

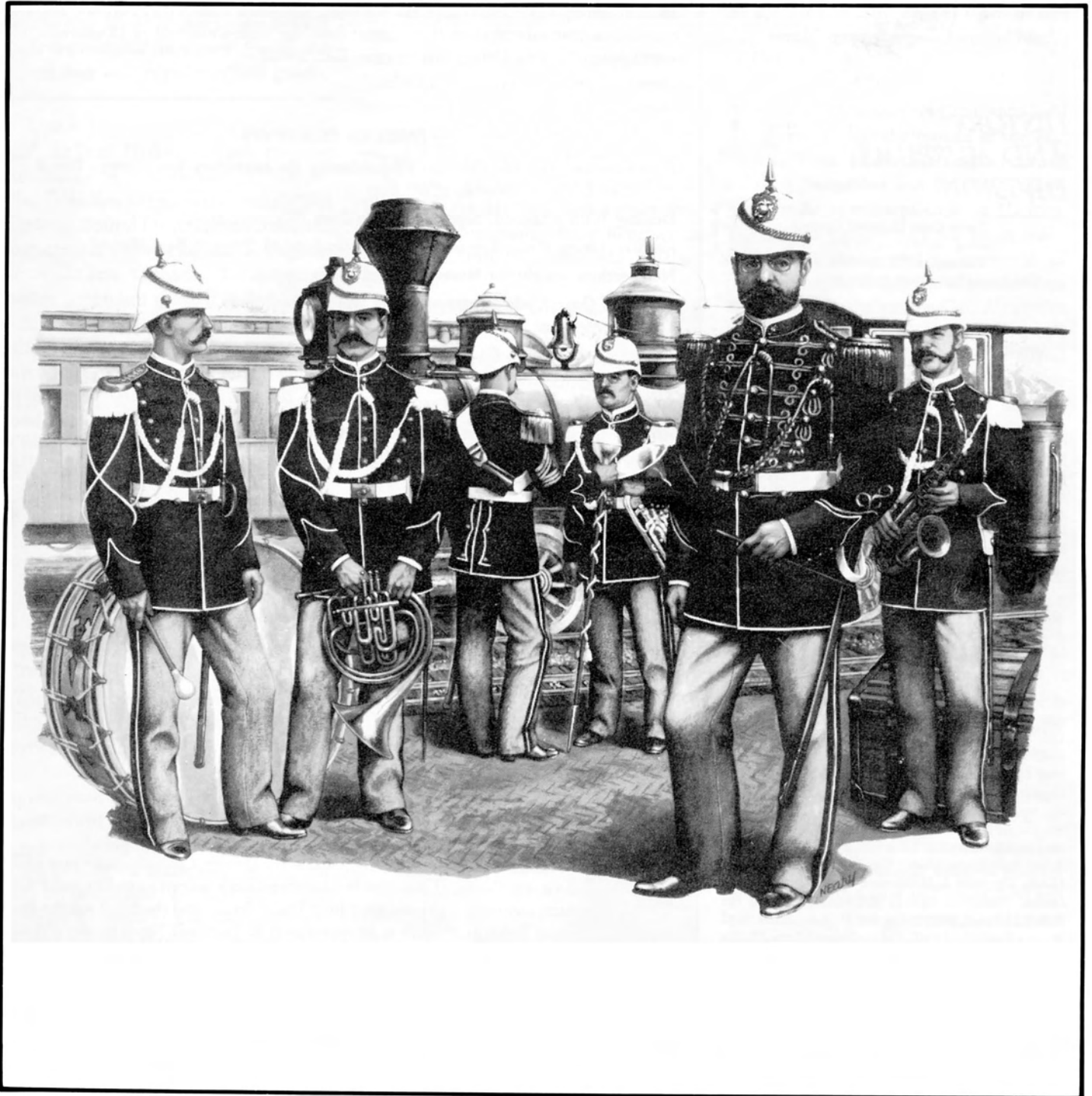
# FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXI

SPRING 1992

NUMBER 4



RESERVE ARTIST DONNA J. NEARY HIGHLIGHTS COLORFUL GARB OF PAST MARINE BANDS . . . LONGTIME DEPUTY COL BROOKE NIHART PENS A FAREWELL FIRST HISTORY OF THE MARINE CORPS MUSEUMS . . . PART II OF 'CROWE': HIS NAME ENHANCED BY HEROISM IN PACIFIC BATTLES . . . FLIGHT LINES: F4 PHANTOM II

# FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Volume XXI

Spring 1992

No. 4



## HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION

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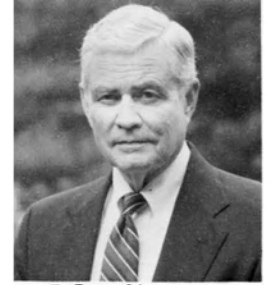
## THE COVER

Marine Reserve artist LtCol Donna J. Neary portrays the Denver, Colorado, train yard where, in 1891, a famous, even idolized band leader has arrived on a concert tour. The band director was, of course, composer and conductor John Philip Sousa, and the band was the President's Own Marine Band. In addition to an opportunity for portraitist Neary to offer a likeness of Sousa, second from right, the painting is one of a set of four illustrating the Band's historic uniforms. The story of their creation is told by Col Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret), beginning on page 17. On 1 July, the History and Museums Division wished continued success to Col Nihart, who retired after nearly two decades with the division. The former *Fortitudine* editor has left a special gift for readers, a first-time history of the Marine Corps Museums, in two installments. The first part appears in this issue, beginning on page 12.

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## Remembering the Legendary 'Jim' Crowe — Part II



*BGen Simmons*

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*This appreciation began in the Winter issue, bringing then-Gunner Crowe to 1941. In the second and final part, Pacific war propels him into regular officer grades.*

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ON 6 JANUARY 1942, a month after Pearl Harbor, the 8th Marines, commanded by Col Richard H. Jeschke, sailed from San Diego in the luxury liner *Monterey*, bound for American Samoa as the nucleus of the new 2d Marine Brigade. Future LtGen Ormond R. Simpson, another lieutenant greeted at San Diego by a Jim Crowe left-handed salute, was with Jim in the *Monterey*. When the ship arrived at Pago Pago, the capital of American Samoa, SgtMaj Ira Ward, an old friend, came on board to congratulate Jim on being on the promotion list for captain. Jumping over the ranks of second and first lieutenant, was proof, according to Jim, that there was no need for lieutenants.

LtGen Simpson was promoted to captain at the same time. "Mercifully," he told me recently, "Jim's assignment on the lineal list made him one number junior to me!"

The 8th Marines took over the ground defense of the island from the 7th Defense Battalion. As a captain, Jim was made the regimental intelligence officer. The brigade commander, BGen Henry L. Larsen, informed him that there were rumors of papers being delivered to Japanese agents lurking on Matapow, the highest point on the island. Jim left that night with a patrol consisting of one lieutenant and four Samoan Marines. They climbed to the top, hard work, but found no evidence of any Japanese. Oldtimers remember Jim thrashing around in the Samoan jungle, leading patrols of sweat-soaked and panting Marines, in similar searches for phantom Japanese.

AS SOMERSET MAUGHAM made it known to the world in his story and play, "Rain," which concerns Marines of a

slightly earlier era, it rains in Samoa and the rains can be depressing. Jim was a definite morale booster. With his reputation as an expert on sustenance, both solid food and liquid refreshment, and with his sometime background as a mess sergeant, it was natural that he be given the additional duty of regimental mess officer.

In April Jim was transferred to the 3d Battalion, 8th Marines, and a short time later given command of the Regimental Weapons Company. Ahead was more active duty.

The 1st Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942. Among the first casualties was old friend Frank Goettge, who as a lieutenant colonel and the 1st Marine Division's intelligence officer, was killed leading a reconnaissance patrol on 12 August.

As the bitter campaign for Guadalcanal continued, the regiments of the 2d Marine Division were fed into the battle to augment the 1st Division. On 4 November, after 10 days at sea, the 8th Marines landed near Lunga Point and went into the lines to relieve elements of the 2d Marines. Ten days later another of Jim's good friends, Indian Joe Bauer, now a lieutenant colonel and commanding VMF-212, was shot down and would be last seen

*LtCol Henry P. 'Jim' Crowe wears both his trademark waxed mustache and one of two Legions of Merit presented to him for his service commanding shore party troops.*



floating in the sea in his Mae West. Bauer, an ace with 11 kills, four of them in one day, would receive a posthumous Medal of Honor.

JIM AND HIS WEAPONS COMPANY held a position near the mouth of the Matanikau River. Heavy fighting continued through November and on into December. The Army was replacing the Marines. The 1st Marine Division was being withdrawn. On 9 December command of troops ashore at Guadalcanal passed from MajGen Vandegrift to MajGen Alexander M. Patch, USA, commander of the Army's Americal Division. Later, with the arrival of the U.S. Army's 25th Division, Gen Patch moved up to command of XIV Corps, which included the 2d Marine Division. The Army general would visit Jim three or four times a week. A trail, covered by two 37mm guns, stretched out in front of Jim's position. In front of a burned out Japanese tank, Jim's Marines had placed a crude placard: "Tojo 100 yards dead ahead. No Army file will go beyond this point without a Marine escort." According to Jim, Gen Patch was "tickled to death" by the sign.

During January, the 8th Marines, with other Marine Corps and Army units, made a final drive toward the west. A troublesome Japanese artillery position was bypassed in the regiment's zone of action. Jim thought he knew where it was. On 15 January 1943, armed with a shotgun (his preference as a personal weapon despite his prowess with a rifle and pistol) and followed by a gunnery sergeant and three Marines, he pushed into the jungle and found the position. By his account he and his patrol took out two 77mm guns and the 12 or 14 Japanese manning the position. For this he received the Army's Silver Star, the citation for which reads a bit more modestly:

With 8 men he rushed and captured an enemy emplacement containing a 77mm field piece, located behind the advanced





*On Tarawa, holding his radio receiver, Maj Crowe directs 2d Battalion, 8th Marines. The landing was the first to debark assault troops from amphibian tractors. Awarded the Navy Cross, Crowe is recalled "striding along the beach exhorting all . . . that the Japanese couldn't hit the side of a barn door . . . . So everyone should get out of their beach foxholes . . . . and go to work."*

lines. His group killed five enemy in the gun emplacement and destroyed a large ammunition dump.

For general excellence during the period, the Army gave him the Bronze Star.

ON 31 JANUARY he and his company embarked in the hardworking USS *Crescent City* (AP 40) for New Zealand. While on the 'Canal he had grown a non-regulation beard. Before landing in New Zealand he shaved it off except for a burgeoning red mustache that would grow to eight inches from waxed tip to waxed tip and would become his trademark.

He disembarked at Wellington on 8 February, the same day Guadalcanal was declared secure. The 8th Marines was assigned to a camp at Paekakariki. Jim came down with yellow jaundice as well as malaria, the latter for perhaps the fiftieth time since Santo Domingo (and recurrences would bother him for the rest of his life). He would spend much of the next two months in and out of the Division field hospital.

By now his old friend, Col Elmer Hall, was the regimental commander. Jim was "spot" promoted to major, effective 18

February 1943, and in May became the executive officer of the 2d Battalion. The battalion commander moved on and Jim, as a major, took the battalion. The training schedule was concentrated. Jim worked his battalion hard.

Retired Maj Richard T. Spooner, a private in Maj Crowe's battalion, remembers a 60-mile foot march, done partly for conditioning and partly to outdo a celebrated march around San Diego County by the 8th Marines. At one of the halts, good troop leader Maj Crowe required all his Marines, including himself, to change their socks. Those around him saw that the major's socks were bloody. That night, as they hiked back into camp, footsore and weary, they were met by a delegation of townfolk who invited the battalion to a dance. Jim, badly lacerated feet and all, took the whole battalion to the dance and led the dancing.

THE 2D MARINE DIVISION loaded out in October. The rank and file knew they were going to land on an atoll in the Central Pacific and that they would be using amphibian tractors, for the first time, to land assault troops. Before they sailed in the elderly converted passenger ship

USS *Heywood* (AP 12), SSgt (now Maj, USMCR [Ret]) Norman T. Hatch reported in to Maj Crowe (whom he found crusty) and informed him that he had orders to cover 2d Battalion, 8th Marines, as a combat motion picture cameraman. After a long, searching pause, Jim said, "I'm not going to babysit any Hollywood Marine. I want only fighting Marines around me."

In those days a staff sergeant did not usually argue with a major, but Hatch took a deep breath and allowed as how he was a regular Marine who had "shot expert," but who also was trained in a specialty he thought as important as many others Crowe was using.

Jim gave him another long look and said, "All right, just don't get in the way."

The landing was rehearsed at Efate in the New Hebrides. Jim got the LVT crews together and said that once across the reef they were to keep going, straight across the island.

AS PART OF Combat Team 2 under Col David Shoup, Jim's 2d Battalion, 8th Marines, was assigned to storm Beach Red 3, the left-flank beach, to the east of the long pier. His battalion touched down at



0907, seven minutes after the destroyers lifted their fire. Two LVTs found a gap in the seawall and churned inland as far as the airstrip before unloading, but the handful of Marines could not hold and had to fall back. The rest of the LVTs were stopped by the four-foot coconut-log seawall. Jim's beachhead was 20 feet wide, from the water's edge to the seawall. Even so, conditions were better than on either Red 1 or 2. Of the 552 men in Jim's first three waves, fewer than 25 were casualties. To the left of the Long Pier was the shorter Burns-Philp Pier. An enemy pocket at the base of the shorter pier was particularly troublesome. To Jim's left front were heavy emplacements including a large, bombproof shelter which Jim took to be the Japanese island commander's command post. Fighting continued into the third day. Three positions had to be taken: a steel pillbox to the left front, a coconut-log emplacement, and, further inland, the large bombproof shelter. By the end of the

*Recovering from devastating wounds he received on Saipan, LtCol Crowe is visited in Hawaii by an old friend, the Commandant, LtGen Alexander A. Vandegrift, and presented the Purple Heart. Crowe's earlier spot promotion was a problem, however.*



third day, all had been overrun and Jim's battalion had reached the airstrip.

"On the first day and a half," remembers Maj Hatch, the erstwhile combat photographer, "when things were very much in doubt . . . it was extremely encouraging to see Jim striding along the beach exhorting all and sundry that the Japanese couldn't hit the broadside of a barn door. They weren't hitting him and he was fully exposed . . . carrying helmet, shotgun, and a cigar. So everyone should get out of their beach foxholes, get up over the seawall, and go to work."

**M**AJ CROWE'S PERFORMANCE drew the admiring attention of Robert L. Sherrod, the *Time* correspondent, and was duly reported in Sherrod's classic *Tarawa: The Story of a Battle*.

Jim remembered fondly the close-in naval gunfire support of, amongst others, the destroyers *Ringgold* (DD 500), *Dashiell* (DD 659), and *Anderson* (DD

411), all three of which took station inside the lagoon to fire in support of Jim's battalion, sometimes landing shells as close as 50 yards. He was less enthusiastic over the carrier-based air support.

Taking the big block house, in Jim's mind, is what earned him the Navy Cross. In the stilted language of the citation:

Courageously leading his battalion ashore in the face of enemy resistance, Major Crowe maintained continuous aggressive pressure for three days from the limited beachhead establishment by his command in the midst of Japanese emplacements and strongholds. Constantly exposing himself to hostile fire and working without rest, he effectively coordinated the efforts of his own hard-pressed battalion, attached units and subsequent reinforcements, directing their combined attacks skillfully and with unwavering determination, and succeeded in overcoming one of the most heavily defended Japanese centers of resistance on Tarawa Atoll.

The muster roll of the 2d Battalion, 8th Marines, for the month of November 1943 shows the battalion's casualties for Tarawa to be 97 Marines killed, 17 missing in action (and later declared dead), and 279 wounded (some of whom probably died of their wounds). Of the Navy men attached to the battalion, three were killed and five wounded. That gives a total of 401 casualties, about 40 percent of the battalion's original strength.

**A**FTER TARAWA the 8th Marines sailed for Hawaii, setting up Camp Tarawa on the big island of Hawaii itself. In January Jim was again spot promoted, this time to lieutenant colonel. Getting the Navy Cross may have disappointed Jim. After his promotion, MajGen Julian Smith, his old shooting boss and the 2d Marine Division commanding general, is supposed to have said, "Jim, you did a magnificent job on Tarawa. We couldn't have won without you. I am recommending you for the Medal of Honor."

Jim is said to have replied: "General, you have spot promoted me to lieutenant colonel. My promotion is like the old brevet rank conferred without pay for dis-

tinguished service. There is a Marine Corps Brevet Medal awarded those who receive brevet rank. It is distinctively Marine Corps and I would prefer it to the Medal of Honor."

The catch was that the Brevet Medal (a bronze cross with a dark red suspension ribbon with 13 white stars, very much like the Medal of Honor in design) had been created in 1921 for officers who had been breveted prior to 1914 when the Medal of Honor, previously an enlisted award only, was first authorized for officers of the naval service. Only 23 awards were made and it was never repeated. Smedley Butler, of whom Jim was not terribly fond, received both the Brevet Medal and the Medal of Honor, the latter twice. There would be no Brevet Medal for Jim, but, as an unusual award, he did get the British Distinguished Service Cross for Tarawa.

**T**HE FOOTAGE that SSgt Hatch shot of Jim's battalion went into the 18-minute documentary "With the Marines at Tarawa," which won the 1944 Academy Award for "Best Short Subject," represented by a wooden "Oscar," as metal had gone to war.

Jim's regimen for his battalion at Camp Tarawa was hard training with little recreation or liberty. In his mind the greatest contribution he had made to the costly victory at Tarawa was not his performance on the beach but rather the training he had given his men.

His training methods were realistic to the point of being more than slightly dangerous. One of his admirers reported that Jim's first sergeants held reveille by exploding blocks of TNT and that his squads dodged more bullets on Camp Tarawa's combat ranges than on Guadalcanal. Some battalion members thought that Jim's training should qualify them for an additional combat star on their Asiatic-Pacific ribbon.

In April, Col Clarence R. Wallace took command of the regiment. Ahead of them, as yet unknown to but a few, was Saipan.

**D**-DAY WAS 15 JUNE 1944. Jim's assigned beach was Green 2. He wanted the LVTs to bear on the smokestack at Charon Kanoa, but in the smoke and confusion his battalion, which took heavy fire from both flanks on the way in, was landed too far to the left on Green 1 in a jum-

ble with the 3d Battalion, 8th Marines. Once ashore, Jim had to push to the right.

Jim and his runner, Cpl William "Dinie" Donitaly, both armed with carbines, moved to the right front in a personal reconnaissance. In a sort of "quail hunt," they flushed several Japanese and killed them. Jim later said, "I was standing up waving my arms like a damn fool when I got hit." Two Japanese .31-caliber rifle bullets punctured Jim, one just below the heart. (Later he enlarged the Japanese rifle to a machine gun and raised the caliber to 13mm.) Another bullet struck Donitaly in the side near his left kidney.

"I'm hit pretty bad, sir," said Donitaly, "I guess I am a goner."

"God damn it," said Crowe, "don't talk like that." He slid out of his pack. Hot air from the holes in his chest hit him in the face when he breathed.

"I guess they got me too, Donitaly," he decided.

"God damn it," said the corporal, "don't talk like that, sir."

Crowe pressed the butt of his carbine against the sucking wound in his chest.

"You know, Dinie," he wheezed, "I believe this is a false alarm. I don't believe we're going to die."

"Yes, sir," said the corporal, who always agreed with the colonel.

**T**HEY LAY THERE, growing weaker, for about three-quarters of an hour. Jim's eyesight was going, but he was still firing his M1 carbine (which, incidentally, unlike most Marines, he thought a fairly good weapon). A Marine platoon sergeant came through the brush and from a distance viewed the blood-soaked pair with suspicion. Crowe, too weak by now to speak above a whisper, raised his head a little and twirled the ends of his famous red mustache.

Recognition was instantaneous.

In a few minutes he and Donitaly were back to the battalion aid station on the beach, but they were not yet safe. Mortar shells were bursting all around. A Navy corpsman kneeling over Jim was killed. A battalion surgeon was badly wounded. Jim, flat on his back, covered his stomach with his pack, his chest with his folded poncho, and his face with his helmet. Two shell fragments tore into his chest. Other fragments hit him in the right shoulder, the right hand, and the left leg, and a

sharp sliver peeled back part of his left thumb nail. What hurt the most, insisted Jim, was that torn thumbnail.

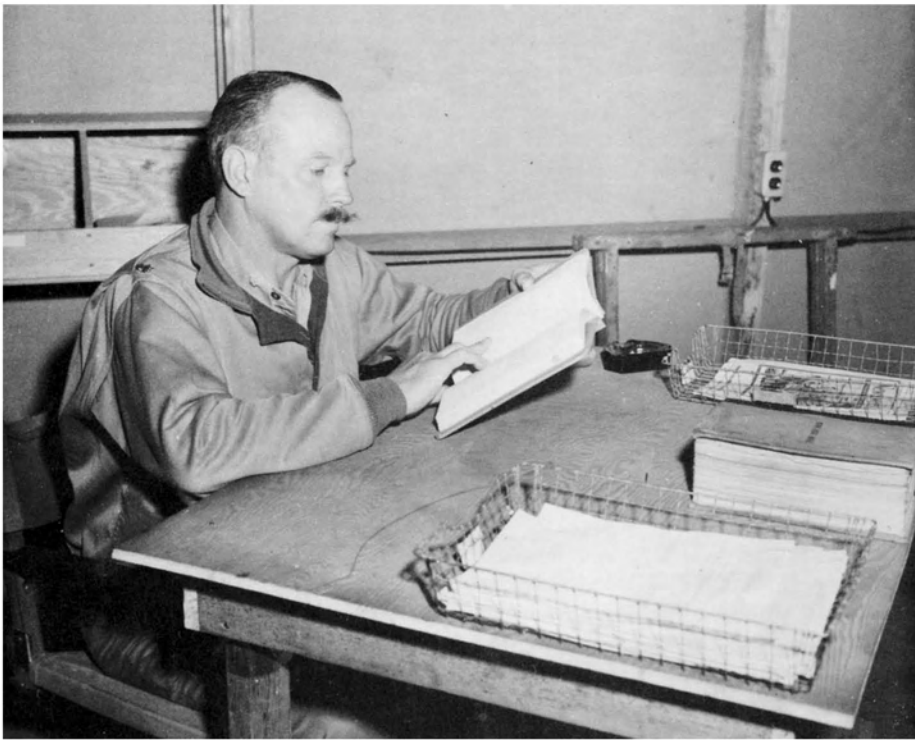
Litter bearers moved the wounded about 200 yards down the beach to an evacuation point. (Jim says he walked.) Robert Sherrod, on the beach as a *Time* correspondent, as he also had been at Tarawa, saw him there and remembers that Jim apologized to BGen "Red Mike" Edson, now the assistant division commander, for getting wounded so early in the battle. (A fuller account can be read in Sherrod's *On to Westward*.) With some exaggeration, word went through the 2d Marine Division that Jim had died and had been buried at sea.

**H**E WAS FIRST HOSPITALIZED at Aiea on Oahu, initially held in a Quonset hut reserved as a ward for the moribund, but Jim stubbornly refused to die. While there he was visited by Gen Vandegrift, now the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and his old friend, Elmer Hall, now a brigadier general. Hall told him that despite his spot promotion he had been passed over by a selection board for a more formal "temporary" promotion to lieutenant colonel. All the former warrant officers, Marine gunners, quartermaster clerks, and pay clerks, said Hall, had been passed over in a block. The pass-over, by a board headed by Jerry Thomas, hurt Jim deeply. He said to Hall (and presumably Vandegrift) that he didn't think he had been spot promoted because he had "guessed right in combat" but "thought it was due to my whole career."

Someone at Headquarters put the matter right, and a temporary promotion came through, backdated to 13 January 1944, the date of his spot promotion.

"The Japanese are a funny people," mused Jim to a *Leatherneck* correspondent while hospitalized. "They do everything they can to keep you from reaching the beach. But once you're ashore, they do everything in their power to see you stay there permanently."

Jim's recovery was slow and he was transferred in September to the hospital at San Diego for more prolonged treatment. His most serious condition was "empyema," pus filling the lung cavity. As much as two cups of fluid would be drained off at a time. The doctors then tried treatment with the new drug, penicillin, and the infection subsided. He was released from the



*From a family collection of photos, one in which LtCol Crowe, in postwar service, has lost some hairline, retained his red mustache, and is about to become a student. LtCol Orme Simpson would be Crowe's unofficial tutor for Quantico's AWS Senior Course.*

hospital in March 1945, his weight down to 150 pounds. He received the Purple Heart with Gold Star for his wounds.

FOR THE LAST MONTHS of the war he served as training officer at Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, headquarters on Oahu. At the war's end he was sent out to China to join the 29th Marines, 6th Marine Division, at Tsingtao. Col William J. 'Bill' Whaling, another oldtime shooter, had the regiment. He made Jim the regimental inspector with additional duty as regimental mess officer. Whaling's feeling was that Jim had been out in China before and knew how to handle the Chinese.

Jim's stay in China was short. In January 1946 he was transferred to Marine Garrison Forces in Hawaii where he was executive officer for the 14th District rifle and pistol matches there. In March he moved to San Diego for the Western Division Matches. From the Western Division Matches he went to Quantico to run the All-Marine Matches.

In September 1947 he was assigned to the Senior Course, Amphibious Warfare School (today's Command and Staff College). The Quantico schools, both staff and student body, were filled with luminaries of distinguished records, most of them university or Naval Academy gradu-

ates. As an ex-warrant officer with only part of a high school education, Jim felt himself under terrific pressure. He studied hard, perhaps too hard, and he began to

*The mustache is gone and LtCol Crowe is married to the former Mona Quell of Appleton, Wisconsin. The couple cuts the cake as friend Irene Sylvester looks on. Best man was LtCol William K. Jones, fellow battalion commander at Tarawa and Saipan.*



get "U"s for "unsatisfactory" in his examinations.

HIS OLD FRIEND, LtCol Orme Simpson, was an instructor in logistics and Jim assigned him, without a word of request or inquiry, as his tutor for the next nine months. "It was quite an experience," remembers Gen Simpson. As could be expected, Jim always fought the "school solution."

However, Jim learned to relax and under Orme Simpson's tutelage began getting "S"s and "A"s. He found the school a great professional experience.

In addition to being a good story teller, Jim was an accomplished mimic. His impersonation of a "General Visiting the Front Lines" was a party favorite, as was his imitation of Frankenstein's monster.

FOR MOST OF THESE YEARS Jim lived fully the life of a carefree bachelor. There had been an earlier, failed marriage. Now he courted and won Mona Quell of Appleton, Wisconsin. LtCol Bill Jones, his early protege and fellow battalion commander at Tarawa and Saipan, was best man at their wedding in the Post Chapel in Quantico. MajGen Julian Smith, who had commanded the 2d Marine Division



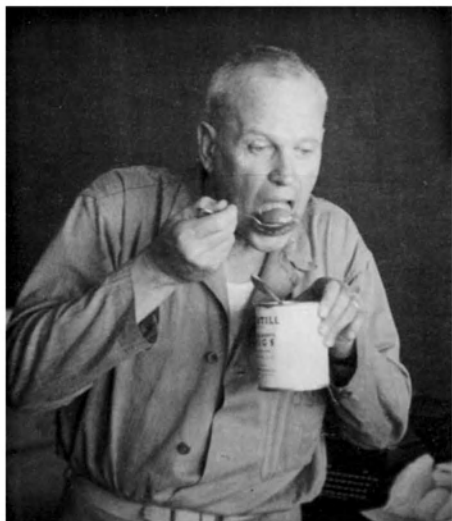
at Tarawa, gave the bride away. Says now-LtGen Jones, "It was and is the only time I saw Jim frightened." Jim and Mona would have seven children, three girls and four boys.

Jim fancied himself a master cook (stemming no doubt from his many experiences as a mess sergeant and mess officer), although his menu was limited. One cold winter Saturday at Quantico, he invited Orme Simpson, whose wife was away, to have dinner with him and Mona. Jim had made a great pot of stew. After too many martinis, they sat down to dinner. The stew was excellent and the conversation animated. About halfway through the meal, Jim excused himself. Orme assumed he was making a head call. He and Mona finished the stew and a dessert she had made. Jim still had not returned and Orme was a bit concerned. "If you are looking for Jim," said Mona, "he's gone to bed. He does that, you know."

Later Jim went on the wagon or was put on it. He immediately became the most vocal advocate of total abstinence on the part of everybody.

FROM QUANTICO, Jim went to Camp Lejeune to work with the battalion of the 6th Marines which was to be assigned to range duty at Camp Perry. After the 1948 National Matches he was transferred in January 1949 to the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton where he was the Special Services Officer, "passing out tennis balls," for a year and a half.

*Also from the family scrapbook, former mess sergeant and mess officer Col Crowe samples fruit straight from the can. The "old warhorse" was headed for Korea duty.*



*After Korea came a chance to "make it in the movies." On the set of Battle Cry, from left, are BGen James P. Riseley, USMC; actor Aldo Ray; Col Crowe, technical advisor to director Raoul Walsh; MajGen John T. Selden, USMC; and actor Tab Hunter.*

MajGen Graves B. Erskine, the "Flamethrower," had the division. After sorely trying Jim with the Special Services assignment, Erskine gave him command of the shore party battalion.

War with North Korea came in June 1950 and Commanding Officer, 1st Shore Party Battalion, proved to be a key position for the mountout from Camp Pendleton of the 1st Marine Division, now under command of MajGen Oliver P. "O. P." Smith, followed by the loading out from Japan for the landing at Inchon.

The big problem at Inchon on D-Day, 15 September 1950, was getting the LSTs in on the high tide, getting them unloaded, and then back out on the next high tide. Shore party troops were to initiate unloading at the objective. Jim landed with the first of the LSTs to beach on Red Beach and per orders assumed control of shore party activities on Beaches Red and Green.

INCHON WAS FOLLOWED by the drive of the 1st Marine Division on the South Korean capital of Seoul, including the crossing of the Han River. The Shore Party Battalion would control the IVT and DUKW traffic across the Han River after the assault crossing by the 5th Marines on 20 September. Momentarily the next day it looked as though the North Koreans would counterattack to regain Kimpo airfield. With the infantry gone forward, the

old warhorse, Jim Crowe, was designated the coordinator of the defense.

The capture of Seoul was followed by the administrative across-the-beach landing of the 1st Marine Division at Wonsan. Tactically insignificant (the North Koreans had already abandoned the city), the Wonsan landing was a major logistical effort. After the division moved north, Jim's Shore Party Battalion stayed in place to assist in the landing of the 3d Infantry Division, commanded by MajGen Robert H. Soule, USA, whom Jim thought one of the finest men he ever met. He was less fond of the X Corps commander, MajGen Edward M. Almond, USA, whom he found "haughty."

From 2 to 10 December, Jim's battalion had charge of the evacuation of Wonsan, in effect, a rehearsal for the larger evacuation of Hungnam. Altogether, 3,834 troops (mostly Army), 7,009 Korean civilians, 1,146 vehicles, and 10,013 bulk tons of cargo were taken off the beach.

FOR KOREA, Jim received Legions of Merit from both the Army and the Marine Corps. He returned to the States in May 1951 and was assigned to the Troop Training Unit at Coronado with a promotion to colonel in July. After a year and a half at Coronado he was transferred to the Recruit Depot at San Diego and given command of the Headquarters and Service Battalion. Along the way he went before a physical evaluation board. There was



*In his twilight tour as commander of Marine Barracks, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Col Crowe, at left, reviewed troops along with the commanding general of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, LtGen Joseph C. Berger, USMC, center, and an unidentified naval officer. Crowe stayed after retirement, becoming police chief of Portsmouth, Virginia.*

a cancer but he beat it and was found fit for full duty.

During this time he served for some months as technical advisor for the company of "Battle Cry," the motion picture based on the novel by World War II Marine Leon Uris. The studio treated him royally, with a new car to drive and a bungalow at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel complete with a well-stocked bar, but by this time Jim had stopped drinking altogether. Much of the "combat" action was filmed at Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. Raoul Walsh was the director. Van Heflin was one of the stars, and after a rocky start they became close friends. Others in the cast were James Whitmore (himself a Marine), Tab Hunter, Fess Parker, and Aldo Ray. Jim liked them all. Later he would get to act in the John Wayne classic, "Sands of Iwo Jima," playing himself.

Altogether, four years were spent at San Diego, partially because of his cancer. When it came time to leave San Diego, he chose Marine Barracks, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, Virginia, a Marine post since 1807, for what he knew would be his twilight tour.

One of his duties was to see to it that the traditional gun was fired at 2100, a custom begun in 1866 during the troublesome Reconstruction days to signal the evening curfew. In addition to guarding the shipyard, Jim's command included the East Coast Sea School and security for the Naval Ammunition Depot at St. Julien's Creek.

RELATIONS BETWEEN the barracks and Portsmouth, a city of more than 100,000 persons, were poor and Jim set about to improve them. He did so well that, even before retirement in February 1960, he was offered the position of police chief. He would serve as such for nine years until his second retirement, at age 70, in 1969.

"Exactly the man you would want on your left or right in combat," summed up Gen Simpson. "His education by conventional standards of books and degrees was poor indeed, but of those things required to make a truly great Marine: magna cum laude."

Twenty years later, on 9 November 1989, a new mess hall in the 8th Marines' regimental area at Camp Lejeune was named for Colonel Henry P. Crowe, the regiment's one-time mess officer. It was an extraordinary honor. Marine Corps facilities are not ordinarily named for living persons, but Gen Alfred M. Gray, then the Commandant, made an exception for the 90-year-old Jim Crowe.

Col William C. Chamberlain, who as a major had been the executive officer of Jim's battalion at both Tarawa and Saipan, says: ". . . I shall always remember Jim Crowe carrying a shotgun and striding along the beach at Tarawa, his waxed mustache bristling . . . His steady steps imparted courage to all who saw him. He is gone now, but that's how I shall always remember my commander and friend, striding along the beach." □1775□

## 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 Sherrrod, LtGen Ormond R. Simpson, and Maj Richard T. Spooner. EHS

# Legendary 'Jim' Crowe Seemed 'Born to Be a Marine'

*At 41, Crowe Still a 'Top Gun'*

Your Part I of "Remembering the Legendary 'Jim' Crowe" (*Fortitudine*, Winter 1991-1992) was forwarded to me by my old friend, LtGen Ormond R. Simpson, USMC (Ret). Gen Simpson remembered that I was with Jim Crowe on the USMC National Rifle Team squad in 1940.

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed photo of Jim Crowe taken at Camp Perry, Ohio, during the National Matches in 1940 . . . The "Match Report" is forwarded to affirm Jim's presence with the National Team in 1940 and, on the second page, you can see that Jim, at the age of 41, was still a "top gun": he came in 13th out of 40 Marines who fired in a team match with the U.S. Infantry, Coast Guard, Cavalry, and other teams.



*Marksmanship Crowe takes aim at the 1940 National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.*

After 1940 I next met Jim on American Samoa in 1942 when I was CO of the 3d Marines Regimental Weapons Company. Jim was a major and was CO of 8th Marines Regimental Company. I and my company relieved Jim's command "on station." Jim and I were tent-mates until the 8th Marines left Samoa and joined the battle on Guadalcanal. I remember distinctly that although Jim was a distinguished rifle and pistol shot, his favorite sidearm was a repeating shotgun.

Col Edwin L. Hamilton, USMC (Ret)  
San Diego, California

## *Few Measure Up and None Surpass*

Enthusiastically enjoyed your coverage of Jim Crowe. . . . He was never restrained or weighed down as most of us are by the abiding instinct for self-preservation. . . . I last heard from him probably about ten

years ago when he called me from the San Francisco airport on his way to visit some relative in Los Angeles. Time did not permit me to visit with him but he said he was in good shape and he refused to concede that Father Time might be catching up with him. There were few Marines who could measure up to him that I know of, and none who could surpass him. He seemed to be born to be a Marine . . . .

I noted you had received information for your very interesting recollections from one Col William Chamberlain. . . . I remember well disembarking from an amtrac on the beach at Saipan. It was LtCol Larry Hayes' amtrac and he was CO of the 1st Bn, 8th Marines (Jim Crowe was CO, 2d Bn, 8th Marines, wounded on the first day) and the 1st Bn was in the second wave. I was the "Shore Party" officer for the 1st Bn. As I struggled to remove my carbine from its plastic sheath, I looked up and saw staring at me a Japanese rifleman who was not 30 feet away, rising up out of a foxhole located in a tree line just above the beach. He shouldered a weapon; I will never forget his face, he looked frightened, and about that time I caught the attention of a passing BAR man who was accompanying then-Maj Chamberlain and he gave my adversary a short burst . . . . I observed Maj Chamberlain, who had landed with the first wave, and he was striding confidently and forcefully up and down that beach with artillery and mortar shells landing all around him, with his 45 Colt automatic unharnessed, shouting and demanding that debarking Marines get up and off the beach . . . and move inland. . . . How he survived that barrage on that beach remains a mystery to me. I have never witnessed a more courageous display of intestinal fortitude . . . .

J. Fred Haley  
Oakland, California

## *Could Today's Corps Abide Crowe?*

I have just read Part I of your "Remembering 'Jim' Crowe." . . . I am much pleased that you are doing this. It would be a shame if the deeds of Jim Crowe were to simply fade away as those of us who knew him do. He was my friend and I cherish his memory . . . . I wonder if the

Corps of 1992 could tolerate him—or he the present-day Corps.

LtGen Ormond R. Simpson, USMC (Ret)  
Bryan, Texas

## *For Badge, It's a Matter of Points*

There are . . . errors on page 4 ("Remembering the Legendary 'Jim' Crowe," *Fortitudine*, Winter 1991-1992) regarding the requirements for Distinguished Badges. The information given was apparently taken from Appendix B of Major (now Colonel, Retired) Barde's *The History of Marine Corps Competitive Marksmanship*, which was correct when published. In 1963 the three medal requirement was replaced by a requirement to earn 30 points (see MCO 3591.2-).

There are minor differences among the armed services pertaining to the circumstances under which points from various sources may be used. The Army, through the Office of the Director, Civilian Marksmanship, administers Distinguished awards to civilians, and there are minor differences for them also. Generally, medals and points are awarded to the top 10 percent of non-Distinguished competitors in each of the authorized matches. Of that 10 percent, the top one-sixth receive gold medals and/or 10 points, the next one-third receive silver medals and/or 8 points, and the remaining one-half receive bronze medals and/or six points. Competitors still refer to "legs" and "leg matches," but now might have to earn as many as five for a Distinguished Badge.

Attached is a chart showing source of medals or points and special requirements for Marines from 1908 to now. I developed this chart while engaged in research to update Col Barde's work. There are points

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS	1908-1910	1911-1915	1916-1920	1921-1925	1926-1930	1931-1935	1936-1940	1941-1945	1946-1950	1951-1955	1956-1960	1961-1965	1966-1970	1971-1975	1976-1980	1981-1985	1986-1990	1991-1995	1996-2000	SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS		
																				3 MEDALS	30 POINTS	
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which deserve additional study. I have been unable to find information on the Expert Team Rifleman Award. The Office of the Chief of Naval Operations advised that many old records were "lost" upon the retirement of a longtime employee. The notation for 1921-1939 regarding the National Trophy Team Match may not be totally correct. I had correspondence from Col Walter Walsh, USMC (Ret), which caused me to infer that for at least 1937-1939, the Marine team must place in the class of regular service teams in order for the firing members to earn a "leg."

Col William L. Dickens, USMCR (Ret)  
Birmingham, Alabama

### *Where Was Gen Collins in Crisis?*

When I was reading the Fall 1991 issue of *Fortitudine* . . . I noted that Gen "Rip" Collins had died in October. I was surprised to read in the obituary that "he played an important role as chief of staff of Joint Task Force 4 at Fort Monroe during the Cuban Missile Crisis." The reason for my surprise is that he was my immediate superior at Guantanamo Bay with the Ground Defense Force during most, if not all, of the Missile Crisis.

I was CO of the 6th Marines at the time and had been flown to Vieques a couple of weeks earlier with my regimental headquarters . . . to set up an amphibious landing exercise for the 2d MarDiv. While there on the date of President Kennedy's speech, I was given a radio directive by then-Col Jonas Platt, G-3 of the division, to move my headquarters by air the next morning to Gitmo to take over the Ground Defense Force . . . , a uniquely composed force, i.e., three battalions, each from a different regiment, under still another regimental headquarters. No matter—everything meshed quickly and our defensive positions were established with dispatch. Gen Collins was certainly there, resplendent in shiny helmet and boots . . . Perhaps he was with JTF 4 before or after his stay there.

Col Robert W. L. Bross, USMC (Ret)  
Atlantic Beach, Florida

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The obituary should have made it clear that Gen Collins served as Chief of Staff, Joint Task Force 4, from March 1961 until August 1963, except for the critical first eight weeks of the Cuban crisis in the fall of 1962, during which time he was Commanding General, Ground Forces, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.*

## Nominations Sought For Museum Award

The Marine Corps Historical Foundation has announced competition for the 1992 Magruder Award.

The Magruder Award was established in memory of the late Col John H. Magruder III, USMCR, for excellence in depicting Marine Corps history in exhibits, displays, or living history in a museum or similar setting.

Col Magruder was the founder of the modern Marine Corps Museum at Quantico in 1960. The museum was noted for its handsome, accurate, and state-of-the-art exhibits.

The award may be made to an individual, a group, or an institution or organization, for a single exhibit or display, a series of exhibits or displays, or consistent achievement over a period of time. It is recognized by an engraved bronze plaque and a cash presentation from the Magruder Award Fund.

Past awards have been made to a junior high school history class for a diorama of the Tawara landing; to a city museum for an exhibit on a local World War I Marine; to a living history group portraying a 1798 Marine detachment on the frigate USS *Constitution*; the Guadalcanal Memorial Museum in Kalamazoo, Michigan; and the MCRD San Diego Museum Historical Society.

Nominations for the Magruder Award should include photographs of the exhibit or other form of entry, the interpretive text, and any newspaper or other publicity.

The nomination should be sent prior to 30 August to:

Awards Committee  
Marine Corps Historical Foundation  
P.O. Box 420  
Quantico, Virginia 22134

### *Men It Honors Like 'Iwo Memorial'*

Many thanks for your excellent review of the book on the Iwo Memorial ("Does Book on Iwo Jima Memorial Bash a Marine Icon?", *Fortitudine*, Winter 1991-1992). "Artistically appalling" is what one "art critic" called the statue—probably because you can tell what it is commemorating, and the men it honors like it. Such people haven't the talent to create anything beautiful or moving. So they create the bizarre and have the gall to call it art and tell the layman it is beautiful. If he doesn't think so he just hasn't developed the proper appreciation.

Eugene Sledge  
Montevallo, Alabama

### *Right Troops, Wrong Division*

As a devoted reader of *Fortitudine* I've got to point out a discrepancy with your Winter 1991-1992, Number 3 issue. On

page 9, you caption a picture with "Second Division Marines . . ." The Marines shown are from Company E, 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, at that time part of Task Force Ripper. We were on our way to listen to General Gray speak to us in Saudi Arabia. We fought as part of the 1st Marine Division. I point this out as a matter of unit pride. I would compare Company E with any unit that was ever in combat—we earned our right to stand tall among the tallest.

Capt A. R. Sinnott, USMC  
Former CO, E/2/7

### *Silver Star Rewarded Pearl Rescue*

Re the trivia quiz in the fall [1991] issue of *Fortitudine*, re Maj Shapley [as described in the answer to Question 5, on page 11]: It's my understanding that the man saved is Earl Nightingale.

Col John A. Gunn, USMCR (Ret)  
Santa Ana, California

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Cpl Earl C. Nightingale, USMC, in a statement dated 15 December 1941, detailed his rescue by Maj Alan Shapley after both Marines were blown overboard from the explosion which crippled the USS Arizona.*

### Historical Quiz

#### Code Names of World War II Operations

by Lena M. Kaljot  
Reference Section

**M**ATCH THE FOLLOWING World War II operations with their original code names:

1. This operation resulted in the capture and occupation of Tulagi and Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands (1942).
2. The assault on Tarawa Atoll was the most vital part of this operation, the seizure of the Gilbert Islands (1943).
3. The objectives for this operation were the Kwajalein and Majuro Atolls, Marshall Islands (1944).
4. This United States campaign plan tentatively outlined operations to be conducted in the Central Pacific in 1944 along with timetable.
5. This United States operation led to the capture of the Mariana Islands (1944).
6. In this operation, the goal was seizure of the Palau Islands (1944).
7. The plans for the recapture of the Southern Philippines were known by this code name (1945).
8. This operation forced the capitulation of Iwo Jima, Japan (1945).
9. This operation began with the landing on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, Japan, in 1945.
10. In the fall of 1945, this Allied operation was projected to take control of the island of Kyushu, Japan.

(Answers on page 16)

## Imperfect Solutions

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

THE MARINE CORPS MUSEUM was a long time in the making. Good intentions but false starts, inadequate funding, inappropriate subordination, command indifference, and lack of a professional museological approach doomed early attempts.

It was not until 1954 that a museum began to be organized that met the criteria for effectiveness. The then-Commandant, Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., brought to active duty Reserve Maj John H. Magruder III, an artist with a historical bent and with a great many useful naval family connections, for the purpose of establishing a museum.

### What Makes it a Museum?

What were the criteria for museum effectiveness that were so lacking? According to the recognized professional authority for museums, the American Association of Museums (AAM), they are defined as follows:

A non-profit *permanent* establishment, . . . open to the public . . . , for the purpose of *conserving and preserving, studying, interpreting, assembling, and exhibiting* to the public for its *instruction* and enjoyment objects and specimens of *educational and cultural value*, including *artistic, scientific, historical, and technological* material.

The operative words in our case are emphasized in the definition.

The purpose and mission of the Marine Corps Museum, as set forth in Marine Corps Order P5750.1, *Manual for the Ma-*

*rine Corps Historical Program*, parallels the AAM definition, focusing on our specific needs.

We collect and preserve objects of educational and cultural value pertaining to the Marine Corps including art, historical memorabilia and documents, and technological artifacts such as weapons, aircraft, and vehicles. We exhibit these for the instruction of our public—Marines.

### Military Museums Date from Antiquity

Military museums are not only a feature of modern times but also may predate the earliest general museum, that of Ptolemy in Alexandria, Egypt, about 290 B.C. Greek warriors in antiquity, after a victory in battle, would display captured trophies on a pole erected on a hilltop or hang them from a prominent tree. Both Greeks and Romans often deposited such war booty in temples where they could be viewed by the citizens.

The very word “museum” comes from the Greek. Ptolemy established a center of learning dedicated to the muses, the nine Greek sister goddesses presiding over the arts and sciences. The Greek word for the house of the muses was *mouseion*, hence museum.

In medieval times captured arms and banners, trophies from the crusades, as well as a lord’s own outdated weapons, were displayed in his castle’s great hall. Beginning with the Renaissance, the nobility often became collectors of art and curiosities. These were housed in a “cabinet” or special room where they could be admired by visitors.

The largest military cabinet of all was

assembled by Baron Wrangel, field commander of Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus, at the baron’s castle, Skokloster. There he formed a remarkable collection of arms, including all the technological innovations in firearms of 17th-century Europe. The collection was backed up by an extensive research library of historical, scientific, and technological books of the time. The entire collection may be viewed today at Skokloster.

Formal museums were created in the 18th century when the picture gallery in the Palais de Luxembourg in Paris opened to the public in 1750 and the British Museum in London in 1753. In America, the Charleston Museum was founded in 1773 and Charles Willson Peale’s Philadelphia museum in 1794.

### America’s First Military Museum

Upon Benjamin Franklin’s death in 1790, his nephew, Jonathan Williams, took over the leadership of Franklin’s American Philosophical Society. Twelve years later President Thomas Jefferson established the Military Academy at West Point. He appointed then-Maj Jonathan Williams as its first superintendent. Six months later Williams formed the United States Military Philosophical Society (USMPS) and modeled it on his Uncle Benjamin’s American Philosophical Society.

The society was formed at West Point, which was run by officers of the Corps of Engineers, although meetings also were held at Washington, Philadelphia, and New York City. One of the first members was President Thomas Jefferson. Former president John Adams was a member, as was Chief Justice John Marshall. Numbers of prominent citizens as well as senior Army and Navy officers became members. Franklin Wharton, Commandant of the Marine Corps, was a member, as was future commandant Archibald Henderson. Hero of Derna, Tripoli, Marine Lt Presley N. O’ Bannon, was a member, as were many other Marine officers. And so was diplomat William Eaton, who had accompanied O’ Bannon to Tripoli.

Although the word “museum” was not



Then-LtCol Nihart in 1956

*The author, Col Franklin Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret), Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums for most of the past 19 years, retired on 1 July. Part II of his “History of the Marine Corps Museums” will appear in the summer issue of Fortitudine. In the mid-1970s, he also served as editor of Fortitudine and, since its inception, wrote more than 80 articles for this Bulletin of the Marine Corps Historical Program. Col Nihart, who holds the Navy Cross from combat in Korea, has a total of nearly 50 years of Marine Corps active-duty, Reserve, and civil service. The current collections of the Marine Corps Museums in Washington and at Quantico reflect his outstanding accomplishments in acquisition and stewardship over the past two decades.—The Editor*

used in its prospectus nor in the USMPS constitution and by-laws, it met most of today's criteria for museums. The prospectus soliciting membership stated the society's purpose thusly:

With a view to collect and preserve the Military Science which must still exist among the Veterans of our Revolutionary Contest, and those of our Fellow Citizens, who may have gathered Scientific Fruits in the course of their Travels, The Corps of Engineers have, under the Auspices of the President of the United States, commenced an institution for the purpose of establishing and perpetuating a Repository so evidently beneficial to our Country.

The words "collect and preserve" and "perpetuating a repository" validate the society's purpose as a museum. Note also the implied extraction of "lessons learned" from veterans of the Revolution as well as current military information from members.

Chapter VIII of the society's constitution is titled, "Of the Duties of the Keeper of the Cabinet." They are set forth in this way:

The Keeper of the Cabinet shall receive and have in his charge and custody, all the Productions of Nature, and Works of Art . . . . He shall arrange them according to their respective classes . . . . He shall also, in a Book to be kept by him, register the various articles in classes corresponding to the arrangements of the articles . . . with the descriptions that may accompany the article, the donor's name, the place whence taken, and time when presented . . . . He shall attend to the exhibition of the articles in his custody . . . .

The museum functions of acquisition, accessioning, registration, and cataloging, are set forth. Custody over, and security of, the collection is covered. Exhibition of articles in the collection is called for, although not to the public. Finally, while interpretation, as such, is not mentioned, the intent of the collection clearly is educational for both professional and citizen soldier members.

Minutes of the January 1808 meeting of the USMPS at the War Office in Washington reveal that Captain of Engineers George Bomford was Keeper of the Cabinet, and that he accepted several donations. One was a Spanish carbine received as a gift by Capt Zebulon Pike from his Spanish cavalry escort during his "Great Reconnaissance" of the Southwest. Another was from Lt John R. Fenwick, Adjutant of the Marine Corps, who presented his translation of a French horse artillery manual.

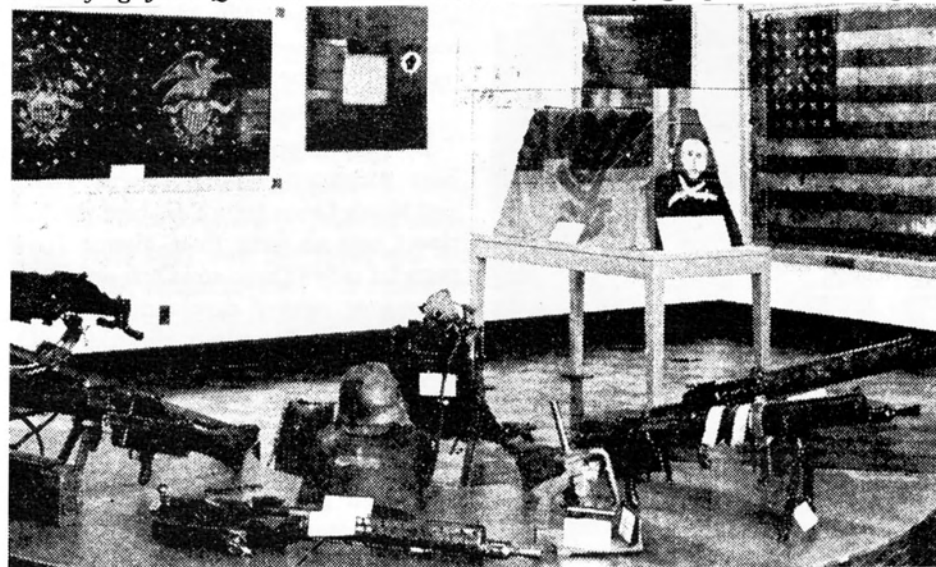
Unfortunately, the Second War of American Independence, the War of 1812, interrupted the promising development of the society and scattered its members. Efforts to revive the society after the war were unsuccessful.

#### Toward a Marine Corps Museum

No direct connection has been discovered between Archibald Henderson, USMPS member and Commandant from 1820 to 1859, and later efforts to create a museum for the Corps. There may have been an institutional memory of sorts among surviving Navy and Marine officer members of USMPS that caused President James K. Polk in 1849 to order a permanent display of flags, standards, and colors taken by the Navy from its enemies in time of war. It took President Harry S. Truman, almost 100 years later in 1946, to modify Polk's order and direct that those trophies taken by the Marine Corps be displayed at Quantico.

Preoccupation with the Civil War and with helping the Navy police the seas

*A 1940s open exhibit at Little Hall offered, front, captured World War I German weapons and, rear, Marine Corps flags from the Mexican and Civil Wars, the signal flag used by Sgt John Quick at Guantanamo, and Sandino's flag captured in Nicaragua.*



against piracy and slavery, as well as the small size of the Corps, precluded any interest in a museum until 1888. In that year, the Military and the Naval Affairs Committees of the House of Representatives passed a resolution calling on the Secretaries of the two departments, "to inform . . . what collections suitable to be embodied in a national military and naval museum are now in existence in their respective Departments . . ." Extensive lists of material dating back to the French and Indian War were submitted and became part of the *Congressional Record*. Regrettably, nothing seems to have resulted from this initiative despite the vast quantity of quality historical material available. Much of the Army material listed still exists in the West Point, Springfield Armory, Rock Island Arsenal, and other Army museums. Interestingly, among Navy listings were items in a Navy museum in the Washington Navy Yard. Old maps of the yard in the late 19th century show a museum building near the location of today's sick bay. The Marine Corps reported to the secretary that it had no historical items to offer. In 1890, perhaps as a delayed reaction to the Congressional interest, there was a move to form a museum at Marine Barracks Washington, but the suggestion came to naught.

#### Post-World War I

In August 1918 the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum wrote the Secretaries of Army and Navy requesting one each of all uniforms, insignia, personal



equipment, and heavier gear. This acquisition, added to military holdings from Gen George Washington's uniforms and camp equipment, to World War I, forms the core of the Smithsonian's military collections. As an extension of this effort, *The Marines Magazine*, in 1921, noted that at the Smithsonian, the Marine Corps exhibited the 12 different uniforms Marines had worn at the time of World War I along with the colors of the 5th and 6th Marines and the 1st Marine Aviation Force which had served in France.

A team led by Capt, later Commandant, Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., had visited France after World War I to survey Marine battlefields. The survey resulted in a large tabletop terrain model of Belleau Wood which was exhibited at the Smithsonian until World War II. The model came complete with a retired Marine who had lost an arm at Belleau Wood. With his good arm equipped with a pointer he would lecture visitors on the battle.

In 1927 Marines were back in action with a brigade fighting in Nicaragua and others in Haiti and China. This surge of activity caused *Leatherneck Magazine* to

*Little Hall mannequin wears an 1890s Marine officer's full dress next to a Capolino painting of Spanish-American War battle.*



plead editorially, "Why shouldn't the Marine Corps have a museum of its own?" All the usual arguments in favor of a museum were set forth—the 150 years of Corps history should be told; plenty of artifacts and documents in the hands of Marines and former Marines as well as "in commanding officers' offices where no one but offenders saw them"; and so forth. Philadelphia, birthplace of the Corps, was advanced as a suitable location. The editor, 1stLt Carl Gardner, called for suggestions and artifacts.

With most of the Marine Corps overseas making new history, nothing more was heard of the idea until late the following year when *Leatherneck* reported that the citizens of Tientsin, China, had presented BGen Smedley D. Butler a ceremonial umbrella and banner for his brigade's peacekeeping efforts in North China. Editorially, *Leatherneck* again called for a museum in which to deposit such historic treasures. The same arguments as before were repeated and Philadelphia once again was suggested as an appropriate location. The editor added that Washington might be better because of the large number of tourists.

In 1929, it was mentioned in the *Marine Corps Gazette* that in the Historical Section at Headquarters reposed the sword of former Commandant Jacob Zeilin and the flag carried in the November 1861 landing on Hilton Head, South Carolina. Here were the makings of a museum exhibit, but nothing happened. We have Zeilin's sword on exhibit at the Museum today but the Hilton Head flag seems to have disappeared. With the financial crisis and crash of 1929 followed by the Great Depression and reduced budgets, the museum idea seems to have been forgotten for the time being.

#### Getting Organized in the 1930s

By the early 1930s the brigades had been withdrawn from Nicaragua, Haiti, and North China, which enabled the Marine Corps to form Fleet Marine Force brigades at San Diego and Quantico. With these long awaited developments in the works and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Navy rebuilding program underway, thoughts again turned to museums.

Marine Corps historian LtCol Edwin N. McClellan answered a query from the Commandant about a proposed Navy-Marine Corps museum in a planned new

Navy Department building. McClellan confirmed the Navy's intent but pointed out that another site was being advocated near the Naval Hospital, then at 23d and Constitution Avenue, and the Lincoln Memorial. He said the second plan included a new nearby dock on the Potomac to which the historic ships *Constitution*, *Constellation*, *Hartford*, and (Adm Dewey's flagship) *Olympia* would be tied. The Navy, he further stated, planned to raise \$1 million for this museum. He went on to point out that the new Navy Department building was at least 25 years away, would not provide enough room for a proper museum, and, in any event, the museum would be evicted in wartime when more office space was needed. However, he observed, we should cooperate with the Navy in the venture and should begin to identify and collect historical relics now. He went on to list the objects in possession of the Historical Branch. A check of today's museum holdings reveals that about a quarter of these objects are no longer in the collection. Obviously these Navy sponsored proposals did not materialize and the Marine Corps was still without a museum.

In 1933, no doubt advocated by LtCol McClellan, the Commandant issued Circular Letter No. 133 (circular letters then were the equivalent of today's ALMARs) directing the Commanding General, Marine Barracks, Quantico to establish a room for "War trophies and other things of historical importance as photographs, flags, firearms, swords, etc." A further object of the letter was stated to inform those who have things to donate and enjoined them to include a short description giving the object's history. This enjoiner remains museum policy almost 60 years later. The following year the *Marine Corps Gazette* referred to "133" and suggested that the trophy room be in the form of a replica of Tun Tavern to be built out of post exchange profits.

Later in 1934 the Commandant, Maj-Gen John H. Russell, was reported in the *Army and Navy Journal* to say that a museum would be built at Quantico by Marines with \$40,000 from the PX. The Tun Tavern still may have been under consideration, as the article mentioned that a replica of the tavern had been built at Philadelphia for the Marines' exhibit at the 1926 Sesquicentennial Exposition.

These plans did not materialize, but

meanwhile, Col C. B. Taylor, CO of Marine Barracks, Washington, at 8th and I Streets, was reported in *Leatherneck* to be organizing a museum and had issued a call for donations of historical material. Col Taylor had the advantage of having an existing building available, an essential then, as now, for a low-budget museum. He would use the band auditorium (now Sousa Hall), as many people attended concerts there. Donations were received and LtCol McClellan's collection at the Historical Branch was lent to the Barracks and put on exhibit.

#### The 1940s—Finally a Museum

The fate of Col Taylor's museum at "8th and I" is not known, although most of the historical artifacts mentioned are still in the museum system. They next appear at a museum finally established at Quantico in 1940.

In early 1940, fire razed the post exchange and laundry. Almost immediately, a new "recreation" building was erected containing the PX, theater, bowling alley, hostess house, library, and other facilities. It still stands at Quantico and now is known as Little Hall, for MajGen Louis McCarty Little. On a second-deck passageway between the theater balcony entrance and the library a number of large built-in exhibit cases were provided. Three essentials of a museum were now in hand: a collection (at the Marine Barracks Washington); a building; and secure cases for the display of valuable objects.

The *Quantico Sentry* noted Circular Letter 391, issued a few days before, wherein the Major General Commandant, Thomas Holcomb, ordered the establishment of a museum in the new recreation building. The purpose of the museum was to foster esprit de corps, help build and maintain traditions, and to preserve objects of lasting historical and sentimental interest to the Marine Corps. It was to be located at Quantico, where more Marines than at any other location at the time would have access to it.

LtCol Clyde H. Metcalf, Corps historian, who just the year before had his *A History of the United States Marine Corps* published, was to be the curator. His history was the first complete history of the Corps to be published in more than 50 years. Metcalf's duties were to be in charge of collecting articles for the museum and their preservation, arrangement, and display. Credit was to be given in the cap-

tions to donors as well as any persons with whom the articles were associated. The Commandant appealed to all present and former Marines, their families, and descendants to donate historical objects.

The Commandant noted that several posts and stations had collections of historical objects suitable for exhibit and hoped that the commanding officers would make at least some of them available on loan to the new museum. He also observed that a long-term objective was to have a large enough collection to make loans to posts and stations for exhibit. These purposes, duties, and loan arrangements remain in effect today in the museum system, including loans to command museums and historical displays.

The July 1941 *Leatherneck*, in an article on "The New Quantico," reported on museum development. In addition to the built-in cases, free-standing cases had been procured. A quantity of war trophies, mostly from World War I, stored at the Philadelphia Depot of Supplies, had been added, as had the flags and other objects displayed at Marine Barracks Washington and held at Headquarters. The most colorful acquisition was a series of historical exhibits prepared by the Depot of Supplies for the 1939-1940 Worlds Fair in San Francisco. They included mannequins in reproductions of period uniforms—1810, 1834, Mexican War, Civil War, 1900, and World War I—in front of murals by Marine Corps artist Capt J. J. Capolino illustrating salient events of the periods. After the Fair, the mannequins and reproduction uniforms were returned to the Depot of Supplies, Philadelphia, and when the Depot moved to Albany, Georgia, they were displayed there. These exhibits were installed in the built-in cases while the other material was displayed in the main part of the museum.

#### 1941-1945—A New War, New War Trophies

Marines who served at Quantico during the years 1941 into the 1950s will well recall the museum. They will remember not just the historical uniforms and large Capolino paintings but also the O'Bannon sword, presentation silver of the 4th Marines in Shanghai, German arms and souvenirs from World War I, historic flags, and newly arrived Japanese trophies from the Pacific War.

In late 1942 LtCol Metcalf was ordered overseas and he recommended that there



*In Little Hall, World War I Marine fronts Capolino's painting of the Marines' Meuse River crossing on the last night of the war.*

be "some arrangement for a custodian of the museum." Thereafter, the museum left the immediate oversight of a historian and came under the post recreation officer. However, the Historical Division at Headquarters continued to take a proprietary interest in the museum at Quantico. Two weeks before the Okinawa landing of 1 April 1945, Col John Potts, head of the division, sent a memorandum to the Commandant addressing a number of museum issues. He suggested that Quantico was the wrong location for the museum as it was not accessible to the public generally; he recommended that an "older" NCO or warrant officer be detailed to supervise the care and preservation of exhibits and to keep a proper inventory; he spoke to rotating exhibits in the Headquarters lobby; that BGen Merrit E. Edson, CG of Service Command, was forwarding a quantity of captured Japanese material; and that the Navy was again proposing a large naval museum which would include a Marine Corps segment.

Potts observed that the rotating lobby exhibits suffered from a lack of material

available from the museum, but noted that Public Affairs was installing exhibits from Japanese material sent by public affairs officers in the field. Apparent but unspoken was Potts' irritation at this division of responsibility in the disposition of historically significant captured material. Today the Museums Branch maintains rotating exhibits in Headquarters lobby cases as well as art exhibits in two main-floor galleries. Historical material, including enemy trophies, are required to be screened for acquisition by the Museums Branch registrar.

In the memo's margin appear "OK, AAV" (for A. A. Vandegrift, the Commandant) opposite Potts' recommendation for the assignment of an "older" Marine and his recommendation for participation in the Navy's museum effort. 1stSgt Lowrey A. Weed shortly was appointed curator as the result. Apparently, no more was heard of the Navy's project which turned out to be as abortive as its grandiose proposal of the early 1930s.

In a 1946 letter to Col Howard N. Kenyon, the new head of the Historical Division, Weed reported that upon taking over the post of curator he found matters in a completely chaotic condition. He instituted a thorough reorganization from the bottom up, making an inventory and registering all items by the system in use at the Smithsonian Institution. He noted that he found more than 100 items on which no record existed and that another 100 items, on which there were records, could not be found. Weed further reported that, while everything was up-to-date and shipshape as of 1941, wartime acquisitions would require another 18 months to record and catalog. This experience underscores the necessity of museum records-keeping, as stewardship of valuable and historic properties generally is held as the first task of a museum. 1stSgt Weed did not stay as curator much longer and the museum reverted to the post recreation officer as an unwanted additional duty. One example of what can happen under uninterested and non-professional attention to museum matters is the fate of Gen Shepherd's historic Belleau Wood terrain model. Sent back to the Marine Corps from the Smithsonian, it was dismissed to the post recreation storeroom. In a subsequent "clean-up" and disposal of worn-out athletic gear, it ended up on the post dump.

### An Interim Critique

Here ends a century and a half of either no Marine Corps Museum or an inadequate one, of talk and of misdirected good intentions. The displays on the second deck of Little Hall were a mishmash of great historical material, indifferently presented, and identified with labels but with no overall story line or interpretation placing them in historical context. This was to be corrected by Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd in 1954 when he assembled a permanent, knowledgeable, and dedicated staff with a clearly stated mission.

Some conclusions might be suggested by this 150-year experience, or lack of it. In all fairness it should be recognized that the museum business itself was not well defined or organized in the country during most of this period. Nevertheless, the mission of the "cabinet" and the duties of the "keeper of the cabinet" of the United States Military Philosophical Society had been well set forth as early as 1808. Had these prescriptions been followed, we might have had a museum as early as 1890 when the idea was first floated.

A museum in a military service must have at least the blessing, if not the full support, of the service chief. Gen Vandegrift initialed LtCol Metcalf's memo which got the Little Hall displays in place. But continuity is essential.

When Metcalf deployed overseas the displays fell on hard times. Metcalf was a historian and understood the importance of a historical museum. But Metcalf, like the series of museum advocates before him, perhaps didn't understand the real

purpose of a Marine Corps museum; that is, to teach Marines the history of their Corps, to inspire current Marines to emulate the deeds of those Marines who went before, and to build esprit de corps. Instead, Metcalf and the advocates before him thought the museum should be in Washington or Philadelphia where more of the public could see it. The Quantico recreation department, which took over the museum after Metcalf's transfer, understandably was more interested in the athletic program.

A museum, in one sense, is a supply operation. Storage of valuable and historic artifacts, whether in glass cases on exhibit or in reserve storage behind locked doors, requires accurate and constant records keeping. 1stSgt Weed just about got it right and then was retired with no replacement except for an uninterested special services clerk.

Lack of a museum building or a building convertible to a museum was another deficiency. The band hall at Eighth and Eye Marine Barracks was a possible solution, but we have found no record of how it was used as a museum in its short life. Indeed, the exhibits may have affected the acoustics adversely. The desire for a museum at Quantico repeatedly died aborning for lack of a building until Little Hall was built in 1940. Its second deck foyer provided a suitable location for more than ten years.

In the second part of this museum history we will recount how these misconceptions and deficiencies slowly were overcome. □1775□

### Library Needs 1944 Issues of Leatherneck Magazine

The Marine Corps Historical Center Library is seeking a bound volume of *Leatherneck* magazine for 1944, or copies of the individual issues for that year, to replace a set on hand that is suffering from too much past use. The copies are especially important to the Center during this 50th anniversary period for World War II. Prospective donors should contact the Librarian, Code HDS-3, Marine Corps Historical Center, Building 58, Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-5040.

### *Answers to Historical Quiz*

#### Code Names of World War II Operations

*(Questions on page 11)*

1. Watchtower
2. Galvanic
3. Flintlock
4. Granite
5. Forager
6. Stalemate
7. Victor
8. Detachment
9. Iceberg
10. Olympic



# Band's Historic Uniforms Recorded by Reservist Artist

by Col Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret)

**I**N COOPERATION WITH the Marine Band and the History and Museums Division, LtCol Donna J. Neary, USMCR, has produced another series of Marine uniform paintings. This effort, at the request of Col John R. Bourgeois, Marine Band Director, called for the research and artistic rendering of the uniforms of members of the Marine Band in various historical periods. The four paintings comprising the series are reproduced here. At this time there are no plans to use them as the basis for prints, as was done with Neary's prior uniform paintings.

Paintings and prints of colorful historical uniforms have always been a popular art form. These often meticulously accurate renderings are virtually mandatory decor for military offices and clubs and for individuals' home libraries, dens, and recreation rooms.

The art form, demanding as it does a special interest in military history and its minutiae; an artistic eye for color, the human form, and pleasing composition; and a hand steady enough to render details of tailoring, insignia, and accouterments; has attracted a limited number of artists specializing in this genre. Few are as ac-

*Scarlet-coated bandsmen who accompanied President Lincoln to Gettysburg favored Civil War-era mustaches, brass buttons, and, apparently, gold braid by the yard.*



*Boatmen, left and right, ferried bandsmen in shallow-draft boat, by pole and rope, up the Georgetown Canal to the 1828 groundbreaking for the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.*

complished in the field as LtCol Neary, who is best known in the Marine Corps for her "U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms—1983" and that series companion piece done in the same format, "U.S. Marines in the Middle East—1991."

The 1983 series of 12 paintings were reproduced as a set and distributed widely to the Marine Corps as a colorful supplement to the newly issued edition of *Uniform Regulations*. The set included one print illustrating the Marine Band and the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps. Band Director Col Bourgeois found the band print so attractive that he ordered an extra number printed for use in band publicity and as official gifts.

**T**HE SUCCESS OF this print caused Col Bourgeois to ask for additional paintings of the band. He suggested a series of paintings illustrating band uniforms and instruments in various historical periods. The History and Museums Division mobilized its resources. It requested and got a term of active duty for LtCol Neary. Museum curators Richard A. Long and Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas, both historians of Marine uniforms, were made available. Liaison with the band as well as information on historical band instruments and band history at different periods was provided by Band Librarian MGySgt D. Michael Ressler. When available from his duties as 1st Marine Division historian in the Persian Gulf War, Reserve LtCol Charles Cureton, an authority on 19th





*In 1798, the Marine Corps' first musicians—fifers and drummers—are gathered in front of Philadelphia's Independence Hall in aid of an officer and NCO recruiting team.*

century Marine uniforms, lent his expertise as well.

The ad hoc committee developed a candidate list of six periods with a historical event in each to be illustrated. The periods ranged from a recruiting scene with

the first Marine Corps musicians outside Philadelphia's Independence Hall in 1798 to the Band in the 1905 inaugural parade and a White House garden party in 1928.

The Persian Gulf War intervened just as the project was getting underway. LtCol

Neary was diverted to painting "U.S. Marines in the Middle East—1991" and several other related uniform paintings. As wars have a way of upsetting well-laid plans, this war delayed completion of the band paintings and caused the list of six to be compressed to four as the maximum that could be accomplished by LtCol Neary in her allotted active-duty tour. The final series, in addition to the 1798 scene in Philadelphia, includes the Band in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal groundbreaking ceremony in 1828, with Lincoln at Gettysburg in 1863, and with Director John Philip Sousa on concert tour in Denver in 1891.

The "U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms—1983" sets of prints, required by Marine Corps Order 5750.8 for display by units, continue to be available from History and Museums Division. Marine Corps units and agencies which have print sets and explanatory texts which are faded or otherwise damaged should write or call for replacement sets. The "U.S. Marines in the Middle East—1991" print also is available.

□1775□

## Historians Quiz Marine Operation Commanders At Quantico Conference

*(Continued from page 24)*

THE HIGHLIGHT OF the conference was the keynote event, a session entitled "Joint Operations in the Post-Cold War Era, 1991: Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Operation Sea Angel," held at Ellis Hall on the Quantico base. The session, chaired by BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, brought together the Marine commanders of the operations: LtGen Walter E. Boomer, USMC, and LtGen Henry C. Stackpole III, USMC, to discuss their roles in the Persian Gulf and Bangladesh, respectively. The generals responded to many questions from the floor. At the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, the attendees saw Iraqi mechanized equipment, including tanks, captured during the Persian Gulf War and displayed outside the Museum.

Three featured speakers addressed the meeting: Col Allan R. Millett, USMCR (Ret), of Ohio State University, spoke on "The United States and the Small Wars of

the Early 20th Century: The Current State of Research and Interpretation." BGen Paul K. Van Riper, USMC, Commanding General, 2d Marine Division, addressed the meeting on "The Use of Military History in the Professional Military Education of the Officer Corps." Dr. D. Clayton James of the Virginia Military Institute spoke on the subject of "Eisenhower and MacArthur and Joint, Combined, and Amphibious Operations."

The Society's annual awards for 1992 went to Dr. Russell Weigley of Temple University, for best book, *The Age of Battles: The Quest for Decisive Warfare from Breitenfeld to Waterloo*; and to Sir Michael Howard of Yale University, the Samuel Eliot Morison prize for his lifetime contribution to military history.

THE CONFERENCE'S call for papers resulted in 33 separate sessions, ranging in time and subject from the English attack on Cadiz in 1587 to the Persian Gulf War of 1991.

Among the many papers presented by Marine Corps-affiliated speakers, or dealing with Marine-related topics, were those by Maj Kenneth F. McKenzie, USMC; Dr. Jack Shulimson; Ms. A. Kerry Strong; Maj

Jon T. Hoffman, USMC; Dr. Stephen R. Wise; Dr. Bradley J. Meyer; LtCol Donald F. Bittner, USMCR (Ret); Capt David A. Dawson, USMC; Dr. Norman Cigar; Sgt Leo J. Daugherty III, USMCR; Col J. William Gordon, USMCR; Col Joseph H. Alexander, USMC (Ret); LtCol Merrill L. Bartlett, USMC (Ret); Dr. Dirk A. Ballendorf; Dr. George F. Hofmann; David C. Brooks; and Dr. Phyllis A. Zimmerman.

Among the many panels, one was devoted to the South Atlantic War of 1982 over the Falkland/Malvinas Islands, but from a different perspective than normally presented: that of Argentine ground, naval, and air operations.

THE MARINE CORPS UNIVERSITY plans to publish a collection of selected papers from the 1992 meeting as Volume III of its "Perspective on Warfighting" series. The volume will include the remarks of the three featured speakers, and should be available in April 1993.

Future conferences will be held at the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario, in 1993; at the National Archives, Washington, D.C., in 1994; and at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York, in 1995.

□1775□

# Squadrons' 'History Tally' Aids Hard Downsizing Decisions

by Danny J. Crawford  
Head, Reference Section

**I**N THE SUMMER OF 1991, the largest Marine Corps force deployed for combat since World War II was returning from the Persian Gulf region to victory parades held around the country. There was little time for celebration, however, at Marine Corps headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, as the Corps' leaders shifted their attention to a task almost as challenging as deploying 92,000 Marines to the Middle East.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr., having taken the reins of leadership from Gen Alfred M. Gray, was faced with the problem of how best to shape the Marine Corps of the 90s—a Marine Corps that would be significantly smaller due to fiscally driven force reductions. Throughout the divisions and departments of Headquarters, Marine Corps, attention was focused on force structure research and planning.

Historians of the History and Museums Division's Reference Section were called upon repeatedly during the summer months and throughout the remainder of 1991 to assist with historical research relating to Marine Corps force structure. As much of the force structure planning involved looking at Marine Corps downsizing experiences after the major buildups of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, many requests were received for statistics, tables of organization, and other records for those post-war periods. Numerous action officers, from Headquarters and from Quantico's Warfighting Center, visited the Center's Reference and Archives Sections to obtain needed information.

**A**S THE MARINE CORPS Force Structure Plan began to take shape in the fall of 1991, reference historians were called upon to assist in another facet of force reductions. In late September, the Division received the first of what would be a series of requests from the Deputy Chief of Staff (DC/S) for Aviation, LtGen Duane A. Wills, for assistance in identifying specific Marine Corps squadrons to be deactivated. Two active Marine fighter attack squadrons (VMFAs) had to be deac-

tivated by March 1992, one from each Fleet Marine Force, to meet end strength reduction goals. Historians were asked to review the "squadron history and heritage" of each VMFA with a goal of helping to identify the two squadrons to be deactivated.

The Reference Section, which is responsible for the research and preparation of unit lineage and honors certificates, examined the history and heritage of all 12 Marine fighter attack squadrons, considering such factors as squadron length of service and history, participation in campaigns and operations, and squadron honors, with particular emphasis on award citations. On 2 October 1991, after careful consideration of these factors, the recommendation was made to deactivate VMFA-333 (FMFLant) and VMFA-531 (FMFPac). With the concurrence of the commanding generals of the Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Marine Forces, deactivation instructions were promulgated one week later for the 31 March 1992 deactivation of the two squadrons.

**O**N 11 OCTOBER the Reference Section received its next tasking—to identify one Marine attack squadron (VMA) from FMFLant for deactivation. Force structure plans called for the deactivation of one VMA squadron from FMFLant in October 1992, to be followed by another VMA deactivation from FMFPac two years later. Following the same process that was used in examining fighter attack squadrons, historians reviewed the record of each of the four active AV8B squadrons from Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic. Mindful of LtGen Wills' guidance that "it is imperative that an unbiased, objective view of each squadron occur during the review," the Division recommended that VMA-331 be scheduled for deactivation. Subsequent consultation between DC/S Aviation and CG, FMFLant, focused on both FY92/93 deployment cycles and squadron lineage and honors, and resulted in the designation of VMA 331 as the AV8B squadron for deactivation in Fiscal Year 1993.

Over the next few months, Reference Section continued to provide assistance on

various aviation-related force structure requests including an historical review of eight Marine air control squadrons and an analysis of Light Antiaircraft Missile (LAAM) and Low Altitude Air Defense (LAAD) redesignation and consolidation proposals.

**J**ANUARY 1992 BROUGHT another demanding tasking to the Division. Continuing discussions within the Navy Department concerning the future role of Marine Corps tactical aviation in responding to international crises had focused high-level attention on the record of Marine Corps aviation during the period 1945 to present. The Office of the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps asked the History and Museums Division to compile "a complete and accurate list of all crises which were responded to by USMC TACAIR," whether land-based or carrier-based.

Reference historians reviewed all available sources held by the Division, including earlier studies and listings of Marine Corps post-World War II deployments contained in Reference Section files, as well as command chronologies, operational summaries, and other official records held in the Archives Section. Within one week's time, and with valuable input from the Department of Aviation, a listing of nearly 40 international crises responded to by Marine Corps land-based and carrier-based tactical air units had been compiled. The list covered crises in all parts of the globe and spanned the period from the civil war in China in 1949 to the deployment of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing to the Middle East for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm during 1990-91.

**B**EFORE THE INK had dried on the TACAIR study, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, received a memorandum from LtGen Wills requesting "the assistance of your staff for a one time scrub ranking of all VMFA and VMA squadrons, both active and Reserve in priority of historical significance." The memorandum stated that the earlier HD studies had



“provided unbiased input” identifying squadrons for deactivation based on lineage and heritage, and that future reductions in VMFA and VMA force structure would follow similar methodology. This latest comprehensive ranking of all active and Reserve VMFA/VMA squadrons would give the Aviation Department a ready reference working document for use in identifying units for future deactivation.

Over the next six weeks, a team of three reference historians poured over the records and unit files of the 28 squadrons—units with an average age of more than half a century. In addition to reviewing previous lineage and honors information on each squadron, historians reviewed records of more recent unit awards and the deployment of many of the

squadrons to the Persian Gulf area for Operation Desert Storm.

The difficulties inherent in attempting such a ranking were immediately apparent to the historians, who for a combined 35 years have fielded inquiries about the “most decorated Marine of World War II,” the “best Marine Corps regiment,” and “the greatest Marine of all time.” Just as there is no completely objective way to compare two Medals of Honor with five Navy Crosses, there is no totally satisfactory means by which a historian can compare various unit awards or a unit’s service in a World War II campaign with a year of combat in Vietnam.

**T**HE HISTORIANS proceeded, nevertheless, with compiling, in descending order of historical significance, a six-group

priority listing of all 28 active and Reserve VMA/VMFA squadrons. Individual squadrons also were ranked in descending priority within each group. The listing, of course, represents the relative historical significance of the squadrons at the present time. Participation in future campaigns, and the subsequent awarding of unit citations could affect the priority of the squadrons.

As the Marine Corps continues to move toward its stated Base Force goals during the remainder of this decade, difficult decisions lie ahead. The role of the historian, both in highlighting the lessons of the past and preserving the history and heritage of the Corps’ most illustrious units, remains a distinctive contribution of the History and Museums Division. □1775□

## Distinguished Marine Aircraft Squadrons on Both Coasts Deactivate

**O**N 20 MARCH, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 333 closed the book on nearly 50 years of service in a deactivation ceremony at the “Fighting Shamrocks” hangar at MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina. On hand for the ceremony was the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Carl E. Mundy, Jr.

Later, on 27 March, Marines from past and present gathered at MCAS El Toro, California, to witness the retirement of the colors of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 531, during the “Grey Ghosts” deactivation ceremony. The squadron, with a history that spanned five decades, was originally activated at Cherry Point, North Carolina, on 16 November 1942, as the first Marine night-fighter squadron. The Grey Ghosts shot down numerous enemy planes in the Pacific Theater during World War II, using what were then revolutionary night fighter tactics. Playing a significant role during the Cuban Missile Crisis, VMFA-531 also became the first Marine jet squadron to see combat since the Korean War with the April 1965 deployment to Vietnam.

The 20 March deactivation ceremony ended the distinguished 48-year history of “Trip Trey” which began on 1 August 1943 when the squadron activated as a dive-bomber squadron at Cherry Point. The Shamrocks’ half-century of service culminated in the squadron’s deployment during August 1990 to the Persian Gulf to a remote airfield near the Kuwait Theater of Operations. On 16 January, VMFA-333 received the order to initiate Operation Desert Storm. Over the next two weeks, the Shamrocks flew 216 sorties against various ground targets to include airfields, railroad yards, and command and control facilities.

**A**LL SORTIES WERE FLOWN under a high density climate of antiaircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles. Many of VMFA-333’s pilots were nominated for medals for their



*Shamrocks commander LtCol Benes taxis his F/A-18 in 1991.*

heroic actions during Desert Storm. The Fighting Shamrocks returned home in April 1991.

Speaking of the squadron’s deactivation, LtCol Thomas A. Benes, VMFA-333 commanding officer said, “It’s a tough thing to see take place, because once you’re a Shamrock, you’re always a Shamrock.” Squadron SgtMaj Robert D. Brown noted, “I’ve served with tanks, recon and grunts and this is the most closely knit unit I’ve seen. I served with these Marines in Southwest Asia and I’d be proud to go into combat in any clime or place with them again.”

**A**T THE 27 MARCH CEREMONY at El Toro, LtCol Keith Stalder, commanding officer; LCpl Lorrie Soderquist, the squadron’s newest Marine; and retired LtGen Keith Smith, former VMFA-531 pilot and its oldest alumnus, folded the squadron’s colors.

LtGen Smith, addressing the more than 300 people in attendance said, “I am experiencing the whole range of emotions, from absolute joy to utter sadness. But in my heart I know that the Grey Ghosts will be back; this is just another evolution for them.”

Echoing those sentiments LtCol Stalder added, “I hope this is only a temporary setback for the squadron. I’m pleased that everybody has done such a good job with the transition. This is a very difficult thing to do.” □1775□

## F-4 Phantom II

by Michael E. Starn  
Curator of Aviation

**16** DECEMBER 1991 is a date that Marine pilots will remember for a long time to come, the date that a well-regarded friend retired from active service: the F-4 Phantom II. The Phantom had served many different Marine squadrons, and roles, in its 29 years with the Corps.

In 1953, the Navy began evaluations of four proposed all-weather aircraft: the F3H-E single-engine fighter and F3H-G twin-engine fighter, both from McDonnell, and individual aircraft from Grumman and North American. McDonnell received a let-

ter of intent on 18 October 1954 for two prototypes of the F3H-G. The aircraft designation changed at that time to AH-1.

It was not until April 1955, however, when two officers from the Bureau of Aeronautics (BuAer) and the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) arrived at St. Louis, Missouri, that the final specifications and requirements were set for the aircraft. The requirements stipulated that the aircraft must be a fleet defense fighter which could take off from a carrier, fly to a distance of 250 nautical miles, remain on patrol, in-

tercept intruders, and return to the ship three hours later. Since the aircraft was intended to be a defensive fighter, it would not be required to carry guns but instead Sparrow missiles.

The AH-1 flew for the first time on 27 May 1958, and with a new designation of YF-4H1. Later that same year, Chance Vought approached BuAer with a comparable design, the single-engine F8U-3 Crusader, which also met the design requirements. It was determined that a "fly off" between the two aircraft would take place from 15 September through 10 October 1958. When the fly off was complete, the F4H-1 was declared the winner on 17 December. Its selection was due to two factors: first, it incorporated a two-man crew, making it more effective given the complex weapons systems; and secondly, it used twin engines, which afforded greater survivability in combat and safety in peace.

Eight F4H-1's were built for full testing and evaluation. LtCol Robert J. Barbour had the honor of becoming the first Marine to fly the new Phantom, number three (Bureau Number 143388), which is now located at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum awaiting restoration and installation in the Vietnam display.

The F4H-1 was finally delivered to two Marine squadrons, VMF(AW)-531 and VMF(AW)-314, in early 1962 with the new designation of F4B. In 1965, the Phantom would go into combat with Marines in Vietnam and would continue to serve Marines, as well as the Navy and the Air Force (which is still flying it as the Wild Weasel), through the war in the Middle East.

During its career with the Marine Corps, the Phantom set 16 altitude and climb records. With several different modifications over the years, its roles would include carrier fighter, tactical fighter, strike fighter, and reconnaissance, to name a few. It was credited with approximately 70 percent of all enemy aircraft shot down during the Vietnam War. While the Marine Corps is now closing the active duty file on the Phantom, a new file is being opened on its replacement, the F/A-18 Hornet. □1775□



*Recently gone from Marine Corps rosters are both the F-4 Phantom II and VMFA-531, the squadron here servicing the jet at MCAS EL Toro. Museum F-4 awaits restoration.*

### Technical Data

**Manufacturer:** McDonnell Aircraft Company (Division of McDonnell Douglas Corporation), St. Louis, Missouri

**Type:** Carrier-borne fighter and tactical strike aircraft

**Accommodation:** Pilot and radar intercept officer

**Power Plant:** Two 10,900 pounds of s.t. (17,000 pounds with afterburner) General Electric J79-GE-8B or -8C turbojet

**Dimensions:** Length, 58 feet 3 3/4 inches; wing span 38 feet 4 3/4 inches; Height, 16 feet 3 inches

**Weights:** Empty, 28,000 pounds; Normal take-off, 46,000 pounds; max take-off, 54,600 pounds

**Performance:** Max speed 1,485 mph at 48,000 feet; Initial climb, 28,000 feet/min; service ceiling, 62,000 feet; Combat radius as interceptor, 900 miles

**Armament:** Up to six underwing AIM-7E Sparrow III missiles or four AIM-7E and four AIM-9B or -9D Sidewinder missiles. Up to 16,000 pounds assorted stores on five external strong points

## Part II—April-July 1942

by Robert V. Aquilina  
Assistant Head, Reference Section

**P**ART II OF THE CONTINUING *Fortitudine* chronology on Marine Corps activities during World War II continues with the fall of the Philippines in early 1942, followed by decisive naval engagements in the Coral Sea and at Midway Island. The stage was set in the Pacific Theater by the end of July for the first U.S. offensive of World War II.

**2 Apr**—The first flight echelon of Marine Aircraft Group 13 (MAG-13) arrived at Tutuila and assumed the air defense of the American Samoa area.

**3 Apr**—Adm Chester W. Nimitz, USN, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet (CinCPac), was confirmed also as Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Ocean Area, (CinCPOA), to comprise the North, Central, and South Pacific.

**9 Apr**—MajGen Edward King, Jr., USA, unconditionally surrendered all U.S. forces on Bataan, Philippine Islands. Japanese heavy artillery began the bombardment of Corregidor, which eventually destroyed the majority of the island's defenses.

**9-12 Apr**—Escapees from Bataan joined the 4th Marines on Corregidor. Sailors from Mariveles were formed into a reserve battalion designated the 4th Battalion, 4th Marines.

**18 Apr**—Gen Douglas MacArthur, USA, assumed supreme command of the Southwest Pacific Area, which included Australia, the Philippines, New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Solomons, and most of the Netherlands East Indies.

**18 Apr**—LtCol James H. Doolittle, USA, with 16 B-25s from the USS *Hornet*, bombed Tokyo, Kobe, Yokohama, and Nagoya.

**29 Apr**—Adm Ernest J. King, USN, established the South Pacific Amphibious Force, composed primarily of the 1st Marine Division.

**5-6 May**—A reinforced Japanese regiment landed on Corregidor. The 1st Battalion, 4th Marines opposed the landing.

**6 May**—MajGen Jonathan M. Wainwright, USA, surrendered all forces in the Philippines. Col Samuel L. Howard, USMC, senior Marine officer, ordered the regimental and national colors of the 4th Marines burned to prevent their capture.

**7 May**—In the battle of the Coral Sea, U.S. and Japanese aircraft struck the other's carriers almost simultaneously. Carrier-based Japanese aircraft attacked and sunk the U.S. fleet tanker *Neosho* and her convoying destroyer USS *Sims*. U.S. carrier aircraft struck the Japanese covering force, at that time protecting the left flank of the Port Moresby Invasion Group, and sank the small carrier *Shoho*. Although the U.S. sustained heavier damage and casualties than the enemy, the Japanese invasion of Port Moresby was forestalled. The battle was the first major naval engagement in history where opposing surface forces neither saw nor fired at each other.

**11 May**—Marine Barracks, Fleet Air Base, Naval Operating Base, Iceland, was established.

**20 May**—Cunningham Field, Cherry Point, North Carolina, capable of servicing the needs of the greater part of a Marine aircraft wing, was commissioned.



*Col Samuel L. Howard, senior Marine officer in the Philippines, ordered the regimental and national colors of the 4th Marines burned on 6 May, as the U.S. surrender was announced.*

**20 May**—Reinforcements were sent to Midway and the Aleutians to repulse an expected Japanese invasion.

**25 May**—Two companies from the 2d Raider Battalion and the 37mm Gun Battery of the 3d Defense Battalion debarked at Midway from the USS *St. Louis*.

**1 Jun**—The Marine Corps began recruiting black Marines.

**3 Jun**—In the opening stages of the Battle of Midway, nine Midway-based B-17s attacked elements of an approaching Japanese force, but inflicted no damage.

**3 Jun**—In Alaska, Japanese planes from two light carriers attacked Dutch Harbor, but American forces were not distracted from their knowledge of Japanese intentions against Midway.

**4 Jun**—In the Battle of Midway, Japanese planes attacked Midway Island, inflicting damage upon sea-plane hangars and other facilities. Two groups of planes from Marine Fighter Squadron 221 received heavy damage in attempting to intercept the attacking force. Twenty-one Marine Bombers together with aircraft from three U.S. carriers attacked the Japanese carriers and inflicted heavy damage. The U.S. carrier *Yorktown* was critically damaged, and abandoned.

**5-7 Jun**—Adm Isoroku Yamamoto, IJN, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese *Combined Fleet*, abandoned the Midway ven-





*American base facilities on Midway Island smolder following the devastating Japanese air attack of 4 June. Aircraft from VMF-221 were badly damaged in the attempt to intercept the enemy force,*

*ture. U.S. aircraft attacked the withdrawing Japanese force, crippling two cruisers.*

**14 Jun**—The advance echelon of the 1st Marine Division, commanded by MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift, arrived at Wellington, New Zealand, from the U.S.

**26 Jun**—The 1st Marine Division received the warning order for the Guadalcanal-Tulagi campaign.

**30 Jun**—The active strength of the Marine Corps was 142,413, including 7,138 officers and 135,475 enlisted men.

*Riddled with bullet holes, this fighter of VMF-221 has just returned from the squadron's first attempt to repel Japanese bombers over Midway Island on 4 June. Note the holes high*

*but 21 Marine bombers, together with aircraft from three U.S. carriers, counterattacked the Japanese carriers. In the following days, the enemy fleet commander abandoned the operation.*

**2 Jul**—LtCol Frank B. Goettge, the intelligence officer of the 1st Marine Division, left New Zealand for Australia to gather data for the Guadalcanal-Tulagi landings.

**10 Jul**—Marine Corps Air Station, El Centro, California, was activated.

**11 Jul**—The Japanese abandoned their plans to capture New Caledonia, Fiji, and Samoa.

**11 Jul**—The rear echelon of the 1st Marine Division arrived at Wellington, New Zealand. □1775□

*up along the sides of the cockpit. The angry American defense brought heavy damage to the enemy fleet's carriers and crippled two cruisers. The U.S. carrier Yorktown was all but destroyed.*



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## Quantico Welcomes U.S. Military History Conferees

by LtCol Donald F. Bittner, USMCR (Ret)  
USMC Command and Staff College

THE MARINE CORPS Command and Staff College at Quantico was host for more than 400 historians who in April attended the 59th annual meeting of the Society for Military History, formerly the American Military Institute. The theme for this premiere annual conference of military historians was "Joint, Combined, Amphibious, and Expeditionary Operations."

Planned over a three-year period to be held on board the Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, the conference site was shifted to the nearby city of Fredericksburg to accommodate a larger than expected turnout. These included numbers of registrants, both military and civilian, from among Marine faculties and staffs: Command and Staff College, 14; Historical

*The author is professor of history, Command and Staff College, Marine Corps University, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia. He served as chairman of the 1992 meeting of the Society for Military History.*



*LtGen Walter E. Boomer, USMC, left, and LtGen Henry C. Stackpole, USMC, take historians' questions on Operations Desert Storm and Sea Angel, respectively.*

Center, 5; and other active commands, 8, plus the Marine Corps Reserve, 3; and the Marine retired community, 9. Five former Marine officers or civilian historians were on the program, presenting papers, serving as commentators or panel chairmen, or addressing the entire conference.

Attendees came from as far away as

Japan and New Zealand. Visiting historians from Canada and Britain represented the College Militaire Royal de St. Jean of Quebec, the British Army Staff College, Camberley, and the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. A van-full of 14 cadets arrived from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

*(Continued on page 18)*