

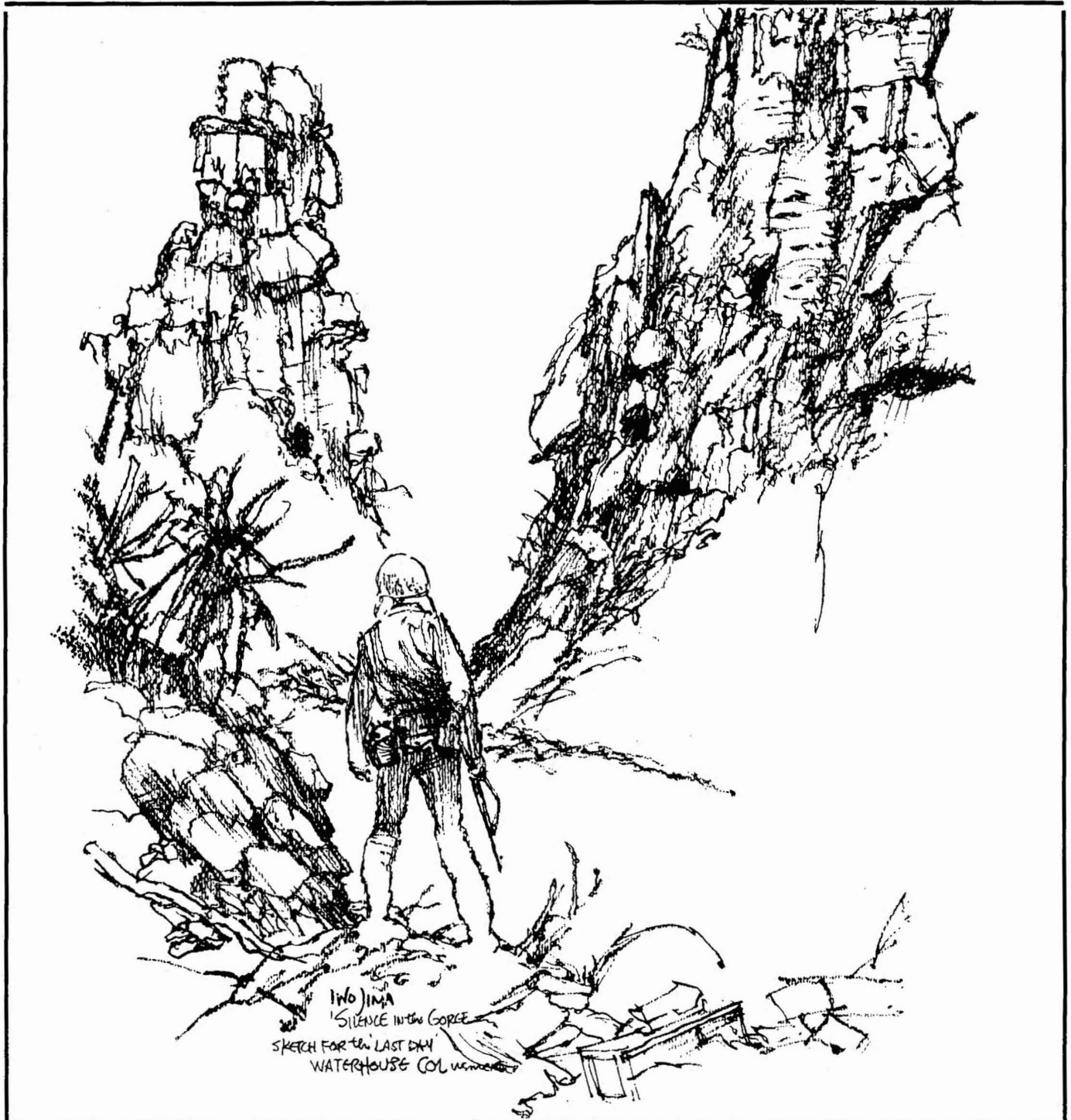
# FORTITUDINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

VOLUME XIV

WINTER 1984-1985

NUMBER 3



WILLIAM BROYLES' EVENTFUL RETURN TO VIETNAM . . . ARCHIBALD HENDERSON'S LONG FORGOTTEN BOAT CLOAK . . . THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IWO JIMA LANDING MEMORIALIZED BOTH HERE AND THERE . . . APPRECIATIONS OF GENERALS CUSHMAN AND WELLER . . . FLIGHT LINES: DOUGLAS SBD-5 DAUNTLESS

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# FORTITUDINE

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

Volume XIV

Winter 1984-1985

No. 3

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THE COVER

Col Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR, is artist-in-residence at the Marine Corps Historical Center. Of this sketch from his latest Iwo Jima sketchbook, made during a visit this year, he writes, "The word was passed: It was over at last. Unbelieving Marines ventured into the open, inviting fire. None came. Orders to police up the area of usable weapons, ammo, and equipment. Load some trucks and move out. My platoon leader, Lt Hammond, walks into the gorge for last-minute checks and looks. Trucks and Marines take off in cloud of dust, leaving a suddenly terrified Marine and his carbine surrounded by the ominous silence of countless black and threatening holes. A pause, then dash into the filtering dust and safety."

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# Director's Page

## Back to Vietnam



BGen Simmons

Some of us at the Marine Corps Historical Center had the rare opportunity on 11 December of hearing the performance of the U.S. armed forces in Vietnam critiqued from the other side. What we heard was not particularly flattering. The intermediary was William D. Broyles, Jr., who had just returned from a four-week solitary tour of Vietnam, North and South.

Bill had been my aide during the summer of 1970 when I was the assistant division commander of the 1st Marine Division. I had inherited him from my predecessor, BGen William F. Doehler, but I couldn't have chosen better. He had been a platoon leader for the first half of his Vietnam tour with 1st Battalion, 26th Marines, before coming to division headquarters on Hill 327 outside Da Nang. His academic background impressed me. After graduating from Rice in 1966 with a degree in history, Bill had gone to Oxford where he studied

politics, philosophy, and economics and received a second B.A. and an M.A.

He left me in the fall of 1970 to teach at the Naval Academy. I had hoped that this experience would turn him into a career officer, but somehow Annapolis didn't have quite the effect on him I had hoped it would. After teaching philosophy there for a year, he left active duty and returned to Texas. After working in the Houston public school system for a time, he became a founder, main-spring, and eventual editor-in-chief of the highly successful *Texas Monthly*. About two years ago he left Texas to become editor of *Newsweek*. We got in touch again at the time of the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial which we saw differently.

He is now free-lancing. He called me in late November to tell me he had been back to Vietnam and was writing an article (which will be the cover story of the

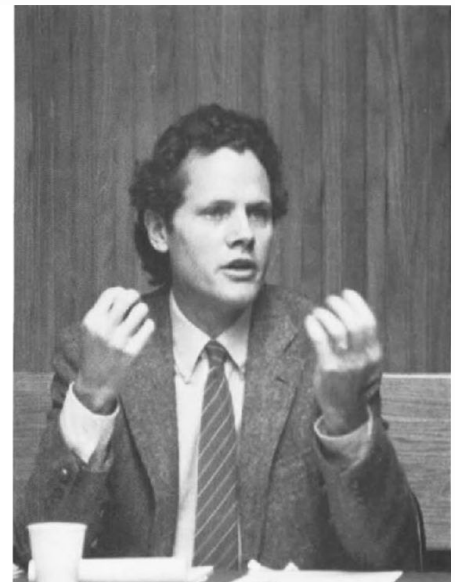
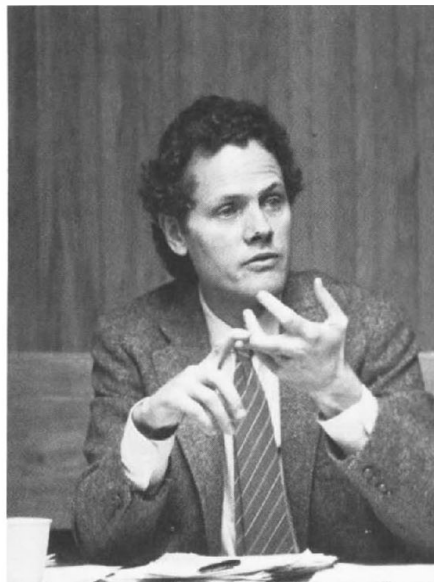
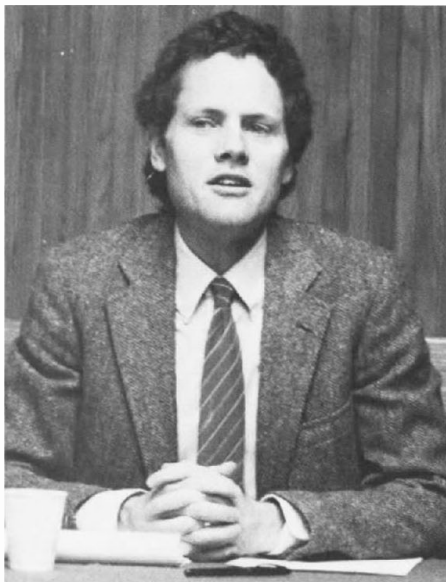
April issue) for *Atlantic Monthly*. He wanted to exchange views and I invited him down to the Center to talk not only with me but with our Vietnam history writers and one or two others. He came down from New York, as I said earlier, on 11 December and we gathered in the conference room to hear what he had to say.

He told us he had gone into Vietnam on 28 September and came out on 25 October. His two weeks in the North were spent mostly in and around Hanoi, with side trips to the Red River delta, to Nam Dinh, target of heavy bombing, and to Ha Tuyen, a mountainous province that borders China. The rest of the time was spent all over South Vietnam, driving from the DMZ to the delta and talking to a lot of people. Mostly he was accompanied by a single escort.

Two things impressed him most vividly.

*Former Newsweek editor William D. Broyles, Jr., left, is welcomed to the Historical Center by BGen Simmons*





The first was that once the Vietnamese people learned that he was an American, not a Russian, he was received with a surprising degree of warmth and even affection.

The second thing was that almost all signs of the war had been obliterated from the landscape, whether in the streets of Hanoi or in the countryside, North and South. He drove around Hanoi for an hour and a half looking in vain for evidence of the bombing, before visiting the famous Bach Mai hospital which was hit by mistake in the 1972 raids. The hospital has been completely rebuilt. The staff still displays pictures of Jane Fonda to visitors. One doctor had vivid stories to tell about the bombing:

We had to break through the rubble and uncover the entrances with our bare hands to get the wounded out. Power was out and the storeroom where we kept our anti-biotics and bandages was destroyed. It took almost two weeks to extricate all the dead and the smell of bodies filled the hospital. . . . But war is war. So we rebuilt the hospital but the shelter is still filled with rubble and water. After the Paris agreement, Kissinger came here and promised us three million dollars to rebuild the hospital, but we never got it.

Bill found that to the northerners the war in the South had been something far away; the air war was their

war. To them, the B-52 symbolizes America's technological superiority. The most popular exhibit in their military museum is the wreckage of a B-52 shot down by their MIG-21s.

"Kids in the military museum," said Bill, "were looking at the pieces of the downed B-52 like they were seeing a great mythological beast that had been slain."

In heavily bombed Nam Dinh, the People's Committee had kept careful records which they brought out in folders to read to the visiting American. They had divided the air war into two periods: the Lyndon B. Johnson period and the Richard M. Nixon period. A woman opened the file on the LBJ period and read:

During this period Nam Dinh, was bombed 189 times, including 82 night raids. Sixty percent of the houses were destroyed . . .

Flying south into Da Nang took him over some of the toughest areas of I Corps—Go Noi Island, the Que Sons, An Hoa, and the Arizona Territory—ground over which we had flown together so often in 1970, and now he saw only rice paddies, peaceful villages, little kids going to school, and boys on water buffalo. Close into Da Nang all the installations at Red Beach and Marble Mountain were gone. All that remained was red earth and, when he got to see the old sites more closely, an occasional bit of barbed wire.

He was struck by the incredible quiet

at the Da Nang airfield, once one of the busiest in the world and now down to about two flights a day. Where our helicopters and jets had wound up in a nearly unbearably noisy cacaphony, the hangars stood empty in near-absolute silence.

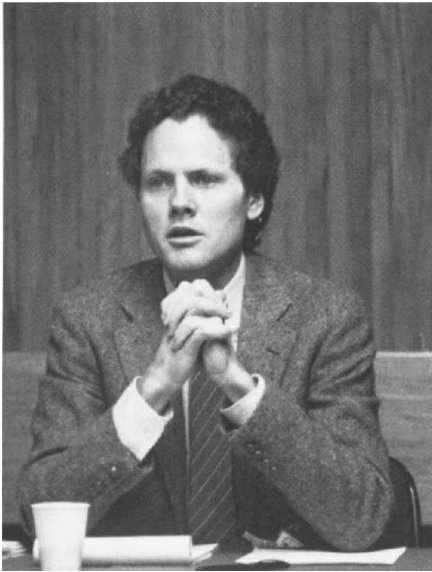
In Hanoi he asked General Man, editor of the *The Military Daily*, how the North Vietnamese had set out to fight the Americans at the beginning of the war. Man answered:

From the beginning we concluded that we could not defeat the American Army by military means alone. You were too strong. But we knew we had one great advantage. Our whole nation fought. We were united. You were not. That was your weakness and our goal was to attack that weakness however we could.

Man said that they regarded their forces as "seamless," from armed regular soldier down to unarmed peasant. In a paraphrase of Ho Chi Minh, he said:

Our regular forces compared to yours were small, but everyone could fight with whatever he had. If we had a gun, we'd take a gun; if we didn't have a gun, we took a sword; if we didn't have a sword, we took a knife; if it wasn't a knife, it was a stick. We took whatever we had and fought the aggressor. You were the aggressor. There were tens of thousands of American and





puppet troops there when we seldom had more than one regiment of the regular forces. Why couldn't you defeat us? Because we had tens of thousands of others—scouts, spies, political cadre.

He asked Bill how many troops the Americans would have needed to attack Da Nang airbase and destroy the aircraft there.

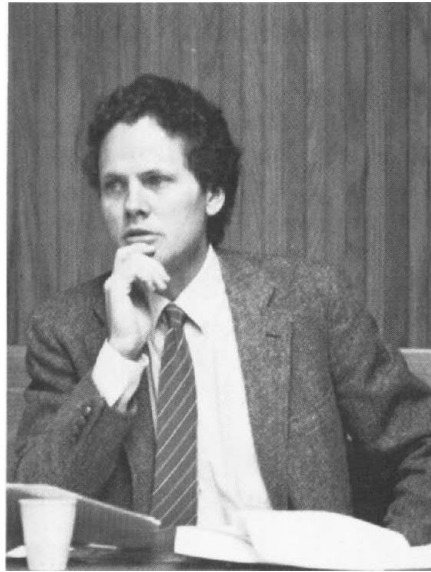
"The way you fought," said Man, answering his own question, "You would need several divisions. We did it with precisely 30 men. It was a new kind of war we invented, and it was possible only because we had the support of the people."

Bill next talked with Colonel Bui Tin, who had been at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, had gone down the Ho Chi Minh trail in 1963, and had received General "Big" Minh's surrender at the Presidential Palace in 1975. He told Bill that the Americans had shown three basic weaknesses:

- The first was our one-year rotation policy. No sooner did a soldier begin to learn the country than he was sent home.

- The second was our trying to win the hearts and minds of people while at the same time trying to kill them with bombs.

- The third was our choice of an ally. Ninety percent of the puppet government was corrupt; the re-

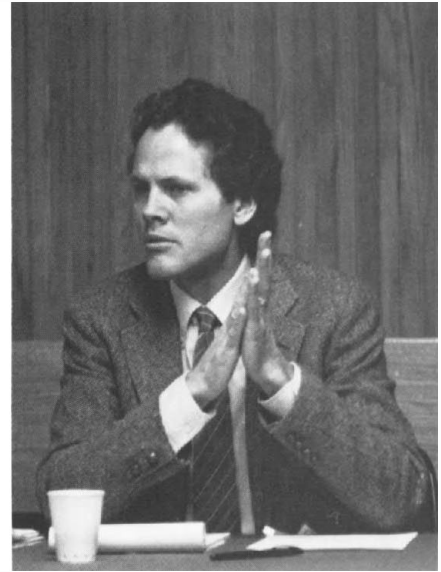


maining ten percent was not enough.

Bill also met with General Hoang, who is now the chief historian of the Vietnamese Army. During the U.S. Army's first big battle, Ia Drang (which the Vietnamese call Plei Me), Hoang had been aide-de-camp to the North Vietnamese commander (a different General Man). The U.S. Army viewed Ia Drang as a great victory, one that introduced a new type of air assault warfare that proved effective against NVA regular forces. How did the North Vietnamese view it? Hoang had this to say:

When you sent the 1st Cavalry to attack us at Plei Me, it gave us headaches trying to figure out what to do. General Man and I would stay awake in our shelter trying to figure out how to fight you. We were very close to the front and several times the American troops came very near us. With your helicopters you could strike deep into our rear without warning. That was very effective. We had to organize our rear to make it as prepared to fight as our frontline troops.

Aware that we considered Ia Drang a great success, the North Vietnamese watched our confidence in our firepower and helicopter mobility grow steadily into a fire support base mentality. They could count on our offensive operations never going beyond the artillery fan. General Hoang remembered with relish:



Our mobility was only our feet, so we had to lure your troops into areas where their helicopters and artillery would be of no use. And we tried to turn those advantages [against you] to make you so dependent on them that you would never develop the ability to meet us on our own terms, on foot, lightly armed, in the jungle. You seldom knew where we were, and you seldom had a clear goal for your operations. So your great advantages ended up being wasted and you spent so much of your firepower on empty jungle.

Or as Bui Tin put it:

We learned to build special shelters; how to decoy artillery and airplanes; how to tie you to your fire bases and your helicopters, so that they worked against you. We were at home in the jungle and you wanted only to get back to your bases to shower and get a letter from home.

Another general with whom Bill talked was General Tuan who had commanded the 2d Viet Cong Division, a frequent adversary of the Marines. In addition to staying outside our artillery fan, said Tuan, the NVA and VC could also neutralize our great advantage in firepower by fighting at very close ranges, a tactic they called "grabbing them by the belt" and which he illustrated by grabbing Bill by the belt. [It



*Peter Braestrup, editor of the Woodrow Wilson Quarterly, was among the group of 14 expert questioners at the interview.*

is a tactic that every Marine who was ever caught in a baited helicopter landing zone will remember.] Tuan also said:

By the fall of 1967 . . . we concluded that you'd done your best, but that you'd still not reversed the balance of force on the battlefield. The strategic position had not changed. So we decided to carry out one decisive battle, to force the issue.

What followed, of course, was the 1968 Tet offensive of which the attack against Khe Sanh formed a part. Was Khe Sanh a main objective or a diversion? It is a question we have long debated. General Man had this to say:

Westmoreland thought Khe Sanh was Dien Bien Phu. Dien Bien Phu was a strategic battle for us. We mobilized everything for it. We at last had a chance to have a favorable balance of forces against the French. We never had that at Khe Sanh. The situation would not allow it. We wanted to bring your forces away from the cities to decoy them to the frontier [to enable us] to prepare for our great Tet offensive.

Of the Tet offensive, Man said:

We mounted the offensive to

show that you could not defeat us as you had planned. Of course, we suffered great losses, but the losses were acceptable to the success.

Bui Tin also shrugged off their losses:

We had hundreds of thousands killed. We would have sacrificed one to two million more, if necessary.

Bill asked a number of persons to identify the worst period of the war. General Tuan's answer was particularly striking:

After Tet 1968, the early years of Vietnamization—particularly 1969 and 1970—were very difficult for us. The fighting was very fierce. We were often hungry. I was a division commander [2d Viet Cong Division] and I went hungry for days. We had no rice to eat. It was very, very bad. We realized that we had to hang on during this terrible period until the expected reaction in America took its course, and American troops were pulled out. Then our final victory was assured, even though it might be years in coming.

Most of Bill's questions concerning MIAs and POWs were shrugged off. The matter of recovering the remains of American servicemen did, however, gain him an interesting comment from a Vietnamese official:

Look, put yourself in our place. You've been to all these cemeteries. Every village has a cemetery. Now, we lost hundreds of thousands of men in the war. But all of our fighters are buried in the South, away from their home villages. They are not in those graves in their village cemeteries. We don't know where the graves of half of them are. How can we go out and tell our people to find the bodies of Americans when they can't find the bodies of their own sons and fathers? How can we tell them that it's more important to look for Americans?

The last word should probably go to General Tuan:

We did not have to beat you the way the Allies beat the Nazis. Our goal was only for you to withdraw so we could settle our affairs. That was our goal and we achieved it.

### Persons Attending the William Broyles Discussion

BGen Edwin H. Simmons, Director of Marine Corps History and Museums  
Col John G. Miller, Deputy Director for Marine Corps History  
Mr. Henry I. Shaw, Jr., Chief Historian  
Mr. Benis M. Frank, Head, Oral History Section  
Mr. Jack Shulimson, Senior Vietnam Historian  
LtCol Wayne A. Babb, Vietnam Historical Writer  
Maj Frank M. Batha, Vietnam Aviation Historical Writer  
Maj George R. Dunham, Vietnam Historical Writer  
Dr. V. Keith Fleming, Vietnam Historian  
Mr. Charles R. Smith, Vietnam Historian

Dr. Jeffrey J. Clarke, Vietnam Historian, U.S. Army Center of Military History  
Dr. Wayne W. Thompson, Vietnam Historian, Office of Air Force History  
Mr. Bernard F. Cavalcante, Reference Specialist, Naval Historical Center  
Mr. Peter Braestrup, Editor, *Woodrow Wilson Quarterly*

Copies of the full transcript of the discussion with Mr. William D. Broyles, as transcribed and edited by Col John G. Miller, are available on request.

# Readers Always Write

## NO 1,000-POUNDERS ON F4Fs

Your page on the F4F-4 [Fortitudine, Fall 1984] brought back memories. . . . My acquaintance with these airplanes began in 1945 at NATTC, Norman, Oklahoma (the AMM School, Class "A"), where we had both FM-1s and FM-2s as learning aids. From the students' point of view, these were chiefly memorable for the miserable Breeze cartridge starter, a diabolical device of which the blow-out disc (the safety feature) had to be disabled . . . in order for the gas pressure to be retained sufficiently to turn the engine over on a cold morning . . . which is to say, to make it work you had to make it unsafe. To unload a hangfire was to bet your hand (as a number of one-armed sailors could confirm).

Under "Technical Data" . . . the figure for rate-of-climb looks like a calculation from a "Time-to-Climb" table (like 6 minutes to 10,000 ft), which for a loaded F4F-4 (especially with those bloody-awful tanks) is probably about right. . . . My only quibble here is that initial climb rate is not the same as altitude divided by time-to-climb. . . .

My BIG question-mark, though, is reserved for those "Two 1000-lb bombs" . . . . The little-bitty rack was sized for a 60-gallon drop-tank and was (as I recall) limited to 400 lbs suspended. I never mounted the tanks, but I did leave the racks on because they were useful for dispensing such goodies as life-rafts. . . . But 1000 lbs? No way!

John M. Verdi  
Colonel, USMCR (Ret)  
Northport, Alabama

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Col Verdi is right on both counts. We did not wish to use an initial rate of climb for our data, therefore the F4F-4's rate of climb was determined from calculations using the aircraft's time to climb from sea level to 20,000 feet at normal power. The armaments load should have shown two 100-pound vice two 1,000-pound bombs.*

## FROM A VALUED READER

It has been a source of great pleasure to thumb through [Fortitudine] and read many of the articles and comments which stirred memories of my long association with our distinguished Marines.

The issue just received telling of ships named for some of our Medal of Honor Marines [Fall 1984] is priceless to me.

Mrs. Arthur Blakeney  
Washington, D.C.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer, Jane Blakeney, was for more than 30 years a staff member and head of the Decorations and Medals Branch at Headquarters Marine Corps. Mrs. Blakeney is the author of Heroes of the U.S. Marine Corps, 1861-1955, an authoritative reference work published in 1957 from notes and files compiled since 1924, and one which is still in daily use at the Historical Center.*

## 1ST DIV VETS' VIEWS ASKED

As some of your readers know, my first book, *Battle for Hue: Tet 1968* (Presidio Press, 1983), was based on interviews with 35 Vietnam veterans. For my second book, I had the opportunity to interview 90 Viet vets . . . I'm presently starting a third proposed book on Vietnam. I hope to chronicle the activities of the 1st Marine Division and Americal Division in the Arizona Valley-Que Son Mountains-Hiep Duc Valley area, from 7 June-7 September 1969. . . . Units involved included . . . 1/5, 2/5, 1/7, and 2/7; 1st Reconnaissance Battalion; 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. . . .

I would greatly appreciate hearing from any vets of these operations as soon as possible, so we can arrange an interview . . . . Call or write: Keith William Nolan, 220 Kingsville Court, Webster Groves, Missouri 63119; (314) 961-7577.

Keith William Nolan  
Webster Groves, Missouri

## Recent Books of Historical Interest

Some recent books of professional interest to Marines, available from local bookstores and libraries, have been added to the library of the Marine Corps Historical Center. Among them are:

Bantam War Books Series. Reprints and reissues in paperback of selected volumes covering World War II. A new title is published every month with approximately 24 titles in print at any one time. Titles thus far in the series include Robert Sherrod's *Tawara*, D.A. Burgett's *As Eagles Screamed*, and C.A. Lockwood's *Sink 'Em All*. Many titles are printed in specially illustrated editions. Most titles \$2.95 to \$3.95.

*The Banana Wars; An Inner History of American Empire, 1900-1934*. Lester D. Langley. University Press of Kentucky.

251 pp., 1983. This work covers American diplomatic and military involvement in the Caribbean from 1898 until 1934, when the last Marines left Haiti. \$26.00

*June 1944*. H. P. Willmott. Blandford Press. 224 pp., 1984. The author has provided a record and interpretation of the war in Europe and the Far East during the course of a single month. *June 1944* sets the events in context providing both an account and an analysis of events in relation to the political decisions that preceded them and the repercussions that followed them. The book has three parts: first, the northwest Europe and Mediterranean theaters; second, events on the Eastern front; third, the Asian mainland and the western Pacific. In his

analysis, the author states that the importance of this month lies in the fact that its combined events ushered in the final phase of World War II. Also he believes the month was witness to a new international system based on the realities of Soviet and American power. \$16.95.

*The Glory of the Solomons*. Edwin P. Hoyt. Stein and Day. 348 pp., 1983. The story of the World War II South Pacific campaign for the Solomon Islands including New Georgia, Kula Gulf, Vella Lavella, Bougainville, New Britain, the Green Islands, and the Battle of Bismarck Sea. This was written by the author of *Guadalcanal*; *The Battle of Leyte Gulf*; *Blue Skies and Blood: the Battle of Coral Sea*. \$19.95

# Acquisitions

**P**residential inaugurations are affairs planned with the meticulous detail of military operations. One aspect that cannot be preplanned, as recently seen, is that of Inauguration Day weather.

Such was the case with the Inauguration of President William Henry Harrison, the ninth President of the United States. Inauguration Day, 4 March 1841, was cold and windswept. The President, delivering his inaugural address without benefit of a hat, developed a cold. In the first frantic weeks of his administration, the cold would develop into pneumonia, leading to his untimely death within a month.

After a ceremony held in the East Room of the White House the lead-lined coffin was held in Washington awaiting the return of spring in order that the body could be removed to its final resting place. This would be at North

Bend, Ohio, at the Harrison family home.

**I**n preparation of moving the deceased, Secretary of the Navy George E. Badger ordered Col Cmdt Archibald Henderson to "detail a guard of men to be placed in charge of a commissioned officer of Marines for the purpose of accompanying the remains of the late President to the City of Cincinnati. . . ." Henderson responded the next day, 26 June 1841, ". . . Being personally acquainted with some of the committee, and under the supposition that an officer of respectable grade and age would be appropriate for the duty, I have thought it advisable to proceed myself to this service."

Thus, Col Cmdt Henderson, leading a detail of eight enlisted Marines, began the journey to Cincinnati, and on to North Bend for the interment. The funeral services took place on Wednesday, 7 July of that year.

Near Williamstown, Virginia (now West Virginia), lived the brother and

nephew of Col Cmdt Henderson. Family legend has it that he visited these homes only once. The only trip that far west that Henderson is known to have taken was as commander of the funeral escort. It is thus surmised that some objects which were owned by Henderson now in possession of the descendants, were left there during this historic journey.

**T**he present family home, called Henderson Hall, proudly maintained a blue boat cloak and a sea chest of the Marine Corps' fifth commandant. During a recent visit to the original, two-story brick home, Curator Richard Long was given the blue boat cloak as a permanent donation to the collection of the Marine Corps Museum.

The cloak is made of a finely woven blue cloth, with a standing collar, shoulder-length cape, and a lining of heavy green wool. The Museum's curatorial staff, in consultation with clothing historians from around the country, have identified the garment as

*The 19th century boat cloak donated to the Museum is in good shape considering its age, and professional conservation work is scheduled to stabilize its condition. Both the blue cloth body*

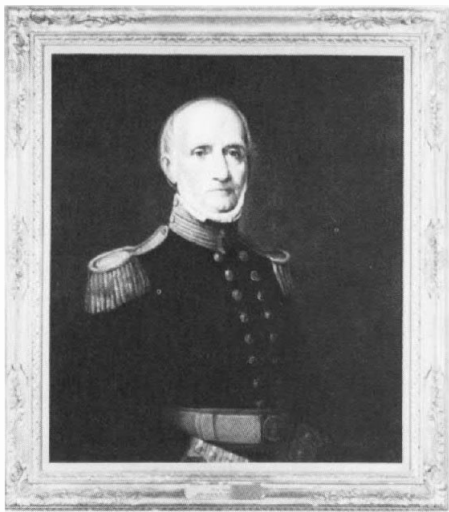
*of the cloak and its heavy green wool lining have faded from chemical reactions of the dyes used. The standing collar and shoulder-length cape were features of garments of the period.*





being completely original, and dating from approximately 1825 to 1850. Fashioned as outerwear, this boat cloak may be the earliest known example of this type of clothing surviving. Of interest to clothing historians is the possibility that the cloth may have been treated with a waterproofing agent to shed water. Chemical analysis is scheduled to

*Official portrait of Col Cmdt Archibald Henderson: it was over a uniform of this pattern that he probably wore the cloak.*



to discover the nature of this unknown treatment.

Unfortunately, the cloak is in an advanced state of deterioration. Mildew has created a number of holes throughout. The lining material, now a pale green in color, is thought originally to have been a different color, now undistinguishable. Studies have shown that nineteenth century dyestuffs fade at a very even rate, even in the absence of sunlight. It is hoped that chemical analysis also may provide a key to the original color.

The cloak is scheduled to undergo professional conservation treatment through a cooperative agreement with the laboratories of the Smithsonian Institution. This work will stabilize the condition, aid in the prevention of further destruction, and prepare this unique garment for exhibition.

Gifts of such historically important objects give rise to a great deal of preliminary conjecture and to the subsequent corroboration of some of it. Perhaps worn at the Inauguration or funeral, most certainly worn on the parade deck of Eighth and Eye, the boat



*Henderson Hall in West Virginia, where the cloak was located, is the family home of the Fifth Commandant's descendants.*

cloak provided Col Cmdt Henderson protection from the elements. Surviving through the years, it remains as a key to the style, fashion, and personal history of a legendary Marine.

The Marine Corps Museum is grateful for this significant donation from Mrs. Jean Brady and her son, Mr. Michael Rolsten, collateral descendants of Archibald Henderson. —JMcG

During fall 1984, Special Projects Curator Richard A. Long traveled to West Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky, returning with artifacts for the Museum associated with two historic Marines, Presley N. O'Bannon and Archibald Henderson.

In September, he attended the annual meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in Louisville, Kentucky, also taking the opportunity to continue research on the Marine Corps career and private life of Presley Neville O'Bannon and his collateral descendants in Kentucky state and local repositories and with private individuals.

On 16 September he acquired for the collection a unique, gold-encased original watercolor on ivory miniature portrait of O'Bannon. Shortly thereafter, he discovered a cane which O'Bannon reportedly brought back from

Tripoli in 1805, and negotiations continue for its donation.

Enroute to Kentucky, he visited a historic home, Henderson Hall near Williamstown, West Virginia, to meet with Mrs. Jean Brady and Mr. Michael Rolsten, collateral descendants of Col Cmdt Archibald Henderson. Mr. Long has maintained contact with his hosts for more than 20 years, and was pleased to receive from them a boat cloak thought to belong to the Corps' Fifth Commandant.

Returning by way of North Carolina, he visited Miss Elizabeth Sanders of Smithfield, a descendant of Henry Bulls Watson, a Marine officer from 1836 to 1855. Miss Sanders loaned the Museum for transcription journals kept by Watson prior to the Mexican War and while on board the USS *Portsmouth* off California from 1846 to 1848. —RAL



*Mr. Long and donor Mrs. Stuart Gay Berryman, whose late husband was a descendant of Presley N. O'Bannon, whose miniature portrait she holds.*

# Center Aids Observances of Iwo Jima 40th Anniversary

by Col Brooke Nihart

The 19th of February 1945 was a long time ago. Young Marines then are mostly in their 60s today, some enjoying well earned retirement, others with Marine-like tenacity are still slaying their daily dragons and tilting at their daily windmills. The 19th of February 1985 marked the 40th anniversary of those young Marines' landing on Iwo Jima. Some unreflective journalists have asked why observe the 40th anniversary of anything? Because the good, round, 50th, Golden Anniversary, 10 years hence, will see only about half of today's number still with us, that's why.

As for Iwo, it was to be the penultimate amphibious operation of World War II, the largest Marine landing, thus the largest Marine participation in any landing; and it was to be the toughest nut to crack of World War II, any theater. Over 6,000 Marines were to die, over 18,000 to be wounded. Of the 21,000 Japanese defenders few were to survive.

The campaign was a classic of over-the-ocean application of amphibious power. The preparation fires and close support were delivered by seabased air and naval gunfire. The troops, their tanks, artillery, heavy equipment, and supplies were transported 3,500 miles

*Col Waterhouse drew himself as a young Marine for the Iwo Jima ceremonies.*



from the Hawaiian Islands, almost 1,000 from Guam.

Observance of an anniversary of this importance and with events ranging from Washington to Japan requires preparation. As might be expected the History and Museums Division was in the midst of both preparations and observances.

An avalanche of requests for information began to arrive at the Reference Section during January and February. Dozens of media requests were received from organizations such as CBS News, *Life Magazine*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *US Magazine*, and many other local newspapers and radio and television stations. Information was requested and provided to several Congressional offices, the Commandant's office, and Marine Barracks, Washington, as they prepared for the 40th anniversary ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. Reference Section also provided the U.S. Coast Guard station on Iwo Jima with reference material to assist them with preparations for hosting the return to Iwo Jima of hundreds of Marine veterans of the campaign.

Of course, many of the veterans of the Iwo Jima battle wrote to us. Some simply wanted a concise account of the battle along with strength and casualty figures. Others requested the names of fellow Marines alongside whom they fought, or the name of a wounded buddy who they were unsure had survived the battle. Some of the families of Marines who fought on Iwo Jima asked about the battle and its significance in relation to the overall war picture; a few asked for more information on the death of a loved one.

Received more than any other single question, however, were queries about the flag raisings on Iwo Jima. Many requestors wanted to know about the flag raisers, particularly those depicted in the famous photo of the second flag raising by Joe Rosenthal. Some of the most common misconceptions surrounding the flag raising included the belief that all of the flag raisers were Marines (one was a Navy Corpsman); that all received a Medal of Honor (none did); that the flag raising marked the end of the battle (it

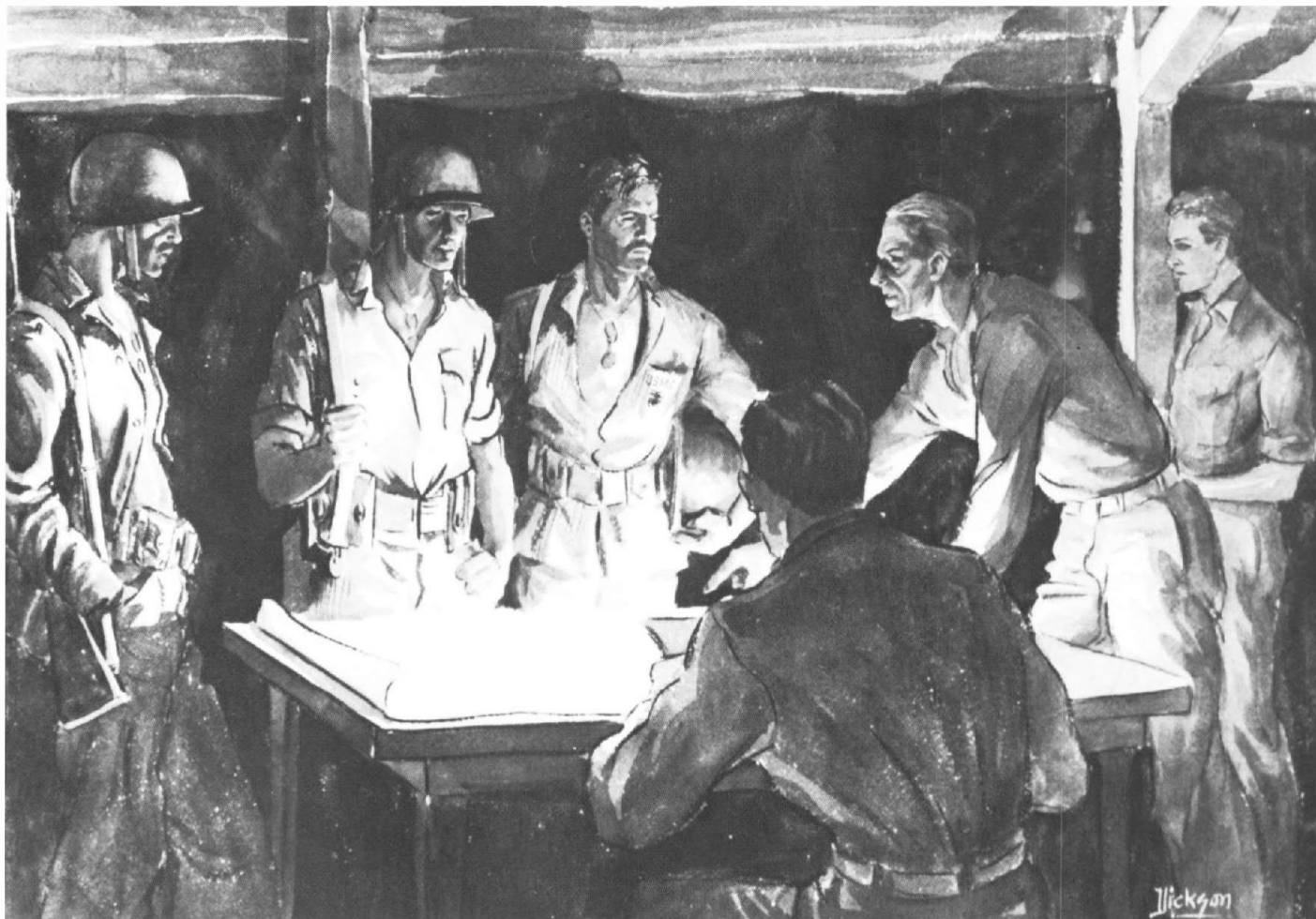
occurred early in the battle); that there was only one flag raising on Suribachi (there were two); and that the Rosenthal photo was posed (it was not).

Washington was the scene of the most extensive observance as 400 Marine veterans of the battle rendezvoused on 18 February, D-minus one 40 years ago. The 28th Marines, which took Suribachi, was the unit best represented of the 3d, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions and their nine infantry regiments. The first event was a memorial service at the Washington Cathedral. "We all enjoy this free land today through the blood, the sweat, the pain, the tears and, yes, even the death of those who fought for freedom," said Navy chaplain Captain Charles L. Keyser in opening the service.

A visit to the Marine Corps Museum came next, where are enshrined the two flags flown atop Mount Suribachi and other memorabilia of the battle. The group was led by Marine Corps Historical Foundation President LtGen Donn J. Robertson, commander of 3d Battalion, 28th Marines, during the battle, and Foundation Director MajGen Fred E. Haynes, a member of the 28th Marines staff at the time. One of the organizing committee for the events was Foundation member Col John A. Daskalakis, a member of Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines. The Iwo Jima veterans almost bought out the Museum Store and did purchase all the neckties in stock bearing the flag-raising emblem.

That evening the veterans dined at the Mayflower Hotel with the Commandant, Gen Paul X. Kelley, the guest of honor. The next day, the 19th, D-Day 40 years ago, the group laid a wreath at the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima flag-raising statue) in Arlington and later 325 veterans (all who could produce identification with a photograph and a social security number) visited the White House and met with President Reagan. The President remarked to them that, "Today Iwo Jima is remembered with other names like Saratoga, the Alamo, and Gettysburg."

The Museums Branch teamed with the art collections of the Navy, Army, and Coast Guard to present a 70-piece com-



*In the small hours of the morning, Guadalcanal Marines receive "Final Instructions" before moving out on a 1943 jungle patrol. The work by Donald L. Dickson in "The Island War," was "lost" art, eventually contributed to the Museum.*

bat art exhibition in the Rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building on Capitol Hill. Titled, "The Island War: Marines in the Pacific," the show opened 19 February, when it was viewed by the Congressional Marines Breakfast—a group of former Marines working on The Hill from Senators to Capitol Police, plus Marines and former Marines involved in legislative affairs—in the morning and in the evening by guests at a reception to open the exhibition given by the District of Columbia Council of the Navy League under the chairmanship of retired Marine Col Michael J. Hutter. While the exhibition honored the memory of Iwo Jima, it was discovered that there was too little art done of that battle to mount a full-scale show. The concept was expanded to cover Marine participation in the entire Pacific War from Guadalcanal to Okinawa. Twelve Marine combat artists were represented, plus one Army, eight Navy, and three Coast Guard artists.

The farthest afield History and Museums Division involvement in the Iwo 40th anniversary was the revisiting of

*Shown is a portion of the "Island War" art show in the rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building. In the center of the rotunda the small model of the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima flag raising statue) was displayed. The Congressional Marines' breakfast and the reception were held in the gallery above the rotunda.*







*Chamorros children greet U.S. Marines following the 1944 battle for Guam in one of the artworks by J. R. McDermott on display at the Cannon House Office Building.*

Iwo Jima by artist-in-residence Col Charles Waterhouse to participate in the 19 February activities there. He had landed there with the 28th Marines and was wounded and evacuated on D + 2. Waterhouse had arranged a personal visit to Iwo on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the landing and spent several days there living at the U.S. Coast Guard LORAN station by night and exploring and sketching by day. The 40th anniversary was to draw a large party of Marine veterans to Iwo as well as some Japanese survivors. Having resolved to return for the 40th anniversary, Waterhouse thumbed his way across the United States and the Pacific "space available." He had a seat on the occasional Coast Guard flight from Yokuta to Iwo arranged through the good offices of HQ FMFPac. He arrived a few days before the crowd and again went exploring, sketching, and photographing. Another series of paintings are expected to result. He found a detachment of Marines sent up from Okinawa to care for the visitors and conducted them on tours of nearby key battle points.

On the morning of the 19th the Coast Guard and Japanese Defense Forces conducted a joint flag raising on Suribachi. The 225 Marine veterans and about 100 Japanese arrived later in the

day by C-130 from Japan. Col Waterhouse's own story of his trip, together with some of his paintings, will be the subject of a future *Fortitudine* article.

So ended the 40th anniversary of the Iwo Jima landing observances. But activities of this sort will continue at the Historical Center. The high level of interest in the World War II period will continue through the remainder of this year as the Okinawa anniversary is observed and we approach the 40th anniversary of the 14 August V-J Day and the 2 September 1945 Japanese surrender aboard the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. Already the Reference Section has assisted Marine units on Okinawa in identifying the sites of some of the major actions on that island, and has been responding to Marines planning a return to Okinawa later this spring. The Museums Branch had sent a flag raised on Okinawa to Camp Butler for use in its 1 April D-Day 40th anniversary. The Museum is already preparing a major retrospective exhibit on World War II. It will make use of exhibits prepared for the Headquarters Marine Corps lobby over the past four years observing the 40th anniversaries of campaigns starting with the occupation of Iceland. The exhibition will be open during the summer season probably with a special observance on VJ-Day.

*In the anniversary art show's "Infantry and Tanks," J. R. McDermott describes tanks leapfrogging rifle elements to fire on a final objective in the Pacific war in 1944.*





## Gen Robert Cushman, 25th Commandant, Succumbs at Age 70

Retired Gen Robert E. Cushman, Jr., 25th Commandant of the Marine Corps, suffered a fatal heart attack at his home in Fort Washington, Maryland, on 2 January, nine days after his 70th birthday. A native of St. Paul, Minnesota, Gen Cushman graduated 10th in his class of 442 from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1935. He was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant at the age of 20.

In a recent interview, he gave the reasons he opted for a Marine Corps career. One was that he thought he would rather be a Marine than a sailor, for he had read the *Landing Party Manual* assiduously and "I just felt I'd be happier and able to do better the technical things that you had to do to be a Marine officer than you did to be a naval officer." A second reason for becoming a Marine was that while at the Naval Academy, he had overstayed his leave in town one night. He was climbing over the barbed-wire-topped wall behind the Academy chapel when the Marine guard on duty separated the barbed wire with his rifle butt and held it apart so "I could get through. And I decided that's my kind of outfit. Any guy that'll do that for me, he's alright!"

Lt Cushman joined The Basic School Class of 1935, which, like the famous West Point Class of 1915, was called "the class the stars fell on," for the fact that out of its ranks came two Commandants—Gens Cushman and Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.—and 14 others who served on active duty as general officers. About 1947, several members of this class, now lieutenant colonels, were serving at Quantico. One night at Waller Hall they were discussing the progression of the Commandancy, and determined that at a certain time in the future, a new Commandant would be chosen from their Basic School class. They each wrote down their best guess as to who it would be. Then-LtCols Chapman and Cushman, and a third officer, were unanimous choices.

Following graduation from Basic School, Lt Cushman was ordered to duty in Shanghai, where he served as a platoon leader in the 4th Marines. Upon his return to the United States in 1938, he served at the naval shipyards in Brooklyn, New York, and Portsmouth, Virginia, and the following year was assigned to the Marine detachment at the New York World's Fair. Just last fall in Washington, Gen and Mrs. Cushman hosted the 45th anniversary of former members of the detachment. At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Capt Cushman commanded the Marine detachment on the *Pennsylvania*, then based at Pearl Harbor. With his ship out of action, he was transferred to the West Coast to the new 9th Marines as a battalion executive officer. When his regiment embarked for the Pacific in January 1943, Maj Cushman was given command of the 2d Battalion. He held this command for two years, leading it in the campaigns on Bougainville, where he earned the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V"; on Guam, where he was decorated with the Navy Cross; and on Iwo Jima, where he received the Legion of Merit with Combat "V." LtCol Cushman was decorated with the Navy

Cross for extraordinary heroism during the period 21 July to 20 August when, as a 29-year-old battalion commander on Guam, he:

... directed the attacks of his battalion and the repulse of numerous Japanese counterattacks, fearlessly exposing himself to heavy hostile rifle, machine gun and mortar fire in order to remain in the front lines and obtain firsthand knowledge of the enemy situation. Following three days of bitter fighting culminating in a heavy Japanese counterattack, which pushed back the flank of his battalion, he personally led a platoon into the gap and, placing it for defense, repelled the hostile force. He contributed to the annihilation of one enemy battalion and the rout of another.

Following the end of the war, LtCol Cushman returned to the United States where he held a number of staff and instructional positions. He attended Senior School and then was assigned as a supervisory instructor in the Junior School. LtCol Cushman was a prolific

*MajGen Graves B. Erskine, left, congratulates then-LtCol Cushman on receiving the Navy Cross in February 1945 for action as a battalion commander on Guam.*



writer of articles dealing with his profession, writing 17 in the 1940s and 1950s. As a captain in 1941, he was awarded first prize in the *Marine Corps Gazette* essay contest, and he was to win it three more times for his essays in 1945, 1953, and 1957. A serious student of amphibious warfare, he understood the uses of applied military history and used the knowledge in writing articles for *Marine Corps Gazette*, *Naval Institute Proceedings*, *Infantry Journal*, and other professional publications.

Successive assignments in the interwar period led him to the Office of Naval Research, where he headed the Amphibious Warfare Branch; to a staff position with the newly formed Central Intelligence Agency; and to the staff of CinCNELM, in London, where he was an amphibious planning officer. In 1954, Col Cushman was transferred to the faculty of the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, and two years later was given command of the 2d Marines at Camp Lejeune. In 1957, Col Cushman was assigned to the staff of Vice President Nixon as the Marine Assistant for National Security Affairs. Following this four-year tour, BGen Cushman became Assistant Division Commander of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa, and with his promotion to major general, assumed command of the division in September 1961. He returned to Washington and Headquarters Marine Corps the next year, where he was Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2/G-3 until January 1964, and G-3 alone for the next six months. From June 1964 to March 1967, Gen Cushman served in the dual capacity as commander of Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, as well as CG of the 4th Marine Division.

In June 1966, he formed the 5th Marine Division, and commanded it also until November 1966. He went to Vietnam in April 1967 as Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force, assuming command in June, when he received his third star and promotion to lieutenant general. When he took command of III MAF, it had some 163,000 soldiers and Marines, the largest combined combat unit ever led by a Marine. For his service first as Deputy Commander and then Commanding General of III MAF (and as Senior Advisor, I Corps Tactical Zone and I Corps Coordinator

for United States/Free World Military Assistance Forces from January 1968 to his departure from Vietnam in March 1969), he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal and a Gold Star in lieu of a second medal.

A close relationship grew with Mr. Nixon during his four-year assignment as military advisor to the vice president. President Nixon nominated him to become Deputy Director of the CIA in March 1969, and Commandant in late 1971. It was during his Commandancy that Gen Cushman's appreciation of history in general and Marine Corps History in particular became especially evident. In 1976, the Commandant's House was designated a National Historic Landmark. Four years earlier, it had been placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the first step in the hierarchy of historical preservation. At that time, with Gen Cushman's encouragement, a private group was formed to seek contributions for and to assist in the refurbishment of the house. As Commandant, Gen Cushman fully supported the move to obtain Building 58 in the Washington Navy Yard as the Marine Corps Historical Center following its abandonment as a Marine barracks.

Despite the demands on the Marine Corps' military construction budget, Gen Cushman was steadfast in his support of the renovation of the barracks into a combined museum/research center.

Most importantly, Gen Cushman's Commandancy was marked by the Corps' return to normalcy after its long involvement in the Vietnam War. His most severe problem concerned Marine Corps personnel, that is, recruiting and retaining quality Marines without sacrificing the end strength of the Corps. As it transpired, he handed the reins of the Commandancy to one of his former company commanders in the 2d Battalion, 9th Marines—Gen Louis H. Wilson—whom Gen Cushman had personally recommended for the Medal of Honor in the wake of the desperate fight for Fonte Hill on Guam.

Gen Cushman was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 7 January with full military honors tendered a former Commandant. He is survived by his wife, the former Audrey Boyce; a daughter, Roberta Lind Cauley of Charlottesville, Virginia, and a son, Robert E. Cushman III, of Arlington.—BMF

*Then-LtGen Cushman takes part in a ceremony at Da Nang, South Vietnam, in September 1968, as Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force.*



## MCHF Chairman, Naval Gun Tactician, MajGen Weller Dies

**R**etired MajGen Donald McPherrin Weller, a pioneer in the development of naval gunfire support tactics and techniques prior to World War II, died on 8 March 1985, in his 78th year, at Malcolm Grow USAF Medical Center, Andrews AFB, Maryland, after a long illness. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on 12 March with full military honors.

To all who knew him, he was, above all, a professional Marine in all that he did. Highly respected by his seniors and contemporaries, he was much beloved by his juniors to whom he served as a mentor and role model. As one of these Weller-trained officers recently wrote:

Don Weller was the living antonym for stuffy, hardnosed, and methodical, whether he was a battery or division commander, staff officer or Marine Corps Schools instructor. With the addition of a keen intelligence, abundant common sense, a lively sense of humor, and an infectious enthusiasm for whatever he was doing completed a unique personality that earned him an ever-growing company of friends and admirers, and corpus of 'Don Weller' anecdotes.

His pioneering investigations during the late 1930s into the whys, whats, and hows of naval gunfire support of a landing operation and search of solutions to all the ensuing numerous problems revealed made possible the amphibious assaults of World War II. In this, he was the ardent and convincing apostle of naval gunfire support in the Navy and the Marine Corps before and during that war. He converted many of the heathen and inspired and encouraged other officers in both services to become expert in this field.

Gen Weller was born in Hartford, Connecticut, 1 May 1908, the son of a

Methodist clergyman. He attended Carnegie Tech for a year before entering the Naval Academy with the Class of 1930. Together with 26 of his classmates, including future Commandant of the Marine Corps Wallace M. Greene, Jr., his roommate during their last year at the Academy, he was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant. As a midshipman, he saved the life of classmate in a boating accident in stormy seas. He was a magnificent swimmer and loved the ocean. In contrast, he also won a prize for his knowledge of current history and events. He was an achiever. From almost the beginning of his active service, Gen Weller was an artilleryman. While a student at the Army Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, his ideas of naval gunfire support of Marine operations ashore coalesced. At Fort Sill, he was not only an outstanding student, but he also found time to win the annual equitation prize. He loved horses and riding. When he returned to the Fleet Marine Force as a battery commander, he was able to test his theories during the prewar fleet landing exercises. He was to write extensively about naval gunfire in later years, both while on active duty and during retirement.

**G**en Weller joined the 1st Marine Brigade at Guantanamo Bay in 1940, and was assigned to the staff as the artillery and naval gunfire officer. In March 1941, he was assigned to a similar billet on the staff of MajGen Holland M. Smith's Amphibious Corps, Atlantic Fleet. The next year in October, LtCol Weller became assistant operations officer of the Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet. During both prewar and early World War II tours, he helped train major Army units in naval gunfire support techniques before their landings in North Africa. He also was instrumental in arranging the purchase of Bloodsworth Island in Chesapeake Bay for use as an East Coast naval gunfire range.

In January 1943, LtCol Weller took command of the 2d Battalion, 12th Marines, leading his artillery unit in the Bougainville and Guam operations. Following each operation, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for outstanding service. At the end of the Guam campaign, he joined Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, as the staff naval gunfire officer and set up a highly suc-

cessful shore bombardment training program for the Pacific fleet and Marines in the Pacific. Kahoolawe Island, in the Hawaiian Islands, was used as a firing range. Here, all fire support ships and shore fire control parties were required to demonstrate their proficiency before they were allowed to operate in the combat zone. LtCol Weller was awarded a Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for his services as FMFPac naval gunfire officer after preparing the naval gunfire support plans for the Iwo Jima operation.

Following World War II, he served as chief of the naval gunfire section, Troop Training Unit, Training Command, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, and then headed the Naval Gunfire Section at the Marine Corps Schools in Quantico. His succeeding assignments took him to the Naval War College and then to the 2d Marine Division, where he commanded the 10th Marines and later served as division chief of staff. As a student at the Naval War College, Gen Weller, who had always been fascinated with sailing, acquired a Chesapeake Bay schooner. From that time until his death, he was never without a sailboat of some kind. Col Weller was promoted to brigadier general in 1951, while he was chief of staff of the Marine Corps Schools. Next year, he was assigned as Deputy J-3 on the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. European Command, and three years later he returned to Marine Corps Headquarters to become Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1.

*MajGen Donald M. Weller*





MajGen Weller took command of the 3d Marine Division on Okinawa in August 1960. A year later, he was transferred to Hawaii to become Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. He retired in Hawaii in August 1963.

He was as busy with a multitude of projects following his retirement as he had been on active duty. He joined the Institute for Defense Analysis, where he worked on a number of assignments during the nine years he was there. He

also attended the London School of Economics. Gen Weller then became a consultant to the Naval Surface Weapons Center at Dahlgren, Virginia, where he prepared a number of studies, including "Naval Gunfire Support to Amphibious Operations: Past, Present, and Future," which was published and distributed widely. He also embarked upon a long-range study of the evolution of naval gunfire doctrine, tactics, and techniques. Before his death, he had taken the study up to the Civil War.

Gen Weller is survived by his wife, the former Frances J. Jordan of Norfolk, Virginia, and two children, Donald M., Jr., of Seattle, Washington, and Mary Calvert Brodbeck of Paris, France.

A paraphrase of the last sentence of *The Adventures of General Marbot*, by John W. Thomason, Jr., is eminently fitting for Gen Weller's service to Corps and country. "He loved the Corps and its Marines, and all his record is honorable."—BMF

COL RAYMOND HENRI, USMCR (RET), died at the age of 79 at the Bethesda Naval Hospital on 9 March 1985. Born 7 December 1907 in Paris, France, his family came to America when he was 9 and settled in New York, where he was educated. He was a printing company executive when World War II broke out and designed a pocket printing press for the OSS, an important invention used in Nazi-occupied Europe. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in December 1943 and was commissioned in February the next year and was assigned to the Division of Information, where he was placed in charge of the Marine Corps Combat Art Program. In the late days of the war, he supervised the first U.S. Marine Corps Combat Art exhibit in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Shortly after, he was assigned to the Pacific. After participating in the Bougainville landings, he joined the 3d Marine Division and landed on Guam and Iwo Jima with it. When organized resistance had ended on Iwo, together

Col Raymond Henri



with Marine Corps combat correspondents from the 3d, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions, he was recalled to Washington to write *The U.S. Marines on Iwo*, an instant history. Simultaneously, Capt Henri wrote the text for *Iwo Jima, Springboard to Victory*, an illustrated essay of the operation. For his services in the Guam campaign, he received a Letter of Commendation; for Iwo, he was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V." Following his release from active duty, Col Henri remained in the inactive reserve until 1954, when he was given command of the Reserve Public Affairs Voluntary Training Unit 1-1. This unit was unique in that it was comprised of professional public relations and media personnel who provided the Marine Corps with a considerable amount of free public relations assistance annually. Col Henri returned to active duty in 1966 to head a new Marine Corps Combat Art Program. He personally encouraged over 40 civilian and military artists to participate in the program not only to cover the Vietnam War but also stateside and NATO training exercises. In 1967 at the age of 60 he went to Vietnam as much to see what his artists would face as to brief area commanders on the still new program. In November 1969, he was reassigned to head the Marine Corps equal opportunity program. For his outstanding meritorious service as head of the combat art program, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He was also very active in the Marine Corps participation in the bicentennial celebration. He was recalled to active duty to direct the mounting of the "Marines and Contemporary Art" exhibit for the opening of the Marine Corps Historical Center in 1977, and for this exhibit, he

was instrumental in obtaining major works of art from all over the world as well as from major art collections in the United States. Col Henri wrote the text for *Vietnam Combat Art*, published by Cavenagh and Cavenagh, and published poetry in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Harpers*, *American Mercury*, *The New York Herald Tribune*, among other publications. The Poetry Editor of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* wrote, "Henri writes as easily of living nature—of a wren, a hawk or a squirrel—as of the honored dead . . . His poems haunt us with strange and wondrous truths." His last book of poetry, *Dispatches from the Field* was published in 1981. Col Henri was cremated and a memorial service was held in April in New York City.

## RESEARCH GRANTS

The U.S. Army Military History Institute will award six advanced research grants in 1986, each carrying a stipend of \$750 to cover travel and living costs while conducting research at the Institute. Applicants must be scholars at the graduate level in the field of military history. The Institute is particularly interested in work in U.S. and foreign operational level doctrine; combat operations; training, logistical, and organizational systems; and command and leadership. Application deadline is 1 January 1986; information and application forms from: Assistant Director for Historical Services, U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania 17013-5008.



## MTU DC-7 Schedules Wider Involvement In FMF Exercises

**M**obilization Training Unit (Historical) DC-7 continues to progress toward a broader and deeper involvement in Fleet Marine Force exercises and operations. Along those lines, the MTU is currently processing a request for a field historian to attend annual training duty in August with the 2d Marine Amphibious Brigade, 4th Marine Division, USMCR. During his two weeks of active duty, this officer will compile the historical report, as well as other information for the post-exercise report.

The MTU is recruiting additional historians. It has already completed a preliminary screening of candidates for commissioning as specialist officers. Of the more than 30 applicants, the MTU recommended four who have been endorsed by the Division for final screening by Headquarters, Marine Corps. All have prior Marine Corps service, including tours in Vietnam. All have doctorates in history and are currently on the faculties

of Yale, Duke, the University of Rochester, and the University of California (Santa Barbara). After commissioning and training, the successful candidates will deploy as unit historians with active and Reserve Marine amphibious forces and brigades for major training exercises and contingency operations.

**T**he History and Museums Division has begun planning to convert the MTU into a Reserve Augmentation Unit (RAU), a change which will provide regular funding for monthly and annual active Reserve training. If approved, the new RAU's training would emphasize preparing MTU members for FMF service as field historians and combat artists. Marines with backgrounds in history-related fields are encouraged to apply for membership through the History and Museums Division.

On 1 December 1984, long-time MTU DC-7 member Col Sandra L. Detwiler retired after more than 30 years of service. She began her Marine Corps Career in 1953, serving as a supply officer at both Camp Pendleton and MCB Quantico. After her release from active duty in 1955, Col Detwiler remained active in the Marine Corps Reserve serving in various assignments. These included:

assistant platoon leader and later commanding officer of Womens Supply Platoon, 2d Supply Battalion, Philadelphia; member of two selection boards and the Marine Corps Reserve Policy Board; and student at the National Security Seminar. In June 1977, Col Detwiler joined MTU DC-7, and has been very active since that time, working with the Museums Branch to catalog and regularize several personal papers collections.

**T**wo of the MTU members, Col Allan R. Millett and Maj Ronald H. Spector, both noted historians, have new books on the market. Dr. Millett, the MTU commanding officer and professor of history at Ohio State University, and Peter Maslowski have written *For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States* (Free Press, \$24.95). The book chronicles the growth and organization of America's military forces from colonial times to the end of the Korean War. Dr. Spector, formerly of the Army's Center of Military History and now associate professor of history at the University of Alabama, has written *Eagle Against the Sun: The American War with Japan* (Free Press/MacMillan, 1984). The book has been a main selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. —CVM

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## New Certificates of Unit Lineage and Honors

Among 18 certificates of lineage and honors prepared for Marine Corps units and activities by the Reference Section, History and Museums Division, during the period October 1984-January 1985, was:

**THE BASIC SCHOOL: 1891-1907:** Activated 1 May 1891 at Washington, D.C., as School of Application of the United States Marine Corps; deactivated during April 1898; reactivated during July 1903 at the Marine Barracks, Annapolis, Maryland; deactivated during June 1907. **1909-1923:** Reactivated during December 1909 at Naval Station, Port Royal, South Carolina, as the Marine Officers School; relocated during August 1911 to Marine Barracks, Norfolk, Virginia; relocated during July 1917 to Marine Barracks, Quantico,

Virginia, and redesignated Marine Officers Training Camp; redesignated 3 January 1920 as Marine Officers Training School; Marine Corps Schools activated 1 September 1920 at Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia, including the former Marine Officers Training School, under which The Basic School was first convened during March 1922. **1924-1945:** The Basic School relocated during July 1924 to Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Basic School Detachments located at the State Military Reservation, Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, from September 1940-June 1942; The Basic School and Detachments deactivated at Philadelphia Navy Yard 20 July 1942, functions of The Basic School absorbed by Officers Candidates Class, Platoon Leaders Class, and Reserve Officers Class, Marine Base,

Quantico, Virginia, from July 1942-October 1945. **1945-1984:** Officers Candidate School redesignated 17 January 1945 as the Platoon Commanders School, Marine Corps Schools, Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia; Platoon Commanders School redesignated 3 October 1945 as The Basic School; Marine Corps Schools redesignated 1 January 1968 as Marine Corps Development and Education Command, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia, and The Basic School placed under the operational control of the Education Center. (**Honors:** Meritorious Unit Commendation Streamer, 1965-1971; World War I Victory Streamer; American Defense Streamer; American Campaign Streamer; World War II Victory Streamer; National Defense Service Streamer with one Bronze Star.)

# FLIGHT LINES

## *Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless*

**T**HE DOUGLAS SBD DAUNTLESS was a single-engine, all-metal, low-wing monoplane designed for dive bombing and scouting missions. Based on the earlier design of John Northrop's BT-1, over 5,000 SBD Dauntless models were built by the Douglas Aircraft Company from 1939 to 1944.

For Marines fighting in the Pacific

during World War II, the rugged SBD came to symbolize precision dive bombing, but its combat debut was less than auspicious. At the time of the Japanese attack on the main Hawaiian island of Oahu, 7 December 1941, slightly over half of all Dauntlesses in the Marine Corps inventory were assigned to VMSB-232 at MCAS, Ewa, Hawaii. As

with most American arms that day, Marine losses were heavy; all Dauntlesses were destroyed or damaged. This early reverse, however, was soon righted, due in large part to the contributions of Navy and Marine Corps SBDs.

In June 1942, land-based VMSB-241 SBDs fought in the Battle of Midway. This combat action was soon followed with the first American offensive of the war, the Guadalcanal Campaign. Dauntlesses from VMSBs -231 and -232 became crucial to continued success at Guadalcanal when the Navy's withdrawal of carrier support left them as the Marines' only strike weapon for use against Japanese convoys and destroyers running "The Slot." The SBD's importance at Guadalcanal is best reflected by a recent statement from a veteran of that campaign. "The fighter pilots deserve every plaudit they receive, but the survivor/veterans of this campaign owe their lives to the unsung, heroic SBD crews, who day after day, went for the jugular of the enemy. . . in particular the transports that would have brought overwhelming ground superiority to the enemy, had they been able to land."

Even though the Corsair began to replace the Dauntless as the Marines' primary attack aircraft during the latter half of the war, a final offensive use of Marine Dauntlesses occurred in January 1945 when seven SBD squadrons from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing began supporting General MacArthur's Philippines Campaign. Dubbed by the press as the "Diving Devil Dogs of Luzon," Army confidence in the SBD's effectiveness grew to the point that the 1st Cavalry Division depended on the Marine dive bombers to provide primary flank security in its sprint towards Manila. The Museum's Dauntless is actually an A-24B (the U.S. Army Air Force version of the SBD-5A) which has been returned to the configuration of an SBD-5 in paint and markings specifications prescribed during early 1943 by the Bureau of Aeronautics.—FMB



*"Slow But Deadly," "Speedy-D," the "Barge," the "Clunk"—regardless of the derisive nickname assigned, the pilots that flew her and the Marines supported by her knew the Douglas Dauntless to be one of the premier dive bombers of World War II.*

### Technical Data

As depicted with one 500-lb. bomb in the SBD-5 airplane characteristics and performance chart issued on 1 August 1943.

**Manufacturer:** Douglas Aircraft Company, El Segundo, California, and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

**Type:** Carrier-based scout/dive bomber.

**Accommodation:** Pilot and observer/rear gunner.

**Power Plant:** One 1,200-h.p. Wright R-1820-60.

**Dimensions:** Span, 41 ft., 6 5/16 in.; Length, 33 ft., 1/8 in.; Height 13 ft., 11 in.

**Weights:** Empty, 6,675 lbs.; Gross, 10,080 lbs.

**Performance:** Max speed, 248 m.p.h. at 15,800 ft.; Service ceiling, 25,200 ft.; Range, 1,165 mi.; Climb at sea level, 1,165 ft. per min.

**Armaments:** Two fixed, forward-firing .50-caliber machine guns; Two flexible, rear-mounted .30-caliber machine guns; One external, under-fuselage bomb station (capable of carrying 1,600 lbs.); Two under-wing stations (capable of carrying 325 lbs.)

# World War II Chronology

## *January-March 1945*

### Philippines

**6-7 January.** U.S. Navy and Marine airmen from carriers of the Third Fleet made repeated strikes on Luzon; over 100 Japanese aircraft were destroyed.

**9 January.** The U.S. Sixth Army landed on beaches of the Lingayen Gulf, Luzon.

**10 January.** An advance party of Marine aviators from Marine Aircraft Groups 24 and 32 landed on Lingayen Beach.

**11 January.** Squadrons from Marine Aircraft Group 14 (VMF-212, -222, and -223) landed at Guiuan, Samar Island, under the operational command of the Fifth Air Force.

**11 January.** Marine Aircraft Groups, Dagupan, commanded by Col Clayton C. Jerome, was organized on Luzon.

**11 January.** The forward echelon of Marine Aircraft Group 24 arrived in Lingayen Gulf, Luzon.

**25 January.** The first planes, from Marine Scout-Bombing Squadrons 133 and 241, arrived at Mangaldan airstrip, Luzon, to provide close air support for U.S. Army operations on Luzon.

**27 January.** Aircraft of Marine Scout-Bombing Squadron-241 flew the first mission by Marine Aircraft Groups, Dagupan, in support of U.S. Army operations in the Philippines.

*LSMs dash for the beach at Iwo Jima shortly after H-Hour in the invasion of the enemy bastion, 660 miles from the Japanese*

**27 January.** Marine Aircraft Group 32 arrived at Mangaldan where it became part of Marine Aircraft Groups, Dagupan, under the control of the 308th Bombardment Wing, Army Air Forces.

**1 February.** The Lingayen Gulf beachhead was secured, and the U.S. Army concentrated its efforts on the capture of Manila.

**1-3 February.** The 1st Cavalry Division, USA, at Guimba, Lingayen Gulf, pushed through La Union Province toward Manila assisted by flyers of Marine Aircraft Groups, Dagupan, who provided air cover, flank protection, and reconnaissance.

**3 February.** U.S. Army troops entered Manila.

**16 February.** U.S. Army parachute troops assaulted Corregidor.

**19 February.** Forty-eight planes from Marine Aircraft Groups, Dagupan, struck derelict ships in Manila Harbor to assist the Army's 37th Division's penetration of the waterfront sector.

**20 February.** U.S. Army troops under cover of Marine aircraft were landed on Biri Island to insure control of the San Bernardino Straits.

**28 February.** U.S. Army troops invaded Palawan.

**3 March.** Manila fell to the U.S. Sixth Army.

**4 March.** Air Warning Squadron 4 arrived at Leyte Gulf from Los Negros in the Admiralties.

*homeland. Shrouded by the smoke of naval bombardment, the volcano Mount Suribachi appears in the background.*





*The initial wave of Marines lands below Mount Suribachi on one of the four invasion beaches on Iwo Jima in February 1945.*

*The photograph was taken by Leatherneck magazine's Lou Lowery. Landing Ships (Medium) climb the shoreline at left.*

**31 March.** Marine Aircraft Groups, Dagupan, flew 186 separate missions in northern Luzon in support of guerrilla fighters.

**10 March.** Elements of the U.S. Eighth Army, augmented by ground echelons of Marine Aircraft Groups 12 and 32 plus Air Warning Squadron-4, assaulted Mindanao near Zamboanga. Marine Aircraft Group 12 furnished air support for the landing.

**15-18 March.** Marine Fighting Squadrons 115, 211, 218, and 313 from Marine Aircraft Group 12 flew onto Moret Field, Mindanao, from Leyte. They were the first air units to arrive at the new Marine air base.

**18 March.** Elements of the 40th Infantry Division, USA, supported by Marine aircraft from Samar, landed on Panay.

**24-26 March.** Marine Aircraft Group 32 (VMSB-236, -142, -341, and -243) moved from Luzon to Zamboanga, Mindanao.

**26 March.** Elements of Marine Aircraft Group-14 supported the landing of U.S. Army forces on Cebu Island.

**29 March.** The 40th Infantry Division, USA, landed on Negros Island with air cover furnished by Marine Aircraft Group 14.

## Iwo Jima

**5 January.** U.S. Navy vessels shelled Iwo Jima.

**24 January.** A powerful U.S. naval surface force bombarded Iwo Jima.

**10 February-4 March.** Task Force-58 from Ulithi—including Marine Fighting Squadrons 112, 123, 216, 217, and 212 and 451 on board large carriers—attacked Toyko, (16, 17, and 25 February), furnished air support for the Iwo Jima landing forces (beginning 19 February), and participated in a series of strikes on Okinawa (1 and 2 March).

**16-18 February.** Amphibious Support Force, Task Force 52, conducted preparatory bombardment of Iwo Jima.

**19 February.** Preceded by preliminary naval and air bombardment, the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions landed abreast on Green, Red, Yellow, and Blue Beaches along the southeast coast of the island. The 27th and 28th Marines, 5th Marine Division, reached the western beach and isolated Mt. Suribachi. Front lines of the 4th Marine Division extended to the eastern edge of the airfield.

**21 February.** The 21st Marines, in V Amphibious Corps reserve, was committed in the 4th Marine Division zone. Japanese kamikazes attacked support ships off the island.

**22 February.** Elements of the 28th Marines reached the base of Mt. Suribachi.

**23 February.** A detachment from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, raised the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi. The volcano was encircled when elements of Company E contacted the 1st Battalion, 28th Marines, near the southern tip of the island.

**24 February.** Elements of the 3d Marine Division began landing on Beach Black. Charlie-Dog Ridge, a strongly defended area running along the southeast edge of the east-west runway on Airfield No. 2, was secured by the 2d and 3d Battalions, 24th Marines. The 2d Separate Engineer Battalion rehabilitated a 1,500-foot strip on the north-south runway of Airfield No. 1 (24 and 25 February).

**25 February.** The 3d Marine Division assumed responsibility for clearing the central portion of the Motoyama Plateau encompassing Airfields Nos. 2 and 3 and Motoyama Village.

**26 February.** Two planes from Marine Observation Squadron-4, the first U.S. aircraft to land on the island, flew in from the U.S. escort carrier *Wake Island*.

**27 February.** The 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, in the 3d Marine Division zone, overran Hill Peter and the crest of 199 Oboe to the north of Airfield No. 2; the airfield was captured by the 1st and 2d Battalions, 9th Marines. Marine Observation Squadron-5 began operations from Airfield No. 1.





*A wave of charging 4th Division Marines begins a D-Day attack on a heavily shelled beach on the southeast coast of Iwo Jima,*

*as another boatload of battle-tested troops prepares to disembark. By day's end frontlines extended to the island's airfield.*

**27 February.** MajGen James E. Chaney, Commanding General, Army Garrison Forces and Island Commander, landed with his headquarters and a detachment of the 147th Infantry Regiment, USA, and advance elements of the VII Fighter Command, USA.

**28 February.** The 3d Battalion, 21st Marines, captured Motoyama Village and the high ground overlooking Airfield No. 3.

**1 March.** Sixteen light planes of Marine Observation Squadrons 4 and 5 were based ashore. The Commander, Landing Force Air Support Control Unit (Col Vernon E. Megee) assumed responsibility for support aircraft and became Commander, Air, Iwo Jima.

**2 March.** Units of the 5th Marine Division overran Hill 362A, the heavily fortified western anchor of the Japanese main cross-island defenses.

**2 March.** In the 4th Marine Division zone, the 2d Battalion, 24th Marines overran Hill 382.

**3 March.** The 3d Marine Division cleared Airfield No. 3, Hills 357 and 362B, east of the Motoyama Plateau. No important Japanese resistance remained between the 2d Battalion, 21st Marines, and the eastern coast of the island.

**4 March.** The first B-29 landed on the island.

**6 March.** After intensive artillery and naval gunfire preparation, elements of the 3d, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions attacked to the northeast and east in an all-out effort to breach the Japanese final defense line.

**6 March.** BGen Ernest C. Moore, USA, Commanding General, Fighter Command, landed on Airfield No. 1 with the commander of the 15th Fighter Group and planes of the 47th Fighter and 548th Night Fighter Squadrons, USA.

**7 March.** Company K of the 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, seized Hill 362C, a Japanese stronghold located in the northeastern sector of the island.

**7 March.** MajGen James E. Chaney, USA, Island Commander, assumed responsibility for base development, air defense, and operation of the airfields. BGen Ernest C. Moore, USA, became Commander, Air, Iwo Jima.

**8 March.** Iwo-based planes of the 15th Fighter Group, USA, took over combat air patrol duties and flew close support missions until 14 March; carrier aircraft departed on 10 March.

**8-9 March.** The 4th Marine Division repulsed a large-scale Japanese counterattack during which the Japanese sustained heavy losses.

**8-9 March.** The forward echelon of Marine Torpedo-Bombing Squadron-242 arrived from Tinian to fly anti-submarine patrol.

**9 March.** Patrols of the 3d Marine Division reached the northeast coast.

*Marine rocket trucks in action on Iwo Jima.*





*Marines perch atop a hill of expended ammunition and ammo cases at the foot of Mount Suribachi on D-Day plus three.*

**10 March.** The 3d Marine Division zone of action, up the center of the island, was cleared with the exception of a Japanese pocket in the 9th Marines' area, and scattered resistance in the cliffs overlooking the beach. The Amphitheater-Turkey Knob salient in the center of the 4th Marine Division zone was eliminated.

**11 March.** The final phase of the campaign opened with the 3d and 4th Marine Divisions driving to the east coast and the 5th Marine Division to the north.

**12 March.** The 1st and 3d Battalions, 9th Marines, in the 3d Marine Division zone, attacked west toward "Cushman's Pocket," a last stronghold of enemy resistance on the island.

**14 March.** The official flag raising ceremony, at the V Amphibious Corps headquarters, marked the proclamation of U.S. Navy Military Government in the Volcano Islands. LtGen

*Pack- and gear-laden members of the 5th Division's Infantry Battalion, 26th Marines, trudge through hardy overgrowth and*

Holland M. Smith, Commander, Expeditionary Troops, departed for Guam.

**14-16 March.** The first phase of operations against "Cushman's Pocket" opened with an attack by the 1st and 2d Battalions, 9th Marines (rein).

**16 March.** The 1st and 2d Battalions, 21st Marines (rein), overran "Cushman's Pocket" and reached the northern coast of the island at Kitano's Point, thus eliminating all Japanese resistance in the 3d Marine Division zone.

**16 March.** Regimental Combat Team 25 cut through to the beach road on the eastern coast of the island and announced the complete destruction of all resistance in the last stronghold of the 4th Marine Division zone.

**16 March.** The island was declared secured; the only remaining resistance came from the western half of Kitano Point and the draw to the southwest.

**18-19 March.** The 4th Marine Division departed for Maui, Hawaiian Islands. The 3d Marine Division took over patrol and defense responsibilities from the other divisions as they moved out.

**20 March.** The 147th Infantry, USA, arrived from New Caledonia to take over the defense of the island and was attached to the 3d Marine Division for operational control.

**25 March.** Regimental Combat Team 28 eliminated the last pocket of Japanese resistance, in the western half of Kitano Point.

**26 March.** Two hundred to three hundred Japanese from the north attacked Marine and Army bivouacs near the western beaches, but the force was destroyed by troops of the VII Fighter Command, USA, and the 5th Pioneer Battalion.

**26 March.** The capture and occupation phase of the campaign was announced completed and the Commander, Forward Area, Central Pacific, assumed responsibility for the defense and development of the island. MajGen James E. Chaney, USA, took over operational control of all units ashore,

*blasted earth up to the frontlines on Iwo Jima to relieve the regiment's hard-pressed 1st Battalion on 21 February 1945.*





*Pvt Robert K. Marshall and Cpl Allen L. Griffin fire from a hole hastily dug in smoking sulfurous ash surrounding the*

*ruined Iwo Jima refinery in the background in March 1945. They were engaging Japanese snipers dressed as U.S. Marines.*

and BGen Ernest C. Moore, USA, was designated Air Defense Commander. MajGen Harry Schmidt closed the V Amphibious Corps command post and departed, leaving the 9th Marines to assist in mop-up activities.

**27 March.** Units of the 5th Marine Division departed for Hawaii.

### Okinawa

**3-4 January.** Aircraft of Marine Fighting Squadrons 124 and 213, operating from the carrier USS *Essex*, struck Formosa and the Ryukyus; this was the first instance of Marine fighter squadrons attacking land installations from a carrier.

**1 March.** Planes of Task Force 58 photographed Japanese positions and hit island defenses on Okinawa.

**23-25 March.** Task Force 58, including Marine Fighting Squadrons 112, 123, 221, and 451 on board the USS *Bennington* and *Bunker Hill*, flew sorties over Okinawa during the last of softening up operations.

**25-31 March.** Task Forces 52 and 54 bombarded Okinawa in preparation for the landing.

**26 March.** Troops of the 77th Infantry Division, USA, landed on Kerama Retto, securing Yakabi, Geruma, and Hokaji Shima and establishing firm footholds on Aka and Zamami Shima.

**26-31 March.** The 8th Japanese Air Division from Sakishima Gunto executed Kamikaze attacks on Allied ships standing off Kerama Retto.

**26-27 March.** The Fleet Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion (less Company B) landed on the four reef islets of Keise Shima, discovered no enemy, and reembarked.

**26-27 March.** A British Carrier Force, Task Force 57, struck the Sakishima Gunto as part of its planned schedule of preliminary operations supporting the Okinawa assault.

**27 March.** Elements of the 77th Army's Division landed on separate beaches of Tokashiki Shima, the last remaining major target in the Kerama Retto island group, and occupied Amuro and Ruba Shima.

**27-28 March.** Company A, Fleet Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion, made a rubber-boat landing on Aware Shima but found no Japanese and reembarked.

**28-29 March.** Forces of the 77th Division, USA, mopped-up Japanese resistance on Kerama Retto, securing Aka, Zamami, and Tokashiki Shima.

**29 March.** The Fleet Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion scouted Mae and Kuro Shima, midway between Kerama Retto and Keise Shima.

*The famous Joe Rosenthal photograph of the second flag-raising on Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima in February 1945.*

Associated Press Photo





## Foundation Sponsors Marine Band Patriotic Record

The Marine Corps Historical Foundation and the United States Marine Band have produced "Esprit de Corps," an album of patriotic music issued by the MCHF. This special recording is comprised of 12 selections, ranging from Sousa's "Semper Fidelis" to the stirring strains of "America the Beautiful" and the Marines' Hymn Apotheosis. This is a limited edition for sale at the Museum Shop, Marine Corps Museum, Building 58, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0580. The cost per record is \$10.00, plus \$1.50 each for shipping and handling. All profits realized from the sale of the record are used to support Historical Foundations programs.

As of 15 March, the MCFH had 871 members, including 107 individuals and organizations who are sustaining members. Those who have joined since the listing in the fall issue of *Fortitudine* include:

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Members' inquiries about the Foundation's activities may be sent to the office at the Center or calls can be made to (202) 433-3914. — The Secretary, MCHF.