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SUMMER 1975

NUMBER 1



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FORTITUDINE

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

Volume V

Summer 1975

Number 1

This quarterly newsletter of the Marine Corps historical program is published for the Corps and for friends of Marine Corps history by the History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (Code HD), Washington, D.C. 20380 in accordance with Department of the Navy Publications and Printing Regulations NAVEXOS P-35.

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THE COVER

Recruiting for the a-borning Marine Corps might have been publicized in this fashion almost 200 years ago. This sketch by Maj Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR, appears as "spot art" in Marines in the Revolution, newly published Bicentennial project of the Division (see page 6); it is also appropriate for this issue's discussion of the Marine Corps Birthday tradition and how a late historian of the Corps was its instigator (see page 8).

Director's Page



As every reader must have noticed, our Spring issue of *Fortitudine* did not get published until the last days of summer and this summer issue is getting to you in the fall. Hopefully, there also will be a Fall issue in the fall and that by then we will be back on schedule.

The cause, as you may have guessed, was the switch in format from a "typewritten" newsletter to a "printed" one. This caused all kinds of delays in the Spring issue, some of them unbelievable; however, we believe the results justify the effort and even the delay. Not only do we think the newsletter looks better (more "professional," to use that overworked word), but also we are able to give you about 40 per cent more text in the same number of pages.

Luckily, not all (or even very many) aspects of the Marine Corps Historical Program lag as far behind schedule as has *Fortitudine*. As some of you know, we do have a time-phased program that we follow. The formal planning-programming document that we use is the Marine Corps Historical Progress Report. This report is prepared on a fiscal year basis and goes forward to the Commandant shortly after 1 July. It is the device by which we report to him the accomplishments of the past year and project what we expect to do in the forthcoming year (short-term objectives), as well as what we hope to accomplish in the next five years (mid-term objectives) and, further out in the future, beyond five years (long-term objectives). The report runs about 50 pages and cannot easily be digested into a paragraph or so, but you might be interested in seeing an abbreviated list of what we told the Commandant on 1 July 1975 that we expect to do in FY-1976:

- Conversion of Building 58, Washington Navy Yard, into the Marine Corps Historical Center. (The contractor began the conversion on 15 August 1975; see page 12.)

- Support of the development of command museums at San Diego and Barstow and of Navy-

Marine Corps Bicentennial exhibits at Philadelphia Navy Yard and Treasure Island, San Francisco.

- A long list of publications, including:

- Blacks in the Marine Corps*

- The U.S. Marines in the Mexican War, 1846-1848*

- A Short History of Marine Aviation, 1912-1940*

- Marines and Helicopters, Part I, 1946-1962 and Part II, 1962-1973*

- U.S. Marines in Vietnam, 1954-1964*

- A Brief History of the 7th Marines*

- A Brief History of the 8th Marines*

- A Brief History of the 25th Marines*

- Short History of VMA-311*

- Revised Personal Papers Collection Catalog*

- Joseph H. Pendleton, a manuscript register*

In the mid-term, by FY 1978, we expect to complete the Vietnam sequential monographs. (See Summer 1974 *Fortitudine* for our approach to the writing of the Vietnam War histories.) The number of projected monographs has grown to nine. The newcomer spans the years 1973-1975 and will cover the collapse of South Vietnam, the Phnom Penh and Saigon evacuations, and the *Mayaguez* incident. By FY-1978 we also expect to finish regimental histories for all 12 of the infantry and artillery regiments in the active Fleet Marine Force and to complete certificates of lineage and honors for all major units of the active and reserve Fleet Marine Force. Scheduled to be published in the same year is a case-bound *Chronology of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1775-1975*. By FY-1980 we should also have published regimental histories for all four of the infantry and artillery regiments in the 4th Marine Division, USMCR. During these same five years, on the museum side, we will continue to support the development of locally oriented command museums at all major Marine Corps installations. (See "Parris Island Museum Opens" in Winter 1974-75 *Fortitudine*.) Moreover, we look forward to the day, in the long-term future, when there



Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History met with Gen Louis H. Wilson, USMC, several times during their annual sessions in August. Flanking Gen Wilson in his office, they are (left to right), Dr. Richard W. Leopold; MajGen Rathvon McC. Tompkins, USMC (Ret); LtGen Alpha L. Bowser, USMC (Ret), chairman; Gen Wilson; Robert W. Sherrod; MajGen Norman J. Anderson, USMC (Ret); BGen Simmons, ex-officio.

will be a Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, perhaps at Quantico or perhaps on the West Coast.

The Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History met this year for four days, from Tuesday, 5 August, through Friday, 8 August. Appointments to the committee are for three years. Members attending the 1975 meeting were LtGen Alpha L. Bowser, USMC (Ret.); MajGen Norman J. Anderson, USMC (Ret.); MajGen Rathvon McC. Tompkins, USMC (Ret.); Mr. Robert Sherrod, journalist and historian; and Dr. Richard Leopold of Northwestern University. A sixth appointed member, Mr. Harold Peterson, Curator of the National Park Service, was unable to attend because of a conflict in schedules. As Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, I am *ex-officio* the seventh member of the committee. This meets the regulatory requirement that there be a Government member in attendance at

each meeting of a public advisory committee. Also, as required by regulation, the meeting was duly advertised in the *Federal Register* and open to the public.

The meeting convened at 0900 on 5 August. For several years now it has been customary to start things off with a briefing on the status of the Marine Corps. This year this was done by LtGen Samuel Jaskilka, the new Assistant Commandant. He gave a wide-ranging talk covering the readiness of the Corps, personnel problems and the Commandant's emphasis on personnel quality, hardware needs and decisions, and training objectives including renewed emphasis on air-ground training.

The rest of the day was spent on Historical Branch's programs. Each of the writers in the Histories Section described the progress and peculiar problems of his particular project. Mr. Ben Frank briefed on the Oral History Collection and

oral history techniques. Maj John C. Short, who last year demonstrated the then-new automated Museum Catalog and Inventory Control System which he had designed, this year described the computer-based information retrieval system with which we are experimenting. Within a year we expect to have an automated system for the collection and collation of the Marine Corps' chronology and bibliography.

As a curtain-closer for the first day, Col Hart discussed the rejuvenated Historic Sites program. The next day, 6 August, was Museums Branch's day. It began in the morning at Building 198 in the Washington Navy Yard. Col Nihart briefed the committee in the curatorial areas of personal papers and their preservation, photographs, military music and the band collection, exhibits and graphics, photographs, Marine Corps art, ordnance, and aviation.

On the way to lunch at the Navy Yard Officers Mess the committee stopped by Building 58 which was in the last stages of being emptied out by the Guard Company before being turned over to the contractor for conversion into the Marine Corps Historical Center.

After lunch the committee went to Quantico where they reconvened in the Marine Corps Museum conference room to hear the officer-in-charge, LtCol Tom D'Andrea report on the Quantico-based aspects of the Museums program.

(Next year, when the History and Museums Division moves to the Marine Corps Historical Center, most of the items exhibited in the Quantico museum will be re-located onto the main floor of the center which will give us a Marine Corps museum in the Nation's capital. The vacated building at Quantico, the old Post Headquarters, will be reconfigured into a command museum.)

The committee then went to Building 2498, the old Post Brig, which now houses the Ordnance and Technology Collection. Mr. Leo Champion, the curator, with much energy and imagination, a small staff, and a good deal of volunteer help has converted the brig into a veritable arsenal complete with artillery park.

The committee then went to the flight line at Turner Field to view a static display of restored aircraft. While there, LtGen Bowser presented certificates of appreciation to several of the volunteers, some of them husband-and-wife teams, who had helped in the restoration.

That evening there was a reception at Center House Mess, Marine Barracks, Washington, hosted by the division for the committee and well attended by the staff, their opposite numbers from the other military history activities in town, and numerous senior Marines, active and retired. The last two days were spent in cross-examination and report-writing. The committee report is a public document and copies are available on request.

Publications Catalog Revised

The 1975 edition of *Marine Corps Historical Publications Catalog* is now available. The 24-page catalog describes Marine Corps official publications over the years, both those in print and those no longer in stock. The latter are included to assist researchers who might find them in libraries or book stores. Artwork in the catalog consists of sketches of Marine uniforms by Maj Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR. The catalog provides information for ordering and request forms that can be used to obtain free copies from the division or, in the case of sales items, to purchase them from the Superintendent of Documents.

Copies of the catalog can be obtained from Code HDA, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380.

Marine Corps

Historical

Publications Catalog

1975



History and Museums Division
Headquarters, United States Marine Corps
Washington, D.C. 20380

Revolution History Told

The division's most significant publication in recent years is currently being distributed, the 492-page volume *Marines in the Revolution: A History of Continental Marines in the American Revolution, 1775-1783*.

The book was authored by Charles R. Smith with an appendix of biographies of Continental Marine officers by Richard A. Long. It features 14 double-page full-color paintings and 70 sketches by Maj Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR.

Although touching on the various categories of Marines during the Revolution, the volume focuses primarily on the Continental Marines. It provides military students and the general public with a permanent, documented, and interpretive record of their contribution in the war.

Surviving contemporary correspondence, ships' logs, muster rolls, diaries, journals, and similar primary source materials of both an official and personal nature form the backbone of the history. Reliable secondary sources have also been used to lend balance and objectivity to the account.

The text is footnoted throughout and has a bibliography to assist the serious student in pursu-

ing further research. Sixty contemporary illustrations, 14 double-page color paintings, and 109 sketches are included to provide a representative view of the men, equipment, and events described. Twenty-four maps help the reader locate the actions. Useful references for the casual as well as the more scholarly reader are found in the appendices. These include the diary of John Trevett, captain of Marines; the journal of William Jennison, lieutenant of Marines; the journal of Joseph Hardy, captain of Marines; the narrative of Thomas Philbrook, sergeant of Marines; a letter of Capt Samuel Nicholas; Marine deserter advertisements; selected Continental Marine muster, pay, and prize rolls; and biographies of 131 Continental Marine officers. A comprehensive index offers a handy guide to the text.

During the American Revolution there were three distinct groups of Marines: State Marines, privateer Marines, and Continental Marines. Continental Marines were those who were directly authorized by the Continental Congress or served on board ships bearing a Continental commission. State Marines were those who were commissioned

Key authors of Marines in the Revolution present an autographed copy to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Louis H. Wilson, in his office. Primary author Charles R. Smith hands CMC the book while (right to left next to Smith) Maj Charles Waterhouse, USMCR, artist for the book, and Richard A. Long, author of the biographical appendix of Continental Marine officers, assist.



MARINES IN THE REVOLUTION



and raised by the 11 states which possessed separate navies, and privateer Marines those who served on board privately-owned ships of war.

As Capt Nicholas and several other officers assembled their Marines in December 1775, the Continental Navy was putting together its first squadron. On 3 January 1776, the fleet sailed from Philadelphia. With hopes of gaining sorely needed powder for Washington's army, 230 Marines and 50 seamen landed on the island of New Providence (present day Nassau) two months to the day later.

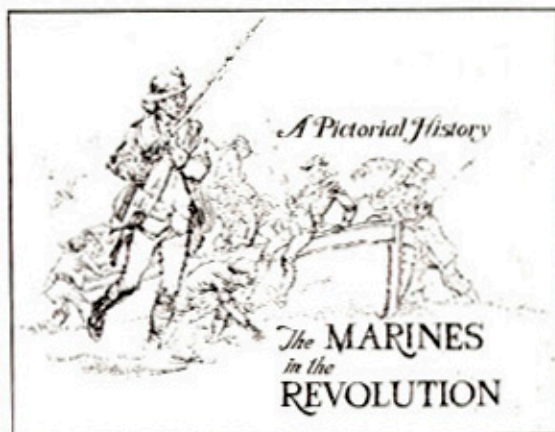
Throughout the remainder of the war, Marines continued to serve on board Continental ships, and in one instance, with the Continental Army. Captains of Continental ships raised their Marines independently, in the same way they signed on their crews. Literally, Marine detachments functioned as part of the Navy.

The author of the book, Mr. Smith has been a member of the division since July 1971. He holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in History and Political Science from the University of California, a Master of Arts degree in History from San Diego State University, and is working toward a doctorate in Colonial History at Georgetown University. He also served in the Republic of Vietnam as an Army artilleryman and field historian. Since joining the division, Smith has authored a historical monograph *A Brief History of the 12th Marines*.

Original artwork used to illustrate the volume

was prepared by Maj Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR. A lifelong resident of New Jersey and a Marine veteran of World War II, Maj Waterhouse is a graduate of the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Art. Following his graduation, he produced illustrations for books and national magazines in a wide range of media, techniques, and subjects. This career was culminated by tours as a combat artist for the Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Army in Vietnam, Alaska, the Western Pacific, and Atlantic from 1967 to 1971. His tours resulted in two published works, *Vietnam Sketchbook—Drawings from Delta to DMZ* and *Vietnam War Sketches—From the Air, Land and Sea*. In 1973 he came on active duty to execute the 14 meticulously researched and empathetically painted scenes of Marine activities in the American Revolution which are reproduced in this volume.

In addition to routine distribution, other copies for official use—including those for presentation purposes—can be obtained from Code HD, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380. Personal copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$20.30.



Readily and inexpensively available, *A Pictorial History: The Marines in the Revolution*, is a 32-page booklet illustrated by Maj Waterhouse's paintings in monochrome and enlivened by Mr. Smith's descriptions of the scenes depicted. Given a Marine Corps-wide distribution, the pictorial history is also obtainable by the general public from GPO's Superintendent of Documents (Washington, D.C. 20402) for \$1.05 a copy. Order no. 088-055-00084-0. Libraries, schools, and similar institutions will be sent copies of the history upon application to the History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380.

Origin of the Birthday

During the summer numerous queries were received by the Reference Section in regard to the Marine Corps Birthday, the ball, the pageant, and the other traditions. The task of tying up the loose strings of these "centuries old traditions" was given to Miss Jane Redicker, a journalism student serving as a summer intern in the section before entering her senior year at Franklin College, Franklin, Ind. Miss Redicker found that the tradition of celebrating the founding of the Marine Corps was another of those "instant traditions" circa 20th century and that the early-day Historical Section was its instigator. Her story follows.

A distinguished Marine Corps historian was responsible for the developing the concept of the 10 November birthday celebration as we know it today. On 21 October 1921 Maj Edwin N. McClellan, Officer-in-Charge of the Historical Section, sent a memorandum to MajGen Commandant John A. Lejeune suggesting that 10 November be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps. McClellan further suggested that a dinner be held in Washington to commemorate the event. Guests would include

prominent men from the Marine Corps, the Army, and the Navy, and descendants of the Revolutionary Marines.

Accordingly, on 1 November 1921, Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, series 1921. The order summarized the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps and directed that it be read to every command on 10 November each subsequent year in honor of the birthday of the Marine Corps. This order has been duly carried out.

Until 1921 the birthday of the Corps had been celebrated on another date. An unidentified newspaper clipping from 1918 refers to the celebration of the 120th birthday of the Marine Corps on 11 July "as usual with no fuss." It is doubtful that there was any real celebration at all. Further inspection of documents and publications prior to 1921 show no evidence of ceremonies, pageants, or parties. The July date was commemorated between 1798 and 1921 as the birthday of the Corps. During the Revolution, Marines had fought on land and sea, but at the close of the Revolution the Marine Corps and the Navy were disbanded. On 11 July 1798, President John Adams approved a bill that recreated the Corps, thereby providing the rationale for this day being com-

This was the recommendation that led to proclamation of November 10 as the Marine Corps Birthday.

From: Major Edwin N. McClellan, Officer-in-Charge, Historical Section
To: The Major-General Commandant (Major-General John Archer Lejeune)
Subj: Commemoration of the Birthday of the Marine Corps

1. In view of the fact that November 10th is the Birthday of the Marine Corps, the Corps being 146 years of age, I desire to place before you the important desirability of having the day declared a Marine Corps holiday and celebrated throughout the Marine Corps. The amount of celebrating that would take place could be limited to each Commanding Officer issuing a General order to be read to his Command, if it is felt that we have too many days of relaxation. It is the one day on which every Marine should have impressed upon him that he is an important integral part of an Ancient and Honorable Organization.

2. I would further suggest that a dinner be held in Washington to commemorate this important date, at which prominent members of the Marine Corps, Navy, and Army and descendants of Revolutionary and other Marines be present. . . . I am sure the celebration of this event in this manner would be given wide publicity and create an interest in the Marine Corps among certain classes that would prove of agreeable assistance.

3. In view of the foregoing I recommend that a General Order be issued on this subject.

EDWIN N. McCLELLAN

MARINE CORPS MANUAL

38

MARINE CORPS MANUAL.

BIRTHDAY OF THE MARINE CORPS.

38

The following will be read to the command on the 10th of November of every year:

(1) On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are marines should commemorate the birthday of our corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

(2) The record of our corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquillity at home generation after generation of marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

(3) In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our corps marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term marine has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

(4) This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are marines to-day have received from those who preceded us in the corps. With it we also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the corps.

1921

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1922

First publication of MajGen Lejeune's Marine Corps Birthday message appeared this way in Marine Corps Manual edition of 1921.

memorated as the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Once Gen Lejeune had determined, with Maj McClellan's able assistance, that the Continental Marines were the forebears of United States Marines, the date that Congress resolved in 1775 to raise two battalions of Continental Marines became the logical Marine Corps Birthday. In the years following 1921 some commands expanded the celebration activities. In 1923 at Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania, the celebration of the 148th birthday took the form of a dance in the barracks that evening. Marines at the Navy Yard, Norfolk, Virginia staged a sham battle on the parade ground in commemoration of the birthday. The battle lasted about 20 minutes and was witnessed by Portsmouth and Norfolk citizens. At the Naval

Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the birthday was celebrated on the 12th since a special liberty to Santiago had been arranged on the 10th. The morning activities included field and water sports and a shooting match. In the afternoon the Marines won a baseball game 9-8 over a Cuban team. In the evening members of the command put on a minstrel show followed by four boxing bouts.

The first so called "Birthday Ball," such as the one suggested by McClellan, probably was held in 1925 in Philadelphia. No records have been located of one prior to 1925. Guests included the Secretaries of War and Navy, MajGen Commandant Lejeune, famous statesmen, soldiers, and sailors. The principal event was the unveiling of a tablet on the site of Tun Tavern. The tablet was a gift from the Thomas Roberts Reath Post, Ameri-

can Legion, whose membership was composed exclusively of Marines. The celebration was held in conjunction with the annual convention of the Marine Corps League. A parade included Marines, Regular Army and Navy detachments, National Guard, and other military organizations. The evening banquet was held at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel and a ball followed at the Bellevue-Stratford.

It is not possible to determine precisely when the first cake-cutting ceremony was held, but the first on record was held at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., in 1937 when MajGen Commandant Thomas Holcomb presided at an open house for Marine Corps officers. Ceremonies included the cutting of a huge cake designed in the shape of Tun Tavern.

From 1937 on, observances of the Marine Corps Birthday appeared to develop spontaneously throughout the Corps as if they had a life of their own. The celebrations were publicized through every media. Newsreels, motion pictures, and displays were prepared to summarize the history of the Corps. In 1943, standard blank Marine Corps scrapbooks were forwarded to all districts to be filled with 168th anniversary clippings, scripts pictures, programs, and other memorabilia and returned to Headquarters. Unfortunately none of these scrapbooks remain in official files.

In 1951, a formal Birthday Ball Pageant was held at Headquarters Marine Corps. Similar to the pageant today, the script described Marines in period uniforms and the cake ceremony. Although this is the first substantive record of a pageant,

the *Leatherneck* of 10 November 1925 pictures Marines at a pageant in Salt Lake City, Utah, which had taken place "several years ago."

On 28 October 1952, the Commandant, Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., directed the celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday be formalized throughout the Corps and provided an outline for the cake ceremony, as well as other formal observances. This outline was included in the *Marine Corps Manual* approved 26 January 1956.

Traditionally, the first piece of birthday cake is presented to the oldest Marine present and the second piece to the youngest Marine present. When and where this tradition began remains unknown. Some records indicate this practice and others varied depending on the dignitaries present. First pieces of cake have been presented to newlyweds, the Secretary of the Navy, governors, and others, but generally speaking, the first pieces of cake go to the oldest and youngest Marines.

At present, celebrations of the Marine Corps Birthday on 10 November are similar at posts and stations throughout the Corps. All commemorations include the reading of Marine Corps Order No. 47 and the Commandant's message to those assembled. Most commands sponsor a birthday ball of some sort, complete with pageant and cake ceremony as prescribed in the *Marine Corps Manual*.

Like the Corps itself, the Birthday Ball developed from simple origins to become the polished, professional function that the 200-year-old Marine Corps of 1975 will commemorate on 10 November around the world.

Birthday Collection Started

Whether a unit's celebration of the Marine Corps' 200th birthday is a ball, party, parade, pageant, church service, ceremony, athletic event or anything else, future Marines may like to know about it.

All posts, stations, and units, regular and reserve, conducting observances of the Bicentennial birthday are urged to submit informal after action reports to a collection that will be made by the History and

Museums' Division at Headquarters Marine Corps. A summary report, captioned photographs, copies of programs and menus, and other items are solicited and should be sent directly to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HDA-1), Washington, D.C. 20380.

Marines on independent duty, and non-Marine organizations, official and otherwise, are invited to participate.



Marines and diplomats were discussed during September professional seminar of the division, one of a series of monthly presentations on topics appropriate to keeping the division abreast of Marine Corps and allied topics. Presenting the State Department story of embassy Marines was David McCabe (center) while Lt Col Robert Sheridan, USMC, executive officer of the Marine Security Guard Battalion, told of the battalion's operations. Discussing the subject with them is Chief Historian Henry I. Shaw, Jr. (right).

Professional Talks Continue

In May, continuing the History and Museum Division's series of professional development seminars, Dr. Graham A. Cosmas, a member of the Historical Branch, and Dr. Ronald Spector, an Army historian from the Center of Military History, spoke on subjects related to their respective doctoral dissertations. Dr. Spector, who as an enlisted Marine served in the III MAF Historical Section in Vietnam, discussed the U.S. Navy in the 1898-1914 period. Dr. Cosmas, author of *An Army For Empire*, spoke on the Spanish-American War and the development of the U.S. Army, 1898-1902.

A conducted tour of the Commandant's House, Center House Mess, John Philip Sousa Band Hall, and barracks areas, as well as the new bachelor enlisted quarters at 8th and Eye Streets, took place in June.

In July, Members of the Division journeyed across the Potomac for a conducted tour of the Department of State's records collection and to examine its retrieval system. Following this, historians from both agencies met to discuss problems and items of mutual interest. A highlight of this visit was a tour of State Department's lavishly decorated and furnished reception and banquet

rooms.

There was no professional development seminar in August because of the meeting of the Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History, but the State Department took the stage again with the 10 September seminar. Following initial discussions during the July visit to State, arrangements were made for Robert McCabe, a Foreign Service Officer specializing in security and security training, to give a presentation on Marine security guards. Especially significant in light of recent contingency operations involving Marines assigned to embassy guard duty, the discussion covered the history of the Marine security guard program and the original Marine Corps-State Department agreement under the provisions of which Marines were first assigned to State Department duty. Also discussed was the support that the History and Museums Division could expect from State to record this story. Contributing to the discussion was LtCol Robert Sheridan, USMC, executive officer of the Marine Security Guard Battalion. A tentative result of this seminar is the possibility that a monograph on "Marines and Diplomats" may be added to the division publication schedule.

Historians of the Corps IV

Hamersly, Leonard, Chitty, and Ellsworth

Lewis Randolph Hamersly

Among the earliest of the formal contributors to Marine Corps history was Lewis Randolph Hamersly, himself a former Marine officer. Born in Washington, D.C. he was a grandson of Capt Thomas Holdup Stevens, USN, who, under the name "Thomas Holdup," commanded the sloop *Trippe* in the battle of Lake Erie. He was also a nephew of RAdm Thomas H. Stevens who served under Farragut in the Civil War.

First appointed as an Acting Master's Mate in March 1862, Hamersly served on board the gunboat *Aroostook* of the West Gulf Squadron. He was promoted to Acting Ensign on 3 December 1863 and was assigned to the Steamer *Choctaw* of the Mississippi Squadron. After the war he was transferred to *Michigan* undergoing repairs at Buffalo, N.Y., and he was honorably discharged from the Navy on 23 July 1866.

Hamersly entered the Marine Corps the same day as a second lieutenant. After a brief indoctrination period, he was assigned to Marine Barracks, Gosport (Norfolk), Va., on 18 October 1866. About the time he received orders to the Steamer *Narragansett*, he was taken ill and hospitalized on 13 April 1869 at the Naval Hospital, Norfolk. He resigned from the Corps on 21 September 1869.

February 1870 saw the publication of Hamersly's *The Records of Living Officers of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps*, published by J.B. Lippin-

cott & Co. The records of 700 living officers were furnished the reader. The first edition also contained a history of naval operations during the Civil War. The closing section consisted of the names of some 3000 officers and their vessels who participated in the Civil War. This was dropped by the time the third edition was published in 1878.

Various revised editions were published, the seventh being released in 1902. This last edition, which included pictures of a number of officers, carried 28 pages of material on Marine officers. Hamersly's work furnishes invaluable biographical and service record material which would otherwise be almost impossible to duplicate today.

He died suddenly of apoplexy in Annapolis, Md., on 31 December 1910 and was buried in Arlington Cemetery, and was survived by his widow, Mary Palmer Hamersly, one son, and three daughters.

Not the least of Hamersly's contributions to Marine Corps history was *A Naval Encyclopaedia* (Philadelphia, 1881) which included as a supplement 142 pages of biographical sketches on living officers of the Navy and Marine Corps. Capt Henry Clay Cochrane, USMC, contributed ten articles while Capt Richard S. Collum contributed the article, "Foreign Marine Corps." Becoming the head of his own publishing firm, L.R. Hamersly & Co., of Philadelphia, he not only printed his own works but handled later editions of Collum's history.

Leonard and Chitty

The close of World War I and the reputation made by the Marine Corps created an interest in the history of the Corps that could not be met by the existing histories. The last one prepared had been that of Maj Richard S. Collum in 1903, but it had become a rare item. Besides, Collum's history did not cover the busy period of the 20th century climaxed by the war in Europe.

A known Philadelphia writer, John W. Leonard, gathered material for such a history for some years before joining efforts with a Fred F. Chitty. Chitty had enlisted in the Marine Corps on 8 May 1918 and, after recruit training at Mare Island, was assigned to the 147th Company (Outpost) of the Field Signal Battalion in training at Camp Edward C. Fuller, Paoli, Pa. He was promoted to private first class on 16 September 1918, and was discharged on 11 January 1919. While at Paoli, Chitty became involved in the publication of the battalion's camp paper, *The Signalman*.



Harry Alanson Ellsworth

As a result of their efforts, *The Story of the United States Marines* was produced in early 1920. It is stated on the title page that the history was approved through military channels by officers of the U.S. Marine Corps and produced with the aid of the Marine Corps Publicity Bureau in New York City.

The book was organized with the text divided into 26 chapters, the first 13 of which cover Marine Corps history through the Siege of Peking and the China Relief Expedition. To this extent, the history covers the same ground as Maj Collum's. Chapters 14 through 26 cover Marine Corps history from 1901 through occupation duty in Germany in 1919. There are 39 pages devoted to

the names of Marines decorated for overseas service during World War I. A brief four-page reminiscence by a Civil War Marine is also included. A 20-page illustrated supplement giving the history and roster of the Field Signal Battalion, USMC (Chitty's unit) is included. The book was financed by advertising permitting it to be distributed gratuitously to veterans of the Corps by the authors.

This history was not widely distributed so its influence was nominal. It was not until the appearance of Metcalf's history in February 1939 that the general public received a replacement for Maj Collum's 1903 edition.

Harry Alanson Ellsworth

Another historian of the Corps, Harry Alanson Ellsworth, was born 9 March 1883 at Prattsburg, N.Y. His first military experience was as a soldier for about 21 months, starting when he was just 16½ years old. He then served four enlistments in the Marine Corps between 1903 and 1917. He undoubtedly became familiar with early Marine Corps history in 1911 when he assisted in organizing and processing the old record books of the Corps.

Ellsworth was appointed a quartermaster clerk in May 1917 and received his commission as a second lieutenant in July of the same year. It was not until 3 March 1933 that he was assigned as Officer-in-Charge of the Historical Section in Headquarters, Maj McClellan having been reassigned to a history writing project. While on this assignment only until 30 August 1934 (17 months), Ellsworth still produced a project which has become one of the recent productions of the Historical Branch, *One Hundred Eighty Landings of United States Marines-1800-1934*. First produced in 1934, it was reprinted in 1964, and continued demand required another reprinting in 1974. This latter reprinting still is available from the division.

Persons using Marine Corps records for the period 1935 to 1950 will recognize the filing system known as the "Ells-Dran Filing System" which was devised by Ellsworth. The "Ells" represents his last name while the "Dran" stands for "Direct - Reference - Alphabetical - Numerical" descriptive word-titles of the major points of the system.

Retired first on 30 June 1939, Maj Ellsworth returned for a tour of active duty during World War II, returning to a retired status on 20 December 1942. He died 19 June 1962 at Long Beach, Calif., in his 80th year.



Top floor of Building 58 will house library, personal papers collection, and reference section. False ceiling is being stripped away to expose original high roof.



Historians will find this their home after Building 58 is completed. Their writing areas have been designed so that columns will be within walls.

Director of Marine Corps History and Museums office will be at this location after completion of rehabilitation. Wall paneling will be removed and bricked up window, right, will be opened as part of restoration of building.



Building 58

Swapping of padlocks rather than a ground-breaking ceremony signalled start of the conversion of Building 58, Washington Navy Yard, into the Marine Corps Historical Center on 15 August 1975.

With the replacement of locks belonging to the Marine Barracks, 8th and Eye, with those of Thomas W. Yoder Company, Inc., the building became the temporary possession of the contractor while he carries out a year-long modernization of the structure. The end result next fall is expected to be a building that will house all sections of the Historical Branch and most of the Museums Branch. Only the technical collections—ordnance and aviation—will be outside of the new historical center as these will remain at Quantico. The Marine Corps Museum will move from Quantico to the new center, occupying a significant portion of the building's public spaces, although almost 75 per cent of the overall area will be devoted to non-museum functions of the division.

Progress in the modernization was evident almost immediately when workmen erected chutes from the upper floors and began sending woodwork, radiators, fixtures, and other unsalvageable items into waiting trucks. The gutting of the building had progressed to the stage shown in these photographs as of 10 September 1975, less than a month after work started.

After the building has been stripped of its interior partitions and fittings, the remaining portions of the structure will be strengthened, new stairways and an elevator installed, and new partitioning and other woodwork constructed. Plumbing, air conditioning, and fire prevention measures will be built in to assure a safe repository for the historical records and artifacts of the Marine Corps.

Plans call for the main floor of the building to house the Marine Corps Museum, including a series of 20 exhibit cases that tell the chronology of the Corps. An exhibit gallery and space for topical displays also will be provided. Below, on the ground floor, will be work areas for the exhibits and design sections of the Museums Branch, the still picture archives, and the division's publications storage and distribution center.

The second floor will include the office of the Director of the division and those of his deputies for history and for museums. The administrative,

Underway

writing, production, art and illustration, and oral history sections also will be on this floor. The third floor will include the library, archives, historical reference section, personal papers collection, and special projects unit. Facilities for visiting scholars will be available on this floor, both general reference in open areas and for classified or controlled research in the special collection areas.

Use of Building 58 as a Marine Corps Historical Center puts the Corps in the position of directly following the historical preservation policies of the federal government. Rather than tearing down an old building and replacing it with cinder block and chrome, the Corps is taking an historic structure, rehabilitating it for modern use, and combining the best features of both the old and the new. At the same time that the bulk of the historical program is centralized in streamlined facilities, it will be helping to preserve the traditional environs of the Washington Navy Yard Historic District and the nearby Marine Barracks, 8th and Eye.

The building has been used since 1941 as a Marine barracks, assigned to the Guard Company at 8th and Eye. Availability of the building for the division was suggested when construction was approved for a new barracks building across from the main barracks quadrangle, a project completed this summer.

Building 58 stands on the site of the Navy Yard's pre-1814 "Old Stores Building" which issued new canvas, twine, rope, bunting, navigational equipment, tools, oil, and paint until it was leveled in anticipation of the British advance on Washington. The date of construction of Building 58 is uncertain, though in 1821 a storehouse was reported to be in the vicinity of the site. A plan of 1 January 1858 shows a long, unidentified building on the modern site but the legend is undecipherable. Although there is no number attached to the building, there is little doubt that is the forerunner, or the original, of today's Building 58. A Civil Engineer drawing of 1 November 1872 shows that the structure was divided into several functions and under the control of as many agencies: Bureaus of Navigation, Steam Engineering, and Yards and Docks.

A 1889 plan is the first to identify the building as 58. It shows a structure 276 feet long. It had various uses and fittings, including one portion of the third floor where a large room appears to have been fitted with a podium and semi-circular seat-



Marine Corps Historical Center will occupy this building by fall, 1975. Other than returning its appearance to that of early era, little exterior alterations are planned.

Abandoned bar in Building 58 has little business following departure of Guard Company and arrival of construction crew. When project is finished, this area will become main entrance of museum area.



ing for a congregation. This may have stemmed from use of the building from 1916 to 1920 as Store No. 2 and Board Room.

The Public Works Department occupied the building in 1920 along with the Disbursing Office—a fortunate bonus for the modernization as the secure disbursing office vault provides a ready-made space for the classified archives files. The yard's Personnel Office was added to Building 58 in 1934. The Marine Barracks took over 58 in 1941 about the same time that the building was shortened on the south to allow road traffic. This left a structure 184 feet long, 67 wide, and 60 high.

The modernization of the building calls for complete interior renovation but the exterior of the building will be returned to its 19th century original. Wooden galley porches erected along the back, window air conditioners, and other modern disturbances will be removed and 58 will appear as it should: a historic structure housing history.



Here's today's recognition test to see how many of these graduates of the Basic School Class of 1935 are familiar to fellow Marines 40 years later. Taken at their reunion at the Marines' Memorial Club, 27 June, they are, left to right, front row: Fields, Leek, Hemphill, Renner, Stage, Rowley, Floom, Burton, Miller; second row: Henderson, Murray, Weede, Winecoff, Groves, Smith, O'Halloran, Laster, Fraser, Kline, Barnes; third row: Harrison, McCulley, Trachta, Roll, McMillan, Stannah, Hughes, Reinberg, Van Dam, Moore, Oldfield, Sneeringer, Jorgenson, McGill; fourth row: Buchanan, Marks, Totman, Hager, Todd, Kilmartin, Shelburne, Van Ryzin, Fairbourn, DuPlantis, Wilde.

TBS '35 Class Interviewed

An excellent opportunity to conduct some historically meaningful interviews for the Oral History Program arose recently when the Basic School Class of 1935 met on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of their graduation at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco, 25-27 June. One of the class members, BGen Frederick P. Henderson, a former member of the Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History and

recent interviewee in the program, recommended that the Oral History Unit take advantage of this gathering by sending an interviewer to San Francisco. Besides Gen Henderson, six other members of the class had already been interviewed—Fields, Weede, Nickerson, Roll, Van Ryzin, and Buchanan.

From the time it came together in Philadelphia, the Basic School Class of 1935 was unique in a

number of ways. With 124 students, it was the largest Basic School class to that date. In addition to the normal input of new second lieutenants from the Naval Academy, graduates from selected military schools (VMI, Texas A&M, The Citadel, and Norwich Military College), and former enlisted Marines commissioned from the ranks, this class had a large group of civilian college and university graduates who had been honor students as well as cadet colonels or lieutenant colonels of their respective ROTC units. While the Army could not give them regular commissions because of the Depression and resultant budgetary restraints, the Marine Corps could and did.

Not only is this the only Basic School class to have provided the Marine Corps with two Commandants (Chapman and Cushman), it also produced from its number 14 other men who served on active duty as general officers: five lieutenant generals (Fields, Leek, Nickerson, Van Ryzin, and Weede), four major generals (Collins, Fairbourn, Hochmuth, and Murray), and five brigadier generals (Conoley, Kline, Miller, Randall, and Riley).

For the new interviews, the Historical Branch's writers recommended the names of several officers whose interviews would support on-going writing projects and LtGen Frederick E. Leek, MajGen Raymond L. Murray, and Col Joseph N. Renner were asked to participate in the program. Mr. Benis M. Frank, head of the Oral History Unit, was sent to San Francisco to interview them. Gen Leek was queried about the Shu Fly helicopter operations in Vietnam in 1962, when he had command of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. He also began talking about his career in depth, but time did not permit completion of this portion of the interview, which will be continued at a later date. Murray spoke of his duties as Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force in late 1967 and early 1968, and events relating to Marine operations in that period, especially Khe Sanh and construction of the so-called McNamara Barrier. Col Renner, a member of the 1953-1954 Advanced Research Group in Quantico, which developed the all-helicopter concept for the Marine Corps, was asked about his role in the group discussions and conclusions, as well as his experience with helicopters and helicopter development.

Mr. Frank was also able to interview another member of the class, BGen John C. Miller, Jr., who had been senior Marine officer on the staff of CinCNELM during the Lebanon Crisis in 1958. Gen Miller provided some very interesting and cogent observations about the events leading up to, during, and following the landing of Marines at Beirut.



Marine Corps Bicentennial van was visited by CMC, Gen Louis H. Wilson, when Armed Forces Bicentennial Exhibit Caravan was previewed at Pentagon this summer. Explaining the van was 1stLt Babs Meairs, Museums Branch Coordinator for the project.

Bicentennial Vans

Joint Service Commendation Medal was presented to Col Raymond Henri, USMCR (Ret), for his services as project planning officer for the Bicentennial van and Marine Corps representative to the Joint Services Review Board for the project. Col Henri was recalled from retirement for the project, serving with the Museums Branch during the period. Award was presented 3 Sept. at 1st District headquarters by Col Bernard E. Trainor, district director (left).





Orote Field, Guam, was site of first Marine aviation deployment in Pacific in 1921, later was used in World War II. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Sites



Japanese probably had no chance to fire this 5-inch coast defense gun before Marines landed on Guam.

Final command post for Japanese defense of Guam was in this concrete bunker at Mataguac Hill. It is now almost closed by debris.



Two buildings significant in Marine Corps history and an Indian site at Camp Pendleton are new entrants on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Marine Corps locations are the quarters of the barracks commanding officer, Mare Island, Vallejo, Calif., and the main building of the Marine Corps Supply Activity, Philadelphia, Pa. The Indian site is in the Los Flores area at Camp Pendleton. Other newly added sites which have a Marine Corps interest include three significant in the Battle of Guam in World War II.

One of the Marine Corps sites, owned by the Navy, which was to be nominated as the commanding officer's quarters at Mare Island. While Maj David Purvis, USMC, was preparing to submit the nomination through Mare Island's commanding officer, the National Park Service announced the approval of a Mare Island Naval Shipyard Historic Landmark, automatic entry on the National Register. Since the Marine CO's quarters were included in the historic district by name, this automatic action gave the Marine Corps a gratuitous entry on the Register.

The building, Quarters M-1, commemorates the oldest permanent Marine barracks on the Pacific coast. Although the barracks was founded in 1862 to protect the Navy Yard from Confederate raiders, this building dates from 1871.

The Los Flores site is at the mouth of Las Pulgas Canyon, Camp Pendleton, Calif. It was a pre-history Indian camp and burial ground. Its existence was unknown until bulldozing for an irrigation project last year unearthed bones and other remains. Following preservation directives, the post shifted the location of the irrigation work



Quartermaster Depot—the name by which most Marines know it—at the Marine Corps Supply Activity, 1100 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, is Corps' newest entry on National Register of Historic Places. Entrance to the building is behind the mail box, obscured by a tree.

slightly in order to miss the historic site and then nominated the location to the National Register.

The three Guam locations of Marine Corps interest, which were nominated by the historic preservation officer for Guam, are Orote Field, Mataguac Hill command post, and a coastal defense gun at Piti.

Orote Field was constructed during the 1921-22 period and was the location of Flight L, 4th Squadron (10 pilots and 90 enlisted men) from the early days of Marine aviation and the forerunner of aviation in the Pacific. The bulk of the

Occupants at Quarters M-1 at Mare Island included future Commandant of the Marine Corps Charles Heywood, 1880-1882, then a major. Capt Charles F. Williams commanded barracks in 1888, returned to the quarters 1898-1900 as a colonel. His son, LtCol and then Col Charles F. Williams followed his footsteps as CO, 1930-34.

squadron was deployed to China, and then the Philippines, in 1927. In 1928 Patrol Squadron 3-M was based at Orote, and in 1931 the field was closed.

Its existence apparently was a surprise to the Japanese when they attacked Guam on 8 December 1941, but in 1944 they began its reconstruction. Japanese carrier based aircraft used it during the "Marianas Turkeyshoot" until American air destroyed the field. It was the scene of a heavy Japanese defense against the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade in July 1944.

The Mataguac Hill command post is in the northeastern part of Guam. It was built sometime in 1944 and was used by LtGen Hideyoshi Obata, commander of the 31st Army and the *Marianas Area*, who led the defense of Guam in its latter stage. Although actually attacked by the soldiers of the 77th Infantry Division, its Marine Corps interest comes from the fact that it marks the point of last organized resistance by the Japanese on Guam.

The Piti coastal defense gun is located on the brow of a hill in a concrete and earthen revetment. It is a Japanese naval gun of about 5-inch caliber with the screw breech open. Sited to cover the Asan invasion beach, where the 9th Marines landed, it appears that the Japanese had not completed the installation of the gun before the assault. It is one of three remaining on the island.



Command Museums

With the celebration of the Bicentennial prompting renewed national awareness of the American heritage, one predictable result has been the increasing interest in museums. That is particularly true within the Marine Corps, for the History and Museums Division has received numerous requests for advice and assistance in establishing post and station command museums.

The division has a first class museum at Quantico as a model, a modest reserve collection of historical Marine artifacts to lend new museums, a museum staff to provide technical advice when requested, and a newly developed concept and policy on command museums to guide local efforts.

The first command to establish a museum under these guidelines was the Recruit Depot, Parris Island. Its museum opened last January in the War Memorial Building and was fully reported in the Winter 1974 issue of *Fortitudine*. Parris Island's pioneering effort may have acted as a

catalyst which triggered action within other commands. Recruit Depot, San Diego, had been interested in establishing a museum for several years, but the major roadblock was lack of a suitable building. At the time he was commanding general, MajGen Joseph C. Fegan, took several steps to begin a museum. Meanwhile, at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, the commanding general, BGen Paul G. Graham, had moved ahead in establishing the amphibian vehicle collection, for years in the Del Mar area, as the Amphibian Vehicle Museum, mainside in the 12 Area (*Fortitudine*, Spring 1975).

In the San Francisco area the Commander, 12th Naval District, and Director, 12th Marine Corps District, asked for help in setting up a Navy-Marine Corps Museum in the 250 by 60 foot foyer in the administration building at Treasure Island. Also, the city of Vallejo, in concert with the Navy Yard and Marine Barracks next door at Mare Island, was seeking help in starting a Vallejo Naval and Historic Museum. All this interest in local museums on the West Coast demanded a staff visit from a member of the division. So, in mid-June, the Deputy Director for Museums, Col Nihart, headed for San Diego.

In San Diego he called on MajGen Fegan and discussed features of the command museum program such as the fiscal, personnel, and facilities support required, the necessity for permanent status for a museum, and the support in technical advice and loan historical material available from the Museums Branch. Gen Fegan stated that he had picked out a building which could be made available and was ready to move ahead on a local museum. The building selected was that being used by the exchange photographer at the recruit regiment. Although small, its location was ideal, being a few steps from the visitors' center and thus readily accessible to the principal audience—the recruits and their families.

The Depot has maintained for some time a "Memorabilia Room" in connection with and, in fact, in the post library. The room contains a quantity of donated historical military artifacts and souvenirs such as weapons, personal equipment, and uniforms; some uniformed manikins; and some pieces of art. Also, the depot has prepared an interpretive exhibit on Marine Lt Archibald Gillespie, President Polk's secret agent



Marine of the 1930s appears in this full-size oil painting by Col John Thomason. Original hangs in Officers Mess at MCRD, San Diego.

and participant in several battles in the conquest of California. The exhibit is on display on board the *Berkeley*, ferryboat museum of the San Diego Maritime Museum Association, and is an example of the kind of historical exhibits which will be created in the depot museum.

The smallness of the museum building may necessitate rotating exhibits around the depot—library, theater, headquarters—and perhaps even in off-base museums such as the *Berkeley*, if the stories of both local military and Marine Corps history and of the recruit experience are to be told. The gratifying impression Col Nihart carried away, however, was that the recruit depot was conceptually well on its way towards creating a museum which would be instructive and inspiring to recruits and their families and to the rest of the depot as well.

While at the recruit depot Col Nihart took the opportunity to verify the presence of several "lost" pieces of Marine Corps art. One was a life-sized Thomason oil of a vintage 1930s khaki-clad, field-hatted, '03-armed Marine which has been in and out of the commissioned officers' mess for many years. It is currently safely housed in a large, locked, plate-glass glazed cabinet in the main dining room. Col John W. Thomason, Jr.'s son Jack posed for the painting which was first done as a small oil study. It is reproduced here from the MajGen Louis McCarty Little personal papers collection. The study is inscribed to Mrs. Little and was presented to her by Thomason.

Also of interest were two Capolino historical paintings hanging at Recruit Regiment Headquarters. As with historical Marine art throughout the Corps, these art treasures are being inventoried and reported to the Museums Branch where they will be entered in the art collection register. Meanwhile, the paintings so recorded will stay in place, but should the post no longer want them or should it be disestablished the art would be sent to the Museums Branch.

Col Nihart also called on the curator of the San Diego Aero-Space Museum in Balboa Park and the director of the San Diego Maritime Museum Association on the Harbor Drive waterfront. The former exhibits a fine collection of early, World War II, and later aircraft; helicopters; and aircraft engines. The museum is favored by many volunteer workers from the local retired Navy and industrial aviation community who are busy restoring aircraft and working on other projects. One such project will be the painting of a steel and fiberglass replica of a P-40 used in the movie *Tora! Tora! Tora!* and donated by the Museums Branch.

The P-40 will be painted in the colors of the American Volunteer Group "Flying Tiger" with mention made of the six Marines who flew with the AVG. In addition to the Recruit Depot's exhibit on Gillespie, the *Berkeley* exhibits a Marine officer's and an NCO's sword on loan from the Museums Branch. The *Berkeley* isn't as yet fully completed as a museum, but work by both contractors and volunteers is progressing. The Association also operates as a museum the full-rigged ship *Star of India*.

During his visit to Camp Pendleton, where he viewed the new Amphibian Vehicle Museum, Col Nihart also discussed with Gen Graham the future of the Commanding General's quarters, the old Santa Margarita Ranch House, a historic object itself as it dates from about 1800. It was under the oak in front of the house in 1846 that the Mexican ranchers planned their attack on Kearny's column of dragoons approaching San Pasqual, 20 miles away. The ranch house, its detached chapel, and its bunkhouse, have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and are periodically opened to visitors. There are some displays of early ranch furniture, tools, and photographs but much remains to be done to turn it into a proper early California ranch and military history museum as is planned. The Museums Branch will be working closely with Camp Pendleton in both the expanded Amphibian Vehicle Museum and the Ranch House Museum.

Continuing up the coast toward the Bay area, Col Nihart stopped half way to Arroyo Grande to visit John Loomis, a prominent local rancher and businessman and a former Marine. John is a staunch member of the 1st Marine Division Association and has held reunions at his museum-ranch. He had written the History and Museum Division stating that he had a number of salvaged pieces of Marine War II combat art and thought they should be returned to Corps control. He turned over 12 pieces, among them two fine McDermotts, and all have now joined the art collection to augment the small group of World War II art we hold. They will be exhibited as a group and some will be shown in a future issue of this newsletter.

In San Francisco, Col Nihart stayed at the Marines' Memorial Club where a small museum is maintained in the library. Some outstanding items on display include the Medal of Honor and portrait of GySgt John Basilone and an old-style blue colors of the 6th Marines. Profitable discussions were held with the club director, Col. W.E. ("Jack") Barnes, USMC (Ret.), about loan exhibits



Navy-Marine Corps Museum at Treasure Island will occupy this building, once part of the 1939 San Francisco World's Fair, now the Headquarters, 12th Naval District. The curved 260- by 60-foot entry hall will carry out the theme of Navy and Marine Corps activities in the Pacific from 1813 to the present.

for the museum and reproduction art to add to the club's decor.

While visiting Col Broman C. Stinemetz, Director, 12th Marine Corps District, on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay, Col Nihart met with ComTwelve's museum committee to hear its plans and discuss how the Museums Branch could help. Theme of the Treasure Island museum will be the Navy and Marine Corps in the Pacific—past, present, and future. The Museums Branch has furnished a list of 17 events and periods reflecting this theme and ranging from the 1813 cruise of the frigate *Essex*, when Marine Lt John Marshall Gamble skippered a prize crew, to the present. The branch has also assembled Marine Corps historical reference material treating these events and identified historical artifacts, art, and photographs related to them. These have been provided through the cognizant 12th District as a command museum loan to ComTwelve museum. Col Houston Stiff has been recalled to active duty to assist in preparing these exhibits. The opening date of the new museum is 2 October, with Gen Simmons as the Commandant's representative.

Col Nihart's last stop was Vallejo and Marine Barracks, Mare Island. Vallejo's 1925 city hall, which is being replaced by a new structure, will be converted into the Vallejo Naval and Historic Museum. Mare Island Navy Yard was across the river before Vallejo existed, having been founded by Capt Farragut in 1854. Maj Addison Garland established the Marine Barracks there in 1862.

Naturally, the Mare Island story will figure significantly in the Vallejo museum as is reflected by the "Naval" in its name. The Museum Branch will be providing reference and exhibit material to Vallejo through the Marine Barracks, which will have cognizance over the loan exhibits as a command museum.

After conferring with the Vallejo officials, Col Nihart went to Mare Island and called on the barracks CO, Maj Dave Purvis. The barracks has an active program of acquiring historical photographs and personal memorabilia from the many former Marines living in the area. There are six large Capolino historical paintings hanging in the barracks and four 12-pounder Dahlgren boat howitzers on the grounds. All will be added to Museums Branch computer-based inventories. Quarters M-1, the CO's house, is included in the recently approved Mare Island Naval Shipyard National Historic Landmark.

Shortly after his return from the west coast, Col Nihart was contacted by BGen Manning T. Jannell, Commanding General, Marine Corps Supply Center, Barstow. Gen Jannell plans a museum in the old guard house that will present the history of the center and the military history of the high desert region. Outside will be displayed and captioned 20 or 30 pieces of heavy equipment—tanks, artillery, engineer equipment, vehicles—stocked and repaired by the center. The Museums Branch has already outlined the support that it can provide to Barstow.

People and Places

At the recent annual reunion of the 1st Marine Division Association held in Washington from 7-9 August, Gen Simmons was elected President for 1975-76. The History and Museums Division is well represented among the association's officers as Col Nihart was re-elected Treasurer and Mr. Shaw, Secretary.

Miss Dale Shedd, a recent graduate in history from the University of Pennsylvania, has joined the Historical Branch as an archives technician.

Reference historian Dr. Martin Gordon has just had a feature article published in the *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress* (July 1975) concerning "Patrick Magruder: Citizen, Congressman, Librarian of Congress."

The division's Civil War expert, Mr. Ralph Donnelly, Assistant Head of the Reference Section, addressed the Congress of Civil War Roundtables at Manassas, Virginia on 3 October. His subject, on which he is the widely acknowledged authority, was the Confederate States Marine Corps.

Three members of the division, **Director Simmons**, Col Nihart, Deputy Director for Museums, and Mr. Shaw, Chief Historian, attended the annual meeting of the Governors and Fellows of the Company of Military Historians held on 25-27 September at Oklahoma City and Lawton, Oklahoma. Highlights of the meeting included tours of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, the Museum of the Great Plains, and the U.S. Army Field Artillery and Fort Sill Museum. Col Nihart also represented the division at the Canadian Military Museum Conference in Calgary, Alberta, in early September and took

the opportunity while north of the border to visit the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

Col Hart, Deputy Director for History, is now serving as sheriff (president) of the Potomac Corral of the Westerners, a world-wide organization of historians, collectors, and buffs interested in the West. Col Hart also has just been elected to honorary membership in the Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association, Inc. He represented the division at the Conference on Western History of the Western History Association in Tulsa, Oklahoma, 8-11 Oct. Earlier, on 18 Sept, he spoke about the historical program to the Lions Club, Everett, Pa., at the invitation of Col Richard Barry, USMC (retired), former head of the Historical Branch at the Education Center, Quantico.

Maj David A. Quinlan, most recently Commanding Officer, Amphibious Evacuation Security Force during the FREQUENT WIND Operation (the evacuation of refugees from Saigon), has joined the Historical Branch for a four-month tour before starting full-time law studies at George Washington University. He will be working with Dr. Gordon on the monograph covering Marine activities in Southeast Asia during the 1973-75 period.

Maj David A. Quinlan, USMC, researching after-action reports and command chronologies in the Historical Branch's archives.



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