Honor Memorial | 7. LtGen Kuribayashi's Headquarters Cave |
| 2. Invasion Beach | 8. Tenzan Memorial |
| 3. Mount Suribachi | 9. Requiem Hill |
| 4. Naval Guns | 10. Marine Corps Cemetery Marker |
| 5. Hospital Cave | |
| 6. Sandstone Sculpture | |

sary reunion, veterans of the 4th Marine Division had staged through Saipan, where many of them had also fought and where hotel accommodations are now luxurious. Veterans of the 3d and 5th Divisions had come through Guam where the hotels are equally luxurious. The 3d Division had fought on Guam and before that on Bougainville. The 5th Division was a new division for Iwo, but many of its members had been parachute Marines or Raiders in the Solomons. Tourists on both Saipan and Guam are now most often Japanese and they tend to be young, without memories of the war.

There were others, besides Marines, in the veterans group: Navy men, both the sea-going and SeaBee kind (and both quick to make the distinction); a few Army men, mostly Army Air Forces, including some B-29 crew members who said they owed their lives to the Marines who took Iwo Jima; a Coast Guardsman or so; and at least one former Navy nurse who had flown on evacuation flights from Iwo to Guam.

Perhaps 500 active-duty Marines, in camouflage utilities, were on the island, having come from Okinawa, the largest number being from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. A working party of Marine engineers and such had been on Iwo for a week or more cutting grass, doing

these were for Iwo.

Exact casualty figures are always elusive, but the best count available indicates that of the 71,245 Marines who went ashore at Iwo, 5,931 were killed and 17,272 were wounded, a total of 23,203 Marine casualties. The Navy lost 881 dead and 1,917 wounded. The Army's losses were 9 killed and 28 wounded. This gives a total of 26,038 American casualties.

No one knows the exact number of Japanese killed, but of perhaps 23,000 defenders, only 216 were taken prisoner and most of these were Korean conscript laborers.

WAS IWO JIMA worth its terrible cost? Any B-29 crew member from the Twentieth Air Force will tell you that it was. On 4 March the first of many crippled B-29s made an emergency landing at Iwo. By the end of the war, 2,251 American heavy bombers, with crews totalling 24,761, had found reason to make emergency landings on the island.

Roughly speaking, for the 50th anniver-

U.S. and Japanese national flags fly over their respective monuments—five in all, one for the U.S. Marine Corps—on the crest of Mt. Suribachi. Bottled water against the ledge of a Japanese memorial was left to slake the thirst of the spirits of dead soldiers.

Photo by Cpl Paul S. Royston, USMC





Photo by LCpl Vincent R. Oropesa, USMC

First memorial service of the day—a joint one with Japanese veterans—was held at the 40th anniversary monument above the high-water mark on the invasion beach. Marines presented a wreath for each of the U.S. Armed Services taking part in the battle.

some road scraping, setting up chairs, and in general getting things ready.

IN CONTRAST TO the Marines in utilities, the small Japanese naval garrison of the island was turned out in sparkling white uniforms.

There was no visible friction between the Japanese and American visitors. Nor was there much intermingling. The mood was one of exquisite politeness.

The veterans gathered for a memorial service at 1100 at the monument which was dedicated on the 40th anniversary of the landing. The monument is above the high-water mark on the invasion beach, about on the boundary between the 4th and 5th Divisions. The speaker's podium faced inland. The shallow crescent of chairs set up by the Marine working party

for the visitors faced the sea.

The Japanese visitors were dressed conservatively, the men mostly in dark suits with white shirts and sober ties, the women mostly in dark dresses. Very few of them were actual survivors of the battle. Most appeared to be relatives, widows, or possibly the children of Japanese who had fought and died on Iwo. The older the Japanese, it seemed, the more somber the clothing. There were many fewer Japanese visitors than American, perhaps a hundred in all.

JAPANESE MEN are bigger now than they were in 1945, but so are American Marines. The average Marine who landed at Iwo in February 1945 was probably five feet eight or nine and weighed in at about 140 or 150 pounds. Now he seems to be five

Brothers and both Marine veterans are former SSgt Robert Barnett, left, and former Sgt Douglas Barnett, who served together during the battle for Iwo Jima. The two attended the memorial service on the invasion beach, with Suribachi in the background.

Photo by LCpl Vincent R. Oropesa, USMC



feet ten or so, 170 or 180 pounds, and much more heavily muscled around the shoulders and arms. Today's Marines treated the veteran Marines with great deference, almost awe.

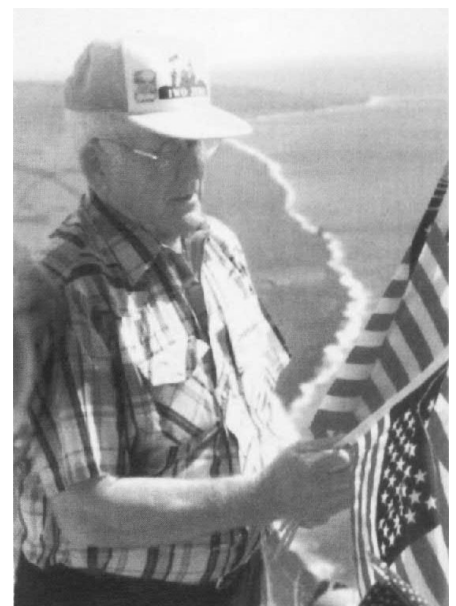
Some tears were shed but not so many as the media would lead one to believe. The American visitors were dressed for the most part in bright-colored sport clothes, as though on their way to the golf course, wearing the ubiquitous white walking shoes of relatively recent invention. As old legs tired, comments were heard of wishing they had their old "boondockers," the famous rough-side-out, high-top Marine shoe of World War II.

The long sequence of speeches, double-lengthened by the necessity of translating English into Japanese and Japanese into English, was largely repetitive. The American speakers, keynoted by Ambassador Mondale, carefully avoided sounding celebratory. Kuribayashi was repeatedly extolled as a brilliant and heroic general. American generals and admirals got only passing mention.

The Japanese speakers' equally carefully avoided any reference to American victory or admission of Japanese war guilt. No Japanese of cabinet rank was present. Messages were read in Japanese by persons of lesser rank and translated into English. The burden of the Japanese messages was that they mourned for both the Japanese and American dead.

Former Marine Cpl Charles Lindberg, last surviving member of the team that raised the first U.S. flag on Mt. Suribachi, holds flags he intends to give his grandchildren.

Photo by LCpl Vincent R. Oropesa, USMC





Landing ship beached at the invasion beach is seen from the vantage exploited by Japanese defenders, atop Suribachi. Contours of the beach are largely unchanged, but today's island is covered with sparse growth, result of American seeding from the air.

THE AMERICAN veterans, trapped in place, listened quietly and respectfully to the orations but gave a subtle but palpable impression that they would rather be out of their chairs and roaming the island. Some, on the fringe of the audience, did break away and head for the beach.

Most poignant of the speakers was the widow of Kuribayashi, in her nineties and bent and feeble. In a keening voice she obviously mourned for the dead, but translated into English her words came out seeming flat and uninspired. The water ceremony—water poured by Kuribayashi's widow at the base of the 40th anniversary monument from a varnished wooden bucket with a wooden dipper—fit somewhat uncertainly into the close of the ceremony.

After the memorial service, sightseeing proceeded. The Japanese visitors traveled the island in well-polished vans brought in, apparently, on a ferry from the home islands. The Americans moved by five-ton trucks that had come in by Navy landing ship, trucks twice the size of the "deuces-and-a-half" the Iwo veterans remembered. The big five-tonners had step ladders for the veterans to climb into the body of the trucks. Climbing up and down into the

trucks and rough walking made for a strenuous day.

Most of the veterans, when asked, said they had three ambitions: to gather some of the black sand; to find the place where they had bivouacked, or where they were wounded, or where a buddy died; and to get to the top of Suribachi. Several said

that their greatest surprise was that the island that they remembered as gray, brown, and black was now sickly green with grass, vines, and stunted underbrush. We Americans, while still in possession of the island, had seeded it from the air, a good intention that had yielded dubious results.

AN AMBULANCE aircraft stood by for the evacuation of any serious illness or accident but none was reported. Charles Lindberg, the last survivor of the raisers of the first flag, had a fall that scraped his elbow but did no further harm.

A hard-surfaced but narrow road, made smooth, it was said, for the Emperor's visit the previous year, goes all the way around the island with a spur that zigzags it way up Suribachi. A one-way clock-wise course was prescribed but not always observed. Ten stopping places were specified.

The weather continued to be good, cool and bright, the temperature staying on one side or the other of 70 degrees Fahrenheit. A brisk breeze came and went, bringing with it the distinctive smell of sulfur.

LUNCH WAS A chancy picnic-style business. Stops that could be made included the hospital cave, cut by Japanese miners into the soft volcanic rock, a depressing place with low-ceiling galleries where mummified remains sometimes are still found. No stop was scheduled for the

Taken from roughly the same position as the photo above, this 1945 shot was produced by a photographer who advanced with a Marine patrol, a flank guard seen at center. Arrayed along the beach are some of the landing craft which brought in resupply.





Navajo Indian veterans unfurl their American Legion banner, that of the Ira H. Hayes Post in Sacaton, Arizona, during the Suribachi ceremonies. Hayes was one of the flagraisers immortalized in the Marine Corps Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Americans at the Peace Pavilion, built for the Emperor's visit, not too far away from the hospital, overlooking the sea, and almost incongruous in its white serenity. Kuribayashi's headquarters cave near Kitano Point also attracted attention.

Other stops were the sculpture of the flag-raising cut into the soft sandstone by a SeaBee in July 1945; the two remaining naval guns near the base of Suribachi; the Tenzan or Heavenly Mountain memorial marking the headquarters of the Japanese Northern Naval Base; Requiem Hill, which is a memorial to both the Japanese and American dead; and the marker located on the site of the temporary 3d and 4th Division cemetery.

But the greatest magnet, of course, was Mount Suribachi. It could be clearly seen from almost any point on the island.

THE CREST OF Suribachi is crowded with five different monuments or markers. The Marine Corps monument, raised late in 1945 by the SeaBees, and its flagstaff mark the place where the famous flag-raising took place. The American flag snaps in the wind. A few yards south of the American monument is a cluster of Japanese monuments, less prominent, and with the Japanese flag (the "red meat ball" to the American veterans) flying from its staff. On the ledge fronting the tablet of the memorial to the Japanese war dead, Japanese visitors had placed a row of soda

cans, not carelessly, or disrespectfully, but so that the thirst of the spirits of the dead Japanese soldiers might be slaked.

The view from Suribachi is all that legend has it. The whole island looks so small and exposed, even today with its covering of anemic green groundcover. The landing beaches, those broad expanses of black sand, stretch from the base of Suribachi some two-and-a-half miles to the Quarry and East Boat Basin. An observer, from the top of Suribachi, can only marvel that any Marine got across the beach and then made it to the north end of the island.

Thin white plumes of vapor, laden with the acrid smell of burning sulfur, still come up through fissures that lead down to the molten volcanic heart of the island.

The schedule called for a half-hour interruption, from 1500 to 1530, of the pilgrimages to the top of Suribachi for a meeting there of active-duty personnel. SecNav, CMC, and CinCPac were to speak.

Unscheduled but colorfully present was a small party of Navajo code-talkers. With them was Kenneth Hayes, a Pima Indian and a brother of Ira Hayes, one of the six raisers of the larger flag. He was elderly, quiet, and frail. The Navajos unfurled their American Legion banner and sang and danced the Marines Hymn to the tap of their Indian drum. The Japanese media present seemed puzzled by the Navajos and zoomed in with video cameras.

SECNAV DALTON spoke feelingly of standing in the shadow of the flag flying over Iwo. He then announced the nomination by President Clinton of LtGen Krulak to be the 31st Commandant, pointing out that Krulak, as Commanding General, Marine Force, Pacific, now held the same command once held by his father, retired LtGen Victor H. Krulak, and that his godfather had been Gen Holland Smith, who had commanded the Marines at Iwo.

The Secretary also announced that the Navy's first MPF(E) (Maritime Preposition Force, Engineer) ship would be named for 1stLt Harry L. Martin, an engineer officer who was killed during the last days of the battle for Iwo Jima. Martin, a platoon leader in the 5th Pioneer Battalion, had his bivouac area penetrated by a last-ditch Japanese attack before dawn on 26 March. For his heroic defense of his position, Martin received a posthumous Medal of Honor. MPF(E) *Harry L. Martin* will be a conversion of a commercial ship and will be the first such ship to join the Maritime Prepositioned Force.

Coincident with the events taking place at the American flagstaff, the Japanese were holding their own ceremonies at the close-by Japanese flagpole. While these two separate ceremonies were taking place, the USS *San Bernardino* (LST 1189) beached on Red Beach, a solitary gray reminder of the landing craft and landing ships whose determined coxswains and quartermasters had driven them on to the shelving beach.

THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES ended with a "Sayonara" buffet in the hangar. Inevitably, souvenir tee-shirts were available for purchase.

There had been choke points and traffic snarls, but most veterans got to most of the sites they wanted to visit. There was, however, an awful moment toward the end of the day when it was learned that not all those who had wanted to had gotten to the top of Suribachi. Gen Mundy ordered the shuttling continued as long as the light permitted.

Possibly the Japanese will permit some small number of Marines from Okinawa to visit Iwo Jima in the future, but it is unlikely that any significant group of American veterans will ever again gather there. The 14th of March 1995 was a day that can never be repeated. □1775□

Gift of McKeever Cartridge Box Helps to Solve Mystery

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas
Curator of Material History

THE MCKEEVER cartridge box was invented by Capt Samuel McKeever, a U.S. Army officer serving in Mobile, Alabama, who was attempting to devise an efficient yet comfortable way for infantrymen to carry the .45-70 cartridges required for M1873 Springfield "trap door" single-shot rifles. It was adopted by the Army's Equipment Board in 1874, but it was not well-liked by troops and was relegated to garrison use for infantry and cavalry when "prairie" ammunition belts became items of universal issue for field service.

The cartridge box slides on the leather waist belt and, when a leather tab is lifted from a brass finial on the top of the box, opens with the front half falling down and forward by means of an ingenious hinge on the bottom of the box. The 20 cartridges are secured in woven cloth loops on a leather or canvas bellows, with the 10 rounds in the front half (carried upside down in the closed position) hanging below the 10 cartridges in the rear section. The bellows arrangement allows both groups of cartridges to lean outward at an angle for easy extraction. Several different internal arrangements evolved over the nearly 40 years that the McKeever box was in service with the Army and state militia to accommodate changes in the ammunition required for the "trapdoor" rifle and the .30-cal Krag-Jorgenson rifle, as well as the obsolete .50-cal rifle carried by some state militias. The boxes were produced at the Watervliet, New York, Arsenal and the Rock Island, Illinois, Arsenal, and by at least two private manufacturers.

THE U.S. MARINE CORPS ordered McKeever boxes as early as 1883, four years after the Corps replaced its .50-cal rifles with more modern .45-cal rifles. According to records uncovered in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) by author and collector William G. Phillips, these boxes were made at the Watervliet Arsenal, and were marked with an embossed "USM" on the front. (Up to this time, the Marine Corps routinely purchased its cartridge boxes and accouterments from civilian military sup-

pliers, and not from government arsenals.) This document, from NARA Record Group 156, effectively disputes the claim of several militaria collectors and at least one recent publication that the "USM" found on some early McKeever boxes stands for "United States Militia" and not "United States Marines." Subsequently, the Marine Corps procured McKeever boxes from the arsenals at both Watervliet and Rock Island which bore both the "USM" and later a "USMC" stamping, embossed in an oval.

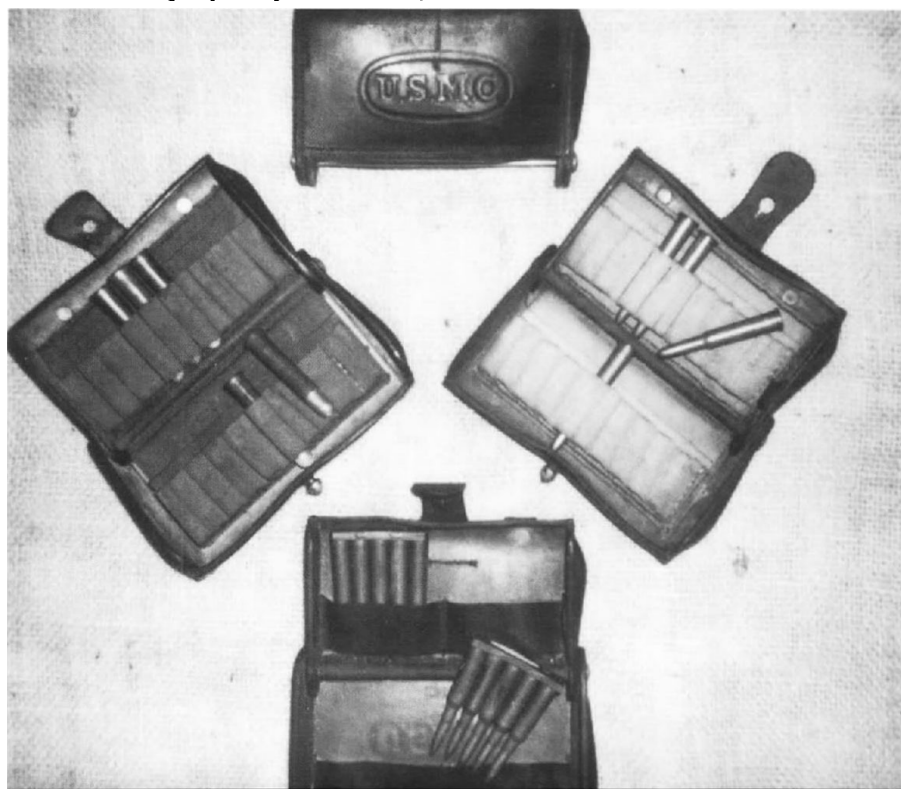
Until a McKeever box was donated to the Marine Corps Museum this past winter by Russell Pritchard, Sr., the staff assumed that it had long ago collected all of the information necessary to date, classify, and catalog the various Marine Corps-marked boxes. The "USM" and "USMC" boxes with varnished cloth cartridge loops were carried with "trapdoor" rifles from 1883 to 1896, when the 6mm Lee Navy rifle replaced the old Springfield. (The Winchester-made Lee rifle is the one represented on the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.) Since this weapon's magazine was charged with five cartridges from a clip, a uniquely Marine Corps-

version of the McKeever box was designed to hold four clips of ammunition. These have four broad leather straps which secure the clipped cartridges. Meanwhile, the Army's McKeever box had been redesigned to hold twenty .30 Army cartridges in woven canvas loops. Unlike the Lee rifle, the unusual side-mounted magazine of the Krag was loaded with individual cartridges, one at a time. The Marine Corps abandoned the Lee rifle in 1900 and adopted the Army's Krag rifle. At this time, the Marine Corps also changed to the Army-style McKeever box. The museum staff assumed that this was the last type of McKeever box used by the Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps Museum has a sizeable collection of a variety of McKeever boxes. However, this new box was marked "Rock Island Arsenal 1904 T.C." and its internal arrangement included the wide leather straps which hold 20 cartridges in four five-round clips.

IMMEDIATELY, questions were raised. Why would the Marine Corps procure a cartridge box which could only accommodate ammunition for a weapon which

Examples of McKeever cartridge boxes, from among the 20 in the Museum collection, are arrayed with appropriate cartridges. Box at top displays "USMC" embossed in an oval, was once specified by Uniform Regulations for wear with white belt in full dress.



had been abandoned three years earlier? This did not make sense. However, a clue was found in the annual reports of the Commandant of the Marine Corps to the Secretary of the Navy, and again in the Secretary of the Navy's annual report to the President. Beginning in 1904, both men had repeatedly requested that the new clip-fed M1903 Springfield rifle be issued to the Marine Corps. These requests were carried on through 1905, 1906, and 1907. Finally, the Marines received the new weapons in 1908, but photographs in the Personal Papers collection show Marines still carrying Krag rifles at the League Island (Philadelphia) Navy Yard as late as 1913. Obviously, the Marine Corps had ordered the new 1904 cartridge boxes to hold the five-round clips of .30-cal ammunition, in anticipation of receiving the new

rifle. In the 1904 *Uniform Regulations*, cartridge boxes are specified to be worn by troops on the white leather belt when in full dress. However, in the 1908 *Uniform Regulations*, all references to cartridge boxes are omitted. Thus, it appears that the "USMC" McKeever cartridge boxes dated 1904 were acquired by the Marine Corps, but most likely not used by Marines.

The donation of the McKeever box by Mr. Pritchard not only sparked new research into this area, but also raised a renewed interest in our collection. Few of our cartridge boxes were in very good condition. A project to restore these artifacts had been attempted in 1984 when Mrs. Helen Aldrich-Lewis, the wife of a Marine officer who has her degree in museum preservation, started to work on them as

a volunteer project after she finished restoring many of our bayonet and sword scabbards. However, when her husband graduated from the Basic School, she moved on after being able to work on only a few boxes. This winter, another volunteer working in our leather artifacts, Mrs. Sarah Paladino, began to pick up where this project had ended, but she, too, had to stop because of work commitments. In the spring, Ian Ferris, a former Marine and an advanced collector of Marine Corps memorabilia in the local area, volunteered to come in for two days and lend a hand at whatever project we had available. As a result of his careful labor, about one-third of the Marine Corps McKeever cartridge boxes in the collection are completed and can now be safely stored or displayed. □1775□

Readers Always Write

Setting the Record Straight on the Ortiz Team's Mission

THE RIGHT GEOGRAPHY

There are a couple of errors in the article "Wartime French Allies Honor Underground Marines" by Benis M. Frank in the Fall 1994 issue of *Fortitudine*. . . . The errors should be corrected in the interest of those people like me who save the magazines and use them as a resource, either for travel to historic sites or for research.

The article mentions Maj Peter J. Ortiz and his men being surrounded by a "large Gestapo party" in eastern France. They were in fact surrounded by troops of the Waffen SS which had no connection to the Nazi police, of which the Gestapo was a part.

The article also says that Ortiz was aware of a Nazi massacre of the citizens of the French town of Oradour-sur-Vayres, and wanted to avoid the same thing happening in Centron. The massacre referred to in the article actually happened in the French town of Oradour-sur-Glane, about 10 miles north of Limoges, and not in Oradour-sur-Vayres.

Fortitudine is a fine magazine and I look forward to reading each issue.

Ray R. Cowdery
Lakeville, Minnesota

[There are several errors in the Fall 1994 article on ceremonies honoring Maj Peter J. Ortiz], however, they are what I consider minor

In the first paragraph, the region of Centron, Albertville, and Montgirod is in Savoie. However, the Haute Savoie border is only 15 km north of Albertville—like North and South Dakota. Also, Union II was headed by Maj Ortiz and not an Army major. Union I was inserted in January 1944, and was headed by a British colonel.

[Commenting on the] second paragraph, we were captured August 16, 1944, by elements of the 157th Alpine Reserve Division (which was identified by the edelweiss, a small, white alpine-flower emblem on cap and shoulder), consisting of at least 10 or 12 heavy trucks with a machine gun ring mounted above the cab, and other vehicles. I would estimate more than several hundred Germans were in this armed convoy headed for the garrison of Bourg-St.-Maurice, 15 km northeast of Centron. We were later turned over to a Maj Kolb, a WWI retreat. The division commander was Gen Karl Pflaum.

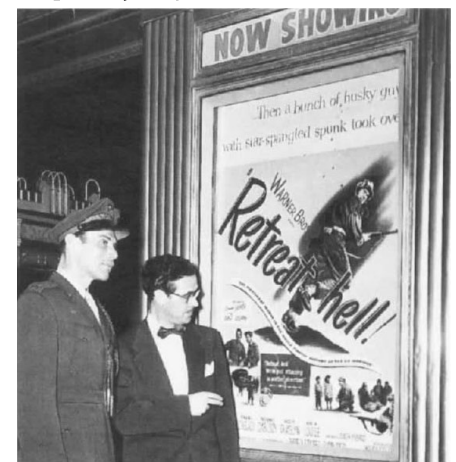
On August 20, the Germans were in confused retreat and headed for the Mount Cenis Pass and nearby Modane railroad tunnel into Italy. The first American jeep entered Albertville on August 22, 1944.

Jack R. Risler
West Allis, Wisconsin

The author responds: According to the citation accompanying the first Navy Cross awarded to Maj Ortiz, ". . . in an effort to spare villagers severe reprisals by the Gestapo, [Maj Ortiz] surrendered to this sadistic Geheim[e] Staats Polizei." According to former Sgt Jack R. Risler, who was one of the Marines with Ortiz [and the writer of the letter above], the troops belonged to the 157th Gebirgis (Mountain) Division, commanded by LtGen Karl Pflaum.

The village destroyed earlier by the Nazis was indeed Oradour-sur-Glane, not Oradour-sur-Vayres.

With Europe behind him in 1952, at a San Diego theater then-LtCol Ortiz is shown the poster for a film in which he took part.



Recruit Training First Goal of San Diego Depot Museum

by Maj Bruce H. Norton, USMC (Ret)
Director, MCRD San Diego Command Museum

THE MARINE CORPS' San Diego Recruit Depot's command museum stands as one of the finest military museums west of the Potomac River. Dedicated to portraying the role of Marines and the Marine Corps in Southern California, the museum plays a large part in the education of every recruit who passes through the depot.

The museum officially opened on 10 November 1987, with credit for the planning going to retired Marines MajGen Marc A. Moore, Col R. D. "Mick" Mickelson, LtCol Robert M. Calland, Maj John A. Buck, and Maj Arthur Weiss. After five years of planning, tangible results were seen when then-Commanding General BGen Frank Breth appointed the museum's first curator.

The museum is located in Building 26, a beautiful, two-story, 50,000-square-foot, Spanish mission-style structure, which had served the depot as a receiving barracks and mess hall, and a command center, since 1939. Renovation to transform the building into the museum cost \$850,000.

THE MUSEUM'S PRIMARY mission is to serve as a training vehicle for more than 22,000 recruits, and for Drill Instructor School and Recruiter School students who pass through the Recruit Depot each year. During each recruit's second week of training, having first received basic instruction in the subjects of Marine Corps history, customs, and courtesies, he is brought to the Command Museum for an historical indoctrination which reinforces the classes he has received and where special emphasis is placed on the "first to fight" tradition.

San Diego Recruit Depot Command Museum is housed in a two-story, 50,000-square-foot, Spanish mission-style structure, erected in 1939. Renovated for museum use at a cost of \$850,000, it serves as a training vehicle for more than 22,000 recruits each year.



The visitors' lounge, largest of three filling the first floor along with a "quarter-deck," comfortably seats 120 people and is used as the starting point for all large visitor groups, including recruits and their families. Four exhibit galleries highlight the second floor.

Drill instructors from the Recruit Training Regiment's Academic Instruction Unit, and docents from the Depot's Historical Society, assist the museum staff in these presentations throughout the museum. Last year, the museum played host to more than 157,000 visitors.

The first floor of the museum consists of three large rooms and a "quarter deck" used to greet the many visitors. The biggest of the three rooms is the visitors' lounge, which comfortably seats 120 people and is used as the starting point for all large visitor groups. The "California Room" is home to 12 original acrylic paintings, and numerous sketches, by the Marine Corps' former artist-in-residence, Col Charles H. Waterhouse. These paintings depict the involvement of Marines in the settlement of Southern California and the Mexican-American War during 1846-1848. The museum's theater is the third largest room on the first floor, seating 50 people and doubling as an additional lecture room. Current films on Marine Corps training, as well as Hollywood's best efforts on Marines in combat are shown daily.

The second floor of the Command Museum contains four main galleries, a weapons display room, archives, several conference rooms, administrative offices, and a gift shop. It is also where the muse-



um's Historical Society administrative offices are located.

THE SOUTHERN GALLERY currently displays a collection of 18 original paintings that reflect Marine Corps involvement in Somalia during Operation Restore Hope. Gallery I presents 10 exhibits which detail the development of the Depot from the time it was the West Coast's new expeditionary force base (1916-18), a Marine barracks (1921-24), a Marine Corps base (1924-47) and a Marine Corps recruit depot.

Gallery 2 contains 10 exhibits which highlight the role of the Marine Corps during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Operation Desert Storm. The "China Room," also located on the second floor, presents a detailed study of Marine Corps participation in the Boxer Rebellion (1900), with a collection of authentic period uniforms, weapons, photographs, and personal letters.

The museum's weapons collection now exceeds 205 pistols, rifles, mortars, machine guns, and crew-served weapons. Current plans call for the construction of a new, larger weapons display room which will enable the museum to accurately show the transition of infantry weapons from flintlock to percussion, and from single-shot to semi-automatic and automatic weapons which have seen Marine service.

During the last seven years, the museum has received a significant number of artifacts, and because space restrictions

The depot's varied activities are reflected in displays such as this of weapons and gear used by its Rifle and Pistol Team.



Relating the long history of the depot requires using all of Gallery I, with 10 separate displays dealing with periods such as 1916-1918, when it was a new expeditionary force base, and 1924-1947 when, as a Marine base, it provided major support for World War II.

limit the number of these artifacts which can be displayed, the museum is able to select from its ever-increasing study collection to enhance its displays.

AS DIRECTOR OF THE Command Museum, I am ably assisted by Curator H. Ed Rogers; GySgt Charles Archeleta, SNCOIC; and Cpl Terry O. Branch, administrative assistant, in conducting the daily business of the museum and in helping to supervise the volunteers who serve in a variety of capacities: conducting tours, cataloging accessions, and greeting our many visitors.

The Command Museum falls under the staff cognizance of the depot's Assistant Chief of Staff G2/3, Col Michael H. Smith, whose section provides policy guidance. The Museum Board of Advisors, representatives from various commands on board the depot, provides recommendations regarding museum planning and operations, via the G2/3, to the Commanding General.

The Historical Society, under the direction of a separate board of directors, supports the museum in a variety of ways, including soliciting donations of artifacts and funds, providing docent and volunteer support, and service as a conduit between its membership and the museum. With a membership exceeding 750, the Historical Society is the single most generous contributor to the success of the Command Museum.

Future plans for the Command Muse-

um include expansion of the weapons display room, the construction of a medals and decorations room, and a permanent exhibit dedicated to the support given to Marines by Navy medicine. The museum has recently acquired two personal libraries, in excess of 30,000 volumes, which will enhance the museum's role as a military research center. Additionally, the museum is actively pursuing an oral history program, video-taping interviews of former Marines.

The MCRD Command Museum is open Tuesday through Thursday from 10 to 4, Fridays from 8 to 4, and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 to 5. □1775□

The newest Marines are hailed in this exhibit of not-so-easy recruit training at the depot. The bucket seems all too familiar.



Historical Center Collects Marine Operational Records

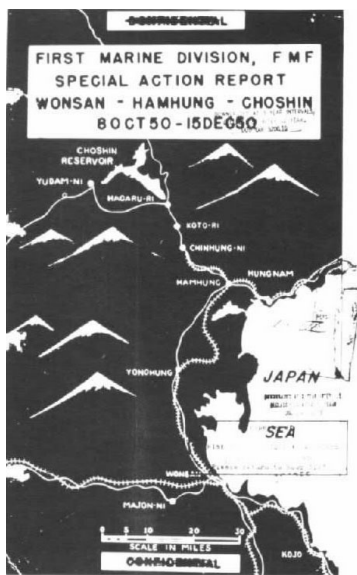
by Frederick J. Graboske
Head, Archives Section

FOR MY PREVIOUS articles on our work I have focused on materials that have newly come into our possession, or on especially interesting ones already here. There is no dearth of such materials to write about, but I thought that I should use this issue's space to explain more fully what we are and what we do.

The Marine Corps Archive is a section of the History and Museums Division of Headquarters, Marine Corps. We are the custodians of the official operational records of the Marine Corps and of materials supplementing those records: memoirs, letters, photos, and maps among them. We control the records from World War II through today. The documents created prior to the institution of the command chronology system in 1965 are stored in a warehouse called the Washington National Records Center, in nearby Suitland, Maryland. Some of our Vietnam War-era records also are stored there. This facility consists of 21 bays, each the size of a football field, with boxes stacked 14 levels high. Only about 5,000 of the 2 million boxes stored there belong to us! Some of our records still are classified, and they are stored in classified bays or in a large vault here in the Historical Center.

It is a great responsibility to be the custodian of the records of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, Khe Sanh, and all the other battles waged so valiantly by Marines. We maintain and make available to researchers these important parts of our nation's history. We arrange the documents in ways such that we, and our colleagues here in the Marine Corps Historical Center, can locate them quickly and easily.

PEOPLE INTERESTED in researching Marine operations during the past 50 years telephone, fax, or visit us for assistance. We recall the older records from storage or hand them Vietnam War or Gulf War command chronologies from off the shelf. So far, it probably sounds rather easy. The trick, however, is in helping the researcher find the required information, not necessarily a specific document. This task requires detailed knowledge of the kinds of information different classes of documents contain. As an example, the



The 1st MarDiv's SAR is a compendium.

1st Marine Division during the Korean War did a Special Action Report on the Chosin Reservoir fighting. The records of the division's subordinate units are appendices to that SAR, not separate documents. To find information about the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, at Chosin Reservoir, one must look in the 1st Division SAR.

We devote a considerable effort assisting former Marines and members of the public to find the right records for their purposes. We also copy documents, for a small fee which is deposited in the U.S. Treasury.

So far, aside from photocopying, what I have described is how archives have operated for centuries. But the age of computers is upon us, and the archival world is changing. Part of my job is to plan for the archive of the future and to manage the necessary changes.

One of our projects involves the possibility of digitizing our existing paper records. The World War II and Korean War records are extremely brittle, because of the poor quality of paper used. They will not survive another 50 years without significant loss of information resulting from the disintegration of the paper. We are exploring ways of scanning these documents into electronic memory storage prior to turning them over to the National Archives. That agency lacks the financial resources to conserve all of its paper in perpetuity. We believe that digitization not

only accomplishes the goal of preserving the records, but also would allow us to make the records available electronically to a far larger audience than could ever use the paper on-site at the Center.

STUDENTS AT Marine Corps schools, the service academies, and other military schools could have computer access to the records and could conduct key word searches. Planners of contingency operations could have immediate access to records of similar contingencies. If the other military services create similar, interoperable databases, the work of planners, historians, and veterans making claims would be vastly simplified.

But there is no point to digitizing paper records if we continue to receive the same stream of paper that we have in the past. So, we are exploring ways by which operational records that are created electronically can be transmitted to us electronically and stored electronically. As with the digitized records, these records would be available more readily to a much wider range of users, both within the military services and within the civilian researcher community. As an added benefit, with the removal of the physical constraints on the storage of paper, much more information could be saved.

NONE OF THIS will happen overnight. Money is the major constraint in the possible adoption and implementation of this vision. We are confident it will happen someday; the question is when?

There is one other major activity in which we are engaged, and that is declassification. Traditionally the Marine Corps has been quick to declassify its operational records. The Vietnam War records largely were done by 1977. For more than a year we have been seeing drafts of a new Executive Order on declassification that would require review of all documents more than 20 years old. In anticipation of that order we have reviewed in excess of 1,000 cubic feet of paper during the past year, and 99 percent of it has been declassified. We will be increasing the pace of our work with the Gulf War records, to accommodate increased demand for these documents from historians and veterans of that conflict. □1775□

Personal Papers Unit Range Broadened by Volunteers

by Amy J. Cantin
Archivist

THE SOUL OF THE Personal Papers Collection is our volunteers. With their assistance, we have been able to accomplish numerous projects and goals. Our volunteers not only lend a helping hand, they also provide a vital source of expertise on Marine Corps subject matter and an institutional memory.

As a result of our volunteers' assistance, we have been able to: update and enter new collections into our cross-referenced databased system; have all cartographic requests handled by a professional geographer/cartographer; create a finding aid for photographs; start an inventory of the map collection; begin conversion of oversized collections into new flat-file cabinets; and begin processing additional new collections.

In order of their starting date, our volunteers include these individuals:

- Laura J. Dennis served in the Marine Corps Reserve from 1953 to 1978, retiring as a master sergeant. A few months after retirement in 1978, Mrs. Dennis became a volunteer at the Historical Center. Her first assignment was assisting in the research of Col Mary V. Stremow's *A History of the Women Marines, 1946-1977*. Mrs. Dennis now volunteers in the Personal Papers Collection, where she inventories and describes new collections.

- George C. MacGillivray is a World War II Marine veteran. He holds degrees in cartography/geography from Dartmouth College and Clark University. After 32 years of service with the Central Intelligence Agency, he became a volunteer at the Historical Center in 1982. His expertise is applied to the numerous map requests we receive from researchers. Mr. MacGillivray has assisted in numerous projects, including the development of a World War II commemoration map of the Pacific area for the National Geographic Society.

- Col James Leon, USMC (Ret), has been a volunteer at the Historical Center since 1985. He served as a Marine officer in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. When Col Leon came on board, the collection was organized with index cards and printed finding aides arranged in alphabetical order. The archive did not have an electronic catalog or a

Center Receives Walt Memorabilia

by Dr. Jack Shulimson
Senior Vietnam Historian

Memorabilia of legendary Marine Gen Lewis W. Walt, a donation of the Walt family, were presented to the Marine Corps Historical Center on 26 May, by Mr. and Mrs. Al Hemingway. A writer, Mr. Hemingway is working on a biography of Walt, a hero of three wars and former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Gen Walt's son, LtCol Lawrence C. Walt, USMC (Ret), asked the Hemingways to make the presentation on behalf of the family. The items consist of a captured Viet Cong unit flag and a hollowed-out Bible that were given to Gen Walt during his tour as Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force (MAF), from 1965 to 1967. Viet Cong terrorists had planted explosives in the Bible that Gen Walt was to use during chapel services at III MAF headquarters. Fortunately, Marine security personnel discovered the explosive device and disarmed it before the general arrived. The III MAF chaplain gave the Bible to the general as a keepsake. The markings of the Viet Cong flag indicate the various engagements of the unit and its numerous "victories." Dr. Jack Shulimson, head of the History Writing Unit and senior Vietnam historian at the Center accepted the gifts on its behalf.



Mr. Hemingway, left above, presents Gen Walt's boobytrapped Bible to Dr. Shulimson, and, below, the two unfurl the heavily inscribed Viet Cong flag.



cross-referenced index. Basically, a researcher had to have some background knowledge of the subject or know specific collections to request, or the archival staff had to remember the items in the various collections. In late 1986, Col Leon realized that the collections needed to be catalogued into a modern electronic format. He solicited the assistance of his son, Maj John C. Leon, USAF, to write a databased program for the archive. Although Maj Leon named the program the "Personal Papers Tracking System," it is more often referred to as "The Leon System." Today, the Leon System has more than 2,500 collections indexed, almost 8,000 cross-referenced terms, and close to 30,000 indexed items. Col Leon is personally responsible for almost every entry and update made on the system.

•Philip J. Granum retired from the Naval Sea Systems Command after 40 years of combined military and civilian service as a mechanical engineer. He continues to work in the private sector and has been a volunteer at the Historical Center since 1993. His primary project is the creation of an electronic inventory of the main photo collection. This assembly consists of several loose official photo collections arranged by battle and topic. Mr. Granum has also created an electronic finding aid for our premier maps of war zones, occupied territories, and operations, starting with World War I.

•James "Horse" Smith was assigned to the 1st Marine Raider Battalion during World War II. While on Guadalcanal, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal for actions during the assault of Tulagi. He participated in the raid on Tasimboko and the Battle of the Ridge, from where he was awarded a Purple Heart Medal and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Silver Star Medal. In 1979, Mr. Smith retired after 40 years of government service and in the fall of 1994 became a volunteer at the Historical Center. Here, his attention has been focused on individual photograph collections. Thus far, he has processed two early aviation photograph collections, the Bernard L. Smith and the Earl F. Ward Collections. Mr. Smith is currently arranging and describing the 1st Marine Raider Battalion Collection.

•Col John C. Erskine was a World War II Japanese language officer assigned to the 1st Raider Battalion on Guadalcanal and the 5th Marine Division on Iwo Jima. Col Erskine was awarded a Bronze Star Medal and a Gold Star in lieu of a second Bronze Star Medal, for his services in the Pacific. His parents were Protestant missionaries and he learned to speak Japanese while they were posted in Japan. In 1973, Col Erskine retired from 32 years of government service and began 21 years of work with the Montgomery County, Maryland, Public School System. In the winter of 1994, Col Erskine became a

volunteer at the Historical Center, where his time is dedicated to processing collections. Col Erskine is currently arranging and describing the Gen Vernon E. Megee Collection.

•Mary Kouvelis' father served with the 3d Armored Amphibian Battalion during World War II and her brother is currently a first lieutenant stationed at Twentynine Palms, California, with the 3d Armored Amphibian Battalion. Ms. Kouvelis is the executive assistant to a California congressman. While volunteering for the Historical Center, she assists in converting oversized collections into new flat-file cabinets. This includes updating catalog sheets, checking cross references, and creating finding aids for the collections.

•Herbert Moore, Jr., served in the Marine Corps from 1971 to 1974. While a Marine, he participated in combat operations in Danang, Vietnam, and was a requisition expeditor for Marine aviation. Currently, Mr. Moore works as a private investigator and has been a volunteer at the Historical Center since February 1995. Mr. Moore has applied his computer skills to inventorying the map collection and creating an electronic finding aid.

The Historical Center has many more projects that need to be worked on. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can obtain further information from the author at (202) 433-3396. □1775□

Historical Quiz

Marines in Korea

*by Sarah B. Robbins
Mary Washington College
Reference Section Summer Intern*

1. Four Marine Corps regiments fought in the Korean War. Which are they?
2. What Marine pilot, during the Korean War, flew the first jet mission against an enemy?
3. During the Korean War, some Marines used a horse to transport artillery shells. Have you heard this story? What was the horse's name?
4. Who was the first Marine to receive the

Medal of Honor for actions during the Korean War?

5. Who said, "Retreat, hell! We're just attacking in another direction."?
6. Who were the two Commandants of the Marine Corps who were in office during the Korean War?
7. How many Marines were awarded Medals of Honor for heroism during the Chosin Reservoir campaign?

8. Which Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division in the Korean War went on to become Commandant of the Marine Corps?

9. Who said, "The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, they could fight."?

10. When were the Marines first in Korea (prior to 1950)?

(Answers on page 18)

Volunteers Restore Korean War-Era Amphibious Vehicle

by Maj James R. Davis
Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch, Camp Pendleton, California

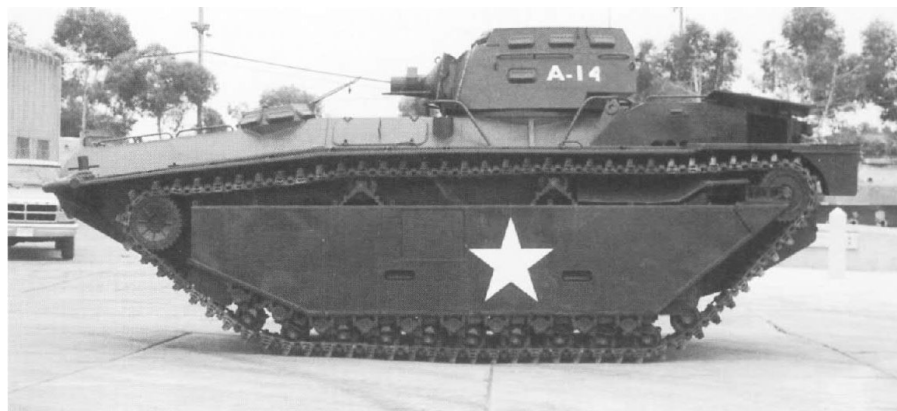
THE SPECIAL relationship between Marines and amphibious tractors goes back to Guadalcanal in August 1942, where this new vehicle first earned its place in Marine Corps history. For nearly a year, visitors to the Amphibious Vehicle Museum at Camp Del Mar have been able to see up close a restored Korean War-era Landing Vehicle, Tracked (Armored) thanks to the efforts of Marines and civilians from the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch at Camp Pendleton.

The restoration of the LVT(A)(5) began on 16 June 1993. Members of the branch volunteered to work on the old vehicle, which was badly in need of repair. The first task was to obtain a complete set of technical manuals that would aid the restoration effort. Assisted by numerous Korean War-era veterans, manuals were located and a restoration plan was developed.

In July 1993, the volunteers moved the LVT(A)(5) into the branch's maintenance bay, and began to take apart the vehicle. As the vehicle was disassembled, every part was photographed for record purposes. These photographs and videos became invaluable aids during the reassembly.

RESTORATION EFFORTS continued through the winter of 1993 and early spring of 1994. Rusted-out holes in the

The paint and bolt-on armor hid the enemy of the LVT(A)(5) — rust. Rusted-out holes in the hull and pontoons were repaired or replaced, and SSgt Charles E. Hughes rebuilt numerous parts. Branch Marines stripped 40 years of paint from the hull's interior.



Restored Korean War-era LVT(A)(5) can be seen at the Amphibious Vehicle Museum, thanks to work carried out at the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch. Twenty-four Marines, former Marines, and civilians volunteered 1,260 man-hours for the restoration.

hull and pontoons were repaired or replaced, and SSgt Charles E. Hughes, the assistant maintenance chief, rebuilt numerous parts. Other Marines, meanwhile, cleaned the interiors of both the engine and fighting compartments. Carefully stripping 40 years of paint from the hull's interior, they still could not find the clue that would reveal the vehicle's full service history. In March 1994, loyal Marine "ex-amtrackers" aided the branch personnel as the vehicle with all of its parts was carefully put back together.

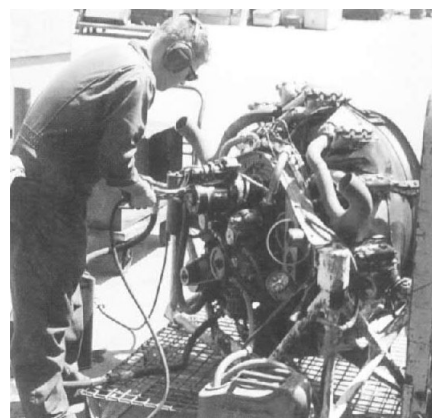
Vehicle track and suspension parts were exercised and lubricated. The turret was reassembled and painted and it, along with the engine, was reinstalled in the ve-

hicle. After all collateral equipment, covers, grills, and shrouds were reinstalled, the exterior hull was painted. With the reconstructed vehicle primed, checked, and double-checked, GySgt James D. Klar and Sgt George W. Phillips started the engine and the LVT(A)(5) roared back to life with a puff of smoke and a low rumble for the first time in 40 years.

The final task in restoring the LVT(A)(5) was the painting of tactical markings. The markings chosen were those of the 1st Armored Amphibian Battalion. This battalion operated similar LVTs during the Korean War.

During this project 24 Marines, former Marines, and civilian workers volunteered more than 1,260 man-hours to the restoration of this important piece of Marine Corps history. □1775□

Sgt George W. Phillips connects battery power to the LVT's sparkling-clean, overhauled engine, prior to starting it up.



A Bonanza of Summer Reading for Military Professionals

by Nancy A. Frischmann
College of Wooster
Historical Center Library Intern

THE LIBRARY of the Marine Corps Historical Center receives many recently published books of professional interest to Marines. Most of them are available from local bookstores or libraries.

This Kind of War: The Classic Korean War History. T. R. Fehrenbach. Washington: Brassey's, 1994. 483 pp. T. R. Fehrenbach's book *This Kind of War* provides an in-depth look at the Korean War. It is a reprint of the original 1964 edition. \$28.00

Typewriter Battalion: Dramatic Frontline Dispatches from World War II. Jack Stenbuck, editor. New York: William Morrow and Company Inc., 1995. 397 pp. *Typewriter Battalion* is a compilation from various correspondents who reported events from the frontline. Included is Walter Cronkite's vivid account of flying with the U.S. Air Force over Europe. \$23.00

Prodigal Soldiers: How the Generation of Officers Born of Vietnam Revolutionized the American Style of War. James Kitfield. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1995. 452 pp. It is evident through Kitfield's narrative that the experiences men faced in Vietnam altered their ideas of "how war should be fought as well as what is worth dying for." Kitfield shares his view of what the military has become since the Vietnam War. \$25.00

Desert Warrior: A Personal View of the Gulf War by the Joint Forces Commander. Gen Khaled bin Sultan, with Patrick Seale. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1995. 492 pp. The commander of Joint Forces and Theater of Operations in the Gulf War against Iraq has recorded his experiences in the war. He also provides the reader with an inside look at the royal family of Saudi Arabia, of which he is a member; the politics of the Middle East and the association between Saudi Arabia and the United States. \$35.00

The Generals' War: The Inside Story of the Conflict in the Gulf. Michael R. Gordon and LtGen Bernard E. Trainor, USMC (Ret). Boston: Little Brown Co., 1995. 551 pp. Michael R. Gordon, chief defense cor-

Greene Awards

The 1994 Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Book Award of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation for outstanding writing in Marine Corps history was a joint award going to Dr. Jack Shulimson of the Center's staff for his book *The Marine Corps' Search for a Mission, 1880-1898*, and to Maj Jon Hoffman, USMCR, for his book *Once a Legend: "Red Mike" Edson of the Marine Raiders*.

Once a Legend. Jon T. Hoffman. Novato, California: Presidio Press, 1994. 434 pp. A biography of Medal of Honor winner MajGen Merrit "Red Mike" Edson, who first gained renown in Central America in the 1920s. Becoming an authority on guerilla warfare, he went on to create and command the 1st Marine Raider Battalion. He earned his Medal of Honor for his part in the desperate two-day defense of the airfield on Guadalcanal. After World War II, he fought to preserve the Corps during the service unification debates. \$24.95 (Maj Hoffman is currently on active duty with the Marine Corps, assigned to the Roles and Missions office of Headquarters Marine Corps.)

The Marine Corps' Search for a Mission, 1880-1898. Jack Shulimson. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas. 1993. 274 pp. In his book, Dr. Shulimson explains that the mission and identity of the Corps remained unclear through much of the 19th century. He tells that the Corps' ties to the Navy both harmed and aided its search for purpose and uniqueness. He concludes by explaining how times and world events (the Spanish-American War) and personalities all converged to help the Corps to find its special role and place within the U.S. military.

respondent for the *New York Times*, and Gen Trainor have compiled a book that examines the internal problems of the U.S. high command during the Gulf War. The authors analyzed each major commander's contributions to the war plans and concluded that they "never fully harmonized." The authors have provided an explanation for differences by outlining the commanders' conflicting perspectives on contemporary warfare. \$27.95

Women Marines in the Korean War Era. Peter A. Soderbergh. Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 1994. 163 pp. By the author of *Women Marines: The World War II Era*, he continues the story of women in the Marine Corps during the Korean War, the "forgotten war." Professor Soderbergh served as a platoon commander in Korea. \$45.00 □1775□

Answers to the Historical Quiz

Marines in Korea

(Questions on page 16)

1. 1st, 5th, 7th, and 11th Marines.
2. On 9 September 1950, then-Capt Leslie E. Brown piloted an F-80 while attached to an Air Force fighter-bomber squadron.
3. Sergeant Reckless.
4. First Lieutenant Henry A. Commiskey, Jr., received his Medal of Honor from President Truman on 1 August 1951 for leading a charge on 20 September 1950 that resulted in seven enemy dead in hand-to-hand combat.
5. Attributed to MajGen Oliver P. Smith, commanding general of the 1st Marine Division in Korea (1950), regarding his order for the Marines to move southeast to the Hamhung area from the Hagaru-ri perimeter at the Chosin Reservoir.
6. Gen Clifton B. Cates, 1 January 1948—31 December 1951 and Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., 1 January 1952—31 December 1955.
7. During November and December 1950, 14 Marines were presented Medals of Honor for heroism at the Chosin Reservoir: nine with the 7th Marines, three with the 1st Marines, and one each with the 5th and 11th Marines.
8. MajGen Randolph McC. Pate.
9. MajGen Frank E. Lowe, USA, Presidential observer of Korean War, in the *Washington Daily News*, 26 January 1952.
10. A landing force of Marines was put ashore on Korean soil on 10 June 1871, after ships of the American Asiatic Squadron had been fired upon from several Korean forts.

Pioneer Aviator, Assistant Commandant Charles Hayes

by Col Charles J. Quilter II, USMCR (Ret)

CHARLES HAROLD HAYES, the oldest of four children, was born in an adobe house on the banks of the Rio Grande at San Marcial in the Territory of New Mexico on 18 September 1906. His father, James B. Hayes, was a superintendent of bridges for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. Following graduation from high school in Albuquerque in 1924, Charles worked a year for the railroad. This was followed by a year at Colorado A & M College, where he won an appointment to the Naval Academy in 1926.

At Annapolis he gained the nickname "Fog," which he would carry forevermore. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps on 5 June 1930, just as the first effects of the Great Depression were being felt in the nation.

His first assignment was the Basic School at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, which he attended with about 50 other new lieutenants. There he also began the daunting task of paying off a thousand dollars' worth of uniforms on a monthly pay of only \$125. In July 1931 he began a three-year tour at Quantico with the 1st, and later, the 10th Marines. This included service with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, embarked in the battleships *Wyoming* (BB 32) and *Arkansas* (BB 33) as a "floating battalion."

FROM JUNE TO THE end of 1932 he served with the U.S. Electoral Mission in Nicaragua, as the United States attempted to extricate itself from two de-

This appreciation was condensed from a longer commemoration published privately by Gen Hayes' family and friends. In writing the commemoration, Col Quilter used biographical and reference materials from the Marine Corps Historical Center, as well as information from his nephew, Judge Robert Hayes Scott, and numerous friends. All photos were provided by Judge Scott from family collections.



Capt Charles H. "Fog" Hayes, then serving with VMJ-2 at San Diego, had a long, successful Marine Corps career ahead.

acades of exasperating peacekeeping and nation-building duty.

Back at Quantico he completed Battalion Officers' Artillery School, and then in June of 1934, joined the Marine Detachment on board *Lexington* (CV 2), the Navy's second aircraft carrier. Attached to *Lexington's* air group was Marine Scouting Squadron 15 (VS-15M) with Vought SU-2 biplanes. Serving with these pioneer

Marine carrier pilots whetted Fog Hayes' long-standing desire to become an aviator, a wish he finally realized as a first lieutenant in April 1936.

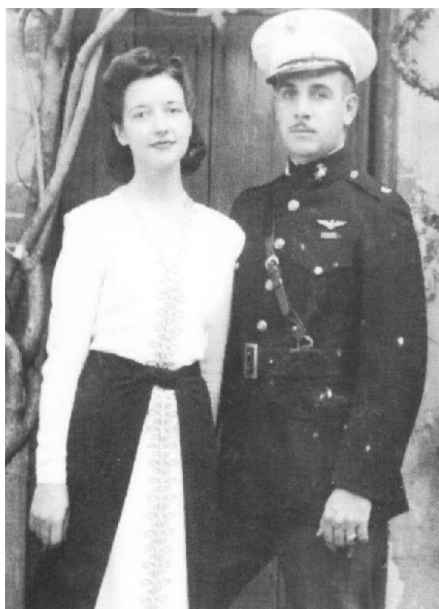
He returned to Quantico to join the legendary Marine Observation Squadron 7 (VO-7M, later VMS-1), one of the Corps' nine operational squadrons. About this time he grew the jaunty mustache he would wear the rest of his life. He remained with squadrons over the next six years, rotating through Marine Bombing 1, Marine Utility 1, and finally VO-7M, which flew not only scouting-reconnaissance missions in its two-seater Vought O3U-6 Corsairs, but also did fighting and light attack as well in its new Grumman F4F Wildcats.

The squadron was small and tightknit; Hayes was particularly close to his Academy classmates, Henry T. Elrod and Harold W. "Joe" Bauer, plus a young corporal pilot named Kenneth A. Walsh. All three were destined to receive Medals of Honor in World War II.

HAYES, NOW A captain, joined Marine Utility 2 (VMJ-2) at North Island near San Diego in June 1940. While there he lost his "dear young wife," Betty, whom

With a Vought O3U-6 Corsair as a backdrop, in 1937 at Quantico, pilots of Marine Scouting 1 (VMS-1) included Capt Hayes, seated third from left, Capt Bauer, seated third from right, Capt Elrod, seated far right, and Sgt Walsh, standing third from left.





Maj and Mrs. Hayes were photographed at about the time of their marriage on 23 January 1942. He wears a prewar Sam Browne belt over his "Undress Blues."

he had married in the mid 1930s, to complications of diabetes.

In January 1941 he was ordered to Hawaii to help build Marine Corps Air Station Ewa in former sisal and cane fields near Barber's Point, Oahu. Ordered back to North Island a few days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Maj Hayes became executive officer of a hybrid fighter squadron, VMO-251. During his year in Hawaii he had met Olive deSpain, a Denverite who was then working for the *Los Angeles Times*. Olive was unable to get passage to follow her Marine back to the West Coast until late January 1942. The couple married in a simple wartime ceremony on the 23d.

VMO-251, originally intended to be a photo-reconnaissance unit equipped with F4F-3P Wildcats and amphibian PBV-5A Catalinas, wound up hurriedly deploying in May 1942 to the South Pacific with only a dozen Wildcats and five utility planes. Hayes was sent forward to construct a fighter airfield at Turtle Bay on Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides.

ABOUT THE TIME of the Marine landing, 7 August, on Guadalcanal, VAdm John S. McCain, Commander, Aircraft, South Pacific, personally ordered Hayes to take command of a SeaBee unit, Cub 1, move it to the island, expedite getting the airfield ready, and then operate it. They landed on 15 August and set to work. Using captured Japanese construc-

tion equipment and supplies while undergoing daily air attacks—and all too soon, ground and artillery attacks as well—Marine engineers and the SeaBees had the airfield in good-enough shape for the first squadrons to land on the 20th.

Meeting with an old friend, Maj Kenneth H. Weir, the 1st Marine Division's air officer, Hayes ruefully observed, "Unless we hang a name on this field, the Navy is going to name it after some dead admiral." The pair duly conspired to name it for their mutual friend, Maj Lofton R. "Joe" Henderson, who had been killed during the Battle of Midway. Henderson Field operates to this day under that name in the Republic of the Solomon Islands.

Hayes returned briefly to Espiritu to take command of MO-251, his only wartime squadron command. Blessed with intelligence, a great reservoir of practical and military experience, common sense, wit, as well as an approachable personality, he was fated to become a planning and operations officer on a succession of staffs in the Pacific. He was also a lucid and graceful writer whose unique style of zigzag handwriting would always be a challenge for subordinates to decipher. After returning to Guadalcanal to serve as assistant operations officer of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, he, as many other Marines, contracted malaria. He was evacuated to the U.S. in March 1943 where he learned from his very proud father that he had been awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

HE RECOVERED his health during a stint as executive officer of Air Operational Training Squadron 8 flying the twin-engine PBJ bomber—the Marine version of the Mitchell B-25—at the new air station at Cherry Point, North Carolina. He returned to the Pacific in December 1943 and was promoted to colonel the next month.

He served as air officer of III Amphibious Corps, taking part in the planning and execution of the landings at Green Island, Emirau, Leyte, and Luzon, for which he was awarded the Legion of Merit. It was in the Philippines that Marine flyers perfected procedures for their hallmark tactic known as "close air support."

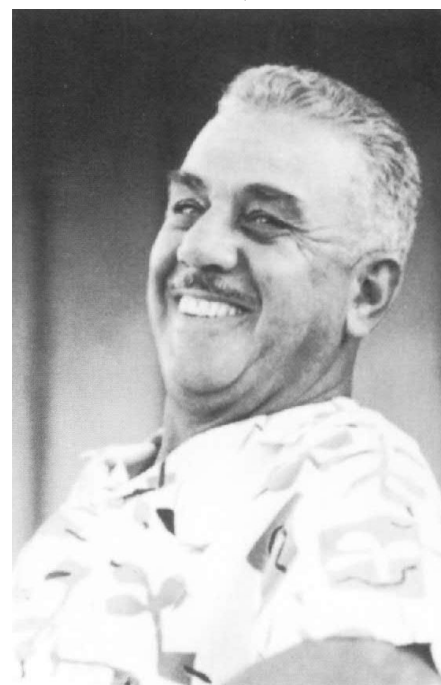
Col Hayes arrived in Tokyo Bay with the initial occupation forces on 2 September 1945. Returning home that October he served an extended tour at Cherry Point,

during which time Marine aviation was cut from 129 squadrons to only a dozen active-duty ones in the postwar reorganization. He was first chief of staff of the air station, and then commanding officer of the Corps' "Oldest and Finest" aircraft group, MAG-11.

In June 1948, he began the one-year Senior Course of the Naval War College at Newport in Rhode Island. Following this, there was a three-year tour in the Strategic Plans Division of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington. He was next ordered in September 1952 to serve as chief of staff of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Korea. This was the final year of fighting, marked by a delicate and sensitive relationship with the U.S. Air Force concerning control of Marine aircraft. The Marines were effectively able to recover planning and control of most of their aviation assets, which allowed much more responsive air support to the 1st Marine Division in western Korea. This earned him recognition with a second Legion of Merit with Combat "V."

JUST BEFORE THE Korean Armistice was signed in July 1953, Col Hayes was transferred to the headquarters of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, as deputy chief of staff. There he took part in the post-Korea realignment of Marine forces throughout

Then-BGen Hayes, Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, here relaxing during a visit to Okinawa, had a reputation as a great teller of stories and jokes.



the Pacific into the order of battle that remains to this day. In August 1954 he assumed command of Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe, on the northeast shore of Oahu, considered the most idyllic site of any Marine post. While there he was selected for flag rank and in October 1955 he put on the star of a brigadier general.

A transfer back to Washington took him to a year's tour as liaison officer to the Office of the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, followed by service on the Cordiner Advisory Committee on Professional and Technical Compensation in the Armed Forces.

BGen Hayes was undoubtedly pleased with his next assignment. In December 1957 he was given command of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, headquartered at Iwakuni in Japan and the most forward deployed of the Corps' three wings. This was a time of testing the concept of "vertical envelopment," wherein a battalion landing team was brought ashore from a small converted aircraft carrier by helicopters. Also during his tour Marine jets began to be equipped with missiles and nuclear weapons.

AFTER AN unaccompanied tour of 18 months in Japan, he returned to the States. Selected for major general, he was given command of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing at El Toro in May of 1959. During this time the wing was converting to supersonic, all-weather F4D Skyray and F8U Crusader fighters while developing a nuclear and conventional attack capability—especially in close air support—with its A4D Skyhawk jets. There was also a significant upgrading of rotary wing squadrons with HUS (H-34) assault and HR-2S (H-37) transport helicopters.

After only half a year, he was transferred to Camp H. M. Smith on Oahu to become the deputy commander, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, against a background of heavy cutbacks of conventional forces in favor of strategic nuclear forces. In October 1961 he reported to Headquarters Marine Corps to become Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans), a post soon expanded to "Plans and Programs" under a blunt and farsighted commandant, Gen David M. Shoup.

This was during the administration of President John F. Kennedy, and his Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara.

Shoup and Hayes argued effectively to increase the strength of the Corps from 175,000 to 190,000 Marines. Of even greater importance for the future of the Corps was Gen Hayes' role in developing the concept of today's Marine Air Ground Task Force—the MAGTF—with its rapidly deployable expeditionary units, brigades, and forces: the MEU, the MEB, and the MEF. Large amounts of aviation assets were effectively integrated into a team with ground combat forces. On 9 April 1963, he was promoted to lieutenant general and given the highest office then attainable by a Marine aviator: Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. As the Corps' most senior aviator, LtGen Hayes significantly affected the future of Marine aviation. He persuaded Gen Shoup to raise the office of Division of Aviation to three star-status to be known as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation. He also convinced Shoup to place the new Hawk antiaircraft missile under the command and control of the wing commander to give Marines a truly integrated air defense system. Finally, he got the Corps' newest all-weather fighter, the F4B Phantom II, redesignated for both fighter and attack missions. This multi-role workhorse aircraft would remain in Marine service for nearly 30 years.

FOR THE LATTER part of his last tour, Gen Hayes served under his Academy classmate, Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr. Both were experienced in getting things done in Washington. A stronger Corps

emerged as a result, as seen by the rapid deployment of 39,000 Marines of III Marine Amphibious Force to Vietnam in 1965, the year of his retirement.

Fog and Olive Hayes put on numerous official social functions, most of them formal and all of them elegant, at their quarters at the venerable Marine Barracks at "Eighth and Eye" in Washington. After retirement, they returned to California and bought the only permanent home they would ever have, conveniently near a golf course in Rancho Bernardo in northern San Diego County. Accompanied by assorted pet dogs, they unpacked the furniture and boxes accumulated in a lifetime of peregrinations. Olive passed away unexpectedly in April 1989 to his great distress. He personally buried her ashes at sea from the deck of a century-old yacht. Various ills kept him from golf much after 80. Perhaps more frustrating to a lifelong reader and writer was the onset of near blindness. With typical ingenuity, he acquired what he called his "reading machine," a video camera that magnified images and displayed them on a television screen.

He kept his engaging sense of humor intact to the end of his life and maintained a frank and witty correspondence with special friends in his left-handed handwriting, which had gotten even more zig-zag over the years. He died peacefully on 3 April 1995 in Rancho Bernardo. A memorial service and interment of his ashes was held at Arlington Cemetery on 31 May. □1775□

LtGen Hayes, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, troops a line of Marines during his retirement ceremonies in 1965 at Marine Barracks, Eighth and I, Washington, D.C. Gen and Mrs. Hayes retired to California, to a house near a golf course.



Field History Conference Maps Joint Operations SOP

by Col Dennis P. Mrockowski, USMCR
Commanding Officer, MTU (Hist) DC-7

NEARLY 60 HISTORIANS from all branches of the Armed Services attended the Field History Conference co-sponsored on 22 and 23 April by the Navy and Marine Corps Historical Centers. The conference, held at the Marine Corps Historical Center, also drew attendance from among combat artists, combat cameramen, and administrative officers.

Discussions at a similar gathering last year resulted in the creation of a standing operating procedure (SOP) for Marine Corps historians and artists in the field. That SOP was to be presented at this year's conference as the basis for further discussion. There have been at least four instances in the past two years in which the Defense Department-level Joint History Office has formed joint history teams to ensure the proper documentation of joint operations—in Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Haiti. The 1995 conference aimed at recommending a SOP which can guide the work of all service historians, no matter from which service, when assigned as members or leaders of joint history teams.

The conference was divided into three subject working groups: field history, combat art, and, since most field historians are Reservists, mobilization. These groups worked with the Marine Corps SOP as a starting point, along with the draft of a joint SOP by LtCol Charles H. Cureton, USMCR. After discussing agenda items and relevant issues among themselves, the groups assembled to report on their findings and make recommendations for changing or adding to the draft SOP.

The field historians had the largest number of recommen-

dations to make. Generally, these had to do with the structure of joint history teams, their command and control, and their relationship to historians sent directly by service components. It was agreed that the leader of a joint history team has no command or operational control of service historians, but because of the central position of the joint historian, he should be a "clearinghouse" for information and coordinate the collecting activities of all teams in the area to eliminate duplication of efforts.

THE COMBAT ARTISTS discussed their placement within the teams. Their great concern was that artistic freedom of expression is maintained as they produce an important part of the visual record. It was agreed that the leader of the team should provide guidance over the important aspects of an operation, and should assist with administrative concerns. However, the artist should be free to choose subject matter, medium, and artistic style. It also was recognized that artists may need extended periods of active duty to complete their artwork after the completion of a field assignment.

Mobilization poses complex problems. The current ability to bring historians and artists on active duty in a timely manner to support operations unfortunately is limited by service regulations and federal law. There are ways in which individual Reservists can hold themselves in higher states of readiness and increase their responsiveness, as an example, by keeping all administrative details (physical, HIV screens, records, legal documents, etc.) up to date.

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January-April 1946

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

Fortitudine's chronology feature continues with entries from January-April 1946, pertaining to the post-World War II relocation and deactivation of Marine units, along with developments in the occupations of China and Japan.

1 Jan—In Yokosuka, Japan, the token regimental headquarters detachment of the 4th Marines departed to join the 6th Marine Division in Tsingtao, North China.

8 Jan—In Sasebo, Japan, the last elements of the V Amphibious Corps, including the headquarters of MajGen Harry Schmidt, USMC, departed for San Diego.

11 Jan—In Washington, D.C., a detachment of Marines from Marine Barracks, 8th and I, was the honor guard at the Library of Congress when the Magna Carta was taken from its wartime depository and presented to the British Ambassador for return to England.

14 Jan—A Marine Detachment was activated on Wake Island in the Pacific.

22 Jan—The Commandant of the Marine Corps directed the Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, to form a special infantry brigade to be prepared for expeditionary service and maintained in a state of readiness.

28 Jan—The headquarters and two battalions of the 1st Special Marine Brigade were formed at Quantico, Virginia, and another battalion formed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The brigade was maintained in a state of readiness during the remainder of the fiscal year, and it participated in the only major training mission undertaken during that year, a joint amphibious exercise conducted during May in the Caribbean area.

31 Jan—The 2d Marine Division relieved the Army 32d Infantry Division of duties in Yamaguchi, Fukuoka, and Oita Prefectures of Japan. At this time, the prefectural duties of the major

Chinese boys watch as PFC Loy A. Watson, Guard Company, 6th Marine Division, receives some advanced machine gun instruction at an ammunition depot in Tsingtao in February 1946.



Marine units were: 2d Marines, Oita and Miyazaki; 6th Marines, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka, and Oita; 8th Marines, Kumamoto, and Kagoshima; 10th Marines, Nagasaki.

4 Feb—At Quantico, Virginia, the administrative and operational control of the 1st Special Marine Brigade passed to the brigade commander, BGen Oliver P. Smith, USMC.

5 Feb—The headquarters battalion of the 5th Marine Division was disbanded at Camp Pendleton, California.

8 Feb—BGen Oliver P. Smith, commanding the 1st Special Marine Brigade, was directed to maintain his command on two weeks' readiness and to report to the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet for planning purposes.

10 Feb—The Marine Detachment (Provisional) Wake, was redesignated Marine Detachment (Provisional) Eniwetok, and transferred to that location, with orders to disband upon conclusion of atomic tests at Bikini Atoll.

19 Feb—The Secretary of the Navy authorized the establishment of the Marine Air Reserve Training Command to administer and direct the training of the Marine Corps Air Reserve.

26 Feb—The Marine Air Reserve Training Command was activated at Glenview Naval Air Station, Illinois, to administer, coordinate, and supervise all Marine Air Reserve activities.

27 Feb—The 2d Battalion, 21st Marines, was detached from the Occupation Force, Truk and Central Caroline Islands, and returned to Guam, where it was deactivated on 5 March.

1 Mar—On Peleliu, the Marine Detachment (Provisional) was activated.

13 Mar—In the Marianas, the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing closed its command post on Guam, and departed on the following day from Apra Harbor for the United States. The wing arrived on 26 March at San Diego, California, and was deactivated.

15 Mar—In the Palaus, the 26th Marines was deactivated, and the Marine Detachment (Provisional), Peleliu, became the island garrison force.

23 Mar—In Japan, the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces relieved the 6th Marines in Yamaguchi Prefecture, reducing the 2d Marine Division zone to the island of Kyushu.

31 Mar—The Headquarters and Service Battalion, III Amphibious Corps, was deactivated in Tsingtao, North China.

31 Mar—The 9th Marine Aircraft Wing was deactivated at Cherry Point, North Carolina.

1 Apr—The 3d Marine Brigade was activated at Tsingtao, China, by redesignation from the 6th Marine Division, which had been reduced to a strength commensurate with the peacetime needs of the Corps.

15 Apr—In the Palaus, the Marine Detachment (Provisional), Peleliu, was redesignated Marine Barracks, Peleliu, when administrative control of the unit passed to the Marine Corps' Department of the Pacific. □1775□

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