

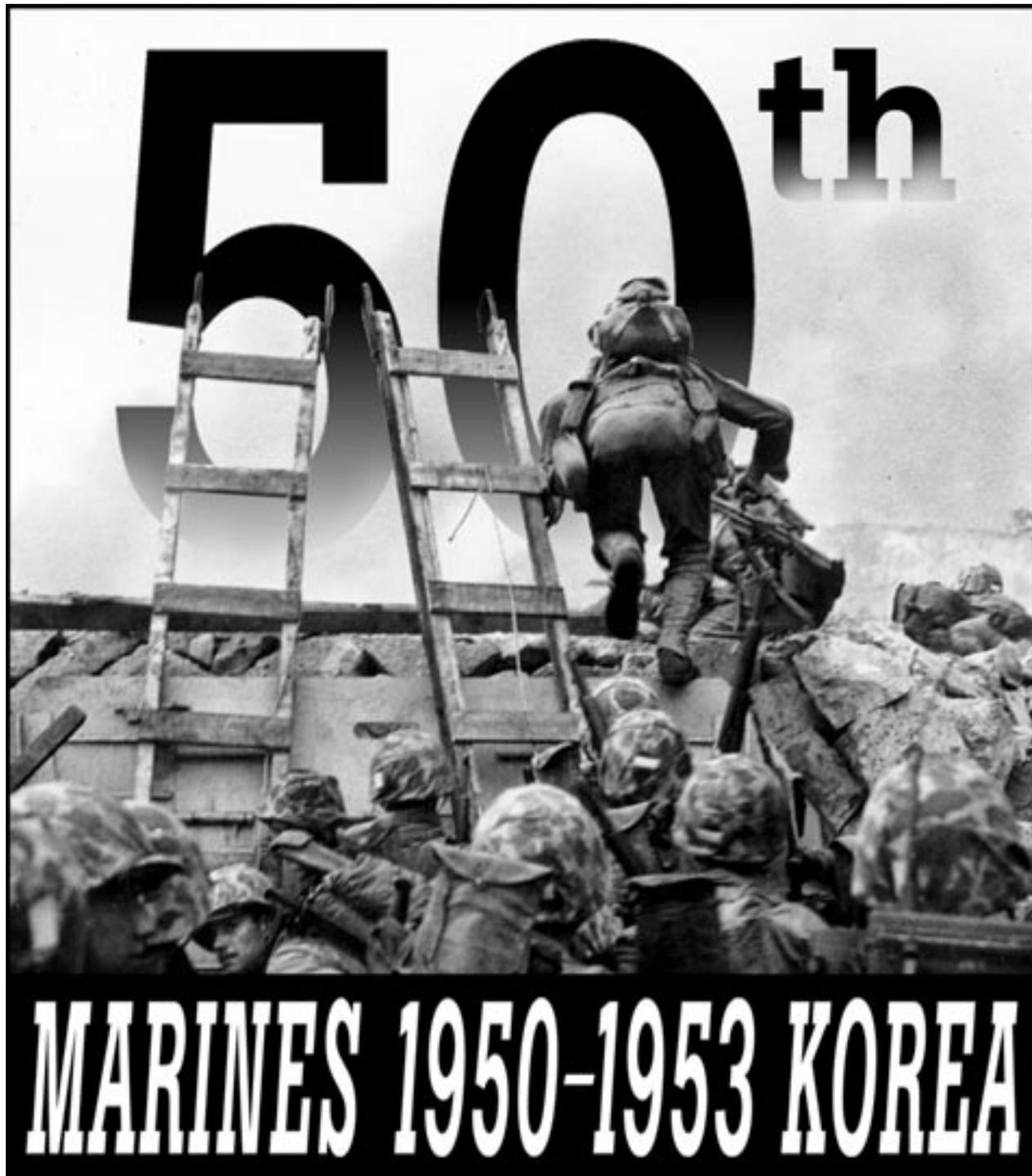
FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXVIII, NUMBER 4

2001

PASS THIS ISSUE ON
TO ANOTHER MARINE



HISTORICAL CENTER'S FOUR-YEAR FOCUS ON MARINES IN THE KOREAN WAR . . . PUSAN, INCHON, AND SEOUL CAMPAIGNS TOPICS OF NEW COMMEMORATIVE PAMPHLETS . . . MARINE CORPS MUSEUM'S MAJOR EXHIBIT HONORS KOREAN VETERANS . . . CORPS' KOREAN WAR RECORDS NOW AVAILABLE ON CDS . . . REMEMBERING VMF-311

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

PCN 10401220100



HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION

Marine Corps Historical Center
Building 58, Washington Navy Yard
1254 Charles Morris Street, Southeast
Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5040
Telephone (202) 433-3534

DIRECTOR EMERITUS

BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret)

DIRECTOR

Col John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret)

Secretary to the Director:

Ms. Kristen M. Reed

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

LtCol Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR

HISTORICAL BRANCH

Branch Head/Chief Historian: Mr. Charles D. Melson.
History Writing Unit: Mr. Charles R. Smith; Maj Raymond J. Vanden Berghe, USMC; Dr. David B. Crist; Mrs. Wanda F. Renfrow. *Oral History Unit:* Mr. Fred H. Allison. *Reference Section:* Mr. Danny J. Crawford; Mr. Robert V. Aquilina; Mrs. Ann A. Ferrante; Miss Lena M. Kaljot; Mrs. Shelia Gramblin. *Archives:* Mr. Frederick J. Graboske; Miss Christine T. Laba.

MUSEUMS BRANCH

Branch Head/Officer-in-Charge, Air-Ground Museum, Quantico: LtCol Robert J. Sullivan, USMC. *Head, Museums Section/Chief Curator:* Mr. Charles A. Wood. *Material History:* Mr. Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas. *Ordnance:* Mr. Dieter Stenger. *Aeronautics:* Mr. Michael E. Starn. *Uniforms:* Mr. Neil Abelsma. *Restoration:* Mr. Mitch Garringer; Sgt Vibol Svy, USMC; Sgt Cedric D. Wheeler, USMC; Cpl Adrian Garcia, USMC. *Exhibits:* Vacant; Mr. Ronnie D. Alexander. *Registrar:* Mrs. Jennifer L. Castro. *Programs Assistant:* Mrs. Kathryn R. Trout. *Operations/Security:* Capt Jimmy Scott, USMC; Sgt E. R. Brown, USMC; Sgt J. H. Cheek USMC; Sgt Yaron T. Reed, USMC; Sgt B. L. Stroman, USMC; Cpl Fidel C. Nunez, USMC; Cpl Patrick D. Symecko, USMC; Cpl J. H. Vantroostenbergh, USMC; LCpl Anthony W. Knode, USMC. MARINE CORPS MUSEUM UNIT, WASHINGTON, D.C. *Exhibits:* Mr. James A. Fairfax; Mr. Gordon Heim. *Marine Corps Art Collection:* Mr. John T. Dyer, Jr.

SUPPORT BRANCH

Branch Head/Division Executive Officer: LtCol Leon Craig, Jr., USMC. *Editing and Design Section:* Mr. Robert E. Struder; Mr. William S. Hill; Mrs. Catherine A. Kerns. *Library:* Miss Evelyn A. Englander. *Administration:* 2dLt Katrina D. Patillo, USMC; Sgt Gordan N. Gipson, USMC; Sgt Joslyn V. Benjamin, USMC; Cpl Cassius B. Cardio, USMC; Cpl Ryan E. Ohnstad, USMC; LCpl Adrian J. Baldwin, USMC; LCpl Lukiya K. Walker, USMC; Joanel M. Echeniquegomez, USMC. *Security Chief:* GySgt Michael D. Cousins, USMC.

Editor-in-Chief

LtCol Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR

FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Vol. XXVIII, No.4

2001

This quarterly bulletin of the Marine Corps historical program is published for Marines, at the rate of one copy for every nine on active duty, to provide education and training in the uses of military and Marine Corps history. Other interested readers may purchase single copies or four-issue subscriptions from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. The appropriate order form appears in this issue.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Memorandum from the Director: Korean War Not Forgotten at MCHC</i> <i>Col John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret)</i>	3
<i>Book Notes: Books about the Korean War</i> <i>Evelyn A. Englander</i>	4
<i>History Writing: Series Openers Look at Pusan, Inchon, and Seoul</i> <i>Charles R. Smith</i>	5
<i>In Memoriam: General Chapman, Twenty-fourth Commandant, Recalled</i> <i>Robert V. Aquilina</i>	6
<i>Historical Quiz: Marines During the Korean War</i> <i>Lena M. Kaljot</i>	7
<i>Heritage Center: Heritage Center Takes Shape</i> <i>LtCol Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR</i>	8
<i>Answers to the Historical Quiz: Marines During the Korean War</i> <i>Lena M. Kaljot</i>	9
<i>Books in Review: Korean Operational Histories Revisited</i> <i>Charles D. Melson</i>	10
<i>Combat Art: Combat Artists in the Korean War</i> <i>John T. Dyer, Jr.</i>	11
<i>Remembering the Forgotten War</i> <i>LtCol Robert J. Sullivan, USMC</i>	12
<i>Ordnance Collection: The M3 Carbine and Sniperscope</i> <i>Dieter Stenger</i>	14
<i>Aviation Collection: VMF-311 Squadron Remembered</i> <i>Michael E. Starn</i>	15
<i>Exhibits: Commemorating Korea Through Exhibits</i> <i>LtCol Robert J. Sullivan, USMC</i>	16
<i>Archives: Korean War Records on CDs</i> <i>Frederick J. Graboske</i>	17
<i>Field History: Marine Historians Document Riverine Initiatives</i> <i>Col Nicholas E. Reynolds, USMCR</i>	18
<i>Uniform and Heraldry Collection: Cold Weather Combat Clothing</i> <i>Neil Abelsma</i>	19
<i>Oral History: Contribution of the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon</i> <i>Fred H. Allison</i>	20
<i>Marine Corps Chronology: War in Korea: July-December 1950</i> <i>Robert V. Aquilina</i>	21

ABOUT THE COVER

The cover art depicts the official History & Museums Division logo for the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Korean War. It was developed by our graphic artist, W. Stephen Hill, who also created the World War II commemorative logo (built around the Iwo Jima flag-raising immortalized by Joe Rosenthal's photograph and Felix deWeldon's statue). Steve found Korea to be a much more challenging assignment, since there was no similar universally recognized symbol of that conflict. He eventually focused on images from the Chosin Reservoir campaign and the amphibious assault at Inchon. He finally selected the image of Marines going over the seawall as representative not only of Marines in the Korean War, but also of the primary mission of the Corps itself. The official logo appears on the commemorative pamphlets, in our new web site, and throughout the various museum exhibits honoring the efforts of Marines in the Korean War.

Fortitudine is produced in the Editing and Design Section of the History and Museums Division. The text for *Fortitudine* is set in 10-point and 8-point Garamond typeface. Headlines are in 18-point or 24-point Garamond. The bulletin is printed on 70-pound, matte-coated paper by offset lithography. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402



Col. John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret)

Korean War Not Forgotten at MCHC

Perhaps the reader will not be surprised that this issue of *Fortitudine* is dedicated to the commemoration of the Korean War and, especially, the Marine Corps veterans of that war. For present-day Marines, the Korean battles roll off the tongue with ease; Pusan, Inchon, Seoul, Chosin . . . and the battles yet to be commemorated as we enter the 50th anniversary dates in the coming years. Here at the Marine Corps Historical Center we have converted the Special Exhibits Gallery into a Korean War display. It has become an instant favorite and we have been very pleased with the interest from broadcast media, Korea veterans, the general public as well as all Marines who look at it and are somewhat astounded at the great accomplishments of our Korea veterans. We also have produced two other Korean War displays, one in the Pentagon and another in the Reserve Officers Association building on Capitol Hill. Of course our largest display, which has been around for some time, is at the Quantico museum; however, climatic conditions require us to close that site in the winter.

We have also organized and participated in national observances of the Korean War events, five of which have taken place in 2000, and three of those with a Navy/Marine Corps focus. For the Chosin commemoration, held at San Diego and Camp Pendleton, the Commandant of the Marine Corps hosted the event and several thousand veterans attended. Other participants included the Commandant General of the Royal Marines and the Royal Marines Band representing splendidly the service of their 41 Independent Commando attached to the 1st Marine Division in Korea. This was quickly followed by a

commemoration of Chosin and the Hungnam Redeployment here in Washington at the Navy Memorial.

A recurring theme in all of the anniversary commemorations, the literature, interviews with veterans, and certainly in every discussion has been the abysmally unprepared state of the American armed forces at the beginning of the war. From this unmistakable subject the discussion transfers to how we managed to overcome this enormous weakness, and then go on to save Korea. Every Marine listening to this discussion, or hearing the accounts of veterans, picks up the rock-ribbed basics of how Marines think, how they prepare, and most particularly, how they fight. It is reassuring to realize that the lessons handed down to us by Korean War Marine veterans are the same principles, lessons, and battle leadership that we practice today. With understandable changes in equipment, modernization of the force, lethality in weapons—all of which makes us a different and perhaps more potent force—we are still Marines who can be called on to perform the extraordinary feats of arms that our Korean War predecessors accomplished. The Marine of today continues to be inspired to perform his mission by force of example of the past; the images, the stories, the great inspiration these veterans have given to us.

There have been noteworthy transitions here at the Center during 2000 beginning with my predecessor as Director, Col Michael F. Monigan. Mike Monigan retired in June after a long and successful career of 31 years service. His accomplishments should be well known to readers and visitors to the Center. It was Mike who represented the Marine Corps from

the beginning of the Air Force Memorial incursion onto Arlington Ridge. He was a visionary lending much expertise to the original discussions of the Heritage Center, providing timely and reliable guidance on what we could reasonably expect to do there. He was also the author of the Memorandum of Understanding, the first formal document which established the relationship between the Marine Corps and the Heritage Foundation—an essential first step before anything else could proceed. We also saw the retirement of Richard A. Long, who served the Division many years in just about every capacity one can imagine. His great knowledge and expertise coupled with his approachable style made him a sought-after individual by virtually every veteran and researcher looking for the most arcane information that had stumped others. If in this business to be asked for by name is an indication of your value, then Dick was a very valuable man. Ronald J. Perkins, our senior exhibit specialist in Quantico for the past 20 years, also has retired. He was a key person in the creation of all the displays in the Air-Ground Museum—his contributions and dedication will be greatly missed. Judy L. Petsch, our able assistant archivist, has left the Division for employment in the private sector. While here, she oversaw our vital effort to digitize paper records of the Korean War. We have also hired a new oral historian, Fred H. Allison, who we are most pleased to have on the team. He is a retired Marine Corps Reserve major who spent most of his career as a radar intercept officer in F-4 Phantoms. He is working on his dissertation for a doctoral degree in military history at Texas Tech University.

□1775□

Books about the Korean War

by Evelyn A. Englander
Historical Center Librarian

This is a representative selection of memoirs and novels related to the Korean War. Most of these books are available through local or online bookstores or through local libraries.

Memoirs and Personal Recollections

First Hundred: A Memoir of the Korean War, 1952-53. John Minturn Verdi. Northport, Alabama: 1989. 169 pp. 1stLt Verdi served two tours with VMF-311 in Korea, along with a five-month assignment as a forward air controller with the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. This is his account of the land-based Marine Corps jet squadron and the pilots who flew the F9F aircraft. The author concludes with a bibliography of suggested readings.

The Taking of Hill 610. Paul N. "Pete" McCloskey, Jr. Woodside, California: Eaglet Books, 1992. 407 pp. This is Congressman McCloskey's memoirs of his service in the Korean War, during the winter and spring of 1950-51, with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, and his tribute to the many friends he served with, particularly Capt Jack R. Jones and Lt "Spike" Schening, company commander and executive officer, respectively. The "Taking of Hill 610" of the title occurred in June 1951.

A Marine's Letters: World War II and the Korean War. Sgt Fred T. Klemm, USMCR. Colorado Springs, Colorado: Colohi Productions, 1993. 187 pp. Sergeant Klemm's letters home were written first from WWII where he served with 6th Engineer Battalion, 6th Marine Division, and then from the Korean War where he was with the 1st Motor Transport Battalion, 1st Marine Division. His letters from Korea cover Inchon, Seoul, the Chosin Campaign, and operations in South and Central Korea. His letters were edited by his daughter, Florence, who is now a reference librarian. She

includes a useful bibliography of suggested reading.

Corpsmen: Letters from Korea. Richard G. Chappell and Gerald E. Chappell. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2000. 163 pp. The Chappell brothers—twins actually—had gathered together their letters home written while they were corpsmen with the 1st Marine Division in the Korean War. They were with the Marines for the period of the "Outpost War" of 1952-53. Their service concluded in Indochina. The book includes maps and personal photos, and ends with a chapter of reflections.

Colder than Hell: A Marine Rifle Company at the Chosin Reservoir. Joseph R. Owen. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 1996, and 2000, reprint. 237 pp. This was written as the author's tribute to his Marine rifle company in the early days of the Korean War, Baker Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines. First published in 1996, this book has been reprinted in the Blue Jacket Books series for the

Korean War commemoration.

Unexpected Journey: A Marine Corps Reserve Company in the Korean War. Randy K. Mills and Roxanne Mills. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2000. 271 pp. This is an account of Indiana's 16th Reserve Battalion and the service of its members in the Korean War. In writing this, the Mills have combined historical research with interviews, correspondence, and diaries to prepare this story of one reserve unit in the War.

Novels

Dog Company Six. Edwin H. Simmons. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 2000. 303 pp. Written by the Director Emeritus of the Marine Corps Historical Center, who is himself a Korean War veteran, this novel follows Reserve Capt George Bayard as he leads his company ashore at Inchon and through the battles of Seoul and the Chosin Reservoir into the spring offensive where he is wounded. BGen Simmons received the Samuel Eliot Morison Prize for Naval Writing with this book.

The Marines of Autumn: A Novel of the Korean War. James Brady. New York: Thomas Dunne Books, St Martin's Press, 2000. 274 pp. James Brady is also a veteran of the Korean War where he was a leader of a rifle platoon. Author of an earlier non-fiction book about the war, *The Coldest War*, Brady may be best known for his writing for *Parade* magazine. This is the story of Capt Thomas Verity, USMCR, called back into action to fight in the Korean War. Verity was initially recalled to active duty because of his familiarity with several Chinese dialects, to monitor Chinese radio transmissions for a short time only. He stayed on to fight in the Chosin Reservoir Campaign and the withdrawal to Hungnam. □1775□



Series Openers Look at Pusan, Inchon, and Seoul

by Charles R. Smith
Head, History Writing Unit

Fire Brigade: U.S. Marines in the Pusan Perimeter is the first of more than 10 Korean War 50th anniversary commemorative pamphlets projected for publication by the History and Museums Division from 2000 through 2003.

Written by Capt John C. Chapin, USMCR (Ret), an author and former public relations executive, the condensed history covers the formation, employment, and ultimate dissolution of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade during the fateful summer of 1950.

The violent attack of more than 90,000 troops of the North Korean Peoples' Army south across the 38th Parallel on 25 June 1950 set in motion a chain of events that would test the mettle of America's Armed Forces and the resolve of the United Nations to stem the tide of Communist aggression. Marines of the brigade and Marine Aircraft Group 33 answered the call and distinguished themselves in three major engagements in the harrowing defense of the Pusan Perimeter.

While the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade and remnants of the U.S. Eighth Army fought with their backs to the sea at Pusan, Gen Douglas

MacArthur, Commander in Chief, Far East, envisioned a bold move to cut off the North Koreans' thrust to the south. The famous amphibious left hook on 15 September 1950, when the 1st Marine Division, commanded by MajGen Oliver P. Smith, landed at Inchon is at the heart of *Over the Seawall: U.S. Marines at Inchon*, the second pamphlet in the series.

BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), Director Emeritus of the History and Museums Division and commanding officer of Weapons Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, at Inchon, lays out the events that led up to the landing; the taking of Wolmi-do by the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines; the subsequent landings of the 5th, 1st, and 7th Marines; and the movement inland toward Seoul. From the light to medium resistance around Inchon to the heavy fighting as the 1st Marine Division approached Kimpo Airfield west of the Han River, Simmons describes the battle and the Marines' effective use of supporting arms, including close air support, as they approached the South Korean capital.

Often described as comparable to the urban fighting in Stalingrad or in the Paris of the Commune of the 19th century, the campaign to regain possession of the South Korean capital of Seoul is vividly portrayed in the series' third pamphlet, *Battle of the Barricades: U.S. Marines in the Recapture of Seoul*. Written by the eminent Marine Corps historian and commentator, Col Joseph H. Alexander, USMC (Ret), the history describes the slogging, street-by-street, door-to-door effort by Marines to clear the city of North Korean forces that began on 20 September. Although prematurely declared liberated by a U.S. Army corps commander on 25 September, "three months to the day after the North Koreans launched their surprise attack south of the 38th Parallel," the fight for Seoul actually

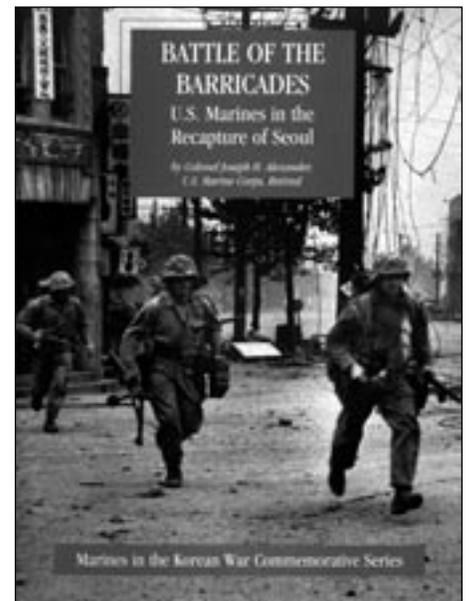
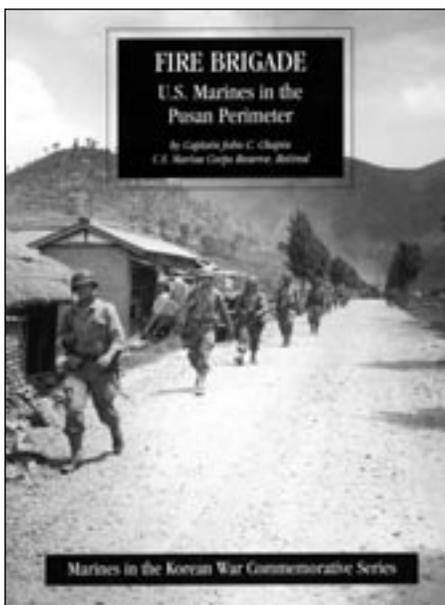
would continue another 10 days.

With the recapture of the capital, the hostilities did not end. Col Alexander continues with the battle around Seoul and the follow-on landing at Wonsan as United Nations forces moved north, crossing the 38th Parallel and widening the conflict. Finally, the author sets the stage for the 1st Marine Division's movement from Wonsan toward the Chosin Reservoir.

The pamphlets in the remainder of the series are expected to have as their subjects the Chosin Reservoir campaign; fighting on the east, central, and western fronts; Marine aviation, both fixed-wing and helicopter; and allied Marines, among others.

Copies of the first three and subsequent Korean War pamphlets can be requisitioned by official Marine Corps units through Material Management Branch, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Georgia. For those interested in purchasing copies, they may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15250-7954 (<http://bookstore.gpo.gov>).

□1775□



General Chapman, Twenty-fourth Commandant, Recalled

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

Gen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps, died 6 January 2000 in Fairfax, Virginia, at the age of 86. He was buried on 14 January with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Born in Key West, Florida, Chapman accepted an appointment as a Marine second lieutenant in July 1935, following his graduation from the University of Florida. During World War II, he participated in combat operations in the battles of Midway, the Coral Sea, Peleliu, and Okinawa. He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for heroism during those campaigns.

Gen Chapman served as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps from July 1967 until 1 January 1968, when he became the 24th Commandant of the Marine Corps. As Commandant, Gen Chapman oversaw the withdrawal of Marine ground combat forces from Vietnam in 1971.

His renowned organizational skills were tested during the period of his commandancy by turmoil in the Marine Corps, which mirrored problems of American society. While not



Gen Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.

relaxing the Corps' traditional standards, he insisted that Marine officers take positive steps to eliminate discrimination in promotions, assignments, and in social activities at Marine Corps bases.

Following his retirement in 1972, Gen Chapman served as Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, from 1973-76.

LtGen Donn J. Robertson, USMC (Ret), a highly decorated veteran of two wars, died 4 March 2000 in Falls Church, Virginia, at the age of 83. He was buried on 22 March with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Gen Robertson was a native of Willow City, North Dakota, and a 1938 graduate of the University of North Dakota. He was a battalion commander on Iwo Jima, and was awarded the Navy Cross for heroism during that campaign. During the Korean War, he was an advisor to the Korean Marine Corps, and later served as Headquarters, Marine Corps in several staff posts.

Gen Robertson served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He commanded the 1st Marine Division during 1967-68,

and later returned to Vietnam in 1970 as the Commanding General of III Marine Amphibious Force.

Following his retirement from the Marine Corps in 1972, Gen Robertson served as president of both the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, and the Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

MajGen Paul R. Tyler, USMC (Ret), died 6 March 2000 in Easton, Maryland, at the age of 86. A native of Rochester, New York, he was a 1936 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He served in the South Pacific, China, and the Philippines during World War II, and in Korea, where he was the 1st Marine Division Supply Officer. Gen Tyler was the Commanding General of the Marine Corps Supply Center, Albany, Georgia, from 1963-65, and Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps from 1965-69, when he retired after 32 years of service.

BGen William A. Millington, USMC (Ret), died 14 March 2000 in Seattle, Washington, at the age of 85.

Born in Ruth, Nevada, he enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating in 1936 from the University of Washington. He took flight training at

LtGen Donn J. Robertson



MajGen Paul R. Tyler



Pensacola, Florida, was designated a naval aviator, and was later commissioned a Marine officer in 1939.

During World War II, he served with VMF-123 and took part in aerial combat over Guadalcanal and Munda. He later commanded VMF-124. He also participated in carrier strikes against Japan, including the Tokyo area. Gen Millington retired from the Marine Corps in 1956.

Col Carl L. Sitter, USMC (Ret), who was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Korea during 1950, died 4 April 2000 in Richmond, Virginia, at the age of 77.

A native of Syracuse, Missouri, Col Sitter attended public schools in Pueblo, Colorado, and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940. He was given a field commission during World War II. He saw combat on Guam and in the Marshall Islands campaign during the war, and received a Silver Star for heroism.

During the Korean War, he served as a company commander, and received the Medal of Honor for heroism during the bitter fighting at the Chosin Reservoir. Col Sitter retired from active duty in 1970, and worked for the Virginia Department of Social Services. At the time of his death, he was attending divinity school in Richmond, Virginia.

Col James R. Stockman, USMC (Ret), died 17 February 2000 in Fairfax, Virginia, at the age of 84.

Born in Malta Bend, Indiana, he graduated from Central Missouri State College, and taught school before joining the Marine Corps in 1942. During World War II, he participated in combat operations at Saipan and Okinawa. He also saw service in Korea and in Vietnam. His decorations included the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Legion of Merit.

Col Stockman was a well-known and respected author of Marine Corps

history, and wrote *The Battle for Tarawa*, an official account of the battle, as well as books on the Saipan and Okinawa campaigns. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1969.

Maj Robert H. Dunlap, USMCR (Ret), a Medal of Honor recipient for heroism on Iwo Jima during World War II, died 31 March in Monmouth, Illinois, at the age of 79.

A native of Abingdon, Illinois, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in March 1942, and subsequently received his commission as a second lieutenant on 18 July 1942.

During World War II, he took part in the Bougainville and Iwo Jima campaigns. It was in the latter battle that he earned the nation's highest military honor, while serving as a company commander. Maj Dunlap was wounded at Iwo Jima, and after evacuation to the United States and subsequent hospitalization, retired from the Marine Corps in December 1946. □1775□

Historical Quiz

Marines During the Korean War

by Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Historian

Identify these individuals or answer related questions:

1. Who were the two Commandants of the Marine Corps who served during the Korean War?
2. How many Marines were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Korean War?
3. This mascot, adopted by the 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, in Korea, joined the Marine Corps in October 1952 to carry ammunition over the rugged, mountainous terrain to recoilless rifles on the front lines.
4. This Marine pilot and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame flew 38 combat missions during the Korean War.
5. The Marine Corps' first African-American aviator, he flew combat missions against the enemy with VMF-212, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and six Air Medals for his service during the Korean War.
6. One of the most decorated Marines in the Corps' history, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and his fifth Navy Cross for heroism in action as commander of the 1st Marines during the bitter fight to break out of Korea's Chosin Reservoir area.
7. This woman served as the Director of Women Marines during most of the Korean War period.
8. This Marine aviator, who flew a total of 90 combat missions during the Korean War, later went on to become one of the seven original astronauts and the first American to orbit the earth.
9. Which four Marine Corps regiments fought in the Korean War?
10. This well-known former talk-show co-host served as a Marine fighter pilot in World War II, and was later called back to active duty during the Korean War.

(Answers on page 9)

Heritage Center Takes Shape

*by LtCol Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR
Deputy Director*

In conjunction with the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the Heritage Center Project Office, the History and Museums Division is making tangible progress toward realization of the goal of creating a brand-new, world-class museum and historical center in Quantico, Virginia. Several important pieces of the initiative are slowly falling into place through the joint efforts of all involved.

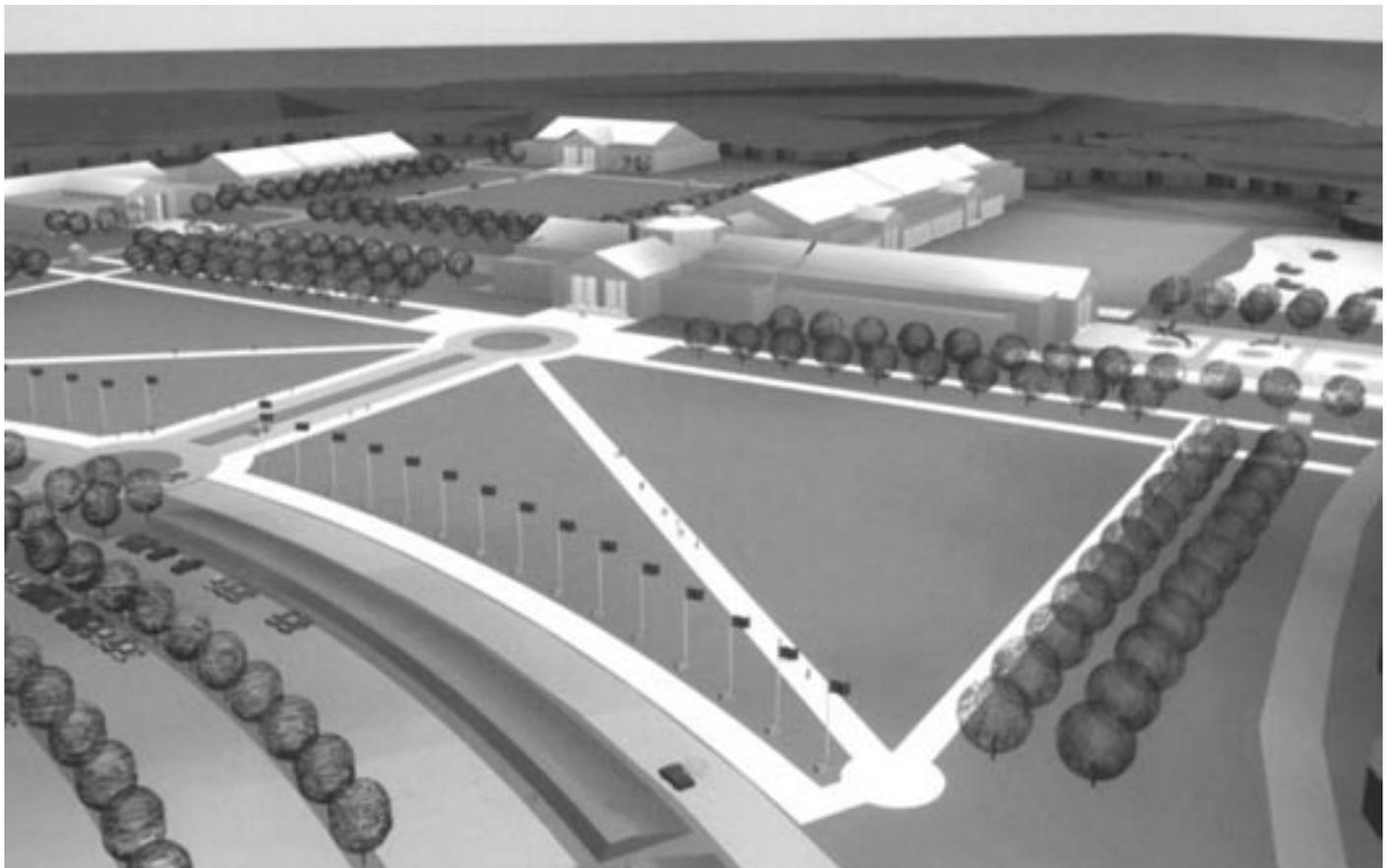
Rigorous analysis and the generosity of Prince William County have established a likely location for the new complex just outside the main gate of the base. The wooded 135-acre site is bordered on the west by Interstate Highway 95 and on the east by U.S. Route 1. The northern boundary is Route 619, which will provide

direct access from Exit 150 of the interstate to the future museum. An environmental impact statement is nearing completion and so far has turned up no concerns. Congress has passed and the President has signed legislation authorizing Prince William County to donate the land to the Marine Corps. The Project Office, the Foundation, and the County are finalizing the details of this planned transfer.

The Marine Corps will be funding the design of the Phase I building and the development of a master plan for the entire site. This initial facility of 120,000 square feet will have 60,000 square feet of exhibits, offices for the Foundation and some elements of the Division, storage for the

combat art collection and a portion of the arms collection, and other ancillary spaces. A competition was announced in January to select an architect and the first step in that process was completed later that month. A technical panel, composed of government architects and engineers and representatives of the Division and the Foundation, reviewed the submissions of numerous architectural firms. In February the technical panel presented its recommendations to the selection panel, which will announce a list for four finalists around the time this issue goes to press. This summer they will present their visionary proposals for the Heritage Center to the same selection panel and a jury of nationally recognized architects. With the advice of

This drawing depicts one of the early concepts for the Heritage Center. By the end of 2001 an architectural firm will be under contract to develop a final design for Phase I of the future home of the History and Museums Division.



the architectural experts, the selection panel will recommend the best firm to the Commandant for his approval. The winning architect will then receive the contract to produce a final design and supporting construction drawings. The other three firms will receive \$50,000 each for their efforts. Based on the high quality of submissions reviewed by the technical panel, the Division can look forward to an attractive and functional home.

During the course of 2001 the Division also will continue the process of designing the exhibits that will fill the Heritage Center. With the assistance of a contractor in 2000, the Division developed a plan to tell the story of the Corps in 10 galleries, each depicting a distinct era in its history. LtCol Charles H. Cureton, USMCR (Ret), and Col Donna J. Neary, USMCR, have been working with Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas of the

Museums Branch to flesh out that initial plan with specific subjects for exhibits in each gallery. Later this year the Marine Corps will select a design firm to turn these outlines into a detailed blueprint for the fabrication of displays. The Division also is identifying the many artifacts that will require refurbishment before they can take their place in the Heritage Center.

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding completed with the Marine Corps last year, the Foundation will pay for the construction of the Heritage Center's Phase I building, while the Corps picks up ancillary costs such as the initial site work, roads, and parking. The Foundation continues to move full speed ahead with its fundraising efforts. One element of the plan rests upon a Founders' Group, a volunteer board of businessmen and philanthropists with experience in bringing

development projects of this scope to completion. That group now consists of seventeen members. One of the founders already has pledged \$1 million to this project. The Foundation's other focus of effort is raising money via direct mail from Marines and friends of the Corps. A test effort in 2000 raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and a second wave of appeals is achieving similar success. That process will continue until the Foundation has reached out to everyone with a connection to the Corps. Other Marines are taking it upon themselves to assist in the fundraising effort. In September 2000 a group of veterans from the New Orleans area, spearheaded by Major General James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret), pledged to raise a minimum of a million dollars to support the project. The goal of the Foundation's overall campaign is to raise at least \$25 million by 2005.

□1775□

Answers to the Historical Quiz

Marines During the Korean War

*by Lena M. Kaljot,
Reference Historian*

(Questions on page 7)

1. Gen Clifton B. Cates, 1 January 1948 - 31 December 1951 and Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., 1 January 1952 - 31 December 1955.
2. 42.
3. Sergeant Reckless, a red Mongolian mare, earned the Purple Heart with one gold star, a Presidential Unit Citation with star, Korean Service Medal with three battle stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and the National Defense Ribbon for outstanding service.
4. Ted Williams, also a captain in the Reserves, alternated his Marine Corps service as an aviator and jet pilot in World War II and Korea, with his civilian career, a Boston Red Sox outfielder.
5. LtGen Frank E. Petersen, Jr., designated a Naval Aviator in October 1952, was also the first African-American Marine to attain flag rank in 1979.
6. LtGen Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller was a veteran of three World War II campaigns and expeditionary service in China, Nicaragua, and Haiti.
7. Col Katherine A. Towle, the second director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, until its deactivation in 1946, returned to the Corps in November 1948 to become the first Director of Women Marines after they were constituted a regular component. Col Towle served as Director until her retirement in April 1953.
8. Col John H. Glenn, Jr., flew 63 missions with VMF 311 and, as an exchange pilot with the Fifth U.S. Air Force, flew 27 missions with the 25th Fighter Squadron, 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing.
9. The 1st, 5th, 7th, and 11th Marines.
10. Ed McMahon, who retired as a colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, flew more than 85 combat missions, earning six Air Medals.

Korean Operational Histories Revisited

by Charles D. Melson
Chief Historian

U.S. Marine Operations in Korea, 1950-1953; five volumes; Washington, DC: HQMC, 1954-1972.

The Marine Corps History and Museums Division has published a variety of works since 1919. These include operational narratives in definitive, monograph, and commemorative forms. The most labor-intensive and long-lasting are the definitive histories of U.S. Marine conflicts in the 20th century. These works take advantage of records and research that single-author monographs cannot duplicate and serve as the basis for commemorative publications.

With the 50th Anniversary of the war in Korea it is a good time to look at what provides the factual basis for much of the renewed discussion. The five-volume series *U.S. Marine Operations in Korea, 1950-1953* had its origins in a series of 23 articles on various topics and time periods of the fighting, which appeared in the *Marine Corps Gazette* between June 1951 and September 1953. LtCol Gordon D. Gayle, head of the Historical Division at the time the war started, developed the concept of informing the Marine Corps about operations in Korea on a timely basis. The author of 16 of the articles and head of the Korean History Section was Lynn Montross. Before this effort, the Nebraska native served in World War I and was a journalist. Two of the articles were written by Kenneth W. Condit, two by Ernest H. Giusti, and three by both authors. Mr. Giusti wrote both as a civilian historian and as a reserve captain on active duty. Historian Michael O'Quinlivan provided background material for the articles.

The actual preparation of volumes in the series and the development of a concept of coverage began

in 1953 when LtCol Harry W. Edwards was the head of the Historical Branch, G3 Division. A Korea veteran, Capt Nicholas A. Canzona, was assigned to collaborate with Montross on the series. The first volume written by the two as co-authors was *The Pusan Perimeter*, published in 1954. In 1955, a second volume, *The Inchon-Seoul Operation*, appeared. Two years later, the third volume of the series with the same two authors, *The Chosin Reservoir Campaign*, was published. Dr. K. Jack Bauer provided a large part of the research for these volumes.

Capt Canzona's replacement as the military member of the Korean writing team was Maj William T. Hickman. His work primarily involved research for Montross over a much more extended period of combat than had been covered in any of the three earlier volumes. It was during this period that Montross, never in good health because of injuries received during World War I, was frequently sick for considerable periods of time. The book was only partially completed when Maj Hickman was relieved in 1959 by Maj Norman W. Hicks. At about the same time, Maj Hubbard D. Kuokka, a Naval Aviator, was assigned to contribute the aviation sections of the fourth volume. Following Montross' death in December 1960, Maj Hicks completed the volume, titled *The East Central Front*, which was published in 1962.

Work on the fifth and final volume of the Korean War series began in 1962 with Maj Hicks doing preliminary research before Maj James M. Yingling replaced him. In August 1963, Maj Yingling was reassigned from the Korean volume to begin work on a high priority DOD-directed history of Marine Corps operations in Vietnam. At the same time,

Henry I. Shaw, Jr., was assigned to write the fifth Korean War volume. In December 1963, Shaw was reassigned to complete the third volume of the World War II history series. The Korea book lay fallow until August 1964 when Maj Yingling was again assigned as the author. Jack Shulimson was assigned as his coauthor in March 1965, but was reassigned later in the year to work on the account of Vietnam operations. Maj Yingling retired at the end of June 1966, but was retained on active duty for a year to continue his work. In January 1967, a Woman Marine Reserve officer, LtCol Patricia A. Meid, on active duty for special assignment, joined Maj Yingling as coauthor of the volume and remained on active duty until June 1970, completing the book. *Operations in West Korea* by Meid and Yingling, the largest volume in the series, was published in December 1972.

One other account, which was prepared in the Historical Division by Montross, was *Cavalry of the Sky*, published by Harpers in 1954. Miss Kay P. Sue was the only member of the historical office who worked on every volume of the Korean series as manuscript typist, production assistant, and indexer. As can be seen, definitive history is a labor-intensive, time-consuming process. This effort is justified by the use made of these volumes by yet another generation of Marines and scholars.

This article was based on Reference Section material: "Fact Sheet on U.S. Marine Operations in Korea, 1950-1953," n.d. Most of these titles are out of print, but are available on CD-ROM with the U.S. Naval Institute's *The Sea Services in the Korean War, 1950-1953* and in reprint by R. J. Speights Publisher of Austin, Texas. □1775□

Combat Artists in the Korean War

by John T. Dyer, Jr.
Curator of Art

The Marine Corps established an extensive combat art program during World War II that resulted in the creation of many fine works. As did the Services in general, that program withered away during the lean budget years of the late 1940s. When the Marine Corps mobilized for the Korean War, it did not forget its combat art program. It formed the First

“Frozen Warrior” by Col John H. Rogers, USMCR (Ret), is a fiberglass figure slightly over four feet tall. It gives the appearance of cast bronze and evokes a chill on the hottest day. Rogers was an officer attached to Marine Air Group 12, which had the mission of resupplying the 1st Marine Division and evacuating its wounded during the Chosin Reservoir campaign. He was inspired to memorialize the fatigued, sometimes frost-bitten, ragged, proud Marines when he observed them boarding ships at the port of Hungnam.



“On the March” was created by Sgt Ralph Schofield, USMC. Elements of the 7th Marines Regiment are on the march near Koto-ri, Korea, in this pen-and-ink drawing. It is one of three Schofield originals in the Marine Corps Art Collection.

Marine Corps Combat Art Team and deployed it to the scene of operations in 1950. The first officer-in-charge was Marine reservist 1stLt Joseph Cain, an artist and art teacher in civilian life. Artists MSgt John DeGrasse and Sgt Hubert Raczka, and photographer TSgt Frank Few, rounded out the team. All were veterans of World War II. The group operated out of Japan, but spent much of its time in Korea at the front gathering primary material. During interludes in their Tokyo studio, the Marine artists turned some of their sketches into finished paintings. This initial wave of artists returned to the States in 1952 to complete more paintings.

1stLt Avery Chenoweth, who had spent the previous year as an infantry officer in combat in Korea, inherited the officer-in-charge mantle

in 1952. The following year he passed it to 1stLt Russell Hendrickson, also a Korean War infantry veteran. The team continued its efforts until the conflict waned in 1953.

In addition to these official combat artists, a number of Marine veterans came home and applied their natural skills with pen and brush to capture their experiences. *Leatherneck* magazine also dispatched its own military artists to record the war for its readers and posterity. The work of several civilian members of the press observing the Marines in action added to the body of artwork depicting the Corps in “The Forgotten War.”

Succeeding issues of *Fortitudine* during this commemorative period will focus on the works of several of these distinguished combat artists.

□1775□

Remembering the Forgotten War

by LtCol Robert J. Sullivan, USMC
Head, Museums Branch

The “Forgotten War” fought by thousands of Americans 50 years ago in an inhospitable land is remembered by the History and Museums Division through a number of exhibits constructed at sites in and around Washington, D.C. Banners, macro artifacts, uniforms, posters, and photos greet the visitor at the Korean War portion of the Quantico, Virginia, Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum; in a joint services exhibit at the Pentagon; and at the Reserve Officers Association building in the District. (See “Exhibit News” for more details on these displays.) However, the most ambitious effort by the Division to recognize both the sacrifices and contributions of the Korean War veterans during the 50th anniversary commemoration period (June 2000 through November 2003) is contained in the 1,800 square feet of the Special Exhibits Gallery of the Marine Corps Historical Center, Building 58, Washington Navy Yard.

Fifty years to the week after the North Korean People’s Army invaded South Korea, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps,



Col John W. Ripley and Gen Terrance R. Dake cut the ribbon to open the new Korean War exhibit at the Marine Corps Museum in the Washington Navy Yard.



The Commemorative Exhibition forms a winding path through the Special Exhibits Gallery and makes extensive use of David Douglas Duncan’s powerful images of the Marines in the Korean war.

Gen Terrance R. Dake, and the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, Col John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret), cut a ribbon at the entrance to the Special Exhibits Gallery to officially open “Marines in the Korean War, a Commemorative Exhibition.” The invited guests—including Korean War veterans, Young Marines, active-duty Marines, and family members—were treated to a sensory-provoking experience. In the vestibule of the gallery, large photos of daily life in late 1940s American society and the period music emanating from a jukebox stir



The new exhibit contains numerous artifacts of the Korean War, to include many of the weapons and pieces of individual equipment used by Marines and their opponents.



the memories of older visitors and set a mood of the times for their younger counterparts. As one enters the main exhibit through a field command post, these pleasant thoughts quickly dissipate and are replaced by the discernible (some say pungent) odor of tent canvas, dimmed lights, and a selection of black and white, emotion-filled images captured by the famed combat photographer, David Douglas Duncan. The visitor is now “in country.”

Objects and photographs from the Korean War confront the visitor at every turn in the gallery’s twisting trail. Three life-size mannequins dressed in combat uniforms peer at the visitor. Their facial expressions tell a story of the bitter cold, burdens of combat, and confidence in their duty. Interspersed with the mannequins are additional Duncan photographs, cases filled with original Allied and Soviet-bloc weapons, equipment, personal items, and panels of text with accompanying maps. A space at the end of the gallery displays the flags and artifacts of the United Nations forces that participated. Here the viewer also reads the telegrams relating to the call-up of the Marine Reserves and senses the tremendous impact the conflict had on families as well as the critical contribution of the Reserve to the war effort.

In an unusual collaboration, the History and Museums Division worked with a contractor to design and build the exhibit. Over the course of the nine-month project, Division personnel labored behind the scenes drafting the theme, writing and editing the text, identifying and preparing historical objects, modifying the gallery, coordinating with the contractor, guarding the site, paying the bills, and planning the opening ceremony. These yeoman efforts were rewarded by the positive reactions of the guests during the opening of the exhibit. This gallery is one of many activities hosted by the Marines of the present to thank the Marines of the past. The Special Exhibits Gallery is open to the public from 1000 until 1600, six days a week (closed on Tuesday). □1775□

The M3 Carbine and Sniperscope

by Dieter Stenger
Curator of Ordnance

Marines have often fought with unique weapons. One that is rarely seen is the M3 carbine with infrared sniperscope. As an effective complimentary weapon used by Marines against Communist forces during the Korean War, it is on display in the Special Exhibits Gallery at the Marine Corps Museum.

The semi-automatic M1 carbine was introduced into service in 1941, and more than six million carbines were produced by the end of World War II. The M1 carbine had an overall length of approximately 35-1/2 inches and weighed roughly 5-1/2 pounds. Variants of the carbine included the M1A1, fitted with a folding metal stock for use by airborne troops; the M2 carbine, which allowed for select fire (full automatic) and incorporated a bayonet lug for the M4 bayonet-knife; and the M3 carbine, which was an M1 or M2 carbine fitted with an infrared sniperscope.

Five years after the conclusion of World War II, the Marines were called

to arms in Korea with the basic complement of weapons from the preceding war. The M1 and M2 carbines had drawn severe criticism as an underpowered weapon. Among Marines, the carbine was not a favored weapon and was most often exchanged for the basic M1 Garand. Then-GySgt Harold E. Johnson, explained: "The carbine just didn't have enough stopping power. In Korea, the battalion sergeant major was the only Marine I saw who carried a carbine. For the most part, no one carried the M1 carbine in Korea, except when used in the sniper role.

The M1 infrared sniperscope was introduced in 1945 during the invasions of Luzon and Okinawa. The M2 sniperscope was an improved version of the original M1 scope: both operated off a 6-volt battery. The M3 sniperscope was larger and used an enhanced power booster for the 6-volt battery. The M3 carbine was either an M1 or M2 carbine fitted with any of



A Marine technical sergeant poses with a personalized carbine in Korea. The cartoon picture in the background suggests the inadequacy of the weapon, "Did you forget the Big Three? #1.- Helmet, #2.-Flak-jacket, and #3.- Slingshot."

the available M1, M2, or M3 sniper scopes.

As an instructor at the Marine Corps Ordnance School at Quantico, Virginia, Johnson had received specialized training on the use of infrared sniper scopes. The scopes were code named "Bob Jones." In late 1952, Johnson was the battalion ordnance chief for the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, which was located just below the 38th Parallel near Panmunjom. When the new M3 scopes arrived in Korea, each battalion was to receive one scope. The regimental ordnance officer had little faith in their capability, based on the poor performance of the earlier M1 and M2 scopes, and gave all three to Johnson. While maintenance on the M3 sniperscope was a nightmare and it took an entire day to recharge the batteries, Johnson knew of their potential. He and his battalion soon employed them with deadly accuracy, to ward off Chinese infiltrators

An M1 carbine and an M3 carbine (with sniperscope) can be viewed on display at both the Air-Ground Museum at Quantico and in the Special Exhibits Gallery at the Marine Corps Museum, Washington Navy Yard, Washington D.C. □1775□

Marines of the 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, equipped with the M3 infrared sniperscopes are on the firing line in Korea in 1953.



VMF-311 Squadron Remembered

by Michael E. Starn
Curator of Aeronautics

Established in December 1942, VMF-311 did not deploy to the Pacific until October 1943 because of training duties. However, in early 1944, VMF-311 started a tradition of “firsts” by executing dive-bombing missions using fighter aircraft. Little did anyone know that eight short years later this same squadron would enter the Korean War and continue setting “firsts” as it had during World War II. On 10 December 1950, Col Neil R. MacIntyre, then the commanding officer of VMF-311, flew the first Marine Corps jet combat mission from Yonpo at the controls of a Grumman F9F-2 Panther. In June 1951, this squadron would go on to set a record of 2,300 combat missions in one month. This squadron was not only known for its record-setting events, but also for its famous individual men such as baseball’s hall of famer Capt Ted Williams, and astronaut and later Senator, Col John H. Glenn.

In 1984, good fortune smiled on the Museums Branch twice. The first time was a trade acquisition of an F9F-2 that later turned out to be one of two F9F aircraft to fly the first Marine Corps jet combat missions in Korea. The second was a donation of a helmet, flight suit, knee board, and fuel charts from Col MacIntyre. After his visit, Col MacIntyre confirmed that the aircraft that had been acquired for the collection was indeed the very aircraft that he had flown on 10 December 1950. In 1999, fate smiled again on the Museums Branch with a donation from Col Joseph Mendes, USMCR (Ret), of his helmet, flight scarf, flight suit, several dress uniform items, and other personal memorabilia which he used during his tour as the operations officer of VMF-311.

In October 1990, the F9F-2 was placed on exhibit at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum at Quantico,

Virginia, in the Korean War building. Col Mendes’ flight equipment is currently displayed on a mannequin figure in the Special Exhibits Gallery at the Washington Navy Yard. Col

MacIntyre’s donation currently resides in the reserve collection, but will be placed on exhibit with the F9F in the planned Marine Corps Heritage Center. □1775□

An exhibit case contains Col Mendes’ leather flight jacket. The jacket is on loan for the recently opened Korean War exhibit at the Marine Corps Museum.



Commemorating Korea Through Exhibits

by LtCol Robert J. Sullivan, USMC
Head, Museums Branch

An earlier article in this edition of *Fortitudine* focuses on the History and Museums Division's efforts in the Special Exhibits Gallery to educate the public about the Korean War and commemorate the sacrifices of the Marines who fought in that conflict. While many visitors have been able to experience that presentation, the Museums Branch has extended its reach throughout the Washington, D.C. area with a number of other Korean War displays.

A primary alternative for visitors remains the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum on board the base at Quantico, Virginia. One entire building has been dedicated to the Korean War for many years. During the museum's open season, thousands of

people walk through the old hangar and see weapons, equipment, aircraft, photographs, and other artifacts representing the activities of Marines during the "Forgotten War." In preparation for the ongoing 50th anniversary of the conflict, the Museum Branch researched, planned, and installed additional temporary exhibits and banners to update this presentation. The new material includes a number of personal testimonies of the veterans themselves.

The Pentagon hosts another site commemorating the Korean War. A 65-foot exhibit, prepared by the museum staffs of all four Services, graces one corridor of the mammoth building. Panels containing photos, text, and maps detail the efforts of

the American armed forces. A number of historical objects add a personal touch to the display.

A final official Marine Corps site is located on Capitol Hill, in the Reserve Officers Association building. This one-panel exhibit highlights the vital contributions of the Marine Corps Reserves in Korea.

The U.S. Marines played an important role during the Korean War. In the past year, the History and Museums Division has devoted a considerable amount of its resources to ensure that those deeds and accomplishments are fully recognized by modern Marines, friends of the Corps, and the public. A trip to view any of the resulting exhibits will be time well spent. □1775□

This Korean War commemorative display in the Pentagon provides a sampling of the much larger exhibits with the same theme at museums in the Washington Navy Yard and at Marine Corps Base, Quantico.

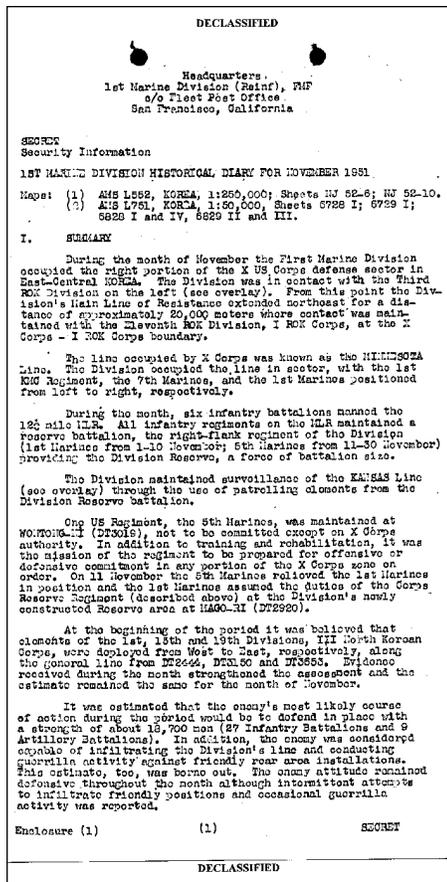


Korean War Records on CDs

by Frederick J. Graboske
Marine Corps Archivist

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War the Archives Section digitized all of the participating U.S. Marine Corps units' operational records, plus many oral history transcripts related to the war. We began planning this project several years ago when we had to address the documents' long-term preservation. The paper used during the period of the Korean War is highly acidic; after 50 years it had become yellow and brittle. The increasing demand for these records over the next few years would cause irreparable damage to some of them, so we decided to digitally image the records in order to save their information and to improve distribution.

This page taken from the Korean War CD set shows the clarity of the digitized records now available to veterans and researchers.



Imaging is like photocopying; the result is an exact image of the original document. It is not possible to search the text for specific terms, but 95% of our customers are veterans, whose interest is solely in the records of their units during their periods of service. We could have produced searchable text, using optical character recognition (OCR) technology, but the cost to the government would have been three times what was ultimately paid to the contractor. Using OCR on old documents also produces errors that alter the text from its original state. Having a limited budget, and a desire to maintain historical accuracy, we opted for the alternative, which allowed us to digitize all the units' operational reports.

The result of our work is a set of 25 CD-ROMs, each of which contains the finding aid to the entire set. The records are organized by unit designation, thereunder chronologically. This organization replicates the paper records. A researcher can search the list of units, click on his choice, then see the list of months for which we have records. By clicking on a specific month, the researcher will prompt the CD to display a box telling him which CD contains that record. He can access the oral history transcripts by clicking "Transcripts," which will prompt the computer to display the alphabetical listing of the dozens of individuals from whom we have oral histories about Korea. Having loaded the correct CD into his computer, the researcher then can manipulate the images, making the image fill the screen or returning to a half-screen display, scrolling backward or forward through the document, or moving immediately to the beginning or end. He can print specific pages or the whole document.

In order to make these 211,000 pages readily accessible to Marines and veterans anywhere in the world,

we eventually hope to load them on our website. In the meantime the History & Museums division is not able to sell copies of the 25 CD-ROMs. However, individuals who wish to order personal copies of them may do so through the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC). The charges are as follows: 1 CD is \$31; 2, \$41; 3-4, \$56; 5-8, \$71; 9-12, \$131; 13+, \$161. There are obvious advantages to purchasing entire sets, but even the cost for 1 CD is much less than our fees for copying that number of pages.

DTIC's mission is to service government agencies, but it has the capability to accommodate one-time-only customers. For information on this service the web address is <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/reprocess.html>. DTIC normally provides copies of their CDs to the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), which does respond to inquiries from outside the government. We have given a set of the Korean War CDs to NTIS, and it appears in their catalog, but we have no information on pricing for the set. Their web address is <http://www.ntis.gov>. We hope to have links to both agencies available on our web site. □1775□



Marine Historians Document Riverine Initiatives

by Col Nicholas E. Reynolds, USMCR
Officer-in-Charge, Field History Branch

The mission of the Field History Branch of the Marine Corps History and Museums Division is to deploy to the field to collect the raw material that, one day, will be turned into finished history. Over the last decade, the Branch's Reserve Marines have deployed to major contingencies throughout the world, including the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Haiti, and the former Republic of Yugoslavia, places where they have collected documents, conducted interviews, and photographed events. The key point is that they have been there, on scene, while the operations were unfolding; they have captured Marine Corps history in the making.

During quiet times, one of the challenges for the Branch is to try to predict where the Corps will focus its resources in the future and then to capture the initial stages of an initiative and its background. This was the case in the summer of 2000 when the Branch deployed to collect material on riverine operations.

In the beginning, there were informal conferences between Southern Command (SouthCom) and the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, retired Col John W. Ripley, about SouthCom's riverine operations in South America. Col Ripley then turned to me, and I began to research the background of the subject. I discovered through contact with officers at Marine Forces, South (MarForSouth), the Marine component of SouthCom, that the Marine Corps was running a school center in Peru and training Columbian Marines in riverine techniques, two initiatives promoted by Gen Charles Wilhelm, the SouthCom Commander-in-Chief, who was the first Marine officer to hold that position. I was intrigued by the thought of traveling to South America to conduct research on the ground, but I realized that the next step would have to be less exciting: travelling to SouthCom to

interview the appropriate action officers and to collect the documents that they had produced.

My point of contact at SouthCom was Dr. John Pitts, the SouthCom historian, who was to be my host during a two-week stay in Miami in August. Like many command historians, John had collected a valuable set of documents, and I was able to cull the material that bore on riverine warfare. He also arranged for me to meet some of the action officers at SouthCom, who consented to taped interviews about riverine warfare. One contact led to another, and soon I was talking to BGen Michael Aguilar, Commander of MarForSouth, and retired Col Paul Ottinger. Gen Aguilar told me where he saw the program going in the future, while Col Ottinger described its origins in Panama in the mid-1990s when the Marine Corps began to show an interest in riverine operations. Col Ottinger, interestingly enough, was studying riverine operations for Booz, Allen, and Hamilton, on contract to SouthCom, and had collected an impressive set of historical documents which he was kind enough to offer to share.

I found out that the focus of MarForSouth's riverine effort was the Joint Riverine Training Center at Iquitos, Peru. Iquitos is a small city in the northeastern part of the Amazon basin, where the Amazon is roughly a mile wide. The mission is to train Peruvian police and Coast Guard for riverine operations, which are intended to deny the use of the river to the drug trade. The Peruvian school was built by U.S. funds and is supported by a group of American advisors (mostly Marines who come from Camp Lejeune for six months at a stretch). The U.S. has provided the hardware, especially the riverine patrol craft which do not look much different from President John F. Kennedy's P.T. 109 in pictures.

I came away from Miami with a research agenda, which included the

Pentagon, Camp Lejeune, and Iquitos. The next step in the process was for Maj Nathan S. Lowrey, USMCR, an experienced field historian who had distinguished himself in Kosovo in 1999, to conduct research in Washington, D.C., and at Camp Lejeune for two weeks in the fall of 2000. Interviewing Pentagon planners, Maj Lowrey found that there were historical disputes about riverine doctrine dating back to the Vietnam War, when it was the exclusive province of the Navy, and that the Marine Corps had experienced three successive surges of interest in developing a riverine capability, 1990-1994, 1996-1997, and 1998-2000. Although counter-narcotics provided the impetus in each case, there has also been a mindset that has emphasized the need for conventional riverine capabilities around the globe in a variety of settings. This means that the Navy and the Marine Corps have wrestled with the issue of which service should devote how many resources to riverine warfare, with answers ranging from "none" to "all" in various combinations. Maj Lowrey travelled next to Camp Lejeune, the home of the Riverine Training Center, to get a feel for its activities. There he talked to the operators and walked the terrain—figuratively, at least. The next stage will be for the Field History Branch to deploy historians to Iquitos to document operations in South America. This will probably happen in 2001.

Has the Field History Branch predicted the future? That is, are its historians gathering data on the origins of what will be an important mission area for the Marine Corps in the 21st century? Perhaps. But the least the Branch will have achieved through its work on riverine operations is to document an interesting doctrinal dispute and the efforts of Marines who were committed to making a contribution to the war on drugs. □1775□

Cold Weather Combat Clothing

by Neil Abelsma

Curator of Uniforms and Heraldry

The U.S. Marine Corps entered 1950 with limited experience in cold weather field operations, but in the Korean War they had to deal with temperatures that sank to -35° F at night and rarely rose above 0° F in daytime. The cold and terrain were to be as much of a problem as the opposing forces, and ground action was affected on both sides by the severe winter weather. The cold froze rations, medicine, and the perspiration inside composition shoe pac boots. Canteens burst, oil on weapons froze, and frostbite afflicted the men. In this extreme cold, most of a Marine's energy was used up in keeping warm. Cold not only affected the body but also the morale of troops. In addition, bulky cold weather clothing was a handicap to movement and the use of weapons.

During the Chosin Reservoir breakout in November and December 1950, of the 3,063 nonbattle casualties, nearly all were frostbite cases. The importance of proper clothing and equipment thus was a vital issue. The winter uniform issued in November 1950 closely resembled the Army pattern and was based on the "layering" principle, with a variety of garments worn one over the other. This included the M1943 jacket, trousers, pile cap, parka, and the inadequate leather and rubber shoe pac.

In response to the suffering of troops during the cold winter of 1950-51, the first shipment of the newly developed insulated rubber combat boots, or thermal boots, were shipped to the 1st Marine Division in August 1951. These boots, considered to be one of the important innovations of the war, were superior to the shoe pac worn during the previous winter. They were a huge success when introduced, since they practically eliminated frostbite and trench foot. The thermal boot used the vapor barrier principal of air space trapped between inner and outer layers of wool pile insulation, both of which were completely sealed off by rubber



Marines of Company D, 7th Marines, warm their rations and themselves beside a fire before advancing west of the Chosin Reservoir on 27 November 1950. Note the high-laced shoe pacs worn by the Marines on the left.

from any contact with moisture. An unsuspected added benefit resulted when the boot acquired a reputation for protecting the wearer against antipersonnel mines, for wounds inflicted were not as severe as had been before. The new footwear quickly acquired the nickname, "Mickey Mouse Boots," from the oversized shoes worn by the familiar cartoon character.

Late in the war, the M1951 cold weather clothing system was issued. It was based on the same "layering" principle as before, and included a loose-fitting white undershirt and drawers, a half-wool long underwear, wool shirt and trousers, a standard wool sweater, a single pair of wool socks, and a field jacket with liner. A parka and overtrousers could be added for exceptionally frigid weather.

The images of the Korean War will always include the Marine wearing his cold weather clothing in the rugged terrain of Korea. The experiences gained from the conflict and the innovations made are evident in today's equipment and tactics. An exhibit on

cold weather clothing of the Korean War can be viewed at the Air-Ground Museum at Quantico, Virginia. This display was designed and constructed by Exhibit Specialist Ron Perkins and not only shows the clothing worn, but also very stunning photographs of winter warfare. The Korean War exhibit at the Marine Corps Museum in the Washington Navy Yard also shows a figure in the winter clothing worn during the Chosin breakout.

□1775□

PFC James F. Toy receives his cold weather clothing issue at the 1st Marine Division supply center from Sergeant Peter T. Malabis. The new thermal boot was to be the most significant change in the clothing system.



Contribution of the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon

by Fred H. Allison
Oral Historian

“Of course we had replacements during this time...he was sent as a replacement whether he was well-trained or not because we almost desperately needed more men in our outfits. He was put in a Marine uniform, he was sent up, and he was stuck in a rifle company, and it just seemed that he was going to behave properly. That’s all there was to it. I think he was probably more afraid of what his friends would think of him if he acted improperly and did not just stay there and shoot...than he was of the effects of the enemy fire upon him. The men weren’t afraid of the enemy; the fact of a pretty stiff attack was just a normal thing to happen. You got a stiff attack and you repulsed it, and that’s all there was to it. There was never any thought or consideration of the fact that you might withdraw. It’s just the old Marine training applied to this war, and it is certainly most effective.”

The above quote is from a field history interview done with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward observer, 2dLt Orlo C. Paciulli on 13 February 1951 by a member of the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon. This revealing quote on Marine Corps esprit de corps at the Chosin Reservoir is only a sample of the rich primary source material found in the approximately 150 interviews done by this pioneering historical unit.

The concept of professional historians working in the field to document combat operations in its time was a new endeavor for the Marine Corps. Dissatisfied with the Corps’ efforts to capture operational history in World War II, LtCol Robert D. Heintz, Jr. (head of the Historical Section, 1946-49), initiated efforts to identify professional historians in the Marine Corps Reserve who could be organized into a historical unit in case of war. He looked to the U.S. Army’s

World War II experience, in which professional historians served in historical units to document operations, as a model. He did not realize how timely this initiative would be.

As thousands of Marines mobilized to counter the invasion of South Korea by the North Korean People’s Army, the historian reservists, already identified by Heintz’s initiative, also mobilized. Thus the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon was established, coincidentally on 7 August 1950, the same day that Marine units went into action at the Pusan Perimeter. Headed by Maj Edward L. Katzenbach, the Historical Platoon was divided into two field teams with a headquarters at FMFPac in Hawaii. One of the field

As a resource for providing a personal perspective of battles that would later hallow the halls of Marine Corps history, such as Pusan, Inchon, and Chosin, the collection of interviews done by the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon are without parallel.

teams was attached on a temporary additional duty (TAD) basis to the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, and one to the 1st Marine Division. The wing team was led by Capt Sanford W. Higginbotham, in civilian life a professor at Rice University, while Capt Kenneth A. Shutts headed the division team. Shutts had been the enlisted historian for the 6th Marine Division in World War II, while his assistant, 1stLt Alvin Z. Freeman had just retired from the faculty of William and Mary College. Another Marine, who served with the Historical Platoon at its Hawaiian headquarters, was 2dLt Benis M. Frank, a young Clark University graduate student. Frank would go on to become the first head of the Marine Corps’ Oral History Program and later the Corps’ Chief Historian.

The platoon met with considerable

difficulty in its mission. Because they were on TAD orders the teams found it difficult to obtain logistic support. Secondly, their “outsider” status caused them to be regarded as agents of higher headquarters who were sent to spy on Marine units in Korea. Ultimately the Historical Platoon was disbanded by order of the Commandant on 7 July 1952. The historians were absorbed into larger commands and historical documentation reverted to the traditional methods.

Although they did not accomplish all that they had hoped, the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon, nevertheless, made a valuable contribution to the documentation of the Korean War. The interviews conducted by the historians provide a wealth of information on the war not conveyed in official documents. Marines and sailors of various ranks and military occupational specialties were queried on a wide range of historically significant topics, such as close air support, morale, weather, weapons utilization and effectiveness, and clothing and gear. As a resource for providing a personal perspective of battles that would later hallow the halls of Marine Corps history, such as Pusan, Inchon, and Chosin, the collection of interviews done by the 1st Provisional Historical Platoon are without parallel.

Unfortunately these interviews were not recorded. Rather, handwritten notes were taken, then typed, for an official copy of the interview. These are what are retained in the files of the Historical Division. Easily accessible and researcher-friendly, the interviews are catalogued by name of the person interviewed and cross-referenced by subject field. Indeed, these interviews have been aptly used by authors and others, particularly those involved in the current Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemoration.

□1775□

War in Korea: July-December 1950

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

In conjunction with commemorations marking the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, *Fortitudine* will again feature a Korean War Chronology which originally appeared in the bulletin from 1985-1987. The current installment of the Chronology examines the defense of the Pusan Perimeter, the landing at Inchon, and the Chosin Reservoir.

Shortly before dawn on 25 June 1950, the North Korean People's Army swept across the 38th Parallel into South Korea. Two days later U.S. air and naval forces were ordered into action. On 30 June, President Harry S. Truman authorized Gen Douglas MacArthur, Commander in Chief, Far East Command, to send supporting U.S. ground forces to Korea. Gen MacArthur requested the immediate dispatch to Korea of a Marine Corps regimental combat team with its own air support. The Joint Chiefs of Staff decided on 3 July to send Marines. The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, under the command of BGen Edward A. Craig, and comprising about 7,000 Marines, prepared to ship out by sea from Camp Pendleton, California. Marine air units of the brigade, under the command of BGen Thomas J. Cushman, prepared to depart from El Toro, California, where they were drawn from elements of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW).

The 1st Brigade sailed from San Diego on 12 July for Pusan, and the advance echelon of the 1st MAW contingent departed for Tokyo by aircraft on 16 July. Gens Craig and Cushman met with Gen MacArthur on 19 July, and were apprised of his intention to land Marine forces at Inchon in September. While this strategy session was taking place, President Truman called the Organized Marine Corps Reserve to active duty.

By mid-July, the North Korean Army occupied nearly half of South Korea, and launched a major drive against American positions near Taejon. The severity of the situation was emphasized by a Commandant of the Marine Corps directive on 25 July that the entire 1st Marine Division be brought to full war strength, and prepare to embark between 10 and 15 August for duty in Korea. Marine aviation elements in the Far East were to be increased simultaneously from a single group to a wing.

The first elements of the 1st Brigade came ashore at Pusan on 2 August. The following day, the first Marine aviation mission against the North Koreans was flown from the USS *Sicily* by eight Corsairs of VMF-214 in a raid against installations at Chinju and Saon-ni. This initial raid was followed three days later by a strike of Corsairs from VMF-323 on the Badoeng Strait against North Korean positions west of Chinju.

From 7-10 August, Army and Marine units staged their first strong counterattack of the war just east of Chinju, when they drove the North Koreans back over 13 miles in

bitter combat. On 12 August, Gen MacArthur announced that the counterattack had obtained its objective with the storming of enemy hill positions near Chinju. The combined Army and Marine force, known as "Task Force Kean," succeeded in turning back the North Korean threat to Pusan. The victorious, and fatigued, American forces enjoyed but a brief respite, however. On 13 August, a North Korean division succeeded in crossing the Naktong River near Obong-ni, thus threatening the American positions. Closing the resulting "Naktong Bulge" required the concerted effort of Gen Craig's brigade. The 5th Marines, commanded by LtCol Raymond L. Murray, made several assaults on North Korean positions before it succeeded in scaling the 1,000-foot "No-Name Ridge" on 17 August. An attempted North Korean counterattack failed to dislodge the Marines, and the defeated enemy units retreated back across the Naktong River.

In early September, North Korean ground forces began a new drive across the Naktong, assaulting 2d U.S. Infantry Division units. Once more, the 5th Marines counterattacked in force, and by 5 September had pushed back the enemy with heavy losses. At midnight on the same date, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was disengaged from active

Members of Anti-Tank Company, 5th Marines, pass destroyed North Korean T-34 tanks following the 17-19 August Battle of Obong-ni Ridge, during the defense of the Pusan Perimeter.





In a much reprinted photograph, assault troops of the 1st Marine Division use scaling ladders and storm over the sea-wall at Inchon, on 15 September 1950.

combat with North Korean forces, to prepare for the upcoming amphibious landing at Inchon.

Throughout August 1950, plans were underway for a major American amphibious operation on South Korea's western coast. The target city was Inchon, barely 25 miles from the occupied South Korean capital city of Seoul and its adjacent Kimpo airfield.

The numerous obstacles confronting the operation were formidable. After navigating a narrow channel up from the Yellow Sea, the attacking force at Inchon would confront tidal fluctuations of 31 feet, which flooded over 6,000 yards of vast mud flats. This factor necessitated a landing date of 15 September, unless the United Nations Command wished to postpone the landing until mid-October. Undaunted by the enormous difficulties, Gen MacArthur determined to press ahead with Operation Chromite.

The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was disbanded on 13 September, and its components absorbed into the 1st Marine Division. The commanding general of the division was 57-year-old MajGen Oliver P. Smith, whose Marines were assembled in the Inchon target area on the eve of D-Day as the landing force of X Corps, commanded by MajGen Edward M. Almond, USA.

Following preliminary air and naval bombardments, Battalion Landing Team 3/5 seized Wolmi-do Island in the morning hours of 15 September, followed by early evening landings of the remaining 5th Marines and 1st Marines battalions on the "beaches" of Inchon harbor. The North Koreans were caught unprepared, and barely one day after the landings, the 1st Marine Division was on the road towards Seoul.

On 17 September, LtCol Raymond L. Murray's 5th Marines took Kimpo Airfield, crossed the Han River, and captured enemy positions less than 10 miles north of Seoul. The 1st Marines, under the command of Col Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, had meanwhile advanced directly toward the Seoul suburb of Yongdungpo. Close air support was

effectively provided by squadrons of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, flying from carriers during the amphibious assault, and subsequently based at Kimpo. By 20 September, Marines had crossed the Han River along a six-mile beach-head. Marine columns cut the road to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, and approached the outskirts of Seoul. The South Korean capital itself was reached on 25 September by the 1st and 5th Marines. In two days of house-to-house fighting, the 1st Marine Division liberated Seoul from its captors to pave the way for South Korean President Syngman Rhee's triumphal reentry to his capital city.

The U.S. Eighth Army was conducting a combined offensive to the south, and on 26 September advance units made contact just south of Seoul with X Corps. Col Homer L. Litzenberg's 7th Marines, after landing on the 21st, pushed rapidly north of Seoul to seize Uijongbu, and the main road to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

Planned in a record time of approximately 20 days, the Inchon-Seoul operation dealt a stunning blow to the North Korean People's Army. The capability and readiness of Marines in executing a major amphibious assault under the most difficult conditions of weather and geography earned the glowing admiration of Gen MacArthur and the American public. With the North Korean Army on the run, rumors abounded that the war would soon be over, and the "boys home by Christmas."

Following the successful conclusion of the Inchon-Seoul campaign, the 1st Marine Division was relieved by Eighth Army elements and proceeded by sea around the Korean peninsula to seize Wonsan. The collapse of North Korean resistance was so rapid, however, that resurgent Republic of Korean forces took the port city without a fight. Subsequently, the 1st Marine Division made an unopposed landing on 26 October. While the 1st Marines was assigned patrolling and blocking missions in the vicinity of Wonsan, the 5th and 7th Marines were ordered by X Corps to proceed north to Hamhung, in preparation for a major United Nations drive towards the Yalu River and Manchurian border.

Although considerable intelligence placed large numbers of Chinese Communist forces across the Yalu River, Allied Headquarters in Tokyo stalwartly minimized the enemy presence, and ordered the 1st Marine Division to continue its northwest drive towards the Chosin Reservoir, the site of an important hydroelectric plant. Shortly after midnight on 3 November, the 7th Marines had the first large-scale action of American forces with invading Chinese Communists. In four days of fierce fighting, the 7th Marines soundly defeated the *124th Chinese Communist Division*, and on 10 November entered Koto-ri. By 15 November, the regiment reached Hagaru-ri, followed in turn by the 5th Marines and 1st Marines, as MajGen Smith brought his 1st Marine Division regiments together along the main supply route from Hamhung to the southern tip of the Chosin Reservoir.

On 24 November, Gen MacArthur launched simultaneous

offensives of the Eighth Army in western Korea and X Corps in the northeast. On 25 November, Chinese forces struck the Eighth Army's right wing, and effectively brought the Allied advance to a halt. The 5th and 7th Marines, having dutifully advanced westwards to Yudam-ni, were struck by three Chinese divisions on the night of 27 November. Additional Chinese divisions cut the supply route held by the 1st Marines, while other elements struck at Company F, 7th Marines, holding the vital Toktong Pass.

At beleaguered Hagaru-ri, MajGen Smith opened his command post on 28 November. The 5th Marines was ordered to hold its position, while the 7th Marines was assigned the grim task of clearing the zone from Yudam-ni to Hagaru-ri. At Koto-ri, Col Puller was ordered by MajGen Smith to put together a relief column to aid the hard-pressed defenders of Hagaru-ri. The resulting Task Force Drysdale, composed of the 41 Independent Commando, Royal Marines, with elements of U.S. Marine and Army units, arrived on 29 November in Hagaru-ri after a day of bitter fighting along the road from Koto-ri. The situation at Hagaru-ri was by now almost desperate; heavy night attacks by bugle-blowing Chinese were repulsed on 28 and 30 November. From 2 to 4 December, the 5th and 7th Marines battled through to Hagaru-ri over a twisting 14-mile mountain road in sub-zero temperatures, relieving Company F

which still held tenaciously to Toktong Pass. At Hagaru-ri, division elements were supplied by air-drops from the Air Force's Combat Cargo Command and transports of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. More than 4,000 casualties were evacuated by C-47s from an improvised airstrip.

On the morning of 6 December, the breakout southward from Hagaru-ri to Koto-ri began in earnest with Marine engineers blowing up supplies that could not be transported. On 8 December, the 1st Marine Division with the Royal Marines 41 Commando and elements of the U.S. Army's 7th Division, left Koto-ri and advanced towards Hungnam. The column reached Hungnam on 11 December, and by the 15th the last elements of the 1st Marine Division sailed for Pusan.

The Chosin Reservoir campaign cost the 1st Marine Division over 4,000 battle casualties. Fourteen Marines were awarded Medals of Honor for heroism during the advance to the Chosin Reservoir and subsequent breakout during November and December 1950. Seven of the medals were awarded posthumously. The Chinese plan to destroy the 1st Marine Division lay shattered in the frozen landscape of northwest Korea, along with an estimated 25,000 Chinese dead. "Bloodied but unbowed," the 1st Marine Division unloaded at Pusan harbor for a well-earned Christmas rest.

□1775□

A burst of flame and billows of smoke attest to the accuracy of close air support from Marine F4U-5 Corsairs at Hagaru-

ri, in late December 1950, during the Chosin Reservoir campaign.



