

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 10TH MARINES



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

This field howitzer, nicknamed "Miss Connie," is shown firing into a Japanese-held cave from the brink of a sheer cliff on Tinian. The gun was locked securely in this unusual position after parts were hand-carried to the cliff's edge. "Miss Connie" was a veteran of Guadalcanal, Saipan, and Tinian. (USMC Photo 94660)

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by
Major David N. Buckner,
U.S. Marine Corps



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Other Volumes in the Marine Corps Regimental Histories Series

- A Brief History of the 1st Marines*, 1960, rev. eds. 1962, 1968
- A Brief History of the 2d Marines*, 1961, rev. eds. 1962, 1969
- A Brief History of the 3d Marines*, 1961, rev. ed. 1968
- A Brief History of the 4th Marines*, 1970
- A Brief History of the 5th Marines*, 1963, rev. ed. 1968 (now undergoing further revision)
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- A Brief History of the 23d Marines*, scheduled for preparation
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- A Brief History of the 25th Marines*, 1981

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FOREWORD

This monograph is the twelfth in a series of 16 regimental histories. When completed, this series will cover in similar fashion each of the infantry and artillery regiments in the Fleet Marine Force, active and reserve. The present narrative not only sets forth the significant actions of the 10th Marines, the oldest of the Marine Corps' artillery regiments, but also provides a general history of Marine Corps activities in peace and war in which the regiment took part.

Major David N. Buckner, USMC, the author, was a member of the Histories Section of the History and Museums Division, from July 1976 to June 1980. Major Buckner graduated from American University, Washington, D.C., in 1965 with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism. After commissioning he attended The Basic School and then was a platoon commander in the 6th Marines. From 1968 to 1969 he served at sea with the Marine Detachment of the USS *Wasp* (CVS 18). He then went to Vietnam where he commanded Company G, 9th Marines. On his return to the United States in 1971 he served as an instructor at The Basic School. This was followed by a second tour in Vietnam, as an advisor to the Vietnamese Marine Corps. He was next stationed at Camp Lejeune, where he is at this time again serving, as Executive Officer, 2d Landing Support Battalion.

In the pursuit of accuracy and objectivity, the Division of History and Museums welcomes comments on this booklet from present and former members of the 10th Marines as well as other interested individuals and activities.



E. H. SIMMONS
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret.)
Director of Marine Corps History and Museums

PREFACE

The 10th Marines is one of the oldest and proudest of the regiments of Marines. Its unbroken service spans 67 years. The line from the *Marines Hymn*, "We have fought in every clime and place where we could take a gun," could well serve as its motto: Mexico, Haiti, Santo Domingo, the Pacific islands and atolls—the regiment has been there. In times of peace and near war, it has served in Iceland, China, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, and Germany, and with the Landing Force Sixth Fleet.

As the only artillery regiment in existence at the creation of the Fleet Marine Force, the 10th Marines wrote the doctrine for the employment of artillery with the landing force.

Assistance in producing this history came from virtually every section and individual in the History and Museums Division. The manuscript was edited by several members of the Historical Branch, notably Mr. Jack Shulimson. It was typeset by Corporal Paul Gibson, USMC, formerly of the Publications Production Section, with assistance from Miss Catherine A. Stoll. The maps were prepared by Mr. Richard A. Hillman of Publications Production, who also designed the book. Photographic support was rendered by Gunnery Sergeant William K. Judge, USMC, and Mrs. Regina Strother, of the Division's Still Photograph Depository, now a part of the Defense Audio Visual Agency. Mr. Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas, the Registrar of the Marine Corps Museum, also assisted in collecting photographs, and Mr. Jack Hilliard, Chief Curator, aided in captioning many of them. Mr. Charles A. Wood, Curator of the Personal Papers Collection, made available documentation that provided details of the regiment's early evolution. Basic research was facilitated by Mrs. Gabrielle M. Santelli and Mr. Danny J. Crawford of the Reference Section; by Miss Evelyn A. Englander, Head, Library Section; and Mrs. Joyce E. Bonnett and Miss Linda M. Tripp of the Archives Section.

Special thanks are due to Colonel John E. Greenwood, USMC (Ret.), former Deputy Director for Marine Corps History; Mr. Henry I. Shaw, Jr., Chief Historian, who provided general editorial direction; and Lieutenant Colonel Gary N. Parker, a fellow historical writer, who offered patient advice and valuable opinions.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to the distinguished group of former 10th Marines artillerymen who reviewed the comment draft and provided corrections, personal photographs, and vignettes that only they could.



DAVID N. BUCKNER
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A Brief History of the 10th Marines

THE EARLY YEARS

During the many landings, demonstrations, and wars, small and otherwise, involving the United States Marines, the artillery was there. Perhaps “artillery” should be clarified. At least the guns were there; Marine artillery units as separate, specialized entities, however, did not come into being until 1914. For that matter, separate, permanently organized Marine infantry units are not much older.

The reason for these relatively recent beginnings lies in the highly fragmented organization and wide separation of units of the Marine Corps during its first 140 years. As late as 1916, more Marines were on sea duty than were on any other single task; 1,880 enlisted men out of 9,935. Sea duty was closely followed by duty at posts, yards, and stations in the United States with 1,731.¹

The 19th century form of international relations known as “gunboat diplomacy” often called for the employment ashore of the landing parties from one or more ships. These could entail just Marine detachments or Marines augmented by blue jackets. If a landing party were going ashore to enforce respect for the flag, it very likely would have brought along artillery in the form of a handy, light, brass boat gun. More often than not, the gun was manned by a Navy crew. On occasions that demanded more Marines than were available in local ships’ detachments, the Commandant would order Navy Yard Marine Barracks reduced to a sergeant’s guard and would form companies and battalions. These larger formations could be supported, if necessary, by Army artillery or ships’ batteries.

Even though the Marine Corps was without artillery units, Marines were quite familiar with the weapons involved, their employment, and organization. Marines manned ships’ guns, and in those days there was not much difference between naval cannon and field artillery. Technique of fire certainly was not complex. The absence of long-range observation and communication dictated that virtually all artillery fire be direct, observed fire.

By the beginning of the 20th century, this nation’s influence and interests seemed to require a capability beyond that of the traditional landing party. The Navy had made the transition from sail to steam and, consequently, was dependent upon coaling stations throughout the world. The country’s potential foes were becoming more sophisticated, and probably more numerous. Gradually the need grew for larger, more permanent Marine organizations that could defend or seize the essential coaling stations. The Corps became adept at forming battalions, regiments, and brigades at a moment’s notice for duty with the fleet. China (1900, 1910), the Philippines (1900), Cuba (1898, 1906, 1911, 1912, 1913), Mexico (1914), and Haiti (1914) had visits from these pre-Fleet Marine Force units. While tactical units did not yet exist on a permanent basis, the Corps learned to muster these large formations smoothly when the need arose. Expeditionary duty on a large scale was becoming routine.

The emergence of larger units brought an end to the era of dragging naval boat guns ashore. The Marines were clearly in need of organic field artillery. While today the Marine Corps is routinely equipped with the same artillery weapons as the Army, this

was not the case at the turn of the century. Then, Marine operations were totally naval in orientation. Employing a Navy field piece, firing Navy ammunition, solved many potential logistic and training problems. Consequently, the Naval Gun Factory at the Washington Navy Yard designed and produced a 3-inch field gun and carriage in 1900.² This weapon, along with Gatling, Hotchkiss, and Colt rapid firing guns, constituted landing force artillery for many years.

A good example of the state of confusion existing about Marine "artillery" was the fact that revolving weapons, of which the Gatling was a prime example, were regarded as artillery even though their bore diameters were as small as one inch. Also considered more appropriate to the artillery than the infantry were the first machine guns or automatic guns, such as the Colt, Model 1895 and the Benet-Mercie machine rifle, Model 1909.

Vera Cruz

The fleet exercises of 1914 at the island of Culebra, Puerto Rico were barely over when trouble flared with Mexico and most of the Marine participants in the exercise headed south again. Headquarters, 1st Advanced Base Brigade and the 1st Advanced Base Regiment (-) were at Pensacola, and elements were off Vera Cruz on board the auxiliary cruiser USS *Prairie*.

In a change of policy which heretofore had recognized revolutionary governments as soon as they were strong enough to be in control, President Wilson refused to recognize the government of General Huerta after he overthrew Francisco Madero in February 1913. According to Wilson, only governments which had come to power by constitutional means would receive official United States recogni-



tion. This statement did little to endear the United States to the Mexican authorities. Arrival of United States warships at or near several Mexican ports in order to be ready to protect American citizens and property from the fighting between various factions further irritated the Mexicans.

Within a short time an incident occurred that permitted President Wilson to intervene directly in Mexican matters. On 6 April, a Mexican officer arrested and briefly confined several sailors and the paymaster from the despatch boat USS *Dolphin* who were ashore in Tampico buying supplies. There was no doubt the Mexicans knew they were dealing with an American warship. The *Dolphin* had the national ensign prominently displayed fore and aft.³ Rear Admiral Henry T. Mayo, commanding the Caribbean Squadron, demanded the United States flag be saluted with a special ceremony by the Mexican commander at Tampico. The Mexicans declined. Other methods of apology were suggested by the Mexicans. Admiral Mayo declined. Tension was heightened by reports that the German freighter *Yperanga* was bound for Vera Cruz with a large shipment of arms for the Huerta forces.

On 21 April, Rear Admiral Frank F. Fletcher, senior officer at Vera Cruz, was ordered to "take the customs house and prevent the delivery of arms and



USMC Photo 531217

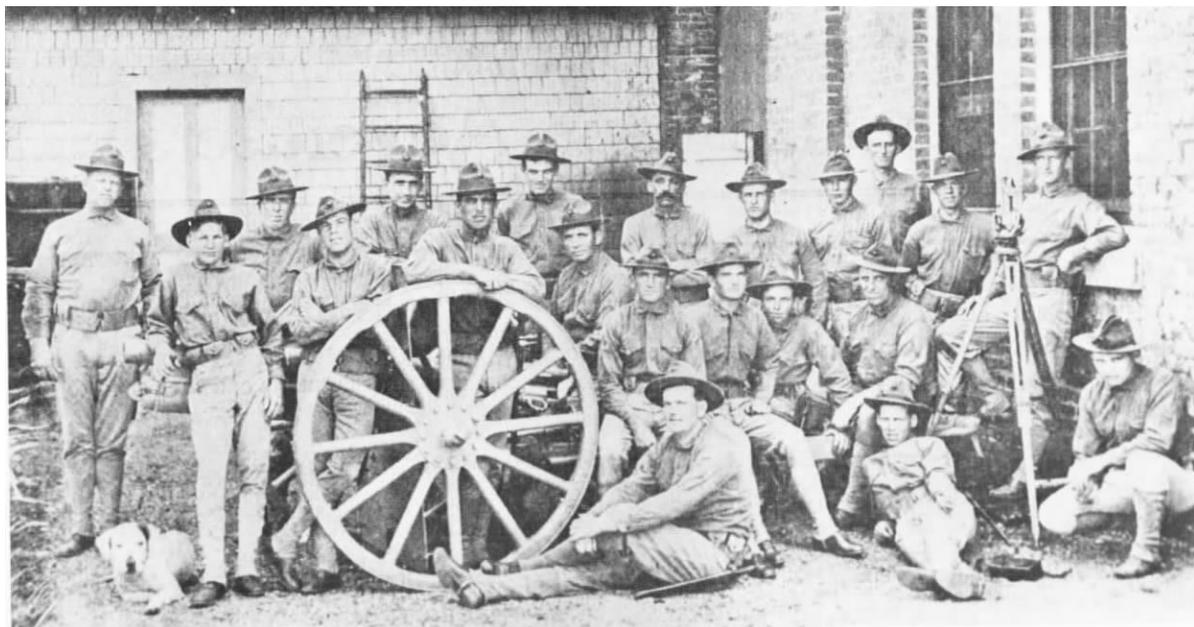
A Marine stands guard over artillery field pieces near Vera Cruz in 1914. The buildings in the background are part of the water works at Eltagan, Mexico.

ammunition." The first Marines to land were elements of the 2d Regiment on board the *Prairie*. They were closely followed by Marines who had come up from garrison duty in Panama. The 1st Regiment and Brigade Headquarters arrived and landed the next day.

Marine artillerymen pose alongside a 3-inch field gun at Vera Cruz. Their mascot dog can be seen at the bottom left of the picture. The device at right

appears to be a panoramic telescope used in artillery fire control.

USMC Photo 301138





USMC Photo 517382

In sand hills near Vera Cruz, Marine artillerymen emplace a three-inch gun mounted on a carriage

designed for landing from small boats. The Marines still wear the Spanish-American War field hat.



USMC Photo 517469

A Marine field gun crew at Vera Cruz in 1914. Artillery mobility is still dependent upon the horse.

Haiti

The expedition to Vera Cruz is important to the history of the 10th Marines; it caused the formation of the unit to which the origin of the regiment is traced. On 25 April, in compliance with Colonel John A. Lejeune's Brigade Order Number 13, an artillery battalion was formed consisting of the 1st, 9th, and 13th Companies; 12 officers and 406 enlisted men, armed with 3-inch field guns.⁴

Major Robert H. Dunlap, formerly the commander of the 2d Battalion, 1st Advanced Base Regiment, was designated the battalion commander. Commanders of the 1st, 9th, and 13th Companies were Captains Robert O. Underwood, Eugene P. Fortson, and Chandler Campbell, respectively.

There is no record of the artillery having conducted any fire missions during the occupation of Vera Cruz; indeed, after some initial opposition the enemy was virtually nonexistent. Control of the city and environs passed to the U. S. Army on 30 April. On 16 July, Huerta fled the country but plans to withdraw the occupation force were delayed due to the rise in power of famous revolutionary leader Pancho Villa. The Artillery Battalion, with the rest of the United States forces, was withdrawn on 23 November 1914.

The Mexican authorities never had saluted the flag.

The Artillery Battalion embarked in the transport *City of Memphis* for the United States, arriving at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on 3 December. Two days later, the battalion was transferred to the Marine Barracks, Annapolis.

In 1915 an artillery school was established at Annapolis under command of Colonel Eli K. Cole. The Major General Commandant, in his annual report to the Secretary of the Navy, stated, "Field artillery has become very important to the Marine Corps, both for advance-base work and for expeditionary duty, and it is therefore the intention of this office to afford a large number of officers an opportunity to become familiar in the use of this powerful arm."⁵

The organization and equipment of the Artillery Battalion as well as the duties of its various personnel were detailed in the lead article of the August 1915 *The Recruiters' Bulletin*. Written by the 1st Company commander, Captain Underwood, the article also provides insight into the artillery's perception of its own role and capability on the modern battlefield. By the time this article was published, the Artillery Battalion was engaged in the second campaign of its short career.

Service in Haiti and the Dominican Republic was to occupy the Artillery Battalion from August 1915 to May 1917.

The country of Haiti, sharing the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, had long experienced a chaotic internal history. From the revolution against the French in the early 19th century, violence had been the keynote of Haitian politics. In the years preceding the arrival of the Marines in 1915, all but two Haitian rulers had been assassinated or overthrown. Financially, Haiti had been in trouble for a long time. Overextension of credit, mainly by the French, was widespread. The Haitian Government found itself unable to pay even the interest on guaranteed bonds.

In late 1914, conditions became so unsettled that the privately owned, American-French-German-financed Banque Nationale became fearful that the Haitian Government was about to confiscate its gold reserves. Arrangements were made for a 65-man U.S. Marine detachment under Major Charles B. Hatch to remove, in secret, \$500,000 worth of gold from the bank in Port au Prince. This treasure was then shipped to New York on board the gunboat USS *Machias*.

Continuing disorder and instability led to full-scale U.S. intervention in July 1915. On the 28th of that month, the President of Haiti, Vilbrun Guillaume Sam, was dragged from his refuge in the French legation in Port au Prince by a mob which promptly tore his body apart. Later in the day, Rear Admiral William B. Caperton, commanding the Cruiser Squadron, landed Marines and sailors at the city. The 19-year-long occupation of Haiti by United States Marines had begun.

United States forces were rapidly augmented. On 1 August, the battleship USS *Connecticut* sailed for Haiti with five companies of Colonel Cole's 2d Regiment. On 10 August, Headquarters 1st Brigade, the Signal Company, and seven companies of Colonel Theodore P. Kane's 1st Regiment sailed on board the armored cruiser USS *Tennessee*. The *Tennessee*, immediately upon discharging troops at Port au Prince, returned to the United States and embarked the Artillery Battalion. The battalion was ". . . fully armed and equipped both as artillery and infantry." It had a strength of 13 officers and 318 enlisted men and was armed with twelve 3-inch landing guns and two 4.7-inch heavy field guns.⁷ On 16 August, the



USMC Photo 517416

Marines load a 4.7-inch heavy field gun on board ship. Two of these weapons were employed in Haiti

in 1915. They were the heaviest ordnance employed by Marine artillery on shore to that date.

day the *Tennessee* arrived at Port-au-Prince, Colonels Cole and Kane exchanged commands. Shortly thereafter Colonel Cole left for Cap Haitien with his 1st Regiment Headquarters and four companies. He left three companies behind in Port au Prince while one company had remained at Philadelphia.

Captain, later Major General, Douglas C. McDougal, the Artillery Battalion adjutant, commanded the battalion during the landing in Haiti. Major Dunlap had taken ill and was on sick leave until mid-September. He rejoined his battalion in Haiti on 26 September.⁸

Upon arrival at Port au Prince on 31 August, the battalion headquarters and the 1st and 9th Companies debarked and joined Colonel Littleton W. T. Waller's expeditionary force headquarters. The 13th Company remained on board ship and sailed north around the island to Cap Haitien, landing four days later and joining Colonel Cole and his 1st Regiment Headquarters. During the battalion's Haitian ex-

perience, the 13th Company, under Captain Campbell, managed to see the most action; but as infantry, not artillery.

In September 1915, the situation in Haiti had an unreal quality about it. Cap Haitien, for example, was ringed loosely by bands of armed Cacos. These curious individuals have been called everything from bandits to revolutionaries; the truth probably lies somewhere in the middle: part-time bandits and professional "revolutionaries for hire." After placing one party in power, they would then be available to its inevitable opposition. In between political shooting engagements, Cacos tended to stay together and live off the land rather than "demobilize."

With the death of President Sam, it could be expected that the services of the Cacos would be in great demand, but the introduction of the Marines in the Haitian political arena created an unnatural calm. Perhaps Haitians regarded the Marines as



USMC Photo 517562

Marine artillerymen man a field piece in Haiti, 1915. The ammunition caisson is next to the gun.

Marine on the extreme left is using an early field telephone to coordinate fire direction.



USMC Photo 521288

Mechanization did not necessarily ensure mobility. A Jeffery quad truck, an early four-wheel prime

mover, pulling a Marine artillery piece is stuck in the Haitian mud.

“super Cacos;” perhaps as invaders. In any event, all hands agreed the calm could not last. Trouble broke out in both regiments’ areas.

On 7 September, a detachment from the gunboat USS *Castine* was put ashore at Gonaives up the Gulf of Gonave from Port au Prince to reinforce the 2d Regiment’s 7th Company. Two hundred Cacos were reported closing on the town. Four days later the figure was reported as 400. The same day, a mounted patrol of nine Marines was confronted by 75 Cacos near Gonaives. A few shots prevented the Cacos from surrounding the patrol. The Caco activity outside Gonaives prevented any normal trade with the surrounding countryside and the town’s food and water supply became critical.

The Marines were ordered to reopen the railroad serving the town and to disperse the Cacos. These orders led to a clash on 22 September between Marines and Cacos who were attempting to destroy the railroad tracks outside town. Major Smedley Darlington Butler, having warned their chief, “General” Rameau, twice before about interfering with the Marines or trade, caught up with him again on the 22d, jerked him from his horse and made him withdraw his forces.⁹ Meanwhile the 1st Regiment

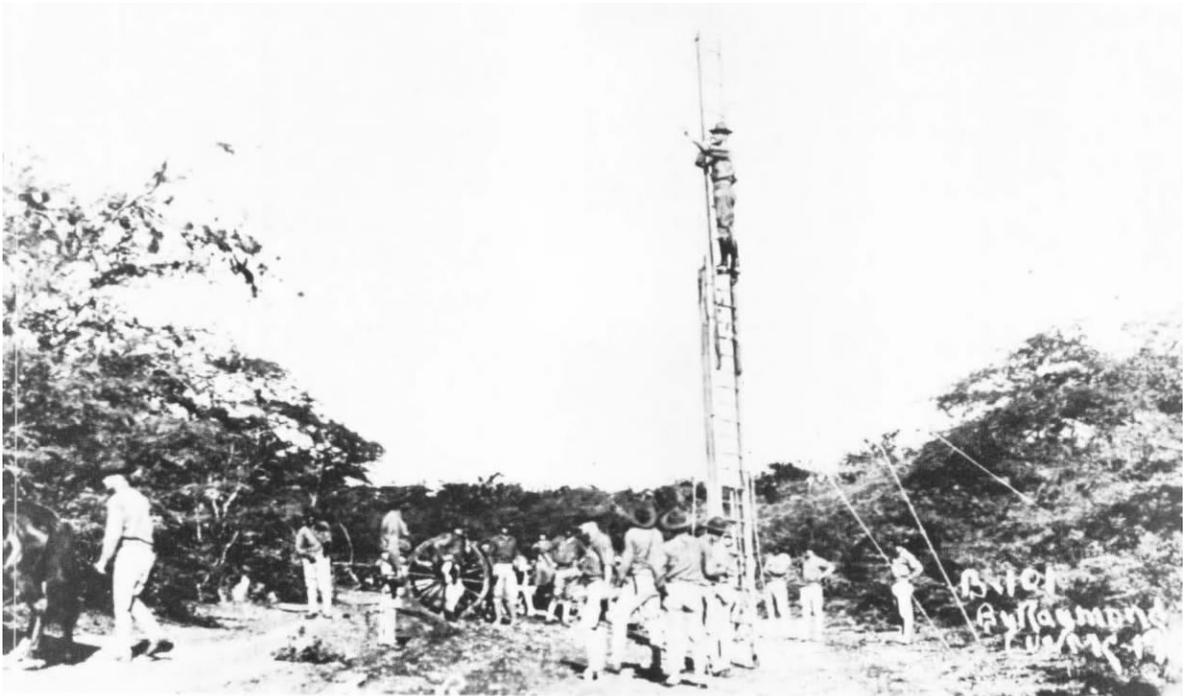
had its hands full at the northern part of the island. On the 18th, a working party near Cap Haitien was the target of Caco fire. One Caco was killed in the return fire.

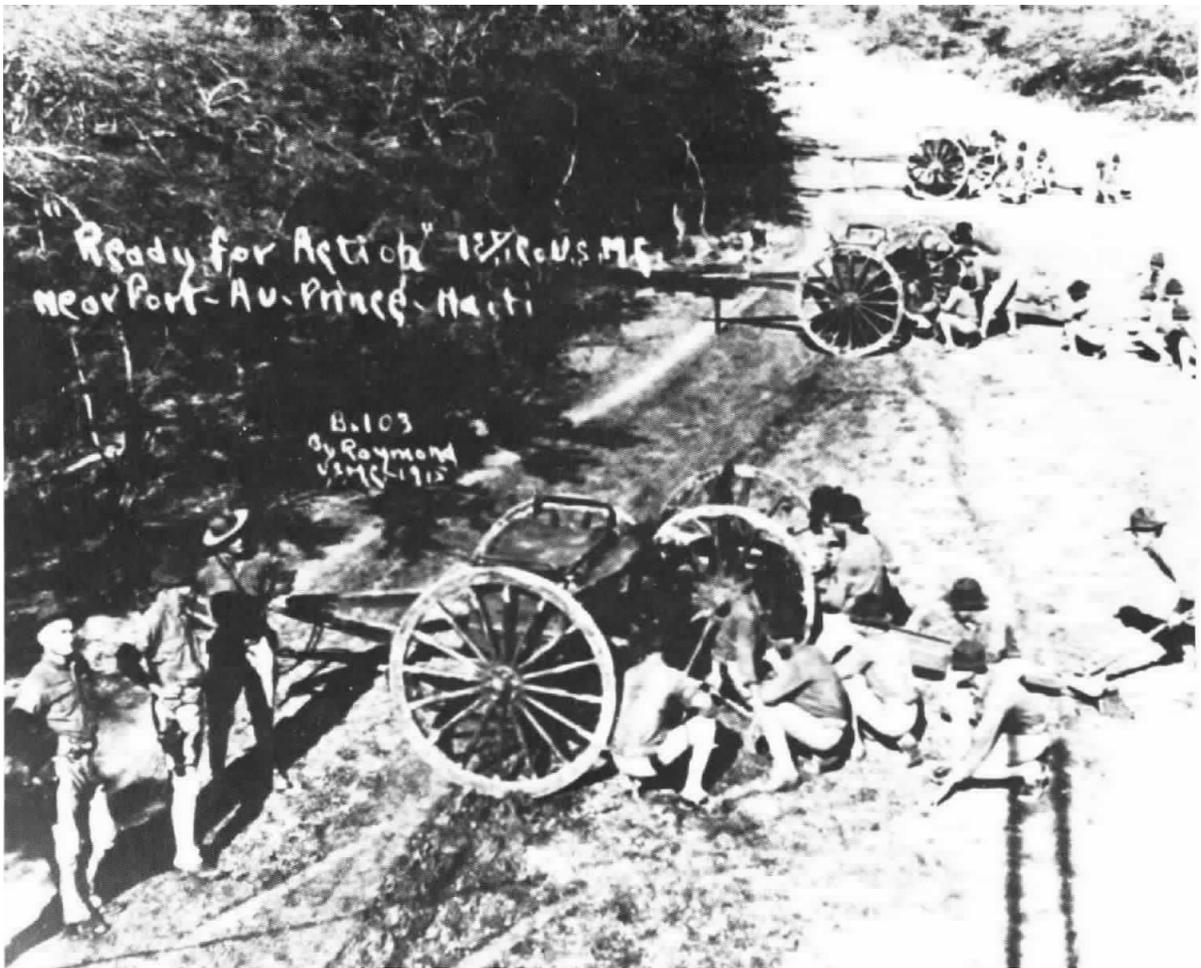
On 25 September, two Marine patrols were ordered out from Cap Haitien. Each patrol’s turnaround point was about three miles distant from the town. Neither patrol was involved in a firefight, although both had to pass through obviously hostile Caco lines. The next day was a different story. Again two patrols were dispatched. One, led by Captain Campbell with two officers and six squads of artillerymen from the 13th Company, was to patrol to Haut de Cap and effect a linkup with the second patrol. This patrol was led by Captain Frederick A. Barker, commanding officer of the *Connecticut’s* Marine Detachment, and consisted of five of his detachment’s squads. The passage of lines did not go without incident. At 0900 Captain Barker’s patrol was fired on. Both Captain Campbell’s patrol and a hastily formed additional patrol, led by First Lieutenant Harold Utley, converged on the scene. In the confused fighting which lasted into the afternoon, 10 Marines were wounded; four of these from the 13th Company. The Caco losses were estimated to

Marines prepare for an artillery mission in Haiti in 1915. The Marine observer standing on the ladder,

evidently an officer (from his boots), provides target information to the gunners below.

USMC Photo 517479





USMC Photo 517564

A Marine artillery battery in Haiti is ready for action. The shadow of the ladder pictured in the preceding

photograph can be seen in the foreground. Note the ammunition caissons easily accessible to each gun.

have been between 40-60 dead.¹⁰ The loosely organized Caco blockade of Cap Haitien had been broken and was not reestablished. The Marines set to work collecting weapons, patrolling, and making their presence known throughout the countryside. The power of the Cacos gradually was being broken.

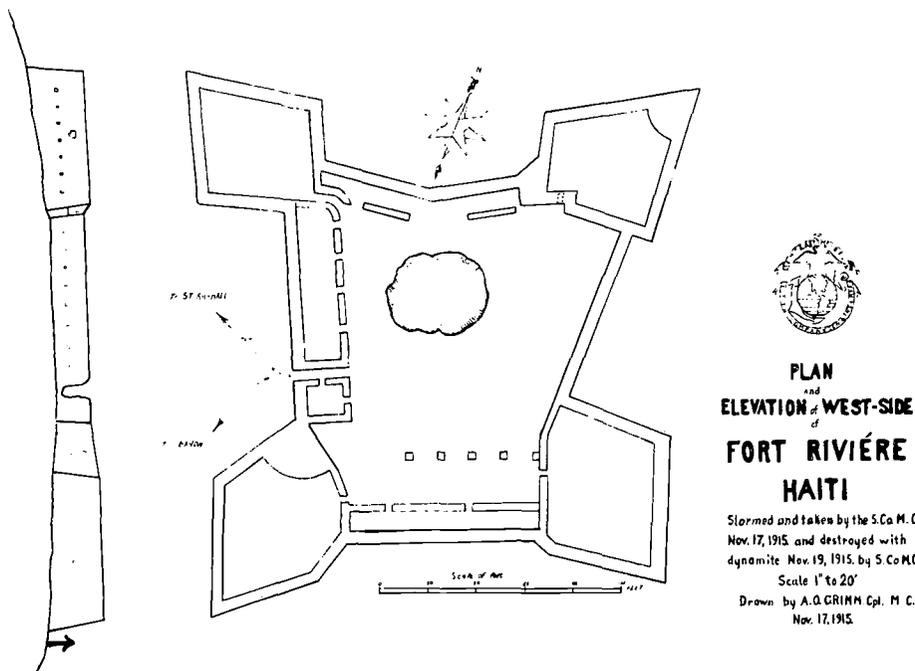
On 20 October 1915, a detachment of artillerymen from the 13th Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Thomas E. Thrasher, Jr., occupied the town of Bahun. Two days later the Marines came under fire from Cacos on the other side of the Grande Riviere (river). As usual, when Marine skill and ability competed with Caco exuberance and wild shooting, the Cacos came off second best. They lost, among others, their leader.

On 5 November, Captain Campbell led a force comprised of elements of three companies, the 13th, 19th, and 22d, against Cacos occupying Fort Capois, an old French masonry fort. The expedition left camp at 0445, was brought under fire by the fort at an optimistic 1,500 yards, and by 0800 was in attack

positions only 200 yards from the fort. For two and a half hours both sides blazed away. Then, at 1045, Captain Campbell noticed the Cacos leaping from the parapets into the jungle and making their escapes. Immediately sounding the charge, the Marines rushed to the fort to find "blood in many places but no dead or wounded."¹¹ Sixty years later in another war halfway around the world, the bottom line of many a patrol report would read virtually the same.

A little less than two weeks later, the 13th Company took part in the largest single battle of the first phase of the Haitian intervention. Led by Major Butler, Marines moved against Fort Riviere, another of the old but extremely substantial French forts which dotted the Haitian countryside.

The three-pronged attack was organized as follows: Major Butler with Captain William W. Low's 5th Company approached from the west; Captain Campbell's 13th Company and Captain Barker's *Connecticut* detachment from the southeast; and



Contemporary sketch of Fort Riviere from Marine Corps Historical Center collection.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Scott D. McCaughey with a bluejacket company from the *Connecticut* and a machine gun detachment from the 23d Company approached from the north.

Major Butler described the attack in the following report to Colonel Cole:

Plan of cooperation with Low, Campbell, and McCaughey worked perfectly. With Low's company reached position 800 yards to the southeast of fort at 7:45 a.m. Communicated with Campbell who was in exact position as planned 800 yards a little south of east. On hearing Campbell's whistle, I attacked with Low's company, starting at 7:50 a.m. Campbell advanced at the same time. Benet guns of both companies doing excellent work in covering our approaches. Cacos stayed in fort until we rushed in gate and hand-to-hand fight lasted 10 minutes, Cacos throwing rocks over casements. Campbell's company arrived five minutes after Low's, McCaughey's ten minutes after Campbell's, from northwest. Low arrived in fort at 8:15 a.m. About 25 natives jumped over the ramparts, automatic guns of Low, Campbell, and Barker shot them all. Total of 50 dead. We covered every trail. No casualties on our side. No operation could have been more successfully carried out. Professional efficiency of the officers and splendid grit of the men. Josephette and three division chiefs killed. Congratulate you on unequalled success of the operation.¹²

Major Butler failed to note in his report that the "gate" mentioned was more of a tunnel and was the only entrance to the fort, that it had bullets whizzing through it constantly, and that he and two enlisted men were the first to rush through and engage the enemy. Colonel Waller noted the facts. Major Butler, Sergeant Ross L. Iams, and Private

Samuel Gross were awarded the Medal of Honor. It was the second for Major Butler. He had won his first the year before at Vera Cruz.

After the fort was searched for weapons and the surrounding country scoured for enemy stragglers, Major Butler sent to Grande Riviere Du Nord for 1,900 pounds of dynamite. When it arrived, the fort was leveled.

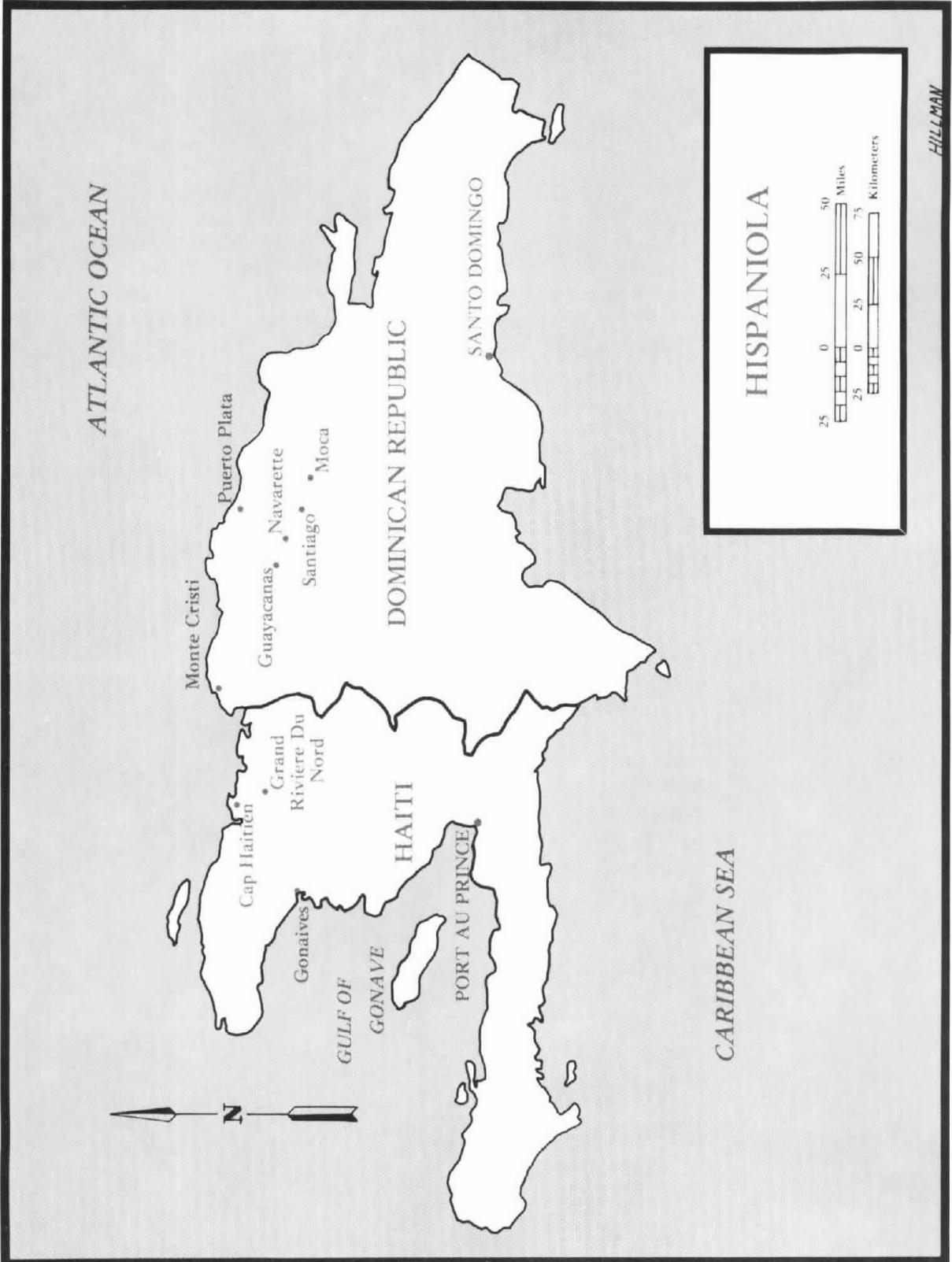
All the shooting and vigorous patrolling by the Marines had made a big impression on the Cacos, who became very quiet. It also evidently had made a big impression on Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, who sent the following message to Rear Admiral Caperton, senior officer in Haiti:

The Department appreciates excellent work done and gallantry displayed. In view of heavy losses to Haitians in recent engagement, Department desires our offensive be suspended in order to prevent further loss of life. Acknowledge. Daniels.¹³

Between the reluctance of the Cacos to engage the Marines and Secretary Daniels' prohibition, it got very quiet in Haiti.

Dominican Republic

In late April 1915, a situation which had been simmering in the Dominican Republic for years finally came to a boil. The Republic had long been in terrible financial shape, being repeatedly looted by successive governments. In 1904, President Theodore Roosevelt announced his famous corollary



ATLANTIC OCEAN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

SANTO DOMINGO

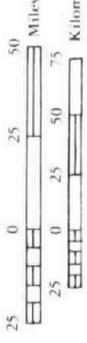
HAITI

GULF OF GONAVE

PORT AU PRINCE

CARIBBEAN SEA

HISPANIOLA



HILLMAN

to the Monroe Doctrine, a statement of United States responsibility for the political and financial conduct of Latin American countries. This United States responsibility was to be executed by military force if necessary. In 1905, the Dominican Government had requested that the United States take over the country's customs collections and, in effect, act as a parent doling out an allowance on one hand, while paying off government debts with the other. This arrangement worked fairly well for a number of years, until the capable Dominican President Ramon Caceres was assassinated in 1911. Dominican politics reverted to the chaotic, heavy borrowing, irresponsible type of precorollary days. In mid-April 1915, the Dominican War Minister, General Desiderio Arias,

revolted against the duly elected Dominican President, Juan Isidro Jimenez. The United States Government was pledged to support Jimenez, and the Marines were ordered in.

Actually, the Marines were ordered around, from the 1st Brigade forces next door in Haiti. On 30 April, the 6th Company commanded by Captain Frederick M. "Dopey" Wise and Captain Fortson's 9th Company of artillerymen sailed on board the *Prairie* from Port au Prince, destination: Santo Domingo City. At 1300 5 May, this provisional battalion landed at Fort San Geronimo.¹⁴ Its orders were to protect the United States Legation and to cooperate with the government forces against General Arias. Later in the afternoon, after getting both sides to

The 4th Marine Regiment staff in Santo Domingo: Front, from left to right, Capt Fredrick C. Rumsey, 1stLt Harold B. Pratt, Capt Russel B. Putnam, Col Joseph H. Pendleton, Maj Robert H. Dunlap, 1stLt

David M. Randall. Rear, left to right, Surgeon F. L. Benton, 1stLt David S. Barry, 1stLt Pedro A. del Valle, Chaplain Leroy N. Taylor.

USMC Photo 521567



agree to aim their fire away from the legation, Captain Wise was asked to loan the government forces 100 rifles and 50,000 rounds of ammunition. He refused. He was then asked to provide supporting artillery fire for the next day's attack. He agreed.

By the next morning two of the 9th Company's 3-inch guns and 400 rounds of shrapnel were ashore. Additionally, Captain Wise was prepared to adjust the 4-inch fire of the *Prairie* and the gunboat USS *Castine*. United States forces ashore by this time consisted of 155 Marines as well as a bluejacket landing party of 130. Captain Wise was ready and eager to do whatever was necessary to support the government, but, at the last minute, President Jimenez resigned rather than remain in office supported by American arms. The cabinet took over the reins of government, but that still left a rebel general, Arias, in town. More Marines arrived from Haiti and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and General Arias moved his army to Santiago in the north of the country.¹⁵

Among the reinforcements arriving in the Dominican Republic was Colonel Kane's 2d Regiment Headquarters, three rifle companies, and the remainder of the Artillery Battalion which debarked from the tender USS *Panther* at Santo Domingo City on 22 May.¹⁶ For the short period of time the Artillery Battalion remained in the city, with the addition of the 5th Company, it was designated as the 2d Battalion of the U.S. Forces operating in Santo Domingo. On 3 June, the Artillery Battalion, less the 1st Company which remained at Duarte, sailed to the northern side of the island on board the armored cruiser USS *Memphis*. The Marine commanders had chosen to attack General Arias at Santiago from the north because of that area's better road network.

On 21 June, the 4th Regiment from San Diego, commanded by Colonel Joseph H. Pendleton, arrived at Monte Cristi. Four days later, the operation to seize Santiago and General Arias began. Plans called for a two-pronged attack, originating from Puerto Plata and Monte Cristi and converging just north of Santiago at Navarette. The main body, 34 officers, 803 enlisted men, consisted of the 4th Regiment, Headquarters Artillery Battalion, and the 13th Company. Captain Wise's 6th Company guarded the regimental train. This force was to proceed by road from Monte Cristi. The second force, six officers and 131 enlisted men, consisting of Captain Fortson's 9th Company of artillerymen and the 4th Company, was to leave Puerto Plata, opening the railroad as it went.

Colonel Pendleton's force left Monte Cristi for the 75-mile advance to Santiago on the 26th. Captain Fortson would have departed Puerto Plata simultaneously, but for the desertion of the train's engineer. Pendleton's force covered 16 miles the first day without major incident. The next morning the Marines' route of march was blocked by a body of rebel troops occupying a commanding ridge position known as Las Trencheras (The Trenches).

The plan worked out by Colonel Pendleton was a two-battalion frontal attack; Major Melville J. Shaw's 2d Battalion was to advance on the left with Captain Arthur T. Marix's 1st Battalion on the right. The general axis of advance was to be somewhat right of center of the enemy position so that eventually the 1st Battalion would be able to wheel to its left and envelop the enemy's left flank. The infantry maneuver was to be supported by artillery and machine gun fire from the 13th Company. At 0845 the artillery opened fire with shrapnel at some enemy standing in front of the trenches. They immediately disappeared. The Marine riflemen had advanced to within 1,000 yards of the enemy trenches when they suddenly were swept by intense, though inaccurate, enemy small arms fire.

Major Dunlap, who had been filling the additional duty of Colonel Pendleton's Chief of Staff since 21 June, took a machine gun crew in a Ford touring car to within 1,200 yards of the objective. There he located Major Shaw and discovered that contact had been lost with the 1st Battalion. Fortunately, contact was soon reestablished with two of the 1st Battalion's companies and Major Dunlap, in order to avoid any further coordination or control problems, decided to change the attack into a frontal assault rather than continue with the envelopment. Taking responsibility for the right half of the objective and command of the 27th and 34th Companies, he ordered the assault.

Captain Campbell, back at the artillery position, kept up the supporting fire until the last possible moment. Colonel Pendleton, in his official report of the action stated:

... The artillery fired until just a few moments before (the infantry) arriving at the position preliminary to charging, it was well handled and excellent judgement was shown by Captain Campbell as the ceasing and opening fire deserves the highest praise, as any mistake might have resulted in serious damage being inflicted on our forces.¹⁷

The 67 rounds of shrapnel fired by the 13th Company's 3-inch guns were the first ever fired by Marine

artillerymen from Marine guns in support of a Marine attack. As such, Las Trencheras was the first battle won by a combination of Marine arms.

Regarding Major Dunlap, who had remained in command of the Artillery Battalion but led the first infantry assault supported by Marine artillery, Colonel Pendleton reported:

Major Dunlap is to be particularly commended for his energy and enterprise. I consider the short duration of the attack on "Las Trencheras" due mainly to his promptness in carrying forward the infantry attack after he left my position at the artillery and observation post to go forward with a machine gun and crew.¹⁸

The advance on Santiago was steady, but marked by frequent small engagements with the enemy. On the 28th, the camp was fired upon by a small force which retreated when the Marines responded with automatic weapons. Unfortunately for the Dominicans, they retired along a course which led them into a Marine outpost 600 yards to the east. The outpost, which was manned by members of the Artillery Battalion's 13th Company, had no difficulty tracking the approaching enemy. The Dominicans, unaware of the waiting Marines, were talking in loud voices and randomly firing their weapons. The inevitable firefight was initiated when the 13th Company's dog "Jack" started barking. Two enemy were killed and no Marines were injured.

The next day, while the expedition was setting up camp in the small town of Dona Antonia Abaja, a mounted reconnaissance patrol under the 4th Regiment's sergeant major, Thomas F. Carney, became engaged with an enemy force which had fired upon the advance guard. As the shooting picked up, a 13th Company squad under Sergeant Ernest L. Russell was dispatched to the scene. When the firing still did not abate, Major Dunlap, Captain Campbell, and the 4th Regiment's adjutant, First Lieutenant David M. Randall, mounted up and took a machine gun and ammunition to their aid. However, when this high-priced machine gun team arrived it found the situation under control.

The rebels' last major resistance to Pendleton's advance on Santiago took place at Guayacanas on 3 July. Once again the Dominicans were occupying trenches, but, unlike the 27 June engagement, the guns of the 13th Company were unable to bear on the enemy due to dense brush and lack of observation points. Once again the intrepid Major Dunlap went scouting to the front with a machine gun crew from the 13th Company. Arriving at the point of contact,

Major Dunlap ordered the crew leader, Corporal Joseph A. Glowin, to fire his Benet-Mercie into the enemy trenches in hopes of suppressing some of the heavy hostile fire. Corporal Glowin did and was hit. He continued to blaze away, as much as anyone could blaze away with the jam-prone Benet-Mercie, and was hit again. Glowin was an old-fashioned Marine made of stern stuff. He literally had to be dragged off his gun and back into the woods for medical treatment. He received the Medal of Honor. After more machine guns from the 28th Company got on line and in action, the Dominicans fled leaving 27 dead and five captured.¹⁹

While "Uncle Joe" Pendleton was moving down the road toward Santiago, Captain Fortson and his "Railroad Battalion" from Puerto Plata were having some unique experiences of their own. About 1030 on the 26th, Fortson rounded up a substitute engineer and headed down the Central Dominican Railroad. In anticipation of finding the enemy in strength along the route, he had mounted one of his 3-inch guns on a coal car which was pushed along ahead of the locomotive. It is well that he placed it in front of the locomotive. After leaving Puerto Plata the terrain on either side of the track was such that removal of the gun was next to impossible. Had he mounted it behind the locomotive, he may have effectively masked its fire. The Marine Corps' first, and possibly last, railroad artillery rattled into action.²⁰

The 26th was spent moving the train slowly south. Due to the ever-present danger of mines and ambushes, the train could move only as fast as the infantry patrolling to the front and flanks. That night the entire detachment established defensive positions around the train at Perez. At this point the enemy was reported to be only two miles down the track, but the next morning a patrol reported the track to the south quiet. It was not until the early afternoon that the detachment had its first enemy contact, long-range small arms fire from a hostile outpost. Fortson steadily advanced, firing his 3-inch gun and maneuvering his infantry. The enemy retreated equally as steadily. The detachment got as far as the railroad bridge at Quebrada Honda when it discovered much track had been torn up.

On the 28th, the Marines were engaged in repairing track and conducting local security patrols when word was sent up from Puerto Plata that Major Hiram I. "Hiking Hiram" Bearss was ashore, taking over command and looking for a ride for himself and the Marine detachment from the battleship USS *New Jersey*. The locomotive was dispatched and soon

returned with the reinforcements and the new commanding officer.

Major Bearss had a well established, Corps-wide reputation for daring. We have it from no less an authority on recklessness than Captain Wise that, ". . . There was never another like old Hiram in the world. Wild as you make them. Irresponsible to an incredible degree. Absolutely fearless. . . . His energy knew no control."²¹ In 1934 he would be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in 1901 during the famous march across the island of Samar in the Philippines.

At 0830 the next day, the Marines moved against 200 entrenched rebels at Alta Mira. Captain Fortson fired his 3-inch gun while his executive officer, Second Lieutenant Albert R. Sutherland, attacked the enemy's left flank. The Dominicans fell back to other positions guarding an absolutely crucial railroad tunnel. Again, Captain Fortson provided covering fire. The high drama of the day came when Major Bearss, grandly living up to his reputation for daring, mounted a railway hand car and led a 60-man charge through the 300-yard-long tunnel in an effort to envelop the enemy from the rear and prevent their escape. As it turned out, the escape was not prevented, but the tunnel was saved from destruction.

After several days of track-mending and bridge-

building, uninterrupted by further enemy activity, the "Railroad Battalion" received word that General Arias was disarming his followers and that hostilities would cease.

Among other things, this spelled the end of fire missions for the artillery which had done well and had established itself as an effective, responsive, Marine supporting arm. An excerpt from a letter written by the 9th Company correspondent to *The Marines Magazine*, a pre-*Leatherneck* publication, is quite revealing, ". . . At least we feel safe in saying that the long standing joke about the artillery going into battle is no more. In all modesty let it be said that the artillery did some very commendable work in this skirmishing."²²

The Artillery Battalion settled down to garrison and patrolling duties; 1st Company at Fort Ozama, 9th Company at Moca, Headquarters and the 13th Company at Santiago. Life slowed down and, for the 9th Company at least, was quite pleasant. Their correspondent wrote to *The Marines Magazine*:

. . . Here we are, settled down to routine and guard duty. Everything is as quiet as can be, with the exception of an occasional rumor of a night attack. None of these rumors have materialized so far. If something does not turn up pretty soon, there will be a lot of complaining, for we are chafing already at the inactivity. We are allowed squad liberty and a detail of fifteen men is permitted to at-

A Marine 3-inch gun crew pictured with a Jeffery quad truck pulling both the gun and its caisson at

Quantico in 1918. The Marines are from the 92d Company, 10th Marine Regiment.

USMC Photo 518088



tend the movies every other night . . . But let me tell you about our home. That is the word that describes it best. We are quartered in a large, single-story frame house. A veranda completely encircles it. One room is reserved for the officers, one for the office, one for the sick bay, one for the galley. The men are distributed in the remainder of the rooms. Our mess hall is on the veranda. There is a well kept lawn with trees, shrubs, and flowers, from the center of which proudly floats a 9th Company guidon. Guard duty is light and we have only the camp police work to do.

And eats! We would not hesitate to invite the Presidente to one of our regular dinners. The fact of the matter is we have no Sunday dinners; they are all past improvement. A few of the delicacies which grace our table daily are: Alligator pears, plantains, palm cabbage, squash, pumpkins, melons, bananas, oranges, pineapples, lemons, and limes. There are several other varieties of fruits, the names of which we cannot spell, but which we hasten to assure you are delicious to the taste. In addition to this we have access to the regular commissary stores. We get fresh beef, fresh vegetables, and fresh bread right in town. In close this must bear a close resemblance to that paradise referred to in the Marines Hymn and which we are supposed to guard.²³

This idyllic existence could not last. The 9th Company sailed on board the USS *Hancock* on 20 December 1916 for Annapolis. The remainder of the

Marine gun crew at field artillery drill at Quantico, Virginia, in June 1918. These Marines were equip-

Artillery Battalion redeployed to the United States in May and June 1917. The next time the battalion would be together as a unit it would be at Quantico, Virginia, a newly established base on the Potomac River south of Washington, D.C. The United States had entered the great war that was being waged in Europe and the Major General Commandant was taking steps to ensure his Marines were represented.

WORLD WAR I

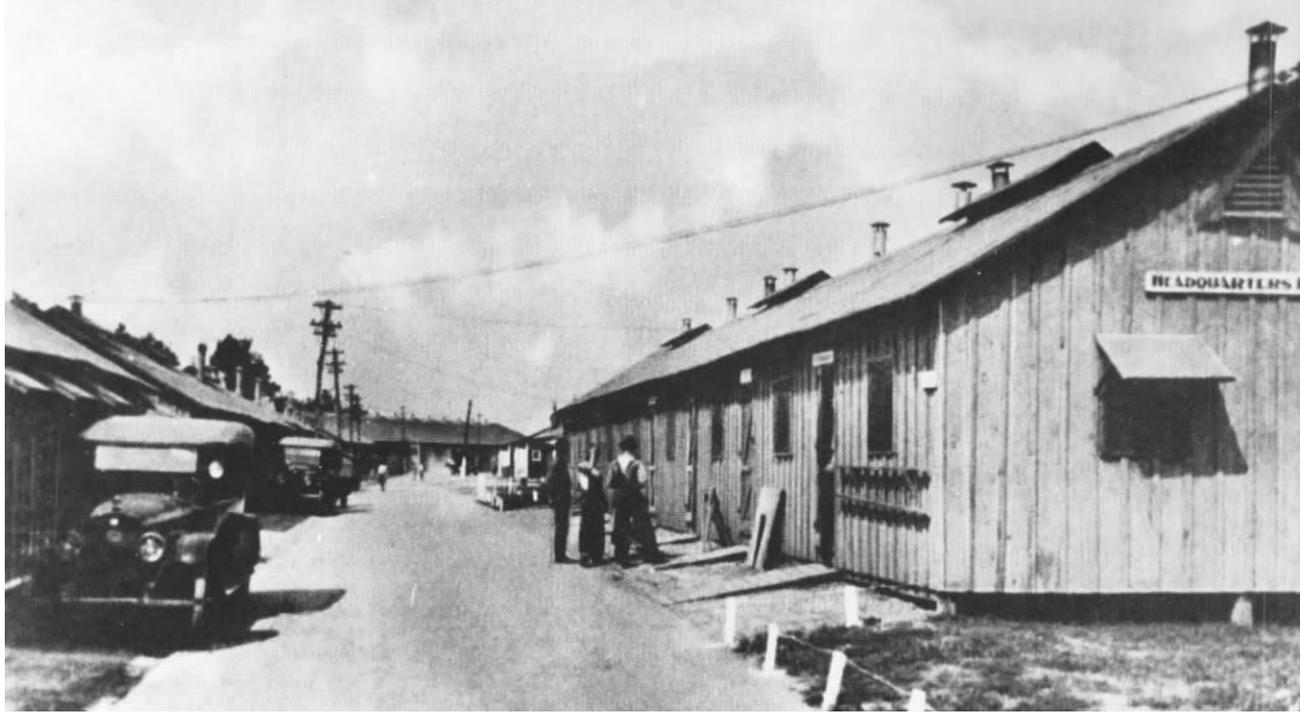
Marine Corps participation in WW I was a combination of unexcelled combat performance and bitter disappointment. The recruiting slogan "First to Fight" nearly became the source of great embarrassment. The Navy, at the outbreak of the war, had not envisioned the use of Marines for anything but normal duties, such as advance base force, ship detachments, and security forces for the various Navy yards. The Army had not bothered to consider the use of Marines at all. Major General Commandant George Barnett had his work cut out for him.

He managed to convince Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels that the President had the authori-

ped with the 3-inch gun rather than the French 75mm gun used by the Army in France.

USMC Photo 518492





The headquarters of the 10th Marine Regiment during World War I is typical of the temporary struc-

tures erected to quarter Marines being trained for duty in France at the then-new Quantico Base.

Marine Corps Historical Collection

ty to transfer all or part of the Marine Corps to the Army in time of war, that the war was going to be fought largely on land, and that if the Corps did not participate it would die.²⁴ The Secretary convinced the President, and the necessary executive order was obtained. The "fight" portion of the recruiting slogan was ensured. Now the problem was to ensure the Marines were "first."

The day before the first elements of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) were to sail for France, the Commandant received the following letter from the Secretary of War:

My dear General:

I am very sorry to have to tell you that it will be utterly impossible for the War Department to furnish transportation for a Marine regiment with the first outfit sailing, but will do my best to furnish transportation as soon as possible.

General Barnett, who had anticipated just such a situation and had talked to his friend, Admiral W.S. Benson, the Chief of Naval Operations, immediately replied:

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Your letter of this date just received, telling me you cannot furnish transportation for the Marines on the ships taking the first forces of the A.E.F. to France. Please give yourself no further trouble in this matter, as transportation

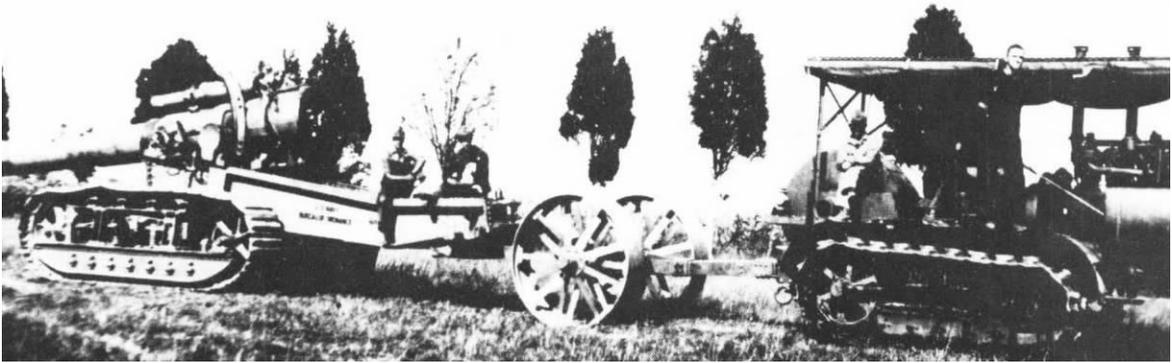
for the Marines has been arranged for on board the naval escort ships. Very respectfully, George Barnett²⁵

"First to Fight" retained credibility.

When the 5th Regiment arrived in France on 27 June 1917, its units were split up and used for various garrison purposes: military police, couriers, and guards. Some regiment had to be assigned these lackluster tasks and choosing the sole Marine regiment in France was "the natural thing to do."²⁶ Among other things, it left intact the Army's 1st Infantry Division. General Barnett, correctly deducing that safety lay in numbers, agitated for an additional Marine regiment in France. This would allow the formation of a Marine brigade, a much more fragmentation-resistant formation than a lone regiment. Barnett eventually was successful when, early in 1918, the 4th Marine Brigade was formed from the 5th and 6th Regiments and the 6th Machine Gun Battalion.

The Major General Commandant had his sights set on an even larger unit than a brigade. He wanted to see a Marine division in France. To do this he would have to raise yet another brigade of infantry and a regiment of artillery. This then was the background for the formation of the 10th Regiment.

The Artillery Battalion had been redesignated the First Field Artillery Battalion on 15 May 1917 at Quantico. The only unit of the battalion then present at Quantico for the redesignation was the 9th



BGen W. F. Brown, USMC (Ret)

Track-mounted 7-inch gun pulled by a 175-horsepower Holt tractor. The 7-inch naval rifles were

designed originally for battleships but modified for land use by placing them on a mobile field mount.

Company. The other companies were on the way from Santo Domingo. The 9th Company could claim a unique distinction as part of the "Old Corps" at Quantico; it arrived there the day before the battalion was redesignated, the first day Quantico was designated a Marine post.

Mid-1917 was a time of great expansion and change for the Marine Corps. On 18 July, another company, the 85th, was added to the battalion. On 1 August, in response to an urgent Navy Department order to bring the Advance Base Force to full wartime strength, the First Field Artillery Battalion became the Mobile Artillery Force and seven days later added two more companies to the organization, the 91st and 92d.

As the end of the year approached, it became increasingly obvious that the Advance Base Force, as such, was not going to play any great role in the war. It did contain a large pool of trained officers and men and there was always that idea in General Barnett's mind of a Marine division in France.

Accordingly, on 11 January 1918 the Major General Commandant ordered the Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, Quantico, Brigadier General John A. Lejeune to:

Please take the necessary steps to organize the Tenth Regiment (Field Artillery), under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Dunlap, M.C., from the Mobile Artillery Force, utilizing the 1st, 9th, 13th, 85th, 91st, and 92nd Companies²⁷

General Lejeune wasted no time and, a mere four days later, on 15 January, the 10th Regiment was formed and the Mobile Artillery Force ceased to exist. The same letter from the Major General Com-

mandant directing the formation of the 10th Regiment as field artillery also directed the formation of the 11th Regiment as advanced base artillery, but the 11th Regiment was later redesignated as infantry and served as part of the 5th Marine Brigade in France.

The training of the new artillery regiments had already been the subject of some sound staff action. The year before, Lieutenant Colonel Dunlap had been detailed to the staff of General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing when the commander of the AEF sailed to France in May of 1917. His mission had been to study the Allied system of organization and training, with particular attention to field artillery. Dunlap made a thorough tour of the front, visited the 5th Marines, and returned to Headquarters Marine Corps on 23 July for a debriefing before rejoining his unit at Quantico.²⁸

When the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917, there had been sufficient artillery pieces on hand for an army of only half a million. While the size of our armed forces could increase tenfold in less than two years, artillery production could not keep pace. Only 130 U. S. war-production artillery pieces reached the front.²⁹ This production deficiency was perceived early in mobilization and the decision was made to arm artillery units predominantly with French weapons. Fortunately the French had two of the finest artillery pieces of the war, the 75mm gun and the 155mm gun.

The Navy Department ordered 24 French 75s for the 10th Regiment early in 1918, but due to wartime priorities they were not available. When General Barnett, always thinking of that Marine division, offered the War Department the use of the 3-inch-

gun-equipped 10th Regiment, he was told that no such artillery was in use in France and none would be used there. Logistic difficulties associated with resupplying yet another caliber weapon were cited. This logic was hard to fault, but, without 75mm guns, the most obvious and direct route to the Western Front was closed to the 10th Regiment.

Several months before the Army closed the door on 3-inch artillery, the Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Ordnance, Rear Admiral Ralph Earle, was proceeding on a far different course. He had quite correctly noted that the German forces had the upper hand in long-range, heavy artillery, notably railway guns. The admiral made a detailed study of the situation on the Western Front and on 12 November 1917 recommended to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) that several 14-inch naval rifles mounted on railway stock be offered for use with the AEF in France. The naval rifles to be used were reserve guns for ships in commission and under construction. They fired a 1,400-pound, high explosive projectile to a range of 25 miles. The CNO approved the plan and the offer was tendered to the Secretary of War.³⁰ On 13 February 1918, bids for the railway guns were opened and work began. Among the prime contractors was the Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia.

All this 14-inch gun activity, coupled with the proven effectiveness of converted naval rifles as land weapons, caused the Army to inquire as to the availability of additional types of surplus naval guns. As it turned out, in the spring of 1918, quite a few 7-inch naval rifles became surplus due to a design modification to all *Connecticut* class battleships. This modification was necessary due to the great danger associated with open gun ports near the waterline if torpedoed or struck by a mine. The 7-inch guns in question had been removed from their between-deck mounts and the gun ports permanently sealed. The Army asked for and received a number of these rifles which were subsequently mounted on specially designed railway cars, but none saw service overseas.³¹

At approximately the same time that contracts were being let on the 14-inch gun project, it was decided that the 7-inch gun would be more useful if it were employed on a mobile field mount instead of a railway carriage. The War Department approved the use in France of both the 14-inch and 7-inch gun units provided all the necessary men were furnished by the Navy Department. The 14-inch guns were to be manned by bluejackets commanded by Rear Ad-



US Navy Photo PHD-6209
Marine and Navy gunners test-fire a 7-inch track-mount naval gun at Indian Head Naval Proving Ground, Maryland. During testing in October and November 1918, the gun crews fired the weapons up to 40 degrees elevation.

miral Charles P. Plunkett while the 10th Regiment, receiving what it thought was its ticket to France, was given responsibility for the 7-inch guns.³²

Owing to the 28,700-pound weight of the gun and breech mechanism, it was quickly decided that the 7-inch guns required a tracked, towed mount. Design work by the Naval Gun Factory, Washington, D.C., continued into May of 1918 with the contracts for twenty 7-inch gun mounts being awarded to the Baldwin Locomotive Works on 18 June 1918. The contract called for delivery by 18 October 1918.

In anticipation of this eagerly awaited event, the two-battalion regiment moved across and up the Potomac in July to the Naval Proving Ground at Indian Head, Maryland, and began training with the equipment associated with the 7-inch gun battery. During the first week in October the first two mounts arrived from Philadelphia. The anxious Marines were waiting with a tractor and immediately began a thorough road test. The mounts performed perfectly. That evening the guns were mounted and the next day, with a high-ranking crowd of observers present, the weapons were proved. According to the

Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, “. . . Every expectation of the designers was fulfilled. . . . The mount functioned with precision . . . the mount was as steady as if permanently placed on a concrete foundation.”³³

Army ordnance officers were among those observing the test and were so impressed that they immediately placed an order for 36 such mounts. When the war ended, half of the Army order was cancelled, leaving the Marine Corps with 20 guns and the Army with 18.

Until the very end, the regiment hoped to receive orders for France. Colonel Dunlap, who had been relieved by Major Campbell on 17 February for service on the staff of Rear Admiral William S. Sims in London, was detailed to reassume command of the 10th Regiment upon its arrival in France. When Colonel Dunlap reported to General Headquarters, AEF, on 17 October 1918, two facts were clear: the end of war was rapidly approaching and the Army position of no Marine artillery in France had not changed. Dunlap went to Pershing's chief of artillery and requested a regiment of Army field artillery. After a certain amount of sparring, Dunlap was assigned as an observer to the 2d Division, then commanded by Major General John A. Lejeune. Upon arrival Colonel Dunlap was given command of the 17th Field Artillery Regiment, an Army organization equipped with 155mm howitzers, which he commanded during the Meuse-Argonne offensive, the crossing of the Rhine River, and the subsequent occupation of Germany.³⁴

The 10th Regiment was deeply disappointed that no orders to France were ever issued. The men held out hope, albeit ever decreasing, up to the very end. Excerpts from their correspondence with *The Marines Magazine* recall their mood and sense of frustration:

January 1918— “When the **** do we go to France?”

April 1918— “We are still casting longing eyes across the pond and hope to do a little ‘yelping’ from France ere long.”

June 1918— “Extensive and intensive training for the supreme moment still continues with us and we are still chafing at the bit for a chance to knock the mainspring out of the ‘watch on the Rhine’.”

August 1918— “Overseas Marines! We doff our chapeau to you. . . . Give ‘em hell comrades and as soon as they see fit to let us we will be right there to help you.”

September 1918— “Well, we have finally gone across—across the Potomac.”

October 1918— “Indian Head, Md., October 10th. Yes we know you're wondering if we're still ‘over here,’ and we are indeed, but if you could see the big new 7-inch ‘Berthas,’ mounted on caterpillars, that arrived at the Proving Grounds for us this week you would agree with us that the place for the Tenth is ‘over there.’ There's something assuring in the air that prompts us to believe that we are scheduled to ‘shove off’ pretty pronto.”

“. . . we are still in camp at Indian Head, Md., patiently awaiting our time to get into the big scrap on the other side. From all reports at hand we will be over in time to send a few of our 7-inch shells against the Metz fort, which is just the kind of business the 10th Regiment has been used to for some time past. After capturing most all the forts in Haiti a little thing like Metz should not worry us in the least. I believe we will give a good account of ourselves.”

“. . . At present there are no odds, betting being about even, as to whether we shall eat Christmas dinner here or in France. When we do get there we shall give a good account of ourselves.”

November 1918— “. . . When General Pershing leads in grand review up Fifth Avenue the returning victorious troops, the thought that we were not ‘over there’ will be unbearable. . . . Our regiment has surely been the victim of circumstances. During the past fifteen months of intensive artillery training, on the European plan, there have been occasional glares of hope which have borne us patiently on—leading us to believe we would soon be in France. But we are still *United States* Marines, with the emphasis on the *United States*. At this writing everything seems to indicate that the end of the war is near—and we are still ‘raring to go’.”

“Naval Proving Grounds, Indian Head, Md., November 10, 1918. Well, at last our guns have arrived and met all requirements. After being proved we fired them up to forty degrees elevation. Other artillery paraphernalia such as ammunition trucks, reconnaissance cars, etc., all camouflaged, is also in our midst. We are now ready and anxious to leave for parts unknown. . . .”

The armistice which ended “the war to end all wars” was signed the next day, on 11 November 1918. The 10th Regiment would have to wait for yet another war.

BETWEEN THE WARS

The postwar years posed a number of serious challenges to the Marine Corps. Merely cutting back from a wartime high of 75,101 in December of 1918 to 17,165 only 18 months later was challenging enough. While the Corps never again was as small as prewar levels, there were only four years between the World Wars when the Marine Corps numbered more than 20,000. Even with its limited authorized

strength, the Corps found itself allocating increasingly more manpower to units centered about new techniques and equipment. Aircraft, tanks, motor transport, and wireless communications had demonstrated their value in World War I and were here to stay.

Unsettled conditions in several of the Caribbean "banana" republics would require the presence of varying numbers of Marines until 1933 when the last contingent departed Nicaragua. In 1927, the 4th Marine Regiment began a 14-year tour in China.

The normal postwar disillusionment with things military during the 1920s was followed by the dollar-scare years of the 1930s.

The Corps' search for a unique mission continued. The prewar advanced bases concept of seizing undefended naval bases and subsequently defending them was not judged to be an entirely realistic course. Likewise, even though Marine units had performed in an unexcelled manner once committed in France, the formation of a small, elite copy of the Army was undesirable. The country hardly needed two armies. In another vein, farsighted planners realized that tailoring the Corps to a strictly small-scale, counter-guerrilla, quasi-colonial infantry had in it the seeds of its own destruction. Once the last "colony" was either lost or pacified, such a Corps could be mustered out.

The role decided upon is still with us. Prior to World War I, the advanced base concept placed the emphasis upon seizure of an undefended area which could be transformed into a naval operating base and subsequently defended against hostile fleets. After the war, the emphasis changed due to a combination of the extended operating range of oil-vice coal-burning ships, the rapidly increasing capabilities of aircraft, and a heightened perception of the Japanese as our natural enemies in an island-studded Pacific. Priority for planning gradually shifted to the action necessary to force entry on a hostile shore and seize a naval operating base/air-base from the enemy. In short, the defense dominated prewar planning while the offense dominated that of the postwar era.

The Army was quite willing to leave this field of endeavor to the Marines. It pointed to the disastrous British experience at Gallipoli, and studiously avoided things amphibious.

Between the wars was a challenging time indeed, and among the units to be most severely challenged was the 10th Regiment. In the years to come the regiment would change size and designation, train

as infantry, guard the U.S. mail, cruise on battleships, and refight four Civil War battles. It would serve on both coasts, in China, the Caribbean, and St. Louis, as well as celebrate a Mardi Gras in New Orleans. No moss would grow on the 10th Regiment.

The 92d Company had been disbanded and its personnel distributed among the other companies on 17 August 1918. Supply Company followed on 30 November. On 1 December, however, the 3d Battalion, consisting of the 161st, 163d, 164th, and 165th Companies, was formed under Major Fred S. N. Erskine, a "plank-owner" of the original Artillery Battalion. The same day, Major Campbell was relieved by Colonel Dion Williams. Colonel Williams, a 27-year veteran, had been the commanding officer of the Marine detachment on board the USS *Baltimore*, one of Admiral George Dewey's cruisers at the battle of Manila Bay. As such, he led the first U.S. forces ashore in the Philippines when he and his men seized the Spanish navy yard at Cavite.

Interestingly, the 1st Battalion was commanded at this time by Major Ross E. Rowell who would later, at the age of 39, attend flight school and pursue a distinguished aviation career. In 1927 he led the first Marine dive bombing attack in history when his VO-7M squadron scrambled from its Managua, Nicaragua airfield to attack the forces of Augusto Sandino which were besieging the town of Ocotol. During World War II he commanded all Marine air groups in the Pacific.

At the beginning of 1919, the regiment started four months of infantry training. Perhaps this was to enable it to function as replacements for the 4th Marine Brigade, then on occupation duty in Germany. In any event, it was not used as such, and the brigade itself returned to Quantico in August 1919.

On 21 April 1919, Lieutenant Colonel Richard M. Cutts began his 32-month-long command of the regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Cutts is probably best remembered for the muzzle brake that he and his son, then a Marine lieutenant, invented. The Cutts Compensator graced the end of thousands of Thompson sub-machine guns, beginning with the 1928 U.S. Navy model.

Owing to the rapid postwar demobilization, the 3d Battalion was deactivated on 30 April, after only a five-month existence. It would be more than 21 years before the 10th Regiment would reactivate the 3d Battalion. Its 163d, 164th, and 165th Companies were transferred intact to the 2d Battalion and were redesignated the 4th, 6th, and 21st Companies. The



USMC Photo 522360

A Marine gun crew rides to "war" on top of a tractor and caisson drawing a 75mm gun during reenact-

ment in 1921 of Battle of the Wilderness. The infantry can be seen advancing in the background.

161st Company was disbanded and its personnel transferred to the 13th Company.

The 85th and 91st Companies of the 2d Battalion were disbanded, and their Marines were shifted to the 1st and 9th Companies of the 1st Battalion. Two new companies were formed which functioned on the regimental level: the 11th Company (regimental headquarters), and the 19th Company (regimental supply). When all transfers, deactivations, and redesignations were complete, the 10th Regiment was composed of the 11th Company (regimental headquarters) and the 19th Company (regimental supply); the 1st Battalion composed of the 1st, 9th, and 13th Companies; and the 2d Battalion made up of the 4th, 6th, and 21st Companies.

Demobilization continued its inexorable shrinking of the Corps. By June 1919 the entire regiment consisted of only 27 officers and 150 enlisted men. Somehow one battalion of 177 men was deemed more credible than two battalions, so the 2d Battalion was disbanded on 8 July and its companies transferred to the 1st Battalion. On 31 March 1920, the 4th, 6th, and 11th Companies were disbanded, and the next day the regiment was redesignated the

1st Separate Field Artillery Battalion, consisting of the 1st, 9th, 13th, 19th, and 21st Companies.

The artillerymen were armed, at this time, with French 75mm guns and 155mm GPF guns. It is not certain when they received these new weapons, but they never again were armed with 3-inch landing guns and 7-inch tractor guns. Disposition of the 7-inch weapons also remains something of a mystery. In March 1919 a large group of them were photographed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard where they undoubtedly had been staged for France. Several other photographs exist which show a 7-inch at Philadelphia in the late 1920s-early 1930s. However, the sole specimen located by the author stands guard at the 301 Highway bridge over the Potomac River at the Naval Surface Weapons Center, Dahlgren, Virginia.* When compared to modern artillery pieces it still strikes a formidable pose.

In May, the other companies of the battalion were stripped in order to beef up the 1st Company which

*That weapon is now located in front of the Marine Corps Aviation Museum at Quantico, Virginia.

was attached, as Company C, to the newly activated 16th Regiment. The regiment sailed from Philadelphia on board the transport USS *Henderson* (Transport No. 1) on 12 May for a 2-month, 1920-version Caribbean cruise. Training and liberty stops at Key West, Pensacola, Guantanamo, Port au Prince, Santo Domingo, and Puerto Plata were the highlights of the cruise which ended at Philadelphia on 6 July. The 1st Company, which comprised two-thirds of the battalion's enlisted strength was back in its Quantico barracks by 8 July.³⁵

In 1920, Congress realized that, with duties in Haiti and Santo Domingo, the Marine Corps could not continue to operate at a strength of slightly over 17,000. That year it authorized a Corps of 27,000 enlisted and funded for one of 20,000. One result of this modest increase was the 1 January redesignation of the 1st Separate Field Artillery Battalion as, once again, the 10th Regiment. On the same day the 19th and 21st Companies were redesignated Headquarters Company and Supply Company respectively. The 4th and 6th Companies were reactivated on 12 May, giving the regiment a total of five firing companies.

"Civil War" Maneuvers, Culebra, and Quantico Construction

In 1921, the Marine Corps began a series of annual maneuvers which lasted until 1924. While these maneuvers were part legitimate field exercises, part community relations, and part physical training, they were mostly large scale publicity ventures. The outstanding feature of each annual maneuver was the association with, or the re-creation of, a famous Civil War battle: Wilderness in 1921, Gettysburg and Pickett's Charge in 1922, New Market in 1923, and Antietam in 1924. These affairs were well attended by the President, governors, senators, and gentlemen of the press.

During the 1921 maneuvers, which were conducted on the Wilderness battlefield but did not attempt to recreate the battle itself, the 10th Regiment was brigaded with Lieutenant Colonel "Dopey" Wise's 1st Regiment in the 3d Brigade commanded by Colonel Dunlap. The 5th and 6th Regiments were together once again in the 4th Brigade. These two brigades comprised the largest armed force of the United States to conduct field exercises since the end of the war. The Advance Base Force left Quantico on the morning of 26 September; the infantry

marching out at 0900, with the tractor-drawn 75mm guns of the artillery following an hour later. The force camped for the night at Aquia Creek, 10 miles south of the base. The next night the Marines occupied the Fredericksburg fair grounds. On the 28th, the force simulated the advance guard of an army corps during the approach march to the objective, Wilderness Run, Virginia. Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler, commander of the Quantico base and in overall command of the maneuver, reported that "The artillery marched with the infantry and proved their ability to keep pace with the foot troops."³⁶ What prompted this somewhat patronizing remark is not recorded.

The advance base exercise during the maneuver consisted of a simulated amphibious assault against a defended beach, the consolidation of the "island" objective, the fortification of defensive positions, and resistance to a counterattack by enemy forces. For exercise purposes all terrain west of Wilderness Run served as the sea.³⁷

President Warren G. Harding arrived at the Marine camp on Saturday, 1 October, welcomed by a 21-gun salute by the 10th's 75s. He and Mrs. Harding witnessed a demonstration of a battalion attack using all infantry weapons and two accompanying 75mm guns, spent the night in a canvas "White House," and reviewed the entire force Sunday morning before returning to Washington.

The overall value of the maneuver was assessed in the December issue of the 1921 *Marine Corps Gazette*, which reported:

Considered from many viewpoints the maneuvers proved completely successful, and of the highest value not only to the force at Quantico, but to the Corps as a whole. In the first place, the exercises furnished a sensational demonstration of the fitness of the Marine Corps and its readiness to take the fields in any emergency, conducted under the very eyes of the President, his Cabinet and of Congress. Washington newspapers for more than a week were filled with accounts and incidents of the march and the maneuvers and columns were devoted to descriptions of the power and military value of the Marine Force, which furnished a most inspiring spectacle on the march, presenting a column of infantry, artillery, and trains which extended more than five miles along the Washington-Richmond Highway.³⁸

Commenting specifically upon the performance of the 10th Regiment, in a letter to Lieutenant Colonel Cutts, General Butler wrote:

It has been my intention for some time to write you and



Marine Corps Historical Collection

The 9th Company, 10th Regiment on maneuvers at Culebra in 1922. The weapon in the picture is a 155mm gun of French design.

your regiment a letter of commendation on the splendid work you have done in this command and your performance during the recent maneuvers has given me so much additional cause for gratitude that I am now making an attempt to properly express my appreciation.

The Tenth Regiment has been uniformly excellent in its behavior during the whole period I have been in command of this post and its conduct during the recent maneuvers was only to be expected in view of its record, but no one would have believed that you could have taken so much material so great a distance over country none too favorable without serious accident to your machinery.

Will you be good enough to convey to your officers and men my appreciation of their steadfastness, their efficiency, their remarkable performance in producing so many splendidly trained truck and tractor drivers and their high "esprit de corps."³⁹

It is interesting to note that then, as now, proficiency with motor transport played a large part in the professional assessment of the artillery.

During January 1922, the regiment was once again stripping companies to beef up the one which had been ordered to expeditionary duty. This time the artillery received help from its infantry counterparts, the 5th and 6th Regiments. The 9th Company was detailed as the Marine Expeditionary Detachment, Control Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Its mission was to test methods of landing heavy artillery pieces and prime movers from naval vessels. Overall command of Marine forces to be involved in the exercise at Guantanamo rested with the former regimental commander, Lieutenant Colonel Cutts, who had been relieved by Lieutenant Colonel Chandler Campbell on 8 January.

On 9 January, the 9th Company equipped with a 155mm gun, two 75mm guns, a 10-ton tractor, three 3-ton tractors, a rolling kitchen, trailers, caissons, and other assorted paraphernalia boarded a river steamer at Quantico. Later the same day, the

company transferred to the battleship USS *Florida* (BB 30), lying off Piney Point, Maryland, 60 miles down river from Quantico. The *Florida*, flagship of the Control Force, and its load of fledgling amphibians arrived at Guantanamo on 15 January.⁴⁰

Although fiscal restraints had prevented sending a larger expeditionary detachment, the 9th Company gained much experience in the problems associated with the ship-to-shore movement of heavy equipment. The method used to get the 155mm gun ashore was practical, if not tactical. It was swung over the side of the anchored *Florida* and lowered to a platform built on two large motor sailers; the entire assembly making a self-propelled pontoon.⁴¹ The exercise did much to highlight the requirement for specially designed artillery and heavy equipment lighters or landing barges. Such craft would be a long time coming, despite the repeatedly demonstrated need.

The only serious accident during the exercise occurred when Bobby, the Marine's canine mascot, was crushed to death after jumping from a moving trailer.

On 7 March, the Marines reembarked in the *Florida* for the three-day trip to the island of Culebra, Puerto Rico, last visited by the Marines in 1914 just prior to the landing at Vera Cruz. Upon arrival they established Camp McCulley, named after Rear Admiral Newton A. McCulley, commander of the Control Force, and conducted more landing exercises with heavy equipment.

When the 9th Company returned to Quantico on 26 April, it found the regiment had acquired another company. On 1 April, the 2d Company had been transferred from the 1st Regiment and, on 22 April, had been redesignated as Anti-Aircraft Company. In another minor change, Supply Company became Service Company on the first of May.

Spring of 1922 was a busy time for the units at Quantico. The old Advance Base Force had been redesignated as the Marine Corps East Coast Expeditionary Force (MCECEF) and was preparing for the annual maneuver which was to take place at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Marine Corps had learned well the publicity lessons of the 1921 maneuver. Gettysburg, in 1922, was going to be bigger and better, with something for everyone. The President was persuaded to attend for a second year, consequently national press coverage was ensured.

The infantry regiments left Quantico for Washington, D.C. by barge early on the morning of 19 June. The 10th Regiment, tanks, and motor

transport moved overland and joined the infantry at Camp Lejeune, a tent camp erected on Haines Point and named after the Commandant. That evening the Marines passed in review before the President and his guests, marking the first time since the Civil War that troops had paraded through the White House grounds.⁴² The maneuver was off to an auspicious beginning.

The force advanced by easy stages to Gettysburg, stopping for successive nights at Camp Neville (Major General Wendell C. Neville, assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps) in Bethesda, Maryland; at Camp Richards (Brigadier General George Richards, Paymaster of the Marine Corps) in Gaithersburg, Maryland; at Camp McCawley (Brigadier General Charles L. McCawley, Quartermaster of the Marine Corps) in Rockville, Maryland; Camp Feland (Brigadier General Logan Feland, Director of the Division of Operations and Training, HQMC) in Frederick, Maryland; and at Camp Haines (Brigadier General Henry C. Haines, Adjutant and Inspector of the Marine Corps) in Thurmont, Maryland. On the 26th, the force arrived at Gettysburg battlefield and established a camp named after President Harding.

The next four days were busy ones. The Aviation Section from Quantico established a flying base at Gettysburg; another canvas "White House" was prepared; battalions executed maneuvers to exercise

command and control, toured the battlefield, and conducted physical training. All hands rehearsed "Pickett's Charge."

The President and his entourage arrived on Saturday, 1 July, and were treated to a re-creation of the gallant but futile charge of 15,000 Confederates under General George E. Pickett. The farthest advance of that famous charge is aptly referred to as "The Highwater Mark of the Confederacy." For the big attack, which was observed by more than 100,000 spectators in addition to the Presidential party, the 10th Regiment represented both Union and Confederate gunners. "Huge clouds of smoke helped to make the affair realistic and veterans of the Blue and Grey, who took part in the original battle, united in applauding the accuracy of the spectacle.

. . . President Harding proclaimed himself delighted."⁴³ As an added attraction the Aviation Section put 18 planes in the air at one time and, in a blazing finale, shot down an old, condemned, hydrogen-filled observation balloon.⁴⁴

After resting on Sunday, the charge was rerun on 3 July, the date of the actual event. On the 4th, the Marines attacked over the same ground, using all modern weapons—tanks, aircraft, machine guns—to demonstrate how a modern armed force would attack General Pickett's objective. The maneuver was preceded by an artillery barrage, blank fire, from batteries of the 10th Regiment con-

The artillery park, 10th Regiment, at the Gettysburg reenactment. Note camouflaged wagon to the left of

the "Big Ear" listening device, and early motorcycle and sidecar between the Marines at center.

Marine Corps Historical Collection



ceeded 2,000 yards behind Seminary Ridge. The day's events were viewed by a crowd of more than 125,000 people. Distinguished observers ranged from Japanese Major General H. Haraguchi to Mrs. Helen Longstreet, widow of the corps commander who had ordered the original charge.⁴⁵

After breaking camp on the 6th, the force retraced its route to the Capital City, marched in review once again, and returned to Quantico. The maneuver had proven to be a notable success. In a lean, postwar environment it provided officers and men with realistic training. Captain John H. Craige, aide to the Commandant, commented on the not inconsiderable public relations benefits, in addition to the training value already mentioned:

In the field of attracting the favorable notice of the Nation to the activities of the Marine Corps, equal success was achieved. Several thousand columns of newspaper clippings have been received at Headquarters, cut from the papers of cities all over the country, from Maine to California, and articles in magazines are still making their appearance, dealing with the march and the exercises at Gettysburg. On the day following the President's visit to Camp Harding at Gettysburg, newspapers all over the country carried front-page stories of the demonstration in

Col Wesley Kerr, seated at right, who was credited with firing the first shot in the Battle of New Market, Virginia, is about to pull the lanyard of a highly

his honor and, thereafter, illustrated pages, rotogravure sections, illustrated magazines and the like were filled with pictures of the doings of the Marines, while moving pictures of the exercises appeared on the program of every one of the great weekly moving-picture concerns.⁴⁶

What marvelous recruiting material the maneuvers made.

In January 1923, the regiment began a four-phase training program: *barracks training*, consisting of the study of the theory of fire and the characteristics of all types of guns employed in the Marine Corps; *target range training*, consisting of service of the gun, laying the gun, determination of ranges by all range finding methods, and firing over known distances under simulated terrain conditions for direct and indirect fire; *barracks field training*, consisting of exercises over diversified terrain in situations requiring tactical decisions, marching over roads surrounding the barracks and through the surrounding country, advance and rear guard instruction and practice, exercises and problems in security on the march and halts, pitching and striking camps, instruction in field cooking and sanitation, combat exercises and problems both offensive and defensive,

polished Marine 75mm gun to begin the reenactment of the battle in 1923. The other Civil War veteran sitting across from him is unidentified.

Marine Corps Historical Collection



firing of all infantry and artillery arms, exercises in scouting and patrolling and military map sketching; and *maneuvers*, embracing the practical application of all previous training in realistic field exercises.⁴⁷

By the end of March the regiment had completed the first two training phases. Instead of immediately continuing into the third phase, the regiment spent the next three months engaged in a base-wide work drive aimed at repair and construction of post buildings and grounds. This included continuing work on what now is known as Butler Stadium. The stadium, begun under the supervision of General Butler, utilizes a natural bowl-shaped depression for most of its form. Regardless of the work already done by the Almighty, a great amount of digging and scraping by mortals remained. One of the often told tales surrounding its construction is that General Butler decreed that all personnel at Quantico were required to perform a certain amount of stadium digging each day. When members of the post band complained that this labor would have a poor effect on their hands, and consequently their music, General Butler ruled in their favor. Instead of digging, the band was instructed to spend all day perched on the rim of the bowl playing music for the entertainment of those who were digging.

In addition to working on what was billed as the largest stadium of its type in the world, the men of the 10th Regiment helped pour badly needed concrete foundations under all the WWI-construction wooden barracks and build a large number of officers' quarters from material salvaged from excess barracks at Quantico and Hampton Roads, Virginia.⁴⁸

The spring "police call" terminated at the end of June and the 10th Regiment, along with the other units at Quantico, prepared for the 1923 maneuver. The Civil War battle to be portrayed was not as large or famous as the previous year's, but the 1923 maneuver and re-creation of the battle of New Market long would be remembered.

The Marines headed west from Quantico on 27 August led for the third straight year by General Butler. The 10th Regiment, however, was marching under a new commander, but an old friend. On 15 September, Major Robert O. Underwood, original commander of the 1st Company, relieved Lieutenant Colonel Campbell. Major Underwood would be the last original member, or "plank owner," of the old Artillery Battalion to command the 10th Regiment.

The 40-day-long maneuver/march through the Shenandoah Valley would cover more than 300

miles, some of them rather moist. It rained for the first 10 days. Roads turned into ribbons of clay mud. On occasion, 200 men were needed to pull heavy vehicles through particularly bad stretches. Fortunately, by the time the force reached its camp at Fort Defiance, West Virginia, on 10 September, the weather had improved greatly. The Marines spent more than a week there engaged in tactical exercises and preparations for the reenactment of the Battle of New Market.

New Market, 40 miles north of Fort Defiance, was the site of one of Virginia's most proudly remembered Civil War battles. Not only did the Confederacy win, but the victory was due in large measure to the valor of the cadet corps of the Virginia Military Institute. The modern cadet corps was delighted to play the part of its distinguished predecessor.

The President was not one of the attractions of the 1923 maneuver. President Harding had died on 2 August, and his successor, Calvin Coolidge, was not the outdoors type. The publicity generated by the first two maneuvers, however, coupled with the second appearance of VMI at New Market guaranteed a large and highly partisan crowd. On 20 September, more than 150,000 people were on hand and by 1300, "when the presentation was scheduled to begin, solid masses of humanity blackened the slopes of Shirley's Hill and Bushong's Hill for an area nearly four miles long and in many places a mile deep." The action was initiated by Colonel Wesley Kerr, the man credited with firing the first shot in the original battle 59 years previously. This time, however, Colonel Kerr yanked the lanyard on one of the 10th Regiment's 75mm guns.⁴⁹

The smoke billowed and the hills resounded to the crash of rifle and artillery fire. The Union forces wavered and the corps of cadets charged to glory once again. The Union forces retreated. As it had been 59 years before, the Confederate pursuit was checked and total disaster averted by a battery of guns commanded by Colonel H. A. du Pont, former United States Senator from Delaware and distinguished captain of Federal artillery. This time his battery was represented by French 75s worked by U.S. Marines.

Immediately after the battle, the Marines set out for their camp at Fort Defiance and on the 22d marched to Lexington, Virginia, to cheer the Quantico football team which was playing VMI in the season's opener. Either the cadets were still charged up over winning the Battle of New Market for the second



USMC Photo 523182

Marine gun crew cleans 155mm GPF gun during the 1924 Culebra Maneuvers. The devices attached to

the wheels were used to aid movement over soft terrain. These guns were used as late as World War II.



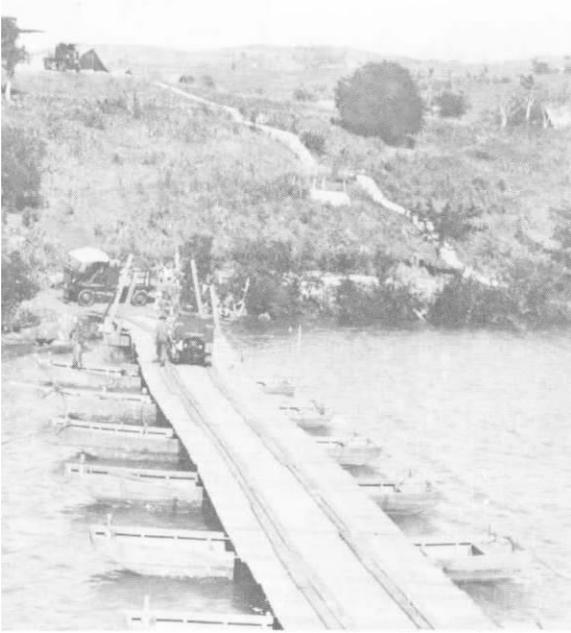
Marine Corps Historical Collection

A partially disassembled Douglas DT-2 is lowered over the side of the USS Sirius at Culebra in 1924. The aviation elements displaced ashore faster than the artillery.



Marine Corps Historical Collection

Camp Lejeune on Culebra in 1924. It was customary at the time to name temporary camps after contemporary officers, usually the commander, but in this case the Commandant of the Marine Corps.



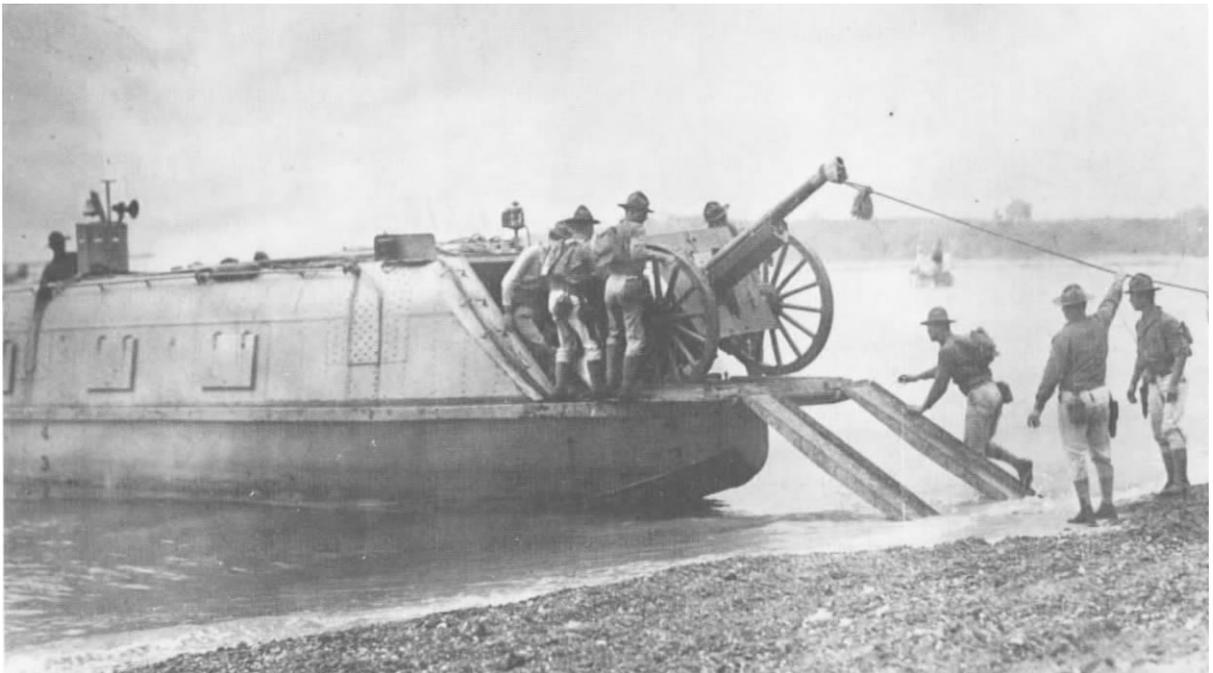
Marine Corps Historical Collection

A pontoon bridge facilitates the movement of heavy equipment from ship to shore during the Culebra maneuver of 1924. A Marine and tracked vehicle can be seen crossing the bridge connecting the Sirius to the Culebra shore.



Marine Corps Historical Collection

Marines from Quantico parade through the White House grounds upon their return from the New Market reenactment. President Coolidge stands at the middle of the balcony.



USMC Photo 515227

A "French 75" is unloaded from a "Beetle" boat at Culebra during the 1924 U.S. Fleet maneuvers. The "Beetle" was one of the first in a long line of landing

craft that the Marines experimented with in the 1920s and 1930s that led to the development of the various landing craft used in World War II.



Marine Corps Historical Collection

Mud hampers mobility during the 1924 Culebra maneuver. Two tractors are required to pull one of the 155mm GPF guns.

time or the Marines failed to cheer enough: the cadets shut out the Marine team 6-0, the first Quantico loss in three years.⁵⁰ VMI was enjoying its association with the Yankee Marines.*

After the double loss to VMI, the force turned north to Washington, D.C. President Coolidge reviewed the infantry as it paraded through the

*"The football game was played on a rainsoaked field with water several inches deep on the field. VMI had a good team that year; their only game lost was to Georgia Tech. I believe that General Butler made the Marine team march with the rest of the Marines all the way back to Quantico. At least he said he was going to do that. He was so chagrined by the loss of the game. On several occasions during the game he acted as cheerleader of the Marines." BGen John S. Letcher, Comments on draft MS, n.d. [1980].

A view of the base camp, Camp Underwood, for the 1924 Culebra Maneuvers. The commander evidently

White House grounds while the artillery, tanks, and motor vehicles were diverted to the Ellipse to set up an equipment display for the public. The next day, the Quantico football team took out its frustration on the Georgetown University eleven, redeeming at least part of its honor 14-3.

On 3 December, the regiment was reorganized into a two-battalion formation. One battalion was armed with 75mm guns while the other had 155mm guns. The 1st Battalion (75mm) consisted of Headquarters Company and the 1st, 6th, and 13th Companies. The 2d Battalion (155mm) consisted of Headquarters Company and the 4th, 9th, and 11th Companies. A Headquarters Company and a Service Company remained at the regimental level. The Anti-Aircraft Company was detached from the regiment on 5 December.

The U.S. Fleet winter maneuvers occupied the attention of the Marine Corps Expeditionary Forces for the first two months of 1924. In the first phase of the maneuvers, the bulk of the Scouting Fleet, with the 5th Regiment as landing force, sortied to the Panama Canal. There the force opposed the attempted transit of the canal by the Battle Fleet from the west coast. The Marines made successful amphibious assaults on Fort Randolph and Coco Solo, making possible the simulated destruction of the canal locks.⁵¹

The 10th Regiment, meanwhile, in conjunction with aircraft, tank, engineer, and associated units, was preparing the defenses of the island of Culebra. The regiment had sailed from Quantico on 2 January

found use for excess white paint. Guns are French 75s with ammunition caissons rigged for travel.

USMC Photo 523130



on board the troop transport USS *Chaumont* (AP 5). All of the regiment, except the 4th Company, participated in the exercise. In a move strikingly similar to modern administrative practices, the 4th Company was made a regimental subunit, held at Quantico, and redesignated as the 4th Casual Company.⁵²

The *Chaumont* arrived at Great Harbor, Culebra on the 8th and immediately began unloading her embarked troops, more than 90 officers and nearly 1,500 enlisted men. Most of the heavy equipment, including 155mm guns, tanks, trucks, and aircraft, destined for Culebra arrived on board the cargo ship USS *Sirius* (AK 15). A pontoon bridge was constructed between ship and beach to facilitate unloading. The Aviation Section won an unloading race with the artillery when fast-moving Captain Arthur H. Page, Jr. managed to get his float-equipped Douglas DT-2 airborne before the 2d Battalion, 10th Regiment could get a 155mm gun out of the *Sirius*' hold.⁵³

The force on Culebra had a twofold mission; to protect the harbor mine field with fire, and to oppose a landing by hostile forces, in this case the 5th Regiment fresh from "victory" in the Canal Zone. No infantry was assigned to the force at Culebra, so allocation of units and personnel to the two missions was a challenge.

At Culebra the 10th Regiment was armed with six 18,000-yard-range 155mm guns and 12 12,000-yard-range 75mm guns. A large amount of ammunition was on hand for each caliber; high explosive, shrapnel, and illumination. The regiment, which was severely restricted in its ability to conduct live fire at Quantico, took full advantage of its Culebra opportunity. In late February, after two months of hard training and some much-appreciated liberty in San Juan and St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, the regiment returned to Quantico.

March 1924 was an important month for second lieutenants in the regiment; eight of them were augmented into the regular Marine Corps. Half of these augmentees later achieved general officer rank while on active duty: Merrill B. Twining, Frank H. Lamson-Scribner, George F. Good, and Reginald H. Ridgely, Jr.⁵⁴

On 16 June, Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion was disbanded and by the end of July muster rolls showed a total 2d Battalion strength of only one officer and four enlisted men. Lean times were back for the 10th Regiment.

Among the more challenging jobs tackled by the regiment in 1924 was the construction of the new of-

ficers' club, later named Harry Lee Hall. It was quite an undertaking, as reported by the *Leatherneck*:

The building of this magnificent clubhouse entirely by Marines is not alone a remarkable achievement from the construction point of view but when one considers that all the material used in its construction is either obtained or manufactured within the post limits, one is forced to admit it is indeed a wonderful monument to the resourcefulness of the U.S. Marines.

The sandstone of which the building is constructed was quarried and cut within a very short distance of the site of the building, while even the tools used at the quarry were made at the nearby blacksmith shop. When one views this building, 35 percent of which is already completed, covering a range of craftsmanship of most every known trade from mason to carpenter involving the electrical appliances and plumbing work and most of the iron and steel used in the construction, one marvels at the resourcefulness displayed by the Sea Soldiers.⁵⁵

On 7 August the cornerstone was laid. Upon a brass plate fixed to the stone was the following inscription:

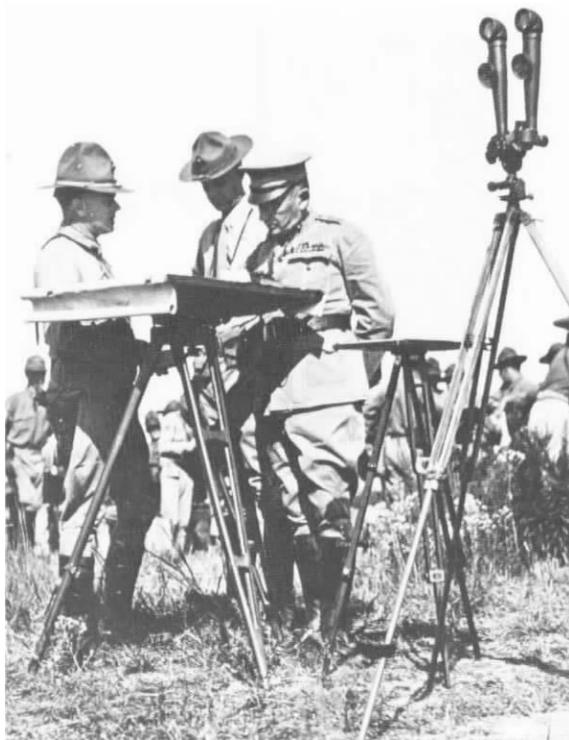
*Officers Club
Quantico, Va.
Built By U.S. Marines*

They picked, shoveled, and carted the earth
They quarried, cut, and laid the stone
They felled, sawed, and framed the wood
They forged, wrought, and riveted the iron.*⁵⁶

*Attempts by the author to locate this cornerstone plate proved fruitless. However, a later, unrelated examination of the Quantico Public Works photographic files solved the mystery. In the late 1920s/early 1930s, construction on Marine Corps bases began shifting from the self-help troop labor so prevalent earlier to the formalized system of contracts and outside bids we know today. The same wave of "new" construction that built the power plant and brick barracks along Barnett Avenue and the "lettered" apartments, also finished Harry Lee Hall.

The Marine construction had been very sturdy but very slow. Small trees were even growing within the foundation outlines. The contractor demolished all above-ground work but, appreciating the massive stonework, built on the original foundation. To this day, visitors can see evidence of the 10th Regiment's work in the rough walls of the building's basement.

The sandstone quarry, so long worked by the 4th Company, remains just down the hill from the club. The working face is carved with Marines' names and dates from the late 1920s. Remnants of the quarry equipment lie scattered about, covered by the leaves of 50 autumns. A huge, one-cylinder steam engine lies on its side not far from the base of the derrick that was used to lift the eight-foot-long, three-foot-wide and -thick blocks of stone. Several of these blocks lie where they were abandoned half a century ago. An old, narrow-gauge "donkey" railroad runs downhill toward Butler Stadium, an early recipient of the quarry's stone.



USMC Photo 516083

MajGen John A. Lejeune, Commandant of the Marine Corps, observes 10th Marine Regiment firing exercise at Camp Meade, Maryland, on 2 September 1925. A "BC" (battery commander's) scope is on the extreme right of the picture.

The last of the series of "Civil War" maneuvers began on 24 August. The Marines moved first to Washington, D.C.: infantry by barge; artillery, tanks, and motor transport by road. Again camp was made at Haines Point. The route followed to Sharpsburg, Maryland, and the Antietam battlefield was, up to Frederick, Maryland, identical to that used two years previously. A three-day stopover at Frederick provided "Gettysburg Veterans" a chance to renew old acquaintances. The entire force of over 3,100 Marines was lifted by organic transportation the remaining 23 miles to Sharpsburg.

On 12 September, before a crowd of more than 40,000, the Marines put on a demonstration of a modern attack over the historic terrain. Infantry, tanks, and artillery wheeled and maneuvered and bombers dove over ground where 62 years previously 150,000 men had been locked in mortal combat. After retracing its steps to Washington, the force was reviewed by President Coolidge and returned to Quantico on 18 September.

The 10th Regiment had undergone many reorganizations, redesignations, and reconfigurations in its short history, but, on 14 November 1924, a change was made which has endured to this date. Companies were redesignated as batteries. The new batteries, however, remained numbered in the previous random sequence, not lettered.

The most important exercise of 1925 was the joint Army-Navy-Marine Corps maneuver held in the vicinity of the island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. This exercise simulated an attack on Oahu by a large overseas force and, as such, tested Army defenses and Navy-Marine Corps amphibious doctrine and abilities.

The forces from Quantico scheduled to participate as part of the attacking force in the exercise were grouped in the 1st Provisional Battalion. All schools were discontinued and all units were skimmed for troops. The 10th Regiment temporarily lost nearly 75 percent of its complement and 11 of its officers, including the commanding and executive officers.

The 1st Provisional Battalion sailed on board the *Henderson* on 13 March for the west coast. The Quantico troops were joined at San Diego by 750 Marines from that city's Advance Base Training Center. The combined force of approximately 1,500 men conducted coordinated exercises in Mission Valley and then sailed on 10 April for San Francisco where it was split up into detachments which went on board the various ships of the Pacific Fleet.

Unlike another fleet 16 years later, the "Blue" fleet was detected by "Black" Hawaii-based aircraft. Nevertheless, it was generally conceded that the preponderance of naval and air power had made possible a successful amphibious landing by the Blue Marine Corps Expeditionary Force, which simulated two divisions. After a high-level post-exercise critique and liberty in Honolulu, the force returned to its respective posts. The 1st Provisional Battalion arrived at Quantico on 27 May.

At the end of the month, Lieutenant Colonel Underwood was relieved by his executive officer, and future major general, Major Emile P. Moses.

Back at Quantico, the regiment embarked on an intensive, three-month training period. As a result of a high turnover, only three officers who had participated in the Culebra firing in 1924 remained in the firing batteries. It was decided to start training from "scratch" with nomenclature, assembly, and functioning of the 75mm gun. Live fire presented a problem. The reservation at Quantico long had been recognized as a poor area for such training. At the

time the Marine Corps occupied only that land between US Route 1 and the Potomac River. It was not until 1942 that the huge "Guadalcanal Area" west of the highway was leased. For better firing ranges, arrangements were made to utilize the Army's Camp Meade, located in Maryland midway between Baltimore and Washington.

On 21 August, the regiment made a motor march to its perennial stopover, Haines Point, and arrived at Camp Meade the next day. During the two weeks at the Army post, the regiment shared the range with the 16th Field Artillery, US Army (75mm, horsedrawn) from Fort Myer, Virginia. The Marines took the mornings of the first week and the afternoons of the second. Major R. E. D. Hoyle, commander of the Army unit, generously designated three of his most experienced officers as instructors for the Marine regiment.

The firing exercise at Camp Meade was supported by a seven-plane Marine observation squadron from Quantico which provided aerial spotting and radioed fire corrections. In two weeks the three firing batteries expended a total of 1,388 rounds of shrapnel and smoke in 17 registrations and 62 battery firing problems. On 2 September, three days before it returned to Quantico, the regiment demonstrated its firing prowess before General Lejeune; Brigadier General Feland, brigade commander at Quantico; and Brigadier General Dion Williams, assistant to the Major General Commandant and former commander of the regiment.⁵⁷

Midway through the exercise at Camp Meade, Major Howard W. Stone relieved Major Moses who was under orders to the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Major Stone, in turn, was relieved by Colonel Harry R. Lay on 13 September.

With the reactivation of Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion on 1 November, the regiment became a true two-battalion organization once again.

The activities of the regiment during 1926 were varied. Work continued on the officers' club; artillery lighters were tested; a second, month-long firing exercise was held at Camp Meade; and some of its Marines guarded the U.S. mails.

Education served up by the Marine Corps Institute (MCI) was available to all. The institute, which had been founded at Quantico by Generals Lejeune and Butler upon their return from France, had a predominantly technical skill flavor. It is duly recorded, for example, that Second Lieutenant (later Lieutenant General) Vernon E. Megee of Service Battery, 10th Regiment was awarded a diploma for

the Auto Manufacturers Course, MCI on 19 March 1926.⁵⁸

The 10th Regiment continued working on the Quantico Officers' Club. The 4th Battery, which had never served outside the confines of the Virginia post, was the regiment's "club-house battery." The year's work began under supervision of Captain William P. T. Hill, a former wartime member of the Azores-based 1st Aeronautic Company during World War I, future major general, and longtime Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps. Primary duties of sawyer, stonemason, stonemason, stone channeler, blacksmith, carpenter, bricklayer, plumber, and logger were found on the 4th Battery muster rolls. Battery officers were assigned as officers in charge (OIC) of the stone quarry and sawmill. The entire regiment was a fairly self-sufficient organization. Service Battery alone contained plumbers, painters, carpenters, gardeners, a regimental band leader, and a NCOIC of the regimental bowling alley.

In July, a detail from the regiment headed by Major Alfred A. Cunningham, the Marine Corps' first designated naval aviator and commanding officer of the regiment's 2d Battalion, travelled to the naval base at Hampton Roads, Virginia, to observe landing craft tests. The boats under consideration were 50-foot lighters designed to carry a 155mm gun and its tractor. The lighter was not self-propelled and had to be beached so the gun could be unloaded over a stern ramp. Although this was an improvement over the pontoon affair tested at Culebra two years prior, it still was not the vehicle to use on a contested beach.⁵⁹

Firing time on the Camp Meade range was arranged again in 1926. On 12 August, the regiment, less the 194-man 2d Battalion, departed Quantico. As it had the year before, a squadron from the flying field at Quantico supported the exercise. After a profitable four weeks of firing the regiment returned to Quantico on 9 September.

Guarding the U.S. Mail

In early October a number of mail robberies throughout the nation demanded immediate improvement in the security of mail shipments. Consequently, on 15 October, the Postmaster General requested guard forces from the Secretary of the Navy. The Marine Corps was instructed to make available a force of 2,500 officers and men for this purpose. The

country was split into two parts on a line from Williston, North Dakota, to El Paso, Texas. The western zone was assigned to the 4th Regiment with a command post in San Francisco. The eastern zone was subdivided into three areas: the 5th Regiment Area (New York City), the 10th Regiment Area (Chicago), and the Southern Area (Atlanta). One week after the Postmaster General had asked for help, the Marines were guarding the mails, as they had in 1921-22. To achieve parity in firepower with the mail bandits, Marines were armed with Thompson sub-machine guns and Browning automatic rifles as well as the usual riot guns and service pistols.

The 10th Regiment was based as follows: Headquarters Battery and 1st Battery, Chicago; Service Battery, Cincinnati; Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, and 6th Battery, St. Louis; 9th and 13th Batteries, Kansas City; and 11th Battery at Cleveland. The 4th Battery,

The entrance to Waller Billet, home of the 10th Marine Regiment, during its stay at Tientsin. The post was named after BGen Littleton W. T. Waller, who died during the brigade's service in China.

Marine Corps Historical Collection



in its traditional role as regimental subunit at Quantico, continued building what was then being referred to as the New Bachelor Officers' Quarters.⁶⁰

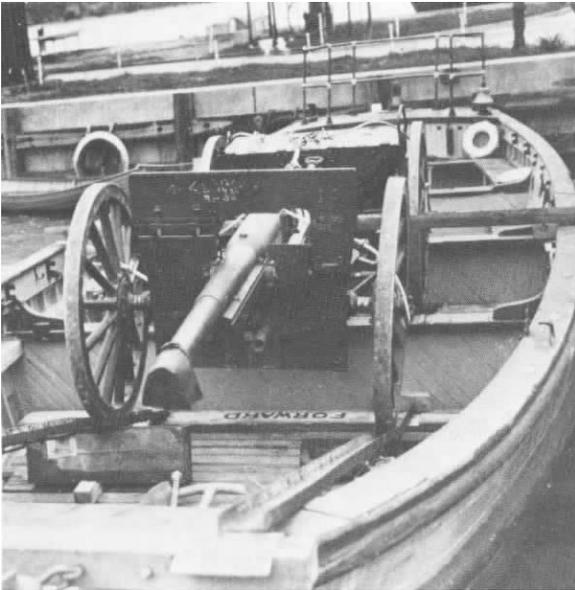
In four months of mail guard duty no shots were fired by Marines, and no Marine-guarded mail was lost. Other areas of Marine interest were not as peaceful. Both Nicaragua and China, powder kegs at the best of times, began showing signs of imminent explosion. In order to meet these possible threats, Marine mail guards were withdrawn from the tranquil trains and post offices. The last element of the 10th Regiment had returned to Quantico by 21 February 1927.

China Duty

By early March, the 2d Brigade under General Feland, with the 5th Regiment providing the rifle muscle, was in Nicaragua keeping the peace. The situation in China, however, was heating up. Fighting between the Cantonese armies led by Chiang Kai-shek and northern armies under Marshal Chang Tso-lin posed great danger to foreigners in general and to the Shanghai International Settlement in particular. In mid-February, the 4th Regiment arrived in Shanghai from San Diego. The situation did not improve and the decision was made to put an entire Marine brigade in China under command of General Butler. On 28 March, the greatly augmented 1st Battery commanded by Captain Joseph I. Nettekoven was redesignated 1st Battery, 10th Regiment, Separate Marine Artillery and left Quantico by rail for San Diego. The battery sailed for Shanghai with two battalions of the 6th Regiment on board the *Henderson* on 7 April.

Hard on the heels of the 1st Battery came the remainder of the 10th Regiment's effective, deployable strength. The artillery force which departed Quantico by train on 6 April consisted of the following units of the 1st Battalion, 10th Regiment: a newly designated Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, a newly designated Service Battery, and the 6th and 13th Batteries. The entire organization was commanded by Colonel Lay in his capacity as Force Artillery Officer. The remaining units of the regiment which stayed behind at Quantico were disbanded on 24 May. The unfortunate 4th Battery was among them.

The problems faced in 1927 in mobilizing a relatively large expeditionary force are familiar to Marines of every era. To form one credible artillery battalion required virtually all of the regiment's



USMC Photo 531868

Marines in 1930 were still concerned with facilitating ship-to-shore movement of heavy equipment. At Tientsin, a 75mm gun is shown in a motor whaleboat equipped with over-the-bow ramps to ease landing and unloading.

A 5-ton Holt tractor tows a French 75mm gun and crew of the 10th Marines in Tientsin. The tractor is supplied with a 30-caliber Browning heavy machine

deployable officers and men. Sufficient naval shipping was also a problem. When the battalion reached the west coast, there was none available. This shortfall at least had a pleasant and unexpected consequence. A contract with the Dollar Steamship Line resulted in a de luxe Pacific crossing on board the passenger liner *SS President Grant*.⁶¹

The 1st Battalion, 10th Regiment with the 3d Battalion, 6th Regiment; the 2d Battalion, 4th Regiment; the Light Tank Platoon; and the Engineer Company arrived at the naval base at Olongapo in the Philippines on 5 May. Twelve days later, these units sailed on board the *Chaumont* and arrived in Shanghai on 20 May. By this time the war threat had shifted to the north. The 4th Regiment remained at Shanghai, while the rest of the 3d Brigade made the trip to Tientsin. After a long barge ride, the artillery arrived about midnight on the 6th of June and pitched its tent camp on Woodrow Wilson Field. Five days later, the battalion went into permanent quarters at Detring Villa, later renamed Waller Billet, on Race Course Road.

The pace in Tientsin proved to be a slow one for the Marines. There was no fighting to be done;

gun and carries a gunner in addition to the driver. The tractor is armored to protect its engine against hostile fire.

USMC Photo 531865

