

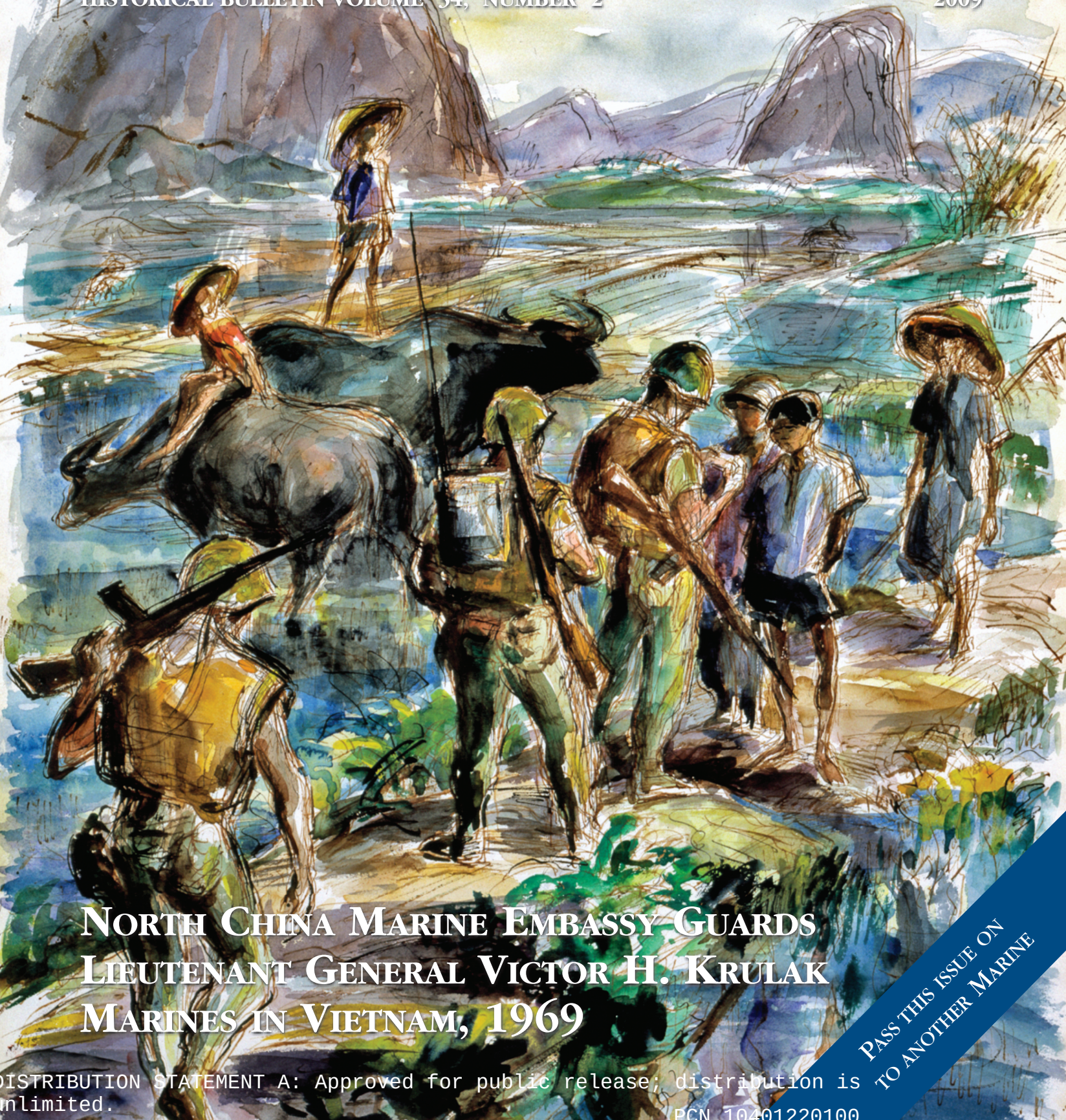
*U.S. Marines
in Vietnam
Marine Corps
Da Nang
March 1967*

FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME 34, NUMBER 2

2009



NORTH CHINA MARINE EMBASSY GUARDS
LIEUTENANT GENERAL VICTOR H. KRULAK
MARINES IN VIETNAM, 1969

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FORTITUDINE

Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era

Historical Bulletin Vol. 34, No. 2

2009

"We can only know who we are by being certain of who we have been."

Gen Leonard F. Chapman Jr.
24th Commandant of the Marine Corps

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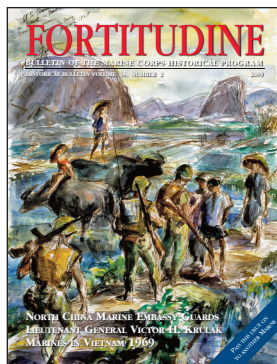
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About the Cover: A pen, ink and watercolor painting by John Groth of Marines on patrol by Marble Mountain near Da Nang, March 1967.

Mr. Groth was a civilian artist for the Marine Corps in Vietnam. He covered World War II, Korea, and went to Vietnam when he was 57 years old to document Marine Corps operations. He was the first civilian to volunteer and be selected for the Combat Art Program in 1966.

This 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.



Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer

“Brute” Inspiration

Once again it is my sad duty to report the passing of another “legend of the Corps.” Lieutenant General Victor H. “Brute” Krulak died in his sleep on 29 December 2008 at the age of 95. He was the father of the 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Charles C. Krulak.

It is hard to measure the impact of the Krulak family upon the shape and development of the Marine Corps. Both elder and younger Krulaks were influential in their own right. But it was Brute Krulak who, by fortuity, planning, or both, was in crucial assignments at just the right place and time throughout his Marine Corps career. For example, soon after being commissioned from the Naval Academy in 1934, First Lieutenant Krulak found himself assigned to the 4th Marine Regiment in Shanghai, China. Filling the role of intelligence officer, he clandestinely observed, and even photographed, Japanese tactics and landing operations against the Chinese. His “Report on Japanese Assault Landing Operations, Shanghai Area, 1937” remains as one of the most remarkable documents ever written by a junior Marine Corps officer. Clear, concise, and thorough, Krulak provided detailed data on various aspects of the Japanese landing craft being used in operations in China. He also recognized that the amphibious-minded Marine Corps had nothing in its arsenal even close to what the Japanese were using at the time. He was especially impressed that the Japanese boats used a bow ramp to disembark their troops.

Upon return to the United States in 1939, Krulak energetically followed up on the impact his report might have had on landing craft procurement and found to his chagrin that civilians in the Bureau of Ships wrongly believed that the report was the work of a

“crank” who knew next to nothing about boats. Nonetheless, as much as a junior officer could in those days, Krulak continued to champion the idea of building landing craft along the lines of those being used so successfully by the Japanese at Shanghai.

By 1940, and recently promoted to captain, Krulak was assigned as aide to Brigadier General Holland M. Smith, who then commanded the 1st Marine Brigade at Quantico. Smith asked him to evaluate Donald Roebling’s then-experimental Landing Vehicle Tracked (LVT). Although



LtGen Victor H. Krulak

Krulak discovered that Roebling’s tracked amphibian vehicle had many shortcomings, he soon became an ardent believer in the efficacy of such a craft, which later paid dividends for the Marine Corps throughout World War II.

During World War II, Krulak commanded the 2d Marine Parachute Battalion. While his Marines never used their parachute skills in any operation, the Paramarines considered themselves an elite combat unit. In November 1943 on Choiseul Island in

the Solomons, Krulak was wounded but refused to be evacuated. He received the Navy Cross for his combat performance there. The Navy Cross citation noted that, although wounded, Lieutenant Colonel Krulak “repeatedly refused to relinquish his command and with dauntless courage and tenacious devotion to duty, continued to lead his battalion against the numerically superior Japanese forces.”

A physically tough and mission-oriented Marine, Krulak’s battlefield performance throughout the war was the stuff from which legends are made. His last assignment during the war was as the G-3 for Major General Lemuel C. Shepherd’s 6th Marine Division, then slated for the invasion of Okinawa. American military planners knew that Okinawa was going to be a difficult operation, so Krulak threw himself into getting his Marines ready for the intense combat they were sure to face. He was proven right. For his tireless efforts “in planning and supervising the training of a newly formed division, overcoming severe handicaps to bring it to a state of complete readiness,” he was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Following the war, Krulak was given assignments of increasing responsibility, and he excelled in each one. One of his most influential and perhaps important roles in the post-war era was to form a group of officers dedicated to blunting the efforts of the newly created Department of Defense to unify the separate military services. Krulak helped organize what became known as the “Little Men’s Chowder and Marching Society.” Krulak and his fellow “chowder society” members persevered throughout the crisis writing papers, collecting data, and providing support during intense congressional testimony. He

later called the unification crisis “one of the most productive periods” of his career. Nearly simultaneously, he was also engaged in evaluating and writing doctrine to use helicopters then being purchased for use by all the military services. Krulak, among others, saw this new technology as a way to bypass formerly lethal beach defenses. Krulak worked to revise amphibious landing doctrine to include the use of helicopters, an approach soon known as vertical assault.

In 1950, Krulak was on board General Douglas MacArthur’s flagship as the Marines landed at Inchon, Korea. He was with the Marine forces during their withdrawal from Chosin Reservoir. Indeed, throughout a long and productive career, spanning four decades and three major wars, Krulak was involved in most significant Marine Corps activities. In 1956, he was selected for general officer, at the time making him the youngest gener-

al in Marine Corps history (age 43).

By 1964, Krulak was a lieutenant general and commander of Fleet Marine Forces Pacific, where he had overarching responsibility for the training and equipping of Marine forces going to Southeast Asia. However, he was not in control of combat operations on the ground, and during his final years as an active-duty Marine, he became a critic of the way the war in Vietnam was being fought by General William C. Westmoreland, USA. His vocal opposition to the strategy and tactics being used in Vietnam may have been one of the reasons he was not selected to become Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1968.

Krulak retired, became president of Copley Newspapers and director of its editorial and news policy, and settled in San Diego, where he lived the rest of his life. Always interested in Marine Corps’ affairs, he was a frequent visitor to the recruit depot in San Diego.

He maintained a life-long interest in Marine Corps’ history, and much of his research and selection of photos for his seminal book, *First to Fight: An Inside View of the U.S. Marine Corps* (1984), was accomplished at the Marine Corps History and Museum Division, then located in Washington D.C. His book appears on the Commandant’s Reading List and is now required reading for all Marines.

Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak was an inspirational visionary, at times an iconoclastic critic, and even a bit of a curmudgeon when he thought it appropriate, but through it all, he remained focused on the development and improvement of his beloved Corps. He refused to compromise his integrity, even when it likely cost him his shot at becoming Commandant. He will be missed by everyone who has worn or is currently wearing the uniform of the United States Marines.

□1775□

LtGen Victor H. Krulak, being saluted by Vietnamese and U.S. Marines upon his arrival at Combined Action Companies A-6 and -9 during his tour of a Vietnam area.

Department of Defense Photo



The First and Longest Held POWs of World War II: North China Marine Embassy Guards–Part III

by Rob Taglianetti
Oral Historian

The following is the third installment in a series about the North China Marine Embassy Guards' experiences during World War II. Part one can be found in Vol. 33, No. 1 of Fortitudine; part two in Vol. 33, No. 3.

The North China Marine Embassy Guards became prisoners of war (POW) in China on 8 December 1941. After confinement in Chinese POW camps, they were shipped by groups to Japanese factories, docks, and mines to become “slave labor” for the war effort. As they were herded onto the transport ships, the Marines read the following notice posted on the wall: “The Navy of the Great Imperial Japanese Empire will not try to punish you all with death. Those obeying all the rules and regulations and believing the action and purpose of the Japanese Navy, cooperating with Japan in constructing the New Order of Great Asia which lead to world’s peace, will be well treated.” However, the Marines were not “well treated” as laborers in Japan; their lives became a horrific struggle to survive the brutality of the guards; to work in abysmal conditions; and to find sufficient food and medicine.

Two groups of 70 prisoners held in China were sent to Fukuoka, Japan, in the fall of 1942, including around 30 of the 203 North China Marines taken prisoner at Peiping, Tientsin, and Chinwangtao. In August 1943, 519 POWs from the Kiangwan prisoner of war camp in Shanghai, China, were transferred to Japanese industrial complexes in places like Kawasaki and Osaka, Japan. Among this group were at least 59 North China Marines. All prisoners, sent to Japan, endured a much harsher existence over the next two years at the hands of the Japanese guards than those who were left

behind at the Shanghai camp. Within a year, several of them would die. On 11 November, an additional 150 POWs, which did not include any North China Marines, were also sent to Japan. This left about 950 North China and Wake Island Marines, sailors, merchant marines, and Wake Island civilians at the Kiangwan camp. Other than these transfers, there were few significant events in the second half of 1943.

In April 1944, the POWs began to sense that the U.S. military was coming to their rescue as the news of victories circulated from the select few who had access to the secret radio. Other signs included the awareness that U.S. submarines were successfully sinking shipping around Japan and China. On Sunday, 2 April 1944, 50 prisoners were put to work building bomb shelters for the Japanese sentries in case of air attack. Thus began a new phase of the POWs’ existence, a new and exciting time with events

confirming that America was taking the war to the Japanese through daily aerial bombing runs. The POWs at Kiangwan got a new lease on life with rumors that Allied bombs were dropped on Nanking on 13 June 1944. The next day, all previous work ceased and the POWs were put to work (day and night, rain or shine, and in all temperatures) on a new project down at the Kiangwan race track: building air-raid shelters and concealing fuel supplies.

It was 3 August 1944 when the Japanese stopped letting the prisoners read Japanese newspapers. On 27 August, the POWs first heard bomb explosions in the Shanghai area. The camp authorities tried to pass off the bomb explosions as Japanese firing practice, but the POWs knew better. They got their first glimpse of U.S. planes when 14 large bombers passed over in daylight on 11 November 1944. With each subsequent sighting,

North China Marines and other allied POWs gather for a group photo outside their mining camp at Hokodata, Japan. After feasting on U.S. relief supplies for three weeks, some appear in top shape but all had ribs still showing, and many others retained lifelong ailments.

Cpl William A. Chittenden Papers, GRC, Quantico, VA



the POWs were forced into their barracks if not there already. All of them scrambled to catch a glimpse of the planes despite the guards strictly forbidding it. Many ignored the warnings and took a beating for it. Their sleep was often disturbed by needless drills, with the entire POW population filing out of the barracks and into a field.

The winter of 1944–45 was the coldest for the prisoners, with temperatures dropping down to the teens at night. Once again the Red Cross came through with a third and final Christmas day feast, which was a particular treat for POWs who lived off of rice three times a day. Most of the men were living through their fifth Christmas in captivity, which was for most of the POWs at least six years away from their families. Marines like Corporal Terrence S. Kirk, who were among those shipped off to Japan early in the war, never experienced a Christmas meal except for that first one in 1941. For Kirk, Christmas dinner in 1942 at Fukuoka, Japan, was fried sweet potato peels scrounged from a garbage heap. As the war progressed, even “luxuries” such as that became less common.

Throughout the war, the prisoners found ways to sabotage whatever the Japanese had them working on. The POWs “repaired” trucks and left little oil in them; riveted ships but purposefully made the rivets weak; welded poorly; and threw special tools into poured cement. While working on fuel supply dumps, the POWs found a new way to help the Allied war effort even while appearing to work for the Japanese. Of all the ways the POWs found to sabotage the Japanese war effort, this one is still on the top of Private First Class Chester M. Biggs’ list as the most effective. “We hoped that the biggest thing we did to hurt them [was while] we were burying gasoline and pineapple alcohol . . . in 50 gallon drums. Somebody got the wild idea that if you loosen the cap on there . . . [the result was] a drip like a water faucet. We like to think [the result was] the loss of thousands of gallons. It made us feel good. We did it, and we didn’t get caught!”

A sighting of P51 fighter planes on

17 January 1945 confirmed to the POWs that the Americans were advancing. Sergeant Major Cecil M. Dietz recorded the excitement in his diary. “They came low enough for us to see their insignia—and did this gang go wild!!!” Private First Class Biggs’ first indication that the war was drawing to a close was seeing these smaller U.S. planes pass over the camp, noting that “we had been there three years. If they had fighter planes coming in, they must be pretty close.”

Private First Class Robert R. Haberman’s first sighting of American planes occurred while he was on a ditch-digging work party along the roads surrounding the Kiangwan camp. Although instructed by the guards to run for cover in a corn field a half mile away, Haberman and a few others did not make it. Stopping on a road just short of the field, he could not help but flag down the planes. “We were screaming and waving at the airplanes. A couple of them made a circle, they came down toward us, and they dipped their wings as they went by and we knew that they recognized us,” he recalled.

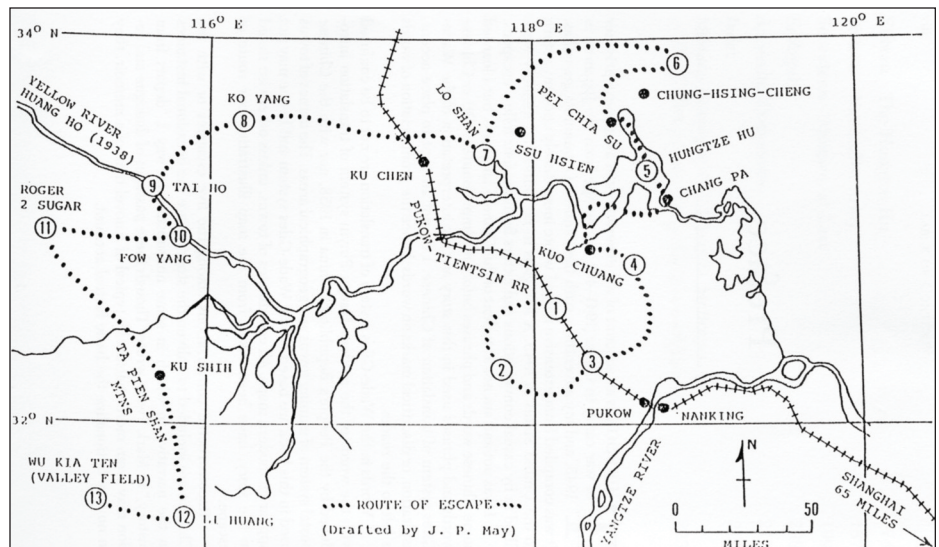
The U.S. was planning a significant bombing run on Shanghai 1 April 1945, and to be sure they did not kill any POWs, American planes began mapping the area surrounding the

Kiangwan camp a week before bombing. The POWs had something to celebrate that Easter when they heard the beautiful sound of 500-pound “Easter eggs” dropping all around them on Japanese airstrips, military barracks, factories, and communications in the Shanghai region. Within a few days of these bombings, the Kiangwan camp POWs began to hear rumors that they would be moved. The Japanese had the POWs fill out their 10th, albeit a different “census,” and were told its purpose was to classify them for transfer to Japanese camps. Most likely, a majority of the POWs who had shipped out to Japan before them had indicated on one of these census forms that they had some skill the Japanese were looking for. As it turned out, this last group of POWs all went to mining camps in northern Japan by July 1945.

The Japanese began to transport this last group of POWs to Japan in June 1945 by a northern route through North China, down the Korean peninsula, and across the China Sea. The Japanese crowded the men into cattle cars for the first leg of the trip. While en route to their first stop, Fengtai camp near Peiping, China, several Marines planned to escape from the cattle cars, believing they could find Chinese forces friend-

The escape route of 2ndLt James D. McBrayer Jr. The convoluted route was necessary to avoid regularly traveled routes and for the exchange from one group of guerrillas to another. The number 1 marks where he jumped off the POW train and 13 his final destination.

From *Escaped*, by James D. McBrayer Jr.



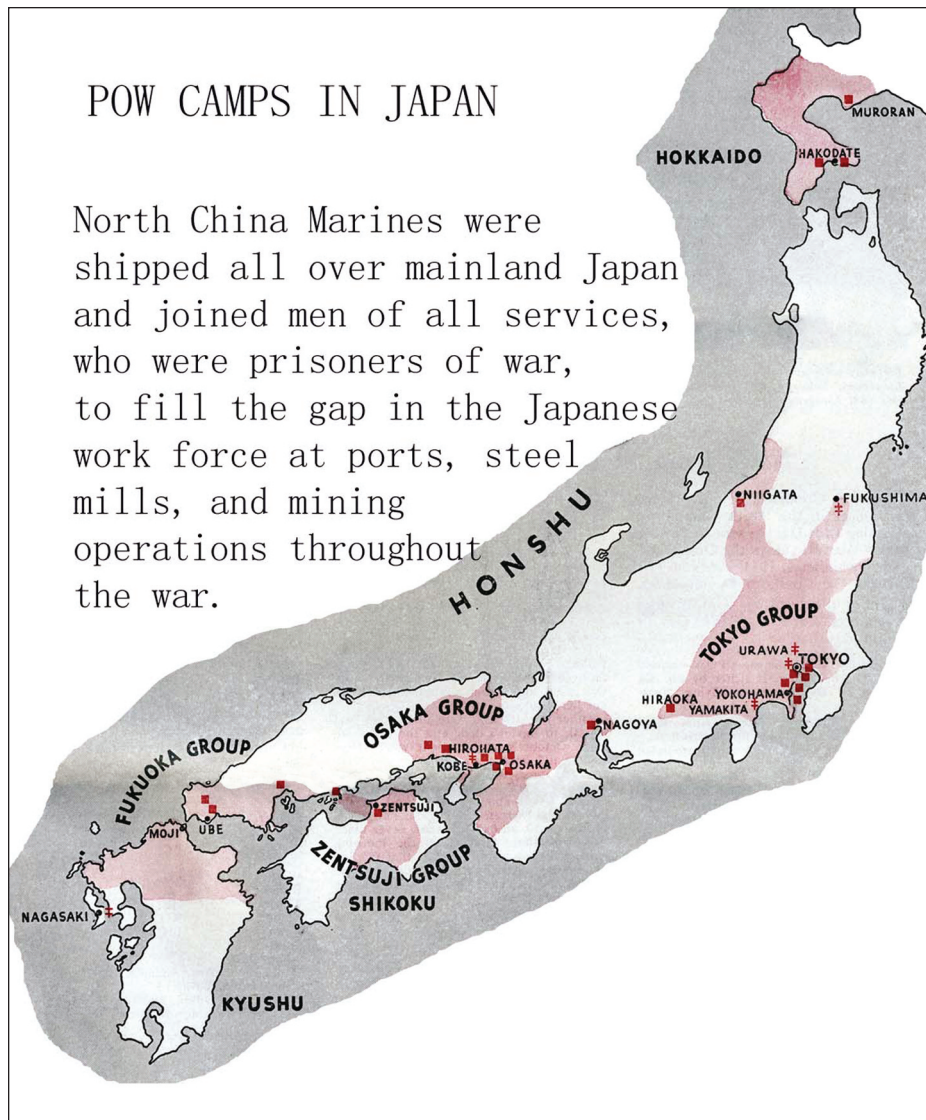
ly to Americans. The Marines squeezed through thin window bars in the bathroom at the end of their cars. Two North China Marines, Second Lieutenant Richard M. Huizenga and Second Lieutenant James D. McBrayer Jr., made it back to U.S. forces with the help of friendly Chinese soldiers. Civilian Jack Hernandez was recaptured due to a broken leg he suffered when he jumped from the train, but civilian Bill Taylor experienced quite an adventure with Chinese Communists, including meeting Mao Zedong.

The POWs stayed one month at the Fengtai prisoner of war camp—the worst camp for this group of POWs up to that time. According to Colonel William W. Ashurst, senior Marine in charge of this group of almost 1,000 POWs, Fengtai was one long, miserable month. The POWs, while waiting to transfer, slept on dirt and brick floors in an old warehouse. The officers worked on a baseball diamond, and the enlisted men worked on the “great ditch” around the camp. Colonel Ashurst was allowed to correspond with the Swiss Consulate in Peiping, not far from Fengtai, and sent a lengthy list of grievances and needs to be forwarded to the Red Cross. While they were in this temporary holding camp, the Japanese destroyed all the records relating to the POWs, including Ashurst’s own daily diary and log of events. The Red Cross was not informed of the POWs’ exact whereabouts from that time on. The Red Cross shipped at least one extra-large, last-minute shipment of supplies to get them through their travels, and although it arrived in time, it never followed the POWs in their travels from Fengtai. In Japan, the privately owned factories, docks, and mines often made money by selling any Red Cross supplies that arrived for the POWs and used the medical supplies for the Japanese troops and camp guards.

While traveling to Japan, the POWs experienced horrific conditions in warehouses where they had to sleep standing up. On the voyage across the China Sea, the cargo hold they occupied below the ship’s deck only allowed the men to lie down in shifts on straw mats covered in fecal matter

POW CAMPS IN JAPAN

North China Marines were shipped all over mainland Japan and joined men of all services, who were prisoners of war, to fill the gap in the Japanese work force at ports, steel mills, and mining operations throughout the war.



Cpl William A. Chittenden Papers, GRC, Quantico, VA

A map of Japan showing locations of some, but not all, of the camps where allied POWs were housed and put to work as slave labor, some for as long as three years.

due to flooded toilet areas. That night was the worst night of Captain John A. White’s life. He estimated that there were approximately 1,000 rats—one for every man—in the hold of that ship. Beside the rats, the cargo hold was filthy, the heat was stifling, there was no air circulation, and the men had only about 40 minutes of fresh air during the entire 100-mile journey at night through submarine-infested waters. Because the ship took evasive maneuvers to avoid submarines, the trip took 36 hours. After arriving at the port of Susa on Honshu, the main island of Japan, the guards stuffed 150 men into a rail car that normally accommodated only 80 men. Sergeant Major Dietz recorded that the only “light at the end of the tunnel” came

through the thin curtains drawn over the rail car windows. The POWs saw the utterly devastated remains of bombed buildings, ports, factories, and bridges all along the way, albeit at the danger of a beating from the Japanese guards. Dietz took notes on scraps of paper the entire time and wrote that “we are satisfied and can take anything that they can hand us after this trip!”

By early July 1945, almost all of the North China Marines were scattered across Japan as slave labor sold to private industry in the service of the war effort. The more recent POW arrivals found out what 80 of their fellow North China Marines (some captured in the Philippines) had been

experiencing in various Japanese POW camps for the last two to three years—cruelties under the control of seasoned Japanese soldiers. Living conditions for the Marines, regardless of when they arrived in Japan, took a turn for the worse. Barracks were ten times as crowded, food was more scarce, sanitary conditions were about the same, and punishment was much worse compared to the treatment by Japanese guards in China.

Private First Class Haberman, who knew some Japanese language, believed that many times the mistreatment of the POWs was a result of the frustrations of trying to communicate in a foreign language. “I tried to use my knowledge [of Japanese] to help other Americans who got in trouble, and a lot of the time it cost me a beating too. Most of the beatings the guys got were [the result of] misunderstandings in language,” he recalled. All this changed when the prisoners arrived in Japan. The punishment meted out by the guards grew progressively worse. Face slapping was common. Haberman related what he felt was the reason for this harsher treatment. “When the new guards came in, they were seasoned troops that had rela-

tives that had already been killed in the war. They didn’t like Americans, some of them did, but most of them were pretty rough.”

Corporal Terence S. Kirk’s family published a book titled *The Secret Camera*. It details how Kirk constructed a camera with the help of a Japanese American from California who was tricked into returning to Japan before war broke out. The friendly guard smuggled photographic plates into the camp, and Kirk fashioned a cardboard body for the camera. He took photos of POWs that documented the effects of their meager diet and showed the diseases they contracted due to the inhumane treatment. The book sparked some recent legislation, which permitted payment of interest on back pay to Navy/Marine POWs who had not been paid as of 2001. Kirk recounted in the book how some of the POW section leaders were required to learn Japanese or suffer harsh consequences. Kirk noted what little efforts the guards made to supply the POWs with basic necessities of life. Kirk wore the same clothing (burlap shirts and trousers) long after it turned into rags; his shoes were made of scraps of wood; he was issued a bar of soap

once every three to six months. His body was infested with lice.

The prisoners supplemented their Japanese rations with whatever they could find. For Kirk, whose starvation rations eventually included horse feed, his diet included taking his chances with strange roots. Other POWs scrounged what others had thrown away. Captain White recorded in his book, *The United States Marines in North China* (1974), that POWs were beaten across the face when a guard at the port facility at Osaka, Japan, caught them eating orange peels off the street. Sometime in the spring of 1945, and following a successful U.S. air raid that leveled much of Osaka’s port facility, these same POWs, according to White, had to supplement their temporarily nonexistent rations with the remains of a dead horse, helping to feed 1,000 POWs for three days. At his last camp in Hakodate, Japan, White recounted how he boiled down rock salt retrieved from inside horse manure. Such were the ways of survival that daily forced the POWs to fend for themselves once they became slave labor in Japan. Private First Class Ralph H. Goudy died while trying not

Prison camp guards at Camp #5 in Kawasaki, Japan, gathered for a group photo. According to PFC Robert R. Haberman,

“These were seasoned troops that had friends and relatives killed in the war. They didn’t like Americans.”

Japanese Wartime Photo



to starve when he contracted food poisoning after eating from opened cans found while on a work detail.

Mass punishment occurred on several occasions. As a lesson to all, the offenses of one or more POWs brought punishment to many POWs, such as standing in the rain for hours, withholding of food, or confinement for days. Those who were remotely related to the offending party, such as bunkmates and section members, were always punished. Mass punishments were also inflicted upon groups of men if no one confessed to an infraction of the rules. One notorious such event took place after a bombing raid at the Kawasaki steel factory. According to Corporal William A. Chittenden, who worked at the factory, one of the POWs wrote "V for Victory" on the blackened wall of a bombed-out hospital room. When asked who had done it, no one stepped forward to accept the blame. The Japanese guards made the POWs stand at attention all night without dinner or breakfast. The POWs worked the entire next day and then stood four hours that night. When informed that the "hamburger squad" was going to aggressively interrogate everyone, all POWs cringed at the thought. Finally Private First Class Ronald O. McMahon stepped forward and took the blame. No one ever knew whether he was guilty, but he endured several days of extreme punishment.

The majority of the North China Marines ended up in the Hakodate coal mining camps. Enlisted POWs were housed at camps 2 and 3 and officers at camp 4 almost 10 miles away. When they arrived, the camp commander informed the POWs that they would have to rely on their own gardening to supplement what little he could provide. Seeds issued included spinach, mustard greens, and radishes, which the POWs added to make a "stew." Several Red Cross shipments intended for these POWs were found locked in a storage room at the end of the war.

The POWs at Hakodate worked with jackhammers to remove coal from shaft facings. This was danger-

ous work because the mine shaft was 42 years old at the time and in terrible condition, with many rotten and broken supporting timbers. Small-scale cave-ins occurred regularly. The POWs' feet were wet at all times, and when moving about, the POWs had to avoid low-hanging electrical wires.

Military intelligence officers compiled a long list of mistreatments at the Hakodate mining camp. According to a declassified intelligence report, "This mining facility was privately owned and operated by the Hokkaido Shipping and Mining Company Ltd. Prisoners were leased for labor in these mines. Quarters were extremely overcrowded in the old miner's barracks. No sleeping mats of any kind were issued, and the prisoners slept on hardwood floors. The quarters were infested with fleas and bed-bugs. There were no furnishings, and food was served and eaten on the floor. The men suffered from the continual stench of the open latrines and toilet pits that were located inside the sleeping quarters." If the POWs had to work in these conditions much longer, they would have developed serious physical and mental consequences. Fortunately for them, this group of POWs was liberated within two months after arriving at this slave labor camp, but several others who were shipped earlier were not so fortunate.

The prisoners feared that if an invasion were launched on the Japanese mainland and in the vicinity of the POW camps, they would be quickly exterminated. Technical Sergeant Charles D. Pierce was interviewed in 1985 and recalled being shown "trenches dug to bury us in the event of a landing." At Hirohata camp in 1944, the Japanese told one Marine that they would kill all prisoners the moment the first American soldier set foot on their sacred soil. At Yawata, where Pierce was held, the Marines had stolen and hidden enough weapons (under coal) to arm all the Marines if they needed to defend themselves when the Japanese tried to carry out the order to execute all POWs.

On 9 August 1945, ground zero for

the second atomic bomb was to be Kokura, Japan, which was in proximity of many POW camps, but the flight ended up being diverted to Nagasaki. Not all the POWs held in Japanese camps survived other bombing runs on Japanese factories, however. Yawata, which was known as the Pittsburgh of Japan, was regularly hit by American bombers. Corporal Richard Rider was killed at Osaka during one of the American bombing raids.

On 15 August 1945 Sergeant Major Dietz watched as the Hakodate camp guards quickly gathered for a meeting during which the camp authorities informed all Japanese staff that Japan had surrendered. The prisoners suddenly were treated differently but not informed why or given any news. The guards stopped disciplining the POWs when they disobeyed. Nine days later, camp authorities informed them of Japan's surrender and that all soldiers were to cease resistance. The Japanese still kept the POWs restrained to a degree, but there were no more orders taken or followed.

Four days later, the POWs at Hakodate received their first supply drop. Supplies were packed into drums, strapped to parachutes, and dropped over open ground on or near the POW camps. Supplies included soap, cigarettes, K rations, magazines such as *Look* and *Life*, clothes, hard tack, chocolate bars, and chewing gum. Dietz recorded the following about the fourth and final drop: "We have enough food for a week! It is the best drop we have had so far. American coffee, fresh beef, boned hams, bacon, sugar, hash, corned beef, beef stew, Vienna sausage, franks, candy, powdered milk, just to name a few! Had a real honest to God States-side steak for dinner tonight! They even dropped enough fresh bread for a meal! This gang went nuts."

One of the few humorous aspects of the three- to four-week period when the POWs were awaiting orders was observing the multiple attempts at aerial resupply. Many times, the straps on the 50-gallon drums snapped when the parachutes opened. Unfortunately,

レンゴウグンホリョヘ ALLIED PRISONERS

The JAPANESE Government has surrendered. You will be evacuated by ALLIED NATIONS forces as soon as possible.

Until that time your present supplies will be augmented by air-drop of U.S. food, clothing and medicines. The first drop of these items will arrive within one (1) or two (2) hours.

Clothing will be dropped in standard packs for units of 50 or 500 men. Bundle markings, contents and allowances per man are as follows:

BUNDLE MARKINGS

50 MAN PACK	500 MAN PACK	CONTENTS	ALLOWANCES PER MAN
A	3	Drawers	2
A	1-2	Undershirt	2
B	22	Socks (pr)	2
A	4-6	Shirt	1
A	7-9	Trousers	1
C	23-30	Jacket, field	1
A	10	Belt, web, waist	1
A	11	Capt, H.B.T.	1
B	12-21	Shoes (pr)	1
A	1-2	Handkerchiefs	3
C	32-34	Towel	1

BUNDLE MARKINGS

50 MAN PACK	500 MAN PACK	CONTENTS	ALLOWANCES PER MAN
B	10	Laces, shoe	1
A	11	Kit, sewing	1
C	31	Soap, toilet	1
C	4-6	Razor	1
C	4-6	Blades, razor	10
C	10	Brush, tooth	1
B	31	Paste, tooth	1
C	10-	Comb	1
B	32	Shaving cream	1
C	12-21	Powder(insecticide)	1

There will be instructions with the food and medicine for their use and distribution.

C A U T I O N

DO NOT OVERTREAT OR OVERMEDICATE

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FEEDING 100 MEN

To feed 100 men for the first three (3) days, the following blocks (individual bundles dropped) will be assembled:

3 Blocks No. 1 (Each Contains)

2 Cases, Soup, Can
1 Cases Fruit Juice
1 Case Accessory Pack

3 Blocks No. 2 (Each Contains)

3 Cases "C" Rations
1 Case Hosp Supplies
2 Cases Fruit

1 Block No. 5 (Each Contains)

1 Case Soup, Dehd
1 Case Veg Puree
1 Case Bouillon
1 Case Hosp Supplies
1 Case Vitamin Tablets

1 Block No. 7 (Each Contains)

1 Case Nescafe
1 Sack Sugar
1 Case Milk
1 Case Cocoa

1 Block No. 3 (Each Contains)

1 Case Candy
1 Case Gum
1 Case Cigarettes
1 Case Matches

1 Block No. 10 (Each Contains)

3 Cases Fruit
2 Cases Juice

Personal Papers of PFC Frank P. Prater

Leaflet dropped by U.S. forces to POWs to inform them of the Japanese surrender and instruct them in what to do.

on some occasions civilians were killed when these drums dropped through the roofs of Japanese homes. However, among the first drops, every one of the canned goods exploded on impact, leaving little to salvage. Dropped supplies became like "food bombs" on the camp. Taking shelter did not ensure the POWs' safety, as one air raid shelter was demolished by three cases of peaches. At one point, every square inch of one of the barracks was covered with chicken noodle soup. Noodles hung from wires like Christmas tinsel.

After the earliest attempted drops

on top of the camps, the POWs were told to go out in rice patties to retrieve the supplies. According to Private First Class Haberman, pallets of supplies were placed inside large empty bomb shells that could survive the impact and skip across the soft rice patties. The shells usually skipped across the patties but often ended up hitting some rock formation or levee and exploding, sending supplies flying toward the POWs, who hit the deck to avoid injury. A few times, the comical aerial drops turned tragic when POWs were killed by flying debris. "A Navy corpsman from Wake Island got hit

right in the forehead with the corner of a crate and . . . zoom . . . the top of his head was taken clean off and he was dead before he hit the ground," recounted Haberman. At other camps, American servicemen who wandered too close to the supply drop locations before the all clear was given were killed by five-pound "bullets" of canned food.

Many of the POWs, who followed Morders by radio and stayed in the camps, were regularly supplied with medicine, clothing, and food. In the weeks following the delivery of these supplies, the Marines' appearance radically changed, giving the impression of health even though they were still suffering from the deprivations of the previous four years. An example of this transformation was Sergeant Major Dietz. He was informed that supplies had missed their intended drop zone by five miles, and he was asked to assemble a team to recover the supplies, strewn across a forested mountain region. He was shocked, while out on this foraging party, at his physical fitness and the excellent recovery he had made. He recorded climbing 50-degree mountainsides and slashing his way through brush all day long without getting winded or experiencing sore muscles. Consequently, by the time the doctors examined the former POWs in Okinawa, the Marines had gained weight and had not appeared deprived. As a consequence, the doctors assumed the former POWs were healthy and ignored the real and long-term health problems of beriberi, dengue fever, and sustained malnutrition. On average, the life span of the North China Marines was shorter than prisoners held by Germany during World War II.

On 5 September 1945 during a formal surrender ceremony in Hakodate camp 4 while the Japanese officers surrendered their guns and Samurai swords, the enlisted ex-prisoners of Hakodate camp 3 held a flag-raising ceremony. According to Sergeant Major Dietz's diary, two men with cameras shot 50 feet of film of the ceremony, which Dietz said would be given to the museum at Quantico. (This footage has yet to be located.)

On 11 September, these same Marines were visited by the first non-POW Americans they had seen in almost four years. A party of six U.S. Army men, two officers and four enlisted, stumbled upon their camp after losing their way to the main camp of Hakodate. The six Army soldiers left behind one Army combat correspondent, who took many pictures of the camp and the former POWs and also conducted a few interviews (yet to surface in any archive).

Private First Class Biggs related more details of the first encounter with liberation troops. “Finally one day a jeep pulled into camp with a couple Army officers on it and they were called RAMP teams [Recovery of Allied Military Personnel]. We were moved out in groups of 50 to the air base at Sapporo, they flew everybody to Yokohama where we had connections onto ships.” Sergeant Major Dietz noted in his diary that the group received orders by radio that directed the former prisoners when to depart the camp en route to a local train station.

Somewhere in their medical check-ups and debriefings, these former POWs were instructed to sign a document that said they would not talk or

publish anything related to their experiences. This was a typical nonbinding document designed to stave off what could have become news that might have damaged the fragile relations between world powers. However, many of the North China Marines took the document to mean that they were not to talk about their experiences to anyone, ever.

Thankfully, some did preserve their memories. When asked how they survived, Technical Sergeant Charles H. Darr attributed their tough life during the Great Depression: “Well, I’m a child of the 30s. I know what it was like to be hungry. I was a teenager in 1932 and 1933, we didn’t have much to eat in those days.” Other factors were the Red Cross shipments; being captured and, for most, kept together throughout the ordeal; and of course, their Marine Corps’ discipline. John Powers, the son-in-law of a POW who is also good friends with a small group of North China Marines that still meet for reunions, explained how their Marine training and the “senior” Marine authority figure kept each group of Marines organized and disciplined. “As Marines, even though they might be transferred out and they didn’t have a colonel in charge, and they

might not have a lieutenant in charge, maybe they didn’t have a sergeant in charge, but the senior corporal then was in charge, as much as he could be.”

Out of the 203 Marines and sailors captured at Pieping, Tientsin, and Chinwangtao, nine died and only three successfully escaped back to U.S. custody out of a total of 11 escape attempts. The other POWs ended up all over Japan in more than a dozen different POW camps. After returning to the United States, half of them continued their military careers, while others melted back into civilian life. A few of the POWs have struggled to be recognized by the U.S. government and eventually got back pay and interest, albeit in 1941 dollars.

Some North China Marines have stalked and a few have published their experiences, but many have dutifully kept it to themselves all these years. Their surviving number is now 13 men.

Author’s Note

Rob Taglianetti wishes to thank Don DiLoreto, president of Video Scene Media Consultancy Service, for his help in conducting video interviews and his camaraderie in research.

□1775□

French Artist Illustrates Marines at Belleau Wood

By Col William T. Anderson (Ret)

After the Belleau Wood battle, noted French artist Georges Scott (1873–1943) traveled to the battlefield and painted a scene of the northern edge of Belleau Wood near the old hunting lodge, where Marines fought on 23–26 June 1918. The original painting is in the National Army Museum in Paris. A copy of the painting first appeared in the French magazine *L’Illustration* on 31 August 1918. It was reproduced in the 28 September 1918 edition of *The Illustrated London News*.



La Brigade Marine Americaine Au Bois De Belleau

Sam Colt's Favorite: The Colt Model 1851 Navy Revolver

*by Alfred V. Houde Jr.
Curator of Ordnance*

When the National Museum of the Marine Corps opens its next three historical galleries in April 2010, many examples of firearms and artillery pieces will be on display. The galleries will take visitors from the birth of the Corps in 1775 through the battles of World War I. One of the artifacts to go on display is a Colt Model 1851 Navy revolver.

Few handguns were ever manufactured exclusively for the Marine Corps. During their long history, Marines have usually carried weapons developed and adopted by either the Army or the Navy. The Corps has also made limited use of various civilian or commercial model guns. During the Civil War, the 1851 Colt Navy, or Belt Model, was one of the best known sea-going small arms. A six-shot .36-caliber percussion revolver, it operated in the single-action mode, firing either a combustible paper cartridge or loose powder and ball. Combining a propelling charge of 12 grains of black powder and a 135-grain lead ball, its mild recoil and fine balance made for an excellent shooting sidearm.

Although not a regulation Marine Corps weapon, the Colt Navy was often wielded by Union Navy and Marine Corps officers on ship and shore. When they were fortunate enough to find one, Confederate officers had them, too. In fact, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was carrying an engraved Colt Navy when he was captured by Union forces on 10 May 1865 near Irwinville, Georgia. The weapon is on display at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia.

People from all walks of life purchased the 1851 Colt Navy. A personal favorite of Colonel Samuel Colt himself, a Colt Navy revolver, along with a draftsman's compass, are featured in a portrait of this well-known arms designer, quite a compliment considering the number of outstanding arms

created by this man. Fully aware that he had two outlets for the sale of this firearm, civilians and the military, Colonel Colt gave many presentation and ornately engraved samples to persons of high influence, including U.S. politicians, generals, kings, and Russian czars.

With more than 255,000 of these revolvers manufactured, production continued through approximately 1873. Next to the 1849 Pocket model, the Colt Navy was the most popular of all the Colt-manufactured percussion revolvers. Exact numbers are unknown. However, many thousands of these revolvers were issued by the U.S. government following the first large purchase of 1,000 units by the Ordnance Department in July 1855. Additionally, many variations exist, from differently shaped trigger guards to grip frames made of alternate materials. Following the Civil War, Marines used a number of various Navy-issued pistols until the advent of the double-action .38-caliber revolver.

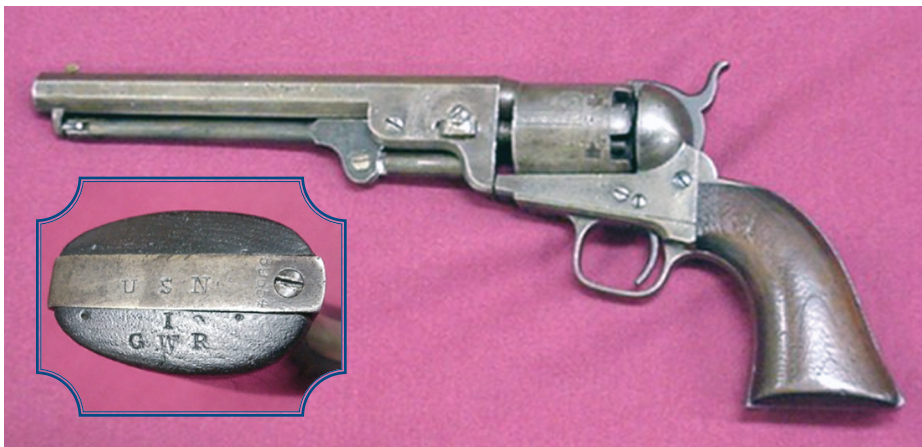
The revolver shown here is a specimen from the Civil War era, bearing serial number 89654. It is one of 600 pieces of the last prewar order placed by the U.S. Navy in August 1859. Purchased from Colt at \$18 apiece, the serial numbers range from 89000 to 91000. Half of the order was sent to

the New York Navy Yards, with the remainder being sent to Boston. This revolver retains all matching numbers and the correct Colt factory markings. This is rare because many of these revolvers were later converted to fire a self-contained center-fire metallic cartridge. In addition, many more had various parts removed, repaired, or replaced over time. This revolver has USN stamped on the bottom of the grip frame, and the left wooden grip panel bears the inspection initials G.W.R., for George W. Rodgers. Then-Lieutenant Rodgers served as an ordnance inspector at the New York Naval Ordnance Yard from June 1859 to September 1860. Commander Rodgers was later killed in action while storming Fort Sumter in 1863. Any other documented history of this revolver is lost to time, but it was manufactured between 1858 and 1859 and was intended for action, not presentation.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps acquired this weapon in 1974, but there are scant details regarding its history after the war. The Museum's armament curators will display this fine weapon in the first of the new galleries slated to open in spring 2010, called "Defending the New Republic, 1775–1865." □1775□

Colt 1851 Navy Revolver with grip frame engravings on insert picture

Photos by Alfred V. Houde Jr.



Combat Artist: Morgan I. Wilbur

by Gregory A. Macbeak
Editor for *Fortitudine*

Combat artists and their art have been an enduring feature of Marine Corps history. Starting with this issue of *Fortitudine*, combat artists will be highlighted along with a painting by the artist. The first four combat artists, featured in the upcoming issues, had their paintings, drawings, or sketches shown at the Navy Art Gallery from September 2008 through February 2009. This showing was a collaborative effort by Gale Munro, Curator of the Navy Art Collection, Naval Historical Center and Joan Thomas, Art Curator of the Marine Corps Art Collection, National Museum of the Marine Corps. Two of the featured artists are from the Marine Corps and the other two are from the Navy. This issue features one of the Navy artists, Morgan I. Wilbur. Wilbur works for the Naval Historical Center and is the art director for *Naval Aviation News*. He has shown his work in various collections, including the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum. Numerous books and magazines have reproduced his work.

Wilbur got his impetus to pursue art from his father, who was a Navy

pilot. His father taught him the basics of painting and was his primary source of training in painting. He continues to fine tune his techniques by making social contacts in the art world and reads many books and magazines on art. His favorite artist is Joseph Mallord William Turner who was an English landscape artist. Wilbur has painted or was commissioned to paint different subjects, including a Navy oceanographic ship, a gas station, and a garbage truck.

Wilbur got his start as a combat artist when he boarded the aircraft carrier USS *John C. Stennis* during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2002. His travels in Operation Iraqi Freedom in April 2003 gave him the opportunity to document the efforts of Navy medical support, including Fleet Hospital Three in southern Iraq. He returned to Iraq in 2005 to document the work of Navy corpsmen, serving with Marines, and in 2006 to document Coalition activities in Baghdad.

During his visit to Fleet Hospital Three in 2003, Wilbur spent eight days with Navy medical personnel, observing and taking pictures. He had the opportunity to observe surgery to remove a bomb fragment from the



Three on the Knee

knee of a wounded sailor. He stated that he found the Navy medical staff “upbeat and motivated.” Wilbur added that his experiences at the hospital “changed his life” and the way he looks at things, and it was a “turning point in his art work.”

Wilbur used several photographs from the surgery to “make one detailed drawing” from which he painted *Three on the Knee*. The oil painting is on primed, white, stretched canvas. He stated that his technique was to paint in layers. The farthest elements he painted first and then painted the elements closer to the perspective of the viewer.

□1775□

Morgan I. Wilbur



Operation Dewey Canyon

Heavy Fighting

In the regiment's center, Company A, 1st Battalion, protecting the battalion's left flank, continued to reconnoiter the site of the previous day's contact, and then headed east off the ridge on the morning of 22 February. About 1,000 meters from the battalion command post near Lang Ha on the border, the 1st Platoon encountered an NVA [North Vietnamese Army] squad in well-positioned bunkers. Under Second Lieutenant George M. Malone Jr., the platoon quickly overran the position, killing seven while losing one Marine. "At this point," observed First Lieutenant Wesley L. Fox, "it looked like that was all the resistance we had. Everything was quiet, so I radioed up to battalion to send the water details [from Headquarters and Service and C Companies] down to the creek. We were in bad need of water. The helicopters could not get in due to weather, and the battalion was low." A 20-man detail moved down and as they started to fill canteens, they came under enemy 60mm mortar and machine gun fire. Lieutenant Fox immediately ordered the detail back, reoriented his 1st Platoon toward the south, and moved it forward, beginning the last large engagement of Operation Dewey Canyon.

Pushing through triple-canopied jungle, banana groves, and dense



Department of Defense Photo

A CH-53 Sea Stallion lands supplies and ammunition at Fire Support Base Razor shortly after the mountaintop was secured by members of the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

underbrush, Lieutenant Malone's platoon ran up against a reinforced NVA company in a well-prepared, well-camouflaged, and heavily fortified bunker complex. To the rear, on a high ridgeline, the enemy had emplaced RPGs, machine guns, and mortars. Fox moved up the 3d Platoon and placed it on line with the 1st. When the momentum of the assault faltered, the 2d was then committed through the center of the two attacking platoons. Even though casualties

mounted, Lieutenant Fox found he could not use air and artillery support as the company was boxed in by a low ceiling, terrain, and vegetation, and so locked in combat that if he withdrew to use artillery, he would run the risk of incurring additional casualties. Momentum nevertheless had to be maintained.

As the three platoons pressed the attack, the company command group took a direct mortar hit, killing or wounding everyone except the executive officer, First Lieutenant Lee R. Herron, who was given command of the 2d Platoon. Lieutenant Fox, despite his wounds, continued to control the advance. Finally, Company D, which had been ordered to assist, appeared, moving through the banana groves in front of Company A's position. "They had gotten off on the wrong trail and came in behind the enemy position, and then walked into our front." "At this time," noted Lieutenant Fox, "I realized that we had already penetrated the enemy posi-

This piece commemorates the 40th anniversary of Operation Dewey Canyon, the last major offensive of the 3d Marine Division during the Vietnam War. Lasting from 22 January to 18 March 1969, the operation saw U.S. Marines sweep through the Song Da Krong Valley while encountering heavy North Vietnamese resistance.

The following excerpt, "Heavy Fighting," is from Charles R. Smith, U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown, 1969 (Marine Corps History and Museums Division, Washington D.C.: 1988), 45–47. This excerpt describes the engagement for which First Lieutenant Wesley Lee Fox was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Download the above book at

<http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/HD/General/Publications.htm#2001>

tion; we had already pushed through the entire position, and all Delta Company had to do was walk down and help us carry up our wounded.” Results included 105 NVA killed and 25 automatic weapons captured; the dead, clad in new uniforms, included several officers, all of whom were highly decorated veterans of other campaigns. Marine casualties were heavy: 11 killed and 72 wounded, 54 of whom required evacuation.

Because of Company A’s daylong battle, the 1st Battalion reoriented its direction of search eastward, towards Hills 1044 and 1224 (Tam Boi). During the next four days, it moved along Route 548, just north of the border, encountering small groups of enemy personnel and discovering several minor arms caches. On 27 February, while searching the slopes of Hill 1044, Company D stumbled onto one of the largest enemy weapons and munitions caches of the war. “I was walking along the side of a road,” Gunnery Sergeant Russell A. Latona reported, “and there was a bomb crater there and sticking out of the bomb crater I saw the footpod of a mortar bipod.” Alerting the company, he ordered several men to start digging. “They dug down about four or five inches and they found boards. They lifted up the boards and they started digging a hole and this is when we found several weapons.” A further check of nearby bunkers and bomb craters revealed that the company had moved into the midst of an NVA supply depot, a storehouse which would eventually yield 629 rifles, 108 crew-served weapons (60 machine guns, 14 mortars, 15 recoilless rifles, and 19 antiaircraft guns), and well over 100 tons of munitions. The next two days were spent inventorying and then destroying the cache.

Meanwhile, on the left flank of the regiment’s area of operations, although encountering lighter opposition, Lieutenant Colonel [Elliott R.] Laine’s 3d Battalion gained substantial results. Attacking generally down the trace of Route 922 within South Vietnam, elements of the battalion uncovered numerous enemy facilities containing tons of supplies and equip-



Map by W. Stephen Hill

ment. On the 18th, Company L located an NVA cemetery containing 185 bodies, most of whom had been buried in June 1968. On the 21st, Company M found a well-camouflaged maintenance installation, complete with six repair pits, a bulldozer, a front-end loader, several disassembled engines, and more than three hundred 50-gallon fuel drums. Pushing southward, the battalion, after

1stLt Wesley L. Fox rests at Company A’s position overlooking the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a week after the action for which he would be presented the Medal of Honor.

Courtesy of Col Wesley L. Fox



securing Hill 1228 (Tiger Mountain), began a detailed search of the Tam Boi mountain complex, discovering on the 23d two spiked 122mm field guns, along with a prime mover and assorted artillery, mortar, and small arms ammunition. Further penetration of the Tam Boi complex revealed a headquarters and administrative facility composed of 11 immense tunnels. Carved into solid rock, these 150- to 250-meter-long, cross-connected tunnels contained extensive repair shops, storage facilities, and a “hospital which they had abandoned very rapidly and left one patient on the operating table to die.” All were capable of withstanding direct hits from air and artillery attacks.

With Tiger Mountain secured, Battery E, 2d Battalion, 12th Marines displaced to the top on 28 February, and established FSB Turnage, named after a former 3d Marine Division commander, General Allen H. Turnage. The fire support base, used the year before by the 1st Cavalry Division, was opened primarily to provide balanced artillery support for further operations of the 3d Battalion in the northeast corner of Thua Thien Province. □1775□

Marines in Vietnam, 1969

by Kara R. Newcomer
Reference Historian

As seen in last year's *Fortitudine* (Vol. 33, No. 1), the History Division again wishes to highlight Marines in Vietnam during this 40th anniversary commemoration period. To that end, the following chronology of significant events is reprinted from the 1988 History Division publication *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: High Mobility and Standdown 1969*, by Charles R. Smith. The photographs which accompany the chronological entries were selected from among the many images appearing in Mr. Smith's book.

1 January - South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu suggested that the ARVN was "ready to replace part of the allied forces" in 1969.

5 January - President-elect Richard M. Nixon named Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge to succeed Ambassador W. Averell Harriman as chief U.S. negotiator at the Paris talks. He also appointed Ambassador Ellsworth

Marines of Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, pick their way among rocks as they cross one of the many streams which traversed the rugged mountainous terrain which characterized the Scotland II area of operations, south of the Demilitarized Zone.



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A800469
Men of the 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, wait to board the amphibious transport Paul Revere at Da Nang, during the first phase of the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam.

Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A800539

Bunker to continue at his post in Saigon.

20 January - Richard M. Nixon inaugurated President of the United States.

22 January - Operation Dewey Canyon began in the Da Krong Valley of Quang Tri Province with elements of Colonel Robert H. Barrow's 9th Marines and supporting artillery transported from Vandegrift Combat Base into the area.

31 January - U.S. military strength in South Vietnam numbered 539,800, of which 81,000 were Marines.

16 February - Allied forces observed a 24-hour ceasefire during *Tet*. Despite the ceasefire, VC/NVA forces committed 203 truce violations, which resulted in the loss of six killed and 94 wounded in I Corps.

23 February - Communist forces launched a major offensive throughout South Vietnam, one day following the expiration of the seven-day Viet Cong proclaimed truce for *Tet*.



Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A800622

Men of Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, prepare to fire an 81mm mortar in support of company-sized patrols operating in the vicinity of Vandegrift Combat Base.

25 February - Fire Support Bases Neville and Russell came under heavy enemy ground and mortar attacks, resulting in the loss of 30 and the wounding of 79 Marines.

27 February - During Operation Dewey Canyon, men of the 9th Marines uncovered the largest single haul of enemy arms and ammunition in the war to date.

28 February - The 3d Marine Division ended Operations Scotland II and Kentucky. During Scotland II, more than 3,300 enemy troops were killed, while friendly casualties were 463 killed. Operation Kentucky resulted in more than 3,900 enemy and 520 U.S. casualties.

2 March - Village and hamlet elections were held throughout South Vietnam. In I Corps, the percentage of the population voting ranged from 82 percent in Quang Nam Province to 92 percent in Quang Tri. The enemy made no attempt to disrupt the voting.

3 March - The Marine Corps received its first CH-53D assault helicopter. The helicopter, intended to replace the CH-53A, introduced into Vietnam in late 1966, could transport four tons of cargo or 38 combat troops.

7 March - Allied intelligence estimates of enemy strength place 40,000 NVA and between 60,000 and 70,000 VC in

I Corps Tactical Zone, a majority of which were said to be in the northern provinces.

9 March - 1st Marine Division Operation Taylor Common ended in Quang Nam Province. The operation, which began on 7 December 1968, accounted for close to 1,400 enemy killed and 610 captured.

16 March - The U.S. battleship *New Jersey* departed the coast of Vietnam.

26 March - Lieutenant General Herman Nickerson Jr. replaced Lieutenant General Robert E. Cushman Jr. as Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-362 crewmen salute after folding the blades of a UH-34D, retiring the aircraft after seven years of service in Vietnam. With the arrival of CH-53 Sea Stallions, HMM-362 was recommissioned as a heavy helicopter squadron.

Marine Corps History Collection



30 March - III MAF engineers completed the construction of Liberty Bridge, which spanned the Song Thu Bon, south of Da Nang.

3 April - COMUSMACV confirmed that more Americans had been killed in Vietnam than in the Korean War. Vietnam had cost 33,641 lives since January 1961, compared to 33,629 lost in Korea.

7 April - A Joint Coordinating Council was established by CG III MAF and CG ICTZ to monitor, coordinate, and support pacification and development programs within ICTZ.

10 April - The first four AH-1G "Cobra" gunships arrived at Da Nang to begin air operations with Marine Observation Squadron 2.

15 April - Major General William K. Jones replaced Major General Raymond G. Davis as Commanding General, 3d Marine Division.

17 April - Marine firepower increased with the introduction of the first 175mm guns, scheduled to replace the 155mm guns of the 1st, 3d, and 5th 155mm Gun Batteries.

23 April - More than 250 student leaders from colleges throughout the United States made a public statement that they would refuse induction into the armed forces so long as the war continued in Vietnam.

27 April - A grass fire spread to the Navy/Marine Ammo Supply Point 1 at Da Nang, resulting in its complete destruction.

3 May - Secretary of Defense Melvin

Laird said the United States could begin troop withdrawals if any of the following three basic conditions were met: agreement of mutual withdrawals; sufficient improvement of South Vietnamese forces; and a substantial reduction of VC/NVA activity in South Vietnam.

6 May - III Marine Amphibious Force, composed of the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Force Logistic Command, and the Army's XXIV Corps, Americal Division, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), and 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), began its fifth year in Vietnam.

8 May - The Vietnamese Communists issued a 10-point proposal for peace, the most important new element of

A wounded Marine is hoisted on board a hovering Marine CH-46 helicopter. Rapid evacuation and the use of innovative techniques saved valuable time, increasing the survival rate among the seriously wounded.

Department of Defense Photo (USMC) A800568



Department of Defense Photo

Cpl Walter Rebacz and his scout dog, King, lead a CAP patrol composed of Marines and local Popular Forces out from a protected village three kilometers south of Tam Ky.

which was an attempt to limit United States participation in negotiations on a unilateral withdrawal from South Vietnam.

10 May - Operation Apache Snow began in the southern Da Krong and northern A Shau Valleys and involved the 9th Marines and elements of the 101st Airborne Division. During the operation, which ended on 7 June, troops of the 101st assaulted and captured heavily fortified Dong Ap Bia, or as it later became known, "Hamburger Hill."

12 May - The VC/NVA struck throughout South Vietnam with the largest number of attacks since Tet 1968.

29 May - The 7th Marines multi-battalion Operation Oklahoma Hills ended. Enemy losses during the two-month operation were placed at 596, while friendly losses numbered 53 killed and 487 wounded.

8 June - President Nixon announced that 25,000 troops would be withdrawn from South Vietnam by the end of August.

14 June - Marine, Korean, and South Vietnamese troops began Operation Pipestone Canyon, south of Da Nang. Before ending in November, the enemy would lose close to 500 troops.

13 June - Secretary of Defense Laird announced that the 9th Marines, in addition to Army and Navy units, would be withdrawn beginning in mid July.

15 June - The 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion began deployment from Vietnam to Okinawa.

11 July - Major General Charles J. Quilter was relieved by Major General William G. Thrash as Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

14 July - Battalion Landing Team 1/9

sailed from Da Nang for Okinawa on board ships of the Seventh Fleet, initiating Phase I of President Nixon's 25,000-troop withdrawal plan.

20 July - Racial riots at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, resulted in the death of one Marine and serious injury to another.

August - The Combined Action Program reached its authorized strength of 114 platoons.

13 August - Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 departed Vietnam for Okinawa under the announced 25,000-man troop reduction. The squadron was the first major unit of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing to depart Vietnam.

14 August - The 9th Regimental Landing Team completed its redeployment from Vietnam with the departure of the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines.

18 August - The last UH-34D "Sea Horse" Squadron, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362, departed Vietnam to be redesignated Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 after receiving CH-53 aircraft. The squadron was the first unit of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing to serve in Vietnam, arriving in April 1962.

September - Three disturbances took place over alleged mistreatment of prisoners at the Camp Pendleton brig. Three guards were disciplined for using excessive force in quelling disruptive prisoners.

3 September - Marine Corps Commandant, General Leonard F. Chapman Jr. authorized "Afro" haircuts and the use of the upraised fist as a greeting among black Marines.

3 September - North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh died.

16 September - President Nixon announced another troop withdrawal. Of a total reduction of 40,500, more than 18,400 would be Marines, most of whom would come from the 3d Marine Division.

21 September - Secretary of Defense Laird announced the deactivation of the 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California. The 26th Marines, still in Vietnam, would not be deactivated with the remainder of the division.

29 September - The Marine Corps announced a cutback of 20,300 in total strength. It was felt that a reduction in recruiting would reduce the size of the Corps without any rollback

of temporary officer promotions or any reversion of temporary officers to enlisted status before 1 July 1970.

15 October - Throughout the United States, Vietnam Moratorium demonstrations were held.

7 November - The 9th Marine Amphibious Force was deactivated; I Marine Expeditionary Force was created as an amphibious ready force in the Western Pacific; and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Rear) was activated in Japan. CG, I MEF was to exercise operational control of the 3d Marine Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (Rear).

13-15 November - Critics of the war in Vietnam demonstrated in Washington with a march from Arlington Cemetery to the Capitol.

19 November - The Nixon Administration's military draft lottery bill was passed by Congress.

20 November - Marine Air Group 36 completed its move from Phu Bai to Futema, Okinawa, where it assumed control of the helicopter and observation squadrons which had been redeployed from Vietnam.

26 November - The 5th Marine Division was deactivated and the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade came into existence.

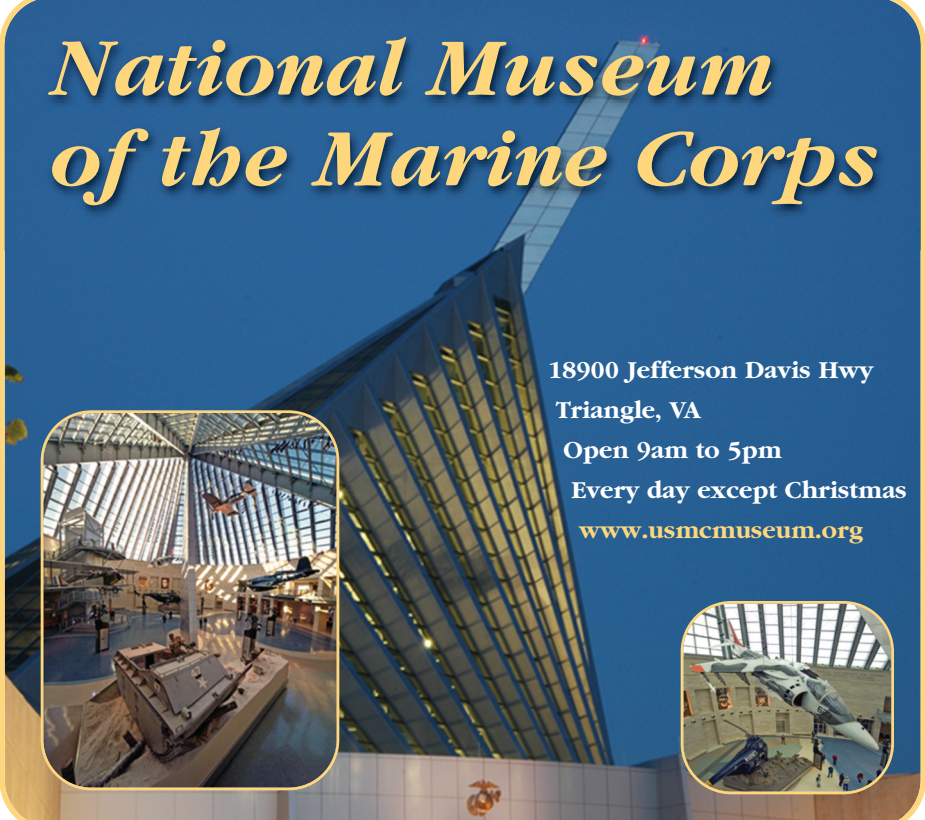
1 December - The first drawing of the draft lottery was conducted; those 19-year olds whose birth date was 14 September and whose last name began with "J" would be the first called.

15 December - Major General Edwin B. Wheeler relieved Major General Ormond R. Simpson as Commanding General, 1st Marine Division.

15 December - With the completion of Phase II redeployment, Marine authorized strength in the Republic of Vietnam stood at 55,300.

15 December - President Nixon announced that the third round of American troop withdrawals from Vietnam was to be completed by 15 April 1970.

31 December - Marine actual strength in South Vietnam stood at 54,559 at the end of 1969. □1775□



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The Passing of Lieutenant General Twomey, Colonel Swett, and Columnist James Brady

*by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Branch*

Lieutenant General David M. Twomey died 5 December 2008 at the age of 80. The Lynn, Massachusetts, native enlisted in the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Course in 1948 while a student at Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts. Upon graduation from Holy Cross in June 1950, he was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant. After completing officers training at Quantico, he was assigned as an infantry platoon leader in the 2d Marine Division, and he would remain an infantry officer for the next 36 years. In his career, he commanded a rifle platoon, mortar platoon, machine-gun platoon, rifle company, antitank company, reconnaissance company, infantry battalion, battalion landing team, regiment, brigade, and a division. His non-FMF assignments included command of a Marine detachment afloat, NROTC duty at Duke University, Commanding Officer of Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., commanding officer of a recruit training regiment, Chief of Staff and Assistant Depot Commander at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Inspector General

LtGen David M. Twomey



of the Marine Corps, and Director of Education at Marine Corps Development and Education Command (MCDEC) Quantico. He was a graduate of The Basic School, Airborne School, Ranger School, Scuba School, Amphibious Warfare School, and the Naval War College. He also held a masters degree in American History from the University of Maryland. His combat experience included service in both the Korean War and the Vietnam War. During the Korean War, he served as a company executive officer and company commander with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" and one gold star in lieu of a second award. In June 1965, he was ordered to the Republic of Vietnam and served as Deputy of Intelligence Division, Military Assistance Command. He was subsequently awarded the Legion of Merit for his service during this assignment. General Twomey's last duty assignment was as Commanding General of MCDEC Quantico. Upon his retirement from the Marine Corps on 1 July 1986, he received the Distinguished Service Medal for his meritorious service while Director of the Education Center at Quantico from June 1981–February 1983, and as Commanding General, MCDEC Quantico from March 1983–June 1986.

Colonel James E. Swett, a Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, died 18 January 2009 in Redding, California, at the age of 88. The Seattle, Washington, native graduated from San Mateo High School and attended San Mateo Junior College before enlisting in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a seaman second class on 26 August 1941. He was appointed an aviation cadet in October of that year and upon completion of flight training in Corpus Christi, Texas, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the

Marine Corps Reserve on 1 April 1942. He participated in combat operations in the Pacific Theater and was awarded the Medal of Honor for shooting down seven Japanese bombers within 15 minutes. This remarkable feat took place on 7 April 1943 in the Guadalcanal area and made the 22-year old Marine aviator an ace on his first combat flight. In the words of his Medal of Honor citation, "First Lieutenant Swett unhesitatingly hurled his four-plane division into action against a formation of 15 enemy bombers and during his dive personally exploded three hostile planes in midair with accurate and deadly fire . . . Although separated from his division while clearing the heavy concentration of antiaircraft fire, he boldly attacked six enemy bombers, engaged the first four in turn and unaided, shot down all in flames." During the air battle, his plane was shot down, and he was rescued from shark-infested waters. He saw further combat action at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and was again shot down and forced to spend four days in a rubber raft, subsisting on chocolate bars and coconuts, until he was res-

Col James E. Swett



cued by natives. By the end of the war, he was credited with downing a total of 15½ enemy aircraft and earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, two Purple Hearts, and four Air Medals, in addition to receiving the Medal of Honor. He was relieved of active duty in November 1945 with the rank of major, and rose to the rank of colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve, before retiring in 1970.

The History Division was saddened to learn of the 26 January 2009 death of the noted *Parade Magazine* columnist, former Marine, and friend of Marine Corps history, **Mr. James Brady**. He died at his Manhattan, New York,

home at the age of 80. The native New Yorker worked as a copy boy for the *New York Daily News* while attending Manhattan College. During the Korean War, he commanded a rifle platoon in the 1st Marine Division and was the recipient of a Bronze Star with Combat "V" for heroism during a fire-fight on Memorial Day, 1952. His vivid recollections of combat appeared in his highly praised 1990 personal memoir, *The Coldest War*. Mr. Brady authored several additional books on the Marine Corps, including his 2000 novel, *The Marines of Autumn*, and his 2005 book, *The Scariest Place in the World: A Marine Returns to North*

Korea. He is perhaps best known outside the Marine Corps family, however, for his weekly Sunday column, "In Step With," for *Parade* magazine, which was a staple for millions of American families. His varied career included a highly successful tour as publisher of *Women's Wear Daily*, and his work for Rupert Murdoch with the *New York Post* and *New York* magazine. He was also the author of several fictional novels. For those of us who were fortunate enough to make his acquaintance, however, James Brady will always be remembered for his fierce pride in having served in the United States Marine Corps. □1775□

Operation Swift Freedom, Afghanistan

by Dr. Nathan Lowrey
Historian

During the first month of Operation Enduring Freedom, Navy and Marine Corps forces collaborated to initiate a second front in southern Afghanistan. The immediate need was to position forces to destabilize the enemy's command and control apparatus, and then defeat the Taliban and al-Qaeda before they had an opportunity to regroup in Kandahar or escape into neighboring regions of Pakistan. At Vice Admiral Charles W. Moore's behest, Brigadier General James N. Mattis took charge of all maritime forces in Central Command's theater of operations on 1 November 2001 and established Naval Expeditionary Task Force 58. The bulk of his forces was comprised of the USS *Peleliu* Amphibious Ready Group, already on station off the Pakistani coast, and the USS *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group, then operating in the Mediterranean Sea.

While the initial assignment called for a series of amphibious raids along the border, the mission soon shifted to seizing a desert airfield in southwestern Afghanistan and establishing a forward operating base. Navy SEALs from Captain Robert S. Harwood's Task Force K-Bar (JSOTF-South) were the first ashore, inserting on 21 November to provide surveillance over Objective Rhino. The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's assault

force landed on the evening of 25 November, following a 400-mile flight from the coast, to become the first conventional force deployed into Afghanistan.

Although the rapid buildup of combat power quickly eliminated any real threat from the enemy, the requirement for sustaining a brigade-sized unit ashore strained the Marines' logistic capabilities. Fortunately, the two Navy amphibious squadrons were

Task Force 58 maintained its swift-paced operational tempo for three months, conducting a wide variety of missions in support of the war effort.

able to conduct replenishment operations at sea, enabling the two Marine expeditionary units to push supplies inland through the port facility in Pasni, Pakistan. At the same time, Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133 arrived to maintain the dirt airstrip at Rhino, enabling the Marines to receive a near-continuous flow of sustainment flights from airbases throughout the theater. In anticipation of combat operations, two Navy forward surgical teams also deployed to support the Marines ashore.

Task Force 58 maintained its swift-paced operational tempo for three months, conducting a wide variety of missions in support of the war effort. The Sailors and Marines blocked western escape routes along Highway 1; provided security for the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and a special operations facility in Khowst; occupied Kandahar International Airport and established a short-term holding facility for detaining enemy prisoners; and conducted numerous sensitive site exploitation missions. In the latter case, the Marines often supported Task Force K-Bar, providing the SEALs with air transportation and security forces.

In addition to demonstrating America's willingness to confront those who sponsor terrorism and signaling an end to *Taliban* rule in Afghanistan, the strategic agility and operational reach showcased by the Navy amphibious squadrons and Marine expeditionary units validated the utility of task organized expeditionary forces and the effectiveness of long-range ship-to-objective maneuver. With the subsequent appearance of expeditionary strike groups in 2003, the naval services are now better able to address emerging crises around the globe, regardless of whether they occur in littoral or land-locked regions of the world. □1775□

Leathernecks

by Charles D. Melson
Chief Historian

Merrill L. Bartlett and Jack Sweetman. *Leathernecks: An Illustrated History of the United States Marine Corps*, Annapolis, MD. Naval Institute Press, 2008.

The History Division does not normally review the variety of Marine Corps histories commercially published because this would be self-serving or involve a conflict of interest as most have used reference and historical materials held by the division. An exception is this book by a fellow publisher, the Naval Institute Press, of the U.S. Naval Institute. Founded in 1873, the institute is the oldest naval professional non-profit society (www.usni.org).

On my personal reference shelf are histories by Heinl, Metcalf, Millett, Moskin, and Simmons. Added to these will be this volume by Bartlett and Sweetman, who both taught history at the U.S. Naval Academy. Lieutenant Colonel Bartlett served as a Marine for 20 years, with two tours in Vietnam. He was recognized by the William P. Clements Award as a military instructor and two Robert D. Heinl Jr. Awards for essays. Dr. Sweetman was a professor for 20 years at the Naval Academy. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a Ford Fellow at Emory University. He was recognized by the Alfred Thayer Mahan Award, Naval History Author of the Year, and John Lyman Book Award. Both have authored numerous papers, articles, and books on naval topics.

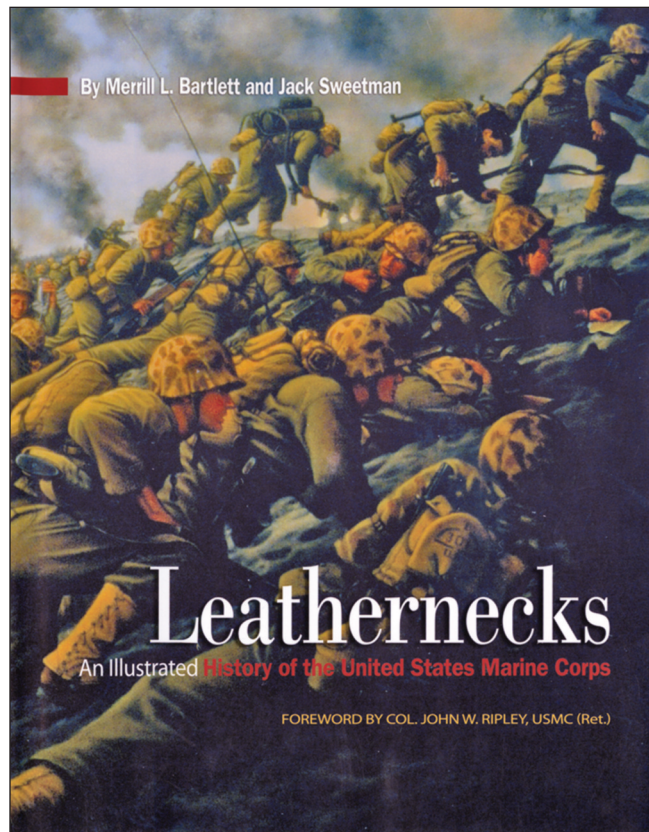
Bartlett and Sweetman previously coauthored *The U.S. Marine Corps: An Illustrated History* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2001). It had 14 chapters covering events from 1775 to 2000, with black and white

illustrations and maps, notes, selected bibliography, and index. In fact, this current volume is different only in its use of color and an additional chapter to bring it up to date from 2001 to 2007. (Why it was retitled is a puzzle.) One major difference is that the current volume no longer uses the footnotes present in its predecessor, in favor of chapter further readings

maps, artwork, and photographs support this effort in a lavish style. The authors' extensive background in U.S. Navy and Marine Corps history comes through with a quality product, despite some minor quibbles with abbreviations of rank and the failure to capitalize "Marine."

I would take them to task for the final chapter, which is certainly more current events than history. While Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Estes (Ret) worked with the History Division on a narrative of the war in Iraq, a draft of which is cited, official works by Dr. Carter Malkasian, Colonel Nicholas Reynolds, and the History Division's companion anthology should have been used. Even Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps *Concepts & Programs*, and its almanac would have contributed more detail on these current topics. In fact, official volumes seem to be lacking in this Marine Corps history in favor of secondary sources.

Also missing is the distinctive structure of the Marine air-ground task force, which has been the unique employment of the Corps in the last half century (a contribution as significant as the World War II amphibious effort). This includes the air element, with its companion ground, logistic, and command components. In terms of the illustrative material, pictures that reflect this 21st century view of the Marine Corps and its individual members are missing in favor of those of riflemen in combat. While "every Marine is a rifleman," few are actually in the killer elite, and supporting arms still serve this function. But none would get far without combat service support. □1775□



lists (again, another puzzle). As a pictorial history, it does not claim to be a critical or definitive work. But the background of both authors ensures a narrative that is insightful history.

The authors prepared well-crafted chapters that provide a complete narrative of the Marine Corps' story with a full and balanced perspective. They have ensured that both the operational and institutional story has been presented with equal consideration. The story is punctuated with the contributions of key individuals. Use of

Raid on Maradim Island during the Gulf War

by Paul W. Westermeyer
Historian

During the Gulf War of 1991, the Navy-Marine Corps team was charged with creating a credible amphibious feint in the Persian Gulf, drawing Iraqi forces away from the Iraq-Kuwait-Saudi Arabia frontier. When the Allied air attacks against Iraq began on 17 January 1991, the sea-borne feint needed reinforcement in order to remain credible. Amphibious raids were one method of reinforcing that threat.

On 23 January 1991, Captain Thomas L. McClelland, USN, commanding Amphibious Squadron 5, and Colonel John E. Rhodes, commander of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) were ordered to plan for an amphibious raid on several Iraqi-held Kuwaiti islands, code named Operation Desert Sting.

Iraqis on one of the targeted islands, Qurah, surrendered on 25 January to the USS *Curts* (FFG 38).

On 26 January, the Iraqis garrisoned on another of the targeted islands, Umm al Maradim, created a sign indicating that they wished to surrender to U.S. Navy reconnaissance aircraft that photographed the island. The plan for Operation Desert Sting was modified accordingly.

Heavily supported by Navy aircraft, the Marines of Company A, Battalion Landing Team 1/4 (Reinforced), landed on the north end of Maradim Island at noon on 29 January. They encountered no enemy fire or other resistance and found the island had been deserted by its garrison. The Marines captured or destroyed a large quantity of small arms, machine guns, and mortars, as well as several Iraqi antiaircraft guns and missiles. After three hours on the island, the raid force departed, leaving a Kuwaiti flag raised over the island and the words "Free Kuwait" and "USMC" on several of the buildings.

Meanwhile, the Iraqis dispatched 15 fast patrol boats from Ras al-Qulayah, apparently intending to land commandos at al-Khafji in support of the Iraqi *5th Mechanized Division*, but Allied commanders misinterpreted the movement as an attempt to retake Maradim Island. Despite this, the Iraqi boats were intercepted by Royal Air Force SEPECAT GR-1A Jaguars aircraft and Royal Navy Westland HMA.8 Lynx helicopters from HMS *Brazen*, *Cardiff*, and *Gloucester*. Other Coalition aircraft then continued the attack, destroying or severely damaging all of the Iraqi vessels and landing forces.

In the end, the Iraqis took the amphibious threat extremely seriously, focusing many of their resources on defending Kuwait City from an amphibious attack. The textbook amphibious raid on Maradim Island certainly contributed to that success. □1775□

Attacking the British at Nassau during the Revolution

by Charles R. Smith
Senior Historian

A close working relationship has always existed between a ship's captain and his Marine commander, but never more than during the American Revolution.

Shortly after his arrival at Georgetown, South Carolina, in November 1777, Captain John Peck Rathbun of the Continental Navy Sloop *Providence* was informed by a merchant captain who had just returned from the Bahamas that the *Mary* had put into Nassau for repairs. The news brought back memories of his brief encounter with the 16-gun enemy brig off New York several months before. In the short but heated battle, Rathbun's well-liked sailing master, George Sinkins, was killed. Determined to avenge his sailing-master's death, Rathbun and his captain of Marines, John Trevett, resolved to "take Fort Nassau and then we could have command of the town and har-

bor and take what we pleased."

Continental Navy Captain Nicholas Biddle, then in Charleston, thought the scheme so presumptuous that he attempted to persuade Rathbun and Trevett of its futility, but both were confident and determined that the plan would succeed. "I have had a long time to think of what I am going to undertake," Trevett later wrote, "but I am very well satisfied that we are in a good cause and we are fighting the Lord's battle."

About midnight on 27 January 1778, after a month's sailing, the *Providence* dropped anchor off the western point of Hog Island, and the sloop's barge was lowered into the water. Twenty-six Marines, under Captain Trevett, filled their pockets with extra cartridges and went ashore, landing a mile west of the fort.

Cautioning his men to remain

silent, he and his Marines made their way through an opening in the palisade, over the fort's stone wall, and quickly captured the two-man British garrison. At daybreak the following morning, Trevett had the Stars and Stripes hoisted over the decaying fort.

Later, accompanied by a midshipman from the *Providence* and freed American sailors, Trevett captured the *Mary* and retook several other vessels in the harbor. By 30 January, powder and cartridges from the fort's magazine were stowed on board the *Providence* and the captured ships were manned and ready for sea. Only Trevett and a few Marines remained ashore to complete the evacuation. As soon as Trevett and his men were on board, the *Providence*, *Mary* (with Trevett in command), and the other vessels put to sea for New Bedford, Massachusetts. □1775□

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