MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL REFERENCE SERIES

Number 1

A Brief History Of

THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HISTORICAL BRANCH, G-3 DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1961

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

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INTRODUCTION

The United States Marine Corps, perhaps more than any other military organization in the world, prides itself on possessing all that is high in military efficiency and soldierly qualities. This feeling of pride is founded on a glorious and colorful past, a living tradition that continues to inspire and motivate America's elite fighting force. Traditionally, the Corps stands always ready to go anywhere at any time, and from the beginning of training this creed is instilled into the hearts of the individual Marines. As his rifle and equipment become a part of each Marine, so does this spirit of readiness and the fighting traditions that made it so.

Even before the time of Christ, the ancient Greeks assigned the cream of their heavily-armed infantry to serve aboard ship as Marines. Marines of the Roman Empire were used to swarm on board enemy ships and cut down the crews in hand-to-hand combat. In 150 B.C. the Roman historian Polybius wrote, "...it is the courage of the Marines that turns the scale most decisively in favor of victory."

When England began building her empire in the 17th century she found that control of the seas was essential, and like the Greeks and Romans before her, she provided Marines for her fighting ships. In 1664, the British Marines were established, and this fine organization served as a model for the founding of the U. S. Marines a century later.

THE BEGINNING

Colonial Marines

In 1740, during England's war with Spain, a regiment of Marines was raised in the American colonies. It was formed in New York and ordered to accompany six regiments of British Marines on an expedition against important Spanish bases in the West Indies. Commanded by Colonel Gooch, a Virginian, the regiment was officially listed as the 43d Regiment of Foot (British), yet was popularly known as "Gooch's Marines." The expedition successfully accomplished its mission, and the colonial Marines were credited with having rendered brave and gallant service against the Spanish.

When England and France began fighting in 1754, again Americans participated. The war in North America lasted from 1754 to 1763, and thousands of Americans fought for the British cause. Colonial privateers, most of which carried detachments of Marines, roamed the seas and aided the British forces in dominating French sea power.

During the colonial period Marines serving on privateers were sometimes called "gentlemen sailors," and they were recruited by the ship's captain as a part of his crew. They were a special type of fighting man and did not perform the menial tasks of the ordinary sailor.

After the victory of American and British forces over France, American colonials began to think about gaining freedom from British rule. The movement for independence rapidly gained strength.

Marines in the Revolution

The first shot of the American Revolution was fired on 19 April 1775. The first record of American Marines participating in this conflict dates from the following month. In May 1775, eight Connecticut Marines were sent as part of a relief force to garrison Fort Ticonderoga, and these Marines came to be known as the "Original Eight."

During the early months of the Revolution, Marines served on board privateers and on board warships commissioned by the various states. The first Continental Marine detachment on record was that aboard the sloop Enterprise on Lake Champlain. Lieutenant James Watson and his 17 Marines are listed on the Enterprise payroll with service from 3 May 1775. Initially these men served the state of Massachusetts, but on 10 June 1775 the Continental Congress passed a resolution bringing

under its control all forces operating on the lake. Therefore, the Enterprise detachment provides the oldest existing official record of United States Marines.

In the fall of 1775, George Washington ordered the outfitting of several vessels of war, and each vessel carried a detachment of colonial soldiers who acted as Marines. These ships were the forerunners of the Continental Navy, and the acting Marines were the forerunners of the Continental Marines.

On 10 November 1775, the Continental Congress resolved:

> That two Battalions of marines be raised consisting of one Colonel two lieutenant Colonels, two Majors & officers as usual in other regiments; that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken that no person, be appointed to office or inlisted into said Battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea, when required. That they be inlisted and commissioned to serve for and during the present war between Great Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress: that they be distinguished by the names of the first & second battalions of American Marines, and that they be considered as part of the number, which the continental Army before Boston is ordered to consist of.

Sponsored by John Adams, this resolution was designed to provide a corps of Marines for expeditionary purposes. The commission of Captain Samuel Nicholas, the first Continental Marine officer to be appointed under the authority of the resolution, was signed on 28 November by the president of the Continental Congress. Nicholas was the senior Marine officer of the American Revolution, and although not officially so designated, is considered to have been the first Commandant.

Other Marine officers were also appointed, including Captain Robert Mullen, the robust proprietor of Philadelphia's Tun Tavern. This popular inn is reputed to have been the birthplace of the Marine Corps. Since it was a favorite rendezvous of seafaring men, Tun Tavern made an ideal recruiting headquarters, and Captain Mullen acted as one of the principal recruiting officers throughout the Revolution.

Officer selection was a special problem during the revolutionary period, for various Navy boards in America, Continental agents, and commanders of larger vessels were all authorized to appoint officers. State governors also influenced appointments. An advantage of this system was that in a Navy without previous standards, ship captains "had the opportunity to hand pick their subordinates."

Marine detachments boarded the brig Cabot in December 1775, and other vessels of Commodore Esek Hopkins' squadron shortly thereafter. In March 1776, the squadron arrived in the Bahamas, and Captain Nicholas led the first successful landing operation--a raid on New Providence. On the return trip, the first naval battle engaged in by an American squadron occurred when the Cabot and Alfred fought the British frigate Glasgow. The Glasgow escaped during the action, but the Americans at least managed to account for her tender.

Marines performed a great variety of ordinary duties on board ships at this time, and "they were expected to impart a high military character to the crews." They furnished guards, particularly near the arms chest and open fires, and provided the captain with a "police force" to impress often unruly crews. In battle they served as sharpshooters, comprised boarding parties, formed part of prize crews, and spearheaded landing parties. In short, they were infantry soldiers trained to serve afloat.

By December of 1776, Major Samuel Nicholas was commanding a battalion of Marines serving with General Washington's army during the Delaware River crossing. Serving both as infantrymen and artillerymen, they shared in the victories at Trenton and Princeton. In February of 1777, Major Nicholas and his Marines returned to Philadelphia where they resumed duties in that city and on board various ships.

The next year it became necessary for our young country to provide a show of force on the western frontier. In January 1778, Captain James Willing, by direction of the Continental Congress, left Pittsburgh with a company of Marines in a gunboat. Proceeding down river and raiding British traders extensively along the way, he arrived at New Orleans and reported for duty to the appointed agent of the Continental Congress. In 1779, Captain Willing sent his troops north to join the forces of George Rogers Clark, while he went by ship to the east coast and was captured by the British.

At the same time that Captain Willing was heading for New Orleans, Marines and sailors from the sloop Providence landed again at New Providence in the Bahama Islands. The island was quickly captured, and the newly-adopted Stars and Stripes was raised over a foreign stronghold for the first time.

While Marines of the Effingham assisted in the capture of a British schooner down river from Philadelphia in March of 1778, John Paul Jones was in France refitting his ship, Ranger. Sailing north in April, Jones led his Marines and sailors in two spectacular raids on the English coast. These raids were followed immediately by the defeat of the English ship-of-war Drake, a battle in which the Ranger's Marine officer was killed on 24 April.

In the naval battles of that time it was customary for Marines to be stationed in the top riggings and upper decks of the vessels in order to sweep the enemy with musketry. Their accurate fire many times tipped the scales of battle. This technique was used in the famous engagement between the Bonhomme Richard (manned by French sailors and Marines under the command of John Paul Jones) and the Serapis in 1779. Marine sharpshooters were able to keep the weather decks cleared of the enemy crew, but the Bonhomme Richard had been outgunned and badly damaged. From the mainyard someone dropped a hand grenade into one of the Serapis' hatches and exploded a powder magazine. This action contributed immeasurably to the British frigate's defeat.

Marksmanship is another Marine activity which began in our country's infancy. Existing records indicate that as early as April 1779 a company of Continental Marines expended quantities of powder and ball in target practice at Nantasket Beach. Although their marksmanship was not particularly noteworthy during the next century, early in the twentieth century Marines entered competitive shooting and rose to rank among the world's foremost marksmen.

In the spring of 1779 the British established a naval base at Penobscot Bay, Maine. The Americans were determined to drive them out. The Massachusetts militia and 300 attached Marines (both Continental and State) conducted an amphibious operation against the British between 26 July and 14 August. Command of the expedition was held jointly by a general officer of militia and a commodore of the Massachusetts fleet. Captain John Welsh of the Warren detachment commanded the Marines.

On the 25th of July the militia unsuccessfully attempted to land on Bagaduce Peninsula. The next day the Marines were assigned a covering mission, the capture of Banks Island. The landing party quickly captured the position, covered the harbor with artillery fire, and drove away three British ships.

Two days later the main fort of Bagaduce was attacked, the Marines leading on the right wing. A beachhead was soon established and the fort besieged, but little progress was made. For two weeks the Americans pounded the fort and then a powerful British fleet appeared on the horizon. The American expedition was cut off and fled up river, all ships being either scuttled or captured. In tactical aspects other than the amphibious assault the Penobscot Expedition was a failure, the Marines however were commended for their "forcible charge on the enemy."

Later in the war, in May 1780, Marines from ships' detachments fought with General Benjamin Lincoln's army in the unsuccessful defense of Charleston.

During 1781, Marine participation in the war consisted mostly of service as members of ships' detachments. A number of naval battles were fought wherein British ships were captured or sunk. There is no record of any noteworthy land actions during the year.

Records of the following year, 1782, show a six-month period of service by Captain Jacob Pyatt's company of Marines with General George Rogers Clark in his Indian campaigns. Additionally there were a number of naval engagements wherein Marines participated as members of ships' detachments.

In January of 1783, Marines aboard the Hague participated in the capture of the British merchantman Baille in the West Indies. This was the last significant prize taken at sea during the American Revolution.

After a few minor naval battles the signing of the Treaty of Paris on 11 April 1783 ended hostilities. In April of 1784, the last known mention of a Continental Marine is that of Private Robert Stout serving on the Alliance. The following year Congress authorized the sale of the Alliance, and the Continental Navy was no more.

From the beginning, Marine uniforms showed a considerable display of color and ornamentation. Although similar in style and cut to army uniforms of the period, the distinctive color of Continental Marine uniforms was green. The green coat was trimmed at first in white, then later red, and contained a number of decorative buttons. The knee-length trousers were white. John Paul Jones dressed Marines under his command after the fashion of British Marines--red coats and white trousers. Black leather collars (designed to improve military bearing by forcing the wearer to keep his head up) were worn around the neck, and from this Marines acquired the familiar sobriquet "Leatherneck."

EARLY YEARS OF THE CORPS

General

Our naval establishment went into a decline after the Revolution, and the Continental Marines faded out of existence. The proud traditions remained, however, and with the inauguration of an undeclared naval war against France, our government recognized the need for a strong navy and corps of Marines. The War Department, established in 1789, was at first placed in charge of all military and naval forces. At this time there were a few vessels under the Revenue Cutter Service which performed some naval functions, and they carried among their crews men who performed the functions of Marines. A congressional

act of 1794 authorized a navy and provided for Marines to serve on board ships. On 30 April 1798, Congress created the Navy Department, and on 11 July, President John Adams approved the bill creating the United States Marine Corps. The Corps has remained in continuous existence since that time.

On 12 July 1798, President Adams appointed William Ward Burrows to be the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Major Burrows established his headquarters in tents in the nation's capital, Philadelphia. Two years later, in July of 1800, the newly-promoted Lieutenant Colonel Burrows moved Marine Headquarters to the new capital, Washington, and by 1802, Marine Barracks, Washington (at 8th and I Streets, S.E.) was completed.

Following in the footsteps of the drummers and fifers of colonial days, the Marine Band was also created on 11 July 1798, when Congress provided for a drum major, a fife major, and 32 drummers and fifers. In January 1799, William Farr was appointed as the first drum major, and within a short time his group of musicians became extremely popular. The Marine Band played at so many official receptions in Washington that it eventually became known as the "President's Own."

Small Wars

Difficulties with France, such as seizure of American ships and failure to recognize the rights of America as a neutral, precipitated the Naval War with France on 28 May 1798. Marines were recruited and placed on Navy ships which had been hurried into commission and sent to drive French ships from American shores. Several spectacular battles occurred between American and French ships, and the Marine detachments contributed materially to the American victories.

Marines of the Constellation played a prominent part in the spirited fight leading to the capture of the Insurgente in 1779. The next year they fought equally well in the five-hour night battle at pistol range between the Constellation and the Vengeance.

The Marine Detachment of the Constitution, commanded by Captain Daniel Carmick, seized an enemy ship in the harbor at Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo. The captured English ship, Sandwich, manned by a French crew, was lying at anchor. Carmick's Marines and some sailors transferred to the sloop Sally, and in a maneuver reminiscent of the "wooden horse of Troy," captured the Sandwich. Then the raiders seized the local fort, spiked its guns, and sailed the Sandwich away, accompanied by the Sally.

The brig Enterprise, carrying a detachment of 16 Marines, was one of the navy's most active ships. During the year 1800 she captured or defeated 22 vessels. As with most naval battles, a contributing factor to success was the deadly small-arms fire delivered by Marines in the topmasts.

Practically every ship of the American Navy captured French vessels, and the Marines had a part of these victories. In 1800, ships' Marines assisted in quelling rebellion and piracy in Santo Domingo, guarded war prisoners at various ports in the United States, and established prisoner of war camps near several inland towns. In 1801 hostilities ceased, and at that time the Marine Corps was reduced to less than 500 officers and men.

If France did not provide sufficient action for the infant American Navy and Marine Corps, the Barbary pirates did. By 1801, serious difficulties had arisen with the different Barbary States located in North Africa. Barbary corsairs were attacking American ships, and the Pasha of Tripoli had insulted the American flag.

The Mediterranean Squadron arrived on station in 1801 to protect American merchant ships, but Commodore Richard Dale's force was too weak to deal effectively with the corsairs. During the next two years Tripolitan pirates captured several American ships including the grounded Philadelphia.

In 1804, Marines went into action as raiders. Under Lieutenant Stephan Decatur, USN, 70 Marines and sailors sailed boldly into Tripoli harbor at night. They boarded the captured Philadelphia, overpowered the pirate crew, and burned the ship to the water line. By the time flames and noises of the battle aroused the waterfront inhabitants, the circumspect Americans had returned to their own craft and made a timely departure.

American agent William Eaton conceived a plan to restore a friendly ruler to the Tripolitan throne and end the difficulties. In 1805, Eaton and a small group of Marines under Lieutenant Presley N. O'Bannon, along with an itinerant army of Arabs and Greek mercenaries, performed an almost impossible feat. They marched 600 miles across the North African desert, captured the fortress of Derna, Tripoli, and planted the American flag on its ramparts. For the first time in history the American flag flew over a fortress of the old world, and a peace treaty soon ensued.

The year 1811 found Marines participating in the so-called Patriots' War, if those activities may be dignified by the term war. The United States, fearing that Britain was about to take possession of the Spanish possession, Florida, secretly took steps to prevent this from happening. Local "patriots," who were induced by promises of land grants, marched against the Spanish and took control of certain areas. Marines assisted in these operations, which included Indian fighting, until May of 1813, when they withdrew and returned to Washington.

The War of 1812

The War of 1812 provided opportunities for the young Corps to add more laurels to its growing reputation. Marine detachments served on all of our principal war vessels, and as in the Revolution, their musketry often proved to be a decisive factor in naval engagements. They fought on Lake Erie under Oliver Perry, played an important role in the brilliant victories of the Constitution on the Atlantic, and distinguished themselves during the Wasp's decisive victory over the British Reindeer. Even in adversity their performance of duty is noteworthy. Three-fourths of their number aboard the ill-fated Chesapeake during its duel with the Shannon on 13 June 1813 suffered death or wounds rather than compromise Captain Lawrence's last order, "Don't give up the ship."

Marines participated with Army troops in an amphibious expedition capturing Toronto, Canada in 1813, and they helped to repel the British at Sackett's Harbor. Amphibious landings were made by Marines of various ships' detachments against British forts along the Great Lakes, and Marines were also among the gallant group which prevented the British from capturing Norfolk. Even piracy became unsafe, for Marines attacked pirates' lairs in southern swamps.

Also taking part in land engagements of the war, a detachment of Marines and sailors fought at the Battle of Bladensburg, valiantly holding the field after all other American troops had fled. During December 1814 and January 1815, Marines gave a good account of themselves in the repulse of the British at New Orleans and were highly commended for their services.

A Marine officer serving in the Pacific during the war with England had a most unusual experience. First Lieutenant John M. Gamble, while serving on Captain Porter's Essex in April 1813, was placed in command of a captured British whaler which had been refitted as a 20-gun man-of-war. Gamble proceeded to attack and capture another British vessel, the first time a Marine officer ever commanded an American man-of-war in battle. This record stood unchanged for 132 years, until a humid day in August 1945; First Lieutenant Stuart L. Pittman, sailing in a commandeered Chinese junk, attacked a more heavily-armed Japanese junk, defeated her in battle, and claimed her as a prize.

MEXICAN WAR AND OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Decades of Peace

Three decades of peace followed the War of 1812, but the Marine Corps' small complement was quite active. In 1817,

there were only 14 officers and 652 enlisted men on the rolls. The Corps grew slowly in numbers during those years, but its activities increased rapidly.

The Corps was called upon to perform a variety of duties in widely dispersed locations. For example, Marines participated as a part of the Mediterranean Squadron in the war with the Algerian pirates (March-June 1815). Other Marines served as members of joint Army-Navy operations fighting pirates and Indians in Florida. In 1818, Marines landed in Oregon and conducted a flag raising ceremony to further United States claims to that western territory.

Cuba was the scene of landings by Marines from several American ships during the spring and summer of 1822. These landings were made in pursuit of pirates who had been preying on United States shipping. Two years later in 1824 other Marines landed in Puerto Rico to avenge an insult by local officials to the American flag. In 1825, Marines from the Grampus landed on a mercy mission in the Virgin Islands to help fight a fire which had already destroyed 500 houses and was threatening the whole of St. Thomas.

On the home front, Marines from the Boston Navy Yard rendered considerable assistance during the great Boston fire of 1824. A few years later in 1833 they quelled a riot in Charlestown, Massachusetts, exhibiting a classic example of courage at the Massachusetts State Prison. Almost 300 unruly prisoners got out of control, and the warden asked the Marines for help. A small detachment appeared on the scene, and within three minutes the riot had ended; not a shot was fired.

The year 1832 opened with Marines landing in the Falkland Islands to protect American lives and property. The next month, February, a punitive expedition of Marines and sailors landed in Sumatra in retaliation for harassment of American shipping. The natives did not learn their lesson well, and several repeat visits were necessary thereafter. Within the next few years parties of Marines and sailors landed in Argentina, Peru, and several islands of the South Seas, each time to protect American lives and property.

In 1820, a native Virginian, Archibald Henderson, was appointed the 5th Commandant of the Marine Corps at the age of 37. Enthusiastic and aggressive, Henderson introduced higher standards throughout the Corps. Personal appearance, training, and discipline were all improved, and he made rigid inspections to insure the prompt execution of his orders. Colonel Henderson was a positive leader, and extremely successful as the chief executive of the Marine Corps.

Indian Wars

After several years of Indian "incidents" in Florida, hostilities began in earnest in 1835. By 1836, the Army in central Florida found itself in difficulty, and Colonel Henderson volunteered the services of a regiment of Marines, which he formed by stripping all available detachments and posts throughout the Corps. Service under Army command was performed by Presidential order, for in 1834 the Congress passed legislation keeping the Marine Corps under naval jurisdiction unless detached by the President for service with the Army.

The Marines campaigned in the southern swamps for several years, fighting first the Creeks in Georgia and then the Seminoles in Florida. In 1837, Henderson was given command of a brigade composed of Marines and an Army regiment, and he was brevetted to brigadier general.

Archibald Henderson served under nine Presidents during his 38-year tenure as Commandant, and he is often referred to as the "grand old man of the Corps."

Mexican War

The operations against the Indians provided the Marines with valuable field experience which was to prove useful a decade later in the War with Mexico. After the declaration of war in May 1846, preceded by battles between United States and Mexican troops along the Rio Grande, Marines from the Home Squadron seized numerous enemy seaports, including Tampico and Alvarado. At times the separate Marine detachments from various ships made amphibious landings. At other times they landed jointly with sailors or Army units. Occasionally, all Marines in the squadron were formed into a battalion led by the squadron Marine officer.

In General Scott's expedition against Vera Cruz, a Marine battalion, led by Captain Alvin Edson, was attached to an Army regiment, the 3d Artillery, and commended for "thorough soldiership" during the battle.

Assigned to General Scott's army, a battalion of Marines provided the storming parties for General Quitman's division during the assault and capture of Mexico City. With the Marines in the lead, Quitman advanced until halted by heavy enemy fire. Then while Quitman attempted to maneuver his Army artillery into firing position, Marine Captain George Terrett, whose company was in an exposed and dangerous position, moved forward without orders and silenced the enemy battery. After one more day of fierce fighting, the Marines and soldiers captured the castle of Chapultapec and Mexico City. Marine service during the Mexican War was later memorialized in the opening lines of the Marines' Hymn--"the Halls of Montezuma."

A limited number of Marines was also committed on the west coast of Mexico and in California. Between the ports of Mazatlan, Mexico and San Francisco, California, Marines from the Pacific Squadron made many landings and garrisoned several towns and forts. They conducted extensive field operations against the Mexicans. Lack of rapid communications with the United States government in Washington caused numerous difficulties during the conflict, yet the Marines were successful in their assigned missions. Within a couple of months after ratification of the peace treaty on 30 May 1848, the Marines were withdrawn from Mexico.

During the Mexican War the Marine Corps strength increased 57 per cent to a total of over 1800. By 1849 the total strength had dropped again to 1100.

Marines Around the World

In addition to fighting the Indians and Mexicans, the mid-19th century found Marines performing many diverse missions. In 1840, ships' detachments landed several times in the Fiji Islands to punish natives for attacking Americans. The next year they went ashore in Samoa and the Gilbert Islands for the same purpose. Marines and sailors from Commodore Perry's landing force landed at several different ports in Africa in 1843 to suppress the slave trade and reprove natives for previous crimes and treachery. Then in 1844, at the request of the American consul, Marines and sailors of the St. Louis landed in Canton to protect Americans from a Chinese mob.

The year 1851 found Marines of the Dale boarding a merchant ship off Johanna Island to suppress a mutiny. In Buenos Aires, in February 1852, Marines landed to protect American lives and property against rioting Argentinians. A few days later Marines of the Albany landed on a mission of mercy to assist in extinguishing a roaring fire in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. In September, Marines from the Jamestown landed again in Buenos Aires, and in March 1853, the Cyane Marine detachment landed in Nicaragua, both landings made to protect American interests.

Marines of Commodore Perry's squadron made their impressive ceremonial landings in Japan in 1853, and in that same year, at the request of a Siamese captain, boarded his vessel near Hong Kong to suppress a mutiny of the crew. Again in 1854, Commodore Perry's Marines participated in elaborate ceremonies in Japan in connection with the establishment of Japanese-American trade agreements. China and Okinawa also saw Marines that year, as they landed to protect American lives and interests.

Shanghai, Hong Kong, the Fiji Islands, and Uruguay were the sites of Marine landings in the year 1855. Americans required protection from rioting inhabitants. The following year hostile elements at Canton, China again threatened Americans and their commerce. Marines from the East India Squadron made several landings and attacked a series of barrier forts down river from the city. Spearheaded by approximately 50 Marines, the 287-man naval landing force defeated more than 400 Chinese and destroyed four forts within a few days. The hostile acts against Americans ceased.

In June of 1857, the President ordered out two companies of Marines to restore civil order during election riots in Washington. The following year Marines of the St. Lawrence landed in Uruguay to protect American property, and Marines from the Sabine and Brooklyn Navy Yard were called to protect government buildings and suppress rioters on Staten Island. Other Marines again landed in the Fiji Islands to punish natives for the murder of American seamen.

The two decades following the Indian Wars had been a busy prelude to the War Between the States.

THE CIVIL WAR AND AFTER

Civil War

Less than two years prior to the beginning of hostilities, Marines captured the notorious abolitionist leader, John Brown. Under the over-all command of Army Colonel Robert E. Lee, Marine First Lieutenant Israel Greene and 86 men from Marine Headquarters assaulted the Harper's Ferry stronghold of John Brown on 18 October 1859 and captured him. He was later tried and hanged for treason.

When the shooting actually started in April 1861, the total strength of the Marine Corps was less than 2400. By the time of final surrender, in spite of resignations by officers whose sympathies were with the South, the strength had increased to almost 3900 officers and men.

From the onset of the war, the most important mission of the Navy was that of blockading the Confederacy--preventing it from carrying on trade with other nations. The Corps functioned mostly as detachments on Navy vessels. After all ships' detachments had been filled, there were not enough men left on shore duty to form a permanent landing force. When one was needed, it was either assembled from ships' detachments or made up of Army troops.

Small detachments of Marines repeatedly distinguished themselves while serving the great guns aboard naval vessels. They also landed and assisted in capturing the southern forts at Hatteras Inlet; Port Royal, South Carolina; St. Augustine, Florida; and Fort Fisher, North Carolina. The Hatteras expedition was primarily an army operation, but Marines from the Minnesota, Cumberland, and Wabash spearheaded the landing.

When Union forces clashed with Confederates at First Bull Run in July of 1861, a battalion of over 300 raw, inexperienced Marine recruits numbered among the Federal army. Although they did as well as could be expected under the crushing Southern attack, their service was hardly more laudable than other Northern troops, and they returned to Washington along with the routed Union multitude.

While the Confederate ironclad Virginia (Merrimack) was defeating Union ships at Hampton Roads prior to the arrival of the Monitor on 8 March 1862, many of the Confederate casualties resulted from the accurate rifle fire of the Union Marines.

At New Orleans in April 1862, Marines were the first Union troops to enter the city. After forcing its way past the Confederate forts at the mouth of the Mississippi and sailing upriver to New Orleans, Captain David Farragut's squadron dropped anchor. A detachment of Marines under Lieutenant J. C. Harris landed on the 25th, calmly marched through the crowd, and took possession of the United States Mint. The Confederate flag was lowered and replaced with that of the Union.

Farragut demanded the city's surrender and the Confederate commander refused; however, he did agree to evacuate the city in order to save the inhabitants from the danger of an attack. On 29 April the squadron Marines were formed into a battalion under Captain John L. Broom; they raised the United States flag over the customs house, and then took possession of the city. Two days later Broome turned over the city to General Benjamin F. Butler's army and returned with his Marines to the ships.

In May of 1862 when General McClellan was advancing up the Yorktown Peninsula towards Richmond, naval vessels on the James and York Rivers protected his flanks. Marines aboard these ships performed commendable service. For heroism during the battle at Drewry's Bluff, Corporal John F. Mackie was the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor.

There were Marine detachments on some of the river vessels in 1863, and they aided in clearing Confederates from the banks of the Mississippi. July of 1864 saw Marines defending Washington against General Jubal Early's forces while other Marines were protecting the vital railroad bridge over Gunpowder River.

As the war progressed, there were more than 100 Marine detachments afloat, and that sea duty absorbed the greater part of the Corps. Whenever they could be spared from their naval duties, provisional units served on land with the Army, but these operations were usually hastily organized and did not accomplish optimum results.

Foreign Duty

After the Civil War, with the fleet making the transition from sail to steam power, the traditional Marine role changed. The necessity to station sharpshooters in the ships' rigging no longer existed, however, service at sea was still of paramount interest to the Corps. Substantial numbers of Marines were assigned to the foreign squadrons, whose principal missions were to protect American lives and property and to support American shipping.

No longer needed in civil conflict, American naval squadrons soon returned to foreign stations. Marines were assigned missions in such places as Egypt, Korea, Mexico, China, Cuba, the Arctic, Formosa, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Haiti, Alaska, and the waters of Greenland. Many landings were made in these far-away places, but in most of them the mere presence of Marines was sufficient to protect American lives and property, and a fight was not necessary. Not so, though, in Korea. In 1871, an incident occurred that clearly demonstrated the Marines readiness for action.

Shortly before 1870, hostile Koreans had murdered the entire crew of an American vessel, the General Sherman. Previously, Koreans had murdered other foreigners, including French missionaries. Therefore, in the spring of 1871, the American minister to China attempted to negotiate with the Korean officials a treaty that would assure fair treatment of the Americans.

After receiving the Korean government's permission, two United States ships went several miles up the Salee (Yom) River where they were fired upon by hostile elements in a large fort overlooking the water. The Americans waited ten days to give the Korean government time to apologize, and then a punitive expedition was organized.

Captain McLane Tilton and his 105 Marines were the shock troops of a provisional naval battalion which captured three forts, the last of which required savage hand-to-hand combat in the final assault. While the battle raged, Corporal Charles Brown and Private Hugh Purvis made their way to the flagstaff and tore down the enemy flag. The battle over, the daring feat of the two men earned them both the Medal of Honor. The Koreans evidently had learned their lesson; the incidents against Americans ceased.

In July of 1882, when rebel forces took control of Alexandria, Egypt and British bombardment set fire to the city, the American consulate and other American interests were endangered. A detachment of Marines and sailors of the European Squadron, under Captain H. C. Cochrane, landed and protected American and other foreign interests until relieved by a large force of British troops. The Marines then returned to their ships.

For a number of years conditions had been turbulent on the Isthmus of Panama. In early 1885, rebels set fire to Colon and destroyed the greater portion of the town. The United States government immediately ordered an expeditionary force of Marines to maintain order. Two battalions, formed by stripping all available Marines from shore billets, were sent to Panama in April. The Marines guarded portions of the city and kept open the railroad line. Within a month the trouble subsided, Colombian troops arrived to police the city, and the Marines withdrew.

When an American steamer was seized by a Haitian war vessel in 1888, another intervention occurred in that chaotic country. Rear Admiral Stephen B. Luce was sent with the Galena and Yantic, carrying a small expeditionary force of Marines, to recover the ship. He did--and without engaging in battle. In this case, the mere show of American strength was sufficient, and the steamer was released.

A number of amphibious landings were made in the accomplishment of these various missions, and the Marine Corps was more and more trending toward its amphibious specialty. Although few actual battles occurred in relation to the number of landings made, the Marines were able to maintain their spirit and training. When the Spanish-American War began, the Corps was ready for new assignments.

On the Home Front

During these post Civil War years there were several periods of violent strife within the United States. In New York from 1867 to 1871, Marines were called upon several times to assist authorities in destroying illicit distilleries and enforcing the revenue laws. In Portland, Maine, in 1866 and in Boston in 1872, when the cities were swept by fire, and lawlessness and violence followed, Marines were promptly turned out and restored order.

It was during the period between 1876 and 1891 when Colonel Charles G. McCawley was Commandant that the organization of the Marine Corps was considerably improved. One important innovation with which he is credited is obtaining an annual quota of graduates from the Naval Academy to be commissioned as Marine officers.

In 1877, during a serious railroad strike, a battalion of Marines was employed to maintain order and protect railroad property between Baltimore and Philadelphia. Another battalion was assigned to guard the Washington Arsenal and assist the railroad in maintaining service between Washington and Baltimore. Seven years later, other Marines assisted Army troops in a similar assignment during railroad strikes in California.

During the preceding decades the Marine Band had become a familiar and most popular musical organization to citizens of the capital city. But the "March King," John Philip Sousa, who led the band from 1880 to 1892, developed it into one of the great musical organizations of the world. Sousa's own compositions plus his extensive tours played a large part in gaining nationwide recognition for the Corps.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

Battleship Maine and Naval Activities

During February of 1898, while Marines from the Alert detachment landed in Nicaragua to protect American lives and property, the battleship Maine was sent to Cuba. The Spanish officials there had oppressed not only Cuban citizens but several Americans who were Cuban sympathizers. The Maine was to protect those citizens.

In the Havana harbor on the night of 15 February, the Maine was mysteriously blown up and sunk. A total of 260 American lives were lost, including 28 Marines. The United States thirsted for revenge, and "Remember the Maine" became the battle cry.

An aroused Congress on 19 April 1898, passed a resolution declaring Cuba to be free and independent. A few days later Spain declared war on the United States. The shooting war erupted in May when Commodore George Dewey steamed into Manila and destroyed the Spanish flotilla. The Marines from the USS Baltimore occupied the naval station at Cavite, and thus ended the Pacific phase of the war.

Amphibious Landings

Am amphibious landing by Marines of the Atlantic Squadron was made at Playa del Este, Cuba, on 7 June 1898, to destroy a cable station. Three days later, and a month prior to the Rough Riders' action at San Juan Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Robert W. Huntington landed his battalion at Guantanamo Bay, which had been selected as the site of an advance fleet base. This battalion had been specifically organized for service in Cuba, and had undergone field training in Florida for more than a month. Huntington's Marines became the first American troops to land and establish a beachhead on Cuban soil.

After three days of intermittent fighting, Huntington decided to cut off the Spaniards' only water supply, Cuzco Well, about six miles to the southeast. Two companies were given the mission of capturing this objective, and the Dolphin stood off shore to render gunfire support. Captain George F. Elliot (later Commandant of the Marine Corps), who was in command of the attacking force, signaled for naval gunfire. The Dolphin mistook the intended target and shelled the Marines. As the deadly shells began falling, Sergeant John H. Quick stood up in plain sight of the enemy and began waving an improvised flag in a cease fire signal to the ship. With enemy bullets and American naval shells whistling through the air around him, Quick calmly remained exposed for several minutes until the firing stopped. Miraculously he emerged unscathed, his feat justly earning him the Medal of Honor.

The objective was taken and the Spanish retreated from the area. A month later Lieutenant Colonel Huntington's battalion reembarked aboard ship and prepared to make an assault landing on the town of Manzanillo. Amidst final preparations on D-day, the coming of daylight revealed the fluttering of white flags in surrender.

Importance of Marines

The war ended with the Marines having played a conspicuous part. A battalion of Marines had been promptly formed and sent to the theater of operations. Marines from various ships' detachments had landed and performed specific missions. An advanced naval base had been seized and defended. A highly mobile, well trained, hard hitting organization had again proved itself.

The resulting favorable publicity and the reputation gained after cessation of Cuban operations aided materially in a rapid expansion of the Marine Corps and its activities. Americans showed their confidence in the Corps' ability to protect the national interests, and in March 1899 the permanent strength of the Corps was increased to 211 officers and 6000 enlisted men.

Trouble Overseas

In the fall of 1898 trouble began brewing in China. Marines of the Baltimore, Boston, and Raleigh detachments landed at Taku Bar in November and established a consulate guard in Tientsin and Peking. The following February, Marines landed in Nicaragua, and in March, Samoa. In both instances protection of Americans was their mission. In May 1899 the 1st Battalion of Marines arrived in the Philippines to protect the Cavite naval base against insurrectos.

Although a Marine battalion had landed on Guam in August 1899 for the purpose of garrisoning a soon-to-be established naval station, the Philippines figured more prominently in Marine activities. The Second Battalion of Marines, under Major George F. Elliott,arrived in September and joined in the operations against the insurrectos. Throughout the remainder of the year these two battalions campaigned in the Philippines, and in December replacements swelled the two battalions to form the 1st Marine Regiment. Marines from several ships also made landings against the insurgents.

In the summer of 1900, when the Boxer Rebellion broke out in China, two ships' detachments under the command of Captain John T. Meyers rushed to the aid of the American legation at Peking. For three months the valiant defenders held out, while Marines and sailors from several ships joined with other forces in an attempt to break the Boxer seige. Marines fought alongside Russian, British, German, Japanese, and United States soldiers as the international expeditionary force attempted to relieve its beseiged nationals. Finally, the 1st Marine Regiment arrived from the Philippines and joined the attack. As the strength of the international force increased, enemy resistance was finally broken and order was restored.

This brigade also assisted the Army in putting down the Moro insurrection, in the fall of 1901 making several expeditions against the Moros. In January 1902, a detachment under command of Major L. W. T. Waller finished an ill-fated march across Samar for the purpose of reconnoitering a trail for a telegraph line. This month-long expedition ended in disaster when a number of Marines lost their lives. The brigade remained in the Philippines until disbandment in early 1914, when a few Marines remained in Cavite and Olangapo as naval station guards.

Several times during 1901 and 1902 it was necessary to land ships' detachments of Marines in Panama to protect Americans. In the spring of 1903, they landed in Honduras and the Dominican Republic, and in September in Beirut, Syria, each time to protect Americans and their property. Also in 1903, Marines served as guards for a United States diplomatic mission traveling to Abyssinia by camel caravan.

In addition to increasing the number of Marine Corps posts within the United States, new foreign stations were established. Cuba, Samoa, Midway, Korea, and other distant sites became duty stations for United States Marines.

When Panama revolted against Colombia (of which Panama was a part) in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered Marines into Panama to prevent any other forces from landing within 50 miles of the new state. The revolt was successful, and the United States signed a treaty with the new government and later built the Panama Canal.

During the Cuban revolt of 1906, President Roosevelt ordered two battalions of Marines to Cuba to stabilize the government in that unstable land. Within a few weeks an entire brigade, totaling 97 officers and 2,795 enlisted men, had landed, and peace was restored. Shortly thereafter the Army of Cuban Pacification was organized, and Marines served under United States Army jurisdiction, remaining there until 1909. They returned intermittently in the intervening years, and the last expeditionary force was withdrawn in 1922. Ten years later the Cuban political pot boiled again, and Marines stood ready in Cuban waters. Since 1934, when the Cuban-United States treaty ending American intervention was signed, Marines have been stationed in Cuba to guard American interests, mainly the large naval base at Guantanamo.

A Progressive Decade

Apparently the idea of amphibious assaults crystalized after our Navy's experiences at Manila Bay and Guantanamo Bay during the war with Spain. In 1902, special training in the capture and defense of advance bases was undertaken, and in 1910 the Advance Base School was created in order to focus thinking on the unique problems of amphibious warfare.

Units for this type warfare were especially designed to be based aboard navy transports; a brigade-sized unit, the Advance Base Force, was created and had progressed substantially by 1914. This brigade had its own supporting arms and was kept ready for service with the fleet. It was the forerunner of our present day Fleet Marine Force, which is maintained in constant readiness to move to any area of trouble at any time.

The Advance Base Force landed at Vera Cruz in 1914 to protect the rights of American citizens living in Mexico. In 1915, an expeditionary force landed in Haiti to quash a revolt and stabilize conditions there. Other South American and Caribbean republics were also the scene of Marine operations, and these campaigns were generally known as "the banana wars."

Militarily, the decade prior to World War I was a progressive one. New weapons and equipment came into the hands of Marines, and new tactics based on the use of these weapons were developed. The gasoline powered truck facilitated transportation and supply problems, and radio provided rapid long distance communication. Improved artillery, more reliable machine guns, and automatic rifles gave Marine units greatly increased firepower. The airplane gave promise of unlimited possibilities, and on 22 May 1912, First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham was assigned to naval aviation duty as the first Marine pilot.

The Banana Wars

To support United States policy of the Monroe Doctrine and the corollaries thereto, Marines were ordered to land in several of the smaller Latin-American countries. The strategic position of such islands as Cuba and Hispaniola provided a direct gateway to the Panama Canal, and the United States was determined to insure the safety of national interests.

The changes in foreign policy of the United States, therefore, created new missions for the Marine Corps; and for over three decades Marines were found continually occupied in one or more extensive military interventions in Caribbean countries.

As in Cuba and Panama, Marines also assisted in stabilizing the Dominican Republic. In 1912, when political strife and unrest shook the governmental structure, a regiment was sent to Santo Domingo City to protect the appointed authorities and restore order. By remaining on board ship in the harbor the regiment's presence provided adequate moral support for those same authorities, and a landing became unnecessary. The Marines withdrew, only to return again within the next couple of years and actively participate in settling disturbances.

By 1916 an entire brigade was occupied in Dominican affairs. Marines supported the American State Department policies, organized and trained a native constabulary, and continually combatted banditry. Finally, in 1924, the American military governor turned the reins of government over to newly-constituted Dominican officials, and the Marines again departed.

United States problems in Haiti closely paralleled those of her sister republic. Intolerable internal conditions caused a detachment of Marines to land in Haiti in 1914 for the purpose of restoring order and protecting the property of Americans and Europeans alike. During the next year Haitian revolutionists increased their activities, and a brigade of Marines was organized. Guiding the country by utilizing Haitian officials, the Americans were a stabilizing influence in the troubled land.

Naval and Marine officers trained the Haitian officials in the functions of government. Such vital services as road building, communications, education, and other public activities were directed by Marine officers. The gendarmerie, initially officered by Marines, was gradually transformed into an all-native Haitian force. Many reforms were made, and the country began to prosper.

The Cacos, a feared group of lawless Haitian guerrillas, had caused trouble for many years, and open revolt broke in 1915. Then Marines landed. In a fight against Cacos during this period Major Smedley D. Butler won his second Medal of Honor; his first was awarded for courageous action the previous year in Mexico. Here also Gunnery Sergeant Dan Daly won his second Medal of Honor, his first being awarded for distinguished action during the China Relief Expedition.

Resistance to enforced labor by the gendarmerie led to a large scale revolt in 1918, and Marines campaigned periodically against these revolutionaries during the next few years. Although the situation had calmed by 1922, experience gained in these bandit battles provided valuable training for future operations.

In 1929, Marines again had to exert pressure to control considerable Haitian political unrest and mob violence, but after that, conditions became relatively stable. In October of 1934, the last of the Marines was withdrawn.

In Nicaragua, Marines intervened more extensively than in any other foreign country up to that time. A revolution to overthrow the existing government started in 1909, and for three months, until March 1910, a regiment of Marines was standing by on board ship at Corinto. Two months later two companies of Marines were sent from the Canal Zone to Bluefields, which they occupied for several months. There was much political unrest, and riots and vandalism prevailed throughout the country. Marines protected American and foreign interests while politicians argued and rebels roamed the land.

Strife was everywhere, and at the request of the Nicaraguan government, more Marines were landed in 1912. They guarded the railroad, occupied several towns, and patrolled extensively in an effort to preserve the peace and maintain order. During these operations Marines began developing techniques of jungle warfare and air support of ground troops.

Revolutionary activities seriously interfered with foreign fruit, lumber, and mining interests, and under the guidance of the State Department, Marines exerted their efforts toward peace. By 1913, the Americans had achieved a certain degree of order, and the majority of the Marines withdrew.

Several years later chaos returned. Marines followed. In 1925 civil war flared openly, and Marines occupied various ports. By 1927, an entire Marine brigade was fighting the rebels. Finally the revolution was halted, and the Marines were faced with the task of restoring peace, maintaining law and order, and developing a strong constabulary.

Banditry was rife, and the Marines and the Guardia Nacional (officered by Marines) fought many skirmishes with the brigands. By 1932, after leading the Guardia in more than 500 encounters with outlaws, the native force was sufficiently trained so that the Marines were able to withdraw. According to Nicaraguan standards, the Marines were leaving behind a relatively efficient civil government.

MARINES IN WORLD WAR I

The Corps Expands

In addition to service in the various southern "banana" republics, Marines played an important part in World War I. The personnel peak rose from less than 11.000 in 1916 to a wartime peak of 75,000, an increase of approximately 600 per cent. A Marine women's auxillary was organized. Not only did Marines perform all their regular duties, but they furnished a large expeditionary force for duty with the Army. Our country was growing, and so was the Corps.

At the time of entry into the war, Marines were serving at 25 posts and stations in the United States. There were 8 permanent foreign stations, 32 detachments aboard naval vessels, and 2 brigades in Caribbean countries. The 5th Regiment at Philadelphia was reactivated to form a part of the American Expeditionary Force, and on orders of the President, arrived in France in June 1917. Immediately, experienced French soldiers were assigned to instruct the Marines in the methods of trench warfare.

By February of 1918 the 6th Regiment and the 6th Machine Gun Battalion had arrived in France, and the 4th Marine Brigade, commanded at first by Brigadier General Charles A. Doyen, was up to strength. The Brigade fought as part of the Army's 2d Infantry Division. Due to illness General Doyen was replaced by Army Brigadier General James G. Harbord. In July 1918, Marine Brigadier General Wendell C. Neville took command, and Marine Brigadier General John A. Lejeune was assigned command of the 2d Infantry Division. This is the first time on record that a Marine officer commanded an Army Division.

Belleau Wood and Other Battles

In its first offensive action of the war, the Brigade was thrown in to stop the determined German attack pointed towards Paris. Fighting furiously, the Marines attacked the well entrenched Germans at Belleau Wood and finally cleared them out by 26 June 1918. In 20 days of herioc fighting the Marine Brigade had met and defeated part of two of Germany's most distinguished divisions.

For heroic conduct by the Brigade in this battle, the French Army commander changed the name of the wood to "Bois de la Brigade de Marine" or "Marine Brigade Wood" and awarded the Croix de Guerre to this spirited American unit.

The next month the Marines spearheaded the American attack at Soissons and are credited with having given impetus to the general retreat of the German Army. By August after receiving replacements to bolster their depleted ranks, the Brigade then took part in the attack on the next target, St. Mihiel.

The German defenders did not stand against the relentless American attack. St. Mihiel was taken. Next, at the request of Marshal Foch, General Lejeune's division joined the French Fourth Army. The French wanted to split up the division for use as shock troops with various French units, but General Lejeune objected strongly to this plan. Lejeune won out, and his division became part of the spearhead in the attack of Blanc Mont Ridge.

Blanc Mont was a key position in the German defense chain, and French units had been unsuccessfully attacking this bastion for several weeks. Within two days the Marine Brigade, in coordination with an Army brigade of the 2d Infantry Division, had completely cleared Mont Blanc. Attacking initially against two German divisions, the Marines are credited with defeating these and successfully resisting counterattacks of additional enemy divisions.

Meuse-Argonne and Armistice

November of 1918 found the Brigade, along with other American units, as a part of the great Meuse-Argonne offensive. The 2d Infantry Division, with the Marines leading it, was assigned the mission of driving a wedge-shaped attack through the backbone of hostile resistance. The attack was completely successful, and the Marines exploited their success. The Brigade was still advancing when the news of the armistice was announced.

As part of the Army of Occupation, the Marine Brigade moved into Germany and for seven months occupied positions along the Rhine. Then in August 1919, the Marines returned to the United States and the Brigade was rapidly demobilized. Prior to leaving France, the 4th Marine Brigade had three times been awarded the Croix de Guerre, the only American unit so honored.

While his ground contemporaries were attacking against German bayonets, Major Cunningham's four fledgling aviation squadrons were participating in daylight bombing raids. After intensive training with British and French squadrons, Marine aviators flew supply drops in France and Belgium, bombed German submarine bases along the Channel, shot down four German fighter planes, and attacked rear area targets of opportunity. They also operated an antisubmarine base in the Azores. Marines began to realize that the flying machine had become a major factor in war.

BETWEEN WORLD WARS I AND II

Training Improvements

The so-called peaceful years between world wars were anything but peaceful for the United States Marines. They put down armed revolts in Latin American countries, guarded the mails, fought bandits, organized native police forces, protected foreign interests in China, and performed other missions necessary to preserve peace and order.

From the end of the war until the depression in the 1930s the peacetime strength fluctuated around 20,000 and enlistment standards were high. Enlisted men were all volunteers and began to specialize in different military fields. The Marine Corps Institute, a correspondence school specializing in self study, was established in 1920 to assist Marines to improve their formal education and also to increase their military proficiency. A vigorous interest in athletics catapulted the Marine Corps into national sports headlines, and Marine teams played teams of such schools as the University of Michigan.

Training facilities were improved after the war. Prior to the acquisition of Parris Island in November 1915, recruits were trained at various installations along the east coast. After that date, Parris Island became the recruit training depot for the east coast. On the west coast, Puget Sound and Mare Island were the "boot" camp sites until 1923, when San Diego became the permanent west coast school for recruits. Until 1941, when the Officers' Basic School was established at Quantico, officers were trained at Port Royal, South Carolina, Norfolk, and Philadelphia.

A Police Force

The nation was confronted with an increasing crime wave after the war, and the Post Office Department found itself unable to cope with the large number of mail robberies. In November 1921, approximately 2200 Marines formed a nation-wide system of mail protection. With Marines in the mail distribution centers and guarding the mail trains, the robberies ceased within a short while and the Marines were called off. Again in 1926 they were called back for the same task.

Aviation

During these years the Corps' few Marine aviators accompanied their fellow Marines to the far corners of the globe, serving in such places as Santo Domingo, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guam, China, and Antarctica. The aviation squadrons assisted materially in the execution of United States foreign policy, and at the same time developed new and effective air tactics. For example, in 1927, Major Ross E. Rowell led possibly the first organized dive bombing attack in history and possibly the first low altitude attack against an organized enemy ever used in support of ground troops.

In addition to using airplanes to attack the enemy, planes were used to drop medicine to isolated patrols, and to evacuate seriously wounded casualties. In 1928, First Lieutenant Christian F. Schilt made a series of remarkable rescue flights. When Marines were critically wounded by bandits near Qualili, Nicaragua, on a dangerously short makeshift air strip the intrepid pilot made repeated take-offs in a heavily loaded plane. On each flight he hauled out wounded, then returned with more ammunition and supplies. For his extraordinary heroism and skill, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Marine flyers also accompanied Admiral Byrd on his North Pole and South Pole expeditions, while others kept a vigilant watch on the adversaries of the Chinese Civil War. In 1931, the carrier concept was realized when two Marine aviation squadrons were stationed on board aircraft carriers. Marine aviation was growing.

Marines in the Far East

Between 1922 and 1925, Marines of the Asiatic Fleet were called upon to make a number of landings in China. Their mission, as usual, was to protect American citizens. In 1927, when civil war swept throughout China, the 3d Marine Brigade, composed primarily of the 4th Marines, was rushed to Shanghai and Tientsin. The Marines protected Americans and other foreigners, and although the fighting raged all around the International Settlement, they steadfastly held their position of

neutrality and refused to become involved in the quarrels of other nations. Departing from Tientsin in 1929, Marines remained in Shanghai until a few days before the Pearl Harbor attack, when they withdrew to the Philippines.

New Developments

Since their beginning, one of the duties of Marines had been to land from ships and to fight ashore. New weapons which had been proved in World War I required new landing techniques and equipment, and radically different types of landing craft were needed to replace ships' boats. Specially designed aircraft were required.

During the 1920s the Navy and Marine Corps increased their development efforts in the field of amphibious warfare. In the spring of 1925, activities were temporarily suspended at Marine Officers' Schools, Quantico, in order that student officers as well as instructors might participate in joint Army and Navy maneuvers. Upon completion of the maneuvers, the emphasis on landing operations and amphibious thinking was intensified. A 1927 document entitled Joint Action of the Army and Navy defined the Marine Corps mission as to be prepared for "land operations in support of the fleet for the initial seizure and defense of advanced bases and for such limited auxiliary land operations as are essential to the prosecution of the naval campaign."

New and progressive methods of instruction were adopted, and critical analyses of current tactics were encouraged. In 1934, a "Tentative Landing Operations Manual" was published. This manual was adopted without change by the Army and Navy, and with later modifications it served as a guide for the successful amphibious operations of World War II.

Testing and evaluation of new ideas was done at Quantico. Scores of important pieces of equipment and some sound techniques were developed. The Expeditionary Force was titled the Fleet Marine Force, and the fleet began conducting training exercises in amphibious assault.

Systems of controlling naval gunfire and air support were two important concepts that came to the forefront. Naval gunfire was to be used during the initial stages of a landing when artillery was unavailable, and the air support utilized when other weapons could not reach an important target. Even though not yet refined, these early techniques made the Marine Corps ready for amphibious warfare. Later operations were to suggest many changes, but the Marine Corps, having pioneered amphibious training, taught the other services this newly acquired science.

While developing amphibious warfare techniques and equipment, the Marine Corps was also providing a means for rapidly increasing its size in event of war. This means was the Marine Corps Reserve. First organized in 1914, the Reserve had increased to 7000 by the end of World War I. This total included 250 female reservists. The Reserve faded away until 1925, when it was reorganized by Congress. By 1940, there was a Reserve of 15,000 officers and men, compared with 25,000 regulars.

Preparing for War

In 1939, with war clouds on the horizon, President Roosevelt authorized the Marine Corps to increase to 25,000. The next year it was boosted to 45,000, and by December of 1941, after Reserve units had been mobilized, there were over 66,000 Marines on active duty.

In the summer of 1941, the Fleet Marine Force was called upon to demonstrate its capabilities. When it was decided that United States forces should relieve British forces and garrison Iceland, President Franklin D. Roosevelt turned to the Marine Corps as the most available force in readiness. Soon thereafter the 1st Marine Brigade (Provisional), consisting of some 4,100 troops, had sailed. In addition to the brigade in Iceland, Marines were on duty in China, the Philippines, the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Wake, Midway, American Samoa, Panama, and several British islands in the Atlantic Ocean. In the United States, Marines were training intensively for what was to come.

WAR IN THE PACIFIC

War Comes

On the morning of 7 December 1941, Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor. The great American battle fleet riding at anchor was virtually destroyed. All military airfields and other installations were under attack at the same time. The defenders fought back as best they could, but in one swift attack the Japanese had gained control of the Pacific. Within a few hours of the Pearl Harbor attack, Marines at Guam, Midway, and Wake Island were also on the receiving end of Japanese bombs.

Besides naval personnel, Guam held only 153 Marines armed with nothing larger than .30 caliber machine guns. For two days the Japs rained bombs on Guam, and then some six thousand troops landed. The island defenders fought bitterly for a couple of hours, but the odds against them were overwhelming; the island commander was forced to surrender. The first American outpost had fallen.

After three days of heavy bombing, the Japanese fleet moved in for a landing on Wake. Major James P. S. Devereaux's Wake Detachment of the 1st Defense Battalion and Major Paul A. Putnam's VMF-211 (fighter squadron) beat them off, sinking two destroyers, damaging seven more, and causing 700 enemy casualties. The enemy withdrew, pounded the island heavily for the next ten days, and returned with 1500 of Japan's naval landing troops. In spite of a heroic defense, the island fell on 21 December.

While Wake was being attacked, the most powerful invasion force Japan had ever formed was engaged in overrunning the Philippines. The 4th Marines, which had just arrived from Shanghai, were transferred to General MacArthur's command to take over Corregidor's beach defenses. On Bataan, Marines manned antiaircraft batteries. Under the crushing Japanese air attack and later the amphibious landing, the valiant defenders held out as long as was humanly possible. Bataan fell on 9 April, and Corregidor on 6 May 1942. The Japanese had taken the Philippines.

There were Marines on board cruisers, battleships, and aircraft carriers of Task Force 17 when it steamed out on 7 May to intercept a Jap invasion force headed for New Guinea and the Solomons. Carrier aircraft of the opposing forces clashed in the Battle of the Coral Sea and both sides received heavy damage. Losses were about equal, but the battle was important because a Japanese invasion force was turned back. After disaster at Pearl Harbor, the Pacific Fleet was back in the fight.

With the fall of other outposts, Midway was America's most advanced base at the end of May 1942. Naval intelligence discovered that an enemy attack was scheduled for Midway in the near future, and Marines of the 6th Defense Battalion and Marine Aircraft Group 22 (MAG-22) feverishly prepared for the expected Japanese attack. Enough antiaircraft weapons, fighters, bombers, and patrol planes were brought in to cause the island to fairly bristle with hostility. On the morning of 4 June 1942, a huge Japanese air armada attacked. The defending island aircraft plus carrier aircraft of the Enterprise and Hornet rushed into the enemy formations, and after 20 minutes of savage fighting, the air battle was over. Both sides suffered heavy damage, but Midway had fought off its first and last air attack of the war.

(The previous battles in the Pacific had given the United States the opportunity to bid for time. The Corps, expanding for war at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack, stood at 65,000 officers and men. Continuing to expand until the maximum strength of 485,000 was reached in August of 1945, the Marine Corps eventually numbered six divisions and five aircraft wings.)

Guadalcanal

On 7 August 1942, Marines landed on the beaches of Guadalcanal and Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. This was the first Allied land offensive in the Pacific, an amphibious landing against enemy forces by the 1st Marine Division (reinforced). Despite stubborn Japanese resistance in the form of air, naval, and ground counterattacks, the heroic division held its beachhead. Units of the 2d Marine Division and the Army Americal Division began arriving in October and the American forces soon took the offensive which, after months of desperate fighting in the steaming tropical jungles, drove the Japanese from the island on 9 February 1943.

The victory at Guadalcanal marked the turning point of the war in the Pacific. Almost 25,000 Japanese died during the fighting on that island, while additional thousands (11 transports carrying two reinforced divisions were sunk) died in a futile attempt to reinforce their fanatical countrymen. The U. S. Marines had successfully begun the drive that would lead them to the Japanese homeland.

Protecting the Flank

In order to protect the flank of Army and Australian troops fighting in New Guinea, it was necessary to secure the entire Solomon chain. Moving northwest from Guadalcanal, Army troops reinforced by the 3d Marine Raider Battalion took over the Russell Islands without opposition. From there Army units, with the 1st and 4th Raider Battalions attached, seized New Georgia and its excellent airfield at Munda. During the battle for Munda, Marine aviators with front line ground control units developed a rudimentary form of close air support--"close" usually meaning within 1,000 yards of the front.

The next step was Bougainville, at the northwest end of the Solomons chain. The I Marine Amphibious Corps, formed around the newly created 3d Marine Division, landed on 1 November 1943, and within three weeks had wrested from the Japanese a firm beachhead which was soon taken over by Army units. In this campaign Marine aircraft supplied the first real close air support, carrying out bombing and strafing missions as close as 75 yards from the Marines' front lines.

Gilbert Islands--Gateway to the Marshalls

While the I Marine Amphibious Corps, commanded by Lieutenant General Alexander A. Vandegrift, was still fighting in the steaming jungles of Bougainville, other Marines were moving into the central Pacific. The Gilbert Islands, which dominated the approaches to the Japanese strongholds in the Marshalls and Truk, had to be taken. Tarawa was the target, and Marine Major General Holland M. Smith, commanding the V Amphibious Corps, assigned this task to the 2d Marine Division.

The mightiest task force to be formed thus far in the Pacific was assembled for the operation, and Tarawa was bombed and shelled for three days, although the bombings effected only a fraction of the anticipated results. With the 2d Division Marines headed for the beach at H-hour on 20 November 1943, the Japanese suddenly emerged from their underground blockhouses and answered with murderous fire. Gaining the beach, the Marines advanced slowly against a devastating crossfire. By the afternoon of the third day all organized resistance had ceased, and the remaining islets on the atoll were quickly secured.

More than 3300 casualties within 76 hours made the battle of Tarawa extremely costly; yet it was unique. For the first time in history a sea-borne assault was launched against a heavily defended coral atoll, and amphibious tractors were used in an assault landing. The operation demonstrated the soundness of existing Marine Corps doctrines and brought to light other areas requiring improvement for future operations. In this respect Tarawa was of greater importance than the later operations for which it paved the way.

Two-Pronged Attack

Allied strategists in 1943 had decided that the effort aimed at the Japanese homeland should be split, one force to go up through New Guinea and the Philippines, and the other to leap through the central Pacific via the Marshalls and Marianas. While the 3d Marine Division was fighting on Bougainville, the 1st Marine Division was preparing to secure MacArthur's flank by seizing the western end of New Britain. This move would cut off the Japanese in New Guinea from their supply base at Rabaul and considerably ease the task of Allied troops advancing north up the New Guinea coast.

On the morning of 26 December 1943, the 1st Marine Division landed at Cape Gloucester, New Britain, on the opposite end of the island from Rabaul. The Marines landed unopposed; however, the Japanese soon arrived on the scene and fought with characteristic fervor. After one week of fighting, the Cape Gloucester airfield was in Marine hands.

It took almost four months of constant combat for the Marines to secure one third of New Britain. By then the Allied flank in New Guinea was secure for future operations towards the Philippines, and the campaign was a success. The remainder of New Britain was to be bypassed, and the Marines turned the island over to Army units on 25 April 1944.

The Marshalls

After the Gilbert Islands campaign, Major General Smith's V Amphibious Corps turned its attention to the Marshalls. Kwajalein atoll was the next target with D-day scheduled for 31 January 1944. The southern island, Kwajalein was an Army operation, while the next island of the atoll, Roi-Namur, was assigned to the newly-created 4th Marine Division. Within four days of the landing, there remained nothing left to do but mop up a few strays.

Another atoll, Eniwetok, became the next objective. The task of taking it was assigned to an Army regiment and the 22d Marines under the over-all command of Marine Brigadier General Thomas E. Watson. D-day was 17 February. The 22d Marines attacked Engebi, the only island possessing an airstrip, and secured it within one day. Eniwetok was attacked the next day by an Army regiment.

The Army regiment had found more Japanese than had been expected, and it was necessary on the afternoon of the first day to send in a Marine battalion as reinforcements. The Marines overran the most heavily-defended sector, and within two days this island was secure. The 22d Marines then landed on Parry, the last island of the atoll to be taken, and within another two days the entire Eniwetok atoll was in American hands.

With the capture of Kwajelein and Eniwetok, the capture of other islands in the Marshall Group was not too difficult. Numerous lightly-held atolls were seized while islands not essential for bases were bypassed and assigned to Marine air units for neutralization.

The Marianas

For the Marianas invasion, Lieutenant General Holland M. Smith's Expeditionary Troops consisted of the 2d, 3d, and 4th Marine Divisions, the 1st Marine Brigade formed from the 4th and 22d Marines, and two Army divisions. The total number of troops was over 136,000, the largest number yet to operate in the field under Marine command.

The III Amphibious Corps, commanded by Marine Major General Roy S. Geiger and composed of the 3d Marine Division, the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, and an Army division, was given the responsibility for seizing Guam. General Smith was to seize Saipan and Tinian with the V Amphibious Corps, which then consisted of the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions plus an Army division.

On the morning of 15 June 1944, with a curtain of naval gunfire falling on the beach and a swarm of supporting aircraft buzzing overhead, the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions hit the smoke-blanketed beaches of Saipan. To tear this island fortress from the grasp of the enemy required 25 days of bitter fighting. During the struggle 3,144 Americans were killed and nearly 11,000 wounded. However, against this were 24,000 known Japanese dead and 1,810 military prisoners.

Next on the Marianas schedule was the strategically important island of Guam, 200 square miles of rugged volcanic terrain fringed with coral. The plans were made, and the landing date was set for 21 July. Two simultaneous landings would be made. The 3d Marine Division (Major General Alan H. Turnage) would land to the north of Apra Harbor, and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade commanded by Brigadier General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., would land several miles to the south, below Orote Peninsula. The Army division was to be the floating reserve.

Thousands of tons of explosives were rained on Guam. Yet, in spite of all this bombardment, the Japanese defenders were still capable of massive resistance. The enemy was so well entrenched that five days of bitter fighting were required before 3d Division Marines were able to gain the high ground. In the south, after a bitterly fought D-day contest, General Shepherd's brigade won its foothold, and the Army division followed it ashore to take over the final beachhead line on 25 July.

Both elements of III Corps were heavily counterattacked on 26 July, and General Turnage's 3d Division counted over 3,500 enemy dead in the division sector; there was no count made of the hundreds in front of the Brigade or the Army division. The Japanese war machine on Guam had been smashed beyond repair, yet much bitter fighting still followed in cleaning up isolated resistance pockets.

Meanwhile, the Tinian campaign, which has often been referred to as a model shore-to-shore operation, had commenced. The landing on 24 July was preceeded by a feint towards the obvious beaches at Tinian Town, which were heavily mined and well defended. While all available defenders were anxiously awaiting the Americans at Tinian Town, the 4th Marine Division landed against comparatively light resistance at the northern beaches. The 2d Division followed and joined the fight.

Tinian was taken in just nine days. Not only was the struggle completed within minimum time and with relatively few Marine casualties, but the entire operation was conducted with striking efficiency. The artillery, naval gunfire, and aircraft units worked in close harmony with the assault troops. Support techniques were continually being refined.

The III Amphibious Corps on Guam had captured its military objectives. With the Marine and the Army divisions in the assault and the Marine Brigade mopping up the rear areas, this combined force had swept to the northern tip of the island. On the 21st day of the campaign the last Japanese units were driven over the northern cliffs. After three solid weeks of almost continuous fighting, Guam was announced as secured on 10 August 1944. It was gratifying to recapture former United States territory, but even more important, the securing of Guam completed the conquest of the Marianas.

The experience gained and the techniques perfected portended increased effectiveness of future amphibious operations. At Guam, for instance, a system was developed that allowed naval gunfire and air support to operate against the same target areas at the same time. This was accomplished by limiting the maximum ordinates of naval and shore-based gunfire and the minimum pull-out levels of supporting aircraft. The result was a devastating combination of flat trajectory and plunging fires.

In addition, aircraft carriers were assigned specifically for troop support. Later these carriers were to embark Marine aircraft squadrons to be used in the support of Marine divisions when the situation permitted. This marked a major step toward the full development of the Marine air-ground team.

Marines in Europe

Although the majority of Marines served in the Pacific during World War II, a few served in the European theater. Individual Marines were assigned special missions with "underground" units in Europe. Also, sea-going Marines serving with the Atlantic Fleet rendered support to the Normandy invasion. On 29 August 1944, during the fighting in southern France, Marines from two United States cruisers landed on three small islands near Marseilles, captured Nazi installations, and disarmed enemy troops.

Palau Islands

The 1st Marine Division, which took no part in the Marianas campaign, was scheduled to play a major role in the coming Pacific campaign. Just as at New Britain, it was again to be the Division's task to secure the right flank of General MacArthur's advance from the southwest Pacific. Allied forces had reached the western end of New Guinea, and the feeling persisted that before the reconquest of the Philippines could be accomplished, supply lines had to be shortened and the flank secured. The Palau Islands were the next logical step.

The island of Peleliu was the Marine target. Murderous antiboat fire took its deadly toll as the 1st Marine Division landed on the morning of 15 September 1944. "Fortress Peleliu" was an extremely formidable objective. Into the island's main ridge system the Japanese had developed possibly the most effective defenses in the Pacific.

Bypassing the suicidal resistance in the central ridge, the commanding general decided to secure the remainder of Peleliu and the adjoining island. The remaining enemy pocket could then be attacked by a concentrated effort. This was done, and by 20 October 1944 the remaining pocket of the enemy posed little threat to the occupation of the island. They could be allowed to "wither on the vine."

Shortly thereafter all Marines withdrew, and the command of the southern Palaus passed to Army control. Total casualties for the division during this campaign were 1,124 killed and 5,024 wounded in action against 10,695 enemy dead and 301 captured. The capture of Peleliu eliminated any future threat from that area to America's planned recapture of the Philippines.

Return to the Philippines

The campaign in the Philippine Islands was the responsibility of General MacArthur and primarily a United States Army action. However, Marines performed some very important services. Landings on Leyte began on 17 October 1944. The Army corps artillery unit was commanded by Marine Brigadier General Thomas E. Bourke and was composed of Marine and Army artillery battalions. During the landing and for a short period thereafter General Bourke coordinated all artillery, naval gunfire, and supporting aircraft in the entire Philippine battle area.

Of equal importance were the valuable services performed by the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. During the first month of the campaign the wing was still down in the Solomons flying missions against the Japanese in the Rabaul area, a task that had developed into little more than "kicking a corpse around." The pilots were anxious to enter aerial combat again and destroy the enemy. Their chance came during the last week of November, for General MacArthur requested Marine air to aid in accomplishing his mission, and the Wing displaced to Leyte where they gained wide acceptance for Marine Corps methods of close air support.

Iwo Jima

After the Philippine campaign was under way and its prognosis was promising, the Allies felt that it was time to take another step toward the homeland of Japan. Two islands of

critical importance stood between Allied territory and Japan, these islands would have to be taken -- Iwo Jima and Okinawa. In addition to moving American air power 600 miles closer to Japan, friendly fighters could escort our bombers over the target. By the same token, Japanese bomber attacks from those two islands against the Marianas would be prevented.

The V Amphibious Corps, comprising the 3d, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions, now commanded by Major General Harry Schmidt, received the assignment of taking Iwo Jima. General Schmidt proposed to land on 19 February 1944 over the southeastern beaches with two divisions in the attack and the 3d Marine Division in floating reserve. One regiment would take Mount Suribachi to the south and the rest of the two divisions would battle their way to the north. They expected to fight the toughest battle thus far in the Pacific. This expectation was fulfilled.

It was on the morning of D-plus four that Colonel Harry B. Liversedge's 28th Marines took Mount Suribachi. While a brief fire fight for possession of the summit was in progress, a group of Marines located a length of iron pipe. To this was attached a small American flag, and the Stars and Stripes were raised on Iwo Jima. Shortly after this a larger flag was obtained from a ship, and Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal took the inspiring picture that has been used as a symbol of Americanism and freedom throughout the world.

Early in the morning of D-plus three the veteran 3d Marine Division moved into line to relieve elements of the battered 4th. Casualties continued to mount as the campaign entered the fourth week, but by D-plus 25 the last pockets of resistance had been bottled up in the northwestern end of the island. On that date, 16 March 1945, the island was officially declared secure.

The savage struggle at Iwo had proven that, given control of the surrounding skies and seas, the amphibious forces of the U. S. Navy and Marine Corps could seize any objective, regardless of the power or the stubborn resistance of the defenders. Probably the most fitting tribute to the men who fought on Iwo was expressed by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz when he said, "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Okinawa--The Last Island

In contrast with other Pacific island campaigns, which were Marines' responsibility, the mission of seizing Okinawa was assigned to the United States Tenth Army, commanded by Lieutenant General Simon B. Buckner, Jr., USA. The assault forces consisted of the XXIV Corps (Army) and the III Amphibious

Corps, composed of the 1st and 6th Marine Divisions. The 2d Marine Division was kept afloat in Tenth Army reserve; however, it did make a landing feint on the southeastern beaches, on the opposite side of the island from the actual landing beaches. One regiment of the 2d Division, the 8th Marines, captured a couple of smaller islands and was then attached to and participated with the 1st Division for the last week of the fighting.

Early on the morning of 1 April 1945, leading waves of the assault troops stepped from landing crafts onto Okinawa soil. Unlike the hostile receptions on other beaches, there was no curtain of deadly fire. As the troops continued the advance inland they were met with minimum resistance. By the end of D-day the Marines had established a beachhead more than four miles wide and two miles deep. By 4 April they had traversed the island and reached the opposite coast.

Enemy resistance increased as the 6th Division moved into the northern portion of the island, and there were several intense fire fights. Within three weeks, however, organized resistance in the northern two-thirds of Okinawa had ceased.

By the end of the first week the soldiers of the XXIV Corps had run into the enemy's main battle position in the south, and his plan for the island defense became clear. He had concentrated the majority of his force in the rugged southern end of the island, leaving only harrassing and delaying forces in the north. By the end of April the 1st Marine Division entered the fight in the south. The 6th also moved south and the III Amphibious Corps fought side by side with the XXIV Corps. The battle for Okinawa had now joined in earnest.

On the 18th of June, as General Buckner was watching a Marine unit assault an objective, he was killed by enemy fire. The next senior troop commander, Marine Major General Roy Geiger, who was a naval aviator, assumed command of the Tenth Army, becoming the only Marine officer even to command an Army unit of this size.

Only three days later, on 21 June, the last pockets of Japanese resistance were eliminated, and General Geiger announced the end of organized resistance. The nightmare task that had lasted 82 days was ended. Mopping up operations began, and by the end of June the task had been accomplished.

Atomic Bomb and Surrender

While Okinawa and the Marianas were rapidly being developed into staging bases from which to attack Japan, the Nipponese refused an American demand for unconditional surrender. Then on 6 August over the city of Hiroshima the first atomic bomb to be used against mankind was detonated. Three days

later another atomic explosion destroyed Nagasaki, and Japan knew that she was beaten. On 14 August 1945 the Japanese emperor surrendered his country unconditionally to the Allies.

After the war came the task of disbanding this mighty American military machine. The peak Marine strength when hostilities ceased was 485,113, including six divisions, five aircraft wings, and the supporting establishment. The majority of these 37,664 officers and 447,449 enlisted men longed to return to their families. Demobilization proceeded rapidly.

ACTIVITIES FROM WORLD WAR II TO KOREA

Aftermath

As a symbolic gesture, the 4th Marines, the famous old regiment that had been captured at Corregidor, was the first to enter Japan--the first foreign troops ever to occupy Japanese soil! The V Amphibious Corps, consisting of the 2d and 5th Marine Divisions, also moved to Japan for the occupation. The III Amphibious Corps, consisting of the 1st and 6th Marine Divisions, moved to occupy the North China area. The 3d Marine Division occupied various Pacific islands, such as Truk and Chichi Jima, and the 4th Division returned to the United States for demobilization.

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing accompanied the ground elements to China for occupation duty, while the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing returned Stateside. The 3d, 4th, and 9th Wings were disbanded. Two aircraft groups, MAG-31 and -22, supported occupation forces in Japan.

In response to the pressure of public opinion, all the armed forces began to shrink at an alarming rate. All Marine units were removed from Japan by the end of 1946. Although the units in China were drastically reduced, some were retained until 1949. Between 31 August 1945 and 1 July 1946 the Corps was cut from its peak strength of 485,000 to 156,000. Within another year it was down to about 92,000 and continued to decline in numbers.

Return to Peacetime Activities

In the United States conditions had settled down to a peacetime pace. The Marine Corps strength had been reduced to approximately 80,000 by 1947, and once again it could boast of its volunteer status, temporarily abandoned during the war because of the Selective Service Law. Traditional ceremonies and customs, shelved during the turmoil of war, were revived; dress blues and swords again appeared, and veterans of World War II told recruits what it was like "in the old Corps."

The amphibious tactics developed by the Marines and Navy during the war had proved to be successful. With the advent of the atomic bomb it was necessary to refine tactics, technics, and equipment to adjust to this factor. All three came under careful study at the Landing Force Development Center at Quantico, and a special squadron was organized for the development and study of helicopter tactics. The development center explored every aspect of nuclear warfare to effect new organizational structures, develop new equipment, and refine doctrine preparatory for future emergencies.

National Security Act of 1947

In 1947 the organization of the armed services came under the close scrutiny of Congress. In an endeavor to clarify certain areas of overlap, the National Security Act, which spelled out the roles and missions of the various services, was passed.

This law specified that the Marine Corps should include land combat and service forces plus organic aviation units. "The Marine Corps shall be organized...to provide fleet marine forces of combined arms, together with supporting air components, for service with the fleet in the seizure or defense of advanced naval bases...." Also, Marines were to be responsible for development of amphibious techniques, provide for the protection of naval bases, and perform other services at the direction of the President. The act specified that aviation units were a component part of the Marine Corps, and the soundness of the Marine air-ground concept was recognized.

Women Marines

Like their sisters the female reservists who served their country and Corps in World War I, a new generation of Women Reserves appeared in World War II. Almost 23,500 women entered active duty, relieving as many males for assignment to combat. A few of these patriotic women remained in uniform after the war ended and were still serving in 1948 when the Women Marines became a permanent part of the Corps. A training camp was set up at Parris Island for enlisted women; and classes were conducted at Quantico for the training and indoctrination of women officers. While peacetime duties for the Women Marines were primarily clerical, the war had found many women assigned as aviation mechanics, truck drivers, and performing other tasks normally accomplished by males.

Ready for Trouble

The advent of 1948 saw Marines assigned to the United States Sixth Fleet operating in the Mediterranean area. Every four months a reinforced infantry battalion and one or two

fighter squadrons relieved similar Marine units on board ships of the fleet while on station along the European and African shores.

Fleet duties included vigorous amphibious training, practice landings on the beaches of friendly Allied Mediterranean countries, and the employment of air in furtherance of this state of readiness. Not the least and perhaps the most pleasant of their duties were the visits to North Africa, Spain, France, Italy, and Malta, where the Marines made many friends, served as ambassadors of good will, and were living examples of United States strength.

When the United States consul general in Jerusalem was killed by a sniper, his successor requested protection. Marines from the Sixth Fleet were immediately sent to his assistance. A few months later a detachment was sent to Haifa, Palestine, to protect a military observer group.

In 1949, Marines from the 1st Marine Division began cold weather training. Alaska and the snow-capped mountains of California became their training ground. This training, based on the realization that they would not always be fighting in the tropics as was the case in Pacific campaigns, added to the wealth of knowledge required for world wide employment.

Only a Few May Serve

As a result of continued cuts in appropriations, the strength of the Marine Corps in June of 1950 had dropped to just a shade under 75,000. Of this number approximately 28,000 were serving in the Fleet Marine Forces. Others served at naval bases, on ships, in supply and administrative billets, and at a variety of special assignments.

With combat units of the regular Marine Corps considerably understrength, it was absolutely necessary to rely on the Marine Corps Reserve to fill in the gaps in the event of war. Fortunately, there were 90,000 reservists available, the majority of them experienced veterans of World War II.

Although the Marine Corps possessed one well trained division and one aircraft wing on each coast, all units therein were considerably understrength. In fact, regiments were hardly more than understrength battalions. Service and support units were also reduced or eliminated. The Corps was little more than a skeleton of its former self, but as events were to prove later, it was still prepared to expand swiftly and to accomplish the assigned missions.

MARINES IN KOREA

The Brigade

On 25 June 1950, the Russian-trained North Korean People's Army (NKPA) attacked the Republic of Korea (ROK). The United Nations (UN) immediately branded the North Koreans as aggressors, and requested the United States to dispatch military assistance to the South Korean Republic. Within a month ROK and UN troops were holding only a small beachhead (about 90 by 60 miles) around the southeastern seaport of Pusan.

On 2 July 1950, Marine Commandant General Clifton B. Cates cabled the Far East Commander, General Douglas MacArthur, volunteering Marines for combat duty. MacArthur enthusiastically accepted this offer and persuaded the Joint Chiefs of Staff to concur. The 5th Marines and MAG-33 received the assignment, and on 7 July they became the major elements of the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade. One week later the Brigade sailed for Korea.

On 2 August the Marines arrived in Pusan. The Brigade commander, Brigadier General Edward A. Craig, had been given the temporary assignment of "plugging holes in the dike," reinforcing the defensive lines as weak spots opened up. While the ground troops were accomplishing this mission, MAG-33 had arrived in Japan, and by 3 August two fighter-bomber squadrons were flying close-air support missions from the decks of carriers. A night fighter squadron (VMF(N)-513) flew missions from Japan, and an observation squadron (VMO-6), with its helicopters and light planes, joined ground elements in Korea to provide direct support.

Within the Pusan perimeter the Marines became "trouble shooters" for hard pressed Army troops. On three separate occasions the Brigade counterattacked the enemy, stopped his attack, and eliminated the penetration. Several NKPA divisions were decimated. On 5 September the Brigade moved to Pusan in preparation for joining the 1st Marine Division, which had recently arrived in Japan.

In one month the Brigade had killed and wounded an estimated 10,000 Communists while fighting three arduous offensive operations, traveling some 300 miles in the process. The enemy had been thrown back some 8,000 to 10,000 yards. Now plans for a major amphibious assault on communist territory were formulated.

The Inchon Landing

As late as 20 July the Joint Chiefs of Staff had informed General MacArthur that a Marine division could not be sent before November or December, but incredibly swift action within the Marine Corps exceeded that expectation. A war strength 1st Marine Division (which absorbed the Brigade), commanded by Major General Oliver P. Smith, arrived off the coast of Korea by 14 September. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was on hand to provide air support. Thousands of reserves had been mobilized, and Marines from posts and stations all over the world had poured into these units.

Five days of continual pounding by air and naval gunfire preceeded the arrival of the assault troops at Inchon on the morning of 15 September. By the afternoon of D-plus-1, almost exactly 24 hours after beginning the assault, the force beachhead line was secured and the amphibious assault phase of the landing was complete.

By the afternoon of the 27th, Korean and United States flags had been raised in the capital city. The battle for Seoul was over.

The Marine infantry troops established blocking positions around the city. On the morning of the 29th, General MacArthur and American and Korean dignitaries gathered for a ceremony in a bombed building, and the Korean capital was returned to the control of civil government.

From 5 to 7 October the 1st Marine Division reembarked on board ships and prepared to move to the east coast, but even as they did they could look back with pride. Accounting for some 14,000 North Korean casualties and 6,500 POWs while paying the price of 400 killed and 2,000 wounded, the important morale uplift of liberating Seoul had been accomplished.

Over on the eastern littoral the ROK and Allied troops of the Eighth United States Army (EUSAK) had advanced rapidly northward after the Inchon landing and crossed the 38th parallel on 1 October. The drive to the north continued. By 25 October the Marines on board ship reached Wonsan harbor, made an administrative landing, and were ordered north. This campaign proved to be one of the most demanding in the entire history of the Corps.

The Chosin Reservoir Campaign

The United Nations Forces, of which the 1st Marine Division was a part, had spread all over North Korea. With the North Koreans seemingly beaten, the Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) entered the war.

In early November, after four days of fierce fighting, the 7th Marines became the first United States unit to defeat the Chinese Communists in battle. By 27 November other Allied units had received the full force of a CCF counterattack and retreated rapidly south of the 38th parallel. The 1st Marine Division was still attacking.

The following day a crack CCF army group was sent specifically to annihilate the 1st Marine Division. This was the main CCF effort in Northeast Korea: three divisions against two regiments of Marines. The 1st Marine Division was out on a limb, but it would never allow itself to be chopped off. On the 1st of December, General Smith ordered his troops to fight their way south. The Division would attack to the south as a fighting unit. Since the Marines were completely surrounded by Communist armies, press correspondents asked the commanding general if he intended to retreat. They quoted him as giving an immediate reply: "Retreat hell! We're just attacking in another direction."

On the afternoon of 4 December, 79 hours and 14 miles after starting the attack in the other direction, the last elements of the 5th and 7th Regiments reached the Division perimeter at Hagaru. While the two regiments plus the supporting troops were fighting their way down to Hagaru, the 1st Marines plus supporting and attached troops were fighting other CCF divisions from the south in an attempt to keep open the main supply route.

Within two days the men at Hagaru had moved south to Kotori, arriving on the afternoon of the 7th. And as usual, the invaluable close air support of Marine pilots continued to provide that overhead protection so necessary to defeat the numerically superior enemy. Continuing the attack to the south, the Marines moved on towards the harbor at Hungnam, where shipping awaited. There they boarded ship and moved into South Korea.

A Land Army

During the remaining two and a half years that followed the Chosin Reservoir fighting, the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing fought as a part of EUSAK, not as an amphibious force, but as part of a land army. The Marines were assigned missions similar to Army divisions, and aviation elements were placed under over-all control of the Air Force. There was no further need in Korea for amphibious troops as such, but certainly there was need for the Marines' proven combat ability and courage.

The Division's operations, as part of EUSAK, continued. After a brief rest from the strenuous Reservoir campaign, the Marines spent some time hunting down vanishing guerrillas.

In February 1951, the order came to attack to the north. By the 4th of April the Marines were among the first United Nations troops to recross the 38th parallel. The advance continued. Two weeks later the CCF started a gigantic counter-offensive. After heavy fighting and many casualties on both sides, the enemy was stopped. Once again the Marines attacked north.

Armistice Meetings

The fighting continued. Attack and counterattack. In June the lines were again north of the 38th parallel. The following month July 1951, an armistice appeared on the horizon. Communist and UN negotiators met to discuss armistice meetings. The truce talks continued periodically while the fighting intermittently grew cold and flared hot.

During this time both sides engaged in limited offensives across the entire front, mainly for the purpose of securing more territory either for bargaining purposes or for better defensive positions. Extensive trench systems were dug, and log and earthen bunkers were built. The war at times became static while awaiting the results of the drawn out truce negotiations. At other times the fighting reached ferocious intensity.

In March of 1952 the Marines moved from the eastern front to the western front in order to insure the security of the section of the Allied line near Panmunjom, the site of the truce talks. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing rendered outstanding service flying close support missions, for the Marine Division as well as for the other ground troops. Marine air support was constantly in demand by all front line units.

Cease Fire and Unload

Finally, after two years of frustrating and often fruitless meetings with the obdurate Communist negotiators, the armistice was signed and the fighting ended on 27 July 1953. Notwithstanding that the end was in sight and a truce was imminent, the opposing armies did not slack off. Some of the most fierce fighting in the war occurred during that month--the struggle for Outpost Berlin.

After the signing of the armistice the Marines were relieved of any further combat responsibility, but the Division remained in Korea until 1955, when it returned to Camp Pendleton, California. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing remained in the Far East, and a few Marines continued on duty in Korea as military advisors to various ROK units, but combat in Korea was finished.

A READY STRIKING FORCE

Specific Legislation

The low numerical strength of the Marine Corps at the beginning of the Korean War clearly emphasized to the American people the necessity of maintaining a ready striking force. It was found that the National Security Act of 1947, although it specifically outlined the roles and missions of the Marine Corps, was not specific as to strength. A revision was necessary.

An act of Congress in 1952 amended the previous act to rectify this situation. Public Law 416 provided in part that: "The United States Marine Corps...shall be so organized to include not less than three combat divisions and three air wings, and such other land combat, aviation, and other services as may be organic therein." It also provided that except in time of war the personnel strength shall be maintained at not more than 400,000. The missions, as specified by this law, remained the same, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps was authorized co-equal status within the Joint Chiefs of Staff during consideration of all matters directly concerning the Marine Corps.

An Active Fleet Marine Force

During June 1951, in anticipation of Congressional action to increase the strength of the Marine Corps, the 3d Marine Brigade was formed at Camp Pendleton. By January of 1952 the Brigade's units became the nucleus of the 3d Marine Division, which sailed to Japan at the end of the Korean War. The 3d Division was alerted for transfer to the Far East in July 1953 for the purpose of reinforcing the United Nations Command, but by the time of arrival, the armistice had been signed. With its supporting aircraft, the Division remained in Japan and conducted a vigorous training program, stressing amphibious operations and maintaining a constant state of preparedness for combat.

About the same time in 1955 that the 1st Division was redeployed from Korea to the United States, the 3d Division began moving to Okinawa. Prior to the move one of its regiments, the 4th Marines, was moved to Hawaii to become the major ground element of what is now named the 1st Marine Brigade. These redeployments of the Marine Corps' combat troops to strategic locations were made in order to fulfill the role of the nation's amphibious force in readiness.

While the 1st Division was engaged in the Korean fighting, the 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing at Cherry Point, North Carolina, were furnishing stand-by units for employment as needed. An

infantry battalion and air components remained on board ships of the powerful Sixth United States Fleet in the Mediterranean.

During August of 1953, when an earthquake struck the Ionian Isles of Greece, a battalion of Marines was ordered to assist in the relief activities. Support was furnished in April of 1954 by elements of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing to the embattled French troops fighting in Indo-China. Fighter aircraft were ferried from the carrier Saipan by the pilots of MAG-12. A maintenance crew remained ashore and instructed the French crews in repair and aircraft maintenance procedures.

While engaged in 2d Marine Division maneuvers in the Caribbean in July of 1954, a unit was ordered to stand by off Central America. United States nationals and American property were in danger when anti-Communist rebels seized control of the Guatemalan government amidst unrest and violence. The Marines were prepared to land security forces had it become necessary.

United States Marines again came to the aid of Chinese Nationalists in January 1955. The Communists forced Nationalists troops and civilians to abandon the Tachen Islands, and a shore party battalion of the 3d Marine Division based in Japan assisted U. S. Navy crews in the evacuation by ship. In all, 26,000 Chinese were evacuated from the islands to Formosa.

October of 1955 also proved to be a busy month for Marines. Aviation elements assisted in rescue work at flood-ravaged Tampico, Mexico, and flew in emergency supplies, water purification equipment, cooks, and engineers to the beleaguered Mexicans.

In October of 1956 the Mediterranean area again was the scene of crisis. Reinforcements were flown in to increase the garrison at Port Lyautey, Morocco, when fighting between French and Moroccans posed a threat to the security of the naval base. Marines also evacuated members of a United Nations truce team during the war between Israel and Egypt. At the same time the Marines of the Sixth Fleet established an evacuation center at Alexandria, through which over 1,500 persons were evacuated during the Anglo-French invasion of Egypt. Other battalions were also alerted for employment during this Suez crisis, but once the tensions were abated, the troops were diverted on a good will tour of the Far East.

The pattern of events requiring employment of Marines after the Korean War is familiar. Time and again they would hop from the Far East to the Middle East and to other troubled areas throughout the world, seldom interfering, yet always standing ready if needed. The 3d Marines and supporting aircraft, after completing an extensive amphibious landing exercise in the Philippines in December 1956, cruised the southeast Asia area. Taking up station 550 miles northeast of Sumatra,

they were ready for immediate employment during the Indonesian revolt of February 1957.

On station in the Philippine area on 26 December 1957, the aircraft carrier Princeton rushed to Ceylon as soon as word of a disasterous flood was received. Twenty Marine helicopters, originally slated for possible employment in Indonesia, immediately flew in to assist the flood victims, earning the gratitude of thousands of homeless Ceylonese.

Twice during the spring of 1958, South America beckoned to United States Marines. In January, during the overthrow of Dictator Perez Jimenez, mobs ran wild throughout Caracas, Venezuela, threatening the safety of Americans residing there. A provisional company of Marines boarded the USS Des Moines and cruised off the Venezuelan coast. The crisis finally subsided, and it was unnecessary for them to land.

When Vice President Nixon visited Caracas during a goodwill tour in May he became the target of rocks and missiles thrown by unruly elements. A Marine battalion was flown to the Caribbean, where it boarded the USS Boston and sailed to the Venezuelan shore. Once again, the Caracas governmental police quieted the rioters, and order was restored. It was unnecessary for the Marines to land, and they were flown back to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Although there was no attempt to hide the fact that Marine battalions were on board ships of the Sixth Fleet, their presence escaped the notice of most Americans until the summer of 1958. During July, the Mediterranean country of Lebanon made the headlines due to rebel-inspired internal troubles. The Lebanese president faced the threat of a coup d' etat against his pro-Western government, and he appealed to the United States for military assistance to protect his nation.

President Eisenhower received the Lebanese request on 14 July, and at the appointed time the next morning Marines landed on the beaches at Beirut. The landing was unopposed and peaceful, although the BLTs (battalion landing teams) which crossed the beaches were prepared for anything. The Marines occupied the area, the dissident elements subsided, and a few months later the Marines quietly departed.

The latter months of 1958 saw the arrival of Marine Aircraft Group 11 in Taiwan. The Chinese Nationalist Government had requested the United States to strengthen the Formosan air defenses, and MAG-11, with its experienced air combat unit, was sent to reinforce the air power of the Seventh Fleet, cruising in the China Sea. Meanwhile, BLTs were afloat with the various fleets, ready to meet any crises which might develop.

Conclusion

It has become readily apparent within the last decade, especially considering the advent of "push button" warfare, that the Marine Corps' policy of readiness for conventional warfare is sound. Operations in Korea and elsewhere established that fact. Furthermore, the Corps is fully prepared to deal with a nuclear war. Many conceivable problems that might arise in an atomic or nuclear war have been considered and studied, and Marine Corps planners, working closely with the Navy, have found workable solutions.

Basically, the Marine Corps has turned to helicopters and developed the doctrine known as vertical assault. This system provides for the seizing of vital objectives by helicopter-borne assault forces, surface attack forces, or any combination of the two.

The vertical envelopment was proven sound by the Marines' use of helicopters in Korea, and still later through amphibious maneuvers and field exercises. Realistic field training included vertical assault exercises at Desert Rock, Nevada, where actual nuclear explosions were used to clear a simulated landing zone of enemy.

Transport helicopters capable of carrying two dozen combat-equipped troops have been developed. New weapons and equipment capable of being air transported to any battle field have been tested and evaluated. Smaller, lighter, more powerful equipment has been emphasized for the advantage of the fighting man, and tactics to fit those weapons have been devised.

The Marine Corps of today (1961) is an amphibious force in readiness second to none. In order to meet the requirements of modern amphibious warfare, whether that conflict be limited or an all-out nuclear war, a highly versatile combat structure has evolved. The three combat divisions and three aircraft wings plus the various supporting units, which include tank, missile, and parachute reconnaissance units as well as service and support units, are in reality combined arms packages. They are task organized for any job which they may be called upon to do.

Our Fleet Marine Force units in close proximity to amphibious shipping stand as a constant reminder to potential enemies that Marines are ready and able to counter aggression in any quarter of the globe. Battalion landing teams (BLTs) are maintained afloat in potentially dangerous areas of the world. These and other Fleet Marine Force units are integral parts of the Navy's balanced fleets, and they enable our Navy to extend the long arm of seapower ashore.

Dedicated to the concept of power for peace, one of the major aims of the Marine Corps is to discourage aggression on the part of our country's enemies by having strategically-located, highly-specialized, landing forces readily deployed and capable of immediate employment. The deterrent potential of these forces extends to all areas which can be influenced from the seas. Should deterrence fail, the Marine Corps is prepared to carry the fight to the enemy. This mighty force in readiness is in keeping with the spirit of the Corps as epitomized in its motto, Semper Fidelis,--"Always Faithful."

COMMANDANTS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

	Name	Period	Initial Rank	Final Rank
1st	NICHOLAS, Samuel	1775-1781*	Captain	Major
2d	BURROWS, William Ward	1798-1804	Major	Lieutenant Colonel
3d	WHARTON, Franklin	1804-1818	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel
4th	GALE, Anthony	1819-1820	Lieutenant Colonel	Lieutenant Colonel
5th	HENDERSON, Archibald	1820-1859	Lieutenant Colonel (Brevet Rank:	Colonel Brigadier General)
6th	HARRIS, John	1859-1864	Colonel	Colonel
7th	ZEILIN, Jacob	1864-1876	Colonel	Brigadier General
8th	MC CAWLEY, Charles G.	1876-1891	Colonel	Colonel
9th	HEYWOOD, Charles	1891-1903	Colonel	Major General
10th	ELLIOTT, George F.	1903-1910	Brigadier General	Major General
11th	BIDDLE, William P.	1911-1914	Major General	Major General
12th	BARNETT, George	1914-1920	Major General	Major General
13th	LEJEUNE, John A.	1920-1929	Major General	Major General
14th	NEVILLF, Wendell C.	1929-1930	Major General	Major General
15th	FULLER, Ben H.	1930-1934	Major General	Major General

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16th	RUSSELL, John H.	1934-1936	Major General	Major General
17th	HOLCOMB, Thomas	1936-1943	Major General	Lieutenant General
18th	VANDEGRIFT, Alexander A.	1944-1947	Lieutenant General	General
19th	CATES, Clifton B.	1948-1951	General	General
20th	SHEPHERD, Lemuel C., Jr.	1952-1955	General	General
21st	PATE, Randolph McC.	1956-1959	General	General
22d	SHOUP, David M.	1960-	General	

(*) Because of a lack of funds and the feeling that a military establishment was unnecessary, Congress allowed the Continental Navy (and along with it, the Continental Marines) to pass out of existence shortly after the Revolutionary War. Although there are records of Marines serving aboard ships of the State navies, the Revenue Marine and the old Navy under the War Department between 1781 and 1798, there was no one acting in the capacity of Commandant until Major Burrows was appointed to that post by President John Adams on 12 July 1798.

Jane Blakeney. Heroes, U. S. Marine Corps, 1861-1955; Armed Forces Awards, Flags. Reference Book. Washington: Blakeney Publishers, 1957.

A compilation of information on personal and unit awards and decorations.

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A history of the Marine Corps in the Pacific campaigns of World War II written by the Public Information Officer of the 1st Marine Division at New Britain and Peleliu.

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Charles Lee Lewis. Famous American Marines; An Account of the Corps: The Exploits of Officers and Men on Land, by Air, and Sea, from the Decks of the Bonhomme Richard to the Summit of Mount Suribachi. Boston: L. C. Page and Company, 1950.

Short biographies of Samuel Nicholas, Daniel Carmick, Presley Neville O'Bannon, John Marshall Gamble, Archibald Henderson, Archibald H. Gillespie, Charles McCawley, Jacob Zeilin, Charles Heywood, Littleton W. T. Waller, John Twiggs Myers, Joseph Pendleton, Smedley Butler, Wendell Neville, John A. Lejeune, Alexander A. Vandegrift, Holland M. Smith, and Roy Stanley Geiger.

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A standard history of the Marine Corps from its organization to the threshold of World War II.

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Lynn Montross. The United States Marines; A Pictorial History. New York: Rinehart & Company, 1959.

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Fletcher Pratt. The Marines' War. New York: William Sloane Associates, Inc., 1948.

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Robert Sherrod. History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II. Washington: Combat Forces Press, 1952.

An unofficial history of Marine Corps aviation written for the personnel who served therein.

U. S. Marine Corps. Home of the Commandants, 801 "G" St., S.E. Washington, D. C. Washington: Leatherneck Association, 1956.

A history of the Commandant's quarters in Washington, D.C., and biographies of the Marine Commandants from Nicholas to Pate.

U. S. Marine Corps Headquarters, Historical Branch, G-3. History of U. S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II. Washington, 1958-

v. 1. Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal by Lieutenant Colonel Frank O. Hough, USMCR, Major Verle E. Ludwig, USMC, and Henry I. Shaw, Jr.

v. 2 - 5. (To be published).

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APPENDIX B