



# FORTITUDINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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# FORTITUDINE

was the motto of the U. S. Marine Corps in the 1812 era.

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**Cover** Colonel John H. Magruder, III, the first Director of the Marine Corps Museum, included among his many talents considerable artistic ability. The cover illustration was done by Colonel Magruder for the Fall 1955 issue of the Military Collector and Historian and depicts, left to right, a Marine sergeant in the winter dress uniform of 1834-1841, and two musics in winter and summer dress uniform. The print is reproduced through the courtesy of The Company of Military Historians, publisher of the Military Collector and Historian.

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# Director's Page



It must have been in late October or early November 1945 that I first visited Peiping as it was then named. The III Amphibious Corps had arrived in China the end of September to "disarm and repatriate" the Japanese, and the 5th Marines was in residence in what had been the barracks of the Legation Guard. I was then a very young captain, thoroughly steeped in Thomason's China stories so that my visit to Peking (no one called it Peiping) was like a return to a familiar place. My traveling companion was "Caribao" Johnson (and I can't recall that I ever heard his first name). Caribao had served in the war as a gunnery sergeant and a Marine gunner and just as the war ended was promoted to second lieutenant which was something of an embarrassment to him. Before the war as a sergeant he had been in charge of the NCO Club in Peking. By some form of extra-sensory perception his old No. 1 boy at the club found us ("Ding hao, last time three-stripey, now lieutenant!") and he had kept all the old photographs so that it was like stepping back into the pages of Thomason.

The NCO Club figures in Thomason's stories and so does "Gimpel's" which translated into real life as Hempel's. Hempel's survived the Japanese occupation and we found it still in operation off Hatamen Street. It was a German kind of a delicatessen or saloon with a meat counter at the front and a dining and drinking room in back, all dark wood and leather. There was one table in particular, a round one studded with brass name plates.

Then in March of this year Ronald O. Lyons, the managing editor of Leatherneck, telephoned to tell me that he had heard from Frank Gowen who had owned Hempel's, that he was now living in Las Vegas, and that he had the Round Table (the capitals are intended) in his possession. In the fall of 1945 Ronnie had been a skinny newly-commissioned second lieutenant with journalistic aspirations and together we had revived the North China Marine. He knew I would remember Hempel's and the Round Table.

I wrote to Mr. Gowen and soon thereafter, by one of those coincidences, we received some old China pictures from retired Warrant Officer Alvin L. Cramer of Dearborn, Michigan. Amongst the collection (which included some fine pictures of the "horse Marines") was a copy of the constitution of the Knights of the Round Table and what must have been a bang-up Christmas party circa 1932. Turn now to page 5. The pictures, except one, are Mr. Cramer's. Most of the words are Mr. Gowen's.

# KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE



CONSTITUTION

AND BY-LAWS

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**KNOW YE:** THAT WE, THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE; DESIROUS OF PERSUING THE MOST HONORABLE AND UPRIGHT PRACTICE OF GUZZLING THE SUDS THAT CHEER; AND BEING OF THE FIRM BELIEF THAT SUCH GLORIOUS DUTIES SHOULD BE PERFORMED AND THE MOST WORTHY, SOCIABLE, HONORABLE AND CAPABLE GUZZLERS; DO, WITH THIS END IN VIEW HEREBY ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION TO GOVERN ALL DULY APPOINTED KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE.

ARTICLE I.

- (a) IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF EACH AND EVERY KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE TO PRESENT HIMSELF AT SAID "ROUND TABLE" ON AT LEAST TWO DAYS OF EACH WEEK.
- (b) HAVING SO PRESENTED HIMSELF HE WILL PARTAKE OF THE GLORIOUS BEVERAGES BEING DISPENSED THEREAT.
- (c) IN THE EVENT OF SICKNESS (OTHER THAN FROM THE EFFECTS OF GUZZLING) OR ANY OTHER UNAVOIDABLE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY PREVENT ANY KNIGHT FROM THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES AS SET FORTH IN PAR. (a) & (b) OF THIS ARTICLE, SAID KNIGHT MAY ABSENT HIMSELF FROM THE "ROUND TABLE" AS LONG AS SUCH CONDITION MAY EXIST; HOWEVER, APPROPRIATE STEPS SHALL BE TAKEN TO ASCERTAIN THE VALIDITY OF SUCH ABSENCE.

ARTICLE II.

APPOINTMENT. AS A "KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE" SHALL BE GOVERNED AS SET FORTH IN THIS ARTICLE.

- (a) ALL APPLICATIONS FOR NOMINATION SHALL BE MADE TO THE "GRAND EXALTED RULER" IN PERSON.
- (b) UPON THE RECEIPT OF SUCH APPLICATION THE "GRAND EXALTED RULER" SHALL PRESENT SUCH APPLICANT TO THE "ROUND TABLE" AT A TIME WHEN THERE ARE EIGHT OR MORE KNIGHTS PRESENT.
- (c) HAVING RECEIVED SUCH PRESENTATION FROM THE "GRAND EXALTED RULER", THE KNIGHTS PRESENT SHALL DILIGENTLY AND WITH THE LARGEST CIRCUMSPECTION CONSIDER THE QUALIFICATIONS OF SAID APPLICANT AND, SHALL APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE OF SAID APPLICANT'S NOMINATION BY VOTING AS PRESCRIBED IN ART. 3 PAR. (a). THIS VOTE MUST BE UNANIMOUSLY AFFIRMATIVE.
- (d) APPLICANTS HAVING HAD THEIR NOMINATION APPROVED SHALL BE PLACED ON NOMINATION FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR (4) MONTHS, DURING WHICH TIME ALL KNIGHTS SHALL CAREFULLY OBSERVE THEIR CONDUCT, BEARING AND INTEGRITY, AND WILL REPORT ANY CONDUCT UNBECOMING A PROSPECTIVE KNIGHT, TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.
- (e) HAVING FAITHFULLY DISCHARGED HIS DUTIES AS A "PROBATIONARY KNIGHT" FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR (4) MONTHS, THE APPLICANT SHALL BE PRESENTED FOR A FINAL BALLOT AS PRESCRIBED IN ART'S PAR. (c) WHICH, IF CAST IN HIS FAVOR, SHALL ENTITLE HIM TO THE INITIATION PRESCRIBED IN ART'S PAR. (c), AFTER WHICH HE SHALL BE DUBBED A KNIGHT.
- (f) HAVING BEEN KNIGHTED HE WILL FILE HIS REQUEST TO THE "G.E.R." FOR A PLATE, BEARING HIS NAME AND THE DATE OF HIS APPOINTMENT, WHICH WILL BE PROPERLY AFFIXED TO THE "ROUND TABLE"; AFTER WHICH HE SHALL FOLLOW THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE CUSTOM OF SETTING FORTH A ROUND OF DRINKS FOR ALL "KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE."

ARTICLE III.

- (a) ALL VOTING SHALL BE DONE WITH WHITE AND BLACK BALLS, WHITE BALLS SIGNIFYING THE AFFIRMATIVE, BLACK BALLS DENOTING THE NEGATIVE.
- (b) THE FINAL SELECTION OF A "PROBATIONARY KNIGHT" SHALL BE DECIDED BY A VOTE OF NOT LESS THAN TWENTY (20) KNIGHTS THREE (3) BLACK BALLS CONSTITUTING A REJECTION.
- (c) INITIATION OF NEW KNIGHTS SHALL BE PRESCRIBED BY THREE (3) KNIGHTS APPOINTED BY THE "G.E.R."; HAVING PASSED HIS INITIATION, HE SHALL PLACE HIS LEFT HAND UPON THE SACRED SWORD, AND HOLDING RIGHT IN HIS RIGHT HAND ONE FULL GLASS OF GLORIOUS NECTAR, REPEAT THE FOLLOWING OATHS PLEDGE OF LOYALTY AND FIDELITY (I SWEAR) HAVING READ AND THOROUGHLY UNDERSTANDING THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL ABIDE BY ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS SET FORTH THEREIN AND THAT I WILL ABIDE BY ALL DECISIONS RENDERED BY COURTS, JUDGES AND COMMITTEES APPOINTED FOR ANY PURPOSE WHATSOEVER, I DO FURTHER SWEAR THAT DURING MY RESIDENCE AT THE "ROUND TABLE" I WILL ENJOY MYSELF TO CONSUME MY JUST AND LAWFUL PORTION OF THE BEVERAGES BEING DISPENSED THEREAT, BECOMING IN MIND THAT I SHALL ALWAYS REMAIN AS SOBER AND ABLE TO DEPART UNDER MY OWN POWER OF LOCOMOTION, FAILING IN THIS MY PEOPLEAS THAT BE I CONCEIVE ME TO PLANT MY MISERABLE CARCASS AT A SQUARE TABLE FOR AS LONG AS MY FELLOW KNIGHTS MAY DECREE, THERE TO HAVE MY HEAD IN SHAMPS AND MEDICINE UPON MY INSECRATION OF THE SACRED RIDGE. THIS DO I SOLEMNLY PROMISE, SOBER AND IN MY EIGHT MIND, SO ILL UP ME FIVE STARR.
- (d) IN THE EVENT THAT THE CONDUCT OF ANY KNIGHT BECOMES SO DISGRACEFUL AS TO BECOME INTOLERABLE TO HIS FELLOW KNIGHTS; A TRIBUNAL OF TWENTY (20) KNIGHTS APPOINTED BY THE "G.E.R." SHALL BE CONVENED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER SUCH KNIGHTS CONDUCT HAS BEEN SUCH THAT HE SHOULD BE DEPRIVED OF ALL RIGHTS AS A KNIGHT OF THE ROUND TABLE; THIS TRIBUNAL SHALL HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO DEPRIVE THE ACCUSED KNIGHT OF ALL PRIVILEGES. IN THE EVENT OF ANY KNIGHTS' EXPULSION FROM THE "ORDER" BY THIS TRIBUNAL HIS NAME WILL IMMEDIATELY BE REMOVED FROM THE "ROUND TABLE"; SUCH EXPULSION MUST BE THE RESULT OF A UNANIMOUS VOTE.
- (e) IN THE EVENT OF THE DEATH OF ANY KNIGHT REGARDLESS OF HIS WHEREABOUTS, THE PLATE BEARING HIS NAME SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE "ROUND TABLE" AND REPLACED WITH ONE OF GOLD BEARING THE SAME INSCRIPTION PLUS THE DATE OF HIS DEMISE. THE COST OF SAID PLATE TO BE ASSESSED PRO RATA AMONG ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS.
- (f) SHOULD ANY KNIGHT HAVE THE IMPUNITY TO DELIBERATELY DISOBEY ANY OF THE RULES SET FORTH IN THE FOREGOING ARTICLES, HE MAY BE PUNISHED AS A COMMITTEE OF THREE (3) KNIGHTS APPOINTED BY THE "G.E.R." MAY DECREE. SHOULD ANY KNIGHT REFUSE SUCH PUNISHMENT IT SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS CONDUCT SO DISGRACEFUL AS TO WARRANT THE PUNISHMENT PRESCRIBED IN PAR. (e) OF THIS ARTICLE. HOWEVER, UNDER NO OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL A KNIGHT BE DEPRIVED OF HIS MEMBERSHIP EXCEPT AS SPECIFIED IN PAR. (e) OF THIS ARTICLE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I HAVE SET MY HAND AND CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED THE "GREAT SEAL" OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE; DONE IN THE CITY OF PEIPING CHINA, THIS FIRST DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO AND OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE THE SECOND.



*J. E. Bowen*

GRAND EXALTED RULER

"I enlisted in San Diego 6 August 1923," writes Frank Gowen. "Went to Guam, Cavite, Chefoo and Peking. The trip up to Chefoo was a memorable one. It stormed all the way. Capt \_\_\_\_\_, whom I never liked and it was mutual, was in charge. We never saw him during the whole trip but old Spike Hennessy was the Gunny and I was always on good terms with him. Spike had done about 16 years in His Majesty's service and almost 30, I guess, in our glorious outfit. We made our way up the outside passage around Formosa because of the extreme severity of the storm. We were in the old Alberenda, taken from the Spanish they said in '98. We took 12 days. A destroyer could make it in three. I heard one sailor coming off a 4-hour watch saying they had made 4 knots astern. There was talk of breaking out the sails. I never saw any signs of fear and none was justified it would seem for we played cards and peeled potatoes all the way without incident except when a Navy bosun tried to rake our game."



Mr. Frank Gowen and the table.

So Frank Gowen came to China. He goes on to say, "Prior to my discharge I was Secretary-Treasurer and Manager of the Private's Club in '26 and '27." After the expiration of his enlistment he stayed on in Peking and in 1928 acquired Hempel's Restaurant from Mr. Richard ("Pa") Hempel.

"I had the table made of oak in 1929 and some of us, mostly Marines, started the loosely-knit organization 'Knights of the Round Table.' I would say our 'knightly' creed was to be good fellows, pay our bills, help each other in time of need, and have a good time. We took many tours to the Western Hills, the Black Dragon Pool, Jade Fountain, the Sleeping Buddha, and Tangshau Hot Springs as well as boat trips down the canal to the Princess Tomb. Some of us successfully hunted the great wild boar -- 500 lbs on the hoof -- in Shansi Province. About sixty to eighty percent of the names on the table were Marines. There were also several Germans, 3 Britishers, a French sous-officier, a Japanese, and an elderly Chinese whom we named 'Buffalo Bill' because of his chin whiskers.

"We had a flag consisting of a red pig on a white field

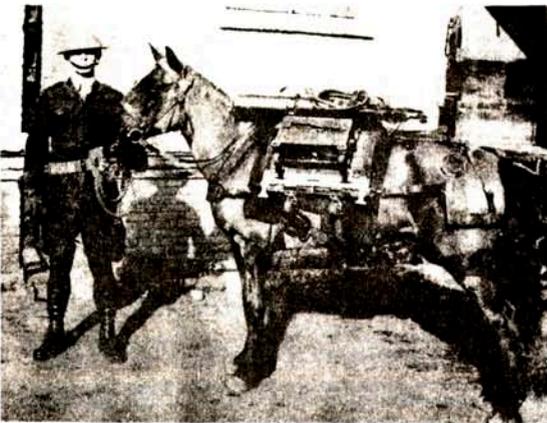
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Christmas with the Knights of the Round Table, c.1932





Above: Color Guard passes in review in winter service.



Above: Hash-marked sergeant, pony, and heavy Browning.

Below: Mounted Detachment in field service uniform.



-- it was something to see flying from our vehicle when we had a picnic.

"I saw the war coming as anyone with half a brain could have done. So we picked up in November 1940 and came back to the U.S.A. where my people have been since the early 1600s, not that I claim any special rewards for that.

"I calculate that about 93,000 different people sat at the table during the 17 years -- consuming 1,240,000, perhaps closer to 5,000,000 glasses of some of the world's best light beer -- as well as countless tons of foods of all kinds. Caviar was very low priced and many learned to like it, though George Davidson, now in Tuscon, always said that in the matter of eggs it was hard to beat the hen.

"Our business was completely lost to the Reds but a German gentleman, Mr. Egging, rescued the table and it was somehow brought back to the U.S.A. by a Marine who shipped it to me collect from San Francisco. The Marine did not give his name or it has been lost through the years."

Mr. Gowen has said that his family of two is agreed that upon their demise the table will be sent to the Marine Corps Museum, "provided it would be desired." (Director's note: It is desired and there is a place for it, but we are in no hurry to have it filled. In the meantime, Mr. Gowen says that occasionally old members stop by and use the table again, sometimes tearfully.)



# Exercise STRONG EXPRESS

Strong Express, one of the largest NATO exercises ever held involving armed forces from eleven NATO countries, sent the 6th Marine Amphibious Brigade into Norwegian waters to execute several landings. Accompanying the headquarters of the 6th Marine Amphibious Brigade was the Historical Division's Art Director, Major John Dyer, USMCR, on a tour of active duty. Among the many facets of the exercise which he observed were the Royal Marines in a deterrent landing, the Norwegian Army in the "aggressor" role, Netherlands, Canadian, and Italian units, and the 6th Marine Amphibious Brigade in a helicopter assault. Background for the operation was the tremendously beautiful environment of the Norwegian fjords which the cold, gray overcast, and perpetual rain that attended the exercise could not obscure. The final results from Major Dyer's brush will be the subject of a special exhibit in the future.



Rugged landscape features on the island of Andoya.



Marine helicopters operating from the USS Inchon

# COLONEL JOHN H. MAGRUDER, III: Marine Corps Museum's First Director



Colonel John H. Magruder, III, the Marine Corps Museum's founder and first Director died in a boating accident off Falmouth, Massachusetts the night of 2 September 1972. Colonel and Mrs. Magruder were enroute to their sailboat which was anchored off shore when their dinghy swamped. Mrs. Magruder was saved but the Colonel perished in the stormy waters.

In response to a request from the then-Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Colonel Magruder returned to active duty in 1952 to create Marine Corps exhibits for the Smithsonian Institution's Hall of Naval History and subsequently remained on active duty to breathe life into the moribund local exhibits serving the Marine Corps as a repository for trophies and battle flags. In the space of a few years, the colonel brought into being the Marine Corps Museum largely as it stands today.

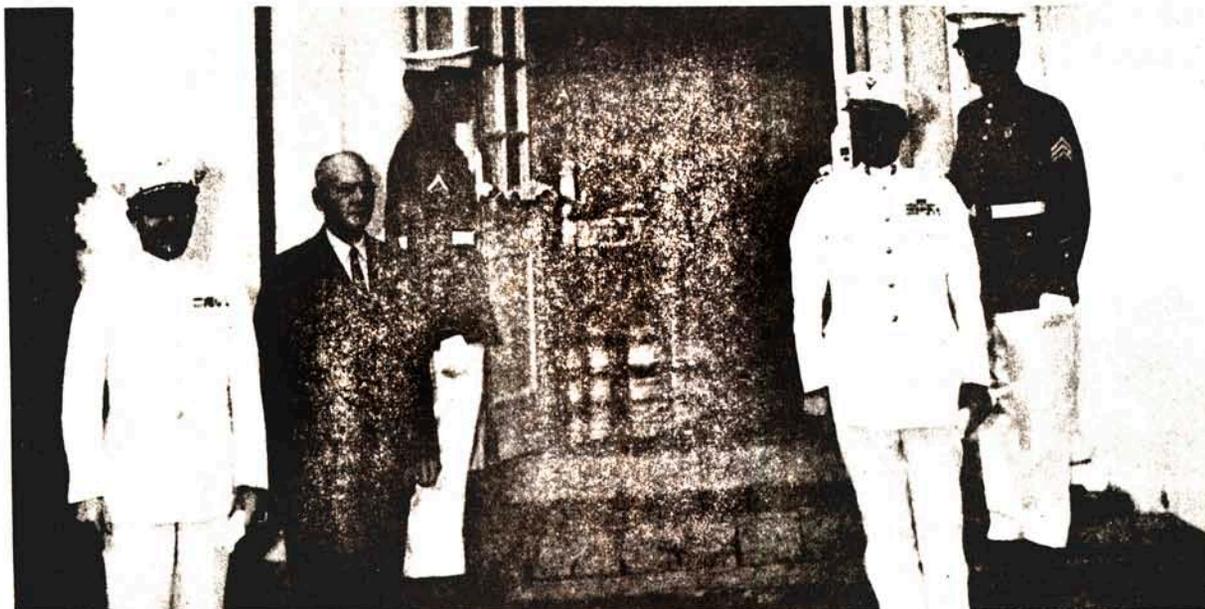
Colonel Magruder was born in Rochester, New York, the scion of an old Virginia family. He was educated at St. Alban's School in Washington, D. C. and later attended Cheam School in England while his father, the late Commodore John H. Magruder, II, was Naval Attache at the Hague. On his return he entered Kent School in Connecticut where he graduated in 1936. Subsequently, he spent two years as a midshipman at the U. S. Naval Academy but left after a period of serious illness and joined the Merchant Marine to work his way around the world. By the time he returned to the United States, World War II had broken out in Europe and young Magruder enlisted in the American Field Service (an Ambulance Service of the Society of Friends) and boarded ship to join the British General Auchinleck in the North African desert. The westward journey toward Suez terminated in India when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Making good use of his Merchant Marine papers, he signed aboard the S.S. President Harrison to return to the United States, finally arriving in New York in April 1942.

That summer he received a commission in the Marine Corps and was immediately shipped to the Southwest Pacific. During his ser-

vice in the Southwest Pacific Theater, Colonel Magruder contracted malaria and was invalided home to recuperate. After his recovery he was assigned to the European Theater where he accompanied the British in the liberation of the Hague as his knowledge of that city as well as his fluent Dutch made him a most valuable guide. For this outstanding service he was appointed a Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. Among Colonel Magruder's other personal decorations were the Bronze Star with Combat "V" and the Legion of Merit.

After the war Colonel Magruder left the service to become a partner in an export/import business but the general lack of success of this enterprise persuaded him to turn to fabric designing, an endeavor which honed his already well developed artistic sense to a fine degree. In spite of his success, Colonel Magruder was forced to leave New York for the quiet life of a Virginia farmer when the recurring malaria he had contracted in the Pacific made the New York City climate unbearable. It was from this pastoral life that General Shepherd called his friend of many years to help foster the material history of the Marine Corps by applying his abilities to the establishment of a Marine Corps Museum.

In 1964 Colonel Magruder was loaned to the Smithsonian Institution to begin planning for a National Armed Forces Museum and in 1969 after retiring from the Marine Corps, he became full time Director of the National Armed Forces Museum Advisory Board.



Generals Shepherd and Greene and Colonel Magruder at dedication of the Marine Corps Museum in 1960.

# PEREGRINATIONS

## MONTFORD POINT MARINE INTERVIEWS

A series of interviews with World War II Negro Marine veterans took place at the 8th Annual Convention of the Montford Point Marine Association held in Freeport, Grand Bahama Island from 13 to 17 August 1972. The Chief Historian, Mr. Henry I. Shaw, Jr., who is currently editing and revising a history of black Marines was able to tape the personal experiences of men who served in the 51st and 52d Defense Battalions, in ammunition and depot companies, and in the first recruit platoons at Montford Point Camp. There was considerable interest and enthusiasm shown in the concept of a history of black Marines from men who wanted to be able to show their families what they had accomplished in World War II. As a considerable number of the members of the Montford Point Marine Association present were active or retired regulars, there was also fruitful discussion of the progress of integration in the Marine Corps over the past 30 years. The history, which is still in the formative stages, is projected for completion in draft form later this year.

## MILITARY HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

The Fifth Military History Symposium, theme "The Military and Society," held 5-6 October at the U.S. Air Force Academy, attracted some 400 participants, including, in addition to the government sector, representation from some 60 colleges and universities in 39 states and Canada. Government attendance included the directors of history for the four military services, the DOD historian, and representatives from West Point, Annapolis, and all senior war colleges. Marine attendees, in addition to BGen Simmons, were Cols Terry Allen and William Plaskett of the Naval War College and Col Richard Barry and 1st Lt Ronald Hood of the Education Center, MCDEC, Quantico.

## AASLH MEETING

Mrs. Doris S. Davis, Registrar, Marine Corps Museum, attended the 32d Annual Meeting of the American Association of State and Local History held at the Biltmore Hotel and Motor Inn in Providence, Rhode Island from 19 to 23 September. Morning and afternoon sessions were held each day covering museum related subjects. An open discussion period followed each session to field questions and specific problems. One afternoon was devoted to tours of various historic sites in Providence and a visit was made to the Rhode Island Historical Society Museum and Library which featured a special exhibit.

## MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION'S FIRST MEETING

The first annual convention of the Marine Corps Aviation Association was held in Chicago from 5 to 8 October 1972. This association continues the work of the First Marine Aviation Force Veterans Association toward perpetuating the memory of Marine flyers in World War I as well as addressing the flying Marine of today. Col David E. Schwulst, Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums, attended the meeting at which the Alfred A. Cunningham Trophy was presented to Maj Lee Thomas Lasseter as Marine Aviator of the Year while the Robinson Trophy went to Capt William D. Carr, Jr. as the Outstanding Marine Flight Officer of the Year. Gen Robert E. Cushman, Commandant of the Marine Corps, attended the meeting and participated in the presentation of the awards.

## DIVISION CMH FELLOWS TO HALIFAX

The Fellows and Governors of The Company of Military Historians held their annual meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia from 5-7 October. Three of the Historical Division's members attended: Mr. Shaw, a Governor of the CMH since 1958, and for 12 years Editor in Chief of its publications; Mr. Frank, currently editor of the society's journal, Military Collector and Historian; and Mr. Long, the Museum's Historic Sites Curator. Three former members of the Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History, Cols Donald Dickson, Brooke Nihart, and Roger Willock, also attended the meeting. Highlighting the occasion were visits to the many military and naval historic sites in the Halifax area.

## ANNIVERSARY OF CONSTELLATION'S LAUNCHING

By legend, at least, when the U.S. Frigate Constellation was commissioned, it was a Marine who raised the colors. BGen Simons re-enacted this role on 7 September 1972 when the Constellation observed the 175th anniversary of its launching with day-long ceremonies at its new berth at Baltimore's Pier One. Lt Philip Edwards, the first Marine officer named to the Constellation was slow in arriving on station and his place was filled for a time by an artillery lieutenant, James Triplett. Lt Bartholomew Clinch went aboard as Marine officer on 15 November 1798 and fought with distinction in the great sea duels with the French frigates Insurgente and Vengeance.



Presentation of Constellation's colors.

# ORAL HISTORY

An important element of the Oral History Collection is the 100-plus interviews with retired distinguished Marines, of which 55 have been reduced to written transcript. Access to these can be obtained by writing to Deputy Director for Marine Corps History (Code HDH), Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380. The latest transcripts accessioned include:

## LIEUTENANT GENERAL ALPHA L. BOWSER, USMC

LtGen Alpha L. Bowser has provided a 393-page memoir, one-fourth of which covers his assignment as G-3 of the 1st Marine Division in 1950, the division's deployment to Korea, planning for and executing the Inchon landing, and the march to and withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir. Gen Bowser's memory is keen and his insights incisive as he outlines the personalities and events of this and other momentous periods in which he played a key role during his 35-year career. The remainder of Gen Bowser's memoir concerns his Naval Academy days, early years in the Marine Corps as an artillery officer, World War II combat experiences in the Bougainville, Guam, and Iwo Jima operations, as well as later assignments leading to command of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, from which he retired in 1967.

## LIEUTENANT GENERAL CARSON A. ROBERTS, USMC

LtGen Carson A. Roberts graduated from the Naval Academy in 1927. An aviator for the greater part of his career, Gen Roberts' first five years in the Corps were with the infantry, serving part of that time with the 1st Marine Brigade in Haiti. The remainder of his 35 years in the Marine Corps consisted of staff, command, and training assignments on increasingly higher levels. The transcript of Gen Roberts' memoirs is of value not only for his observations of Marine aviation in the pre-and post-World War II period, but also because of his comments on his varied later assignments.

## MAJOR GENERAL JOHN N. HART, USMC

A veteran pilot who was a Naval Academy graduate in the Class of 1925, Gen Hart became associated with Marine aviation at a very interesting period from a historical point of view. After a tour of China with the 3d Brigade, he entered flight training in 1928 and began flying with those Marines who were veterans of World War I as well as those who received their wings shortly after. Gen Hart was able to complete only three interview sessions, which covered his career up to and including the early part of World War II, before his untimely death. Those which were completed, however, should prove very useful.

## MAJOR GENERAL HENRY R. PAIGE, USMC

A native of upstate New York, Gen Paige graduated from the Naval Academy in 1927 as a Marine second lieutenant. His early years were spent in normal barracks and sea duty, except for a tour with the 2d Marine Brigade fighting bandits in Nicaragua. Gen Paige was one of the Marine officers assigned to the first defense battalions the Marine Corps organized, and has provided in his interview very cogent recollections of his tour in Iceland with the 5th Defense Battalion. He also served in the Pacific during the war with defense battalions and antiaircraft artillery units. Gen Paige's transcript contains material concerning his assignment as the first President of the Tactics and Techniques Board at the Marine Corps Development Center as well as his tour as the Navy Member of the United Nations Military Armistice Commission in Korea.

## BRIGADIER GENERAL LESTER A. DESSEZ, USMC

Gen Dessez began his 30-year career in the Marine Corps as a private but soon was commissioned a second lieutenant. His vivid recollections of Marine Corps personalities and events of the World War I period are an invaluable addition to our knowledge of this period. From service in Haiti with the First Provisional Brigade, Marines, he was transferred to duty with the American Legation in Peking in 1919, and two years later assigned to the Marine detachment serving on the USS Helena at Vladivostok. His reminiscences of his tours as aide to the American High Commissioner to Haiti, MajGen John H. Russell, and MajGenCmdt Ben H. Fuller, as well as his assignment to the Ecole Superieure de Guerre in France, provide first-hand material not available in other oral history transcripts.

### GIRL SCOUTS WORK AT THE MUSEUM

During the past summer, Senior Girl Scouts of Troop 626, Springfield, Virginia, assisted in several museum projects. The young women were taking part in a service award program toward training as Museum Aides, and underwent an orientation session and subsequently worked with staff members in several of the areas of endeavor necessary to the maintenance of a museum. Three of the girls, Ellen Clemens, Renee Bougeouis, and Debra Hilliard, made substantial progress toward the individual goal of 50 hours museum work called for by the Girl Scout organization, while seven others took the orientation course and hope to finish their service during the ensuing school year.

# COLLECTIONS

The Personal Papers holdings include over 300 collections dating from as early as the War of 1812 and are open for research on the premises of the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, Virginia. Request for research access should be addressed to the Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia 22134.

## GENERAL ROY S. GEIGER, USMC

The Manuscripts Section recently acquired the collection of the late Gen Roy S. Geiger, USMC. Gen Geiger, whose career spanned the development of Marine aviation from 1916 until his death in 1947, commanded both Marine air and ground units during his military service as well as the Tenth Army on Okinawa at the height of the campaign to capture that island stronghold from the Japanese. During the critical days of the Guadalcanal Campaign in 1942, Gen Geiger directed the air defense of that beleaguered island and was subsequently awarded a bronze star in lieu of a second Navy Cross for his inspiring leadership. His first award of the Navy Cross was for his distinguished service in leading bombing raids against the Germans during the closing months of the First World War. The Geiger collection is the generous gift of the general's widow, Mrs. Eunice Geiger.

## LIEUTENANT GENERAL WALTER W. WENSINGER, USMC

Mrs. Walter W. Wensinger has graciously added her late husband's effects to the museum's holdings. LtGen Wensinger included in his distinguished career a number of assignments beginning with his enlistment as a private in 1918. He served in Nicaragua and China between the wars and during the Second World War he was awarded the Navy Cross for his distinguished and heroic leadership while in command of the 23d Marines during the Iwo Jima Campaign. The general retired in August 1956 and died 10 July 1972.

## GENERAL HOLLAND M. SMITH, USMC

A collection of notes and recollections of Gen Holland M. Smith was turned over to the division by Mr. Mac Asbill, formerly World War II aide to Gen Smith. Gen Smith, of course, was one of the most important contributors to the development and wartime implementation of the Marine Corps' amphibious mission and Mr. Asbill's recollections and notes add much to the understanding of the personal side of Gen Smith's character. The new material will considerably supplement the division's holdings on this key figure in recent Marine Corps history.

# NEW PUBLICATIONS

## MARINE CORPS SPECIAL UNITS IN WORLD WAR II

An historical reference pamphlet by Mr. Charles L. Updegraph, Jr. covering the exploits of Marine raiders, parachute troops, glider and balloon units, and defense battalions has just been published. Mr. Updegraph is currently heading the team working on the history of Continental Marines in the Revolution. On receiving his copy, LtGen Victor H. Krulak, USMC (Ret) responded: "I was particularly fascinated to learn - for the first time - that the basic concept for Marine Corps parachute troops was that they were to be expendable. Had they told me that a little earlier I might not have been so excited about being one."

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 12th MARINES

An historical reference pamphlet by Mr. Charles R. Smith covering the history of the regiment from its activation in China in 1927 to the present day is now available. The new monograph includes the regiment's World War II and Vietnam experiences. The author, currently writing the history of Continental Marines in the Revolution, was himself an Army artilleryman and historian in Vietnam in the I Corps area. A complimentary copy of the monograph has been sent to all former commanding officers of the regiment.

### HOW TO OBTAIN MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

The Historical Division prepares and publishes a variety of publications including operational histories, unit histories, chronologies, bibliographies, and reference pamphlets on a diversity of subjects relating to Marine Corps history. The Marine Corps Art Section also publishes a limited number of lithographs.

Case-bound books are generally printed in limited numbers by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 and are available for public sale as long as copies remain in stock. Most of the others can be obtained gratis from the Historical Division.

To obtain a list of available publications and instructions for ordering copies, address a request to the Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code HD), Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380.

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