

# FORTITUDINE

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# FORTITUDINE

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

Volume IX

Spring 1980

No. 4

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## THE COVER

*Col John W. Thomason's powerful drawing of "a Lieutenant of Marines and a German major, hand to hand" from his book, Fix Bayonets. For WW I-related features see pages 3, 8, 11, and 16.*

*Fortitudine* is produced in the Publications Production 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, 24 point, or 30 point Garamond. The newsletter is printed on 120-pound, lithocoated paper. Printing, by offset lithography, is by the Defense Printing Service.

# Director's Page



*BGen Simmons*

## “Through the Wheat. . .”

Our new exhibit of art and artifacts “Through the Wheat . . .,” concerning Marines in the First World War opened with a reception hosted by the Marine Corps Historical Foundation on Friday evening, 28 March. Torrential spring rains made driving hazardous, but over a hundred persons, Foundation members and guests, attended and had, I think, a most pleasant time.

The title of the exhibit comes from *Suicide Battalions* by Capt Wendell Westover of the 4th Machine Gun Battalion, 2d Division, AEF. Describing the attack by the 4th Marine Brigade against Belleau Wood on 6 June 1918, he says:

Through the wheat fields that afternoon, wave after wave of Marines went forward. As the ranks were thinned by devastating enemy fire, others filled them and the attack kept on. They reached the woods and penetrated them. As each machine gun was put out of action at the point of the bayonet, others, which had withheld their fire for close targets, opened on them, until darkness halted them in the center of the wood.

*Through the Wheat* was also the title of the very successful but now almost forgotten novel by Thomas Boyd, published in 1923 and again in 1927 by Charles Scribner's Sons and illustrated by John W. Thomason, Jr., then a captain. Boyd himself was a World War I Marine.

Marine veterans of 1918's summer fighting in France remember the ripening wheat fields in the

same way Marines of World War II remember the coral of the South and Central Pacific and, I am sure, Marines of Vietnam will remember the black muck underlying the bright green of the rice paddies.

LtGen Merwin H. Silverthorn was a young lieutenant with the 20th Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Regiment, in the first attack at Belleau Wood and as he remembered it in a 1969 oral history interview:

... it was up on this so-called wheat field when I could view one of the most magnificent sights I've ever viewed in my life—these Marines marching in their slow cadence under terrific fire that was coming from their left front and left flank. . . .

Gen Alfred H. Noble, who had been a lieutenant with the 83d Company, 3d Battalion, 6th Regiment, recalled in a 1968 interview that:

... there wasn't any way to go at them except straight through that wheat. The wheat was up to your waist . . . . You go down and nobody sees you go down! And it's a helpless feeling. You say, "If I get hit, I am likely to stay hit, right here." That was the trouble about wheat—people just disappeared in it. . . .

Two days earlier the Marines had stopped an attack at Les Mares Farm, the Germans' closest approach to Paris. Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., then a lieutenant in the 55th Company in the same battalion as Silverthorn, remembered in his 1967 interview:



*New Hall, at right, is the site of the Marine Corps Memorial Museum. Both New Hall and Carpenter's*

*Hall, at left, are part of Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park.*

John Adams recorded in his diary that it had a library and a "long entry where gentlemen may walk."

From 1779 until 1791 the first story and cellar of Carpenters' Hall were occupied by Commissary General Henry Knox and his staff. Late in 1791 the rest of the Hall was rented to the new United States Bank and the Carpenters set about building a "new hall" at right angles to the old. They came to this decision on 7 September 1791 and moved into the completed building on 16 January 1792, hardly time enough, in today's world, to do the first draft of an environmental impact study. True, it was not very big: just two stories and measuring 61 feet long and 19 feet 8 inches deep. The "Long Room" that took up the second floor was reserved by the Carpenters as a meeting place. The three offices, each with its own entrance, that made up the ground floor were offered for rent.

Gen Knox, by then Secretary of War, and crowded out of Carpenters' Hall by the United States Bank, moved his department into New Hall. (This antecedent of today's Office of the Secretary of Defense reportedly consisted of Gen Knox and four clerks.) Just when the War Department left New Hall is not clear but certainly it had vacated the premises by the time the federal government moved from Philadelphia to Washington in 1800.

Other groups that rented office space in New Hall

included the Abolition Society (1795), the Sea Captains' Society (1795), the Mechanics' Beneficial Society (1800), and the Society for the Suppression of Vice and Immorality (1798).

Title for the property stayed with Carpenters' Company until 1955 when it was transferred to the National Park Service. A grant from the Mary Louise Curtis Bok Foundation made possible the restoration of New Hall for the purpose of serving as a Marine Corps museum. The old building itself was too far gone to be saved so that today's New Hall, completed in 1958, is really a reconstruction.

*A young visitor views one of the Revolutionary War dioramas in New Hall. In the background is a blowup of one of LtCol Charles Waterhouse's paintings of "Marines in the Revolution."*





*Dressed in period uniforms, members of the Marine Detachments of the Continental vessels Providence*

*and Ranger pose during the ceremonies. Commander was "Senior Private" (Col, USMC Ret) Tony Walker.*

While the building was being rebuilt, a group of Reserve and retired officers, mostly from the Philadelphia area, formed the Marine Corps Memorial Museum's Citizens' Committee and set about raising funds for the building's exhibits. The Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, then under the directorship of LtCol John H. Magruder III, USMCR, collected the artifacts, and the Museum Laboratory of the National Park Service constructed the exhibits including a number of dioramas. For the Memorial Room, Mrs. Brooke Astor, daughter of the 16th Commandant, MajGen John H. Russell, Jr., commissioned Felix DeWeldon to do a bronze sculpture. The resulting memorial took the form of a stand of three muskets, a drum, and a 13-star flag.

The exhibits were to show the development and achievements of the Continental Marines for the period 1775 through 1783 and for the United States Marines for the Federal period 1798 to 1805. This scenario was never fully realized and by the time the Bicentennial grew near the exhibits had grown a bit time-worn and shabby. The suggestion that the exhibits be re done came from Russell J. Hendrickson, who had a foot in both camps by virtue of being Chief of the National Park Services's Division of Exhibits at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, and also a lieutenant colonel (later colonel) in the Marine Corps Reserve. Things moved slowly while the National Park Service sought to squeeze out the necessary funding from other Bicentennial projects. A milestone was passed when Mr. Aram Mardirosian, the same architect who did such a masterful job on the Marine Corps Historical Center, completed the plans for the interior re-design. The content of the exhibits--that is, the artifacts, the art, and the text--was provided by the History and Museums Division. Much of the underly-

ing historical research was done by Mr. Richard A. Long, our special projects curator. The exhibit itself was skillfully and imaginatively produced by the Exhibits Branch of the National Park Service at Harpers Ferry.

One of the great assets available was the "Marines in the Revolution" art by LtCol Waterhouse. Not only have the original paintings found their home in the second floor Long Room, but throughout the building Waterhouse's drawings have been used as unifying graphics, giving the new exhibits great coherence.

Gen Greene and Mr. Cawood in their remarks gave suitable recognition to the individuals who helped make the rejuvenation of New Hall possible; also to numbers of special guests. LtCol Waterhouse was on the speakers' platform. Mr. DeWeldon and Col Hendrickson were in the audience. So was Mr. Clifford Lewis III, President of the State Society of the Cincinnati of Pennsylvania. Virtually all surviving officers of the Continental Marines became members of the hereditary order of Cincinnati. Mr. Lewis had with him two of today's members who are descendants of Capt Andrew Porter, a Philadelphia schoolmaster who was commissioned in the Marines on 25 June 1776 and who commanded a company in Maj Samuel Nicholas' battalion at Assunpink and Princeton. There was also a delegation, including Col William H. Cowper, USMC (Ret), present from the Benjamin Franklin Chapter of the National Sojourners. The Masons were very strong in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania during the Revolution and most of the early Continental Marine officers were Masons. The Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution was represented by, among others, D. Weston Darby, Jr., their honorary president and a Korean War-era Marine officer.



*Philadelphia's First City Troop, resplendent in 1812-era uniforms, added color to the opening of New Hall.*

The First City Troop, whose color guard was present, is like the Associators a present-day National Guard unit - Troop A, 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry, 28th Division. When the troop was formed in 1774, most of its members belonged to the Gloucester Fox Hunting Club of which Maj Nicholas, senior officer of the Continental Marines, was also a member.

The Associators are even older, tracing their lineage back to Philadelphia militia founded in 1747 by Benjamin Franklin. They wore green coats which may well be the reason the Continental Marines adopted green coats. (The old myth that Continental Marines wore green because that was the traditional color for riflemen doesn't hold water, because the Continental Marines were armed with muskets, not rifles.) Maj Nicholas' battalion of Marines was brigaded with the Associators under command of BGen John Cadwalader of Philadelphia for the Battles of Assunpink and Princeton in January 1777. Since Assunpink and Princeton, the Marines and the Associators have been together on other battlefields. In World War II, the

111th Infantry was with the Marines at Kwajalein and relieved the 81st Infantry Division as the garrison force at Peleliu. Maj Richard A. Daddona, Jr., executive officer of the present-day Associators, presented Gen Greene a plaque commemorating the long association of his unit with the Marines.

The crowd-pleasing Marine detachment from the 12-gun sloop *Providence*, was commanded by "Senior Private" Anthony Walker (carried on other rolls as Colonel, USMC, Ret). The *Providence* was part of Ezek Hopkins' original squadron which sailed from Philadelphia on 7 January 1776 and landed Nicholas' Marines at New Providence in the Bahamas on 3 March 1776. Today's re-constructed *Providence* is home-ported in Newport, Rhode Island. Reinforcing *Providence's* Marines was the *Ranger* detachment from Levittown, New York, commanded by "Sergeant" Patrick Matthew. *Ranger* was a 20-gun sloop-of-war, built in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1777 and commanded by John Paul Jones in his famous raid against the English coast including landings at Whitehaven and St. Mary's Isle. There is as yet no re-constructed *Ranger* but perhaps someday there will be.

After Gen Greene's remarks, Mr. James W. Coleman, Jr., Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region, National Park Service, spoke briefly. He and Gen Greene then proceeded to the doorway of New Hall, each with scissors in hand, and simultaneously cut the ceremonial ribbon. Guests were encouraged to tour New Hall after which there was a luncheon reception a stone's throw away in handsomely reconstructed City Tavern. The reception was co-hosted by the Friends of Independence National Historical Park and the Marine Corps Historical Foundation. The buffet would have been called in the 18th Century a "bountiful collation."

*Mr. James W. Coleman, Jr., Regional Director for the National Park Service and former Commandant Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., cut the ribbon to re-open New Hall with appropriate flourish.*



# The Readers Always Write

## *"It's a Flag"*

I have read with interest the recent article and letters about the two Iwo Jima flag raisings.

I was a platoon leader with Company A, 24th Marines at the time. Our company held the northern end of the invasion beach, too far from Suribachi to see detail on it with the naked eye. Shortly after the flag raisings some of my men asked me what it was they had just noticed on top of the mountain. I put my glasses on it and told them, "It's a flag."

G. Ellis Burcaw  
Director, University of Idaho Museum  
Chairman of Museum Studies  
Professor of Museology

As a former BAR man in Company 'E,' I enjoyed and was pleased with LtCol Williams' interest in Cpl Block's part in the Iwo Jima Flag Raising. As presented in the *Fortitudine* (Winter 1979-1980), the story is true. Cpl Block was there, and did in fact hold the base of the pole while the others raised the flag.

Keep up the good work, it is worthwhile.

Rolla E. Perry  
Riverside, California

## *Parris Island Archaeology*

I particularly enjoyed the Fall issue of *Fortitudine*, with the Parris Island article. Maj George Osterhout, my late husband, became interested in forts in that area while a student at West Point. During initial duty at Parris Island, as a student officer, he began historical research that continued in France and England during WW I. I was with him on many of his later physical explorations that culminated in his final dig. It was, incidentally, the only archaeological exploration Maj Osterhout ever made. At that time, certain artifacts were sent back to Paris and were identified by Huguenot associates as indeed being the type of hinge, dish, and sword used by Ribaut's expedition. Similar

artifacts were presented to the Parris Island library and have unfortunately vanished without a trace.

Nevertheless, I am sure you can understand my continuing interest and curiosity concerning the present archaeological findings, and I am eagerly anticipating forthcoming explorations.

Mrs. George Osterhout, Jr.  
Beaufort, South Carolina

## *Star and Indian Head*

In regard to page 11, "The Star and Indian Head" (*Fortitudine*, Spring 1980): I would like to invite someone's attention to page 309, *The Reminiscences of a Marine* (MajGen John A. LeJeune), 1930 edition:

In the Second Division, every opportunity was utilized to make officers and men believe that their division was the greatest aggregation of fighting men ever assembled, and that in very truth it was invincible. There was no inferiority about the Second Division. We knew not only that we were second to none, but also that we were better than any! So we adopted the Star and Indian Head as the Division insignia. . .

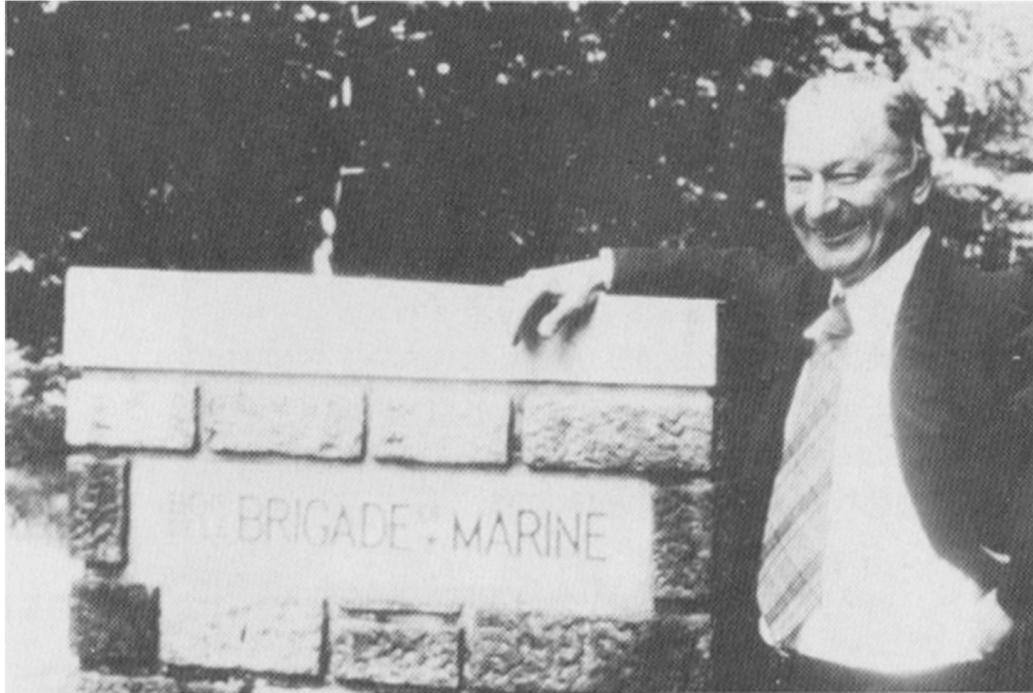
It was, I think, the first division of the A.E.F. to wear insignia. We carried the idea out, too, to its logical conclusion by providing a different background. . . .

R. McC. Tompkins  
MajGen, USMC (Ret)

## *Invitation to Travelers*

Thank you for sending us a copy of *Fortitudine*, which we have found most interesting. . . Should any member of your Corps, active or retired, be passing through London they will always be welcome here. If they come at the right time of the day we can promise a cup of tea or coffee.

J. W. Prickett  
Director  
The History Bookshop  
London, England



Author Robert Sherrod poses beside the marker at the entrance to Belleau Wood in France.

Page 17 of *Fortitudine* (Winter 1979-80) said that French maps do not list Belleau Wood as the *Bois de la Brigade de Marine*. As late as 1975, however, the entrance to the *Bois* gave the U.S. Marines credit, as demonstrated by the enclosed photograph.

Robert Sherrod  
Washington, D.C.

### *Water-Cooled Mortars*

Colonel Sadler's letter (*Fortitudine*, Fall 1979), prompts me to share my experiences with a "water-cooled" 60mm mortar during 1944-45. As a PFC gunner with the Fifth Marines, we often "water-cooled" my gun while engaged in heavy fighting along the approaches to Shuri [Castle, Okinawa]. Our method was simple. We wrapped a dungaree jacket around the gun tube, below the bipod collar, and an ammo carrier poured water on the jacket during firing. Water was readily available from the numerous bomb craters in the area permitting us to keep up a sustained rate of fire for long periods of time. I remember too, that some U.S. Army mortarmen "water-cooled" their 4.2" mortars, but instead of a utility jacket, they wrapped an empty sandbag around the breech of the gun tube.

Our method for keeping my 60 firing must have been felt by the Japanese, as nearly all of our missions drew counter battery fire.

Eugene B. Sledge  
Professor of Biology  
University of Montevallo

A book based on Dr. Sledge's World War II reminiscences is soon to be published by the Presidio Press. Three articles drawn from that book have been published recently in *The Marine Corps Gazette* (November 1979, January 1980).

### Fideli Certa Merces

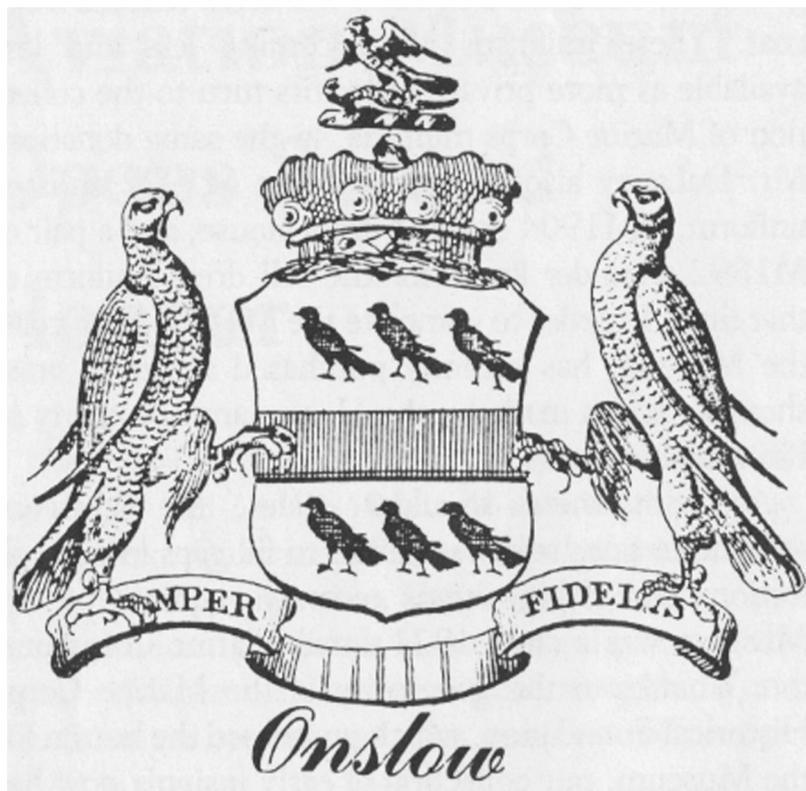
The article by Maj David N. Buckner, "Fideli Certa Merces: Mystery Motto of the Marine Corps" (*Fortitudine*, Spring 1980), prompted some readers to do additional research, including going on to look up the origins of *Semper Fidelis*.

Maj John B. Gilmer, USMCR (Ret), an attorney in Louisa, Virginia, as well as a member of the *Company of Military Historians*, went to a 19th Century source. He writes:

According to an old leather-bound book I have, entitled *A Dictionary of Select and Popular Quotations, etc.*, by D. F. Macdonnel, published in 1810, the phrase *Fideli Certa Merces* means "The faithful are certain of their reward." This is close to some of the translations obtained by Maj Buckner during his search. And, according to the book, it was the motto of "Earl Boringdon," whoever he was. Of course, this doesn't explain how or when it, the motto, was adopted by the Marine Corps, but it at least sheds a little light on its background.

Also of interest is *Semper Fidelis*, which as we know, means "Always Faithful." But in addition, it was the motto of one Lord Onslow. This makes it particularly appropriate when one considers that Onslow Beach at Camp Lejeune is one of the landmarks of the Marine Corps. Well known to most ground Marines, Onslow Beach was and I assume still is the site of many amphibious landing exercises as well as recreation beaches. Little did those who adopted this motto realize how appropriate it would become in addition to being a fitting motto for the Corps.

Further amplification of Maj Gilmer's letter was quickly forthcoming from the librarians at the Base Library at Camp Lejeune. The Base Librarian, Mrs. Carolyn Mason, about to depart for a professional conference, knew of a local history that answered some of the questions. Her assistant, Miss Mary Hill, telephoned in some information, and then mailed the book to *Fortitudine*.



The Onslow family coat of arms bears the motto, Semper Fidelis.

The book is *Commonwealth of Onslow: A History*, written by Joseph Parsons Brown and published in New Bern, North Carolina, in 1960. According to Brown's book, Onslow County, formed in 1734, was named in honor of Sir Arthur Onslow, Speaker of the House of Commons for 33 years. The Onslow family coat of arms, pictured on the frontispiece of the book, bears the motto Semper Fidelis.

Mr. Daniel B. Potochniak of Hanover Park, Illinois, also went to a 19th Century source to verify Maj Buckner's translations. Mr. Potochniak writes:

... It may interest you to know that in the book, *An Introduction to Heraldry*, by Hugh Clark (twelfth edition), published in London by Henry Washbourne in 1834, there is a dictionary of mottos. Within the dictionary is *Fideli Certa Merces*, translated to mean: "To the faithful there is certain reward." This is the motto of the Earl of Morely. This discovery prompted me to look up *Fortitudine*, "To Fortitude," which is the motto of the Baron Hoste. Looking further, I found *Semper Fidelis*, "Always Faithful," to be the motto of the Earl of Onslow and the Baron Smith. Now the mystery seems to shift to what did these earls and barons have to do with the Marine Corps? Or what did the Marine Corps have to do with the earls and barons? I'll leave that to you folks at the Historical Center.

*It appears to have been pure coincidence that the Earls of Onslow, the Smith family, and the Marine Corps all chose the same motto. The meaning of the motto, rather than its exclusivity, was apparently the motivating factor for the Marine Corps.*

Mr. Harry Simes, of the 6th Marine Division Association, chose another way to obtain a satisfactory translation of *Fideli Certa Merces*. Instead of books, he went to an expert. He writes:

I showed the story to my close friend, Professor John M. Hunt (Villanova University), a Latin expert, for his opinion. It is his considered opinion that the closest translation is: "Certain reward for the faithful."

Another letter addressed not the motto but the quality of the article itself. Mr. Jay Brashear, editorial writer of *The Phoenix (Arizona) Gazette*, who helped to initiate the investigation, writes:

As an officer of the Army National Guard, I cannot claim to be a Marine, even in spirit, but I thoroughly enjoyed your explanation of the mystery motto. May I compliment you on your lively writing; all too many historians seem to pride themselves on making all subjects as dull as possible. I also enjoyed "Quantico Cats Belled," further proof that history need not be terminally boring.

A fine piece of writing, sir. Please consider this letter a certification that the History and Museums Division has kept its honor clean out Phoenix way.

These kudos gave us a great deal of satisfaction. However, the bubble burst upon reading the following letter from 1st Sgt George E. Galvan, USMC (Ret). He writes:

Having recently read your article... I recall having to give a period of instruction to my platoon when this same question was asked of me. I went to *The Marine Officer's Guide*, 1956 edition, by Colonel Heintz, General Thomas, and Admiral Ageton, and there on page 4 was the answer. Enclosed is a copy of that page.

That page reads, in part:

... every honorable discharge certificate from the Marine Corps bears the phrase, *Fideli Certa Merces* (A sure reward to the faithful).

Readers of *Fortitudine* will remember that the late Col Robert D. Heintz, Jr., in the guise of "Careful Reader," was quick to catch us up in our errors or oversights. Imagine the comment if "Careful Reader" had read Maj Buckner's original piece!

# Acquisitions

Mr. Zoeth Skinner, a former member of the 194th (Army) Tank Battalion on Bataan, sent in a burned metal plaque bearing the inscription, "Donald E. Wilke, Shanghai, China, November, 1941," a relic given to Mr. Skinner on one of his return trips to the Philippines, as were other artifacts he donated last year.

In his letter in late spring of this year, Mr. Skinner noted that he also had a Navy Good Conduct Medal in "relic" condition. The inscribed name was still visible. Its previous owner was a chief machinist's mate on board the USS *Quail* at Corregidor who became a member of the 4th Battalion, 4th Marines when his ship was scuttled to prevent her capture. The 4th Battalion was an ad hoc unit, of sailors commanded by both Navy and Marine officers. Chief Machinist's Mate Melvin Everett Spencer died in 1943 while a prisoner. His medal has since been added to our collection.

Maj Paul T. Mertel, USA, dropped off a panoramic photograph of the 10th Separate Battalion at Quantico in November 1918. The photograph has been helpful in our research of Marine Corps insignia. In this image, the Marines are wearing the collar discs which are usually associated with the Marines of the 4th and 5th Brigades in France. Since the 10th Separate Battalion was composed of recruits at the war's end, it now seems that these collar discs were manufactured in the United States, as well as in France.

Our ongoing acquisition of philatelic materials was boosted by Mr. Solomon Bogard's donation of Vietnam Veterans first day covers and retired MGySgt John S. Burrough's gift of a first day cover commemorating the Guadalcanal campaign. Mr. Bogard had previously sent in several other covers. Many *Fortitudine* readers will recognize MGySgt Burroughs, both as a retired member of the Marine Band and as a long-time friend of the Museum, especially the Military Music Collection. The Military Music Collection was further enhanced by LtCol M.L. Greenquist's donation of two early Edison cylinder recordings of the Marine Band while under Sousa's direction.

Mr. Dennis DeLaney, capped his previous gifts by

giving the Museum a M1875 full-dress enlisted frock coat. These uniforms are becoming less and less available as more private collectors turn to the collection of Marine Corps militaria. In the same donation, Mr. DeLaney also gave a complete M1922 enlisted uniform, a M1904 enlisted dress blouse, and a pair of M1892 shoulder knots for the full dress uniform of that time. In order to complete the M1875 frock coat, the Museum has recently purchased a pair of brass shoulder scales made by the Horstmann Company in Philadelphia.

As with these shoulder scales, the Museum sometimes purchases rare items to fill gaps in our collection. One of the items recently acquired by the Museum was a circa 1821 small Marine Corps button. Thanks to the generosity of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, which purchased the button for the Museum, our collection of early insignia now has one less "hole" in it.

Among personal papers received were both new collections and accretions to standing collections. We are indebted to Col Thomas E. Williams, USMC (Ret), Mr. Paul E. Ison, LtGen Merwin H. Silverthorn, USMC (Ret), Mr. Ted R. Williams, Capt W. D. Davis, Jr., USAF, and Col John B. Sims, USMC (Ret). These papers cover Marine Corps activity from World War I through World War II.

Mr. Preston Sewell of Denville, New Jersey, sent in a rare leather tanker's helmet of World War II and a M1904 enlisted cap. In addition, Mr. Sewell generously donated several pieces of World War I vintage "782" gear (accoutrements) which we did not have in the collection. Another item we did not have in our holdings was a World War II "discharge wallet." Through the kindness of GySgt Thomas G. Bone, we now have one. GySgt Bone was also instrumental in sending us the Ison papers collection.

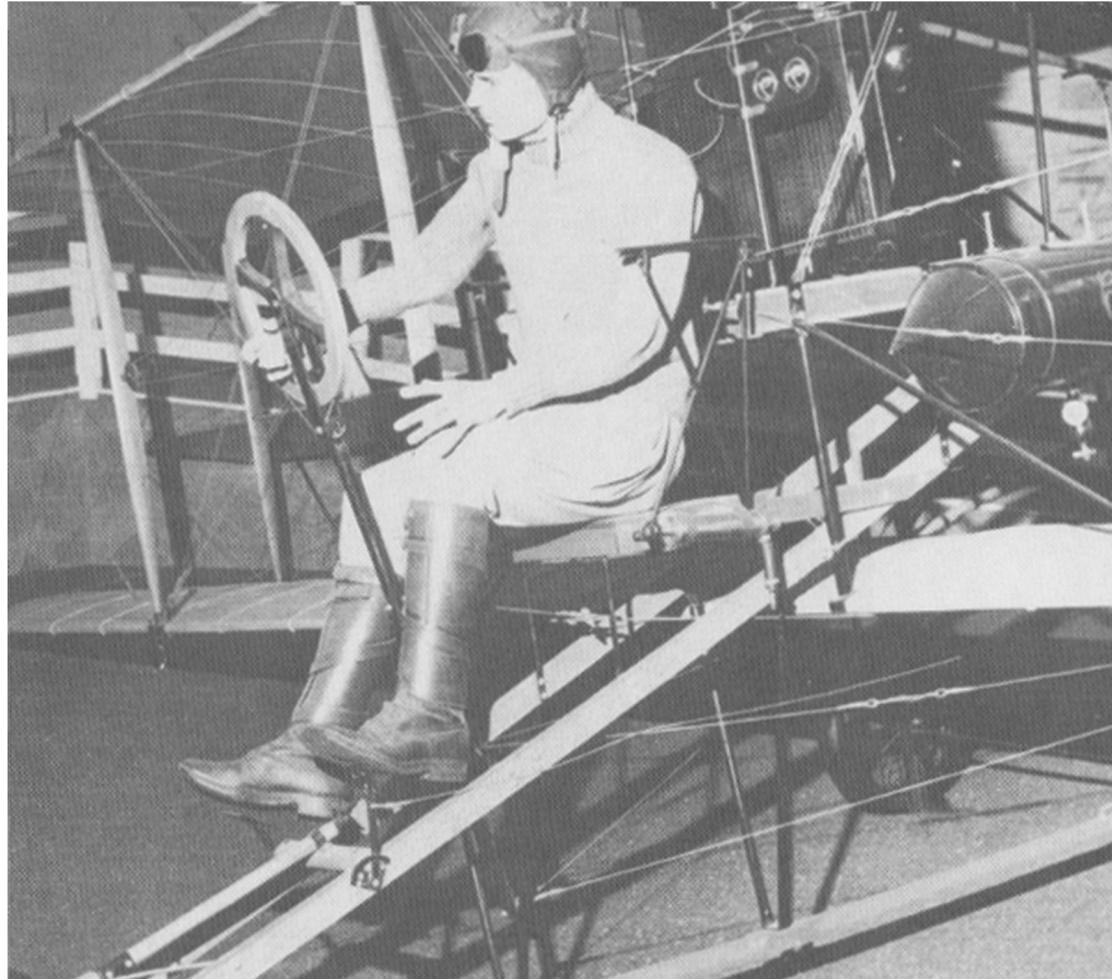
One of our last donations in this period was from Mr. Joseph P. Sheridan, a former member of the 1st Marine Division. His donation consisted of a Japanese "samurai" sword, a Japanese personal silk flag on a curious telescoping bamboo staff, and a "Nambu" service pistol, complete with leather holster. We now have two of these flags; our other one was donated several years ago by retired Col George R. Fletcher.

Again, space does not permit the listing of all the donations received nor the mentioning of all those generous people who made contributions. However, the Museum appreciates all the gifts received during these past months and again would like to thank its many kind donors.—KLS-C

# Aviation Museum Opens Second Hangar

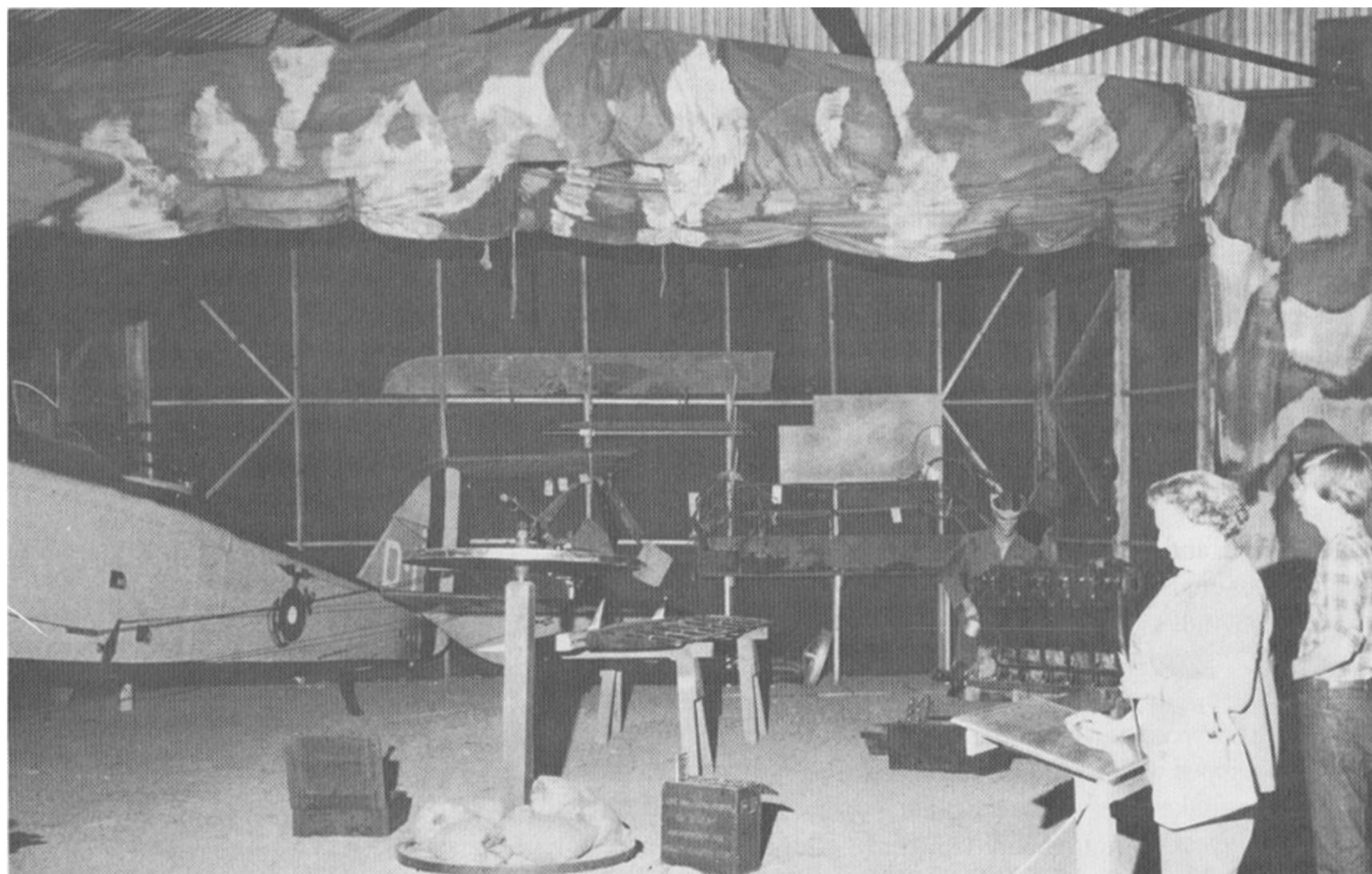
The story of Marine aviation's beginnings and early years from 1912 to 1940 is told in a new exhibit at Brown Field, Quantico, Virginia. The exhibit, opened on 10 May, is housed in Building 72, a large, old corrugated-iron hangar. It is the second phase of the Aviation Museum's development following the World War II hangar opened two years ago (*Fortitudine*, Spring 1978).

In contrast to the austere "advanced-airfield-in-the-Pacific" character of the World War II hangar, the Early Years hangar is boldly contemporary in appearance. The exhibits were conceived by Col Tom D'Andrea, designed by Mrs. Sharon Reinckens and built by woodcraftsman Frank Howard and his helpers. False walls and two small buildings-within-a-building turn the stark hangar into a series of colorful attractions.



*Near the entrance of the Early Marine Aviation exhibit is this reconstructed Curtiss "E" model pusher. 1st Lt Alfred E. Cunningham, the first Marine aviator, learned to fly in just such an aircraft.*

*Mrs. Ruth Ewing and Mr. Robert Lundgren, of Alexandria, Va., study the World War I display. This section of the exhibit represents a period flying field and hangar in France; a DH-4 bomber is on the left.*





*1stLt and Mrs. Charles F. Smith made a side trip to see the Marine Corps Aviation Museum during his leave from duties as a pilot at Cherry Point, North Carolina.*

On the walls appear outline murals of World War I aerial combat and air race scenes of the 1920s and 1930s plus aircraft tail and wing markings. But the most significant feature of the walls are the numerous dioramas set into them. MSgt "Fritz" Gemeinhardt was recalled from retirement to design and build the dioramas. They present all the different Marine Corps aircraft not included in the museum, illustrating a sequence of noteworthy incidents of Marine aviation history. The scenes start with the first aviation deployment to Culebra in 1914, where aircraft were first integrated into ground organization and tactics. Others present events through World War I, Nicaragua, and the air races, up to the eve of World War II.

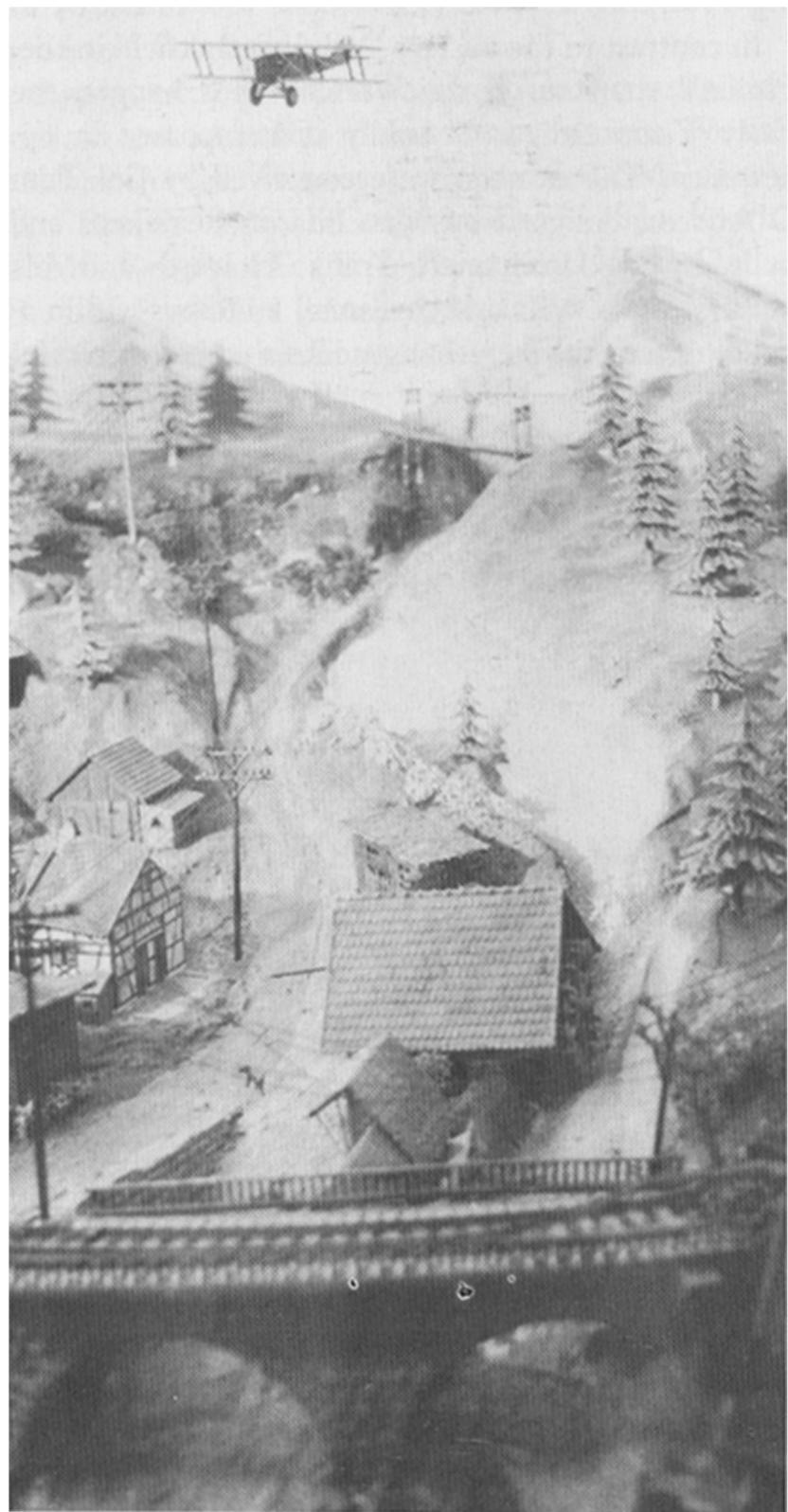
The two buildings-within-a-building are near replicas of the flightline shacks to be found around any airfield of the era. Memorabilia of some of the early heroes of Marine aviation and a show of early aviation art replace more usual contents. No less than three Medals of Honor are on display, those awarded to Lt Ralph Talbot and GySgt Guy Robinson, pilot and gunner team of World War I, and Capt Christian Schilt of Nicaragua. Also to be seen are the medals of Gen Roy Geiger, busts and portraits of early aviators, a cut-away Liberty engine, and wooden propellers.

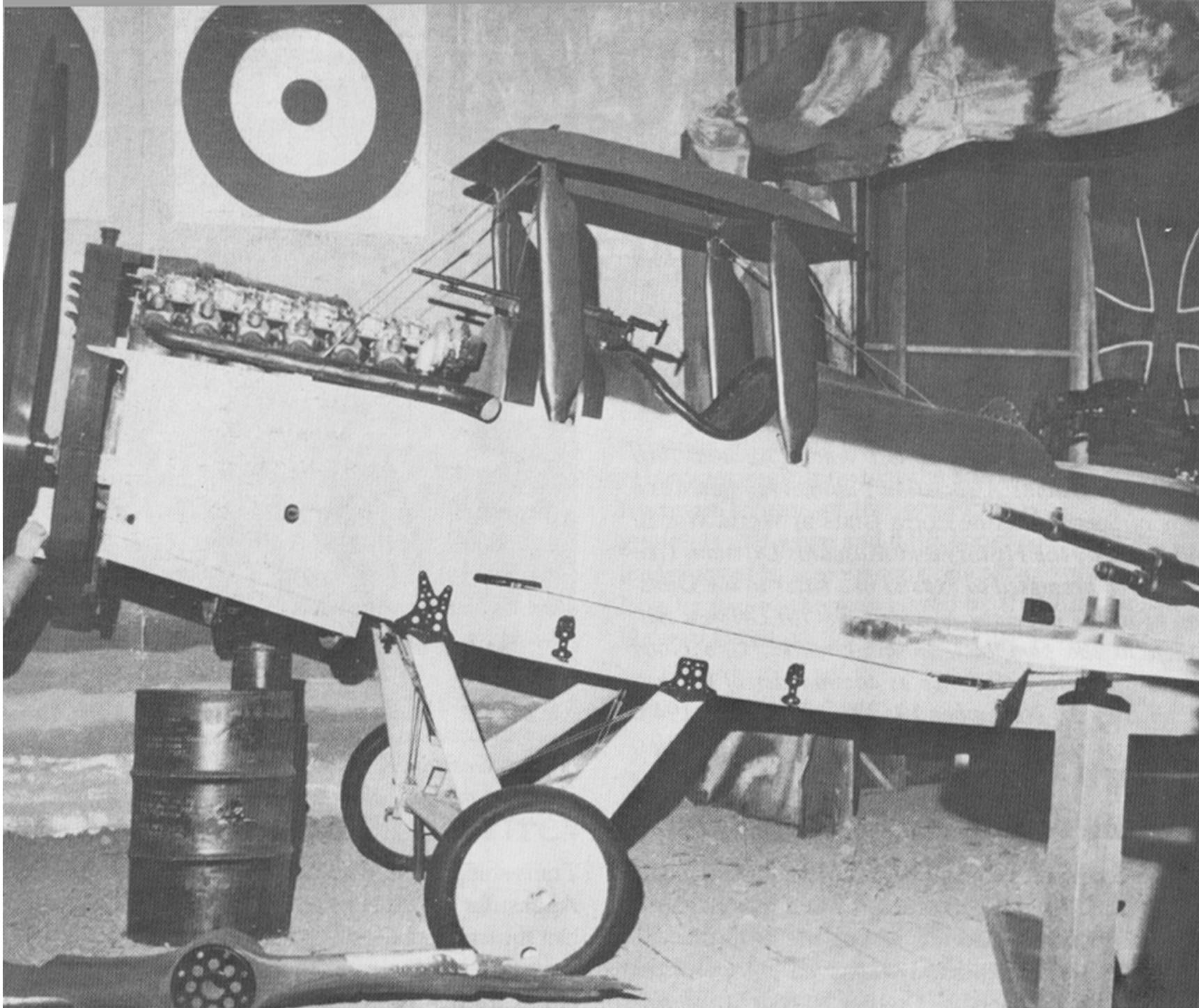
Exhibits of full-sized objects begin just inside the door with a wicker balloon basket authentically rigged with ropework, not from the balloon envelope but from the roof trusses, and manned by a Marine observer equipped with a chestset telephone. A curved elevated ramp takes the visitor past dioramas and the aviator-of-the-year Cunningham Award and affords a multi-level walkaround view of the aircraft on which

1stLt Alfred A. Cunningham and other early Marine aviators trained—a 1911 Curtiss "E" model pusher reproduced for the museum by Cole Palen of Old Rheinbeck, New York.

The visitor next encounters a scene from a Marine airfield in France where a DH-4 fighter bomber is being repaired in a canvas and pole hangar. Tools, engines, ordnance, and Marine mechanics surround the plane while a French Hotchkiss machine gun wagon on an improvised wheel-on-a-post antiaircraft mount stands guard. Next displayed is a Thomas Morse MB 3 Speed Scout, the United States' first fighter designed before 1917 and by the time of

*This diorama, built by retired MSgt "Fritz" Gemeinhardt, recreates a Marine bombing mission during World War I.*





*A two place De Havilland day bomber "undergoes repairs" at a recreated World War I airfield. At the*

America's entry into the war inadequate for combat. The "Tommy Morse" was flown in training by Marines and this example is unique as the prototype for the series. It was completely restored from a bundle of sticks and tangle of wires by the museum's chief aircraft mechanic, Joe Payton, and his crew. A series of full-sized aircraft wing insignia or rondels used by the United States and its allies and an actual piece of German balloon fabric bearing the German Maltese cross complete the World War I exhibits.

Marine aviation in the 1920s is represented by a fully restored Boeing FB-5. This sturdy biplane fighter powered by a Packard V 12 engine came to the museum as a basket case on loan from the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum. Payton and crew spent more than 1,000 hours restoring the plane which now bears its original insignia of the VF 6M "Red Devils," now VMFA-232.

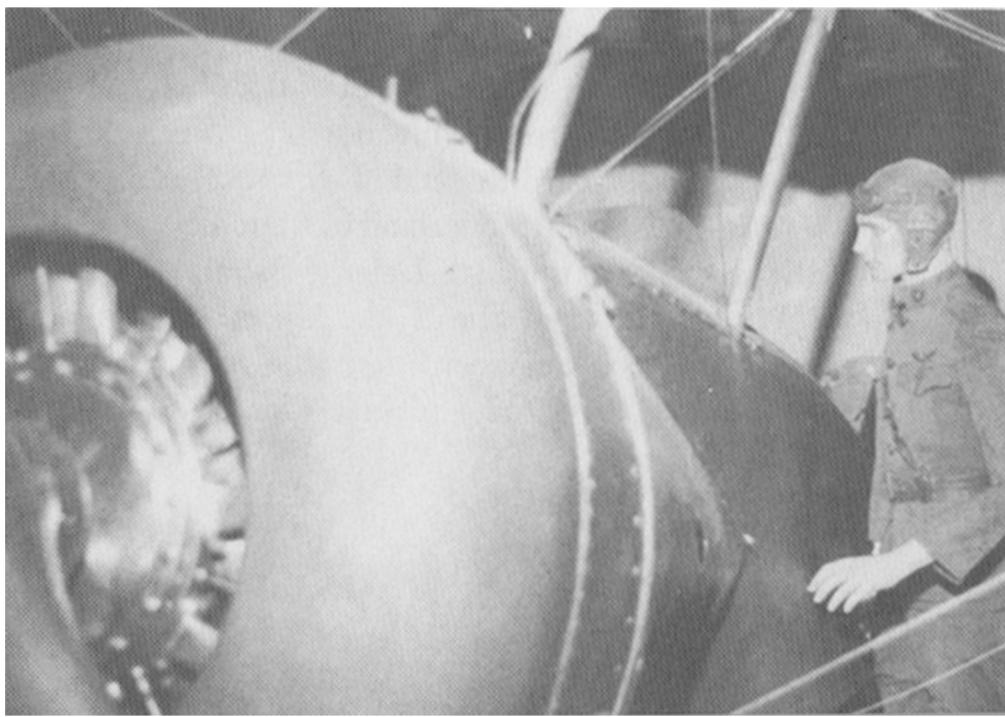
The 1930s are represented by another biplane fighter on loan from the Smithsonian. This is the "Gulphawk I" flown by Maj Al Williams, USMCR, for the Gulf Oil Company. It is a greatly modified Cur-

*rear is an actual section of fabric, marked with a Maltese cross, from a German observation balloon.*

tiss F6C, the unmodified version of which was flown by Marines.

The last aircraft exhibit is the nose section and cockpit of an R-4D, the Marine version of the Douglas DC-3. A ramp leads to the rear of the cockpit which is occupied by two mannequins as pilot and copilot. A tape recording enables visitors to listen to authentic sound effects and pilot to tower conversations.

*A pilot stands near a restored Thomas Morse MB-3 Speed Scout, the Marine Corps' first fighter. Inadequate for combat by 1917, the MB 3 was not used in France.*



# 5th Defense Battalion History Expanded

*Among materials examined by LtGen George F. Good, Jr., USMC (Ret) at last year's 5th and 14th Defense Battalions Association's annual reunion was a copy of Special Marine Corps Units in World War II, published by the History and Museums Division. Gen Good was prompted to expand in a letter to the Director upon the coverage provided the 5th Defense Battalion in the pamphlet. In his remarks, Gen Good draws upon his experience as commander of the battalion from 14 November 1942 to 4 December 1943. The Association met this year in August in Dumfries, Virginia.*

The occasion of the annual reunion of the 5th and 14th Defense Battalions prompts me to write about a situation which has been troubling me.

At the 1979 reunion, I was given a copy of the History and Museums Division's *Special Marine Corps Units of World War II*. In reading that monograph I discovered that the narrative relating to the 5th Defense Battalion is woefully deficient. On page 63 of the text the 5th Defense Battalion is brought home from Iceland. Then, on page 73, the text states that a detachment of the 5th, together with part of the 3d Defense Battalion were redesignated the 14th. That appears to me to be pretty sketchy treatment for an outfit which was as busy as the 5th during the critical years between 1940 and 1945. Time and space will not allow me to go into detail; however, let me cite some of the 5th's accomplishments and movements.

In connection with the Iceland venture, the 5th developed many innovative techniques, both operational and logistical. These were necessary to adapt to the peculiar conditions of the locale as well as to coordinate action with the British air and ground forces as well as the U.S. Army command under which the battalion served toward the end of that tour.

After returning from Iceland in March of 1942, the 5th split to form the 11th Defense Battalion and then split again to form the 13th. Then, after joining recruits to bring it up to strength, the 5th embarked at Norfolk in July 1942 and sailed for New Zealand.



*LtGen George F. Good, Jr., USMC (Ret), as a brigadier general, circa 1950.*

Trans-shipping at Wellington, the battalion sailed in August for Noumea where it again split to send about half the unit to Tulagi. The battalion headquarters and command echelon with the remainder of the 5th, reinforced by two hastily formed and unorganized companies of infantry from the 3d Marines, a company of Seabees from Samoa, plus some miscellaneous personnel including a tank platoon, continued to the Ellice Islands. There they made an unopposed landing on Funafuti on 2 October 1942. The designation of this rag tag outfit was then changed to "Defense Force, Funafuti."

I assume this change in designation is responsible for your historian losing track of the 5th Defense Battalion.

Nonetheless, the 5th was the heart and soul and the coalescing unit around which the Defense Force, Funafuti, was formed and commanded. At Funafuti, this poorly armed force stuck out like a sore thumb, the forward element in our northward thrust into the Central Pacific, hundreds of miles from any supporting force. Initially, the 5th had only one battery of anti-aircraft artillery but it was this battalion which engaged the Japanese air on the occasions when Funafuti was attacked. These attacks are recorded in Ed Hutchinson's "Report of the 5th AA Battalion, Corps Artillery, V Amphibious Corps," dated 16 May 1944. Funafuti served as the base for operations of the 7th Air Force Bomber Command against Tarawa prior to the landing on that objective. Funafuti was also

developed into a deep water harbor. It was also the base which organized and executed the successful air search for [Capt Eddie] Rickenbacker. I mention these few things only to point out the wide variety of tasks participated in by the 5th.

The unit designation was again changed to 5th Defense Battalion (Reinforced) in January 1943 and so remained when the battalion was relieved at Funafuti in February 1944 and proceeded to Kauai. In April 1944 the designation was changed to 5th Antiaircraft Battalion. Then in June 1944, the battalion joined Corps Artillery of the V Amphibious Corps.

In April 1945, the 5th AA Battalion sailed from Kauai for Okinawa via Eniwetok and Ulithi, arriving at Okinawa on 3 May 1945. Occupying positions in defense of Kadena Airfield, the 5th ended the war *still* in action. Finally in September 1945, the 5th AA Battalion was ordered to stand down and secure.

This is a longer tale than I had intended to tell.

Many interesting sidelights and incidents have been omitted because I am only trying to convey the idea that, in my opinion, the 5th Defense (AA) Battalion and its sibling, the 14th, deserve more recognition in our World War II histories than they have received.

My principal concern is for the Marines of the 5th and 14th who reunite each year to recall their experience and who, I am sure, would like to see some tangible evidence adequately acknowledging their participation in the big show.

I am not suggesting that the *Special Unit* booklet be rewritten because of this omission. What I am suggesting is that when and if the booklet is rewritten, or incorporated in a more comprehensive work, a closer look be had at the part played by the 5th and 14th Defense Battalions in World War II.

G. F. Good, Jr.  
LtGen, USMC (Ret)

## Col Tom D'Andrea Retires—Created Aviation Museum

Col Thomas M. D'Andrea, USMCR, officer-in-charge of the Marine Corps Aviation Museum at Quantico, retired 1 August after more than 25 years service. The veteran fighter pilot served with VMF-451, VMF-334, VMF-235, and VMF-115, and as the wing standardization officer for the F4D-1 Skyway; all within four years of flight school.

In 1963, while with the Division of Information, (HQMC) Col D'Andrea contributed toward the creation of two television series: "The Lieutenant" and "Gomer Pyle, USMC." He also created a Marine Corps motion picture series, "The Commandant's Special Reports." The pilot for this series won national acclaim by achieving the "Golden Mike Award."

In 1966, he reported to VMA 211 in Vietnam. His service there earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross, five Air Medals, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross. He also led his men in two separate night ground actions during Viet Cong attacks on Da Nang Air Base. For his conduct under fire he received the Bronze Star Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal, both with Combat Distinguishing Device.

In 1969, Col D'Andrea was assigned to the DOD and served as the Chief of Audio-Visual News. While assigned to this duty he began to develop a conception of the present Marine Corps Aviation Museum. After a year of research, he submitted a study to the Com-

mandant outlining the concept of an Aviation Museum. The study resulted in Col D'Andrea being assigned to the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico as an assistant director.

After sweeping reorganization and comprehensive inventory, Col D'Andrea supervised the restoration of the building in which the collections were to be stored. Next an inventory of the aircraft was made, to include spare parts. Following this, he established a collection policy and initiated a restoration program. He then revised the table of organization, adding a professional exhibit specialist, carpenter, aviation mechanics, and a security force.

On 6 May 1978, the Marine Corps' Aviation Museum was opened to the public and was well received by both military and civilian visitors.

Col and Mrs. D'Andrea now make their home in Punta Gorda, Florida.

*Col and Mrs. Thomas M. D'Andrea and Col Nibart.*



# Photo Recalls Marine News Team at Normandy

by Benis M. Frank

Mr. G. W. Stone, a World War II Royal Navy veteran of the Normandy invasion, recently wrote the History and Museums Division for help. He asked if anyone could identify a Marine officer and an NCO who appeared in a picture that accompanied his letter. The only clue Mr. Stone had to their identities was that the Marine captain had been a war correspondent and the staff sergeant a photographer. The problem was turned over to me since I wrote a book on combat correspondents and photographers. I immediately referred the photo to Col William P. McCahill, USMCR (Ret), one of the first Marines assigned to BGen Robert L. Denig's combat correspondent program. As expected, Col McCahill provided the identification.

The officer in the photograph was Capt Herbert L. Merillat, USMCR. The photographer was SSgt "Scotty" Kilpatrick. Merillat, a Rhodes Scholar and former press analyst and adviser to the Secretary of the Treasury, received his commission on 14 May 1942. Only two days later he joined the 1st Marine Division which was then mounting out from Norfolk for the South Pacific. Joining the division at the same time was Sgt Jim Hurlburt, a former Marine who had reenlisted on 8 May. Together, they were the only Marine Corps combat correspondents to cover the Guadalcanal landing and early operations ashore. Bas-

*Capt Merillat (front row, second from right) and SSgt Kilpatrick (seated above Capt Merillat) pose with the*

ed on his Guadalcanal experiences, Merillat wrote *The Island*, published in 1946.

After his assignments in the Pacific, Merillat received orders to England to cover the Normandy invasion. Together with SSgt Kilpatrick, he boarded the British LCG (landing craft, gun) 1007. This craft, crewed by the Royal Navy, also had a Royal Marine detachment which manned the guns for direct fire on beach targets. A diary-like account of their experiences on the LCG was later published in stateside newspapers.

After the invasion, Capt Merillat met with Col Robert O. Bare, USMC, who had been on the staff of the Allied Naval Commander, Expeditionary Force. On D-Day, Col Bare had been attached to a British naval unit during the initial assaults. In an exchange of sea stories, the two Marines discovered that they had been in the same group of ships enroute to the invasion beaches. Col Bare then asked Merillat what beaches and targets the Royal Marines of LCG 1007 had fired upon. When Merillat told him, Bare said, "Well, you'll be pleased to know that your boys knocked them out. I saw those pillboxes. Shells from your guns went right through the gun slot of one and killed everyone inside."

Merillat currently resides in Washington, D.C. As a consequence of Mr. Stone's letter, he has actively renewed his interest in Marine Corps history. He has lost track of SSgt Kilpatrick since the war.

*crew of LCG 1007 prior to the Normandy invasion. Mr. G. W. Stone is at front row, left.*



# Oral History Report

The Oral History Collection has been expanded by the addition of several interviews since publication of the last issue of *Fortitudine*. Also, the Oral History Section has conducted a number of interviews which are in various stages of processing.

The first major interview recently accessioned is one conducted with LtGen Herman Nickerson, Jr., USMC (Ret), a member of the Basic School class of 1935—the one the stars fell on (See *Fortitudine*, Summer 1975, p. 16). The first portion of Gen Nickerson's memoirs is concerned with his two tours in Vietnam; first, 1966-67, as the CG of the 1st Marine Division and then Deputy Commander of III MAF, and his second tour as CG, III MAF, 1969-70. The remainder of the memoir relates to his career overall. His early years consisted of normal tours at Marine Corps posts and stations, together with 2½ years with the 4th Marines in Shanghai. He returned to China after World War II to serve the first of what was to be several tours with the 1st Marine Division. One of Gen Nickerson's most interesting assignments, which he describes in his interview, occurred during the six months that he was a member of the Mediation Board of the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization, Palestine, in 1949, when he met and associated with such historic figures as David Ben-Gurion, Moshe Dayan, and others. This six-month detail furnished the material which served as the basis for his dissertation at the Armed Forces Staff College, where he was a student shortly after returning from the Middle East. Himself a dedicated Mason, Gen Nickerson also spoke about Freemasonry in the Marine Corps.

A number of the other interesting topics he addressed are his tours as fiscal director of the Marine Corps, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the 1st Marine Division, which he commanded at the time, and his post-retirement job as administrator of the National Credit Union Administration.

Another new memoir in the Oral History Collection is LtGen John N. McLaughlin's. Like Gen Nickerson's, the first portion of Gen McLaughlin's transcript deals with his Vietnam tour, 1968-69, first as ADC of the 1st Marine Division and CG of Task Force X Ray, and then as Deputy G-3, Operations, on the staff of USMACV. And, like Gen Nickerson, Gen McLaughlin responded to specific questions prepared by Historical Branch writers to support individual Vietnam writing projects. In reading his transcript,

one notes with interest that most of Gen McLaughlin's combat experience has been with the 1st Marine Division, with which he served in World War II in the Guadalcanal, Cape Gloucester, and Peleliu operations, and in Vietnam, and to which he was attached in Korea. It was while serving as Assistant G-3 of the Army's X Corps during the withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir that he was captured by Chinese Communist Forces. Gen McLaughlin was in charge of a mixed group of 125 Marines, Army, and Royal Marines when it was surrounded by the enemy. The group fought the enemy all night until strength was reduced to only 40 to 45 effectives:

We had a lot of wounded and we had 'em in sleeping bags. And we'd thought about bugging out of there... but I hated like hell to leave them behind... And of course by the time we ran out of ammunition, there wasn't much we could do about it.

Gen McLaughlin was to spend nearly three years as a POW before returning to U.S. control in September 1953. In the following years, he had a number of interesting and challenging assignments—such as Fleet Marine Officer for the Sixth Fleet, aide to the Under Secretary of the Navy, and Deputy J-5 of Strike Command, as well as Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps—before completing his career as CG, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, in 1977.

In 1967, GySgt Richard Albright of the Division of Information interviewed retired Col Joseph A. Rossell, then 85 years old. This interview has now been transcribed and accessioned into the Collection. Although Rossell was originally destined for the priesthood (he was known throughout his career as "Holy Joe"), he enlisted in the Marine Corps on 27 February 1902 with the intention of applying for a commission, as Marines then could, when he became 21 years old. At the time of his enlistment, he was sent to recruit training to the Marine Barracks, League Island Navy Yard, Philadelphia. The acting commanding officer of the barracks was Smedley Butler.

Rossell recalled:

There was no such thing as boot camp. Recruits went from recruiting office to the nearest barracks. There they were placed under some dear old sergeant who'd made everything the Spanish American War had to offer, and who considered the recruits as his children. And the recruits soon accepted him as their father. And he developed us.

In 1903, Rossell, as an enlisted Marine, was one of Capt George C. Thorpe's detachment of 19 Marines acting as escort for the American diplomatic mission

intent on negotiating a treaty with Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia. Col Russell's memoirs describe this journey of the first American troops ever to set foot in Ethiopia. Col Russell was commissioned in 1904, and went on to serve nearly 44 years of active duty, retiring in 1945. For his service in Nicaragua in 1928, he was decorated with the Navy Cross. Col Russell died on 14 December 1968 and was buried with full military honors in Arlington Cemetery.

A fourth interview recently entering the collection was one conducted by BGen Simmons in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with former Army Air Corps Maj Bert Bank. Bank had been captured by the Japanese when Bataan fell and remained a POW for three years, until liberated in 1945. While at Cabanatuan prison camp in the Philippines, he became friendly with Marine Capt Austin C. Shofner and Lts Michael Dobervich and Jack Hawkins, who, with seven other Americans and two Filipinos, escaped from the Japanese to join American guerrilla units operating elsewhere on Luzon. In his interview, Bank spoke of these Marines and their escape.

Shortly after conducting this interview, Gen Simmons continued south from Tuscaloosa, where he had been attending the MajGen Wilburt Scott Brown

Military History Symposium, to Jackson, Miss., to complete his interview with former CMC Gen Louis H. Wilson, Jr. With Sessions VIII and IX completed, the entire interview is being transcribed prior to proofing here and editing and review by Gen Wilson.

Also completed within the past few months have been interviews with MajGens Jonas M. Platt and Bennet Puryear, Jr., and BGens Frank H. Schwable and Robert H. Williams.

The Oral History Section has, at the same time as these other interviews were in progress, continued its cooperative interviewing program with the Marine Security Guard Battalion (MSGBn). Interviewed since the last *Fortitudine* Oral History Report have been Col Howard M. Koppenhaver, former CO of the MSGBn; retired LtCol Donald Nepp, former executive officer of the battalion and director of the Marine Security Guard School; Maj Zack Johnson, former MSGBn operations officer and director of the school; and Sgt William H. Pfister, who, as a member of the Security Guard detachment in Beirut, Lebanon, was wounded during the fighting there, and was later transferred to the detachment in Kabul, Afghanistan, and was there when the American ambassador was murdered. Sgt Pfister is currently on the MSGBn staff.—BMF

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## The Inspector General Reports

As of 15 July, units achieving an "outstanding" in the IG inspection since the last issue of *Fortitudine* were:

Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina

Marine Security Guard Battalion (State Department),  
Marine Corps Development and Education Center,  
Quantico, Virginia

Antitank (TOW) Company Light, 4th Tank Battalion,  
4th Marine Division (Reinforced), FMF, USMCR,  
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

The current Manual for the Marine Corps Historical Program, MCO P5750.1E, provides the necessary direction and guidance to permit all units to achieve "outstanding." Among significant actions required are:

The commander must assign a staff historian. This member makes certain that a Unit Historical Summary File is maintained. He supervises the composition of the command chronology ensuring that the first name, middle initial, and last name are used to identify individuals throughout. The staff historian assures that those streamers displayed on the organizational colors coincide with those listed on the Certificate of Honors. And too, that the Certificates of Lineage and Honors are displayed in a prominent place in the headquarters. The narrative summary of the command chronology should be written from the commander's viewpoint, highlighting significant accomplishments of the unit and discussing the approaches and techniques used to overcome problems and achieve unit objectives during the period covered. Finally, the commander must personally sign the command chronology.

# *In Memoriam*



A veteran Marine aviator with 29 years of active duty, MajGen Byron F. Johnson, USMC (Ret), died at the age of 86 on 8 April in Coronado, California. Born in Kansas, Gen Johnson enlisted in the Marine Corps in July 1917 and was commis-

sioned the following year. He received his wings in 1929 and was later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his flying exploits against Sandino and his bandits. He was assistant commander of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in the Philippines and North China. He retired on 1 November 1946.



BGen Frank G. Dailey, USMC (Ret), a veteran Marine aviator with 33 years of active service, died at his home in Tucson, Arizona, on 27 May 1980 and was buried with full military honors at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego on 4 June.

Following his graduation from the University of Nebraska, and commissioning in 1927, Gen Dailey became a member of the 1927 and 1928 All Marine Football Teams. He received his wings in 1930. In the summer before the United States entered World War II, Gen Dailey was one of the few Marines aviators to travel to London and to Cairo to observe RAF combat operations.

In World War II, he served in the Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa actions. During the latter part of the war, he was Senior Marine Officer on the staff of Fast Carrier Task Force 58, and participated in Marine carrier based air strikes against Okinawa and Japan. He commanded Marine Aircraft Group 33 in the Korean War. Gen Dailey retired on 30 June 1958.



BGen Harold E. Rosecrans, USMC, (Ret), who commanded the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines during the opening phases of the Guadalcanal operation, died 13 April in Florida. He was 83. Having enlisted in April 1917, he served in all of the

major campaigns of the 5th Regiment in France and was commissioned following the Armistice.

Gen Rosecrans was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his services in the Tulagi operation, and was evacuated after being wounded on Guadalcanal. He returned to the 1st Division as commander of the 17th Marines, which he led at Cape Gloucester. Gen Rosecrans retired in June 1949.



BGen Arnold F. Johnston, USMC (Ret), died on 5 May in Asheville, North Carolina. Gen Johnston graduated from the Naval Academy in 1935, was commissioned in the Marine Corps, and was assigned to the Basic School Class of 1935. As a

member of the 2d Marines, he participated in the Guadalcanal, Tarawa, and Saipan operations. On Saipan, as commander of the 3d Battalion, 2d Marines, he won the Silver Star Medal. Retiring in 1951, he was promoted to brigadier general.



The oldest surviving former Woman Marine, Daisy Myrtle Lingle, age 97, passed away in February after a period of illness. When she found out that she was two years older than the age limit for enlistment of women she fibbed about her age and

in 1918 enlisted anyway. She served for the duration of the war at Headquarters Marine Corps, and after being discharged, she remained at Headquarters as a civilian. Mrs. Lingle made her last public appearance in February when she was honored by the Women Marines Association.

# Events at the Center

The Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association held a reception here at the Center prior to the Marine Corps Barracks Evening Parade on 23 May. The gathering, attended by some 300 members and guests, was highlighted by a tour of the Marine Corps Museum and the serving of heavy hors d'œuvres, with liquid refreshments. MajGen Hugh W. Hardy, USMCR, an executive of Exxon, was the senior officer in attendance.

## *CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION*

On behalf of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, BGen Edwin H. Simmons recently forwarded certificates of appreciation to 10 persons for their contributions to the Marine Corps Historical Program. The General thanked Mrs. Margery Drake for the restoration of numerous oil paintings for the Center. Mrs. Marlene Schumacher received her award for amassing more than 500 hours of volunteer work as a museum docent (volunteer guide) and gift shop bookkeeper for the past two years. Also receiving certificates for volunteer work as museum docents were: Mrs. Jean Lloyd (25 hours), Mrs. Jinny Mahoney (30 hours), Mrs. Ann Blaz (50 hours), Mrs. Sally Schulze (50 hours), Mrs. Millie Hatch (50 hours), Mrs. Sara Belli (50 hours), Mrs. Nancy Redgate (70 hours), and Mrs. Carole Bergstrom (70 hours). The Center owes much to these ladies for their contributions.

## *HISTORY PRIZE WINNER VISITS*

On 30 May, the Center played host to Miss Barbara Preston, an eighth grade student from Fleming County Middle School, Flemingsburg, Kentucky. Miss Preston's visit came as a result of placing second, statewide, in a regional History Day contest conducted at Moorehead State University. Her award included an



*Gen Simmons presents a copy of Marines in the Revolution to Miss Barbara Preston during her visit to the center.*

all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., and the opportunity to represent Kentucky in the National History Day competition. Miss Preston wrote a paper on Marine PFC Franklin R. Sousley who, along with four other Marines and a sailor, was immortalized in Joe Rosenthal's famous photo of the Iwo Jima flag-raising during World War II. Sousley was also from Fleming County, and Miss Preston lives just a short distance from his mother.

Miss Preston was accompanied to Washington by her teacher, Miss Ruth Rankin; her sister, Mrs. Charlotte Pierce; and another teacher, Mr. Michael Fille. All were given a tour of the museum and other facilities by the Administrative Officer, CWO Skidmore, and Miss Preston visited with the Director, Gen Simmons.

Miss Preston and her party ended their eventful day by attending the evening parade conducted at Marine Barracks, Washington.

## *AVIATION WRITER PROMOTED*

On 6 June, LtCol James H. Lavelle, was promoted to his present rank in a ceremony conducted at the center by BGen Edwin H. Simmons. Assisting Gen Simmons with the pinning on of the new rank was LtCol Lavelle's wife, Jean. Also attending were the Lavelle's children: Mary, Christy, Angela, and James Jr. Daughter Cathy was unable to attend.

## TIME-LIFE BOOKS CONTRIBUTES

Time Life Books of Alexandria, Virginia expressed their appreciation to the Center in the form of a contribution to the Marine Corps Historical Research Grant Fund, for "continued valuable assistance to Time-Life Books staff in the preparation of our World War II series during 1979." Their gratitude was conveyed particularly to BGen Edwin H. Simmons, LtCol Frank Martino, Ms Evelyn Englander, and Ms Pat Morgan.

## SUMMER INTERNS

During the summer the Center was fortunate to have the services of three interns. Two were new, and one joined the staff for the second time.

Miss Elizabeth Anne Beane, a graduate student from Mary Washington College, with a BA in history/art history, earned 12 credit hours on her previous internship at the center. The former waitress and construction worker aspires to acquire a familiarity with historical sites and the methodology of historical research and documentation.

Brother and sister, Mr. Daniel P. and Miss Heidi R. Zinkand, of Sioux Center, Iowa, joined the staff for the first time during June. Both students attend Dordt College. Mr. Zinkand will begin his last year this fall, completing the necessary work for a degree in political science. Miss Zinkand, a biology major, begins her junior year this fall.

## RESEARCHERS AT THE CENTER

Among the researchers at the Marine Corps Historical Center was Dr. Howard Jablon, a recipient of a grant from the Marine Corps Historical Program Research Fund. A professor of history at the North Central Campus of Purdue University, Dr. Jablon is the sixth recipient of an award by the Research Grant Fund since the program was revitalized four years ago. Dr. Jablon is preparing a biography of Gen David M. Shoup, Medal of Honor winner and former Commandant of the Marine Corps. In addition to his research at the Center, Dr. Jablon will be interviewing a number of officers who served with the General.

Other recipients of these grants have investigated a wide variety of subjects. Their topics included the

Combined Action Program in the Vietnam War; the interaction of early British and American Marine Corps organization and administration; the history of Marines in the movies; MajGen Thomas Holcomb's personal papers; and Marines at Guantanamo Bay.

Since the Spring issue of *Fortitudine*, there have been numerous researchers taking advantage of the facilities here at the Center. As in the past the purposes behind the research varied greatly and included governmental, commercial, academic, and personal reasons.

Researchers came from many different organizations and companies, both civilian and military, to include: the Naval Air Facility, Washington; West Publishing; Marine Barracks, Washington; Texas Institute of Military History; Perspectives International; Nautical and Aviation Publication Company of America; Cyclone Graphics; OpNav 413; Headquarters, Marine Corps; Howard University; The Citadel; and Western Washington University.

Subjects were as varied as the researchers and included: the F-8 and Marine Air in Vietnam; VMFA 321; Guadalcanal fighter activities; 51st Defense Battalion; Department of the Navy Energy Awareness Week; black Marines; nuclear test personnel review; Evans F. Carlson and the 2d Raider Battalion; general officer biographies; *Mayaguez* incident; Korean War; sociology textbooks; miscellaneous jungles; flying gear, 1914-45; World War II Pacific engagements; 67th Fighter Squadron (AAF) during the Guadalcanal campaign; the Penobscot Expedition; fighter operations; Woman Marine history and Detachment 2, Cherry Point, North Carolina; Gen Cates, 1945-52 (personal papers); Gen Brewer's retirement; Guadalcanal, World War II; and Gen O.P. Smith and the Chosin Reservoir (personal papers).

## ARRIVALS

Recent arrivals at the History and Museums Division include a Deputy for History; Officer in-Charge, Museum Activities, Quantico; two writers; an archivist; a museum exhibit specialist; five security personnel; two secretaries; and a museum technician.

Joining the Division staff as the Deputy for History is Col Oliver M. Whipple, Jr. A replacement for Col Greenwood, who retired, Col Whipple was assigned from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where he served with both the 2d Marine Division and Marine Corps Base. He is a graduate of Yale with a BA in American

studies, an infantry officer, and a 22-year veteran of the Marine Corps.

LtCol Herman C. Brown joined the Division from Marine Corps Air Station, New River, North Carolina, where he served as executive officer of the station. The 22-year veteran CH 46 pilot is assigned as officer-in-charge, Museum Activities, Quantico. LtCol Brown, who attended Union College in New York, is a graduate of the Amphibious Warfare School and the Naval Justice School.

Reporting on board as the aviation writer, Maj Frank M. Batha, Jr., a Cobra pilot, will be working on squadron histories and the Vietnam aviation history. Also coming from New River, where he served during the past four years, Maj Batha holds a BA in history from the University of Utah and a MA in history from the University of West Florida.

The second writer is Maj Edward F. Wells, who came from the USS *Forrestal* where he served as the Marine Detachment commander. A 17-year veteran of the Marine Corps, Maj Wells has a BA in history from Harvard.

Assigned as the NCOIC of security at Quantico is Sgt Gregory A. Nance. Sgt Nance joined the Division from Camp Hanson, Okinawa, Japan, where he served as a platoon sergeant with Company G, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, 9th Marine Regiment, 3d Marine Division.

Another new NCO to join the Division is Sgt Bruce L. Yant. An ammunition technician, Sgt Yant was assigned from Camp Pendleton, where he was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal for meritorious service. Sgt Yant is assigned to the security section at Quantico.

Also assigned to security duties at Quantico is Sgt Fay A. Heath, a diesel mechanic. Joining the Division from Okinawa, Sgt Heath was with Wing Engineer Squadron 17 at Camp Smedley D. Butler. The last months of his tour were spent on the rifle range as a coach.

Another Marine to join the Division from Okinawa is LCpl Dean R. Schneider. A shore partyman, LCpl Schneider served with Landing Support Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group, Camp Foster. He is assigned to the security section at Quantico.

Cpl Michael V. Paul, also assigned to security at Quantico, joined the Division from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. While at Camp Lejeune Cpl Paul served as a warehouseman and supplyman with the 2d Force Service Support Group.

A new member in the Archives Section is PFC

Thomas L. Clarkson. PFC Clarkson joined the Center from Camp Pendleton, California, where he attended the Basic Personnel Administration School.

Arriving during June, Mr. C. Edward Thayer, an exhibit specialist is assigned to the Aviation Museum at Quantico. Mr. Thayer a member of the National Historical Society, came to the Division from the Smithsonian Institution where he worked for six years. While at the Smithsonian, Mr. Thayer was in graphic productions and worked with the Museum of History and Technology and the National Air and Space Museum. Earlier, Mr. Thayer was a visual information specialist with U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and was a community planner and graphics coordinator for the City of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Another arrival to the Division is Mrs. Susan M. Lucia, secretary to the OIC, Museum Activities, Quantico. Prior to her coming to the Washington area, Mrs. Lucia worked for the U.S. Air Force in Washington State, where her husband, U. S. Army Capt Charles A. Lucia, was assigned at Fort Lewis.

A July arrival is Mrs. Vivian A. Lyon, secretary to the Deputy Directors and Chief Historian. Mrs. Lyon came to the Division from the Pentagon where she was a clerical assistant with the U. S. Air Force. The Brooklyn native resides with her family in Maryland.

Also new at the Aviation Museum at Quantico is Mrs. Nancy F. King. Formerly with the Marine Corps Extension School where she was an assistant editor, Mrs. King is now serving in the Division as a museum technician (history).

## DEPARTURES

Since the last issue of *Fortitudine*, a number of Center staff have departed. LtCol James H. Lavelle, our aviation expert for 10 months, was transferred 13 June to a new assignment with Plans Division, HQMC, as a result of his promotion. During his tour, LtCol Lavelle edited the squadron history of VMO-6, and was a member of the Inspector General team.

Maj David N. Buckner, a veteran of four years with the Center, was detached on 1 June for duty with 2d Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Maj Buckner was the editor of *Fortitudine*, and wrote a history of the 10th Marines.

Sgt Dennis J. DeNoi departed on 12 July, transferred to the 1st Marine Brigade, Hawaii. Sgt DeNoi served as an assistant security chief at the Center for two and a half years.



*Mr. George W. Craig of the Still Photo Depository retired after 37 years in government.*

Mr. George W. Craig, supervisory archives technician, retired on 1 July. Mr. Craig's retirement ended more than 37 years' government service, of which 20 were with the Marine Corps. Mr. Craig's other government service included assignments with the Supreme Court, State Department, and GSA.

Mrs. Donna L. Facsko, secretary, departed 11 June, after serving at the Center for nine months. Mrs. Facsko joined her husband, Petty Officer First Class Stephen J. Facsko, Jr., USN, for a tour of duty in Hawaii.

Leaving the Division after six years, Mrs. Cathie Bakkela, the secretary for the Director, transferred to the Manpower Management Information Systems Branch, HQMC. Mrs. Bakkela, a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, is presently pursuing a degree in public administration at George Washington University.

Returning to the civilian world, Cpl James Patrick Oliver, a guide and security guard at the Museum at Quantico, was discharged on 1 August. Cpl Oliver returned to Warwick, Rhode Island where he is pursuing an AA degree in computer science. His goal is to become a programs analyst.

## *MARINES IN MINIA TURE*

Making use of eight dioramas from the old Quantico and New Hall Museums, a new exhibit will open in the early fall. Titled "Marines in Miniature," the dioramas will replace the exhibit of early machine guns at the north end of the museum.

The dioramas span the history of the early U.S. Marine Corps from 1800 to 1918. They show the spiking of the guns at Puerto Plata in 1800, O'Bannon at Derna, action off Tripoli Harbor in 1804, Bladensburg in 1814, the taking of the San Cosme Gate of Mexico City in 1847, the seizure of John Brown at Harpers Ferry in 1859, John Quick at Guantanamo in 1898, and Belleau Wood in 1918.

## *LT KEMPNER REMEMBERED*

Mr. Jack Shulimson, an historian with the Center, delivered a sermon to the Arlington-Fairfax Congregation in observance of Memorial Day Sabbath. A specialist on Marine Corps operations in Vietnam, Mr. Shulimson spoke on "Letters from Vietnam," a series of letters written by 2d Lt Marion Lee "Sandy" Kempner, USMC, to his family in Galveston, Texas. Lt Kempner was killed in action while leading his infantry platoon a few months after his arrival in Vietnam.

Many of the lieutenant's letters were published in the *Journal of American Jewish Archives*. They have also been collected in a privately printed volume.

## *NAVAL AND SHIPS MUSEUM TOUR*

Col Brooke Nihart, Deputy Director for Museums, made use of his wide acquaintance with military and naval museums to write a travelog of the nation's naval and historic Navy ship museums for the Navy League's magazine *Sea Power*. The July issue carried the article, calling it a "Sea Cook's Tour." In addition to numerous naval museums the article noted the growing number of historic Navy ships, usually stricken from the Navy's commissioned list, on loan to local jurisdictions, and open to the public. These now include 2 1798 frigates, 3 Civil War gunboats, 5 battleships, 1 aircraft carrier, 2 cruisers, 5 destroyers, 16 submarines, and a Liberty Ship, with more soon to be added to this memorial fleet.

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## Marine Treasured Ernie Pyle's Message

An original short article by Ernie Pyle was published in a World War II vintage ship's plan of the day recently donated by Mr. Gordon F. Heim, treasurer of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation. One of the country's best known and loved war correspondents, Pyle had already covered the war in Africa, the Mediterranean, and France. On 1 April 1945—Easter Sunday and D-Day (officially called L-Day on Okinawa)—Pyle was about to land with the Marine assault elements.

The plan of the day came from the USS *Charles Carroll* (APA 28) on which Ernie Pyle was embarked. Mr. Heim, then a warrant officer attached to the 5th Marines, was also on board. Impressed with the Pyle article, Mr. Heim carried it ashore.

The plan ordered the ship's cooks awakened at 0315, the crew at 0330. Since breakfast was simple to prepare (ham and eggs according to Pyle's posthumously printed book, *Last Chapter*), the crew began eating at 0345. Reveille for the embarked Marines was held off until 0430. Sunrise came at 0621.

The *Charles Carroll's* plan of the day concluded with Pyle's article:

In a message like this it's the usual thing for a person to say that he's happy to be aboard. If I said that, I would be a liar for sure. I'm not happy to be anywhere this side of California. But if one has to be out here, this seems to be a mighty good ship to be on.

It is like living my own war life over again to be on this ship. For she has been all the places I have been, and has carried many of my old Divisions into Africa and Sicily and Italy and France. She has fared well, and I like to think of her as a good luck ship.

Tomorrow, as you know, is our day. For some of you, this business tomorrow is new, and you are curious. For some of us, it is old stuff. None of us like it. But we have to do it, and wishing doesn't change it.

At this point, it doesn't matter so much what we're fighting for. From now on, we are fighting for each other. You'll realize what I mean in a few days. The guy next to you is watching out for you. And you for him. We are truly a team. There is comfort in that. There are an awful lot of us in this together.

In writing about tomorrow and the days that follow, I'll try to give the folks at home an honest picture of what happens. It's my job to let them know what you go through—so that they can understand enough to give you the credit you deserve. I'll do the best I can.

And so, to you on the ship, and you in the boats, and you on the beaches—good luck. I hope you wish me the same. I'll need it too!

Ernie Pyle  
War Correspondent

Seventeen days later, on 18 April 1945, Ernie Pyle was killed on the island of Ie Shima, near Okinawa.

*Columnist Ernie Pyle rests on the roadside with a Marine patrol in Okinawa.*

