



FORTITUDINE

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FORTITUDINE

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

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of the Navy Publications and Printing Regulations NAVEXOS P-35.

Cover Major Charles Waterhouse, USMCR, in civilian life is a free lance illustrator whose works have appeared in a wide variety of publications. Among his latest products are two books of drawings published by the Charles E. Tuttle Company entitled Vietnam Sketchbook: Drawings from Delta to DMZ and Vietnam War Sketches: From the Air, Land, and Sea. The cover illustration is entitled "Pop Up Target Range" and depicts a Marine firing live ammunition on a 1000 meter range under conditions simulating the unexpected nature of actual combat targets.

In This Issue:

Director's Page	3
Commandant's House An "Historic Place"	4
Final Korean Volume is Published	8
Lineage and Honors	12
Historical Division Seminars	15
People and Places	16
Oral History	19
The Wildcat in the Marine Corps	21

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Director's Page

We are proud to announce that the Commandant's House and the Marine Barracks, Washington, have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. A recitation of the House's architectural excellence begins on page 4. Readers not familiar with terms such as "apsidal," "fenestration," "pilaster," and "machicolation" are advised to have a dictionary at hand.



The cover of this issue, you will note, is by Maj Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR, who has just begun a year's active duty with us. His principal project will be the execution of a series of major paintings of Continental Marines and their operations in the Revolution. These paintings will, amongst other uses, appear in the definitive history of The Marines in the Revolution we now have in preparation. An illustrator with a reputation for accuracy and detail, Maj Waterhouse toured Vietnam as a civilian artist.

The Summer 1972 FORTITUDE reported the gift by LtCol David D. Duncan, USMCR (Ret.) to the Marine Corps of 101 magnificent prints of his Korean War and Vietnam photographs. In making the gift, LtCol Duncan expressed the hope that some might hang in the halls of Headquarters Marine Corps. This winter we have been rotating the exhibit through the HQMC lobby. The collection will next go on tour to principal Marine Corps commands and activities. Requests for the exhibit from commands and activities having suitable facilities are invited. About 300 linear feet of protected display space are required.

China duty seems to hold a continuing fascination for Marines. Certainly our piece in the Fall 1972 FORTITUDE on the Knights of the Round Table in Peking prompted a lively response. Several new Thomason sketches and a number of old photographs have come to light. Retired WO Fred T. Stolley, now with the U. S. Naval Institute, who served on the staff of the Walla Walla in the 1930s, reports that they had a Round Table in Shanghai copied after Hempel's. Col Herbert M. Hart, now at Quantico, has sent us a dozen copies of the North China Pictorial. This is a rotogravure cruise book published in 1946 by III Amphibious Corps. The book was put together under the supervision of MTSgt Louis L. Louft whom many World War II Marines will remember as being one of our outstanding combat photographers, both motion picture and still. Copies of the Pictorial are available to the first 12 old China hands who write and ask for one, with priority going to former members of the III Amphibious Corps.

COMMANDANT'S HOUSE

An "Historic Place"

The Commandant's House has been officially recognized as being, something that Marines have known all along, an "historic place." The House and Marine Barracks site at Eighth and I Streets, southeast Washington, were entered in the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the National Park Service on 27 December 1972. A week later, on 5 January 1973, the remaining Barracks buildings in the quadrangle were entered in the Register.



Documentation to support the nomination of the House, the site, and the buildings was prepared by Dr. Alfred S. Branam, an architectural historian with the National Capital Planning Commission, assisted by Mr. Richard A. Long of the Marine Corps Museum staff. The National Register of Historic Places was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Entries are made on the basis of state nominations -- or, in the case of Washington, the recommendation of the District of Columbia. The Joint Committee on Landmarks had previously designated the House as a Category II Landmark. (Category II is more prestigious than it might sound; Category I is reserved for such edifices as the Capitol, the White House, and the Washington Monument.)

The Commandant's House has been the residence of every Commandant of the Marine Corps since LtColCmdt Franklin Wharton. The story of how Wharton's predecessor, LtColCmdt William Ward Burrows, rode out with President Thomas Jefferson on 31 March 1801 to fix on a site for the Marine Barracks within "easy marching distance of the Capitol building" is well known to Marines as are many other stories, some documented, some in the area of legend, that cluster around the House and its tenants. Not so familiar to a Marine, however, is a description of the House as viewed through the eyes of an architectural historian.

"The Marine Commandant's House at 801 G Street in southeast Washington has been significantly altered since its original conception in 1801," writes Dr. Branam. "A two-story addition was built on the northeast corner in 1840, lengthening the facade by sixteen feet and adding an extra window on both the

ground and upper stories. That same year, a one-story wing was added to the northwest for servants' quarters. In 1891, the old roof was removed and the present mansard roof and dormer windows added. During this renovation a one-story porch was added to the back of the house, giving direct access to the parade grounds. Finally, in 1934 a kitchen and pantry were added on the northeast of the house. Despite all of these changes, it is still possible to readily discern most of the outlines of the original house."

In researching the origins of the House and its alterations Dr. Branam spent the larger part of the spring and summer 1972 examining the House itself as well as city records, Navy public works files, and the reference materials acquired over the years by Mr. Long.

Reports Dr. Branam: "The House was originally a two and one-half story symmetrical composition 25-feet wide (3 bays) and 32-feet deep. The front facade of this early Federal-style structure was dominated by a centrally-placed arched entrance of gauged brick and limestone keystone with a paneled door surmounted by a fanlight set back under the arch. There was probably a shuttered, sash window on either side of the entrance, and three across the top, on the second story. The roof, a pyramidal form, supported a small square cupola at its apex and was pierced by a dormer window at either end of its base. To the rear, on the parade ground side, the facade was almost entirely taken up by two contiguous apsidal bays two stories high and projecting beyond the facade in an arc of four feet. The fenestration on both ground and upper stories was six windows across, arranged in groups of threes. From the rear, the roof followed the same pattern as on the front. Considering its plan, and general appearance, it was a most daring composition in its day and showed, as Thornton had in the Octagon House sometime earlier, the Federal desire to escape the monotonous confinement of Georgian geometry.

"The Commandant's House is built on a raised basement and sits back from the pavement," observes Dr. Branam. "One approaches the two and one-half story Flemish bond brick structure by a series of brownstone steps which rise from the pavement up a gentle knoll to the main entrance, which consists of an arch of gauged brick springing from limestone pilaster to a limestone keystone. The pilaster capitals and the keystone are both highlighted by a star design. A paneled doorway is set back under the arch surmounted by a simple fanlight. On the left of the entrance are two 2/2 light, shuttered, sash windows, each surmounted by a transom. There is a similar window on the right. The ground story windows are three feet wide and seven feet high, with limestone lintels. Across the second story the

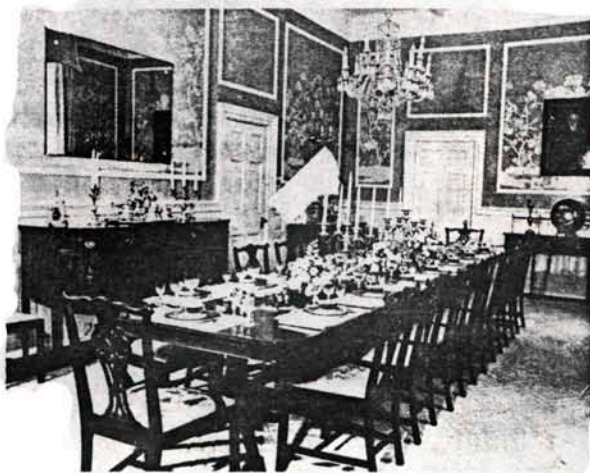
four 2/2-light, shuttered, sash windows lack the transoms that appear below and measure five feet high and three feet wide. Just above the second story and almost directly under the roof is a fret design in wood. It forms a criss-cross pattern and runs the length of the facade. Above this is a dentilated cornice supporting the tile mansard roof. This tiled roof is pierced by four round-head dormers much in the genre of the Second Empire style but also evidencing some attempt at compatibility with the building beneath by echoing the motif of the entrance fanlight.

"Totally different in character from the main house are the two wings which flank it," reads the report. "These dependencies are architectural statements of their own and emphasize their separate identity by the means of very noticeable buttresses at the join of the house and the end of the wings. To the left of the main house is the one-story kitchen wing. Its plain brick facade is punctuated by three small, shuttered, sash windows. Near the top of the wing, a dentilated brick cornice, surmounted by machicolation runs the length of the facade. At either end of the kitchen wing are brick buttresses. To the right of the main house is the two-story servants' wing. In an effort at symmetry it too is buttressed and has the brick machicolation and cornice around the top. There are two shuttered, sash windows on the ground floors and three on the second floors. These second floor windows have plain lintels with brick relieving arches immediately above each one.

"From the rear the central ground story is masked from view by a porch. The porch is composed of five brick pilasters spaced at three and one-half foot intervals with two large windows on either side of a central doorway filling in the space between pilasters. Above the porch, on the second story the original projecting curved facade is visible, and recessed back somewhat further are the rear facades of the various additions. These follow the same arrangement as on the front, but without the ornamental features. Each of the apsidal projections is capped with a curving mansard roof pierced by three dormer windows.

"On entering the house from the front, one is immediately struck by the magnificent plastered groin vault which rises at the crossing of the main hall

Dining Room set for 16



and the vestibule and rests on four delicately moulded fluted pilasters. This feature serves as a focal point for orientation within the building and leads one both to the stairs and to the various main rooms which open off it. Throughout the ground story wainscotting is much in evidence. Many fine mantels including one showing the influence of Robert Adam are in the ground floor rooms.

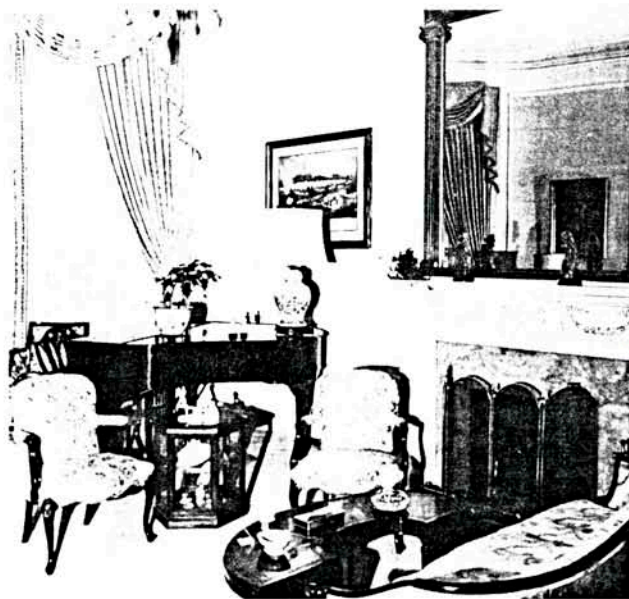
"Recently, the house has been air-conditioned and generally repaired. The facade is now painted a lemon yellow with black shutters and the limestone details painted white."

As reported in the Summer 1972 FORTITUDINE, the Commandant's House is now undergoing an extensive refurbishment in a manner designed to enhance its historical significance. To further this project the Secretary of the Navy has granted the Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, 8th and "I" Streets, S.E., Washington, D. C. 20390, authority to accept contributions from interested citizens and gifts of a historical nature. Refurbishment is proceeding in accordance with a two-phase plan. Phase I included interior painting, covering of walls and floors, hanging of draperies, and the purchase of some reproduction furniture to augment the government furniture and historic pieces already in the House. The goal of Phase I, which is now essentially completed, was to provide suitable background and setting from which to proceed to the longer-range Phase II. During Phase II it is planned to acquire period pieces, both by gift and through purchase with donated funds, and to share the history and legacy of the House with the public.

Emphasis is being placed on acquiring original 19th Century pieces of furniture, paintings, and art objects of the Jefferson period or later. To the extent possible, objects which have a direct Marine or historical association are being sought. However, any good piece reflecting the age and times of former occupants of the House is welcome.

Inquiries can be addressed to BGen Simmons or to the Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. 20003.

A view of the music room



Final Korean Volume is Published

In an informal ceremony in the Commandant's office on 23 January, Gen Cushman was presented with a copy of the final volume of the Korean War series, Operations in West Korea, just received from the Government Printing Office. The co-authors of the volume, LtCol Pat Meid, USMCR and Maj James M. Yingling, USMC (Ret.), were both present as were a number of members of the Historical Division, the Headquarters staff, and invited guests. The new book is available from the Superintendent of Documents for \$4.50, quite a bargain for a 643-page volume in this day and age.

Focusing primarily on the period from March 1952 to July 1953, the volume gives the official operational account of when the 1st Marine Division was deployed in West Korea. It was a period marked by intense outpost fighting that alternated negotiating strategy at the Panmunjom truce table. At this time the division was under operational control of Eighth U.S. Army in Korea, occupying the far western sector, while the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing continued to function as a component of Fifth Air Force. As with the previous books in this series, the volume will provide military students, libraries, and research institutions with a permanent, documented, and interpretative record of Marine Corps participation in the Korean War.

Marine Corps command diaries from the division/wing, regimental/group, and battalion/squadron levels form the backbone of the history. Other material was derived from U.S. Pacific Fleet evaluations, after-action reports, and intelligence summaries. In addition to these basic source materials, the book incorporates information from interviews and more than 180 letters of participants in the actions described. Reliable secondary sources have also been used to lend balance and objectivity to the account.

The book is footnoted throughout and has a bibliography to assist the military expert or novice, serious student, or general reader interested in pursuing further research. Illustrations include 71 photographs that give a representative view of the men, weapons, and terrain in the events described. Thirty-nine maps help the reader follow the action. Useful references to the casual as well as more scholarly reader are found in the appendices. These include a glossary of abbreviations used, a chronology, command and staff list of Marine Corps division and wing units, Marine strength and casualty figures, enemy aircraft kills by Marine pilots, the Presidential and Navy Unit Citations awarded for the combat actions described,

the text of the armistice agreement, and a bibliography. A comprehensive index offers a handy guide to the contents of the book.

Volume V of U. S. Marine Operations in Korea, 1950-1953 deals primarily with the last year of the war when the 1st Marine Division manned a 35-mile-long sector of Line JAMESTOWN, the main line of resistance. As the far western anchor of I Corps, the Marine area was one of the most critical of the entire UNC line. It not only controlled access to the avenues of approach used throughout centuries of history by invaders in their drive south to Seoul, but was also less than five miles from the site of truce negotiations at Panmunjom.

Although the major part of the narrative discusses the year of outpost or positional warfare in West Korea, an overview of the entire war is presented. The book also covers the Marine post-war mission, which saw the division stationed south of the demilitarized zone trained and ready should hostilities break out to threaten the fragile Korean peace. An account of the treatment and leadership of Marine POWs, two of whom are today active duty general officers, is also included. Another point of interest to the contemporary military historian or reader is a review of the total Marine Corps contribution to the Korean War. A summary of "lessons learned" from dealing with the Communists closes this book and the series.

Between March 1952 and July 1953 the Marines fought off a continuing series of sharp probes in increasingly vicious battles against a numerically superior enemy. With three infantry regiments (the 1st, 5th, and 7th Marines), one artillery regiment (11th Marines), and support units, the 1st Marine Division totaled about 26,000 men plus 4,000 Koreans in the attached 1st Korean Marine Corps Regimental Combat Team. Chinese Communists Forces opposite the Marine division sector numbered approximately 50,000 troops.

Fighting in western Korea was characterized by limited objective attacks, with strong and sometimes sustained CCF probes aimed at breaching the Marine MLR. Reminiscent of the trench warfare of World War I, the bitter, heavy see-saw clashes centered about key hill positions, or outposts, forward of the main line of defense that were held by small Marine units (usually platoon, section, or squad size).

Major combat actions during the period were for four strongly-contested Marine posts. These were the battle for Bunker Hill (in August 1952); the Hook, a fierce 36-hour struggle for control of a salient in the Marine MLR (late October

1952); the Carson-Reno-Vegas, or Nevada Cities battle, which developed into a five-day siege involving an estimated 4,000 ground and air Marines (March 1953); and the battle of Boulder City (July 1953), a sharp, three-day action that raged until the last day of the war, 27 July 1953. This was part of a Communist renewed last-ditch effort all along the EUSAK line to seize more key terrain before final adjustment of the truce line.

The role of Marine Corps aviation has been presented in detail. During the Marine division's tour in western Korea, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing continued as a key link in the air defense net of South Korea. With its two subordinate groups, MAGs-12 and -33, the wing was composed of six tactical (attack or fighter) squadrons and numbered 7,000 men. Marine aviators performed close support missions not only for the Marines but, to a far greater extent, for as many as 19 UNC frontline divisions that defended the line in the five corps sectors of the Allied MLR across Korea.

Throughout the war, Marine attack and fighter aircraft flew 127,496 combat sorties as a component of FAF. Of this number, more than a third represented the Marine Corps close air support (CAS) specialty, even though 1st MAF pilots were heavily engaged with other assignments from Fifth Air Force. Marine participation in the massive aerial assaults Operation STRANGLE and Operation PRESSURE is discussed. Innovations of the Marine wing in offensive and defensive air tactics have also been high-lighted. Among these were controlled radar bombing, which permitted delivery of ordnance at night or under conditions of limited or poor visibility; development of night close air support; photo reconnaissance; and helicopter supply and logistical operations.

Most revolutionary and far-reaching of all aerial tactics from the Korean period was the Marine Corps' employment of the helicopter in combat. Although used previously in tactical exercises, rotary-winged aircraft in 1950 had not been combat-tested. Throughout the war approximately 10,000 Marines were evacuated by VMO-6 and HMR-161 pilots, even under hazardous night rescue conditions. The HMR-161 transport squadron, moreover, in its increasingly complex troop life and resupply operations proved conclusively that obstacles of time and space and formidable terrain could be quickly and effectively overcome. This pointed the way towards VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) maneuvers that would again be pioneered by Marine combat fliers and were destined to become commonplace within the following decade.

A point worth pondering for today's style of limited wars: the book notes how the so-called "war of position and attrition"

was actually more costly in terms of Marine lives than the earlier, fluid combat situation. Total U. S. casualties in the three years of the Korean War were approximately 137,000 men killed, missing, and wounded. The Marine Corps' part of this toll was 30,544. Of this number 13,087 Marines -- or 42.5 per cent -- became casualties during the last 16 months of the war on the western front.

The new book was written by two Marine Corps officers with varied service and professional backgrounds. LtCol Meid holds a degree from Cornell University and did graduate work at the Harvard-Radcliffe Program in Business Administration. A native Marylander, she was a feature writer and Women's Editor of the Baltimore Evening Sun for five years and authored the historical monograph Marine Corps Women's Reserve in World War II. Active in the Marine Corps Reserve, she also was a team writer and edited the 300-page book, The Marine Corps Reserve - A History, published in 1966 as part of the 50th Anniversary of the Reserve. Maj Yingling, originally from Hanover, Pennsylvania, is a graduate of Dickinson College. A veteran of 24 years service with the Marine Corps, he holds a master's degree in history from Southwest Texas State College and wrote the historical monograph A Brief History of the 5th Marines. Now a history and English teacher in the Prince William County, Virginia school system, he has also taken postgraduate courses at George Washington and American Universities.

Authors LtCol Meid and Maj Yingling present
Gen Robert E. Cushman, Jr., with a copy of their book



LINEAGE AND HONORS

On 1 January 1969, the memorialization of the history and services of Marine Corps units became the objective of a formal program of the Historical Division. The goals enroute to this objective are the issuance of certificates of lineage and the determination and authentication of battle honors and awards for each major unit in the Fleet Marine Force, both active and reserve. Eyeing a completion target of mid-1977, researchers have prepared 167 pairs of certificates so far, and will bolster this number by about 30 more by July 1973.

As may be imagined, such a large scale program was rather slow to start. During its first 30 months, researchers processed only 64 units. But as research became more systematized, and historians learned to avoid the pitfalls which are somewhere hidden in most genealogies, the pace grew to a crisp walk. Sixty-five sets of certificates were completed in the next 12 months and 22 more from July to December 1972. Today, the march is continuing, and certificates are being developed regularly and according to plan.

The primary task for development of a unit's lineage and honors is raw, rigorous research. The need for accuracy dictates that each study be precise, and reflective not only of the unit being reviewed, but its environment as well. For example, historical propriety demands that the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, for purposes of illustration, be referred to as the 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment when mentioned in regard to service prior to 1930, when the Marine Corps officially began to designate its regiments, "Marines." The chief research tools are muster rolls, unit diaries, and command chronologies, and few projects are completed without meeting the stumbling blocks imposed by the absence of these reports through unit deactivations or redesignations.

An interesting difficulty which is often encountered arises from the fact that many present day units have been preceded by commands with the same, or similar, designations but different lineage. Researchers sometimes spend hours studying a particular organization, only to find that, although it shares a common name with a modern unit, they are in no way tied together. Just as it is illogical to assume that all "Smiths" are related, trial and error has shown that it is equally as fallacious to assume that all 1st Brigades are related.

Many of today's Marines can remember another facet of unit genealogy. A prime example existed in the transplacement of

battalions and squadrons from the continental United States for duty in the Pacific. The same unit often found itself a part of the lineage of 2/5 on one day, and 3/9 less than 24 hours later. Consideration of this fact alone helps in understanding the difficult chore for the historian involved in the development of unit lineages.

Sometimes equally onerous is the determination of unit honors. Since small unit honors do not automatically accrue to the parent organization, a researcher would be on thin ice if he assumed that a Marine aircraft group was entitled to a Navy Unit Commendation merely because each operating squadron within the group was eligible. On the other hand, though, campaign participation may be credited if a significant portion of an organization is involved. As a result, the group referred to above may not be eligible for the commendation awarded its squadrons but could very well qualify to add to its colors the streamer for that campaign in which the award was won.

The study of expeditionary and provisional organizations is another aspect which often taxes the historian's acumen. The relationship, if any, of a World War II provisional unit to a Korean provisional unit of the same name is often a nebulous one. This difficulty is frequently compounded by the fact that the composition of each of the provisional organizations may be entirely different.

Preliminary study discloses some parallel difficulties among Marine barracks lineages, a program which will begin, along with posts and stations, upon completion of the Fleet Marine Force units. The Marine Barracks at the Naval Air Station, Barbers Point, Hawaii, for example, was hard pressed to provide security for the burgeoning Naval and Marine Corps air station complex which developed on Oahu during World War II. As a result, a separate guard detachment was activated at the Marine Corps Air Station portion of the complex. Although initially staffed with officers and men from the barracks, and performing functions coordinated by the barracks and naval air station, this detachment was totally independent and is not a part of the barracks' family tree, as many operational reports and diaries initially lead one to believe.

As these brief illustrations show, the watchwords for developing unit lineages and honors are precision, perseverance, and thoroughness. Only if these principles are adhered to will the finished product bear the true character and flavor which distinguish each Marine Corps unit.

Two historians currently involved in the lineage and honors program, Mr. James S. Santelli and Miss Gabrielle M. Neufield,

recently devoted a number of their off-duty hours to providing Marines with an appreciation of the role that their regiments played in forming the history of the Corps. Using the results of their research into the various Marine Corps regiments, they submitted a capsule history to the editors of the Marine Corps Gazette. Their article, "Regiments of the Corps," appeared in the November issue of the Gazette, and has already spurred interest and prompted requests for further information.



HONORS

AWARDED

1ST BATTALION, 2D MARINES

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II

GUADALCANAL - 1942

TAJANUA - 1943

AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH ONE SILVER AND ONE BRONZE STAR

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

NAVY OCCUPATION SERVICE STREAMER WITH ASIA AND EUROPE CLASPS

NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

22 JANUARY 1973

R. C. Cochran, Jr.
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Above: Certificate of Honors
Below: Certificate of Lineage

Tracing the evolution of the modern regiment from its early forebears, the authors led their readers from the swamps and Seminoles, through insurrection-torn Caribbean and Pacific countries, to the eventual formation of the first permanent regiments in 1913. Brief highlights of regimental accomplishments during World Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam sketched the sometimes tortuous lineage of today's regiments.

The article leads up to a two page summary listing of regimental lineage which provides an effective avenue for the dissemination of some of the by-products of their research. Arrangements are being made to obtain reprints of this article for use in explaining the lineage determination system.

Efforts to complete the lineage and honors program will continue, and along with them, the lore and traditions of the Marine Corps will begin to take on a new perspective. Hopefully, this appreciation for the past will help to develop a better understanding of, and enthusiasm for, our modern units of the Fleet Marine Force, as well as their comrades at the numerous barracks, posts and stations of the Corps.



LINEAGE

41ST

1ST BATTALION, 2D MARINES

1957-1958

ACTIVATED 1 JANUARY 1957 AT CAPE WATKIN, MAINE AS THE 1ST BATTALION,

2D MARINES AND ASSIGNED TO THE 1ST BRIGADE

2D MARINES PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONS AGAINST REBELLY POWERS, JANUARY 1957-AUGUST 1958

RELICATED DURING AUGUST 1958 TO PORT-AN-PRINCE, HAITI

DEACTIVATED 4 AUGUST 1958

1941-1947

REACTIVATED 7 JANUARY 1941 AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA AS THE

1ST BATTALION, 2D MARINES AND ASSIGNED TO THE 2D MARINE BRIGADE

REASSIGNED DURING FEBRUARY 1941 TO THE 2D MARINE DIVISION

2D MARINES DEPLOYED DURING JUNE-JULY 1942 TO HONOLULU

PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II CAMPAIGNS

GUADALCANAL

TAJANUA

SAIPAN

TINIAN

OKINAWA

2D MARINES REDEPLOYED DURING SEPTEMBER 1945 TO MANABUA, JAPAN

2D MARINES RELICATED DURING JUNE-JULY 1946 TO CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA

DEACTIVATED 18 NOVEMBER 1947

1949-1952

REACTIVATED 17 OCTOBER 1949 AT CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA AS THE

1ST BATTALION, 2D MARINES AND ASSIGNED TO THE 2D MARINE DIVISION

ASSIGNED AT VARIOUS TIMES AS BATTALION LANDING TEAM

IN THE CARIBBEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN, 1949-1952

PARTICIPATED IN THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1962

PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERVENTION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, MAY 1965

22 JANUARY 1973

R. C. Cochran, Jr.

Historical Division Seminars

In December, the division held the last of a series of bi-weekly seminars with invited guest speakers that began last summer. The program was open to all members of the division as well as interested members of the Headquarters staff. The sessions were informal, informative, and covered a wide range of topics. LtCol Russell J. Hendrickson, USMCR, led off the series with a talk on National Park Service museums; he is Chief of the NPS Museum Division. An old friend, Dr. Dean C. Allard, Head of Navy History's Operational Archives, discussed the resources available through his office. The Historian of the Defense Department, Dr. Rudolph A. Winnacker, gave an enlightening talk on history at the OSD level, and was followed by Dr. Thomas G. Belden, Chief Historian of the Air Force, who gave us an illustrated, historical analysis of communications failures during the Pueblo Crisis, a topic he developed when he was a member of the Institute for Defense Analysis.

The Army's Chief Historian, Dr. Maurice Matloff, gave the seminar attendees a rundown on the historical plans and programs of the Office of the Chief of Military History. At the next session, the new Chief of the JCS Historical Division, LtCol Ernest H. Giusti, USMCR (Ret.) described historical staff support for the Joint Chiefs. The monumental project of selecting, editing, and publishing Naval Documents of the American Revolution was ably described by its Chief Editor, Dr. William J. Morgan. Another visitor from the Navy, Captain Roger Pineau, currently the Head of the Naval Memorial Museum, related his experiences while working as Samuel Eliot Morison's assistant during the writing of the 15-volume history of the Navy in World War II. The editor of the Naval Review, Mr. Frank Uhlig, discussed the editing and publishing of the USNI Proceedings. The Smithsonian provided the final speaker of the series, Col Wilcomb E. Washburn, USMCR, who discussed the American Studies graduate program which he heads for the Institution. A similar series of seminars ranging across a broad spread of topics of professional interest is projected for next fall.

One of the rare instances when a propeller-driven fighter shot down a jet opponent occurred when Capt Jessie G. Folmer of VMA-312 and his wing man 1stLt W. L. Daniels engaged 8 enemy MIG-15s over North Korea 10 September 1952. The Marines were flying F4U-4 Corsairs and Capt Folmer destroyed one of the enemy before being shot down himself.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

The Company of Military Historians recently elected BGen Simmons and Mr. Shaw to serve on the Board of Governors for the 1973-1975 term. Also elected to the 15-member board was Col Brooke Nihart, a former member of the Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History.

LtGen Karl S. Day was the guest of honor at the Marine Corps Reserve Officers' Association's annual Birthday Ball at the 7th Regiment Armory, New York on 4 November 1972. BGen Simmons represented the Commandant at the event. This was the last public gathering the 87-year-old aviation pioneer attended before his death in mid-January.

BGen Simmons addressed the Chattanooga, Tennessee, Rotary Club on 9 November on "197 Years of Marine Corps History" and in mid-January he attended the Southwestern University at Memphis International Affairs Seminar where "Is Amphibious Warfare Still Relevant?" formed the theme of his remarks.

Chief Historian Henry I. Shaw, Jr. attended the American Historical Association's 87th Annual Meeting in New Orleans from 27-30 December. Seven of the sessions were on military historical subjects.

A paper on "John A. Dahlgren and the Washington Navy Yard" was presented by the Museum's Head Curator, Mr. Jack B. Hilliard, at the sixth annual Duquesne History Forum as part of a panel on "Technology and Institutional Response: Developments in 19th Century Naval Ordnance." Other panelists were Dr. B. Franklin Cooling of the Army Center for Historical Research, who discussed "Origin of the Military Industrial Complex: The Navy's Search for Armor and Armament in the late 19th Century," and Dr. John K. Oehl of the University of Cincinnati who addressed "The Military Industrial Complex and American Mobilization for World War I." Dr. Dean Allard of the Naval Histories Division commented on the three papers while Dr. Philip K. Lundeborg, Curator of Naval History, Smithsonian Institution and a member of the CMC Historical Advisory Committee, moderated.

Mrs. Doris S. Davis, the Museum Branch's Registrar, attended a Museum workshop at Columbia, South Carolina in mid-November. The meeting was co-sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History and the South Carolina Department of Parks and included an intensive program of sessions on such subjects as exhibits, conservation, preservation, and publications.

Mr. Benis M. Frank, head of the Oral History Unit, attended the 7th National Colloquium on Oral History, co-sponsored by the Oral History Association and the University of Texas Oral History Project. The meeting was conducted in the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center at the University in Austin, in the shadow of the imposing L. B. Johnson Library. As usual, there were several interesting and pertinent seminars including "The Role of Oral History in the Approaching Bi-centennial of the American Revolution," "Oral History and Black Studies," and "Preparing Oral History Tapes and Transcripts for Research Use."

Recent military promotions within the division include: Mary F. Edmonds, the Reference Section Admin Officer to captain; Isaac C. Moon of the Admin Section to corporal; and Donald E. Lowndes of the Art Section and William D. Walker of the Museum's Security Section, both to lance corporal.

Ethyl M. Wilcox, a veteran of more than twenty-five years service, became one of nine Woman Marine sergeants major currently active in the Marine Corps on 1 October 1972. Sergeant Major Wilcox, who calls Cornell, Wisconsin home, has been with the Historical Division since 1 December 1971 as Secretary to the Director.

BGen Simmons and soon-to-be-promoted Lt Edmonds
present new stripes to SgtMaj Wilcox



LtCol Harold L. Bivins, who headed the Division's Reference Section for three years, retired from active duty on 1 January 1973. At a brief ceremony attended by his family and members of the division, LtCol Bivins was presented with a Director of Marine Corps History and Museums Commendation.

Maj John C. Short, Jr. joined the Division on 2 January 1973 replacing LtCol Bivins as Head of the Historical Reference Section. Maj Short's previous assignment was with the Special Education Program at the American University where he received a Master of Science Degree in Technology of Management, majoring in computer systems.

Maj Charles M. Johnson, who joined the Historical Division in October from his post as Assistant Naval Attache in Morocco, is now working on a 1965 Vietnam monograph. He recently completed an interesting additional duty assignment with the Armed Forces Inaugural Parade Committee, where he was involved in a number of facets of the parade's organization and conduct.

Mrs. Clara Miller, for over 11 years a member of the Historical Reference Section staff and most recently the section's Library Assistant, transferred in January to the Technical Library of the Quartermaster General.

Mr. Charles L. Updegraph, Jr., who for a year and a half headed the General History Unit, left the Historical Division the first of December to accept an excellent opportunity to join a new and growing branch of the Justice Department.

Mr. Charles R. Smith, who has been with the Revolutionary War team since joining the Division, was promoted to head the General History Unit.

Lt(jg) Richard M. Nixon, USNR (promoted to Lt on 1 October 1943) joined Headquarters Squadron 25, Marine Aircraft Group 25, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on 2 July 1943 from Fleet Air Command, South Pacific. It appears that he joined the squadron at New Caledonia but much of his tour was spent at Efate, New Hebrides; Vella Lavella, New Georgia, Bougainville, etc., in his duties as a passenger officer, operations officer, and officer-in-charge of a detachment of the area-wide South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command (SCAT). He served with Headquarters Squadron 25 until 17 March 1944 when he was transferred.

ORAL HISTORY

CATALOG

The Marine Corps Oral History Collection Catalog has just been published and includes a descriptive abstract of over 90 transcripts of interviews the Oral History Branch has conducted with distinguished Marines. The catalog is an excellent guide for researchers wishing to use the collection and contains details on the procedures by which access to the collection can be obtained. Requests for copies should be directed to Deputy Director for Marine Corps History (Code HDH), Headquarters, United States Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380.

4TH MARINES

Serendipity is defined as the gift of finding valuable things not sought for, and the acquisition of a reel of 8mm movie film well fits this definition. This story begins with an April 1972 telephone call to the Historical Division from a California-based Air Force officer, 1stLt Thomas Neil, who said that while on temporary duty in Sidney, Australia, he had become friendly with a Mr. C. K. Bliss, a pre-World War II resident of Shanghai. An amateur photographer, Mr. Bliss took some movies of the 4th Marines as the regiment left Shanghai for the Philippines in November 1941. Because he was nearing 75 years of age and was afraid that on his death the film would pass into oblivion, Mr. Bliss asked Lt Neil to contact the Marine Corps on his behalf to offer the film for safekeeping. The film was recently acquired and is now in the archives of the Combat Pictorial Section. The film depicts the forming up of the 4th Marines for its march to the Shanghai bund, the parade down Bubbling Well and Nanking Roads, and the regiment boarding a harbor steamer for the trip down the Whangpoo River to the liners President Harrison and President Madison for transport to the Philippines. The last part of the reel was filmed in 1945 and shows the return of sailors and Marines to Shanghai.

SHEPHERD TRANSCRIPT

Recently accessioned in the Oral History Collection is the transcript of the interview series conducted with Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., 20th Commandant of the Marine Corps. A senior at Virginia Military Institute when the United States entered World War I, Gen Shepherd's graduation date was accelerated so that he could accept a commission in the Marine Corps. In his career, which spans nearly 40 years on active duty, Gen Shepherd served his country in three wars, beginning as a platoon leader

in the 5th Marines in France. He has also held commands at every echelon from platoon to division before he assumed the commandancy on 1 January 1952. Gen Shepherd's memoirs are of value not only for his recollection of Belleau Wood and the Marine Corps in the 1920s under Gen Lejeune, to whom Gen Shepherd was aide, but also for the keen insights he provides concerning Gen MacArthur and the Marine Corps in Korea as well as a view of the Marine Corps by a former Commandant.

DEL VALLE TRANSCRIPT

At the beginning of every oral history interview conducted with a retired distinguished Marine, the interviewee is asked what prompted him to become a Marine. The answers vary to a great degree, and one of the most interesting replies came from LtGen Pedro A. del Valle, a Naval Academy graduate of the Class of 1915, with whose permission the following is quoted:

Q: Well, what induced you to opt for the Marine Corps?

A: Well, that's hard to say. In the first place, of course, I'd seen this battalion of Marines here [Annapolis]. I'd seen Marines in the Navy Yard down at San Juan. I had no great knowledge of them, but I liked them. Then there were a couple of very smart cookies in the class who figured out -- this is one of the funny things -- mathematically that if we went into the Marine Corps, we would be able to retire after 30 years' service as majors, two and a half stripes, you see; whereas, if we stayed in the Navy, we would retire after 30 years with two stripes. So, that half stripe loomed very great in our decision to come into the Marine Corps.

Q: That was the height of expectancy in those days.

A: Oh yes. Promotion was very slow. You see, I did not get beyond the grade of captain for 13 years.

Under the provisions of Marine Corps Order P5750.1D, all scale models of experimental or standard aircraft furnished by manufacturers to agencies within the Marine Corps are to be sent to the Museum when they are no longer of current use. The Historical Division requests that all appropriate offices review any models presently held and forward those no longer necessary to the Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums, Marine Corps Museum, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia 22134

Wildcat in the Marine Corps

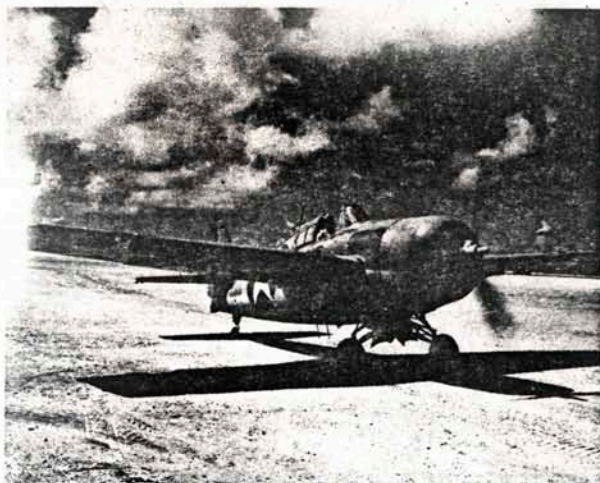
High in the air over Wake Island and Guadalcanal stubby Grumman F4F Wildcats in the hands of Marine pilots established a combat record still enshrined in the hearts of Marine aviators. Despite numerical inferiority and a performance ratio that gave over 30 miles per hour in airspeed and over 1000 feet per minute in rate of climb to the Japanese Zero, Wildcat pilots managed to shoot down more than five enemy aircraft for each of their own losses.

The F4F was initially conceived in 1936 when the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Company, which had been supplying biplane fighters to the Navy for a generation, began its first monoplane design. However, it was not until the summer of 1941 that the new machine entered squadron service in the Marine Corps. By the entry of the United States into the Second World War, five Marine squadrons had been equipped with the F4F. Marine Fighter Squadron (VMF)-211 had been stationed at Wake Island only four days before the Pearl Harbor attack occurred. Only hours after bombs began falling, a Japanese attack reduced VMF-211 to four effective aircraft. Nevertheless in the ensuing two weeks before Wake's fall, the Marine airmen accounted for at least seven enemy craft and probably sank one Japanese destroyer.

Grumman F4F Wildcats at the open air repair shop on Guadalcanal, February 1943. Pilot's tents appear in background.



When the first U. S. offensive of the war began with the seizure of Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942, the stage was set for a monumental struggle in the air equaled only by that in the jungles below. The first aircraft in support of the beleaguered Marines on Guadalcanal landed on Henderson Field on 20 August. These airplanes, 19 in number and flown by pilots of VMF-223, were catapulted from the escort carrier USS Long Island and began landing in the late afternoon.



F4F Taxiing at Tutuila airstrip

Nineteen hours later the Wildcats, led by Capt John Smith, climbed skyward to engage the enemy in the opening rounds of the Air Battle of the Solomons. Capt Smith shot down a Zero, the first of 19 Japanese aircraft that were to fall to his guns. On 24 August the Japanese sent 15 carrier-based bombers escorted by 12 Zeros against the "Canal" and lost 16 including half the Zeros to a loss of four F4Fs.

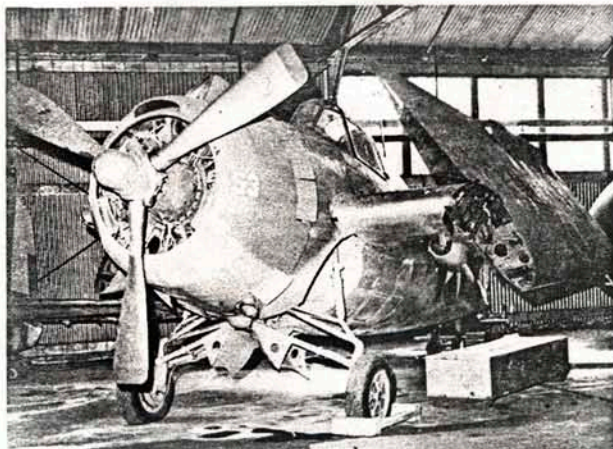
Two days following the initial engagement the Japanese lost 13 of a strike force of 16 twin-engine bombers and on 30 August Capt Smith shot down four of the enemy in one engagement as his squadron mate Capt Marion Carl brought down three. As the struggle continued additional F4F units were flown to Guadalcanal so that by the end of November 1942 the "Cactus Air Force" as the island's air defense came to be called, included six Wildcat squadrons.

Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal ended by February 1943 and the same month the new Vought F4U Corsair made its initial combat debut in the hands of Marines. Not until mid-summer, however, were the last Wildcats replaced by the sleek new arrivals and Marine F4Fs engaged the enemy sporadically until the transition was complete. It was during these later days that Lt James E. Swett earned a Medal of Honor by shooting down seven Japanese dive bombers in a 15-minute fight.



Wildcat ready for a fight

The courage and dedication of Marine F4F pilots which enabled them to succeed in the face of almost overwhelming odds is attested to by the six Medals of Honor awarded to Wildcat pilots of the 11 awarded to Marine aviators during the entire course of the Second World War.



The Marine Corps Museum's F4F

The Marine Corps Museum's Wildcat is one of the very few Grumman-built F4F-4s known to exist in the United States although a number of its General Motors-built (FM-2) brothers are held by various aviation museums. The aircraft still carried the Bureau Number 12114 and was acquired from Seattle Community College, Seattle, Washington in 1968. It is in reasonably good condition but will require some additional work to bring it to truly accurate representation of the aircraft which during the dark days of 1941 and 1942 provided the Marine airmen with means to take the offensive against a superior enemy.

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 Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, Washington, D. C. 20380.

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