

FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXIII

FALL 1993

NUMBER 2



FORMER MARINE ARTIST RECALLS HIS WORLD WAR II SERVICE . . . SECOND DAY AT SOISSONS WAS BRUTAL FOR ALREADY HARD-PRESSED MARINES . . . HAL WEINBERGER, WHO CAPTURED THE FURIOUS BATTLES OF THE PACIFIC ON FILM . . . FOUR NEW HISTORICAL MONOGRAPHS . . . FLIGHT LINES: DE HAVILLAND D.H.4

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FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Volume XXIII

Fall 1993

No. 2

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THE COVER

A letter from Marine Corps Art Curator John T. Dyer, Jr., to former Marine artist Richard M. Gibney and others, asking for contributions of sketches, drawings, or paintings to support an exhibition in honor of the 50th anniversary of World War II, began a process in which Gibney revisited graphically all of the personal major events of his wartime service. Now, 50 works of art he subsequently created have been organized into a solo show at the Marine Corps Museum, recently opened by the Assistant Commandant, Gen Walter E. Boomer. Some of the paintings, and a recounting of the experiences that inspired them, appear beginning on page 16. Before the war in the Pacific, of course, Marines fought in France with the American Expeditionary Force of World War I. In his continuing assessment of the Corps' involvement in that war, BGen Simmons provides "The Second Day at Soissons," a look at one of the most harrowing days of the war, beginning on page 3. Finally, unit historians who produce command chronologies will find some useful advice beginning on page 32.

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The Second Day at Soissons

"The First Day at Soissons" appeared in the Summer 1993 issue of Fortitudine.

THE GROUND TAKEN in the first day at Soissons far exceeded French expectations. The commander of the French Tenth Army, Gen Charles ("The Butcher") Mangin, delighted with the success of his foreign troops, ordered a continuation of the attack to begin at 4 a.m. on 19 July 1918. For the U.S. 2d Division the objective would be the Soissons-Chateau-Thierry Road.

At 10 p.m. on the 18th, MajGen James G. Harbord, USA, commanding the 2d Division, had advanced his headquarters to Beaurepaire Farm, taken earlier that day from the Germans. He had outrun his communications. There was no telephone wire to the rear. At about 2 a.m. a French staff officer brought him the XX Corps attack order for the following day. Harbord summoned the 6th Regiment's commander, LtCol Harry Lee, to his headquarters.

The troops called their regimental commander "Light Horse Harry," but the rumor, which he did nothing to discourage, that he was a direct descendent of Light Horse Harry Lee of Revolutionary War fame was unfounded. Now 46 years old, he had been commissioned in the Marine Corps in 1898 after seven years' service in the District of Columbia National Guard. As had most officers of his generation, he had smelled gunpowder in minor altercations in such places as Cuba, the Philippines, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Santo Domingo and had served at sea in a string of battleships. He had been with the 6th Regiment since its activation at Quantico the previous August and had moved up to command after Col Albertus W. Catlin was grievously wounded at Belleau Wood ["Catlin of the 6th Regiment," *Fortitudine*, Spring 1993]. Lee was

of stocky build; he had a strong nose, a rather imperious manner, and something of a reputation as a boxer and wrestler.

THE 6TH MARINES, as corps reserve, had moved up to Beaurepaire Farm early on the afternoon of the 18th. As then-Sgt Gerald C. Thomas of the 75th Company, 1st Battalion (he would retire as a four-star general), later remembered the move:

"The next morning [18 July 1918], old 'Johnny the Hard' sent for me at daybreak. He said, 'There's a ration dump back down the road about half a mile or a mile . . . You take a detail, and get all the chow you can carry.' I called for half a dozen men from each company, and we went back down. All the dump had was corned willy, which was very bad because there was no water, but we picked up what

Manned by poilus, French soldiers, and accompanied by a motorcycle outrider, French tanks make their way to the front in the Soissons sector in July 1918. MajGen Harbord's U.S. 2d Division and its Marines fought as a part of France's Tenth Army.



BGen Simmons



Soon to be promoted to lieutenant colonel, Maj Thomas Holcomb, in the foreground center, rides at the head of his column of troops of the 2d Battalion, 6th Marines, in France in June 1918. He would one day be Commandant of the Marine Corps.

we could . . . We got back . . . and we had our chow. Along about eight o'clock in the morning we were in pretty good shape . . . so Hughes moved out. We followed him right up the road. . . ."

Thomas was referring to Maj John A. ("Johnny the Hard") Hughes, commander of the 1st Battalion, consisting of the 74th, 75th, 76th, and 95th Companies. Hughes wore the pale blue ribbon of the Medal of Honor for services as a company commander at Vera Cruz in 1914. It was said, and it may have been true, that he had received his *nom de guerre* in Santo Domingo. Shot through the leg, he reportedly called for a pair of wire-cutters to clip off the jagged edge of the protruding bone.

"We had a very scenic day," remembered Thomas. "I'll never forget it. We were horribly short of water. The horses and men had drunk up all the wells for miles around, and there was no water. We sent off details with canteens, and they were gone eight or ten hours before they could come back with their canteens full. That day lancers and cuirassiers, the beautiful French cavalry, would go loping by. The artillery was displacing forward, at the gallop. On the side of the road the walking wounded were coming back"

"About three o'clock in the afternoon.

our regiment moved forward and deployed on the side of a hill. Down in front of us and off to the left was a line of artillery pieces as far as you could see standing hub to hub. I never saw anything like it, before or since. The word was, 'We're going to attack.' We deployed"

"Then the word came, 'Stand fast.' They told us that we were deployed too far to the rear, and that the 23d Infantry was on the road in column right behind us. They passed through us. As they went by you can imagine what they said to us. They loped by and went on toward the village of Vierzy.

" . . . after the 23d went by, I saw the greatest spectacle of the war. The French formed up for a mass cavalry attack There were about 6,000 of them, and they formed up on a plateau above us For some reason they didn't get the word to move forward. Finally the Germans threw some shells in among them, and they began to mill around. They all just drifted away."

THE MARINES of the 6th Regiment were spectators, not participants, in the events of the 18th. The night was fairly well over before LtCol Lee received the division attack order for the following day. That was at 3 a.m. on the 19th at Harbor's headquarters. The 6th Marines,

reinforced with the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, would take over the whole division front. The artillery preparation was to begin at 6 a.m. Passage of lines would be at 7 a.m. The 6th Marines would advance on a frontage of about 2,500 yards. The 1st Battalion, 2d Engineers, and the 4th Machine Gun Battalion were to constitute the reserve. All heavy tanks remaining at the disposition of the division commander would be placed under orders of the attack commander. All light tanks would be held in division reserve.

The battalion commanders were called to regimental headquarters in the field south of Beurepaire Farm at about 4:30 a.m., given maps, and told to report to LtCol Lee, who had gone forward to Vierzy to set up his P.C. (Post of Command) in the railroad station. It was understood that the attack would be at 8 a.m.

Early in the morning on the 19th, Harbor sent a lengthy message to Commanding General, XX Corps. The pith of it was:

With the exception of the Sixth Marines, kept out of the fight as Corps Reserve yesterday, and the Second Regiment of Engineers, which are armed with rifles, every infantry unit was exhausted in the fight yesterday. It was necessary, therefore to

make the attack this morning with one regiment, the Sixth Marines, supported by a battalion of the Engineer Regiment, a force considered by me as inadequate to the task, but no other was available.

The 6th Regiment moved out from Beaurepaire Farm at 6 a.m. Working its way up through the ravine the column reached Vierzy without loss. Lee, at the railroad station in Vierzy, issued orders sequentially to his battalion commanders as they arrived. The 1st Battalion (Hughes) was to go in on the right, the 2d (Holcomb) on the left, and the 3d (Sibley) was to follow in support.

THOMAS HOLCOMB, a future Commandant, commanding the 2d Battalion, had been promoted to lieutenant colonel. He had orders to turn his battalion over to Maj Robert L. Denig and move up to regimental second-in-command, but he elected to stay with his battalion during the attack. Denig went along as an observer.

Maj Berton W. Sibley, commanding the 3d Battalion, was a thin, handsome officer who had arrived in Quantico in August 1917 for duty with the 6th Regiment. He had served in the 1st Vermont Infantry in the Spanish-American War and was commissioned in the Marine Corps in July 1900. He had served in such places as Cuba, the Philippines, and China, and had done well at Belleau Wood.

Actual passage of lines through the positions held by the 3d Brigade of Infantry was at 8:25 a.m. The terrain was much like that around Belleau Wood. The German positions were about a kilometer away, across open fields. The ground was practically level, no cover, except for the waist-high wheat. The wheat was now more golden than green and the poppies seemed less bright than on the fields approaching Belleau Wood.

As Sgt Thomas remembered the approach march:

"The next morning, the 19th of July, we formed right up soon after daybreak . . . We moved down into the Vierzy Ravine, and then went forward, past Vierzy. My battalion came up out of the Vierzy Ravine and deployed on the edge of a wheat field. The Germans, who were over on the right on a hill, spotted us. They were about 1,800 yards away, but they started



Maj Robert L. Denig joined the 2d Battalion as an observer after LtCol Holcomb elected to stay with his men for the battle.

throwing machine gun bullets at us . . . I could see Holcomb's battalion come out of the orchard way off to our left and deploy and move out . . . We lay there, and after a while we heard rumbling. It was the tanks . . . When the tanks passed through, the command came, 'Forward.' We got up and started going with them."

MAJ LITTLETON W. T. WALLER, JR., commanding the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, used two machine-gun companies, the 15th and 77th, in the attack and two, the 23d and 81st, in support. His company commanders got their orders at 7:45 a.m. for an attack that was to begin at 8:30 a.m. One company had to cover the whole front until the other three could get into position.

Maj Sibley reached Vierzy at about 8:15. Lee ordered him to follow the 1st and 2d Battalions at a distance of about a thousand yards. The 3d Battalion was to be followed by the 1st Battalion, 2d Engineers (Army), in reserve. Sibley understood that he was to be supported by both the 15th and 77th Machine Gun Companies, which each had been reinforced by additional platoons from the 23d and 81st Companies. Sibley put all four of his companies, each in column of platoons, on line: the 97th on the right, the 84th right center, the 83d left center, and the 82d on the

left. He also had weapons section of Headquarters Company. The Stokes mortars and the 37mm guns were somewhere to the rear with the regimental train, so the mortarmen and gunners were assigned to Sibley as extra riflemen.

Standard tactics for the "square" infantry battalions of World War I called for two companies in the assault, two companies immediately behind in support. In Holcomb's 2d Battalion, the 80th Company was the left flank assault company with the 96th Company following close behind in support. To their right, similarly disposed, were the 78th and 79th Companies. Tall, lanky Don V. Paradis was a 21-year-old inspector for the Detroit City Gas Company when war was declared. Now he was a veteran sergeant in the 80th Company and usually served as a runner for Holcomb. There were no tactical radios. Officers carried pads of field message forms. Messages were scribbled in pencil on the forms and runners carried them in the buttoned left-hand pocket of their blouse or shirt. The location was specified so that the message could be found if the messenger became a casualty.

SGT PARADIS remembered that the 80th Company reached the jump-off line at about 7 a.m. and then was ordered to lie down in the wheat field and wait for the tanks to come up. There was no sign of any heavy tanks, but four small tanks came up over the ridge behind them and started down the slope. The 80th and 96th Companies had not dug in. Caught by the shelling and machine gun fire drawn by the tanks, they could only hug the ground and take it. All four tanks were knocked out. GySgt John Schrank was killed about ten feet from Paradis:

"The medics started to bandage him and First Lieutenant Clifton Cates took his pulse and said, 'Don't bother, he's dead.'"

Gen Clifton B. Cates, another future Commandant, was a lieutenant in the 96th Company, 2d Battalion. Administration in the brigade was haphazard and it wasn't clear to him if he were a first lieutenant, still a second lieutenant, or perhaps even a captain. In 1967, he remembered the opening of the second day at Soissons this way:

"So we formed for the attack and we were supposed to have had, I think it was, eight little old French tanks. So there we stayed for an hour or an hour and a half



An officer of the 96th Company, 2d Battalion, 2dLt Clifton B. Cates, wears a gas mask and holds a grenade in the trenches.

waiting for the tanks to arrive. By that time, we were getting not only artillery fire but indirect machine gun fire . . . In fact, one hit the back of my shoulder. I thought somebody had hit me with a rock. I finally pulled it out and it was a red hot bullet. I went over to Major Holcomb and yelled to him, 'Well, I got the first *blessé*. Here's the first wound,' and I handed him this bullet and he dropped it, it was still hot.

"Well, anyway we finally got underway and started the attack with these little old tanks. By the way, this artillery had killed the noted Yale runner, Johnny Overton, at that time while we were waiting. And the attack got underway. It was the most beautiful attack that I have ever seen. As far as you could see, up to the right, there were just waves and waves of men extending up two miles, I guess. . . .

THE JOHNNY OVERTON WHOM CATES mentioned was a fellow Tennessean, now a platoon commander in the 80th Company. John W. Overton, Class of '17,

would be remembered as Yale's best long-distance runner in many years. Before joining the Marines in the summer of 1917, he had set a new indoor record of 4:16 for the mile. He arrived in France with the 119th Replacement Company, was sent to officers' school at Gondrecourt, and after a bit of seasoning in the Vosges with the 42d Regiment, French Chasseurs, was assigned to the 80th Company in the last days of Belleau Wood.

"Our company moved out in two waves, about fifty yards between waves," remembered Sgt Paradis. As Holcomb's runner he stayed close to his commander. "Our battalion headquarters, consisting of about thirty men also moved in two waves, just back of the 80th Company's second wave. It was about a thousand yards to the German lines and as we started forward the German shellfire concentrated just a couple of hundred yards in front of their lines. The concentration was so great that it seemed like a black curtain, and it seemed to me that Colonel Holcomb was headed for the thickest and blackest part of that German line."

The 80th Company had a new commander, Capt Egbert T. Lloyd, a small man. As a bit of bravado copied from English and French officers, many Marine officers left their Colt .45s in their holsters and went into the attack carrying crook-handled canes. Paradis could see Lloyd through the smoke with the first wave, swinging his cane, and urging his men forward.

THE ATTACK MOVED out in perfect view of the Germans. By now MajGen Baron Von Watter, commanding the opposing XIII Corps, had firmed up his new line along the Chateau-Thierry Road with the relatively fresh 46th Division. (The 14th and 47th Divisions had been so badly mauled on the 18th that a few days later the 47th was permanently broken up and its pieces absorbed by the 14th.) West of Tigny was the 49th Division.

The American artillery preparation was inadequate. The battle was a hop-scotch kind of thing; crossing the wheat fields to reach the dubious shelter of the woodlots. The pace, because of the necessity of following the allotted French tanks, was slow. Of the 54 French tanks that had begun the battle the day before, only 28 were still operational. During the morning 11 more would be knocked out. The German ar-

tillery, its observers in "sausage" balloons, laid down a devastating fire. The slaughter was taken up by the waiting Maxims.

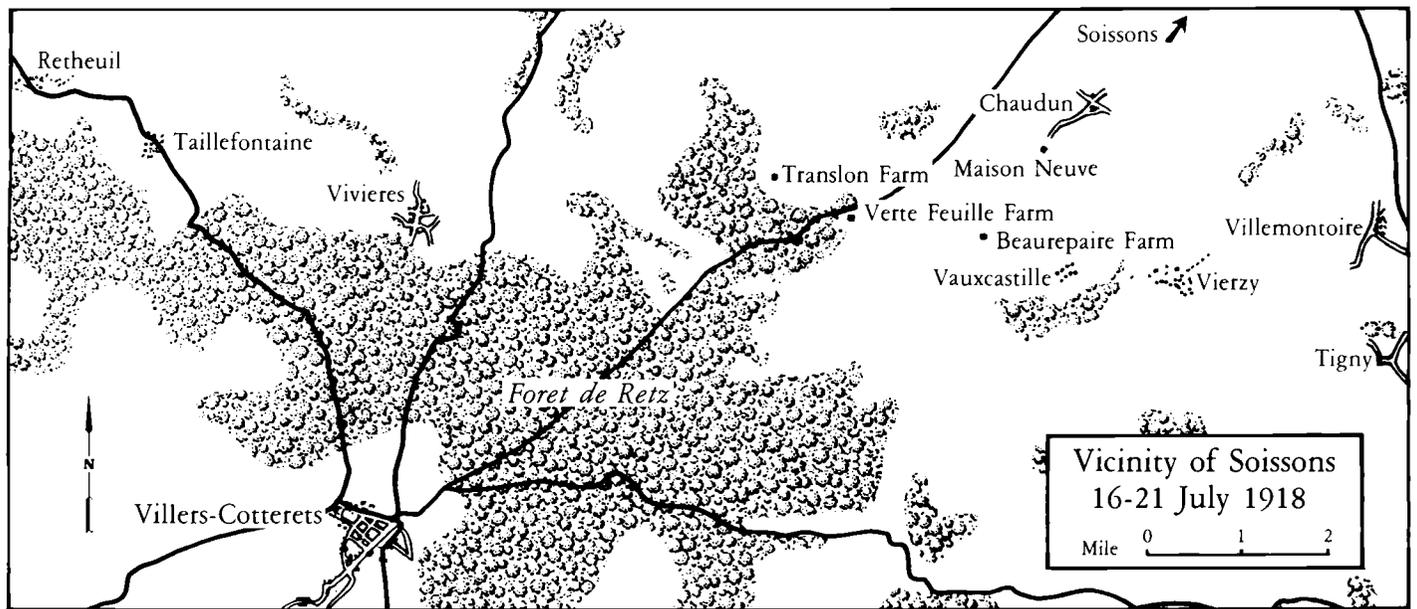
"The day was scorching hot," remembered Sgt Martin ("Gus") Gulberg of the 75th Company, 1st Battalion, on the right flank. Until April 1917, Gulberg had been a stock clerk in Chicago. "We reached our place in line about 9 a.m. and formed for the attack in an open wheat field, with the enemy artillery pounding us. Some of our men were hit before we got started. The whistle blew and we were off behind a platoon of whippet tanks. These tanks were a great help to the infantry in cleaning out machine gun nests, but I would rather take my chances without them rather than follow them, because they draw artillery fire."

GULBERG WENT FORWARD a few hundred yards, felt a sting in his right leg, cut away his breeches, and found two holes where a machine gun bullet had gone through the flesh. He took three or four steps and was knocked down by another hit, this one in the left leg. He tried to get up but couldn't move his left leg. He dropped all his equipment except his canteen and his pistol and hugged the ground. His canteen was empty. He took a canteen from a corpse and found that it was also dry. He looked at his wrist watch. It was 10 a.m.

After a gain of about one kilometer the Marine line had halted. The right of the line was stopped in front of Tigny, the left

Famed Yale long-distance runner Johnny Overton, serving as a Marine platoon commander, was killed in the day's first hours.





at La Raperie. A gap had opened between the 1st and 2d Battalions.

At 8:55 a.m. Sibley received a message by runner from Lee telling him to reinforce the line in the center, using two companies in waves and two in local support. Sibley sent the 84th Company in to the left of the 1st Battalion and the 83d Company to the right of the 2d Battalion to fill the reported gap. The 97th and 82d Companies remained in support.

AT 9:50 A.M. Sibley reported to Lee that his attacking line was moving forward. By 10:30 his two assault companies had pushed forward almost to the Bois de Tigny north of the village but had taken heavy casualties. At about 11 Sibley put the 82d Company in to connect the 83d Company with the 2d Battalion and the 97th Company to bolster the 84th Company which was now in the Bois de Tigny. One of Sibley's officers reached Hughes who said that he had only about a hundred men left and that nothing less than a regiment would drive the Germans out of Tigny.

At 12:15 p.m. Lee sent a runner to Sibley asking, "Has the town of Tigny been taken by our troops? If you don't know find out. If you are stopped dig in." A half-hour later Sibley sent runners to his companies telling them: "Hold the line you have now—dig in—get in touch with Cos on your right and left. Reinforcements coming."

But reinforcements were not coming and at 1:15 p.m. Sibley reported to Lee that Tigny had not been taken.

"The Germans had massed their artillery on a hill about three or four miles off in front of us," remembered Sgt Thomas. "It was all direct fire Our attack collapsed. The attack was over."

By 10 a.m. the 96th Company had reached a position about three kilometers east of Vierzy near Villemontoire and was digging in. The French Colonials on the Marines' left had failed to keep up and the 96th Company, on the left flank, suffered accordingly. In the space of about two hours the 96th had taken a total of 26 killed and 56 wounded. All the officers of the company were wounded early in the attack.

"The Moroccans that were supposed to have attacked on our left didn't appear at all," remembered Cates. "We broke the first German lines without too much trouble. By that time though we were catching billy-hell I had just remarked to this sergeant of mine close to me, 'Look at Captains [Wethered] Woodworth and [James F.] Robertson getting right together there. That's bad business.' And I hadn't any more than said it when a shell hit close to them and they both went down. By that time, the other lieutenants had all been wounded and I was the only one left out of the company. I tried to take charge, but just about that time a whole bunch of Germans jumped up out of the trench and started running and our men went after them like a bunch of coyotes. With that it was bedlam. I was never able to organize them again. I kept the attack going for about a kilometer, I guess. By that time, though, we were getting terrific fire from

our left flank . . . the attack just petered out. We were up near an old sugar mill. And that's where I wrote that message, that you all have on file, to Major Holcomb. I think I said, 'I have twenty men out of my company or out of my battalion and a few stragglers,' and I wound up by saying, 'I will hold.' By that time though, I had a pretty bad wound across my knee."

THE SHELL FRAGMENT, causing the second wound, literally tore the trousers off Cates. He tied a piece of blanket around his waist and earned the temporary nickname "Kiltie."

Holcomb's battalion gained the shelter of a wood about 500 yards west of Villemontoire.

"We reached the German front lines and found a series of foxholes that they had abandoned," remembered Paradis. "What few of us that were left fell into these foxholes. We even piled on top of each other to seek cover from that murderous shellfire. I laid there with every muscle in my body twitching, hardly knowing what I was doing. We could hear the wounded calling for help, but very little could be done for them until after dark came. . . . Our advance had not taken long. We were in the German foxholes probably by 9 or 9:30 and from then until about 4 p.m. the shellfire, machine gun and rifle fire never let up."

Sgt Thomas and a buddy took cover behind a heavy iron roller the French had left in the wheat field, scratching a little

depression into the ground with their entrenching tools.

"About an hour and a half later, I looked up and there was still a lot going on," remembered Thomas. "They were dropping hand grenades out of airplanes on us What had caused us to be slaughtered was the fact that the Moroccan division, which was supposed to have come up on our right, was delayed There was nobody on our right except German machine guns Maybe at noon or a little after, I was able to get up and peek around. That's after the Moroccans came forward."

THE MARINES had outrun their artillery support. It was almost impossible to evacuate the wounded. At 11:45 a.m. Lee sent this message to Harbord from his P.C. in the Vierzy railroad station:

Reports indicate growing casualties, amounting heavy, say about 30 per cent. Seventy-eighth Company by runners say have only one platoon left. All are requesting reinforcements and M.G. and Chauchat ammunition. First Battalion reports no French troops on right, and are held up 300 yards in front of Tigny. Have in line from right, First, Third and Second Battalions; Reserves, Battalion Engineers, Headquarters Company and two companies Sixth Machine Gun Battalion. Have ordered line to dig in.

Division responded with this message dispatched at 1:30 p.m.:

The Division Commander desires that you dig in and entrench your present position and hold it at all costs. No further advance is to be made for the present. He desires to congratulate your command upon its gallant conduct in the face of severe casualties.

The message merely confirmed a fact: the 6th Marines were already digging in and holding what they had. German artillery fire was heavy for the rest of the day.

AFTER HE FELT IT reasonably safe to move, Sgt Thomas reported to the one officer he could find, Capt Macon C. Overton, commander of the 76th Company. Georgia-born Macon Overton, called

"Dick" for no recorded reason, was a former enlisted man and no relation to the Yale runner. Thomas found Dick Overton sitting in a ditch alongside a sunken road. Overton told him that he had to go back to report to Major Hughes, that he knew what was in front of him and what was left of his company, but didn't know what had happened to the rest of the battalion. As far as Overton knew, Thomas was the senior man remaining in 75th Company. He told Thomas to locate the rest of the company. Thomas went forward and slithered from foxhole to foxhole, finding about a hundred Marines, including 33 from his own company. Overton went back and reported to Hughes perhaps a quarter mile to his rear. In the process, Hughes' P.C. was shelled and most of those present killed or wounded. Overton returned to Thomas's position and told him they were going to be relieved by the French at about midnight.

About two or three in the afternoon, Sgt Gulberg, prostrate in the wheat field, was reached by a friend, remembered only as "Smiley," who himself had been wounded in the forehead. Gulberg held Smiley around the neck and together they hobbled back to a first aid station in a shell-hole. A doctor there gave them first aid and sent them on to the regimental dressing station in a cave in Vierzy which was jammed with wounded.

At 5 p.m. Harbord received word that *Maj Ralph S. Keyser, here a lieutenant, commanded the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, sent into the line in the afternoon.*



the 2d Division would be relieved by the French 58th Colonial Division.

The 5th Regiment had held its ground on the morning of 19 July, its position being bombed and strafed intermittently during the day. At 2 p.m. Maj Ralph S. Keyser was ordered to report with his 2d Battalion, 5th Regiment, to the 9th Infantry, but before he could move out these orders were canceled and his battalion put into the line to the right of the 6th Regiment.

AT 4 P.M. Maj Julius S. Turrill was ordered to move his 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, into a large tunnel at Vierzy which gave him relief from the shelling and bombing. The brightly painted German aircraft seemed to own the sky. The Marines could use rifle fire and machine guns against them, usually futilely, but sometimes it was effective. At about 4 p.m. on 19 July the 23d Company, 6th Machine Gun Battalion, gleefully reported shooting down an enemy plane.

At 3:45 p.m. Lee sent this message by runner to his battalion commanders:

The Division Commander directs us to dig in and hold our present line at all costs. No further advance will be made for the present. He congratulates the command on its gallant conduct in the face of severe casualties.

Let me have a sketch of your position and disposition. Ammunition at crossroads 112 southeast of Vierzy. Lee

At 6:40 p.m. Lee sent BGen Wendell C. Neville (who, although the 4th Brigade of Marines commander, was given no tactical role to play by Harbord) a message which read:

Am enclosing two sketches of positions of First and Third Battalions and a statement of the C.O. Second. It is impossible to move from one position to another without drawing all sorts of fire. Losses are placed by Battalion Commanders at from 40 to 50 per cent. Their appeals for doctors, ambulances and stretcher bearers are pathetic. Cannot the ammunition trucks, and any other transportation that may appear tonight, be used to evacuate the 200 or more cases now in the



Two allies, a U.S. Marine, left, and a French poilu play cards in a dugout in a post-battle standdown. Some U.S. units reportedly lost half to two-thirds of their number.

Regimental D.S. [Dressing Station] under Doctor Boone? Some may be saved by prompt removal.

LEE WAS NOT exaggerating his losses. Of the 2,450 men of his regiment who made the attack, 1,300 were dead or wounded. The 1st Battalion had lost 11 officers including Capt John Kearns of the 95th Company. In the 2d Battalion only three officers remained. In the 3d Battalion, Sibley had started off that morning with 36 officers and 850 men. His effective strength was now 16 officers and 385 men.

At 8:05 p.m. Sibley summed up the day in a message to Lee, saying in part: "Will continue holding line until we can be reenforced or relieved . . . In front lines canteens are practically all empty and very few remaining rations. Can water and rations be sent to us or a relief sent? We have no flares—pyrotechnics or flare pistols. Have no hand grenades. Considerable amount of rifle ammunition remaining. Also some Chauchats. Many of their [sic] Chauchats out of action because of loss of men."

By that time the shelling had died down and the ambulances and trucks started reaching Vierzy. About an hour and a half later Gulberg was loaded into the back of a Packard truck. There was a thin layer of straw on the floor of the truckbed on which the wounded were packed in rows.

2dLt Samuel W. Meek, Jr., of the 82d Company, 3d Battalion, was Johnny Overton's close friend and fellow Yale alumnus. Both were from Nashville and both were Yale '17. Sam Meek went out into the

wheat field to find his friend's body, found it, and buried it, reporting, "He lies about 2,000 yards from Vierzy. His grave is marked by his identification tag on a stick in the ground."

IT WAS OBVIOUS that no further attack could be made by the exhausted 2d Division. In Harbord's words, "It was thrust out ahead of its neighboring divisions like the long middle finger of a giant hand." Corps orders issued late in the afternoon provided for its relief.

At 8:30 p.m. Sibley received a message, dispatched an hour earlier by the 6th Regiment headquarters, with welcome news: he was to send back guides to bring forward a French battalion. The regimental staff officer who drafted the message ended with an unnecessary "Bring in all wounded when relieved."

"At midnight the French came in," remembered Sgt Thomas, by now the apparent commander of the 75th Company. "I got my 33 men. I went back to battalion headquarters. We made stretchers out of blankets wrapped around rifles, and we carried the wounded out. Later we may have found another 35 or 40 men at different places, but my company lost over 50 per cent . . . We really took a shelling."

As Cates of the 96th Company remembered it: ". . . we stayed there that night and a bunch of Frenchmen, I think Moroccans, I'm not sure, came in and relieved us . . . We lost approximately, I would say, two-thirds of the battalion in that attack."

The French 58th Colonial Division

completed the relief by 4 a.m. on the morning of 20 July. The 2d Division was to move back to its starting position in the Forêt de Retz, where it would go into bivouac. Harbord and his chief of staff, before moving their headquarters back to Vivieres, stood by the side of the road and watched the two depleted brigades pass.

"Battalions of only a couple of hundred men, companies of twenty-five or thirty, swinging by in the gray dawn, only a remnant, but a victorious remnant, thank God," Harbord wrote in his diary.

BY SGT PARADIS'S COUNT, of the 196 Marines of the 80th Company who had gone into the attack the previous morning only 49 men marched back. Five more, who had been pinned down by the Germans, came in the following morning.

From midnight, 19/20 July, until well after dawn the infantry marched in a steady stream past the division headquarters toward the rear. After the march past, Harbord moved his HQ to Vivieres. Here Harbord located a nice French house with clean beds. His orderly found him hot water for a shave and a good soaking in his rubber bathtub.

The truck carrying Gulberg took all night threading its way back through the Villers-Cotterets forest. At seven in the morning it reached a French field hospital.

"The hospital building was full and so was the yard," remembered Gulberg. "The doctors were busy giving anti-tetanus injections, and the Red Cross was giving out coffee, tea, cakes and cigarettes . . . In this yard we lay all day waiting for doctors who were on their way to the hospital. About three in the afternoon they began tagging us. Those not too seriously wounded were marked 'Evacuate' and the serious cases were marked, 'Operate here.'" Gulberg was marked "Operate here."

By late afternoon practically all the division, with the exception of the artillery, had gone into bivouac in the woods near Verte Feuille Farm. The 6th Regiment camped near Translor Farm. The intense shellfire had weakened the trees, there was a high wind, and one Marine was killed and two seriously injured by falling branches. The Germans further treated the regiment to a shelling with long-ranged Austrian 130mm guns. Lee sent a motorcycle courier to brigade headquart-

ers asking for a more favorable resting place a little further to the rear.

The 5th Regiment had also marched back in the early morning hours, back into the Foret de Retz, about one kilometer behind the jump-off point it had crossed two days before. At first count, the 5th Regiment had lost 44 men dead, 360 wounded, and 34 missing. This number would grow worse as returns came in.

ONCE IN BIVOUAC the exhausted companies could be reached by the rolling kitchens. These were mule-drawn four-wheeled carts with wood-burning stoves. On the morning of the 20th, the 45th Company caught up with its kitchens and had hot cakes, syrup, and coffee, its first hot food since the 16th.

"... I have never seen anything look so good..." said 2dLt Merwin H. Silverthorn, the junior platoon commander. (He had been a sergeant in Belleau Wood and would retire after the Korean War as a lieutenant general.)

BGen Neville, as Holcomb and Cates a future Commandant, left Vierzy on the morning of 20 July and moved brigade headquarters to the camp site of his old regiment, the 5th Marines. A day later Harbord ordered Neville to move his brigade to the woods south of Taillefontaine. For those Marines who still had them, two shelter halves buttoned together made an acceptable pup tent. Considerably more comfortably, Neville set up his headquarters in the village itself.

Next day, on 21 July, Harbord reported to MajGen Bullard's III Corps headquarters. Bullard told him that he had telegraphed Gen Pershing that both the 1st and 2d Divisions had done well, but that the 2d had done exceptionally well. That evening Gen Pershing came by the 2d Division headquarters and told Harbord, "It appears I have to congratulate you every time I see you."

With these praises singing in his head, Harbord issued an effusive general order:

It is with keen pride that the Division Commander transmits to the command the congratulations and affectionate personal greetings of General Pershing, who visited the Division Headquarters last night... You advanced over six miles, captured over three thousand prisoners, eleven batter-

ies of artillery, over a hundred machine guns, minnenwerfers, and supplies. . . . The story of your achievements will be told in millions of homes in all Allied lands tonight.

When Sgt Gulberg awoke in the field hospital on the morning of the 21st, a French nurse came in with bread, cheese, and a cup of wine. He was placed once again in a truck. This took him to a railroad station where he was placed on one of the new American hospital trains.

"OH, WHAT A RELIEF to ride in a real train once more," wrote Gulberg. "These cars were fitted up like pullmans, with upper bunks for litter cases, and seats for the walking cases. We stopped several times en route and were fed royally by the Red Cross, who were stationed at all the fair-sized railroad stations."

Gulberg's destination was Base Hospital No. 27 at Angers. On clean white sheets and after a good breakfast he decided that it was not such a bad war after all.

"He who gets into a hospital, providing he isn't hit too hard, is considered a lucky guy," said Gulberg.

The Germans bombed both the brigade and division headquarters during the night of 21 July, probably to the secret satisfaction of the Marines sleeping in the woods, but caused no casualties.

By the 22d, the count of prisoners taken by the 2d Division in the two days of fighting had reached 66 officers and 2,810 enlisted Germans. These were the able-bodied ones. The number of wounded prisoners evacuated through the medical chain was unknown.

Said Pershing in his Final Report, "Due to the magnificent dash and power displayed in the field of Soissons by our 1st and 2d Divisions, the tide of war was definitely turned in favor of the Allies."

In its two-day battle the Marine Brigade had lost at least 2,000 killed and wounded with two-thirds of the loss in the 6th Marines. That was part of the price. □1775□

This article and its predecessor are derived from two chapters on Soissons of the manuscript for "Through the Wheat: The U.S. Marines in the First World War," a 75th anniversary commemoration of World War I being written by BGen Simmons. Corrections, comments, and amplifications are solicited.

Readers Always Write

More Comment On 'Wake Island'

I am grateful to have your fine essay on the Wake battle [*A Magnificent Fight: Marines in the Battle for Wake Island* by Robert J. Cressman]. It is well told, exhibiting clearly how the fog of war can turn into the force that drives everything.

Thanks and congratulations to the author.

One thing. Wesley Platt and I were close friends serving together, first in China and finally in the 6th Division at Okinawa. I was with him when he died (his jeep was hit by Chinese artillery).

Platt told me a lot about the Wake battle, of his pride at killing all of the Japanese landing force on Wilkes, of his frustrations arising from lack of communications (fog of war, again), and of his and his men's fury at being told that the island had been surrendered, when they had won their little battle.

Probably Platt never did an oral history. If he did not, it is a shame because, even though self-effacing, his heroism would shine through.

LtGen Victor H. Krulak, USMC (Ret)
San Diego, California

SECOND WAKE VETERAN WRITES

Thank you for the opportunity to write regarding Robert Cressman's *A Magnificent Fight*. I have also included a comment on one of his references, *Strong Hearts and Steady Nerves*.

I know the job of a historian is difficult, especially if there are survivors who can verify or correct errors. It seems that one must wait at least 75 years or be especially accurate.

To start with, in *Strong Hearts and Steady Nerves*, Bob Cressman omitted a very important event. On page 3 he should have included, "... as soon as VMF-211 observed the P-40s take off the Squadron was given the blinker signal to land aboard ... as soon as the F4F-3s were aboard and shunted below to the hangar deck, the Bosun's whistle sounded and we heard 'Now hear this ... The last mail plane has departed. Stand by for further orders ... Now hear this. This is war order number one! ... The U.S. *Enterprise* is

now underway for Wake Island to deliver VMF-211. Our scouting aircraft will cover our advance. They will be fully armed and prepared to shoot any enemy aircraft on sight. They will sink any surface vessels we meet! (this was followed by the distribution of battle order number one)."

Now to *A Magnificent Fight*.

Page 1—" . . . the radar was not even set up." That is completely wrong. There was no radar on Wake. Why would we have tried to make a hearing device from plywood if we only had to set up the radar?

Page 2—Putnam immediately sent a runner to Capt Elrod to disperse planes and men and keep all aircraft ready for flight. The aircraft had already been dispersed as far as possible. The area beyond the aircraft was loose coral and could not be used and still get the aircraft back to the runway.

Page 3— . . . the aircraft were to remain within the immediate vicinity of the island. No such order was ever given, at least not to the pilots. The reason for building homing loops was to enable us to find the island from any distance out.

Page 7—I thank Cressman for promoting me to first lieutenant. The promotion order was effective 2 December 1941, but never honored by the Paymaster of the Marine Corps (Gen A. M. Gray, the Commandant, admitted the error in 1989). Ammlc James F. Hesson did not join us until December 12th, along with two tractor mechanics, Harry Yeager and Pete Sorenson from the contractors' group.

Page 8—A Marine gunner's recommendation for medals must go through the commanding officer and the appropriate chain of command.

Page 12—There was an agreement that the F4Fs would not initiate an attack until the ground defense had begun firing, and VMF-211 did not attack until the ships were out of range of the 5-inch guns.

Page 13—Elrod's aircraft (number 11) was brought back to use for spare parts and as a decoy. Therefore it was not a total loss.

Page 14—"Tharin, although untrained in night aerial techniques . . ." Tharin had as much training as anyone at the time and adapted his training to search out the flying boat with the available light of the stars and approaching dawn.

Page 15—Kliewers' bombing of the submarine did not cause large holes in the wings and tail surfaces. They were only

minor and easily repairable. In Yuma in 1992, Bob Arthur verified that on one of the few flights he was able to make, he flew out and located the submarine on the bottom on an exceptionally clear day with calm surface conditions.

Also **Page 15**—"Shelters." These were only what we termed revetments—actually mounds of coral bulldozed to prevent a bomb hit on one aircraft from setting fire to a second.

Page 16—The bomb hit in the center of the aircraft and blew up the full tank, breaking the back of the plane in the middle, leaving the engine pointing skyward on its wheels. This was number 10. We did not lift the plane by its nose. We had only an improvised hoist on a farm-all type tractor and it could only lift the engine after we carefully disconnected it from the rest of the burning plane.

Page 17—Gen Kessler has already pointed out that Camp Two was where the barracks were located.

Page 18—Putnam later recalled Hesson's services as "being the very foundation of the entire aerial defense of Wake Island." This statement made after the war had to have been at the request of Cmdr Keene and Cmdr Cunningham to substantiate their recommendation for a Navy Cross for Hesson. Hesson worked for me and did creditable work, but did not deserve the credit due Hamilton, who received only a Legion of Merit. Putnam made no mention of Hesson in his report to Col Larkin on 20 December 1941, because Hesson had not reported to us until 12 December and was wounded on the 14th.

Hangars—Mention is made in several places about putting the aircraft in the hangars. There was only one and that was not completed until the night of the 14th. The big one was being made ready for the relief squadron, but it was not finished until the night before the island was overrun.

Page 22—The aircraft pictured was not flown on the final day. It is number 12, which Capt Freuler ground-looped into the brush to avoid civilians who crowded onto the runway. The plane Freuler flew on the last day was number 8. After the engagement in which he shot down the pilot who had sunk the *Arizona*, he made a rather normal landing on the airfield with gear down. It was immediately repaired by Hamilton. It was the only air-

craft left in one piece. The Japanese later pushed it to the hangar. (It was the first and only aircraft to be in the hangar. See Japanese photo from *Enemy on Island; Issue in Doubt* by Stan Cohen, page 48.

Page 22—A letter is attached concerning the research into the shoot-down of the pilot who sank the *Arizona*. Eugene Monihan of Haymarket, Virginia, has the statement from a pilot who was on the *Soryu*. He verified that the downed pilot had claimed the sinking of the *Arizona*.

Page 23—Top of the page, insert 23 December after 0700. Most readers do not relate 23 December on Wake as the date of the final overrun of the island.

Page 36—The Japanese losses are inaccurate. Anyone visiting the island in the last 20 years could still see the two destroyers on the beach and added to that are the ships sunk by the five-inch [guns] and the ones sunk by VMF-211. Although I was not on every flight, I did see the *Kisaragi* blow up as I was in my dive to bomb it. The submarine loss was not admitted by the Japanese, just as they never corrected their history showing the island captured on December 11th. I was in the questioning by the Japanese admiral and his pilot who asked us what happened to their submarine? Putnam said Lt Kliewer sank it. [The admiral] also wanted to know what happened to their four-engine flying boat. To this Maj Putnam also said that Capt Tharin shot it down. That seemed to solve their worry.

I hope that these comments help to set the record straight.

BGen John F. Kinney, USMC (Ret)
Portola Valley, California

EDITOR'S NOTE: BGen Kinney, like BGen Woodrow M. Kessler, who wrote concerning the Wake Island commemorative history in the Spring 1993 issue of Fortitude, is a distinguished veteran of the World War II battle to save the island. Author Robert J. Cressman responds to Gen Kinney on this page.

I appreciate BGen Kinney taking the time to express his concern about certain points in *A Magnificent Fight*. As I did with BGen Kessler's comments, I will address each of BGen Kinney's in turn. I very much appreciate his elucidation of certain aspects of the fight for Wake.

Page 1—On the matter of the radar at Wake, the reader is invited to read the

Spring 1993 *Fortitudine* (p. 14) and my response to BGen Kessler's comments on the same issue. In the interest of getting the manuscript down to imposed limits, I was compelled to cut out some introductory material that dealt with Wake's equipment and people shortages.

Page 2—Maj Putnam's sending a runner to tell Capt Elrod to disperse the planes is from Maj Putnam's October 1945 report.

Page 3—The statement about the planes remaining within the immediate vicinity of the island reflects Maj Putnam's recollections of the events of that day, in his 1945 statement on the subject.

Page 7—As to BGen Kinney's promotion (photo caption), I have no idea how that slipped past everyone!

Page 8—Marine Gunner Hamas's post-war recommendation for Shank's MOH went to the SecNav Board of Decorations and Awards. A similar case was Capt Frederick C. Sherman of the *Lexington* (CV-2), who recommended war correspondent Stanley Johnston for a decoration for Johnston's heroism at Coral Sea in May 1942.

Page 12—For an analysis of VMF-211's operations on the morning of 11 December 1941 I invite the reader to see the Spring 1993 *Fortitudine* where I addressed BGen Kessler's comments on the same issue.

Page 13—I described Capt Elrod's 211-F-11 as a total loss because that's precisely how the source I used (2dLt Kinney's diary) described it.

Page 14—The statement that Capt Tharin had not been trained in night combat techniques is from Maj Putnam's letter recommending that Tharin be decorated for the feat.

Page 15—2dLt Kliever's bombing of the submarine (which, incidentally, most likely occurred on 11 December, not the 12th) was probably responsible only for damage to the boat—not her loss. As stated in my earlier letter addressing BGen Kessler's comments, I have a theory about the sinking of the sub that will be explained fully in a forthcoming book. As to the "large holes in the wings and tail surfaces," that is precisely how then-2dLt Kliever described it in 1945.

Page 15—I appreciate the clarification of what was termed as "shelters" and hangars.

Page 16—In the original draft, using

the Kinney diary as a source, I described exactly how the engine change was carried out. The "lifting the plane by its nose" may have been another instance of tightening up the manuscript by an editor.

Page 17—The correct number of the camp has already been addressed in the Spring 1993 *Fortitudine*.

Page 18—Writing under a deadline and re-writing something several times sometimes leads one to read and understand a document but write something else. That occurred in my writing of how Maj Putnam praised Hesson's services as constituting "one of the foundations [not *the* foundation] of the entire aerial defense of the island" in his original recommendation for a Distinguished Service Medal for Hesson in recognition of his work alongside 2dLt Kinney and TSgt William J. Hamilton on VMF-211's planes. Indeed, 2dLt Kinney's diary not only recounts Hesson's arrival on 12 December and his being wounded on 14 December but also Hesson's surprise return to VMF-211 on 15 December with shrapnel still in his hip. One has the impression that BGen Kinney does not believe that Hesson's work as a mechanic with VMF-211 merited a Navy Cross and that TSgt Hamilton was given less than he deserved. In fact, Hesson's work on planes had nothing to do with his Navy Cross. Maj Putnam recommended a Navy Cross for Hesson in recognition of the sailor's heroism in VMF-211's last stand against Japanese Special Naval Landing Force troops at the airstrip on 23 December. In that desperate fight, Hesson was badly wounded in both legs by Japanese grenade fragments. Although Maj Putnam had recommended that Hesson and Hamilton each receive a DSM for their important role in maintaining VMF-211's planes, each received a Legion of Merit for the same work. In addition, TSgt Hamilton was awarded two air medals for the flight operations in which he participated at Wake.

Page 22—I thank BGen Kinney for setting me straight on the identity of the aircraft in the photo; that is most helpful, and incidentally provides the identity of the plane in the covered hangar. Although I used BGen Kinney's diary as the source for Capt Freuler's plane landing with the canopy [hood] stuck closed, I confess to missing the salient point that it was a "rather normal landing." Had I caught that, I would not have captioned the ob-

viously "pranged Wildcat" as Capt Freuler's from the 22d.

Page 22—The reason why I did not emphasize Capt Freuler's shooting down the man (the observer—not the pilot—in one of the two *Soryu* Kates splashed) who claimed *Arizona*'s destruction is because while Freuler indeed shot down Petty Officer Kanai's Kate, Kanai was not the man who dropped the fatal bomb on *Arizona* (BB-39) at Pearl Harbor. For an excellent and thorough analysis of *Arizona*'s loss at Pearl, derived from contemporary (1941) Japanese documents by David Aiken and John DeVirgilio, see Paul Stilwell's *Battleship Arizona* (Naval Institute Press, 1991), pp. 264-265 (diagram of the bombing pattern) and pp. 274-275 (discussion of the hits).

Page 27 (not 23)—the 0700 time is what it was at Pearl Harbor (as I stated), not Wake. Perhaps more mention of 23 December in the last section, however, to emphasize the Wake date, would have been more helpful. I think most readers know, though, that Wake fell on 23 December.

Page 36—The Japanese losses are as accurate as records can show, and were derived from Japanese sources. The submarine loss was an operational casualty, not a combat loss (and, yes, it was indeed admitted). I have yet to see the elusive Japanese account (to which BGen Kessler also refers), which lists Wake as being captured on the 11th! Japanese newspapers, notorious for propaganda, make no mention of Wake being captured on 11 December, but do indeed mention its capture on the 23d. It must be remembered that Japanese newspapers of that time were virtual house organs for the foreign office and Japan's militarists. RAdm Kajioaka could hardly have told VAdm Inoue that he had captured Wake when he asked for more help upon his return from his force having been beaten up badly by the seacoast guns and VMF-211's quartet of Wildcats.

The Chitose Kokutai raid I mention as occurring on 12 December (p. 14) did not, in fact, occur, as ongoing research in both U.S. and Japanese records revealed (the latter subsequent to publication of *A Magnificent Fight*. Further research also indicates that the take-off of *Soryu* and *Hiryu* planes was between 1100 and 1108, not 0800 (p. 21).

Robert J. Cressman

Dual Titles Added to Persian Gulf, WWII History Series

by Benis M. Frank
Chief Historian

TWO NEW MONOGRAPHS in the "U.S. Marines in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991" series and two new World War II 50th anniversary commemorative pamphlets were recently published by the History and Museums Division.

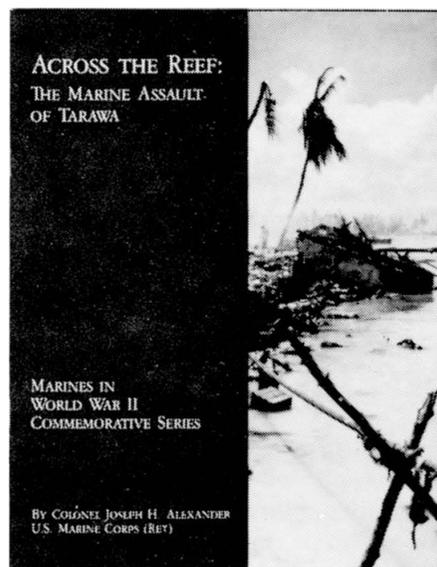
As was the case with *With the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Desert Shield and Desert Storm*, the new *With the 1st Marine Division in Desert Shield and Desert Storm* and *With the 2d Marine Division in Desert Shield and Desert Storm* were written by members of Mobilization Training Unit (History) DC-7.

The 1st Division history was written by LtCol Charles H. Cureton, USMCR, who holds a master of arts degree and a doctorate in history, and who, in civilian life, is chief of museums and historical property, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. Together with the commander of MTU (History) DC-7, Col Charles J. Quilter II, LtCol Cureton landed in Saudi Arabia on 9 November 1990, and assisted Col Quilter as deputy I MEF command historian by organizing the I MEF historical document collection effort. He transferred to the 1st Marine Division in mid-January to cover Marine land force operations. He participated in the first ground operation of the war (the artillery raid on the night of 20-21 January 1991), headed the division's combat camera element, and joined Task Force Papa Bear (1st

Marines) for the drive to liberate Kuwait.

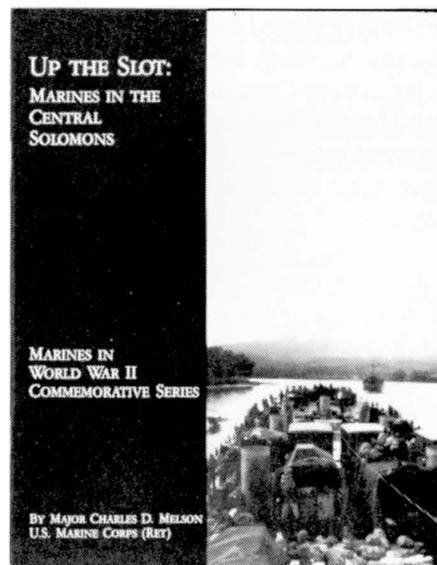
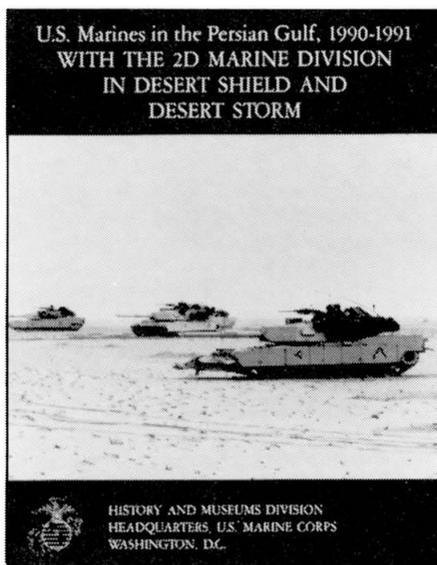
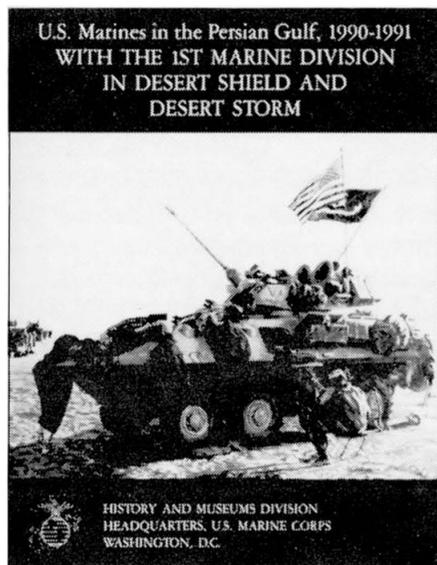
Similarly, in his *With the 2d Marine Division in Desert Shield and Desert Storm*, LtCol (Col selectee) Dennis P. Mroczkowski, USMCR, who has been selected as the new commander of MTU DC-7, relates the experiences of the 2d Division in the Persian Gulf. LtCol Mroczkowski, in civilian life director of the U.S. Army's Casemate Museum at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, was serving as a watch team commander in the II MEF Crisis Action Center at Camp Lejeune when Desert Shield began. In January 1991 he was ordered to active duty and assigned to the Marine Corps Historical Center. Shortly thereafter, he was further assigned to the 2d Marine Division as its historian. He arrived at the division in late January, served with it throughout Desert Storm, and returned with it to Camp Lejeune in April 1991.

The titles of both new monographs, as well as the one about I MEF, reflect the fact that all three authors were actively in combat with the units to which they were attached. The materials collected by Col Quilter and LtCols Cureton and Mroczkowski (as well as by LtCol Ronald H. Brown, a fourth MTU member in the Gulf area who is writing "With the Marines Afloat in Desert Shield and Desert Storm" and "With Operation Provide Comfort: Marine Humanitarian Relief Efforts in Northern Iraq") will eventually be incor-



porated into a single-volume, casebound book about Marine Corps operations in the Gulf.

THE FIRST OF the two WWII commemorative pamphlets recently released is *Across the Reef: The Marine Assault of Tarawa* by Col Joseph H. Alexander, USMC (Ret). Col Alexander has melded into his history the material of previously published official histories together with the personal reminiscences of Tarawa veterans found in the Marine Corps Oral History Collection, with personal papers and photographs donated to and found in the Marine Corps Personal



Papers Collection, and some never-before-seen photographs. The author has constructed step by bloody step the story of the most furious 76 hours in Marine Corps history, beginning on 20 November 1943, during which time the outcome was sometimes in doubt. Col Alexander has clearly outlined the bravery and leadership of Marine officers and enlisted Marines alike in a moving narrative.

The second commemorative narrative released is *Up the Slot: Marines in the*

Central Solomons, by retired Marine Maj Charles D. Melson, a former member of the History and Museums Division staff. Maj Melson has told the story of the fighting which took place in mid-1943 in the Central Solomons at New Georgia as the Allies climbed up the Solomons chain beginning with the Guadalcanal landing in August 1942, and ending with the 1 November 1943 invasion of Bougainville. Maj Melson looks at the New Georgia operation from the point of view of the

Army and Marine Corps ground units; the activities of the Marine defense battalions; and the role played by Marine air over New Georgia and up and down the Solomons chain.

Publications in both series may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Marine Corps units and activities and scholarly research institutions may request copies from the History and Museums Division. □1775□

Tarawa Observances Include Day-long Lejeune Events

by Col Joseph H. Alexander, USMC (Ret)

MARINES AND former Marines celebrated the 50th anniversary of the battle of Tarawa in many locations, ranging from the Army-Navy Club in Washington, D.C., to Betio Island itself. One of the most comprehensive celebrations occurred at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where the 2d Marine Division devoted an entire day to commemorating the bloodiest battle in its history.

The events at Camp Lejeune were highlighted by the active participation of 22 Tarawa veterans and their families, often representing four generations. Col Charles W. Van Horne, executive director of the 2d Marine Division Association, escorted the veterans. LtCol Dennis W. Reilly, Division training officer, coordinated the day's events.

Among the Tarawa veterans attending were Melvin McBride, then a sergeant in Company E, 2d Battalion, 8th Marines, whose men crossed the exposed airfield on the first morning, and John White, then a sergeant in Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, who nearly drowned when Japanese gunners sank his Higgins boat in deep water beyond the reef on the morning of D+1.

A FORMAL COLORS ceremony at the Division command post began the day's events. The adjutant read a special message from the Commandant of the Marine Corps. MajGen Richard I. Neal, commanding the division, then spoke about the enduring legacy of Tarawa, asking "Where do we get such men as those who crossed that reef and climbed over the sea wall?" Gen Neal accompanied retired

Col Maxie R. Williams, the senior Tarawa veteran present, for a wreathlaying ceremony. Afterwards, the veterans and their families enjoyed refreshments in the Division conference room, pausing to examine an unusually complete collection of combat photographs of the battle. "See these little stakes out in the water?" asked

Col Maxie R. Williams, USMC (Ret), right, a veteran of Tarawa combat, where he served as commander of Company B, 1st Battalion, 2d Marines, is greeted by MajGen Richard I. Neal, 2d Marine Division commanding general, at the Camp Lejeune ceremonies in honor of the 50th anniversary of the battle. Col Williams teamed with Gen Neal to lay the wreath.



one veteran. "They were range markers for Jap machine guns!"

The next event of the day was a memorial service at the base chapel conducted by the 2d Marines. Modern-day Marines escorted each veteran down the center aisle while the narrator read his date and place of enlistment, his rank and unit at Tarawa, and the date of his discharge or retirement. The regimental sergeant major read the Presidential Unit Citation awarded to the Division for Tarawa. All stood for "Taps," one trumpet echoed by a second, and for a solemn rendition of the "Marines' Hymn." Col Williams, who commanded Company B, 1st Battalion, 2d Marines, at Tarawa, then spoke of the heroism of the individual Marine during that battle. "Without the will to fight as so vividly portrayed throughout 20-24 November 1943," he stated, "Tarawa would never have been conquered."

The days' events concluded with a two-hour "professional military education" session on the battle of Tarawa with 350 officers and staff noncommissioned officers of the Division, plus the veterans.

As the author of the Corps' official 50th Anniversary commemorative history of Tarawa, I was the guest speaker—and really under the gun. The room was filled with Tarawa experts, veterans and active duty Marines alike. Highlight of the afternoon came with the questions and answers. When members of the Division asked detailed questions about tactical communications, logistic resupply, and weapons, I simply got out of the way and let the veterans answer for themselves. □1775□

Rare Chinese Civil Decoration Is Donated to Museum

by *Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas*
Curator of Material History

THE MARINE CORPS Museum's collection of medals and decorations contains more than 2,500 pieces, with nearly all of them having been awarded by the U.S. government to Marines and, in some cases, to Marine Corps units. Although the collection does contain a number of foreign awards and decorations, none are as scarce as the "Chinese Order of the Brilliant Jade," which was donated to the Museum this past summer by Col Millard C. Monnen, USA (Ret), of Anderson, South Carolina.

This order was instituted in 1933 by Generalissimo Chiang'kai Shek to replace the obsolete "Grand Order of the Brilliant Jade," which had been founded in 1912. The Grand Order had been given only to presidents of the Chinese Republic and to heads of foreign governments. The new decoration was awarded for outstanding civil merit and came in nine classes. The medals themselves ranged from a breast star and sash for first class and a neck cravat for the third and fourth classes to a pendant for the fourth through ninth classes.

All of the classes have a beautifully worked enamel and goldplated silver star or badge. The center stone, although described in several reference works as polished quartz, appears to be polished glass. The badge received from Col Monnen has a large number "3" on the reverse, the first two having been awarded to Benito Mussolini and the Vice President of Nicaragua.

The recipient of this decoration was then-1stSgt George "Swede" Nelson, who was awarded it for his services as interpreter and aide to the Vice President of Nicaragua, Dr. Rodolfo Espinosa, during his visit to China in 1934. "Swede" Nelson retired as a warrant officer in 1946, after being recalled from retirement during World War II, and spent altogether nearly 30 years in the Marine Corps. He enlisted in Buffalo, New York, just after the declaration of war on Germany in 1917. After boot camp at Parris Island, he was stationed in Cuba with the 7th Marines, but made it to Europe after the armistice. Because of his familiarity with Scandinavian and Ger-

manic languages, he found himself carrying diplomatic dispatches for the State Department. During the next 20 years, he fought bandits in Nicaragua, saw service in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and China, and served on board the battleships *Oklahoma*, *Tennessee*, and *Wyoming*. It was during his cruise on the *Wyoming* that he gained the nickname of "Swede," since there were no less than five Marines with the last name Nelson on the ship. He also accompanied President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Buenos Aires Peace Conference in 1936 and was later detailed to the White House for the 1936-37 social season.

IT WAS DURING his tour in Shanghai with the 4th Marines that he was called upon to accompany Dr. Espinosa on his tour of Shanghai, Nanking, Tientsin, and Beijing. An accomplished linguist, 1stSgt

Nelson also spoke fluent Spanish and had completed a two-year tour of duty in Nicaragua. On first arriving, he was assigned to the 11th Marines, but later gained attention as a "horse trader" when he purchased horses for the Marine Brigade in the company of another colorful old salt, MGySgt Michael T. "Mickey" Finn. He wound up his time in Nicaragua as the assistant chief of police and the assistant to the commandant of the National Penitentiary in Managua and, in this capacity, was well known to various members of the Nicaraguan government.

The medal was presented to the History and Museums Division by Col Monnen and his wife in a ceremony on 24 August at the Historical Center. Col Monnen is "Swede" Nelson's half-sister's son and had talked to WO Nelson about donating the medal to the Marine Corps Museum shortly before Nelson's death in 1969. □1775□

Immediately apparent by its large size and intricacy among the decorations on the uniform of 1stSgt George "Swede" Nelson, is the Chinese "Order of the Brilliant Jade."



Artist Gibney Relives World War II Memories on Canvas

by John T. Dyer, Jr.
Curator of Art

“AN ODYSSEY, the Saga of a Young Marine, 1942-1946,” is a 52-piece exhibit of work by Richard M. Gibney, a 2d Marine Division combat artist in World War II, currently being shown in the Special Exhibits Gallery of the Marine Corps Museum in the Historical Center in Washington, D.C.

Making up the show are 46 new oil paintings, two etchings, two drawings or cartoons for two of the larger paintings, and an oil of a Marine on Saipan, previously contributed to the Art Collection by the artist in 1985, along with the 1943 USMC map case Gibney used to carry his sketchpads, pens, ink, and pencils during the war in the Pacific. The show formally opened on 17 September, with the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps,

Gen Walter E. Boomer, accepting the 50 new works for the collection from the artist.

Gibney says his ambitious project was inspired by a July 1990 letter sent from the Museum’s art curator to about 20 World War II combat artists or veterans who became artists after the war. With an exhibit in mind to support a larger World War II 50th anniversary commemorative effort by the Museum, the letter asked for a sketch, drawing, or painting drawn from a still-vivid World War II experience. Gibney telephoned the curator a month or so after he received the letter. He asked if the Museum would accept more than one piece. His thinking and subsequent research brought back to him one experience after another. He wanted them

down on paper, canvas, or board. Memories he hadn’t dealt with since the end of the war he wanted to revisit graphically.

HE STARTED TO REMEMBER and to relive some of the nightmarish episodes of combat: skidding helplessly across a blood-soaked, exploding LST’s deck at Pearl Harbor; surviving under fire on Tarawa, where he learned to smoke cigarettes as a combat engineer needing the means at hand to ignite explosive fuzes to satchel-charge Japanese coconut-log entrenchments; and joining in patrols through the overgrown and steamy Saipan jungle. Some other frightening memories were witnessing a Kamikaze attack while on board a ship off Okinawa and taking part

Gibney’s “Kamikaze Attack, Okinawa, April 1, 1945,” is a tribute to the Marines and sailors at the guns of the offshore ships. Japanese Kamikaze (“Divine Wind”) pilots swore themselves to

commit suicide by flying their explosives-laden planes into American ships. Some Kamikazes succeeded at great cost in U.S. ships and men; many others were destroyed by anti-aircraft fire.



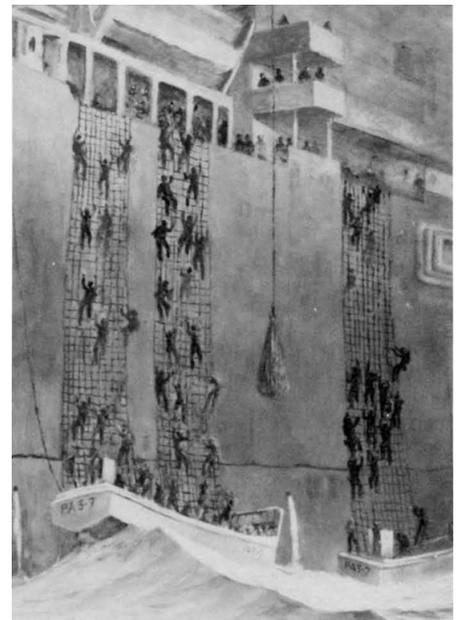


Artist Richard M. Gibney, right, converses at the opening of his exhibition at the Marine Corps Museum in Washington with Assistant Commandant Gen Walter E. Boomer, center, and Director of Marine Corps History and Museums BGen Edwin H. Simmons.

in occupation duty in Nagasaki, an entire city only recently levelled by the atomic bomb.

Some memories were much less painful: blacked-out troopships going to the war and those with lights ablaze and smoking lamps lit on deck on the way home after the war; a stateside liberty in a San Diego bar where many of his drawings were stolen; and the excited taxi ride

In "Abandon Ship, Pearl Harbor," Gibney recalls that burning oil and falling debris were hazards, and heroism common, as men struggled in West Loch harbor after escaping the exploding LSTs. As many as five paintings in the show deal with Pearl Harbor.



Gibney recalled himself among the Marines going "Down the Nets, Tarawa." They descended into landing craft from the Jacob Zeilin (APA 3), headed for heavily fortified Betio beach, where many died.

career he has produced hundreds of commissioned portraits and 18 murals. He maintains a studio in Rockport, Massachusetts.

THE CURRENT COMPLETE EXHIBIT will continue until 1 January 1994, when other World War II exhibits will replace a portion of the Gibney show. □1775□

The young Gibney swings himself "Over the Side, Tarawa." Marines wait at their assigned boat stations, go over the rail and onto rope nets to join the landing craft.



Marine Corps Art from Somalia Shown on Capitol Hill

by John T. Dyer, Jr.
Curator of Art

FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS by Marine Corps combat artists of their experiences in Somalia have appeared often in *Fortitudine* during the past year. All of these artists were impressed by the graceful appearance of the Somali people and the calm presence of U.S. Marines among them. Most took time also to draw or paint the effects of the East African heat and the country's fauna, from flies to camels.

Some of the individual pieces of art—sketches and drawings, paintings in oils, watercolors, and acrylics—produced by these Marine Corps-sponsored artists now have been collected into a 16-piece exhibit, first seen in two locations on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The first showing, in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building, lasted from 19 to 23 July. The second showing, at the Cannon House Office Building's rotunda, extended from 9 to 20 August.



Panels erected between pillars of the rotunda of the Cannon office building of the U.S. House of Representatives provide mounting areas for drawings and paintings produced by Marine Corps combat artists in Somalia. The building dates to 1908-1909.

LtCol Donna J. Neary, USMCR, delighted in her contacts with Somali children. Here, in a large colored-pencil-on-paper drawing, she records "Foodline." These children are lined up for a

once-a-day food ration at the Red Cross compound in the "Italian Village," a refugee camp outside of Baidoa. Much of the art deals with the Marines' primary mission, to get food to starving people.



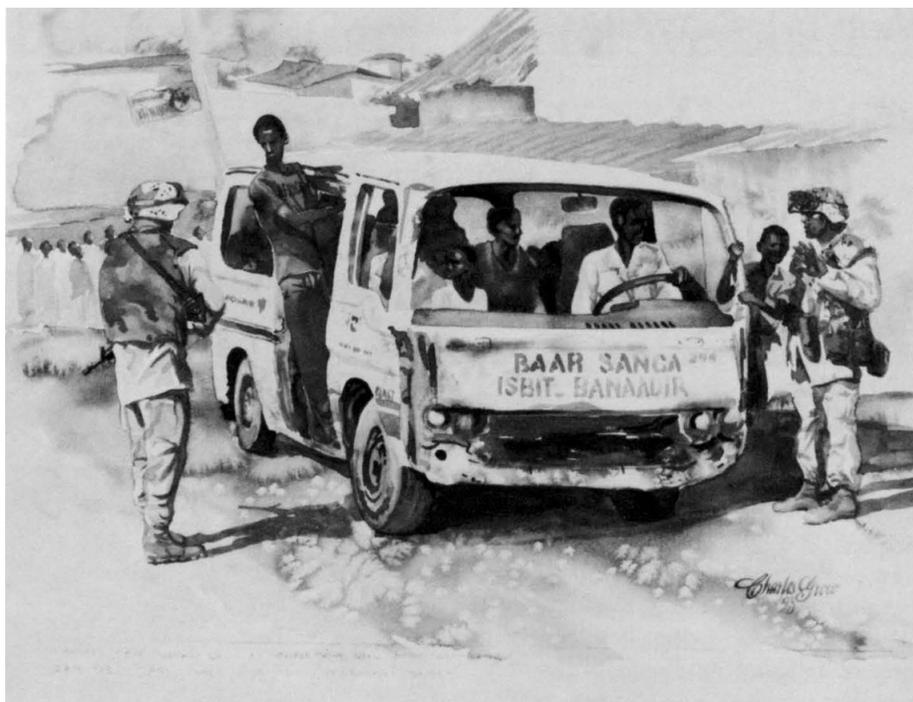


Col Peter M. Gish, USMCR (Ret), used watercolors to produce "Arms Seizure, Bakaro Market, Mogadishu," in January.

The three artists represented were Col Peter M. "Mike" Gish, USMCR (Ret); Lieutenant Colonel Donna J. Neary, USMCR; and WO Charles Grow, USMC. Their artworks were shown displayed on easels placed between pillars in the Russell Building rotunda and hung on panels between the pillars of the Cannon Building rotunda. The two buildings, both dating to 1908-1909, are of mirror-image architectural construction. They flank the Capitol building on its east side.

The two shows attracted different official and "tourist" audiences. The exhibit in the Russell Building was sponsored by the Marine Corps Congressional Liaison Office and Sen John McCain. The Can-

Capt Burton E. Moore, Jr., finished "Fight at the 21 Octobre Triumphal Arch," of men of 3d Battalion, 11th Marines.



Marines search van near newly found arms cache in "Checkpoint" by WO Charles Grow.

non Building exhibit was sponsored by the Liaison Office and Rep Paul McHale. The white panels in the Cannon Building provided more of an "art gallery" appearance and atmosphere than the open-spaced, natural appearance of the Russell Building, according to on-lookers.

The show has since moved on to the Museum of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. There was to be an initial showing of the exhibit at a Marine Corps birthday ball with Col Gish as guest of honor. For the occasion, Col Gish finished and added two additional paintings to the show.

Ten pencil drawings by combat artist Capt Burton E. Moore, USMCR, of Marines receiving and reacting to hostile fire on the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia, have hung in the hallway art gallery of Headquarters Marine Corps since mid-May. The professional wildlife illustrator who experiences—whether in a duck blind or atop a Mogadishu roof—much of what he paints, has turned in a major acrylic-on-illustration-board painting evolving from the 10 drawings. Five of the drawings were printed (one on the cover) in the Spring 1993 issue of *Fortitudine*. □1775□

Historical Quiz

Dates in Marine Corps History

by Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Historian

Provide the dates for the following highlights of Marine Corps history:

1. Continental Congress passes resolution that "two Battalions of Marines be raised."
2. First amphibious raid (New Providence, Bahamas).
3. Marine Corps Womens Reserve formed in World War II.
4. Iwo Jima flag raisings.
5. Inchon landing (Korea).

6. Operation Frequent Wind (Evacuation of American Embassy, Saigon).

7. Terrorist bombing of BLT headquarters, Beirut International Airport.

8. Operation Desert Shield begins (Persian Gulf).

9. Operation Desert Storm begins (Persian Gulf).

10. Operation Eastern Exit (Evacuation of American Embassy, Mogadishu, Somalia).

(Answers on page 25)

Military Art Volumes Prominent Among New Issues

by Heather Sroufe

Student Intern, Historical Center Library

The library of the Marine Corps Historical Center receives many recently published books of professional interest to Marines. Most of them are available from local bookstores or libraries.

Bougainville: The Forgotten Campaign, 1943–1945. Harry A. Gailey. University Press of Kentucky, 1991. 237 pp. Gailey, the author of *Liberation of Guam* and *Peleliu, 1944*, here describes the three years of fighting on Bougainville from 1943 through 1945. The Marines were involved mainly in the first phase of the campaign there beginning in November 1943, fighting along with Army units to establish a perimeter from which an attack could be launched against the Japanese. The Marines were largely withdrawn by the end of 1943 with the second phase of the operations being mostly Army and the subsequent third phase involving mainly Australian forces.

Bougainville was also the place where the first black troops were committed to fighting in the Pacific. The book, too, considers the questions of overall cooperation among various branches of the service and the relationships among the Australian and New Zealand commanders and MacArthur's headquarters. \$27.00

Tennozan: The Battle of Okinawa and the Atomic Bomb. George Feifer. Ticknor and Fields, 622 pp., 1992. Through the lives of three people, an American Marine, a 20-year old Japanese battalion commander, and a Japanese student elevated to governor of the prefecture of Okinawa, George Feifer recounts in a highly visual way the Battle of Okinawa. The author has drawn upon more than 10 years of research and interviews to write of this book. \$29.95

The Art of Tom Lovell; An Invitation to History, text by Don Hedgpath and Walt Reed. The Greenwich Workshop, Inc. 160 pp., 1993. Throughout his career, Tom Lovell has seen himself as "a storyteller with a brush," and this work highlights his credentials. Ninety-nine color reproduc-

tions, supplemented by identifying text, tell the story of the "frontier spirit" in American history. Tom Lovell was a staff sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserve during World War II and he, along with fellow Marine George Clymer, created a series of 10 historical Marine Corps paintings. His "Tarawa Landing" is shown on p. 151. He was on the staff of *Leatherneck* and *Marine Corps Gazette*. During this time, his work appeared in both publications. This tribute is divided into five parts: parts 1-3 show his interest in the American West and in Native Americans; part 4 is devoted to works on the Civil War including a fold-out reproduction of his "Signing at Appomattox"; part 5, contains his works for the Marine Corps, including "Tarawa Landing" and "Battle of Tenaru River." \$60.00 For availability, call 1-800-243-4246 for information and addresses of Greenwich Workshop dealers.

The Gulf War, 1990-1991; Diplomacy and War in the New World Order. Lawrence Freedman and Efraim Karsh. Princeton University Press, 504 pp., 1993. Freedman and Karsh, both members of the War Studies faculty at King's College, address not only American actions but also European, Soviet, and Middle Eastern decisions in this analysis of events leading up to the Gulf War of 1990-1991, and the war itself. The authors analyze the war in relation to problems in the conduct of diplomacy and the role of military force in "the new world order." Includes maps, an extensive bibliography, and a listing of "the major players" from all nations involved. \$29.95

Japan at War; An Oral History. Haruko Taya Cook and Theodore F. Cook. The New Press, 479 pp., 1992. Telling the stories of ordinary Japanese people during World War II, in their own words, this book captures the complex and varied range of experiences and emotions during that time of crisis. Haruko Taya Cook is a specialist in Japanese and comparative literature and a director of programming for the Japan Broadcasting Corporation. \$27.50

Close Combat (Continuing the Saga of the Corps). W. E. B. Griffin. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 383 pp., 1993. This is the latest volume in Griffin's popular fictional series about Marines in World War II. It covers the campaign on Guadalcanal, including behind-the-scenes activity from the Solomons to Australia to wartime Washington, D.C. \$22.95

Forgotten Warriors: Combat Art from Vietnam. Edited by Dennis L. Noble. Praeger Publishers, 198 pp., 1992. Dr. Noble assembles in this book 153 moving illustrations of every aspect of the war in Vietnam, sketched by the soldiers themselves. These pictures are arranged among oral histories, letters and commentaries. Included is artwork by James A. Fairfax and John T. Dyer of the Historical Center staff. \$29.95

Persuasive Images: Posters of War and Revolution from the Hoover Center Archives. Edited by Peter Paret, Beth Irwin, and Paul Paret. Princeton University Press, 233 pp., 1992. The political posters displayed here not only function as art but also serve as a visual narrative of important events from the First World War to the Polish struggle for Solidarity in 1990. Taken from central and western Europe, Russia, and the United States, this is art used to persuade, especially to stir the emotions of everyday working men and women. The posters go to the heart of significant historical activities in a way that only this medium, with its witty slogans and bold, emotional images, can achieve. \$29.95

The Golden Thirteen: Recollections of the First Black Naval Officers. Edited by Paul Stilwell, with a foreword by Gen Colin L. Powell. Naval Institute Press, 304 pp., 1993. Thirteen men in the midst of World War II did something that had never been done before. They were the first black Americans to become U.S. naval officers. This book is a tribute to those men who have come to be called the Golden Thirteen. These are their recollections, their own private stories, told in their own words. \$21.95 □1775□

He Was the Marine Behind the Camera: Hal Weinberger

by GySgt David Vergun, USMC
Public Affairs Chief, Marine Corps Public Affairs Office
Los Angeles

MEET HARROLD WEINBERGER, the original “Hollywood Marine.” He started his film career in 1923, operating a hand-cranked camera as a newsreel cameraman. With that camera he filmed the 1925 World Series between the Washington Senators and the Pittsburgh Pirates. In the early 1930’s he was the drama director at George Washington University. Movies and television series he later helped produce as assistant director or production manager include: *Northwest Passage*, *12 O’Clock High*, *Gomer Pyle*, *The Green Hornet*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Tora Tora Tora*, *Big City*, *Strange Cargo*, *Death Valley Days*, *Night Must Fall*, *The Last Voyage*, *Hell to Eternity*, and *The Last Waltz*.

While his Hollywood films are still enjoyed by classics lovers, they are not to be compared to the real-life classic films he shot of Leathernecks in the Pacific during World War II. How he got there at age 43 is a story in its way as remarkable as any of his Hollywood films.

Harrold—Hal for short—joined the Navy in March 1917. He was 17 but said he was 18, the minimum age needed to enlist. His first tour was on board the wooden ship-of-the-line *Granite State*, moored at 96th Street Pier in New York City. Built just a couple of years after the War of 1812, the ship had seen action in the Union Navy during the Civil War. “On board that ship we learned the ropes of seamanship,” he said. “We mastered small boat handling by rowing the *Granite State*’s four whale boats up and down the Hudson River in races. At night we slept below in hammocks. Learning to get inside one is an art. You grab the overhead beam and pull yourself up, lower your buttocks inside, then swing your feet in.

“**P**AY FOR A SEAMAN was \$17.60 a month. Later I made fireman second class and earned \$21 a month,” he said. “Ten dollars of each month’s pay went to my older sister Mildred who was going through nursing school. She graduated in 1919.”



‘Wynants’—Weinberger—sat for a portrait in his Canadian Army uniform, used for both field and dress, in Brussels in 1919.

Hal’s next tour was on board the cruiser *Birmingham*. “We convoyed ships up to Halifax, Nova Scotia, the final assembly point for ships carrying troops and supplies to England. The convoy arrangement was a precaution against German U-boat attacks.”

His Navy enlistment was cut short in September 1917, when Hal’s real age was discovered. He was given an honorable discharge. About two months later, Hal took a train from New York to Toronto to try to enlist in the Canadian Army.

“I arrived at an armory which served as the recruiting office. I was tired, cold, hungry, and broke,” he said. “I filled out an application and then waited. A corporal called out ‘Harrold Wynants.’—That’s the name I used in my paperwork to hide my real identity; I borrowed the last name from an old shipmate. It didn’t occur to me to answer. Two more times he called out ‘Harrold Wynants.’ The third time it dawned on me that it was me he was call-

ing. I jumped up and answered ‘that’s me.’ I must have seemed like a dimwit. The corporal took me to the sergeant major, who told me I was too young to enlist. Unfortunately, the age limit for enlisting in Canada was 19—a year higher even than in the United States. I had put my age down as 18. The sergeant major must have seen the disappointed look in my eyes because he said:

“‘Are you Harrold Wynants?’

“‘Yes sir,’ I replied.

“‘You were born in Toronto?’

“‘Yes sir.’—I had marked down Toronto as my birth place.

“‘I knew your father very well,’ he led on. ‘I remember when you were born. It was 4 November 1898, not 4 December. Here, let me correct this mistake on your application.’

“The sergeant major probably saved my life because I’d undoubtedly have died in Canada either from freezing or starvation.”

PVT “WYNANTS”—who had aged several times on enlistment applications and had also assumed a new personage—was now optimistic of getting to Europe before the war’s end.

“The next morning I was issued a uniform to replace my thin sweater,” he said. “That uniform doubled as a field and dress uniform and was the only type worn by us Canadian soldiers throughout the war. Only when it became too full of holes to be serviceable were we issued another. I went through three of them during the war.”

Hal also was issued a Krag rifle which had seen action in the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). He would qualify as a marksman with it, and have occasion to use it in combat. “It was similar to the 1903 Springfield rifle issued to me in the Navy, but the Krag was heavier.”

QUARTERS IN RECRUIT training consisted of horse stables overlooking ice-covered Lake Ontario. “Horses were kept there in the summer for the Canadian National Exhibitions and recruits were

billeted there in the winter," he said. "We carried an equestrian aroma about us."

Pvt "Wynants" was assigned to the Canadian Field Artillery, which used horses to move the big guns about. He practiced a variety of drills on horseback including mounting and dismounting at a gallop and lance spearing. The knights of yore undoubtedly practiced lance spearing the way Hal described it: "You ride your horse at a gallop, lance in hand, aiming it at a wooden stake in the ground. If your timing and coordination are right, you can spear the stake then lift it high like a battle trophy."

As an aside, although Hal didn't use his lance in Flanders Fields, he says some of the cavalry units of World War I did. Against machine gun fire, their effectiveness was limited.

After several weeks of training, the green but eager troops were loaded onto transports at Halifax for a winter voyage to Scotland. Three British destroyers escorted the flotilla around Ireland and into the Irish Sea. Then German U-boats attacked. Hal witnessed the engagement from his transport: "I watched as one of our destroyers rolled barrel-shaped depth bombs off an angled rack attached to the stern and into the water. At the same time I saw an enemy torpedo pass close by, just missing us. I learned later that our destroyers had sunk a U-boat. None of our ships were hit."

In a snapshot taken on Iwo Jima in March 1945, MSgt Weinberger is in the back row, third from right. While in charge of the G-2 photo section, Weinberger landed with the 4th Division at Roi-Namur in the Kwajalein Atoll, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima.



IN LATE DECEMBER the fleet entered the Firth of Clyde, anchoring in Glasgow. From there, they boarded a train for Whitely, a town about 30 miles south of London. "For the next six months we performed artillery gun drills. It appeared that we would drill and drill until the war ended."

However, the German spring and summer offensive, commonly called the Second Battle of the Marne, erupted. The Germans advanced to within artillery range of Paris, prompting a million Parisians to flee. On 6 June 1918, U.S. Marines attacked the Germans in Belleau Wood, helping to thwart the Boche drive to Paris. Meanwhile, about 100 miles to the northwest, the Canadian line held but fighting raged relentlessly throughout the summer and autumn and victory was by no means assured. Hal and the other fresh troops with him were needed to turn the tide.

"In July, we landed in Boulogne, France, about 40 miles southwest of Dunkirk," he said. "From there we marched for hours and hours to a place north of Arras, France, near the Belgian border. We fought alongside the British and their colonial troops, but at no time did we see American troops, who were to the southeast."

"I was with the 8th Army Brigade of the Canadian Field Artillery," he said. "My battery consisted of four 18-pounders. An 18-pounder is a light artillery piece which



Weinberger displays the Bronze Star Medal given to him for risking extraordinary danger in filming the Iwo Jima landing.

lobs an 18 lb. projectile up to four miles. We normally fired at the enemy at a distance of less than one mile. This allowed us to fire rounds in a more accurate horizontal trajectory instead of arcing it for greater distance. The nose cone on the round can be set to detonate on impact or it can be set to go off using a timer which you adjust like a watch bezel. Six horses are required to move a gun."

HAL WAS ONCE wounded by shell fragments, but was treated and returned to duty posthaste. The Canadian Army didn't have Purple Heart Medals. Hal was also gassed. "The attack came one foggy morning. It was the perfect weather for a gas attack because there was no wind to disperse it away from us. When the gas alarm sounded, I hurried to put on my mask but before I could, the phosgene (suffocating gas) had engulfed me and I was inhaling the lethal fumes. I managed to put it on anyway but for a long time I fought for air. Treatment was to move you to a place where there was plenty of fresh air and then wait, hopefully, for the body to clear itself. I was back at the front the following day but years later I could still feel the effects."

Food is always a favorite topic of troops and Hal has his share of chow anecdotes. "We ate 'iron rations,' which were hard bis-



Weinberger erects on Saipan the same sign he put up on Tinian, Roi-Namur, and Iwo Jima, with only the "mileage" changing.

cuits and bully beef—canned corn beef from Argentina. The biscuits were so hard that we dipped them into our tea to soften them. Tea was brewed in huge pots called dixies. We never had any coffee; something I missed. Sometimes we'd get a shipment of jackrabbits from Australia which we made into a stew. Native victuals were French round cheddar cheese and mushrooms. I picked the mushrooms myself.—Even today, though blind in one eye and with poor vision in the other, Hal says he can spot an edible mushroom from a poison one.

"One day, the commanding officer of our battery, a major, was observing enemy positions from a small bluff," he said. "I don't know why he suddenly stood up from his prone position. When he did, a German machine gunner sawed him in half with eight rounds. Perhaps the next day or week that machine gunner would also make a mistake—or just be unlucky—and he'd be at the receiving end of a bullet. Such are the vicissitudes of war.

"On 11 November at 0500 we were ordered to 'cease fire' because the Germans had just withdrawn beyond the four-mile range of our artillery. The command was then given to 'saddle up and stand by your horses.' An hour later we were told to 'stand down,' which means 'unsaddle and remove the traces.' At 0900, our commanding officer announced that an ar-

mistice would take effect at 1100. No one cheered; we were too tired.

"AT ABOUT NOON on Armistice Day, 11 November, we crossed a small river into Belgium. The armistice had gone into effect an hour earlier. Our battery stopped in Mons, Belgium. The Canadian Army had secured the town that morning. We were given a warm welcome. The town's brewery was opened and there was dancing all day and night in the town square. That afternoon, the realization finally sunk in that the war was finally over."

Pvt "Wynants" was discharged from the Canadian Army in 1919 and once more assumed his alter ego, Hal Weinberger. Years later he visited the Canadian Consulate in Washington, D.C. to correct the records and assume his rightful name and birthplace.

Once stateside, Hal shipped on with the U.S. Merchant Marine. "The effects of the gas attack lingered so I sought a job where I would get lots of fresh air," he said.

Seaman Hal got plenty of fresh air on board ships criss-crossing the ocean from New York to ports in Europe and South America, transporting freight and passengers. "Our merchant ship was the first to pass through Germany's Kiel Canal [61-mile canal linking the North Sea with the Baltic Sea] after World War I," he said. "After unloading cargo in Danzig, now Gdansk, Poland, we sailed to the Russian ports of Murmansk and Archangel

Bit-player Weinberger, second from right, and fellow "prison guard" Mitchell Lewis, left, have apprehended actor Clark Gable, who also gets an earful from actress Joan Crawford. Weinberger was assistant director of the film, "Strange Cargo," issued in 1939.



in the Arctic Ocean to off-load supplies for the White Russians who were still fighting the Bolsheviks. That was the extent of my involvement in the Russian Revolution.

"I sometimes entertained ship's passengers by exhibition boxing," he said. "On one trip in 1923, we stopped in Argentina to pick up passengers bound for New York. One of the distinguished passengers was Luis Firpo, the Argentine heavyweight champion. I had an exhibition match with him during the cruise. He weighed 215 and I 180. He was on his way to Jersey City to seek a match with Jack Dempsey, heavyweight champion of the world. I saw the fight. Firpo knocked him out of the ring and it took two men to help him back in. Dempsey won, but the fight should have gone to Firpo."

In 1939, Hitler invaded Poland and Hal joined the California State Guard based in Beverly Hills. However, it was soon apparent that the Guard wouldn't be needed to defend those lush hills from the Japanese. The now Lieutenant Weinberger was once again concerned that a world war would be fought without him.

BUT HE PERSEVERED and circumstances were favorable once again. "Although I was 43 years old, far above the age limit for enlistment in the Marine Corps, they needed cinematographers."

So for the fourth time in his life, Hal started from the lowest rank. "I may have

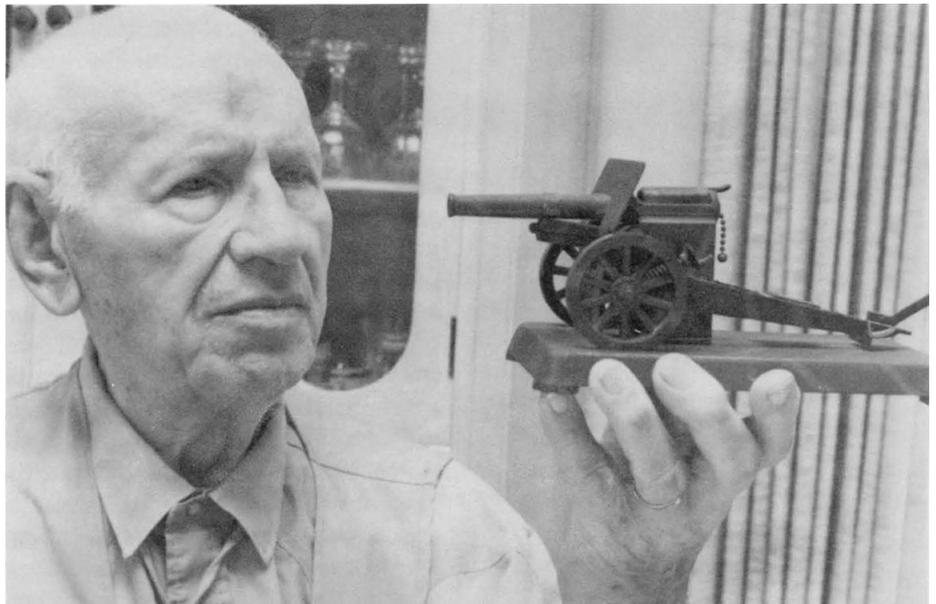
been the oldest private in the Marine Corps," he said.

Following boot camp and a short tour at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, Hal was sent to camera schools in Hollywood for several weeks under the auspices of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. "My class was made up of 40 Marines. I was in charge of them and also helped instruct," he said. "It was the first and only time the Academy held a class for Marines. Although you could truthfully say that I was stationed in Hollywood, at the time there was no such saying, as there is now of 'Hollywood Marine.'"

From '43 to '45 Hal was in the 4th Marine Division. He landed with it at Roi-Namur in the Kwajalein Atoll, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. During these campaigns, he was the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the G-2 photo section.

"There were 20 men in my section; 10 still photographers and 10 motion picture photographers. We operated in teams of two; a still photographer and a motion picture photographer, one man working the camera and the other covering him with a rifle. I shot motion pictures using a Bell and Howell Automaster Camera loaded with 16mm Kodachrome film. We were the first combat photographers to carry color film in our motion picture cameras," he said. "It had an ASA (film speed) of only eight so we could shoot only during the day. While Europe was seen by viewers in black and white, we brought the war in the Pacific to you in living color."

IN EARLY 1944, the 4th Marine Division was preparing to leave its base of operations in Hawaii to attack Saipan. Hal was on board a transport at Pearl Harbor on 21 May when he heard loud explosions and saw huge fireballs in nearby West Loch. Hal and a couple of his still and motion picture cameramen on board the transport were the only ones nearby to cover what became known as the West Loch disaster. They raced to the scene in one of the transport's LCPs (landing craft, personnel). The accident killed 163 sailors and Marines, injured 396 and destroyed six fully loaded LSTs (landing ship, tank), and three LCTs (landing craft, tank). The accident happened during the loading of 4.2-inch high explosive mortar shells on board the LSTs but the cause has never been determined. "We simultaneously photographed the disaster and assisted



At home in West Los Angeles, the 93-year-old Weinberger examines a model of the Canadian 18-pounder artillery piece he fired as a gunner in France in World War I.

with the rescue work. The disaster was kept from the public during the war," he said.

Iwo Jima was a particularly memorable campaign for Hal. "Reveille on board our transport was held at 0200 on 19 February 1945. At 0600 we climbed over the cargo nets and into the LCPV [landing craft, vehicle, personnel]. I was either in the second or third wave to hit the beach. We landed at 0805. The Japanese fired at us with their machine guns, mortars, and artillery which were hidden in caves on the slopes. From these well-concealed vantage points they commanded a full sweep of the island and no place was safe from their fire.

Weinberger holds in a frame the flag he carried in his wallet in combat throughout both World War I and World War II.



"That evening I slept in a deep shell hole with Mark Kaufman, who later became a *Life* Magazine fashion photographer. Weapons fire clattered throughout the night. Also that evening our ammunition dump, which was about 100 feet from us, blew up with a loud explosion. In the morning, Mark said to me, 'I'll never sleep with you again, you S.O.B. How could I get any rest with your loud snoring?'"

Motion picture film was used for intelligence gathering, newsreels, and training purposes. One training film, "Objective Prisoners," presents dramatic combat footage and scenes of the capture and interrogation of Japanese prisoners on Iwo Jima. On that same film Hal recorded the first crippled B-29 bomber to land on Iwo. "A young officer got out of that plane, came over to me and said: 'God bless you Marines. We'd have never made it back to Tinian without your help.'" Without Iwo Jima, which had the closest runway to Japan, many American bombers wouldn't have made it back from their missions over the mainland.

ON IWO JIMA Hal recalled seeing some of the first blacks to serve in the Marine Corps since the Revolutionary War. "To his credit, MajGen Clifton Cates, our Division commanding general, who is a Southerner, addressed the Division exhorting us to 'treat them as one of your own buddies.' I admired MajGen Cates for that. [Cates later served as Commandant of the

Marine Corps from 1948 to 1951). During the campaign I did not hear of one instance of racial discrimination.

"Sgt William Genaust, one of my boys, filmed the famous second flag-raising atop Suribachi," said Hal. "He stood shoulder to shoulder with Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal. They both shot that epic flag-raising—Rosenthal with his still camera and Sgt Genaust with his motion picture camera. The two men captured an identical view of the flag-raising, which became the most famous picture of the war. However, Joe Rosenthal received the acclamation—which he well deserved—while Genaust was largely forgotten. Genaust would never know the significance of the pictures he'd taken because nine days after the flag raising he was killed. The flag-raising film shot by Genaust has been shown many times in features, documentaries, and newsreels. Additionally, Genaust's film provided evidence that Joe Rosenthal's picture wasn't staged.

"One evening I was summoned to Maj-Gen Cates' command post, a shell hole about 10 to 15 feet deep, covered with tarps and timber. There were just the three of us in that hole: the general; Col McCormick, our G-2 commanding officer; and myself. All of us were retreads, which at that time meant World War I veterans. I reported and the General said to me: 'Sgt, if tendered a commission would you accept?'"

"Yes sir, I immediately replied.

"Thank you, that is all. Dismissed," said he.

"I didn't hear any more about the subject for a few months but just before the war ended I was commissioned a second lieutenant. Imagine that," he said, "I was now the oldest second lieutenant in the Marine Corps at age 45."

IN ADDITION TO a commission, Hal earned a Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal with combat "V" and a National Headliners Club Award in 1945. Hal's Bronze Star Medal citation reads in part: ". . . for meritorious service . . . on Iwo Jima . . . Much of his work [photography] was performed under conditions of extraordinary danger, which he encountered in a cool, aggressive manner, not allowing danger to interfere with the accomplishment of his mission. . ." Hal's Headliner Award reads: "for his personal

part in the motion picture coverage of the Iwo Jima operation that provided the American public, through the newsreels, the outstanding footage of the war and added vital tactical, training, and intelligence information to the military records."

Hal could have stayed in Hollywood, contributing to the war effort by making war movies like others of his superb talent and genre. Why did he join the Marines, toting around a camera in the thick of battle—because that's where the pictures were? He certainly didn't have anything to prove, having paid his dues and then some. This much he would say: "I wish there hadn't been a war. I wasn't eager for bloodshed; but I was a patriot."

Hal discussed some of the differences he perceived between the two World Wars. "German and Japanese fighters were equally aggressive and determined but when the situation was completely hopeless the Germans would surrender en masse while the Japanese—who believed that their greatest mission in life was to die for their emperor—wouldn't."

"World War I was a lot more unsanitary," he said. "Almost as soon as I got there I was muddy and lousy. Also, combat in World War I was more or less continuous while in World War II the engagements were intermittent but intense; an island this month, afloat next two months, then another island, and so on. The intervals provided time to clean up and recover somewhat."

AFTER THE WAR, Hal produced training films for the Marine Corps and public service announcements for the Marine Corps' Toys-for-Tot's Program. On 1 September 1962, Maj Weinberger retired from the Marine Corps Reserve.

In 1976, Hal graduated from the University of Judaism and that same year a belated bar mitzvah ceremony was held for him. Bar mitzvah is a Jewish coming-of-age ceremony usually given to 13-year-old boys who've successfully completed their studies of Judaism.

One of Hal's special projects was putting together a genealogy book. It documents 185 of his relatives, killed by the Nazis. Hal visited one of his few surviving relatives, a cousin, in the then-Communist-controlled Czechoslovakia in 1988. While staying there he staged a covert operation in which he smuggled her to Israel.

A question frequently asked of Hal is "What's the secret to your longevity?" Here's his formula:

On exercise: "I've always done a lot of physical activity," he said. Today Hal carries a cane but sometimes instead of using it for its intended purpose, he walks at a brisk pace, swinging it like a swagger stick. He also has a wheelchair but he sometimes gets tired of sitting in it so he disembarks and pushes it around.

On alcohol: "I don't drink but I did have a glass of wine for my bar mitzvah."

On smoking: "I kicked the habit in 1964 when the Surgeon General said that smoking is bad for your health. The gas attack of World War I left such a lasting impression on me that I didn't want to inhale anything that was toxic."

TODAY, HAL LIVES in a modest pink stucco house in West Los Angeles which he bought back in 1938. He resides there with his second wife Margaret. His first wife, Pearl, died in 1965 after 34 years of marriage. There are bookshelves in nearly every corner of the house. "I wanted to live long enough to read every book in my library; but then I'd be as old as Methuselah himself [who, it is written, lived a ripe 969 years; Gen. 5:27]."

Hal is still an active member of the Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association, the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association, the Marine Mustang Association, and the Fourth Marine Division Association.

Although Hal has become well-known for his Hollywood achievements, he has a special place in his heart for the Corps. "I can honestly tell you, I've never had an unhappy day in the Marine Corps," he said.

□1775□

Answers to Historical Quiz

Dates in Marine Corps History

(Quiz on page 19)

1. 10 November 1775
2. 2-3 March 1776
3. 13 February 1943
4. 23 February 1945
5. 15 September 1950
6. 29-30 April 1975
7. 23 October 1983
8. 7 August 1990
9. 16 January 1991
10. 2 January 1991

Gen Hogaboom Dies; WWII Vet Was HQ Chief of Staff

*by Benis M. Frank
Chief Historian*

Gen Robert E. Hogaboom

Gen Robert E. Hogaboom, USMC (Ret), who retired as Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps in 1959, died at the age of 90 of Alzheimer's disease on 11 November at his home in St. Mary's City, Maryland.

A native of Mississippi, Gen Hogaboom was graduated in the Class of 1925 from the Naval Academy, and served consecutively a number of tours with troops in Nicaragua and Cuba, was assigned to mail guard duty and sea duty, and served two prewar tours (1934-1937 and 1939-1942) at Quantico, separated only by assignment to the 4th Marines in Shanghai, 1937-1939. During his two tours at the Marine Corps Schools, the development of the amphibious warfare doctrine, its tactics and techniques, was being developed and Gen Hogaboom was deeply involved in nurturing this development.

In September 1942, newly promoted LtCol Hogaboom was assigned as MajGen Holland M. Smith's assistant G-3 in the Amphibious Command, Pacific Fleet, later to become Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, and after that, V Amphibious Corps. He remained in this billet through the Army's Kiska and Attu operations, where he was an observer with Gen Smith and other Amphibious Command staff members.

Then-LtGen Hogaboom in 1959



In November 1943 he was detached from Gen Smith's command and assigned as military operations officer of RAdm Richmond Kelly Turner's Fifth Amphibious Force, which was to have responsibility for conducting most of the Marine operations in the Central Pacific. As such, he served as liaison officer, in a sense, between the staffs of two very strong and demanding commanders. Of Kelly Turner, Gen Hogaboom said, ". . . I knew him personally and I know that he was a fighting man. He was tough . . . he was not always fair, but he insisted on his people doing what they were supposed to do." His oral history is replete with significant characterizations of the leading Marines and senior amphibious naval officers in the Pacific.

Gen Hogaboom remained on Adm Turner's staff through the Marianas and Marshalls campaigns, until mid-October 1944, when he became MajGen Grave B. Erskine's chief of staff of the 3d Marine Division on Guam in time for planning the Iwo Jima landing.

In December 1945, then-Col Hogaboom returned to Quantico, where he was to remain until June 1949. During this time, the experiences of the six Marine divisions in the Pacific were reviewed and distilled to develop a revised concept and conduct of amphibious operations. It was during Col Hogaboom's time at Quantico as an instructor and Director of the Amphibious Warfare School, as well as the senior member of the Marine Corps Board, that everything connected with vertical envelopment and helicopter operations was devised. Col Hogaboom also played a peripheral role in "Chowder," the Marine Corps' effort in the postwar unification fight to remain a viable force.

In 1951 he was promoted to brigadier general while serving as Marine Corps liaison officer in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He was detailed as 2d Marine Division assistant division commander in July 1952, and two years later, in January 1954, ADC of the 1st Marine

Division in Korea. He played a large role in overseeing the phasing out of Marine Corps operations in that country.

After his return to the United States, Gen Hogaboom was assigned to HQMC as Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans), and, as such, he headed the Composition and Structure Board—the Hogaboom Board, as it became known—which studied and came up with recommendations for revised tables of organization of Marine Corps units, among other things.

In December 1957, he was promoted to lieutenant general and appointed Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps for the commandancy of Gen Randolph Mc. Pate. Gen Hogaboom retired in October 1959 after a 34-year career. For having been decorated in combat, LtGen Hogaboom was advanced to general on the retired list. After retirement, he settled in St. Mary's City, Maryland, and became active in civic affairs and was chairman of the St. Mary's City Commission, a historic preservation group. On 16 November, he was buried in the cemetery of Trinity Episcopal Church, on the vestry of which he served.

BGen Edwin P. Pennebaker, Jr.

BGen Edwin P. Pennebaker, Jr., USMC (Ret), 82, died at the Mission Bay Hospi-

BGen Odell M. Conoley in 1959



tal, San Diego, on 7 July. Gen Pennebaker was a member of the Naval Academy Class of 1935, and was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant following graduation. He attended flight school and received his wings in 1936.

In World War II, he commanded Marine Photographic Squadron 954 in the South and Western Pacific from October 1942 to March 1945. Following the end of the war, he served in a number of aviation billets, and retired in August 1954, when he was advanced to the rank of brigadier general on the retired list for having been decorated in combat. Funeral services were held for Gen Pennebaker at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, following which his ashes were scattered at sea by the Navy.

BGen Odell M. Conoley

BGen Odell M. "Tex" Conoley, USMC (Ret), 80, died 1 September in San Diego. A Texas native and graduate of Texas A&M College, Gen Conoley was initially commissioned in the Army Infantry Reserve in June 1935. Shortly thereafter, he resigned this commission to accept appointment as a Marine second lieutenant.

Prior to World War II, he served in China and on board the *Henderson*. He embarked with the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, for the South Pacific, and landed on Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942. As a major on the island, he earned the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism on 26 October, when "... while under tremendous fire during an assault by hostile forces, Maj

Then-Capt William E. Lunn in 1951



Conoley, with courageous initiative and skillful leadership, organized a group of Marines and counterattacked a numerically superior unit of Japanese troops who had seized a ridge previously held by one of the companies of his own battalion ... killing two-thirds of the enemy force and driving off the remainder. . . ." For gallantry in action while commanding the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, on Cape Gloucester, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Various assignments followed in the postwar period, and in August 1954 he joined the 1st Marine Division in Korea as deputy chief of staff. He became commander of the 7th Marines in October and returned with it to Camp Pendleton. Gen Conoley was promoted to his one-star rank in November 1959, and left for his last assignment, deputy director for operations, plans, and policies on the staff of the Commander in Chief, European Command, in Paris. He retired on 1 June 1964. Gen Conoley was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on 1 June.

BGen Charles L. Cogswell

BGen Charles L. Cogswell, USMCR (Ret), 78, died in Memphis, Tennessee, on 27 July, after a long illness. He was a life member and past president of the 1st Marine Division Association, a former Grand Paramount Carabao of the Military Order of the Carabao, and a charter member of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

A District of Columbia native, Gen Cogswell graduated from Staunton Military Academy and enlisted in the 5th Reserve Battalion in Washington. He was commissioned in 1937 and was mobilized in 1940. He joined the 1st Marine Brigade at Guantanamo Bay that year, and sailed to New Zealand with the 1st Marine Division and then on to the invasion of Guadalcanal, where he was executive officer of the 2d Battalion, 11th Marines. For his bravery in the Guadalcanal fighting, he was awarded a Silver Star Medal and a Bronze Star Medal. Gen Cogswell returned to the United States in 1943.

He was assigned to Adm Nimitz' CinC-Pac/CinCPOA headquarters on Guam in October 1944, where he remained until his release from active duty in October 1945.

Gen Cogswell was active in the Marine Corps Reserve until his retirement in Oc-

tober 1959, when he was promoted to brigadier general on the retired list for having been decorated in combat. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on 4 August.

BGen Leonard C. Fribourg

BGen Leonard C. Fribourg, USMC (Ret), 73, died on 14 August at his home in Newport Beach, California, after a long illness. Born in Denver and educated in Shaker Heights, Ohio, he attended Ohio State University for two years before attending and graduating from Fenn College (now Cleveland State University) in 1943.

While at Cleveland State, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve and after graduation attended OCS at Quantico. He was commissioned in April 1943 and that November he joined the 1st Raider Battalion on New Caledonia. When the 1st Raider Regiment was reorganized as the 4th Marines, he joined its 1st Battalion, serving with it in the occupation of Emirau and during the Guam and Okinawa campaigns.

While on the Inspector-Instructor staff of Los Angeles' Reserve 13th Infantry Battalion, Capt Fribourg was assigned as technical director for the movie "Sands of Iwo Jima." In January 1953, he was integrated into the regular Marine Corps. As a colonel, in September 1965, he joined the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam as assistant chief of staff, G-5. He was promoted to general officer rank in 1969 and ordered to the Far East as assistant division commander, 3d Marine Division, on Okinawa. His last tour of duty was as commanding general, Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler/deputy commander, Marine Corps Bases Pacific (Forward). In June 1974, he returned to Camp Pendleton, where he retired the following month. Funeral services were held at the Base Chapel, MCAS El Toro on 19 August, following which he was buried with full military honors in El Toro Memorial Park.

LtCol William E. Lunn

LtCol William E. Lunn, USMC (Ret), 76, died in New Orleans on 17 August. Before World War II, LtCol Lunn served in China and Iceland, and was a member of the 10th Amphibious Tractor Battalion in the Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima campaigns. A pioneer in the construction and



In a photo he inscribed "Yes sir, Captain," John Wayne is advised by then-Capt Fribourg on the set of "Sands of Iwo Jima."

employment of the LVT, he was responsible for a number of design changes as a Marine Corps liaison officer with the Navy and civilian amtrac manufacturers. LtCol Lunn was a charter member of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

LtCol Charles S. Nichols, Jr.

LtCol Charles S. Nichols, Jr., USMC, (Ret), 81, a former member of the Historical Branch, died at his home in Winchester, Virginia, on 27 September. A member of the Basic School Class of 1936, LtCol Nichols received his bachelor and master of arts degrees in history from the University of Nevada.

In the Guadalcanal operation, he commanded Company K, 7th Marines, and he

was the battalion executive officer of the 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, in the Cape Gloucester campaign.

During the Korean War he served as a battalion staff officer and was commanding officer of the unit which controlled the native Korean cargoadores while in Korea. LtCol Nichols was assigned to the Historical Branch, G-3 Division, HQMC, where, together with Henry I. Shaw, Jr., he wrote *Okinawa: Victory in the Pacific*, the last of a series of 15 combat monographs, which were eventually used in the official five-volume *History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II*. LtCol Nichols was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 1 October with simple military honors.

How to Write a Better Command Chronology

(Continued from page 32)

program to Okinawa? Did the unit leave most record-keeping functions in Camp Pendleton while deployed to Somalia? Common sense applies; you don't have to recount every action, but no matter how trivial something may seem, if it took a lot of time and effort or received a lot of command interest, mention it.

The narrative should amplify the supporting documents and *must* describe events not covered by the supporting documents. This is an ideal place to discuss courses of actions considered and rejected, and planning for contingencies which did not occur.

Be sure to tell what your unit actually *did*. An air control agency should describe the mechanics of air control, preferably by simply including a copy of the relevant SOP or order. Schools should include a copy of the program of instruction and a training schedule. Support commands should describe *how* they supported.

A large number of units which deployed to Somalia included no supporting documents in their command chronology. Apparently these units, participating in their second most important operation since the Vietnam War, did not issue a single operation order or fragmentary orders, write a letter of instruction, or develop any standing operating procedures. Many of these chronologies have narrative sum-

maries of a single paragraph, which say nothing more than the unit "provided support to Marine Forces." Some of these units actually played a vital role, and their Marines performed some of the most dangerous jobs. But these units will be lucky even to be mentioned in the upcoming history, because there simply isn't enough information to write more.

Finally, the importance of a command chronology is underscored by the requirement that it be signed by the commanding officer, attesting that it is *his* record, and not signed "by direction" or by a subordinate staff officer.

Peacetime chronologies are just as important.

Wartime and contingency command chronologies naturally receive more attention than peacetime chronologies. Indeed, at this time the Marine Corps has writers working on histories of Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Operation Just Cause, Operation Provide Comfort, Operation Sea Angel, and Operation Restore Hope (all of these writing efforts have been hampered by inadequate or missing command chronologies). Peacetime command chronologies, however, are just as important. A strong case can be made, for example, that the real secret to the Marine Corps' successes of the last few years lies not in operational plans but in the improvements in personnel policy and training during the decade preceding these conflicts.

It's easier to regard the command chronology as just a pointless administrative burden, but it's not. It's your chance to preserve your unit's experience and add to

Marine Corps history and tradition. Someday another Marine will read that command chronology, or the history based on it, to learn how to do things better. We all owe that Marine as complete and honest a picture as possible. □1775□

Minimum Supporting Documents

The supporting documents listed below constitute the bare minimum for an acceptable command chronology. Obviously, a great deal more should be included, including documents relating to communications, medical care, religious affairs, and any other appropriate area.

Include *all*:

- policy statements and commander's guidance
- operations orders, fragmentary orders, and warning orders
- situation reports to higher headquarters
- operations summaries
- major overlays
- intelligence summaries and assessments
- after action plans
- casualty reports
- key planning documents

During contingency operations, include *all*:

- personnel reports
- logistic status reports
- pilot debriefs
- SOPs developed in theater

de Havilland D.H.4

by Michael E. Starn
Curator of Aviation

DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY for day-bombing by the British, the D.H.4 was highly praised by the aviators who flew them for its speed and handling abilities. Of all the British airplanes selected for production in America, only the D.H.4 was produced in substantial numbers and it was also the only American-built, British-designed aircraft to see operational service in France during World War I. On 15 August 1917, the first British-built D.H.4 was delivered to McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio, without an engine. Ten days later an en-

gine was bench-tested, and by 29 October 1917, the first D.H.4 was flown in America. In time, because of the addition of the 400hp Liberty 12 engine, the aircraft was nicknamed the "Liberty Plane."

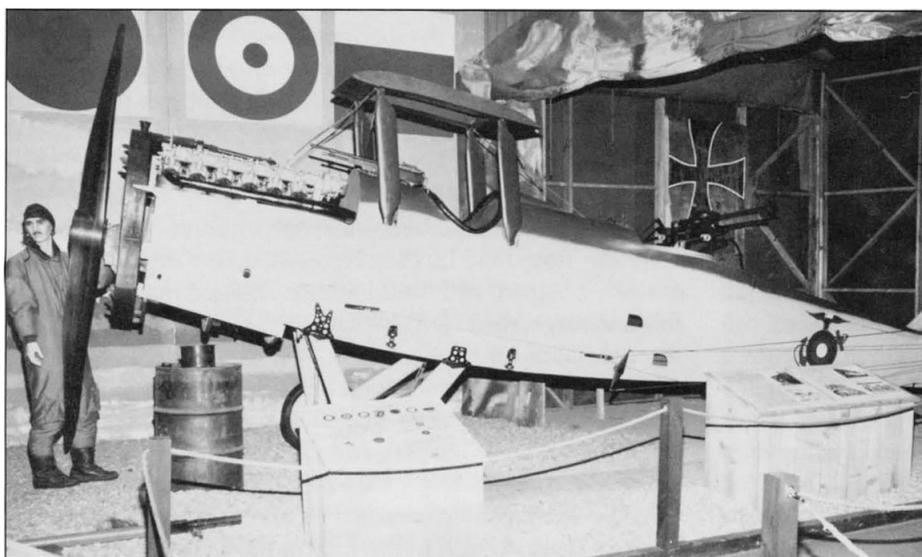
During World War I it was built under license in the United States by five manufacturers. The first American-built D.H.4 joined the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) on 11 May 1918, with a total of 1,885 Liberty-powered aircraft reaching the AEF in France before the war's end. For most of its service, the 1st Marine Aviation Force was

equipped with D.H.4s during its service with the Northern Bombing Group. Following the Armistice, most D.H.4's overseas were disposed of in the "Billion Dollar Bonfire" in which they were piled and burned rather than being returned to America.

In January 1962, the Marine Corps Museum undertook the project of building a flyable 1918 D.H.4 as a memorial to the 1st Marine Aviation Force. This project was inspired by retired MSgt Kurt Schonefeld (enlisted aviator No. 8) and lead by MSgt Walter F. Gemeinhardt USMC. Tragedy struck less than two months later with Kurt Schonefeld meeting an untimely death in an automobile accident in South Carolina. MSgt Gemeinhardt continued with the project despite this setback.

One of the major stumbling blocks was the lack of patterns from which to manufacture parts. MSgt Gemeinhardt first approached the Smithsonian to borrow its D.H.4 in order to create patterns, but was turned down. He then contacted Paul Mantz and Frank Tallman in Santa Anna, California, who owned the only other complete D.H.4 in the country. MSgt Gemeinhardt proposed to bring their D.H.4 to Quantico, restore it to flying condition, and at the same time manufacture templates for the construction of a D.H.4 for the museum. They agreed and also donated a "basket case" de Havilland to the museum from which some of the parts were found to be useable for its project.

By 1968, the Tallman-Mantz D.H. had been restored, and Frank Tallman then sold the D.H.4 along with several other aircraft. Paul Mantz had been killed in the filming of the movie "Flight of the Phoenix." MSgt Gemeinhardt had orders to Vietnam and retired after his return. The museum's D.H. was 80 percent finished, with only the wings needing to be completed. In 1979, the completed fuselage was placed in a World War I display in the "Early Years" hangar area of the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum. It was removed from exhibit in 1992 to make room for the display of a World War I "Liberty" truck. □1775□



The Air-Ground Museum's replica D.H.4 made use of parts taken from an existing "basket-case" example, and templates taken from the last known complete model.

Technical Data

Manufacturers: Dayton-Wright; Standard Aircraft Corporation; Fisher Body Division of General Motors; Naval Aircraft Factory; Boeing Airplane Company.

Type: Observation, day bomber, and general purpose aircraft.

Accommodation: Pilot and observer.

Power Plant: One 400 hp Liberty.

Dimensions: Span, 42 feet 5 1/2 inches; Length, 30 feet 1 1/4 inches; Height, 10 feet 6 inches.

Weight: Empty, 2,647 pounds; Gross, 4,214 pounds.

Performance: Max speed 122.5 mph at sea level; service ceiling 14,000 feet; range 550 st miles.

Armament: Two fixed forward-firing .30-caliber guns; Two flexible .30-caliber guns on Scarf ring.

June-August 1944

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

Fortitudine's World War II Chronology continues with the summer 1944 invasion of the Mariana Islands. The capture of the three main islands comprising the Marianas—Saipan, Guam, and Tinian—were considered critical for future operations against Japan, including the bombing of the Home Islands by the new American B-29 bombers.

Saipan

11-14 Jun—Task Force 58 bombarded Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Rota, and Pagan; Task Forces 52 and 53 joined the attack (14 June) on Saipan and Tinian.

15 Jun—Preceded by naval gunfire and carrier air support, the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions of the V Amphibious Corps assaulted the west coast of Saipan near Charan Kanoa. The 2d Marine Division landed to the north of Afetna Point, and the 4th Marine Division landed to the south. Charan Kanoa itself was seized by the 23d Marines. A beachhead 10,000 yards wide and about 1,500 yards deep was established against heavy opposition. Japanese counterattacks on the beachhead during the night of 14-15 June failed. The 2d Marines; the 1st Battalion, 29th Marines; and the 24th Marines (2d and 4th Marine Division, respectively) feinted a landing in the Tanapag Harbor area, before joining the main landing force later in the day.

16 Jun—The 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division, cleared Afetna Point, and the 4th Marine Division attacked inland toward the northernmost objective. A Japanese tank attack against the 4th Marine Division's zone on the night of 16-17 June failed.

18 Jun—The 4th Battalion, 10th Marines, repulsed a Japanese landing on Flores Point, north of Garapan. The 4th Marine Division severed the southern portion from the remainder of the island, in compliance with a Northern Troops and Landing Force operation order calling for an attack by all divisions. The 165th Infantry, USA, captured Aslito Airfield and the ridge southeast of the field.

20 Jun—The 2d and 4th Marine Divisions completed their pivoting movement to the north during which the 3d Battalion, 25th Marines, captured Hill 500. The 106th Infantry, USA, landed as the Northern Troops and Landing Force reserve.

21 Jun—LtGen Holland M. Smith directed the 27th Infantry Division (less one battalion and one light tank platoon) to assemble northwest of Aslito Airfield as Northern Troops and Land-

On Saipan in July, 2d Division Marines take cover from a Japanese sniper behind a medium tank in use in the advance across the Tanapag Plain toward the northern end of the island.



ing Force reserve. One battalion was to continue the division's clean-up of Nafutan Point. The order was later modified so that a regimental combat team (RCT 105) rather than a battalion would remain at Nafutan.

22 Jun—Aslito airfield became operational, and the 19th Army Fighter Squadron landed and assumed responsibility for the combat air patrol over the island. The 165th Infantry, USA, moved into the division assembly area northwest of the airfield.

24 Jun—The 4th Marine Division attacked eastward on Kagman Peninsula. MajGen Ralph Smith, USA, commanding the 27th Infantry Division, was replaced by MajGen Sanderford Jarman, USA, after the division failed to advance.

25 Jun—Mount Tapotchau, Saipan's key terrain feature, was captured by the 8th Marines, and Kagman Peninsula was seized by the 4th Marine Division. Island Command, an organization which would administer the island after its capture, assumed responsibility for the southern portion of the island.

25-26 Jun—The Japanese *317th Independent Infantry Battalion*, *47th Independent Mixed Brigade*, moved through the outposts of the 2d Battalion, 105th Infantry, USA, and struck Aslito Airfield. The attacking force was repulsed, and sustained heavy losses.

1-2 Jul—The Japanese were observed withdrawing northward. Northern Troops and Landing Force swung into the Tanapag area, northwest Saipan, and the 2d Marine Division made its greatest forward surge since D-Day. The 2d Marines began to move through Garapan.

3 Jul—The Northern Troops and Landing Force, advancing northwest, reached the Tanapag Seaplane Base. The 2d Marines captured the town of Garapan, and the 3d Battalion, 2d Marines, seized the commanding ground overlooking Tanapag Harbor.

6-7 Jul—The Japanese launched an all-out banzai attack along Tanapag Plain, as well as the hills to the northeast. The 105th Infantry, USA, located on the high ground overlooking Harakiri Gulch, and the 3d Battalion, 10th Marines, about 500 yards southwest of Tanapag village, were the hardest hit units.

8 Jul—The 2d Marine Division passed through the 27th Infantry Division's lines for the mop-up of Tanapag Plain, and the 27th Infantry Division reverted to Northern Troops and Landing Force Reserve. The 1st and 2d Battalions, 106th Infantry, relieved the 105th Infantry, USA, at Harakiri Gulch.

9 Jul—The 4th Marine Division reached Marpi Point, the extreme northeast tip of the island. All organized resistance ceased, and LtGen Holland M. Smith, the Expeditionary Force Commander, declared the island secured.

9 Aug—Aslito Airfield became operational for B-24's.

Guam

27 Jun-20 Jul—Carrier Task Force 58 began a series of harassing raids on Guam, concentrating its fire on Orote Peninsula installations. Task Force 53 joined the bombardment force on 8 July.

6 Jul—In preparation for the invasion of Guam, LtGen Holland M. Smith, Commanding General, Expeditionary Troops, attached the 77th Infantry Division to the III Amphibious Corps.

21 Jul—Southern Troops and Landing Force (III Amphibious Corps) supported by land-based and carrier-based Marine, Navy, and Army Air Forces planes and naval gunfire, made simultaneous landings on the west coast of Guam against heavy opposition. The 3d Marine Division (Rein), commanded by MajGen Allen H. Turnage, assaulted the area between Adelup and Asan Points to the north, and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade (Rein), commanded by BGen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., landed to the south between Agat Village and Bangi Point. Later, the 305th Regimental Combat Team, 77th Infantry Division, USA, went ashore and assembled in an area 400 yards inland from Gaan Point.

21-22 Jul—The Japanese counterattacked the beachhead and penetrated the lines of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade on the night of 21-22 July. As a result, the Japanese *38th Infantry* (less the *3d Battalion*) was destroyed as a fighting force. The brigade employed local reserves to restore its frontlines.

24 Jul—The Southern Landing Force had its beachhead firmly established, and the Japanese bottled up on Orote Peninsula.

The 77th Division took over most of the force beachhead line. **25 Jul**—The 77th Division (less the 307th Infantry in III Amphibious Corps reserve) was ordered to hold the force beachhead line, while the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade assaulted Orote Peninsula. The 3d Marine Division was ordered to capture the high ground overlooking Mt. Tenjo Road.

25-27 Jul—Japanese counterattacks by the *58th Naval Guard (Reinforced)*, and the *218th Regiment* (less the *1st Battalion*) against the 22d Marines' position on Orote Peninsula and the 3d Marine Division's Asan beachhead were repulsed with crippling losses to the Japanese.

26-29 Jul—With air, naval gunfire, and artillery support, the 4th and 22d Marines, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, secured Orote Peninsula (29 July) and the Marine Barracks, Guam, on the peninsula. The 2d Marines (less the 3d Battalion) moved into III Amphibious Corps reserve southeast of Agat, and the 4th Marines and the 3d Battalion, 22d Marines, remained on Orote. The airfield on Orote was declared operational.

27-29 Jul—The 3d Marine Division with the 77th Infantry Division, USA, captured the Force Beachhead lines, the commanding ground along Adelup-Alutom-Tenjo-Alifan-Futi Point, thereby gaining command of the center of the island, and permitting observation to the north. This ended Phase 1 of the recapture of the island.

31 Jul—The III Amphibious Corps launched its attack to seize the northern portion of Guam. The 3d Marines captured Agana, the capital of Guam, and occupied positions along the Agana-Pago Bay Road.

3-4 Aug—The 77th Infantry Division, USA, captured the town of Barrigada (3 August) with its important water supply and secured the mountain north of the town the next day.

7 Aug—The III Amphibious Corps launched its final attack to capture the northern end of the island. The 77th Infantry Division, USA, seized Yigo and advanced toward Mt. Santa Rosa. The 3d Marine Division and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade were in position to drive northward.

7 Aug—The 307th Infantry, 77th Infantry Division, USA, captured Mt. Santa Rosa, and effective resistance ceased in the division's zone.

7 Aug—Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF) 225, based on Orote

airfield, began flying combat missions over Guam.

9 Aug—The 3d Marine Division launched an attack to capture the remainder of Guam. The III Amphibious Corps gained the northern beaches. BGen Shepherd, commanding the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, announced that all organized resistance had ceased in the brigade zone.

9 Aug—Adm Chester W. Nimitz and LtGen Alexander A. Vandegrift landed at Orote Airfield, and inspected the frontline units and installations. Top-level conferences were held to discuss the role of the island in the advance to Tokyo.

10 Aug—MajGen Roy S. Geiger, commanding Southern Troops and Landing Force, announced that all organized resistance had ended, and mopping-up activities had begun. The III Amphibious Corps issued an order outlining the future activities of the units on Guam. The 77th Infantry Division, USA, and the 3d Marine Division were directed to establish a line across the island from Fadian Point to a point northwest of Tumon Bay; emphasis then was to be placed on mopping-up the remaining enemy resistance.

11 Aug—The 306th Infantry, 77th Infantry Division, USA, captured the Mt. Mataguac command post. The top Japanese commander on the island, LtGen Hideyoshi Obata, committed suicide.

12 Aug—MajGen Roy S. Geiger, Commander of the Southern Troops and Landing Force, left for Guadalcanal to assume control of the troops assigned to the Palau landing. He was relieved by MajGen Harry Schmidt, USMC.

21-31 Aug—The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade departed the island for Guadalcanal.

Tinian

24 Jul—Preceded by artillery, ship, and air bombardment, the 4th Marine Division landed against light opposition, and secured a beachhead 2,900 yards at its widest point. The 2d Battalion, 24th Marines, reached the western edge of Airfield No. 3, and cut the main road from Ushi Point to the central and southern parts of the island.

23 Jul—The 4th Marine Division repulsed an early morning counterattack by the Japanese *1st Battalion, 135th Infantry*, directed principally to the extreme right and left flanks and near the center of the beachhead. Ushi Point Airfield was captured by the 8th Marines, and Mt. Maga by the 25th Marines.

26 Jul—Supported by artillery and naval gunfire, the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions captured Mt. Lasso unopposed, thereby denying the Japanese their best observation post for the control of mortar and artillery fire against the beachhead.

27 Jul—Ushi Point Airfield became operational.

1 Aug—All organized resistance ceased, although some Japanese held out in caves on the southern coast. MajGen Harry Schmidt, commanding Northern Troops and Landing Force, declared the island secure.

6-7 Aug—The 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division, assumed responsibility for the 2d and 4th Marine Division sectors, and continued mopping-up activities. The 2d and 4th Marine Divisions began embarkation for Saipan and Maui, Hawaii, respectively.

10 Aug—The capture and occupation phase of the operation ended. The defense and development phase began under the Tinian Island Command, headed by Marine MajGen James L. Underwood, which directed the mop-up by the 8th Marines.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Guidance for Command Historians

Knowing Chronology's Uses Makes it Easier to Write

*by Capt David A. Dawson, USMC
Historical Writer*

Why should anyone care about the command chronology?

Simply put, because it's your unit's story. The amount of care and detail you put into your command chronology will determine how well that story is preserved. Usually it is the only record of your unit's activities and accomplishments. If a piece of information doesn't go into the command chronology, odds are it won't be preserved. If you forward a command chronology which barely meets the minimum requirements, 10 years from now all anyone will know about your unit is that it didn't accomplish much.

What is the command chronology used for?

While I was in Somalia, I asked a staff officer for input for the command chronology. He grumbled about the unnecessary burdens placed upon field units by headquarters, and wanted to know "who reads those things, anyway?"

The answer is: lots of people. Command chronologies are the backbone of the operational histories written by the History and Museums Division. These histories, in turn, constitute the basic sources for other historians. Check the citations in Col Allan R. Millett's *Semper Fidelis* or J. Robert Moskin's *The U.S. Marine Corps Story*; you'll find that both relied heavily on official histories. Most of the operational details for the period after 1965 in almost all

published accounts have come, directly or indirectly, from command chronologies.

Staff agencies at Headquarters Marine Corps frequently use command chronologies to help them develop position papers and policies which affect the entire Marine Corps.

Your command chronology will be the major source for determining your unit's lineage and honors. There are a number of Marine units which do not have a complete record of their former commanding officers because of absent command chronologies.

Over the years, a number of researchers will use your command chronology for a variety of reasons. Former members of your unit will be one of the biggest users. Often these former Marines will simply want to look over the command chronology and reminisce, but frequently they will need to verify combat or other service to substantiate claims for veterans benefits or to respond to other legal questions.

What should go in the command chronology?

Preparing the command chronology should not be a difficult task. The heart of the command chronology, and unfortunately the most neglected part, is the supporting documents section: the more documents, the better. Anything signed by the commander or by direction should be considered for inclusion. Orders, stand-

ing operating procedures, letters of instruction, combat operations center journals, situation reports, and maps and overlays are a must; gear lists and rosters are very valuable. In Somalia, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines, kept a historical file in the operations center, with watch officers adding a copy of any message or document which seemed important. The command historian found it much easier to weed out documents than to try to piece them together after the fact.

Include more than just the operational documents. What were the S-1, S-2, S-4 up to? Include their key documents—personnel reports, logistical status reports, intelligence summaries, combat award citations, etc.

The narrative summary, of course, is also important. The commanding officer should take the opportunity to write his own portion of the narrative, emphasizing his major concerns. Make sure that every principal staff officer recounts his section's activities in the narrative. Include sections or officers who played an important role, even if theirs were only temporary duties. Did you have a key wives program? Liaison teams to deal with unique situations? Include them.

Each staff section officer should use his section of the narrative summary to tell what he really did. Was the S-1 plagued by bad checks while on unit deployment

(Continued on page 28)