

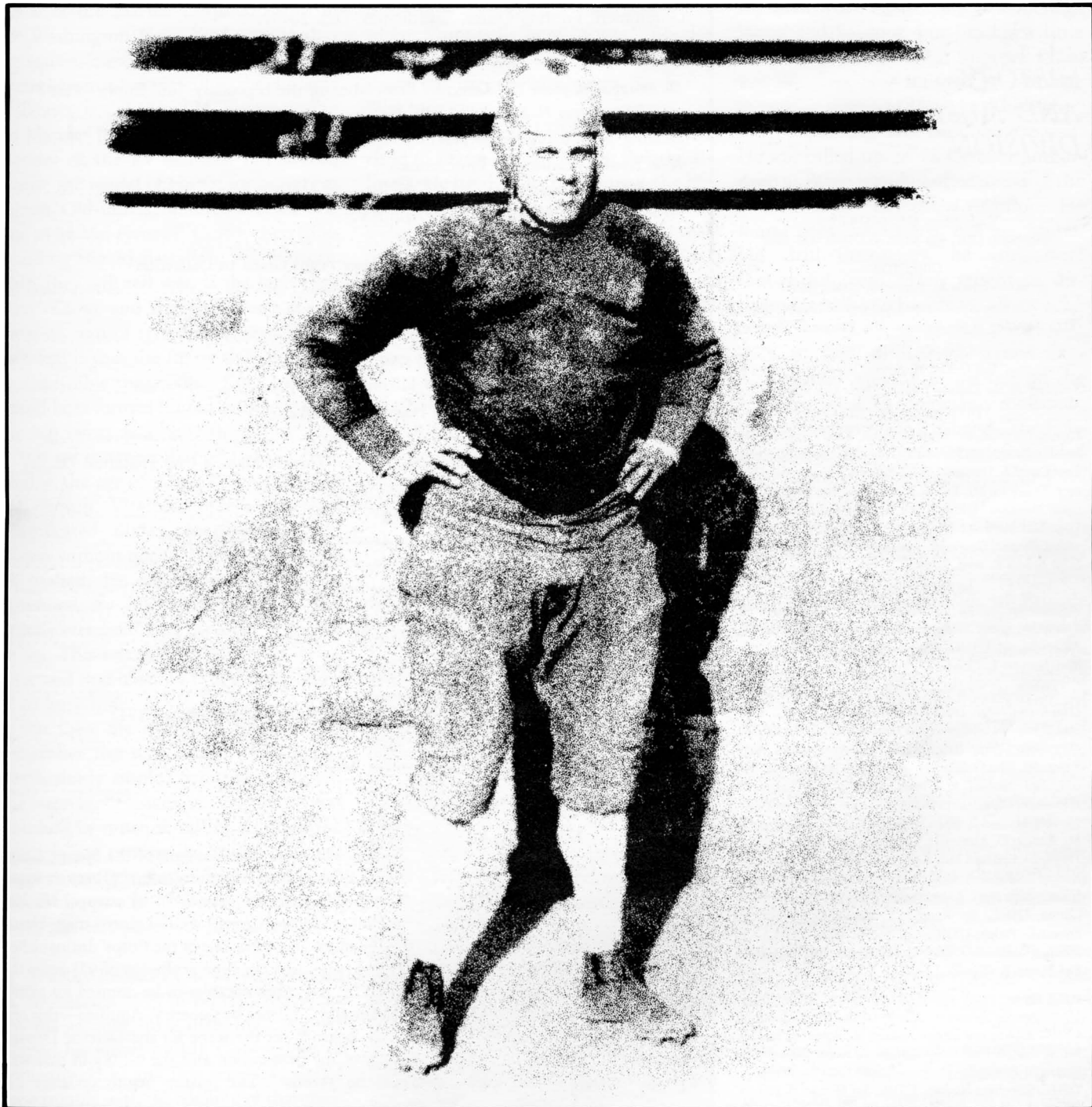
FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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WINTER 1991-1992

NUMBER 3



A MARINE WHOSE LIFE AND COLORFUL MILITARY CAREER ENCOMPASSED MOST RANKS AND GRADES AND NEARLY ALL OF THIS CENTURY . . . 1ST AND 2D DIVISIONS CELEBRATE HALF-CENTURY MARKS, ONE YEAR LATER . . . HISTORICAL DISPLAY CAN MAKE UNIT'S HERITAGE VISIBLE . . . FLIGHT LINES: F9F-2 PANTHER



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

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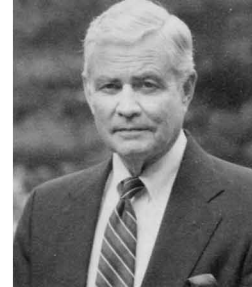
THE COVER

In the early decades of this century the Major General Commandant of the Marine Corps often was referred to as the "MGC." But, as BGen Simmons reports in his "Director's Page" beginning on page 3, in the 1930s the initials sometimes were taken by younger Marines to represent the almost-as-well-known "Marine Gunner Crowe." As an enlisted man, Henry P. "Jim" Crowe became a football hero at Quantico and, later, one of the Corps' distinguished marksmen. In the cover photograph, Crowe (who died last June at the age of 92) wears the leather-helmeted Marine football uniform he and other notables-to-be donned for games in 1924-27. Also in this issue, a new "Chronology" feature by Robert V. Aquilina—this one dealing with the events of World War II—helps to set the scene for the Defense Department's observance of the 50th anniversary of the prosecution and the victory in that war, which has the special theme, "Honor the Veteran." The feature begins on page 22.

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Remembering the Legendary 'Jim' Crowe — Part I



BGen Simmons

MOST VISITORS TO the Time Tunnel of the Marine Corps Museum in the Washington Navy Yard assume that the square-jawed Marine, standing on top of the coconut-log seawall in the diorama of Tarawa, is Col David M. Shoup urging his Marines forward. Col Shoup, as commander of the 2d Marines, did indeed receive the Medal of Honor for bravery at Tarawa. Old-timers, however, aver the Marine to be Maj Henry P. Crowe, then commanding the 2d Battalion, 8th Marines. This, they will tell you, is the legendary "Jim" Crowe and they will frown if you show no sign of recognition. Part of the problem is that the figure does not have a discernible mustache. Jim, himself, would later dismiss his red mustache with the big twists as a "silly thing."

It is sad to report that when Col Crowe died at the age of 92 on 27 June 1991 in Portsmouth, Virginia, after a long and complicated illness, his passing went almost without notice. It was, however, as he wished. He wanted no obituary or ceremony. By his instructions, he was quietly cremated and his ashes scattered at sea. This was the Jim of whom it was once said that it would take a steam shovel to bury him.

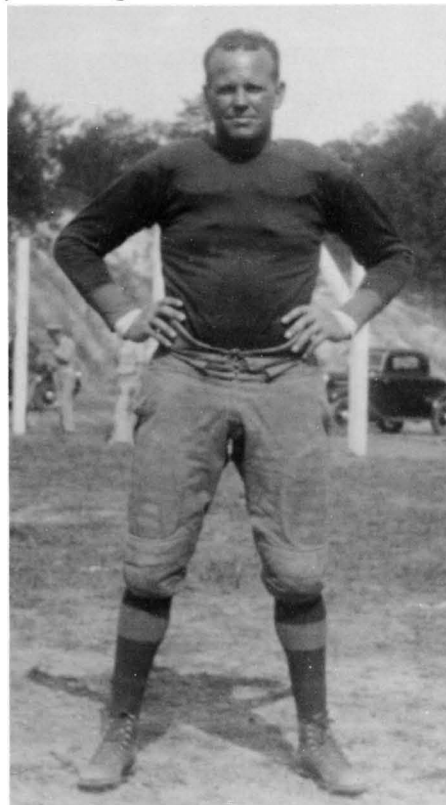
But there are many old Marines who remember Jim and, as the news of his death slowly rippled across the country, the stories, lovingly remembered and polished by much re-telling through the years, began coming in. So the time has come to set these stories down, before the tellers also pass from the scene and there is no one left to repeat them.

HENRY PIERSON CROWE was born on 7 March 1899 in Boston, Kentucky (by his account, in a little log cabin he helped his father build). Generations of company clerks and first sergeants would have trouble with the spelling of that middle name, putting it down as "Pearson," until Jim gave up and accepted the second spelling. As for the nickname "Jim," it is not clear whether it became fixed in his

first or second enlistment, but in a Marine Corps then given to nicknames, and where Campbells were "Soupy," Rhodes were "Dusty," and Finns were "Mickey," there was an inevitability to his being "Jim" Crowe.

The family moved while Jim was still a child to a farm outside Mount Pulaski, Illinois. He lived, as he liked to say, the life of a country boy. He and his three sisters walked or rode horseback the seven miles to school. After three years of high school he wanted to get away from the farm, so he went to work for the railroad. In 1916 he tried to enlist in the Army to go to Mexico with Pershing, but his mother and father would not give their approval. After the United States entered the First World War, he waited a year and then in August 1918 went to Chicago to see about enlisting.

The first great successes for Sgt Henry Pierson "Jim" Crowe came on the football field, along with some notable teammates.



Marines in greens in France were making their mark at such places as Belleau Wood and Soissons, but Jim knew little or nothing of this. What impressed him was the dress blue uniform of a Marine recruiting sergeant. He signed his enlistment papers and went back home to wait. He was called up on 28 October and arrived at Parris Island on the last day of the month, 11 days before the Armistice. He found boot camp rough but not brutal. His drill instructors, he said, were thoughtful men. "They taught us discipline, which stuck with me all my life."

ONE DAY HE passed a second lieutenant walking to his left on the company street. In momentary confusion, Jim saluted with his left hand. The lieutenant did not protest. The left-handed saluting of a lieutenant stayed in Jim's mind.

After boot camp he went to Philadelphia and then in May 1919, with the war over, was sent to France as a replacement to BGen Smedley D. Butler's 5th Brigade of Marines at the infamously muddy Camp Pontanezen at Brest. He remembered Butler for his riding crop and long nose. The duty was dull, incessant guard duty on the docks as draft after draft of doughboys sailed for home. A momentary indiscretion—he left his sentry post to get a sandwich and a cup of coffee—kept him from making corporal. He returned from France in November a private first class. His enlistment was for the "duration" and he accepted his discharge the following month without regrets.

Restless, as were many returning veterans, he worked for a time for an express company, then worked the harvest in Kansas, then went to New Orleans in 1921 with the idea of becoming a merchant seaman. In New Orleans he happened to pass the Marine recruiting office on St. Charles Street. The gunnery sergeant there was an old friend from France and Jim Crowe found himself again a Marine.

After a bit of guard duty in Louisiana

and Texas, he was made an acting corporal and sent to the 3d Regiment in Santo Domingo, in charge of 10 or so Marine replacements. Marines had been occupying the Dominican Republic since 1916. Assigned to Camp Cole on the waterfront in Santo Domingo City, Jim picked up his promotion to corporal. As such he served concurrently as the mess sergeant (he had to feed his Marines on 23 cents a day), property sergeant, and police sergeant.

He found more active employment outside the city. Malaria hit him (for the first of many times) while taking a pack train from Barahona to Azua in the southwest of the country, going along a river bank with bandits shooting at him from the other side. Quinine was then the prescriptive for the mosquito-borne fever. Jim did not react well to the treatment. His hair fell out and his teeth loosened. On his recovery the teeth tightened and the hair came back, but gray instead of auburn. His beard stayed red. He learned some bullcart Spanish but never spoke it well.

He came to Quantico in December 1923 as a sergeant, was made a military policeman, and, for the first time, played football. Smedley Butler, who had been his brigade commander in France, was now the commanding general at Quantico and football was large on his agenda. Jim, like every Marine there, did his stint at the digging of Butler Stadium. His platoon leader, 2dLt Emery E. "Swede" Larson, a Naval Academy football great, played end for the Quantico team. He suggested rather strongly that Jim go out for the 1924 team. Jim protested that he had never even seen a game of football. "That's all right," Larson assured him. "They'll teach you."

ASKED WHAT POSITION he wanted to play, Jim said, "Guard." He had played guard at basketball in Santo Domingo. The civilian coach was Hugo Bezdeck of Penn State; Jim thought him the meanest man who ever lived. The uniformed coach was Capt John W. Beckett, who would retire as a brigadier general after World War II. The athletic officer was Maj Alexander A. Vandegrift who had played some football himself at the University of Virginia.

According to Jim, he played 60 minutes in the first football game he ever saw. He was in good company. The guard on the other side of the line was 1stLt George W. McHenry, who would retire as a brigadier

general with a Navy Cross on his chest for Nicaragua. At tackle was 1stLt Harry B. "The Horse" Liversedge, who would hold two Navy Crosses and died on active duty as a brigadier general in 1951. In the backfield as fullback was 1stLt Frank B. Goettge, known as "The Great Goettge" and "Big Moose." Walter Camp, the dean of sportswriters, said of Goettge that on a good day he was "greater than Jim Thorpe."

Most of Jim's teammates were big men, six feet three or four and weighing well over 200 pounds. Jim was six feet tall, or perhaps an inch more, and weighed about 180 pounds. He had an open, midwesterner's face. His wide-set green eyes were his most noticeable feature.

From January to May 1925 he served with the 73d Machine Gun Company of the 6th Marines' floating battalion at Guantanamo, Cuba. When he came back to Quantico he went to the Rifle Range Detachment and continued to play football. Some accounts have him in the backfield of the 1925 Quantico team. The team had a new civilian coach, J. Tom Keady. Except for missing 1928, Keady would stay on as head coach through 1930.

THE QUANTICO TEAM won the President's Cup in 1925, the first year it was eligible to compete. President Calvin Coolidge had first offered the cup the previous year "in the interest of good clean healthy recreation for the people of the entire country and to encourage and stimulate athletics among the enlisted men of the Services." There was a proviso that the teams be composed "of enlisted men and officers in about the same proportion as are officers and enlisted men in the service." On the 1926 team, with Jim as a guard, there was another future lieutenant general, Joseph C. Burger, at tackle. Quantico would win the President's Cup again in 1926 and 1927, both times over the Army.

The teams in these years, although they played out of Quantico, were called "All-Marine" teams. They had three defeats and a tie in a 10-game season in 1925; three defeats in a 13-game season in 1926; and were undefeated and untied in 1927, a 10-game year.

The year 1927 also brought Jim a promotion to gunnery sergeant. "A great rank," he said, noting that a gunnery sergeant was *field* first sergeant. That year saw

1stLt Alan Shapley, another football great who would become a lieutenant general, in the backfield. 1stLt Elmer E. Hall, who in the early 1920s had been a tackle, was an assistant coach. Hall's career, and also Goettge's, would intertwine with Jim's for years to come.

While at Quantico, Jim got into match shooting. In the spring of the year Marine rifle and pistol shooters would gather for the Division Matches—on the East and West Coast and sometimes in such places as China and Nicaragua—shot at ranges out to a thousand yards. Almost every post and station was required to send a team. The best 10 percent or so of the shooters would go on to the Marine Corps Match at Quantico. From the best at Quantico the National Trophy Rifle Team would be selected: 10 members, two of them officers.

THE NATIONAL MATCH team would then go to Wakefield, Massachusetts, to shoot in the New England Matches, and to train for the National Matches. At Wakefield the light and the wind were similar to what they would find in the Nationals at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Jim fired on the 1927 Marine team which came in second to the U.S. Infantry team in the Nationals. This gave him the third "leg" needed for his Distinguished Marksman badge. The requirements for the Marine Corps' Distinguished Marksman award have remained essentially the same since it was first authorized in 1908: A Marine must first win a medal in a division rifle match and then two more awards in other top-level competitive matches to give him the three "legs" needed for the badge.

1stLt (future MajGen) Merritt A. Edson, also on the 1927 National Match team, qualified for Distinguished Marksman that same year. Years later, Jim would say that "Red Mike" Edson could "look at you, those small pig eyes of his, send shivers in you He was a great, great officer, brave man. People said, well, he took risks in combat. Well, I could assure them that any risk that Merritt Edson took was a calculated risk. He didn't just bull ahead; he didn't do that."

The same could have been said of Jim.

In May 1928 Jim was sent to Nicaragua by way of the old ammunition ship USS *Nitro* (AE-2) where he joined the 57th Company, 5th Marines, at Bluefields. He



As an enlisted man Crowe earned the Marine Corps' Distinguished Marksman Badge for winning a medal in a division rifle match and then two more awards in other top-level competitive matches. In 1929 he shot 344 from a possible 350 requalification score.

came back to Quantico for the matches, and then went out to Nicaragua again, this time with the 43d Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines. Working out of Ocotal, he patrolled the Guiraguas River and garrisoned such places as La Cruz, San Pedro del Norte, and El Gayo. The primary mission was the protection of the Guaymil Fruit Company. Displacing the local *comandante*, who was of dubious political persuasion, Jim, as a gunnery sergeant, became virtually a dictator of his little fiefdom, dealing out "justice, marriages, divorces, and birth certificates with equal aplomb."

HIS REIGN WAS interrupted when he was pulled back to Managua for rifle re-qualification and rifle team try-outs. In 1929 he shot on the National Match team captained by Maj Julian C. Smith.

Match rifles were specially conditioned '03 Springfields, caliber .30-06 with "star gauge" barrels. The M1911, caliber .45 pistols were also carefully chosen and match-conditioned.

In those simpler days Marines fired their service rifles religiously every year for re-qualification. Before World War II, Marines once issued a rifle took it with them wherever they were assigned. In that same year, 1929, Jim shot a 344 out of a possible 350 requalification score, the Marine Corps' best for the year, presumably with his own service rifle but probably with some "conditioning" help from the armorer.

Nicaragua interrupted Jim's football career. He missed the 1928 All-Marine team, but he was back in Quantico again in 1929. That year, Capt Liversedge was the assistant coach.

In May 1930 he moved to the Rifle Range Detachment. After the Quantico matches he went to Wakefield with the National Match Team and then on to Camp Perry. This year the Marines came in first, taking home the "Dogs of War" Rifle Team Trophy.

That fall he was not on the 1930 All-Marine football team, the last of Quantico's "big teams," but in 1931 he played for the Quantico post team. The 1931 team had three defeats and a tie in a 12-game season. Victories included a 57 to 6 trouncing of the Baltimore Firemen. Star of the backfield was 1stLt Harold W. "Indian Joe" Bauer, later posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor at Guadalcanal. Quantico with Crowe and Bauer would repeat its stellar performances in 1932.

BY JIM'S ACCOUNT, as he neared the end of that enlistment, the Coast Guard offered to make him a chief boatswain, a warrant rank, to coach the Coast Guard rifle and football teams. Jim was tempted, but Capt Elmer Hall, now his company commander, came back with a counter offer: Why not try for the grade of Marine gunner? Capt Hall thought he could get him on the list. It was a short list, about ten names, but there was an examination to be taken. (His official record indicates that Capt Hall was not the first to make this recommendation; from 1931 on a great number of captains, including Capt Goettge, recommended that Jim be a Marine gunner.)

While this was in the works Jim went, in June 1933, to the 14-inch gun USS *Pennsylvania* (BB-38). His old football friend, Capt Frank Goettge, was taking command of the Marine detachment. By no coincidence, Goettge had asked for him as detachment gunnery sergeant. Jim played guard for the *Pennsylvania* team, but Capt Goettge found that he was slowing down. In a game between the battleships *Pennsylvania* and *New Mexico* (BB-40), Capt Goettge remarked that he didn't know what was happening to Gunnery Sergeant Crowe (and he always called him "Gunnery Sergeant Crowe," never "Jim").

"A few years ago he used to make three-quarters of the tackles. Now he's not making half of them."

Jim took the written and oral exams for Marine gunner in March 1934 while the *Pennsylvania* was in port at San Pedro, California, before an examination board

conveniently chaired by Capt Goettge. The completed package was sent to Washington. Now came a long wait. The *Pennsylvania* got underway, went through the Canal to the East Coast, passed in review for President Roosevelt, returned through the Canal to the West Coast, and went up to Bremerton where Jim learned that he was to be promoted. The Marine officers immediately present, led by Capt Goettge, cut off Jim's chevrons, and gave him a Sam Browne belt, an officer's sword, and the bursting bomb insignia of a Marine gunner.

THAT YEAR HE WON the regional President's Match, shooting a 144 out of a possible 150. By then he was the perennial secretary of The Ancient and Imperial Order of Black-Busters and Bull's-Eye Hunters, a shooter's organization given over to tall tales, the telling of which he himself was a master.

His appointment as a Marine gunner was effective 1 September 1934, and he was immediately ordered to San Diego in time for the football season. Here, when not playing football or shooting, he commanded the howitzer platoon of Company D, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines. (Actually it was a 37mm-gun platoon. Other weapons in the battalion weapons company were the 3-inch trench mortar and the .30-caliber Browning water-cooled machine gun.)

The 1934 San Diego team would be Jim's last full season at football. "Indian Joe" Bauer was both the coach and in the backfield. The team took the President's Cup as had the 1927 Quantico team. In 1935, Jim was assistant coach and, at age 36, played his last game.

Transferred to Quantico in 1936, Jim became the remount officer, in charge of the post stables and "equitation." Like himself, many of the horses and mules in the stables were veterans of Nicaragua. Part of this duty was to ensure that officers desiring horse manure for their gardens received a proper share. One colonel complained that he wasn't receiving his allotment and to hurry it up. Jim was pleased to tell him that in response to his call he had been moved to the top of the manure list.

BUT AGAIN, for Jim, Quantico was mostly rifle and pistol matches. That year he won the Wimbledon Match, fir-

ing a Winchester Model 54, caliber .300 Magnum, putting the first of 20 rounds into the black of the bull's eye, but outside the V-ring. After a split-hair adjustment, he put the next 19 bullets into the V-ring, breaking a record set in 1923. That same year he was the Browning Automatic Rifleman in the seven-man squad that won the Infantry Trophy Match.

From Quantico he was sent in October 1936 to Peiping, China, for what would be a three-year tour of duty with the American Embassy Guard. He found Peiping (now Beijing) a wonderful place and the Embassy Guard every bit as spit-and-polish as its reputation. Col Vandegrift was the commanding officer and newly selected LtCol (future Gen) Graves B. Erskine the executive officer. Between them they had tightened the command considerably. Capt (future Gen) Gerald C. "Jerry" Thomas, with whom Jim did not always get along, was by Vandegrift's specific choice the adjutant. Football friend Joe Burger commanded Company A.

Jim served as ordnance officer and also stood officer-of-the-day watches. When there was a review he usually would be the parade adjutant. In the summertime he ran the rifle range east of Peiping with Chinese pulling targets and working the butts.

LIFE IN PEIPING was very ceremonial and very social. One function Jim remembered vividly was when he was sent (probably as a snub to the Japanese who had overrun North China) to represent the Marines at a celebration of Emperor Hirohito's birthday at the Japanese Embassy. Jim found himself the junior man at the affair with the Italians, French, and British all represented by much more senior officers. The ranking Japanese was a colonel. There was much drinking of *saki*, with the traditional bottoms-up *gombei* toasting. By Jim's recollection, when the party ended, only the Japanese colonel, a Japanese major, and he were still upright in their chairs. As he departed in his rickshaw the Japanese turned out the guard in his honor and later presented him with a pass that would have allowed him to go anywhere in Japanese-occupied North China. He found the pass useful in later slight altercations with the Japanese military police.

Jim left China in 1939 with the nagging

Dealing with a Legend: Separating Myth from Fact

A prime source for this biographical profile of Col Henry P. "Jim" Crowe is his oral history conducted by Mr. Benis M. Frank at Col Crowe's home in Portsmouth, Virginia, on 4 and 5 April 1979. However, oral histories are not complete in themselves; they can best be used to flesh out the skeletons provided by official records and other documents.

Col Crowe's official biographical file in the Marine Corps Historical Center is useful but incomplete. There is nothing much in it on his enlisted service. *Leatherneck* published two very amusing articles nearly fifty years ago: "Crowe's Feats" by Sgt Frank X. Tolbert in the 15 October 1944 Pacific Edition and "He's Tough All Over" by Maj Houston Stiff in the April 1947 issue.

The "Football File" maintained by our Reference Section and including the assiduous research by Col John A. Gunn, USMCR, provided much of the information on Jim Crowe's football-playing years. For his shooting exploits, *The History of Marine Corps Competitive Marksmanship* by Maj Robert E. Barde was indispensable.

His service at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, and Saipan can be winkled out of Volume I, *Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal*, and Volume III, *Central Pacific Drive*, of the official *History of U. S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II*. Similarly, Volume II, *The Inchon-Seoul Operation*, and Volume III, *The Chosin Reservoir Campaign, of U.S. Marine Operations in Korea, 1950-1953*, offer considerable information on LtCol Crowe and his command of the 1st Shore Party Battalion.

Numbers of the oral histories in the Marine Corps Historical Center's collection touch on Jim Crowe or his times. Of these, I found the transcripts of LtGen Joseph C. Burger, Gen Graves B. Erskine, LtGen William K. Jones, LtGen Julian C. Smith, Gen Gerald C. Thomas, and LtGen William J. Van Ryzin the most useful.

Most important of all were the personal recollections and "sea stories" of some who served with Jim Crowe and whom I have liberally quoted or paraphrased, including Col William C. Chamberlain, Major Norman T. Hatch, LtGen William K. Jones, Col Brooke Nihart, Mr. Robert Sherrod, LtGen Ormond R. Simpson, and Maj Richard T. Spooner.

EHS

feeling that war with Japan was imminent. In November he found himself once more with the 6th Marines at San Diego. In the Old Corps (defined as before 7 December 1941) the highest ranking Marine was the Major General Commandant or MGC. It is said that when a boot Marine was asked to identify "MGC," the answer came back, "Marine Gunner Crowe."

Along with about half the 1st Reserve Officers Course, 2dLt (future LtGen) William K. Jones, reported in to San Diego in the fall of 1939. Assigned to the 6th Marines, he came under the tutelage of Marine Gunner Crowe. Jones being a second lieutenant, Crowe saluted him with his left hand. Jones also being a Reserve, Crowe rendered the left-handed salute with his "pinkie" finger extended.

Although he would have denied it, Jim deliberately made life miserable for all second lieutenants. He treated first lieutenants with a bit more respect, but not much. He contended that there was ab-

solutely no requirement whatsoever for lieutenants, citing as proof Smedley Butler who he claimed (erroneously) made captain without ever being a lieutenant.

Jim's brand of humor, as described by one of his admirers, while wholesome, was very energetic and seldom subtle. Wrestling matches, we are told, fell into the normal course of events at parties he attended. Experienced persons stood clear when Jim reached the wrestling stage at a party.

THE 8TH MARINES, inactive since 1925, was reactivated on 1 April 1940. Jim was transferred to the new regiment and given the task of organizing and running a Scout-Sniper School in an isolated camp in Mission Valley east of Camp Elliott at Kearny Mesa (present day Miramar Naval Air Station). Embryo scout-snipers, lieutenants included, were broken out two hours before dawn for an hour's physical drill under arms, followed by a one-mile

run. That just started the day. Survivors of the course are described as never being the same again: "They were leaner, harder, and had a haunted look. But they also were more confident, and certainly more competent Marines. They were devoted to violent exercise and were completely uninhibited on liberty."

Requirements for Distinguished Pistol Shot paralleled those of Distinguished Marksman. Jim qualified as a Distinguished Pistol Shot that year.

Promotion to chief Marine gunner came in February 1941. Chief Marine gunners were a rare breed, the very top rung for warrant officers, and there were probably not more than five of them in a Marine Corps that also had warrant chief quartermaster clerks and chief pay clerks.

Then would come 7 December 1941 and Pearl Harbor, and that would change everything, including Jim Crowe's future. *To be continued* □1775□

New Books

Reading for Professionals

by Evelyn A. Englander
Historical Center Librarian

FROM THE LIBRARY of the Marine Corps Historical Center, recently published books of professional interest to Marines. Except where noted, these books are available from local bookstores or libraries.

Line of Fire; Continuing Saga of the Corps. W. E. B. Griffin, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 414 pp., 1992. Book V, the latest in Griffin's fictional story of the Marine Corps, has as its setting World War II and the Battle for the Solomons. Much of the action concerns the rescue of two Marines trapped at a coastwatcher station on tiny Buka island. \$21.95

War Plan Orange; the U.S. Strategy to Defeat Japan, 1897-1945. Edward S. Miller. Naval Institute Press, 509 pp., 1991. Using primary sources from the Naval Historical Center and National Archives, Mr. Miller has produced a study of War Plan Orange, a blueprint for the defeat of Japan, and the process that lay behind the preparation of its various versions. This plan resulted in flexible strategic concepts that lead to Japan's surrender in 1945. \$34.95.

On Strategy II; A Critical Analysis of the Gulf War. Colonel Harry G. Summers, USA (Ret). Dell Publishing, 302 pp., 1992. A follow up to Col Summers' earlier *On Strategy; A Critical Analysis of the Vietnam War*. He describes the changes that have taken place in the U.S. military since Vietnam and explains how these changes influence the way in which the U.S. fought in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. \$4.99 paperback.

□1775□

Historical Quiz

Marines in the Olympics

by Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Historian

NAME THE EVENTS or the Marines who have participated in Olympic Games:

1. List five sports in which Marines have represented the United States in Olympic Games.
2. Following the resurrection of the modern Olympic Games in 1896, Marines achieved Olympic prominence in the 1920s through which sport?
3. Who was the first Marine to participate in the Olympic Games?
4. This Marine general, whose regiment took part in the flag raising on Iwo Jima, participated in the 1920 and 1924 Olympic Games in the shotput.
5. This Marine won the Olympic decathlon in 1948 in London, and again in 1952 in Helsinki.
6. This woman Marine represented the U.S. in Olympic swimming in the Helsinki games in 1952.
7. Name the Marine first lieutenant who won a gold medal for the 10,000-meter run in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.
8. This boxer won the gold medal at the 1976 Games in Montreal, defeating Cuban heavyweight boxer Sixto Soria.
9. This Marine won the silver medal in Greco-Roman wrestling in the 1984 Summer Olympics.
10. This coach of the Marine Corps Boxing Team was selected as one of the three coaches of the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team for the 1992 games in Barcelona, Spain.

(Answers on page 20)

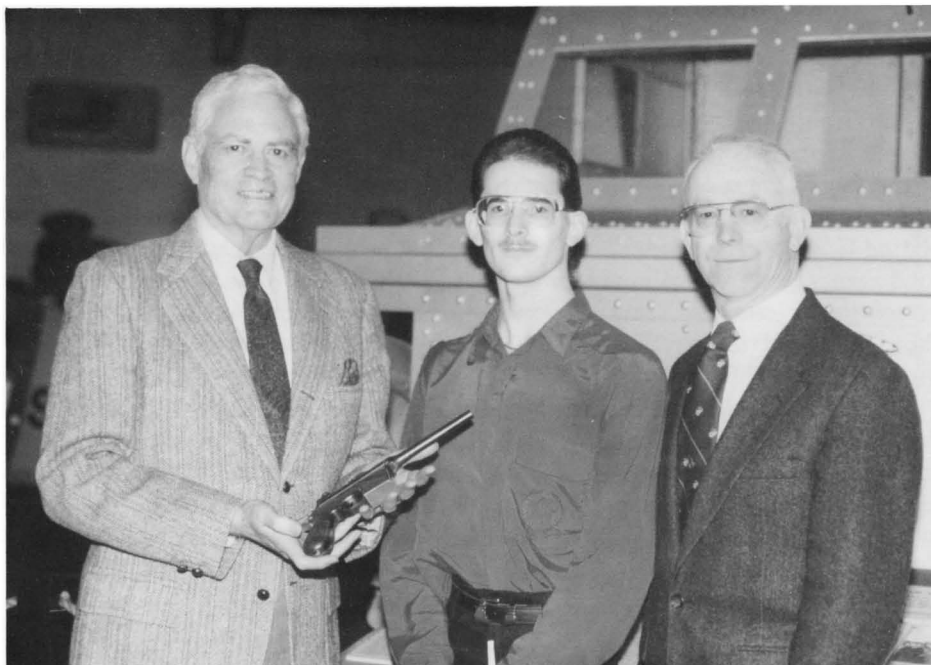
Marine Raider Edson's Mauser Pistol Given to Collection

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas
Head, Material History Unit

MERRITT A. EDSON III, grandson of famed Marine Raider MajGen Merritt A. Edson, presented his grandfather's 7.63mm Mauser "broomhandle" pistol to the Marine Corps Museum on 14 February. This presentation, accepted by the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums in a brief ceremony at the Air-Ground Museum at Quantico, is the most recent one in a series of contributions that the Edson family has made to the Museum.

Discovered by the family among the late general's belongings some months ago, the pistol had lain neglected since the 1950s, but was then restored to museum quality condition by young Merritt, an arms enthusiast. Made in Oberndorf am Neckar, Germany, in the 1930s, the pistol is one of thousands eagerly purchased and issued by the Chinese government. As was common with these pistols, it is marked on the side of the receiver with the inscription "Made in Germany" in Chinese characters, in addition to the usual Mauser trademark. The highly polished bright metal surfaces of the hammer and bolt contrast with the deep, lustrous blue of the receiver and barrel, making it easy to understand why these pistols are considered by many to be among the most beautiful ever produced. All of the internal parts are machined; the only screw used is the one which holds on the wooden handgrips. Up to a few years ago, these Chinese "broomhandles" were rarely encountered. Massive importation of the pistols still stored in Chinese government warehouses has increased the number of these pistols in this country, although the great majority being brought in are now in deplorable condition and are re-bored and re-blued for use by informal target shooters.

Although the pistol fills a gap in our comprehensive collection of military small arms, its association with Gen Edson and his service in China is of overriding importance to the Museum. The General's son, retired-Maj Herbert R. "Bob" Edson, is of the opinion that his father acquired the pistol either while serving as executive officer of the 4th Marines in Shanghai, China, from 1937 to 1939, or when he



BGen Edwin H. Simmons accepts MajGen Merritt A. Edson's 7.63mm "broomhandle" pistol from grandson and restorer Merritt A. Edson III, center, and son Maj Herbert R. Edson, USMC (Ret), in a ceremony at Quantico's Air-Ground Museum.

revisited China as Commanding General, Service Command, at the end of World War II. Since many of our artifacts associated with the Marine experience in China both before and after the war have been used in exhibits at our museums in Washington, Quantico, Parris Island, and San Diego, we do not have as many items to pick from for future exhibits as we would like. In addition, the "broomhandle" is an important addition to our small arms study collection, even though these pistols normally have little or no Marine Corps association. (As far as we are aware, the only other instance of a Marine using a Mauser "broomhandle" was an HRS-1 helicopter pilot who reported firing one, complete with the wooden combination shoulder stock/holster, from the cockpit of his Sikorsky aircraft during the Korean War.)

THE GIFT OF THIS pistol brings the number of firearms donated over the years by the Edson family to a total of 15. An avid shooter, promoter of Marine Corps marksmanship, and executive director of the National Rifle Association at the time of his death in 1955, Gen Edson

amassed a fine collection of firearms, including target rifles, top-grade shotguns, and pistols. One of the pistols in the Edson collection is the M1911 .45 Colt he carried during his service in Nicaragua, China, and World War II. Supplementing these weapons are personal items which were given to the museum last year; a group which includes the General's sword, khaki flying jacket, World War I trench helmet, and fur cap from China. Other gifts from the family in the 1970s were Gen Edson's tent and field desk, while his medals have been on display at Edson Hall (which houses the Communication Officers School at Quantico) since the 1960s.

These donations will certainly help us to fill our future exhibits on China and Nicaragua. However, one aspect of General Edson's career from which we have too few representative items, is his tenure with the Marine Raiders during World War II. Nearly all of the artifacts donated by former Raiders have been used in exhibits, from the full mannequin in a jungle setting at the Air-Ground Museum to the three-case modular exhibit that has toured through all of our museums. □1775□

Divisions Mark Half-Centuries, Plus 'Desert Storm'

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

ON 1 FEBRUARY, the 1st Marine Division celebrated both its 50th and its 51st birthday at Camp Pendleton, California, with a capabilities exercise and a ceremony to rededicate the Division's battle colors which included presentations of battle streamers by Marine veterans. The division was unable to formally observe its 50th birthday last year, because of its involvement in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Similarly, the 2d Marine Division concluded a three-day series of events celebrating its own 51st birthday with a 31 March rededication ceremony of the division's battle streamers at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. About 5,000 current and former members of the division attended the ceremonies in Goettge Field House, which included the fastening of the Southwest Asia Service Streamer with two bronze stars to the division's colors. As was the case with the 1st Division, the deployment of the 2d Division to the Persian Gulf had precluded a celebration last year of the division's 50th anniversary.

Approximately 700 guests attended the exercise and rededication ceremonies at Camp Pendleton. The exercise began with a demonstration of the various capabilities of the weapons in the division's inventory, and proceeded to a simulated raid on a hostile missile site, which involved its destruction and the rescue of detained Medal of Honor wearer Col Mitchell Paige, USMC (Ret), left, attaches the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign streamer with 15 silver and 1 bronze stars to help rededicate the 1st Marine Division's battle streamers at the birthday celebration at Camp Pendleton.



Second Division Marines, members of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, participate in Operation Desert Storm, the action which precluded observing the division's 50th anniversary. About 5,000 current and former Marines attended this year's ceremony.

American citizens. The entire exercise took 26 minutes, which was condensed from the estimated 48 hours which would have been required to complete a similar "real-life" combat situation. After the exercise, the guests viewed a static display of weapons, equipment, and aircraft before attending the rededication ceremony at 1st Marine Division Headquarters.

THE REDEDICATION ceremony was held one hour before sunset, and included the participation of former Marines, who attached battle streamers to the division's colors from the campaigns in which they fought. Medal of Honor recipients Col Mitchell Paige, who was

awarded the medal for heroism at Guadalcanal, and Col William Barber, who received the medal for heroic action at the Chosin Reservoir, were among the many veterans present at the ceremony.

The recent Persian Gulf War was equally represented at the rededication ceremony, as the Southwest Asia Service Streamer with two bronze stars was the last streamer fastened to the division's colors. Cpl Brian Freeman, a Silver Star recipient from Operation Desert Storm while serving with the 1st Tank Battalion, personally attached the streamer to the colors. The 1st Marine Division band concluded the day's activities by sounding evening colors.

MANY MEMBERS of the 2d Marine Division Association came from all over the country to attend the North Carolina ceremonies. The pride of these veterans of Tarawa and Saipan was evident as they mingled with division veterans of the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Panama, and Southwest Asia.

Military music performed by the 2d Marine Division band accompanied the rededication ceremonies, which included the presentation of annual awards to outstanding individuals within the division. Following the formal ceremonies and lunch, members of the 2d Marine Division Association viewed a display of modern equipment and weapons at Julian C. Smith Hall, which houses the division's headquarters. □1775□



Does Book on Iwo Jima Memorial Bash a Marine Icon?

by Benis M. Frank
Chief Historian

IN THE FALL of 1991, Harvard University Press published *Iwo Jima: Monuments, Memories, and the American Hero* by Karal Ann Marling, a professor of art history and American studies at the University of Minnesota, and John Wetenhall, curator of painting and sculpture at the Birmingham Museum of Art. One wonders if he is the same “Jack Wetenhall, USMC, Retired” cited in the endnotes of the book. At the outset, I must say that the book is well written and soundly researched, as the endnotes will testify. Wetenhall, and perhaps Marling also, spent considerable time in the Personal Papers and Oral History Collections, and the Reference Section of the Marine Corps Historical Center—which they mistakenly identify as the Marine Corps Museum in their citations.

They also interviewed and corresponded with a number of surviving Marines who were involved with the flag-raising—yes, there were two, as I shall explain shortly—or concerned with the design of the Marine Memorial (Felix de Weldon’s heroic statue replicating Joe Rosenthal’s Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph), or party to the controversies surrounding the flag-raising.

The book is dedicated to “. . . those who served on Iwo Jima.” In writing for information and assistance to Col Dave E. Severance, on Iwo the commander of Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, from which the two patrols were sent, one after the other, to the top of Suribachi to raise the American flag there, Wetenhall said that he and Marling were writing a book “on the flag-raising at Iwo Jima and its heritage in statuary, posters, movies, memorabilia, and American cultural ideas.” He went on to say that he and Marling had come across fraudulent claims by impostors who said that they were members of one of the flag-raising parties. The dust jacket of the book goes beyond what Wetenhall said in his letter, as it states “With passion and meticulous scholarship Marling and Wetenhall illuminate the ironies and misconceptions that proliferated around the Iwo Jima flag-raising.”

Before commenting further on the book, I should like to reiterate why there

were two flag-raising, to demolish the canard which states that Joe Rosenthal posed the second flag-raising, and to rebut a statement appearing in a *New York Times* review of the book that the photograph and its subsequent publicity was “nothing more than a mating of unvirtuous photojournalism with an insatiable desire on the part of Marine officers to enhance a history that needed no enhancement.” What twaddle! As all who have studied the Iwo Jima operation know, early on the morning of 23 February, a patrol from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Ma-



rines, led by Lt Harold G. Schrier and accompanied by Sgt Lou Lowery, a *Leatherneck* magazine photographer, took a flag to the top of Suribachi. After a short fire fight, the 54-inch-by-28-inch flag was attached to a long piece of pipe found at the crest of the mountain and raised. This is the flag-raising which Lowery photographed. As the flag was too small to be seen from the beach below, another Marine from the battalion went on board *LST 779* to obtain a larger flag. A second patrol then took this flag up to Suribachi’s top and Rosenthal, who had just come ashore, accompanied it.

AS ROSENTHAL TOLD ME in a four-hour interview in 1975, “. . . my stumbling on that picture was, in all respects, accidental.” When he got to the top of the mountain, he stood in a decline just be-

low the hilltop with Marine Sgt William Genaust, a movie cameraman who was killed later in the campaign, watching while a group of five Marines and a Navy corpsman fastened the new flag to another piece of piping. Rosenthal said that he turned from Genaust and out of the corner of his eye saw the second flag being raised. He said, “Hey, Bill. There it goes.” He continued: “I swung my camera around and held it until I could guess that this was the peak of the action and shot.”

SOME PEOPLE LEARNED the photograph was of a second flag-raising and made the accusation that it was posed. Joe Rosenthal: “Had I posed that shot, I would, of course, have ruined it. I’d have picked fewer men . . . I would have also made them turn their heads so that they could be identified for [Associated Press] members throughout the country, and nothing like the existing picture would have resulted.”

Later in the interview he said: “This picture, what it means to me—and it has a meaning to me—that has to be peculiar only to me . . . I see all that blood running down the sand. I see those awful, impossible positions to take in a frontal attack on such an island, where the batteries opposing you are not only staggered up in front of you, but also standing around at the sides as you’re coming on shore. The awesome situation, before they ever reach that peak. Now, that a photograph can serve to remind us of the contribution of those boys—that was what made it important, not who took it.”

Rosenthal took 18 photographs that day, went down to the beach to write captions for his undeveloped film packs, and, like the other photographers on the island, sent his films out to the command vessel off shore, and from there they were flown to Adm Nimitz’ CinCPac headquarters at Guam for processing and censoring. By dint of sheer good luck and Lou Lowery’s bad luck, Rosenthal’s pictures arrived at Guam before Lowery’s, were processed, sent to the States for distribution, and his flag-raising picture became perhaps the most famous single photograph ever taken in the war or in any war.

A final note. It’s to be expected that Lou

Lowery was disappointed that his photographs of the flag-raising were not processed first, and not sent back to the States for distribution first. But insofar as I know, he never begrudged the fame which Joe Rosenthal garnered, and they remained good friends until his death. Rosenthal flew east for Lowery's funeral and interment in the Quantico National Cemetery. He was there with the rest of Lou's friends and fellow Marine Corps combat correspondents and photographers.

NOW TO GET DOWN to the book. It deals with more than the campaign and the flag raising itself, which the authors describe very well. *Iwo Jima* also tells the story of how the Marine Corps methodically made every effort to identify the six men in Rosenthal's picture, three of whom were killed in action; how the three survivors—Marines Rene Gagnon and Ira Hayes, and Navy Corpsman John Bradley—were brought back to the States to be idolized and then exploited as heroes in the 7th War Bond Drive; the conflicting stories of the two flag raisings; the controversy over the design and designer of the statue; and the tragic ends of Hayes and Gagnon. Additionally, they relate the incident, embarrassing for the Marine Corps, wherein one of the major fundraisers for the statue embezzled a considerable amount of money he had collected. The authors also deal quite accurately with the background to and the personalities involved in the making of the movie, "Sands of Iwo Jima."

Now if *Iwo Jima* is as good a book as I have said it is, what reservations do I and other Marine readers have of it? How can one argue with the authors' description of the Marine Memorial ". . . de Weldon's [statue] was an art of heroic realism, a sculptural tour de force in which size equalled power and accuracy equalled truth." They correctly observe that throughout all the years since it was first unveiled, the monument has endured. Yet, they also note the complaints of art critics regarding the monument. I think that which bothers me most in the book are the snide and throwaway comments of the authors, such as, the statue represented a "splendid moment [which] had been one among several [sic] raisings, that it was second best, somehow, not quite authentic." They then say that "the imagery of

Iwo Jima validated the subjugation [of the island]." Why not invasion or amphibious assault? Who were the Marines subjugating? There are a number of other value judgements and antimilitary put-downs throughout the book which are sadly annoying. From the beginning of the book, it appears that the authors want to bash the Marine Corps icon as not being authentic and as being ponderous. They build a strawman that the flag-raising patrols were acts of heroism and therefore the figures in the statue are heroes, negating the commonly accepted premise that the individuals represented in the statue were themselves not heroes but symbolized the heroism of all Marines and their Navy hospital corpsmen in all of the Marine campaigns in all the wars of the United States. This is implicit in the inscription of these combat actions and many others on the base of the memorial.

NEVER DID THE Marine Corps claim that there had been only one flag-raising as the authors suggest. They refer to the flag-raising as an "emerging myth" and also say that "Taken together, the inflated size and the theme of de Weldon's statue betokened military might, the new doctrine of armed deterrence, the global ambitions of American foreign policy in the aftermath of World War II." I guess being an art historian and a curator permits one to look into the imagined dark, deep recesses of the minds of the sculptor and those who commissioned the statue to come up with such a travesty.

In her review of the Marling and Wetenhall book in the 6 October 1991 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Ellen K. Coughlin says that: "As a work of art, the *Iwo Jima* memorial is almost universally reviled by scholars and critics. It has been called 'artistically appalling,' and is sometimes compared to totalitarian statuary." This parallels the harsh commentary of the critics and other artists when the de Weldon design was first selected. This same type of criticism arose when the design for the Vietnam Memorial was first presented and persists today when the design for the Korean War Memorial is being criticized from all sides. But, in the case of each memorial, isn't it a matter of some interest that the veterans of each war being memorialized are not among the critics? With respect to the various reviewers of this book, I find that a number of

them accepted what they read as gospel and really were not as familiar as they should have been about the *Iwo Jima* campaign and the true facts behind the two *Iwo Jima* flag raisings.

YET, WITHAL, the authors treat the veterans of *Iwo Jima* kindly, respectfully. The last pages of the book deal with the return to *Iwo* in 1985 of the veterans of the campaign, both American and Japanese. Going back to *Iwo* served as a catharsis for many of the Marines, but as Marling and Wetenhall note with some sensitivity, a number of the returnees still held reservations about friendly relations with the former enemy. Their return to *Iwo Jima* did not purge all of the ghosts from all of the Americans, and perhaps also not from the Japanese who returned. The authors make this quite clear. □1775□

World War II Histories To Describe All Marine Landings in the Pacific

(Continued from page 24)

The pamphlet contains the story of how major Marine Corps bases were built on each coast and of the training which went on at those bases, and he details the numerous overseas posts where Marines were located. He concludes by saying, "In a general sense, the Marine Corps was ready to fight on 7 December 1941, as it has always been regardless of size. Almost half the Corps' strength was already overseas deployed to stations and outposts where it shared, often with Navy and Army forces, the challenge of being in the forefront of battle if war came."

To be published in succession after *Opening Moves* are monographs about the prewar deployment of Marines to Iceland, the Marines at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, and Marines in the battle of Wake Island. The division also looks forward to early publication of "Marines in the Defense of the Philippines, 1941-1942" and "First Offensive: Marines in the Campaign for Guadalcanal."

THE TITLES IN THE remainder of the series are expected to have as their subjects all the Pacific battles of the Corps, Marine aces in the Solomons, Marine Raiders, Marines in the OSS, and seagoing Marines, among others. □1775□

With the Commandant at Pearl Harbor and Wake

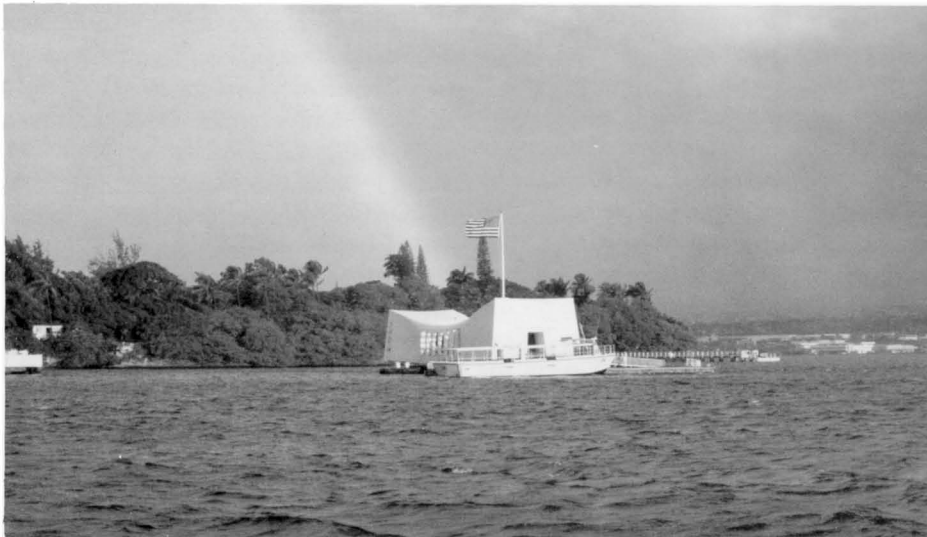
by Maj Charles D. Melson, USMC (Ret)
Historical Writer

SITES OF opening actions of the Second World War in the Pacific—Pearl Harbor, Ewa Field, and Wake Island—were visited by the Commandant, Gen Carl E. Mundy, during December. He was there to participate in observances of the war's 50th anniversary and also to visit Fleet Marine Force commands. I accompanied his party as a historical advisor, in support of the making of a videotaped commemorative program by the Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

This was a dramatic change of pace from my regular task of collating records from the Persian Gulf War. I began preparation for the trip by calling the Commandant's aide, Cdr Charles Webber, USN. His guidance was to travel light and be prepared for some flight time. I reviewed Pearl Harbor and Wake Island material in the Reference Section with Mr. Danny Crawford and took a binder of general reference material with me. While a review of the videotape's script focused my research efforts, any on-the-spot changes probably would require verification of material in the field from local assets.

Bright and early on 5 December, the Commandant's C-20 Gulfstream left Naval Air Facility, Washington, D.C., with a party of 10 on board. The aircraft stopped at Travis Air Force Base for fuel and continued on. As we crossed the

The USS Arizona Memorial and Ford Island are seen from the boat, approaching from the south and carrying the video crew and Col John H. Earle, USMC (Ret), the incoming Marine Detachment commander on board Arizona on 7 December 1941.



The personal flag of the Commandant of the Marine Corps flies above Marine Barracks, Hawaii, at Pearl Harbor, as Gen Carl E. Mundy visits with officers inside. Outside, the video crew interviews former Marines who were there in the bombing.

California coastline, the route took us over my hometown, Novato. We continued westward over the Pacific.

THE STAGE WAS SET for the historic nature of this trip by landing in Hawaii at Hickam Air Force Base, an Army Air Corps facility in 1941. Gen Mundy was met by LtGen Royal N. Moore, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pa-

cific, bearing the islands' traditional welcoming flower garlands. As the Commandant's staff left for their work, mine began with Capt Roger G. Brown from Kaneohe Bay and SSgt Ephraim Hughes from Quantico, Virginia.

Our task was to be prepared to tape brief segments of Gen Mundy speaking at several locations, scheduled around his official duties. The proposed sites were the USS *Arizona* Memorial, Marine Barracks Pearl Harbor, the former Ewa Field Marine Corps Air Station, and Kaneohe Bay. Because of constraints on time, it was decided not to go to Kaneohe Bay. This segment could be covered by existing video from Kansas Tower and of a Japanese aircraft crash site with a voice-over by the Commandant. As an added touch, Public Affairs at Fleet Marine Force Pacific Headquarters had asked survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack to be present during the taping and possibly be worked into the script.

With all such preparations completed, I had the evening to explore my surroundings at the Makalapa Crater. This was my first trip to Hawaii in a 20-year career, with the exception of stops coming and going from the Western Pacific. The smells,



SSgt Ephraim Hughes, left, of the video crew, points Gen Mundy toward a promising spot on which to stand for the taping outside the Pearl Harbor Marine Barracks. The Commandant recalled that in 1941 "the shock of the surprise attack was enormous."

colors, and humidity of the tropics was a change from the winter weather of Washington, D.C.

BEFORE DAWN on 6 December, I accompanied the video crew of six as we set out by boat for the USS *Arizona* Memorial from the Merry's Point fleet landing. We had to set up and be ready for the Commandant's arrival at 0715. As the coxswain turned into the channel, it was obvious that Pearl Harbor bustled with activity well before sunrise. The transition from noisy routine to silent reverence was made as soon as we tied up at the memorial. The last resting place for more than 1,000 sailors and Marines is a fitting location to contemplate the meaning of service and sacrifice made a half century before.

With us was Col John H. Earle, USMC (Ret), the newly assigned commander of *Arizona's* Marine detachment in December 1941. By chance, he had an opportunity to be home with his wife and was not on board on 7 December during the initial air attack. Arriving during the following raids, he recalled "a scene of complete devastation." In a shelter adjacent to the broken and burning *Arizona* he found his predecessor, Maj Alan Shapley, "and what was left of the Marine Detachment," 12 from the complement of 82 men.

After finishing this segment, we went by launch back to Merry's Point. From there we drove to the Marine Barracks Pearl

Harbor. Gen Mundy recalled that, "The shock of the surprise attack was enormous, but the Marines of this barracks stood their ground." While the Commandant visited with the barracks commander, the video crew set up their equipment. Present were BGen Howard G. Kirgis, USMC (Ret), and Capt Joseph Sudduth, USMC (Ret). Both had been at the barracks on 7 December 1941. When the Commandant had completed his spoken commentary for the tape, the survivors were interviewed about what it was like to be present on the "Day of Infamy."

Col Milo G. Haines, USMC (Ret), left, member of Marine Fighting Squadron 211 during the 1941 attack on Barber's Point Naval Air Station, provides personal narration for taping at the monument to the formerly collocated Ewa Field Marine Corps Air Station.



NEXT ON THE LIST was the Barber's Point Naval Air Station and the site of the former Ewa Field Marine Corps Air Station. This took us to the northwest end of the runway where there was a newly constructed monument to the World War II Marines and the defense. Here at 0753, 7 December, the Marines of Marine Aircraft Group 21 woke up to strafing Japanese fighters flying down the parking apron and long axis of the field, catching 49 aircraft on the ground and destroying 33 of them outright. Commented Gen Mundy, "Despite heavy losses, Ewa Field continued as the focal point for Marine aviation on Oahu. Within a few months Marine Aircraft Group 21 was again ready."

Today the main portion of the old airfield is overgrown with brush and cluttered with spare tires from a go-cart track. There I met survivors Col Milo G. Haines, USMC (Ret), and BGen John F. Kinney, USMC (Ret). They had been members of Marine Fighting Squadron (VMF) 211 on 7 December, with Col Haines at Ewa and Gen Kinney on Wake Island with the majority of the squadron.

Coverage of Gen Mundy at an evening parade at the Marine Barracks and the presidential ceremonies at the Punchbowl and Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1991 was the job of the Fleet Marine Force Pacific public affairs office. The rest of us waited at Hickam Air Force Base for the next leg of our trip, Wake Island. We were accompanied by Capt Brown and Cpl Oscar Valenzuela from Kaneohe Bay. This was

a five-hour flight over 2,000 miles of unbroken blue Pacific Ocean. In the air, we planned a schedule of taping to be confirmed on arrival. A circuit of the island was flown for orientation and airborne filming. We approached from the south in overcast and rain, as the Japanese bombers had 50 years ago to the day, 8 December 1991 (we were one day across the international dateline).

WE WERE MET after landing by Maj Mike Koch, USAF, commanding officer of Detachment 4, 15th Air Base Wing, and his executive officer, Capt Jeff Peterson, USAF. Wake Island has a remote and isolated look that is in keeping with its location and role on the frontier of United States territory. The island has been a bird sanctuary, a stopping place for the Pan American China Clippers, a naval air station, a battle ground, a research facility, and now is a U.S. Air Force outpost. We drove to Wilkes Island and verified taping locations on the way. Places used included the southern beach of Wilkes, the Prisoner-of-War Rock, Japanese aircraft revetments on Wake, the Marine command post on Wake, and the Marine Corps monument. Capt Brown and I took additional photographs to document the trip and for the Marine Corps Historical Center's Wake Island monograph in its World War II commemorative series of pamphlets. Artifacts are still being uncovered from the American defense and Japanese occupation despite cleanup efforts conducted over the years. It did not take much imagination, looking seaward, to "see" attacking aircraft formations and an invasion fleet just over the horizon. The booming surf and ever-present wind provided a suitable background.

Two video crewmen search for shooting locations along the now overgrown runway of the former Ewa Field Marine Corps Air Station, at Barber's Point Naval Air Station. Here Japanese fighters destroyed 33 aircraft of Marine Aircraft Group 21.



Above, from the Commandant's aircraft, looking southeast down the axis of the lagoon, passengers saw Peale Island on the left, Wake Island in the center, and Wilkes Island on the right. Below, on Peale Island the official party visited a rusted-over former Japanese gun position on the north side of the island near the Battery D locations of 22-23 December 1941. Artifacts are still being uncovered from the American defense and Japanese occupation despite cleanup efforts conducted over nearly 50 years.



That evening a reception was held by the Air Force detachment for Gen Mundy and the Honorable Ann C. Petersen, General Counsel of the Air Force and "governor" of Wake Island. To our surprise, it included a showing of the video "Return

to Wake Island," about the Marine Wake Island defenders.

At 0600 the next day, the Commandant's aircraft left Wake Island, stopped at Barber's Point, refueled, and continued on to Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California. We left El Toro at 1030, 9 December, and arrived back at Naval Air Facility, Washington, D.C., that evening, mission accomplished.

AS TO THE significance of remembering the historic events of 1941, Gen Mundy concluded, "In the confusion of the attack, Marines knew what to do. Without waiting for orders, they manned their battle stations, smashed the locks off cases of ready ammunition and returned the Japanese fire." The Marines at Pearl Harbor, Ewa Field, and the Wake Island defenders did what they were trained to do and what the country expected of them. □1775□

How to Make a Unit Historical Display

*by Col Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret)
Special Assistant for Museums*

MARINE CORPS regiments/groups and battalions/squadrons can exploit their past by historical displays. Most units already have historical displays, albeit small beginning ones. Framed lineage and honors statements plus pictures of former commanding officers are a prevalent form of historical display.

Reference Section of the Historical Branch issues lineage and honors statements in certificate form. They are able to turn out 25 or more new or updated statements each year. If your unit doesn't have these statements or if they are out of date the unit probably is high on the list. Photographs of former commanding officers, particularly at the battalion/squadron level, are more difficult to come by. An attempt to contact the officer by means of the retired officers list or other devices may be productive.

The statements and photographs are just the beginning in developing a historical display, however. Marine regiments date only from just before World War I, aircraft squadrons from about 1920, and air groups from about 1940, so a unit historical display doesn't have to cover 216 years of Marine Corps history. The most recent actions, the Gulf War in this case, might receive emphasis. All Marine division units fought in World War II. Especially because of the forthcoming 50th anniversary, they may want to have their participations reflected in their historical displays. Units of the 1st and 3d Divisions may want to record their Vietnam actions and 1st Division units, Korea.

INDIVIDUAL INFANTRY battalions could recognize their participation in various peacekeeping and humanitarian deployments as parts of MEUs, such those sent for as Operation Provide Comfort, Beirut, Grenada, Liberia, Somalia, Bangladesh, and so forth.

A world map, either Defense Mapping Service or National Geographic, or commercial, or even hand painted, is important to tell a unit's story. It would show all the places where the unit served or fought, routes taken to get there, and

dates. Sources for this information are the lineage statements, official Marine Corps histories of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and, for more recent operations, the unit's command chronologies.

For each campaign or operation, larger scale, more detailed maps are needed. A map actually used in the operation would be historic and ideal. It can include the usual acetate overlay showing schemes of maneuver and other operational details. A new military map could be substituted or a hand-drawn schematic or outline map by the unit draftsman or "artist" might be more understandable. Sources for this information are the same as for the world map.

PHOTOGRAPHS CAN dramatize a story better than mere words and are essential to a historical display. Pictures capture the flavor of a time but also show that Marines are much the same from generation to generation, whether squared away, muddy, bloody, exhausted, or elated by victory. Most World War II official photographs, because of security, do not iden-

tify the unit, therefore, it may be necessary to use generic photographs of a campaign; Saipan, for example, where a photo of infantry could be a scene from any of 18 battalions of the 2d or 4th Marine Divisions. Of course, views of tanks, artillery, or engineers can be more closely identified.

THE HISTORICAL CENTER has a very limited photo collection but may be able to supply a few generic photos of campaigns, etc. The local public affairs office may be able to supply views of recent operations. Another possible source is former members of the unit who may have personal copies of official photographs or pictures taken with their own cameras. Official photographs taken prior to 1980 are now held by the National Archives. They can be ordered in writing and a price will be quoted. The Marine Corps number, which is included in the caption of all photos in our official historical publications, should be cited as well as the size desired. Write: National Archives and Records Administration, Still Pictures Branch, Washington, D.C. 20408.

Easily constructed modular exhibit case, 3 by 4 feet by 6 inches deep, with plexiglas front, can accommodate graphics and small artifacts. Case shown is in the Museum's "Marines in Desert Storm" exhibition and is flanked by blowups of color combat photography and camouflage netting affixed to free-standing 4-by-6-foot panels.





This panel is ready to be mounted in a modular case. The panel, with Iraqi uniforms and equipment, was covered with burlap of desert sand color. Any color of fabric, wall covering, or paint could be used to support the exhibit theme or provide contrast with the material exhibited. The Museums Branch can provide plans for its modular cases.

Most Marine Corps combat art of World War II and Korea was dispersed after those wars and lost to the Corps' official collection. However, a few works have been recovered over the years and can be made available as photo-reproductions for permanent historical display. Copies of combat art from Vietnam, Grenada, Beirut, Panama, and the Gulf War can also be provided.

ARTIFACTS, MAN-MADE objects, usually three-dimensional, lend dramatic interest to a historical display. Two sources are suggested. First the Museums Branch can loan certain items depending upon what may be in its collections. Seldom do we have items associated with a specific unit or battle. However, we do have items typical of a particular era. A second source is former Marines who may wish to donate items of uniform, personal equipment, or memorabilia which may be associated with a unit and campaign. Prospective donors may be found through personal contacts or notices in post newspapers, veterans association newsletters, or *Leatherneck* magazine. Security must be taken into consideration when displaying artifacts. Military memorabilia is highly desirable to collectors and thus a target for

pilfering. The answer is display in secure cases.

CERTAIN ARTIFACTS acquired by a unit may have genuine historical interest, either by their rarity or by association with a prominent individual or event. These should be reported to the Registrar, Museums Branch for accessioning into the Marine Corps master catalog of historical objects. The unit will retain the artifacts but they will be on loan and must be accounted for. Commonplace items (e.g., uniforms, 782 gear) should be retained for display without accessioning by the Museums Branch and can be accounted for on the unit property account.

Display cases can be built or occasionally acquired as surplus from local stores or the post exchange. The Museums Branch can provide plans for its "Modular Case," which is three feet wide, four feet tall, and six inches deep, with a plexiglas front, and a folding plywood stand. Contents of the modular case are secured by screws in the lid and back panel. Commercial show cases can be locked by various systems.

How are graphics—photos, art, maps, charts, and descriptive labels or captions—mounted and how are artifacts

secured? First, it is not necessary to mount graphics in cases. Graphics could be pinned to the bulkhead although that would lack imagination and taste. The answer is panels. Plywood, Masonite, drywall, and other panel material comes in four-foot by eight-foot sheets. These are too large for most locations and the materials mentioned are too heavy. Cutting a sheet to four by six feet is more convenient. The heavy materials can be used but lighter panels from various kinds of lightweight wallboard or specialty products such as "Gatorfoam" are easier to work with, though also more costly.

Panels can be painted a thematic color or a color complementary or contrasting to the surroundings. This and the mounting of graphics can be accomplished in the training aids shop. The graphics are then mounted on mats, heavy cardboard, or 1/4-inch "Foamcor" using an available adhesive or double-sided sticky tape. These are then mounted on the panels by a similar method. Mounting the graphics in this manner and then mounting the panels on furring strips an inch or two from the bulkhead gives a three dimensional effect which is visually more interesting than everything being on the wall in one plane.

The back panels of the three by four feet modular cases are usually of plywood for structural strength but mounting of graphics is done in the same way. Artifacts can be secured by wire or monofilament nylon through holes in the panel. Heavier objects can be supported by an inconspicuous shelf screwed to the back panel. If store showcases are used, artifacts merely can be placed on the shelves or a back panel can be inserted in the case. Mounting problems beyond those discussed here may be referred to the Head, Exhibits Section, Museums Branch by telephone, FAX, or letter.

CAPTIONS, OR THE museum term, "labels," must be written and neatly lettered. Main labels, those telling the theme or story of the display, ideally should be limited to 50 to 100 words. They should begin with a short general statement followed by short paragraphs filling in details considered pertinent. Photo, art, and artifact captions usually should consist of two short statements. The first is descriptive of the subject matter and the

second gives further information or an interesting sidelight. Example: "M1941 Marine Corps haversack and poncho. This gear was carried by PFC Gilbert A. Jones of E/2/8 on Saipan where he was wounded and awarded the Silver Star for his heroism." Writing should be simple and direct.

Production of labels can be accom-

plished by modern computer technology. The simplest solution is use of a speech-writing element in an electric typewriter which produces large type. Better still is desktop publishing software in a PC and a laser printer. Best yet is computer-driven composition such as the phototypesetting system available on many large posts and

stations. Type size should be at least 18 point or 1/4-inch in height. Roman or serif type is considered the easiest to read.

A historical display portraying a unit's history does not have to be accomplished all at once. It can be done incrementally. For example, a unit participating in Operation Desert Storm might do a display on

San Diego Wins Magruder Award

TO READERS OF THIS FEATURE in recent issues the winning of the Magruder Award by the MCRD San Diego Command Museum will come as no surprise. The spring 1991 issue gave a detailed account of the museum's *smorgasbord* of activities which put it right in step with today's idea of a museum's broad functions. Intent of the Magruder Award is to encourage the presentation of Marine Corps history by small museums or living history groups. It has been won in the past by the Gilbert, Arizona Junior High School for its dioramas depicting the Defense of Wake Island and the Tarawa Landing; the 1798 USS Constitution Marine Detachment; and Guadalcanal Museum at Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Of course, well displayed and interpreted exhibits is the main function of a museum. With artifacts and entire exhibitions provided by the Museums Branch and supplemented by San Diego's own collection effort throughout the South Coast retired Marine community, an impressive array of attractive exhibits and full thematic galleries resulted. Like the proverbial camel with its nose under the tent, the museum, which was initially allocated only about one-third of Building 26, soon had the whole building. Success cannot be denied and a series of supportive commanding generals recognized that fact and yielded up space that had previously been used for various recruit and other administrative activities.

SPACES TAKEN OVER BY various museum activities are: a booming gift shop selling Marine Corps history related items; registrar and curatorial space to care for a growing reserve and study collection which can be used in rotating exhibits; offices for the Historical Museum Society, the non-profit corporation that supports the museum in many ways; a combined exhibit area and lounge on the first deck where recruits can meet their families and then show them the museum; and two classrooms for MajGen Marc A. Moore's Warfare Leadership Seminars. The last unused space will be turned into a "decorations and medals room" and designing and fund raising for the project are underway. Activities, in addition to the Warfare Leadership Seminars, include Breakfasts with the Commanding General; the annual Oktoberfest which is a successful fund raiser; Executive Seminar Luncheons for prominent local civil leaders; an informative quarterly newsletter; an acquisitions program targeted on highly desirable artifacts; and an active gift campaign to support publications, purchase of historical material, and exhibit and gallery enhancement.

LtCol Robert M. Calland, USMC (Ret), first president of the MCRD San Diego Museum Historical Society, flew East to accept the Magruder Award on behalf of the commanding general and the society. The award was presented, along with nine other Marine Corps Historical Foundation awards recognizing books, articles, art, and service, at the foundation's annual awards dinner. This year the dinner was held on 27 October at Quantico's Harry Lee Hall. The award is symbolized by a handsome bronze plaque with a more tangible recognition in the form of a check for \$1,000 which will go into the society's coffers for further development of the museum.

The Foundation awards are presented in the late fall each year so entries should be sent to the awards committee by early summer. For further information on the awards, write the Foundation at P.O. Box 420, Quantico, Virginia 22134.

FBN

LtCol Robert M. Calland, USMC (Ret), right, first president of the MCRD San Diego Museum Historical Society, accepts the Magruder Award from Col Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret).





An example of a historical display uses photographs and a minimum of artifacts. For the 2 February fifty-first anniversary of the 1st Marine Division a display in five segments—World War II, Korea, Southwest Asia, and Camp Pendleton—was prepared by the 1st Engineer Battalion and shown in front of division headquarters. This segment recounts some of the division's exploits in Korea, in a well-traveled area.

its part in that operation now while events are fresh in the memory and photos and captured gear are available. Units that were in World War II might observe the 50th anniversary of their participation in various battles which would stretch the effort incrementally over several years from 1992 to 1995.

The 2d Marine Division has established

a successful historical display in its headquarters, Julian Smith Hall, at Camp Lejeune. Another is Marine Barracks Pearl Harbor, which has a fine historical display, mostly recounting its activities on 7 December 1941. We hope to have an article on the latter display in this space in a future issue. We encourage units completing successful historical displays to send us

the results in photographs and descriptions so that they can be recognized in these spaces and possibly also considered for the Magruder Award.

Historical displays preferably should be in a location readily available to most Marines in a unit and with some attention given to the security of the display. This may not be just outside the commanding officer's office. Location in a unit recreational facility, club, or even a mess hall would get to most Marines. The display need not be concentrated in one location but could be divided among unit facilities by battles or wars and perhaps rotated periodically.

Marine Corps history can be taught through a unit's history. Unit as well as Marine Corps traditions and esprit de corps also can be fostered through historical displays. This method is dramatic and positive. While not possessing the depth of a book on the subject, the pages of historical displays are always open for study. □1775□

Mentioned in Passing

Innovative Air Leader, Onetime ACMC Dies

Gen Vernon E. Megee, 91, a veteran Marine aviator, died on 14 January in Albuquerque, New Mexico, after a long illness. As first commander of the Landing Force Air Support Control Unit in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns, he brought the doctrine of close air support of ground units to an operational reality.

He was a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who graduated from Oklahoma A&M College and enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1919. He was commissioned three years later.

Gen Megee's first eight years of service were spent as an infantry officer, with tours in Haiti, China, and Nicaragua. He received his pilot training in Pensacola, 1931-1932, and then began his nearly 30-year career as a Marine aviator.

In the prewar period, he was assigned variously to flying duty as well as to tours as an instructor at Quantico and as a student at the Army Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field, Alabama. In 1940, Maj Megee was ordered to the U.S. Naval Air Mission to Peru and there became special

advisor to the country's Minister of Aviation.

After a three-year tour, LtCol Megee returned to the United States to become Chief of Staff of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point and deployed to the Pacific with the command in 1944. In October of that year he took command of the Provisional Air Support Command, FMFPac. He commanded LFASCU 1 at Iwo Jima, and after that campaign, became chief of staff, Air Support Control Units, Pacific Fleet. In speaking of this period in his interview for the Marine *Then-LtGen Vernon E. Megee in 1957.*



Corps Oral History Program, Gen Megee said, at Iwo, "We knew we were on the right track." Close air support of ground troops came of age in the Iwo Jima campaign. At the end of the war, he was promoted to brigadier general and served variously as chief of staff, FMFLant; assistant director of aviation, HQMC; and commanding general, MCAS, Cherry Point, and Marine Corps Air Bases, Cherry Point, the satellite Marine air facilities in the vicinity of the base.

Before taking command of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Korea for the period 1953-1955, Gen Megee commanded AirFMFPac. Upon his return from Korea, he was deputy commander, FMFPac. On 1 January 1956, he was promoted to lieutenant general and appointed Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and Chief of Staff, HQMC, the first aviator to hold these offices. Gen Megee became commander of FMFPac in 1958 and retired there a year later.

After retirement, Gen Megee made his home in Austin, Texas, and earned a master's degree in history from the University of Texas. He later served as the first superintendent and president of the Board of Trustees of the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas, for a period of 10 years. □1775□

Eighth Volume in Official Vietnam War Series Offered

by Charles R. Smith
Historian

THE EIGHTH VOLUME to be issued in the continuing operational history series of Marine participation in the Vietnam War has just been published by the History and Museums Division. The publication of the 312-page *U. S. Marines in Vietnam: The War That Would Not End, 1971-1973*, by Maj Charles D. Melson and LtCol Curtis G. Arnold, coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Communist 1972 Easter Invasion and is available for public sale by the Superintendent of Documents (Order No. 008-055-00179-0). Its \$21 price includes maps, charts, and numerous photographs and illustrations, many of which were obtained from the collections of key participants.

With the withdrawal of the III Marine Amphibious Force in June 1971 as part of the seventh increment of President Nixon's phased reduction program, Marine ground units' active combat role in the Vietnam War came to an end. However, 500 Marines, mostly supporting arms specialists, advisors, and communicators, remained. It was thought that if the South Vietnamese continued to fight the war successfully on their own, further reductions could be made in this small Marine force.

This hope was dashed in the spring of 1972 by the full-scale North Vietnamese invasion of South Vietnam. On 30 March, elements of three North Vietnamese Army divisions poured across the Demilitarized Zone and assaulted South Vietnamese

Army and Marine positions guarding the frontier. Throughout April, South Vietnamese troops and their American advisors fought valiantly, but were forced to abandon first Dong Ha and then Quang Tri City. With the arrival of Marine Aircraft Group 15 and elements of the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, the North Vietnamese onslaught was halted north of Hue. This reintroduction of American troops into Southeast Asia signaled the continuation of a war that now seemed to have no end. Fighting continued throughout the summer and into the fall as Marines supported the successful South Vietnamese counteroffensive to recapture Quang Tri City.

ON 27 JANUARY 1973, American and North Vietnamese negotiators signed the Paris Peace Accords, initiating a ceasefire and beginning the final withdrawal of allied forces from South Vietnam. By late March the remaining elements of 1st Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company had departed, the Marine advisory effort was ended, American prisoners of war held by North Vietnam were returned, and the American combat support role in South Vietnam concluded. With the August congressional declaration that all U.S.-funded military actions in Southeast Asia would cease, Marine and Air Force air combat operations from Thailand also came to an end.

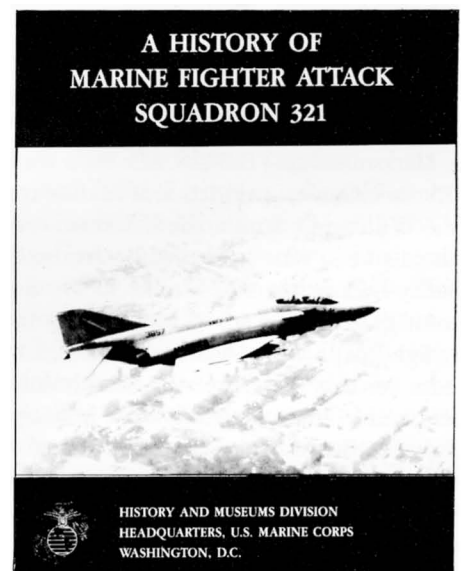
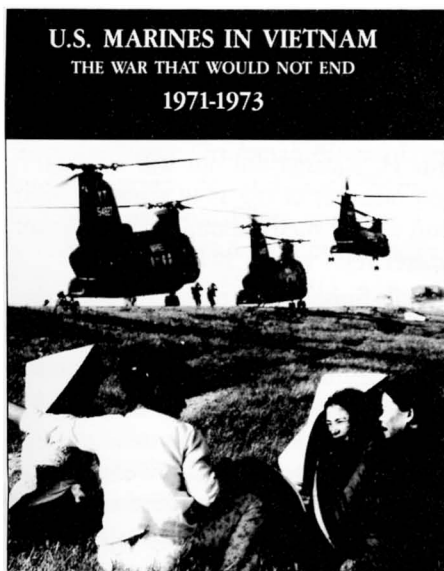
The variety and scope of U.S. Marine participation in this phase of the conflict makes this an account of individual units and personalities in relation to the activities of others. This is a reflection of the authors' reliance on diverse materials to tell the story, as many of the events discussed were exceptions to the normal process of official records-keeping and availability. While the common thread in the narrative is the continued resistance to North Vietnamese aggression of the South Vietnamese, in particular the Vietnamese Marine Corps, the book is written from the perspective of the American Marines who strove to assist them.

The authors, Maj Charles D. Melson and LtCol Curtis G. Arnold, are both veterans of the Vietnam conflict. LtCol Ar-

nold, who enlisted in 1950 and was later commissioned following his graduation from Auburn University, served with the 3d Marine Division from 1966 to 1967. He later served as aide to the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Lewis W. Walt, and was a student and later an instructor at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College at Quantico, Virginia. LtCol Arnold began this volume in 1973 during a two-year tour with the History and Museums Division. After his retirement from the Marine Corps in 1975, he continued to contribute to the project until his untimely death in 1990.

Maj Melson, an infantry officer, graduated from Sonoma State University in 1967. He holds a master of arts degree from St. John's College and has taught at the Naval Academy. He served with the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade with assignments to Vietnam in 1972. Following tours with both Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Marine Forces, he was ordered to Headquarters Marine Corps, first to the Command Center and then, in 1986, to the History and Museums Division. He left active service in 1990, but was recalled to active duty with the Division, including temporary assignment to the U.S. Central Command during the Persian Gulf War.

A NEW ADDITION to the History and Museums Division's series of active-duty and Reserve squadron histories also has been published. The highly illustrat-



ed *History of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 321*, by Cdr Peter B. Mersky, USNR, an authority on naval and Marine aviation, is based on his extensive research, supported in part by a Marine Corps Historical Foundation Research Grant and conducted at the Marine Corps Historical Center and with former members of the squadron.

Cdr Mersky is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design with a baccalaureate degree in illustration. He was commissioned in the Navy through Air Officer Candidate School in May 1968. Following active duty he remained in the Naval Reserve and served two tours as an air intelligence officer with Light Photographic Squadron 306, one of the Navy's two last Crusader squadrons. It was during this time that he flew on occasion with the Marine aviators of VMFA-321. Cdr Mersky currently serves as assistant editor for *Approach*, the Navy's air safety magazine, and has written widely on Navy and Marine Corps aviation; among his works is *U.S. Marine Corps Aviation, 1912-Present*.

The author traces the squadron's history from its brief, but successful career as one of the many such units which contributed to the Allied victory in the Pacific during World War II, its rebirth during the postwar demobilization as the first Marine Air Reserve fighter squadron, to the present day. Throughout he stresses the important contributions of Marine Reservists, especially those of Marine Air

MARINES IN THE MEXICAN WAR



by
Gabrielle M. Neufeld Santelli

Charles R. Smith
Editor

Occasional Paper

HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION,
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1991

Reservists, to the nation's defense. "Even though the Air Reservist obviously enjoys continuing his association with military aviation, and is well paid for his time and accumulated skills," Cdr Mersky notes, "he knows he may be called upon during national crises. Such was the case during World War II and Korea. Many Reservists paid the ultimate price for their dedication; others stood by ready to fill in when called." The officers and men who served with VMFA-321, the author asserts, are prime examples of these committed Marines.

Marines in the Mexican War, by Gabrielle M. Santelli, is the newest addition to the History and Museums Di-

vision's growing Occasional Papers series. The 59-page history was written by Mrs. Santelli, while she was head of the Division's Reference Section. After graduating from Molloy College, Rockville Centre, New York, and Georgetown University, she joined the Division in 1969. She resigned in 1980 to devote full time to her growing family.

The history chronicles the various land campaigns and seaborne landings in which Marines participated during this 19th-century conflict and attempts to evaluate the Marine Corps' role as a rudimentary amphibious force. While the history covers activities within Mexico and along its eastern shore in some detail, less is given to the number of Marine activities in California and western Mexico. It is meant to supplement the *Journals of Marine Second Lieutenant Henry Bulls Watson, 1845-1848*, published by the Division in 1990.

Col Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR (Ret), the Division's former artist in residence, illustrated the section on California and his sketched maps are used throughout the history.

As with other volumes in the Occasional Papers series, distribution of *Marines in the Mexican War* is limited to Marine Corps and Navy organizations and libraries, and to university and public libraries, in order to make Marine Corps historical evidence available to their specialist users. □1775□

Answers to the Historical Quiz

Marines in the Olympics

(Questions on page 7)

1. Marksmanship, swimming, wrestling, fencing, rowing, cycling, boxing, and track and field.
2. Marksmanship. (The U.S. rifle team that competed in the 1920 Olympic Games included four Marine competitors and Marine Maj William D. Smith, the U.S. team coach. The Marines combined to win nine gold medals. In the 1924 Olympics, Henry Bailey became the first Marine to win a gold medal in a pistol event.)
3. Sgt Joseph Jackson made the U.S. Olympic marksmanship team for the 1912 games at Stockholm. He brought home a bronze medal in the Individual Military Rifle event, the first Olympic medal for a U.S. Marine. And, as a member of a tri-service unit, he brought home a gold medal in the Military Rifle Team event.
4. BGen, then-1stLt, Harry B. Liversedge won the bronze medal in the shotput in 1920 with a throw of 46 feet, 5 1/2 inches.
5. Bob Mathias was also a star fullback at Stanford, and the Washington Redskins' 13th-round draft choice in 1953.
6. Although Cpl Thelma H. Kalama did not win a medal in 1952, at 17, the youngest member of the 1948 women's swimming team, she had won a gold medal along with her teammates in the 4 x 100-meter relay at the 1948 games.
7. 1stLt William "Billy" Mills finished in a record-breaking time of 28:24.4.
8. Marine Cpl Leon Spinks went on to become the world heavyweight boxing champion by defeating Mohammed Ali a year and a half later.
9. SSGT Greg Gibson was also a hopeful for the 1988 games in Seoul until a knee injury put him out of contention.
10. Roosevelt Sanders was also an assistant coach during the 1984 games in Los Angeles.

F9F-2 Panther

*by Michael E. Starn
Curator of Aviation*

IN THE CLOSING MONTHS of World War II the world was introduced to the next generation of fighter aircraft: jets, flown by German pilots. Although these aircraft came too late in the war to have a lasting effect on its outcome, the Navy was quick to see that this was the future of tactical aircraft and, in April 1946, it contracted with Grumman Aircraft to begin design of the Navy's first two-place, night-fighter jet aircraft, the F9F.

The XF9F-1 was to use no less than four Westinghouse J30 engines producing 1,500

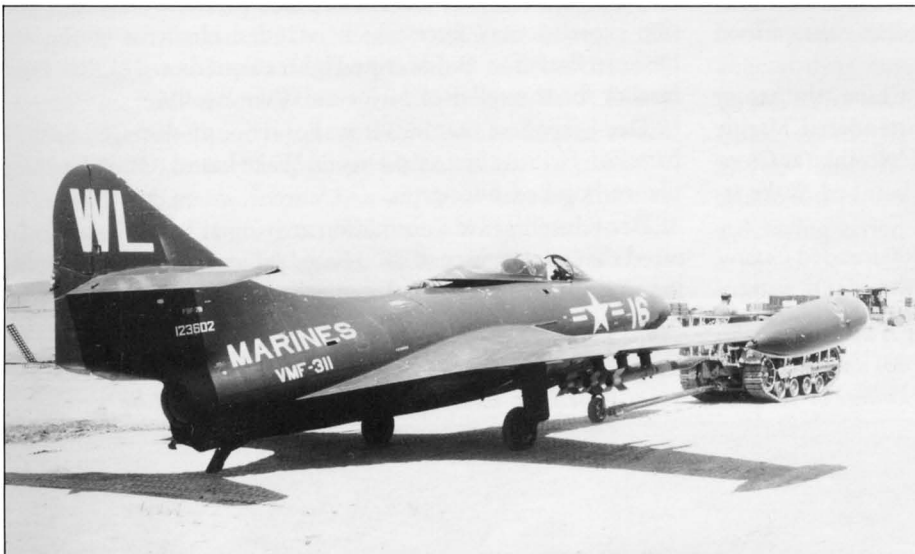
pound s.t. (static thrust) each. This design proved to be unfeasible and was abandoned and replaced with a new design, the XF9F-2. This was a single-place day-fighter, which would incorporate one Rolls-Royce Nene producing 5,000 pound s.t., later produced by Pratt & Whitney as a J42. The contract was further changed to cover two prototypes, the XF9F-2 and the XF9F-3.

The F9F was to be both a carrier- and a land-based aircraft. In November 1947, the first XF9F-2s flew with the J42 engines and, in August 1948, the first XF9F-3 flew

with an Allison J33. In 1948 the Navy ordered 47 F9F-2s with J42-P-6 engines and 54 F9F-3s with J33-A-8 engines. Problems were soon to arise with both the carrier- and land-based aircraft. The initial carrier-based examples were found to be so underpowered that on a calm day, with the carrier moving at its top speed, the load could be no more than 20mm ammunition, two 100 pound bombs, or a couple of rockets, and even then had to be catapulted from the ship. In addition, due to the F9F's short landing gear and squat tail orientation, prolonged run-up, and 1,000-degree tail-pipe exhaust, it would burn the caulking between the decking planks on board the carriers and melt the asphalt runways at the land bases. These problems were solved by installing concrete run-up areas at the land bases and installing exhaust deflectors on board the carriers. Later that year the F9F-2s proved to be superior to the F9F-3s and the -3s were ordered converted to -2s.

On 22 March 1950 VMF-311 became the first Marine squadron to receive the F9F-2, making it the second jet fighter squadron in the Marine Corps, the first being VMF-122 flying FH-1 Phantoms. VMF-311 would continue in the history books by becoming the first Marine Corps land-based jet combat unit in Korea. On 10 December 1950, LtCol Neil R. MacIntyre, commanding officer of VMF-311, and Maj William E. Crowe flew the first Marine Corps jet combat mission in Korea. Their mission was to provide close air support for the 8th Army in the final days of the break-out movement from the Chosin Reservoir.

The F9F-2 Panther, on display in the Korean War Exhibit at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum is the same aircraft piloted by LtCol MacIntyre in 1950. This aircraft was sold by the Navy in May 1959, to Mr. Walter W. McDonnell. In 1974, Mr. McDonnell traded this same aircraft to the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, where it remained on outside display until 1988 when it was restored to a generic paint scheme typical of all F9F's used during this period and placed on indoor display in the fall of 1990. □1775□



F9F-2 Panther, ready for combat, is towed to revetment to await next call to duty. If it were taxied a dust cloud would be blown up, clogging fuel lines of other jets.

Technical Data

Manufacturer: Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation, Bethpage, New York

Type: Carrier- or Land-Based Fighter

Accommodation: Pilot

Power Plant: Pratt & Whitney J42 with 5,000 pounds of thrust (dry); 5,700 pounds of thrust (wet)

Dimensions: Length, 38 feet 1 inch; wing span 37 feet 11.88 inches; wing area 250 square feet

Weights: Empty, 9,303 pounds; loaded 15,700 pounds

Performance: Max speed 500 knots (0.83 mach); service ceiling, 44,000 feet; range, 1,175 miles; time to climb, 68 seconds to 10,000 feet; stall speed, 78 knots; fuel capacity, including two 120-gallon wing tip tanks, 923 gallons

Armament: Four nose-mounted M-3 20mm cannon with 190 rounds per gun (modifications to F9F-2b added racks for six 5-inch rockets and two bombs)

Part I—December 1941-March 1942

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

Fortitudine plans to publish, beginning with this issue, a chronology of significant events in which the Marine Corps was involved in World War II. The following installment begins with the fateful events surrounding America's entry into the war in December 1941, and continues through the initial months of the war.

1941

7 Dec—A Japanese carrier force inflicted heavy casualties on the American forces at Pearl Harbor. The attack claimed the lives of 2,409 American servicemen and civilians, and wounded another 1,178. Eighteen ships in Pearl Harbor were destroyed or heavily damaged, and 347 American aircraft were put out of action. Marine Corps losses at Pearl Harbor included 112 Marines killed and missing in action, and at least 64 wounded. The heaviest Marine losses came from the ships' detachments; on board the battleship *Arizona*, only three officers and 12 enlisted men survived from a Marine detachment of 82.

8 Dec—The U.S. declared war on Japan. In China, the senior Marine officer, Col William W. Ashurst, surrendered Marine detachments at Tientsin, Peking, and Camp Holcomb (at Chinwangtao) to the Japanese. Japanese aircraft bombed Wake Island, Guam, and the Philippines.

10 Dec—A Japanese naval landing party of 6,000 invaded Guam. Capt George J. McMillan, USN, governor of the island, surren-

The devastation of the attack on Pearl Harbor is evident in this photo of the sinking USS West Virginia (BB 46) and the badly damaged USS Tennessee (BB 43) at their moorings at Ford Is-

dered to the Japanese naval commander. A Japanese naval force seized Makin Island and the Imperial Japanese Navy proclaimed Tarawa Atoll occupied.

11 Dec—Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S., which in turn recognized a state of war with these nations. In the Pacific, an attempt to land a force of 450 men on Wake and Wilkes Islands from Japanese *Destroyer Squadron 6* was defeated with the loss of the two enemy destroyers.

12 Dec—Effective U.S. air support ended in the Philippines. Japanese naval planes of the *Eleventh Air Fleet* attacked Luzon in force and strafed the naval station at Olongapo. The advance assault detachment of the Japanese *16th Division* landed unopposed in southeastern Luzon, took its airfield objective, and moved north.

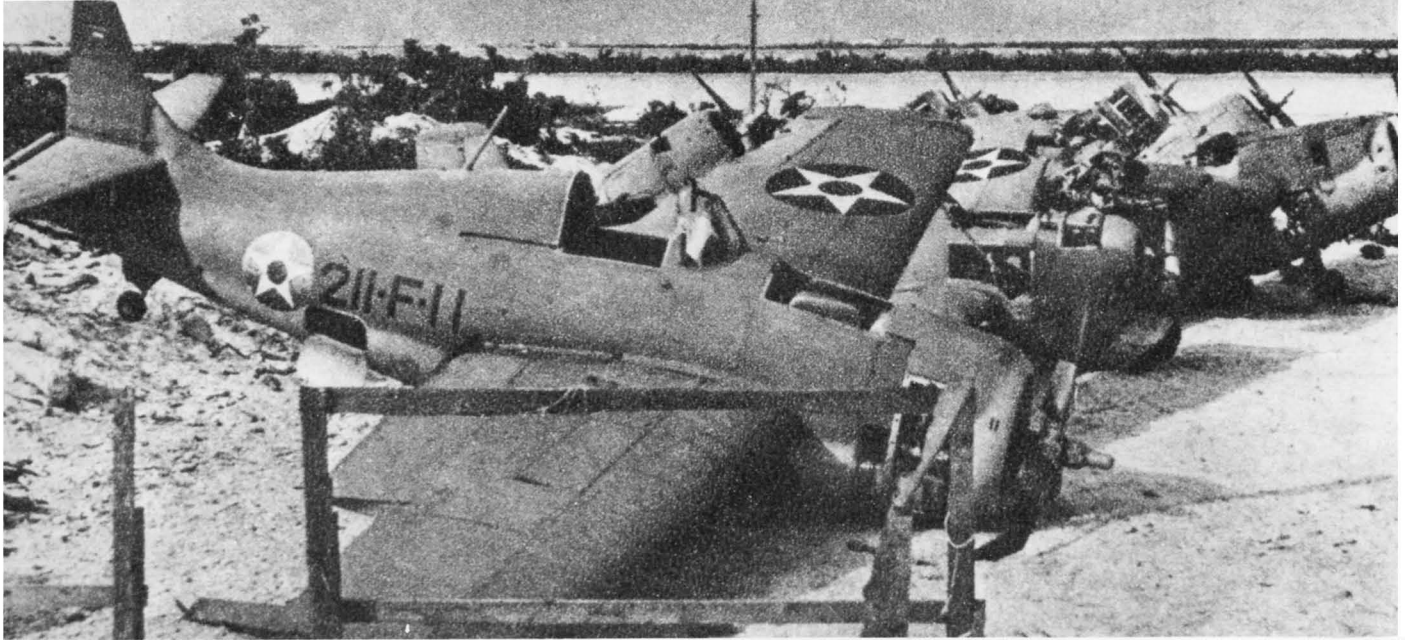
15 Dec—RAdm Frank J. Fletcher's Task Force 14, carrying a Marine expeditionary force which included elements of the 4th Defense Battalion and Marine Fighter Squadron 221, left Pearl Harbor for the relief of forces on Wake Atoll.

19 Dec—Japanese bombers from Roi seriously damaged defense battalion facilities at Camp One on Wake Island. Other Japanese planes bombed Olongapo.

21 Dec—Intelligence information arriving at Pearl Harbor indicated that a large force of shorebased Japanese planes was building up in the Marianas and that enemy surface forces might be

land. In all, 18 ships at Pearl Harbor were destroyed or heavily damaged and 347 American aircraft were put out of action. Marines killed or missing totaled 112 and 64 were wounded.





Having fought in the defense of Wake Island until they were beyond salvage and repair, the remains of these Grumman Wildcats of Marine Fighting Squadron 211 are piled in their island graveyard. Wake was surrendered after 12 hours of fighting.

east of Wake where they could detect the approach of Task Force 14 carrying reinforcements to the atoll. On Wake Island, a U.S. Navy PBV departed with the last personnel to leave the atoll. Japanese air raids seriously damaged defenses on Peale Island.

21 Dec—The reinforced Japanese *48th Division* landed at Lingayen Gulf on Luzon, Philippines, with Manila as its objective.

23 Dec—The *Maizuru Second Special Naval Landing Force* executed a predawn landing on Wake and Wilkes Islands while carriers launched air strikes against Wilkes, Peale, and Wake Island in support of the landing force. After almost 12 hours of fighting, all islands surrendered. The relief expedition, Task Force 14, received orders to return to base. In the Philippines, General MacArthur decided to withdraw to Bataan.

26 Dec—The 4th Marines moved all men of the 1st Separate Battalion (later the 3d Battalion, 4th Marines) from Cavite to Corregidor. American officials declared Manila an open city.

27-28 Dec—The 4th Marines moved to Corregidor with the exception of Batteries A and C and the radar detachment which remained on Bataan.

29 Dec—Forty bombers of the Japanese *5th Air Group* attacked Corregidor, ending “normal” above-ground living.

1942

2 Jan—Japanese troops entered Manila.

20 Jan—Following Congressional authorization, Major General Commandant Thomas Holcomb became the first lieutenant general in the Marine Corps.

23 Jan—In the Bismarcks, Japanese forces landed at Rabaul where they quickly overran the small Australian garrison and occupied New Ireland.

24-27 Jan—In the battle of Macassar Strait, Allied sea and air forces inflicted severe damage on a large Japanese invasion convoy in the first sea battle between the Allies and Japan, off Balikpapan, Borneo.

1 Feb—Air Detachment, Marine Barracks, Parris Island, received orders redesignating it Marine Corps Air Station, Parris Island.

15 Feb—Singapore and its British garrison unconditionally surrendered to the Japanese.

18 Feb—The 4th Marines on Corregidor received reinforcements

in the form of survivors of USS *Canopus*, sailors from the Cavite Naval Ammunition Depot, and the majority of the remaining general duty naval personnel.

19 Feb—The 9th Defense Battalion arrived in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, via the USS *Biddle* from Norfolk, Virginia.

27 Feb-1 Mar—In the Battle of the Java Sea, an Allied naval force attacked a Japanese force covering the Java invasion convoy in a delaying action which resulted in the most severe U.S. naval losses since Pearl Harbor.

1 Mar—Marine Aircraft Group 22 was formed on Midway Island to provide command and control of Marine Scout-Bombing Squadron 231 and Marine Fighting Squadron 221.

8 Mar—The 1st Marine Brigade (Provisional), stationed at Reykjavik, Iceland, turned over its responsibilities to U.S. Army units.

10 Mar—The Navy Department announced the purchase of the 132,000-acre Santa Margarita Ranch, north of San Diego, for use as a training base.

12 Mar—American occupation of certain strategically important South Pacific islands began when a mixed American force entered Noumea, capital of New Caledonia. Construction of a major air base at nearby Tontouta commenced.

17 Mar—Gen Douglas MacArthur arrived in Darwin, Australia, to take command of Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific.

21 Mar—The 3d Marine Brigade was organized at New River, North Carolina, from elements of the 1st Marine Division and was assigned to garrison western Samoa.

23 Mar—The Secretary of the Navy designated the new Marine Corps Training Area at Santa Margarita Ranch as Camp Joseph H. Pendleton.

25 Mar—The 1st Marine Brigade (Provisional) was disbanded upon arrival at New York from Iceland.

28 Mar—The 7th Defense Battalion moved to Upolu, Western Samoa, as an advance force for the new garrison there. A small detachment went to Savaii.

29 Mar—The 4th Defense Battalion and Marine Fighting Squadron 212 landed at Port Vila, Efate, in the New Hebrides after orders diverted the units from their original destination, Tongatabu. □1775□

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Series Opener Looks at Pre-World War II 'Old Corps'

by Benis M. Frank
Chief Historian

Opening Moves: Marines Gear Up For War appeared in March, the first of 32 World War II 50th anniversary commemorative pamphlets projected for publication by History and Museums Division from 1992 through 1995.

Written by Henry I. Shaw, Jr., former Headquarters Marine Corps Chief Historian, the history covers the prewar years and the posture of the Marine Corps on the eve of war, when the Marine Corps was about the size of the New York City police department.

Mr. Shaw discusses 20 years of Marine Corps air and ground campaigns in Central America in the era of the so-called "Banana Wars," which ended in 1934 when the last Marines withdrew from Nicaragua. He recalls the period of the 1920s, when MajGen John A. Lejeune, doughty commander of the 4th Marine Brigade and then the 2d Infantry Division, in World War I, was Marine Commandant. According to Shaw, during his commandancy, Gen Lejeune emphasized the expeditionary role of the Corps and a requirement for it to be "in ins-

tant readiness" to support the fleet in event of war.

The author describes the development of amphibious warfare doctrine at the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, and publication of that doctrine in *Tentative Manual for Landing Operations*, which was republished by the Navy in 1937 as *Fleet Training Publication* (FTP)

167, and later by the Army as *FM 31-5*. He also tells of the prewar fleet landing exercises (FLExs) during which this new doctrine was rehearsed, and of the search for the appropriate landing craft to carry the invasion force in the ship-to-shore movement. In this discussion, Mr. Shaw relates the development of the Higgins boat, the ubiquitous LCVP (landing craft, vehicle and personnel), and the tracked landing vehicle, the LVT, which was dubbed "Alligator" and more often, "Amtrac."

INCLUDED IN THIS monograph is the story of the formation of the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions from what had been the 1st and 2d Marine Brigades (initially the East Coast and the West Coast Expeditionary Forces), the raising of the Marine Raider and Marine Parachute battalions, and other disparate units which were to be dissolved before World War II was over. Mr. Shaw also treats the growth of Marine Corps aviation in the prewar period, and describes the aircraft then in use by the Corps.

(Continued on page 11)

