

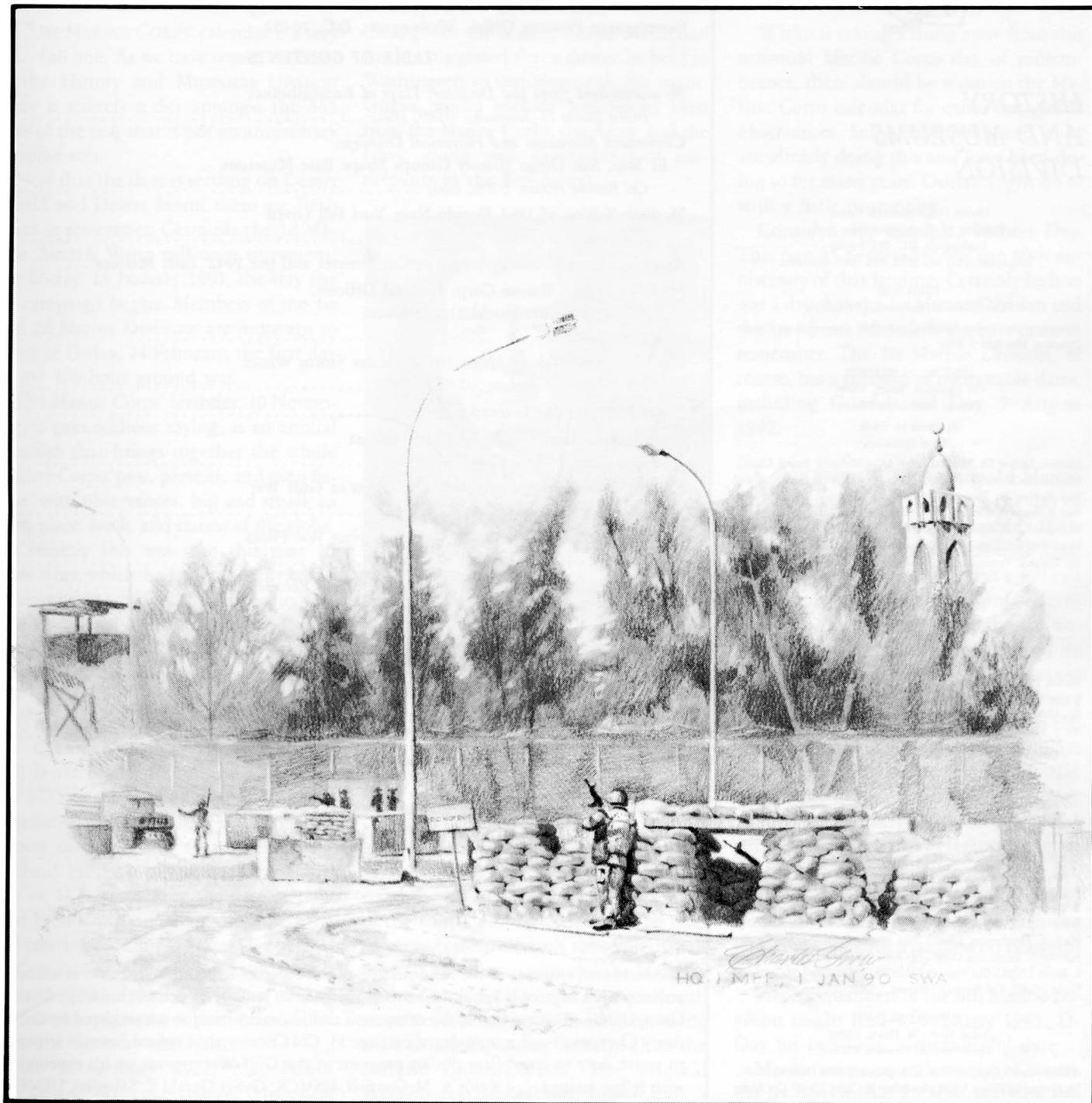
FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XX

SPRING 1991

NUMBER 4



MARINE ARTISTS REACT TO DESERT COMBAT . . . OBSERVANCE OF HISTORIC DAYS PROPOSED FOR MARINE UNITS . . . AVIATION MUSEUM OPENS AT EL TORO . . . AMASSING THE RECORD OF MARINE ROLES IN THE GULF WAR . . . VIETNAM WAR SPURRED ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM . . . VOLUME COVERS FINAL YEARS IN VIETNAM

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FORTITUDINE

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

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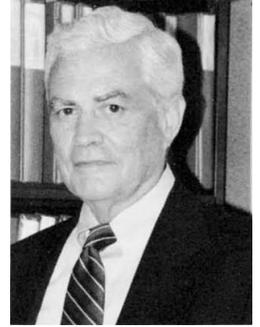
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THE COVER

The bunkered entrance to the headquarters of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, in a former police station in Jubail, Saudi Arabia, was sketched in January by combat artist Sgt Charles Grow, USMC. Another view of the compound and its nearby mosque was produced by Col H. Avery Chenoweth and is reproduced on page 13. Col Chenoweth, a retired Reservist returned to active duty to coordinate the art program in the Gulf War, reports on his experiences with fellow artists LtCol Keith A. McConnell, USMCR; GySgt Gerald E. Sabatino, USMCR; and Sgt Grow, on temporary duty from a Parris Island assignment, beginning on page 12.

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BGen Simmons

Days of Remembrance

THE MARINE CORPS' calendar is a very full one. As we have reason to know at the History and Museums Division there is scarcely a day amongst the 365 days of the year that is not an anniversary of some sort.

Now that the dust is settling on Desert Shield and Desert Storm there are fresh dates to remember. Certainly the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing will want to remember D-day, 16 January 1991, the day the air campaign began. Members of the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions are more apt to think of G-day, 24 February, the first day of the 100-hour ground war.

The Marine Corps' birthday, 10 November, it goes without saying, is an annual occasion that brings together the whole Marine Corps, past, present, and even future, with observances, big and small, in every place, nook, and cranny of the globe.

Certainly this was true this past 10 November which had the added embellishment that a fifth of the active duty Marine Corps had been deployed to Desert Shield in the Persian Gulf with another fifth scheduled soon to follow.

THERE IS A prevalent myth that the first Continental Marines got together in Tun Tavern in Philadelphia on 10 November 1775 to celebrate their founding and that these celebrations have occurred yearly ever since. Actually they haven't.

Until 1921 the birthday of the Corps was on 11 July, marking the date in 1798 that President John Adams approved the bill creating the United States (as opposed to Continental) Marines. However, records prior to 1921 show no evidence of any ceremonies, pageants, or parties associated with the birthday observance.

On 21 October 1921, Maj Edwin McClellan, officer-in-charge, Historical Section, Headquarters Marine Corps, sent a memorandum to MajGenComdt John A. Lejeune suggesting that the original birthday of 10 November 1775 be resurrected and celebrated as a holiday

throughout the Marine Corps. McClellan further suggested that a dinner be held in Washington to commemorate the event. Guests would include prominent men from the Marine Corps, the Army, and the Navy, along with descendants of participants in the Revolution.



MajGen John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant, issued Marine Corps Order No. 47 in 1921, to be read aloud on Corps birthdays.

ACCORDINGLY, on 1 November 1921, Lejeune issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, Series 1921. This order, familiar to most readers of *Fortitudine*, summarized the history, mission, and traditions of the Corps and directed that it be read to every command each subsequent year on 10 November in honor of the birthday of the Corps. So it is read each year, with some word-tinkering to its content, along with an accompanying message from the current Commandant. The original Washington dinner has grown into a worldwide network not only of birthday balls with pageants and ritual cake-cutting, but also of memorial services and many smaller-scale but equally fervent get-togethers.

Without taking a thing away from this universal Marine Corps day of remembrance, there should be room on the Marine Corps calendar for other less global observances. Some commands and units are already doing this and have been doing so for many years. Others might do so with a little prompting.

Consider, for example, Inchon Day. This past 15 September was the 40th anniversary of that landing. Certainly Inchon was a day that the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing have cause to remember. The 1st Marine Division, of course, has a plethora of memorable dates, including Guadalcanal Day, 7 August 1942.

AN OBVIOUS DAY for the 2d Marine Division to remember is the day of the landing at Tarawa, 20 November 1943. The 2d Marines held a memorable Tarawa Day in 1989. It started with a roll call of the units of Regimental Combat Team 2 (RCT-2) that fought at Tarawa. In answering the call, each unit reported its casualties. Present were about 20 veterans of the landing. By all accounts it was very moving. As Col John W. Ripley, then the regiment's commanding officer, said in a note to me, "Most importantly it did wonders to give our present day Marines an historical identity with their past—and with these wonderful veterans. And, of course, it gave them great pride."

The 3d Marine Division might want to remember its first entry into combat, the now almost forgotten landing on Bougainville, 1 November 1943.

Present members of the 4th Marine Division might find 19 February 1945, D-Day for Iwo Jima, a meaningful date.

Marine aviation, collectively, of course has its special day, 22 May, marking the day in 1912 that 1stLt Alfred A. Cunningham, on his way to becoming the Corps' first aviator, reported to the aviation camp at Annapolis. Of course there has been some grumbling in the past on the ground



Last 15 September marked the 40th anniversary of the Marines' Korean War landing, over the seawall, at Inchon. An Inchon Day celebration would be a suitable remembrance conducted by either the 1st Marine Division or the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

side that the Marine Corps should not have *two* birthdays.

ACTIVATION DATES are good dates to be remembered. Every unit, command, and base has an activation date. The 1st of February comes and goes. Is it remembered as the activation date in 1941 of the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions? The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing may or may not be observing its activation date of 7 July 1941. The 2d Marine Aircraft Wing's activation followed by three days, 10 July 1941.

Barracks, bases, posts, and stations need not feel left out in this business of memorable days. Marine Barracks, Washington, might want to celebrate Bladensburg Day, 24 August 1814, the day that they did well against the British outside of Washington. Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor, has cause to remember Pearl Harbor, 7 December, a happening that will have its 50th anniversary this year.

QUANTICO, SAN DIEGO, Parris Island, Lejeune, Pendleton, Cherry Point, and El Toro all have days to remember. The place to look is outside the commanding general's door where presumably the certificates of lineage and honors are hanging. The dates to be observed should jump off the pages of these certificates.

Units and commands don't have to be big in order to have memorable days.

Quite to the contrary. Regiments and groups, battalions and squadrons, should have no trouble in finding special days in their history. Regiments, as reflected in their command chronologies, do quite a lot in the way of anniversary observances.

Obvious examples are the 5th and 6th Marines who have their fourrageres to remind them of their service in France in the First World War. They have special reason to remember 6 June 1918 and their attack

A day in commemoration of the landing and fierce fighting at Tarawa would be a particularly appropriate choice for the 2d Marine Division. Below, pack-laden Marines face determined enemy resistance in occupying a smoke-enshrouded island airstrip.



into Belleau Wood. There was a time when the 5th and 6th Marines exchanged messages on this date, but apparently the custom has lapsed.

Observance of the Marine Corps Birthday is highly stylized and that is the way it should be. The established rituals help give the day its universality. Special days are something quite different. There should be no established or required pattern. Events incident to an observance should evolve naturally (not artificially) and they will either flourish or die. The fundamental question a unit should ask of itself is, "This is our day and how can we best observe it?"

There will certainly be no dictates from the History and Museums Division, although we stand by ready to help. The usefulness of the certificates of lineage and honors has already been mentioned. The command's historical file and published official histories are other sources.

There is undoubtedly already a great deal being done in this respect that we don't know about. For the most part we only know what we glean from base newspapers and unit command chronologies. We would welcome reports or news stories of commemorative events that we could publish in *Fortitudine*.

ONE OF THE PRIME purposes of a command historical program is to give the individual Marine member of the



The fighting ended, exhausted and seriously depleted ranks of the 6th Marines gather outside Belleau Wood before moving on. The 5th and 6th Marines used to exchange messages on 6 June in commemoration of their shared participation in the battle.

command a sense of place and purpose. Commemorative events and knowledge of what has gone on before in the unit or command contribute to that sense of place and purpose.

Which brings up a related kind of commemoration.

Every Marine Corps installation is chock-a-block with historical reminders, but how many of these reminders are meaningful to the young Marine?

Russell Road and Barnett Avenue at Quantico? Breckinridge Hall and Geiger Hall? Whom are they named for and why? The same questions can be asked of Munn Field and Capodanno Chapel at Camp Pendleton. Harder to answer, perhaps, for a Marine based on Okinawa, would be the origins of Pitts Tower at Camp Courtney or Peters Auditorium at MCAS Futenma.*

VIRTUALLY ALL OF our major buildings and facilities are named for Marine Corps heroes. Every such building or facility should have some sort of lobby display informing the visitor of the significance of its name. The History and Museums Division has helped with the development of many of these lobby displays and is ready to help with more. It is also a good idea to make provision for not only standing displays but also the rotation of pertinent topical exhibits through such lobbies.

MCO P5750.1G, the *Manual for the Marine Corps Historical Program*, sets forth the procedures for commemorative naming actions. Recent Commandants have reserved the right to approve personally all such namings. Staff support for the Commemorative Naming Program,

including the maintenance of the inventory of completed actions, rests with the Reference Section of the History and Museums Division. The "data base" is built on the foundation of a strenuous Marine Corps-wide survey conducted in 1978 to identify all namings that had taken place before that date.**

Most bases now have information pamphlets or brochures for new arrivals. Some have formal indoctrination or orientation programs for Marines and their dependents. Some, but not all, include a brief history of the base and its tenant commands.

ONE OF THE BEST ways of disseminating information on the significance of the names of streets and other facilities would seem to be through the base newspaper. It could be a running feature, a column given over in each issue to a facility, its name, and the hero it commemorates. Here again is something in which the History and Museums Division can help. □1775□

Marine aviation celebrates its special day on 22 May, the day that 1stLt Alfred A. Cunningham, here in 1915, reported to the aviation camp at Annapolis in 1912.



**Russell Road* at Quantico is named for MajGen John H. Russell, Jr., the 16th Commandant (1934-1936) and the long-time High Commissioner in Haiti (1922-1930).

Barnett Avenue at Quantico honors MajGen George Barnett, the 12th Commandant (1914-1920).

Geiger Hall, the home of the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico, commemorates LtGen Roy S. Geiger, aviation pioneer and commanding general of the III Amphibious Corps in World War II.

Munn Field honors LtGen John "Toby" Munn, a former commanding general of MCB Camp Pendleton and Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (1960-1963).

Capodanno Chapel at Camp Pendleton, also known as Santa Margarita Chapel, is named for Lt Vincent R. Capodanno, USN (ChC), who was posthumously

awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam while serving with the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, during September 1967.

Pitts Tower at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, is named for PFC Roy "Eddie" Pitts, who received a posthumous Navy Cross for heroism in Vietnam while serving with Company G, 2d Battalion, 9th Marines.

Peters Auditorium, located at MCAS Futenma, Okinawa, honors 1stLt William L. Peters, Jr., USMCR, who received the Navy Cross posthumously for heroism while serving with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 in Vietnam.

**MCO 5750.1F is soon to be replaced by MCO 5750.1G, although the procedures regarding commemorative naming actions will not be materially changed. Readers with specific questions concerning naming actions are encouraged to telephone Mr. Robert V. Aquilina (202-433-3483) or to write him at: Commemorative Naming Program, Reference Section, Marine Corps Historical Center, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-0580.

El Toro, San Diego History Groups Shape Base Museums

by Col Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret)
Deputy Director for Museums

MARINE CORPS Air Station El Toro and its supporting Historical Foundation, under the leadership of retired BGen Jay W. Hubbard, has been on course and on time in developing its command aviation museum. This despite deployment of many of the base tenants to the Persian Gulf and reprogramming and cuts in funding which caused delays in the completion of the museum. Nevertheless, by the time this issue of *Fortitudine* is on the street the museum will have been formally opened.

Our exhibits specialist from the Air-Ground Museum at Quantico, Ronald J. Perkins, visited El Toro last fall to assist in gallery and exhibit design and give hands-on tutorials in exhibit techniques to the museum volunteers. The preliminary results can be seen in the accompanying photographs. Both LtCol William A. Beebe II, OIC of the Air-Ground Museum, and I had made liaison visits earlier in 1990, in the preliminary planning stages of the museum, to share museological experiences and expertise. Such visitations depend upon the availability of TAD funds to one party or the other or are sometimes combined with other official or personal travel. It is a face-to-face method of the Museums Branch for assisting com-

F4U-5N Corsair night fighter is undergoing restoration in Building 244, a World War II-era squadron hangar itself recently renovated as the El Toro Command Museum hangar. Graduate studies intern Tom Dosier is leading the team of volunteer restorers.



At right on the El Toro flightline is a Bell 214ST helicopter captured from the Iraqis by the 1st Marine Division at Kuwait International Airport on 25 February. A SNJ trainer and a TBM torpedo bomber alongside are among the museum's 26 historical aircraft.

mand museums and is accomplished to meet a specific request or as opportunity permits.

The 26-28 April El Toro Air Show offered a big opportunity for the Foundation to showcase its program and to sponsor fund-raising events. This year a golf tournament followed by a barbecue was the main event, with other volunteers showing the museum's aircraft and selling souvenirs.

WHILE SOME AIRCRAFT are provided by the Museums Branch in restored condition, the El Toro museum has

a restoration program of its own under a graduate studies intern, Tom Dosier, assisted by willing volunteers. The museum's F4U-5N Corsair night fighter, shown in the accompanying photo, is undergoing extensive restoration. The TBM "Turkey" torpedo bomber shown in the flightline photo is almost complete and an F8U Photo-Crusader is in the works. Other birds are scheduled for minor refurbishment with fresh paint or waxing. The flightline photo also shows the museum's SNJ and an Iraqi Army Bell 214ST liberated by the 1st Marine Division on Kuwait International Airport and returned by MAG-36. It is an enlarged version of the UH-1N. Coming, it was hoped in time for the opening, is a World War II Convair OY-1/2 observation aircraft as flown by the VMOs. A big event will be the arrival of a 1917 Jenny JN-4HG due in September. This Jenny was flown by Marines in Haiti in 1919 and then was stationed at Quantico. In contrast to the usual trainer configuration, the 4HG model is fully equipped for combat with a forward firing machine gun and a rear seat gunner's position. Our JN-4HG is probably the only one in existence.

With the museum buildings refurbished, staff cognizance has passed from station G-4 (Facilities) to station G-3 (Training). This shift underscores the policy of command museums as training resources. Not only morale and *esprit de*



The El Toro Command Museum's Building 243 is adjacent to the museum hangar. It contains numerous exhibits in development; office, exhibit construction, and storage areas; and a gift shop. Building 243 was a squadron headquarters in World War II.

corps builders, museums can dramatize the history of amphibious warfare and air-ground team operations with artifacts, maps, documents, photographs, and art under the theme of "The past is prologue." An essential for such a program is command interest, and in the case of El Toro successive station commanding generals, BGens David V. Shuter and Wayne T. Adams, provided that essential.

RECRUIT DEPOT San Diego Command Museum continues to prosper under the impetus of the MCRD Museum Historical Society, the society's executive director, former depot chief of staff retired Col Richard D. Mickelson, and a busy group of member volunteers.

Another of its quarterly "Breakfast with the Commanding General" was held at Mess Hall 620 on 16 May. These events draw 100 or more members and guests.

Retired MajGen Marc A. Moore continues to lead the intellectual effort. Recent Warfare Leadership Seminars featured Israeli Consul General for the Southwestern United States, former Israeli Air Force BGen Ron Ronen, who spoke to 120 company- and field-grade officers on leadership in the Israeli Armed Forces during that nation's wars, alerts, and continuous semi-mobilization. For the other side of the Middle East picture another seminar had former Egyptian MajGen Mohamed Khalie speak on the Egyptian leadership experience, good and bad, during its various wars with Israel.

Another one of MajGen Moore's initiatives is the society's Executive Seminar

Luncheon. At these events 15 to 18 top civilian leaders from all walks of life in the San Diego area meet for a catered lunch in the museum. The commanding general or chief of staff always attends, together with a rotating group of society members. A Marine Corps speaker addresses the gathering on a subject of current importance to the Corps. Invitations are much sought after.

COMMANDERS ARE charged with giving their museum staffs training opportunities in their professional field of museology. One of the basic means of meeting this requirement is attendance at annual courses given by the other services for the staffs of their larger museum systems. The Army's annual museum conference and training course was held at the end of April this year at Fort Monroe, Virginia. It was attended by Stephen R. Wise and Allan A. Roberson of the Parris Island command museum; Mrs. Kathie Graler, museum technician at Camp Pendleton; and Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas and John G. Griffiths of the Air-Ground Museum, Quantico.

The same week as the Army's meeting the Navy held its history, museums, and archives conference here in the Washington Navy Yard. Michael E. Starn, aviation curator from Quantico, attended, while J. Michael Miller, curator of personal papers, and Nancy E. Christin, exhibits specialist, presented papers and entered panel discussions on planning and designing exhibits. Considering the scarcity of temporary duty funds this turnout of Marine museum personnel was remarkable,

attesting to the regard commanders have for the utility of their command museums and their willingness to expend scarce funds to support the program. The Air Force Museum also conducts an annual conference and, in the past, staff members of the Air-Ground Museum have both attended and given instruction.

WITH MANY UNITS now returned from the Middle East with both official trophies and souvenirs of individual Marines, displays at unit headquarters doubtlessly will follow. Large objects, such as tanks, APCs, and artillery pieces, often are displayed in front of headquarters. There they will rust away over time unless certain preservation techniques are applied. First, they should be mounted on a pad of concrete or large-size gravel which is crowned so that water will drain away from tracks and wheels. If a wheeled vehicle, pedestals should be placed under the axles to take the weight off the tires. External rust should be removed, the surface primed and painted. Any additional rust that appears over time should be treated the same way. The interior should be treated the same way, as condensation tends to form inside. Hatches should be tack-welded shut to prevent theft of instruments and engine parts. A simple shelter of corrugated metal or plastic sheets on pipe or timber stanchions could be erected to protect the object, if the base permits such structures. For further information on protection of the interior and mechanical components write to Joseph E. Payton, Restoration Chief, Air-Ground Museum, Quantico, Virginia 22134.

Small objects can be displayed inside the unit headquarters building. The theme, of course, would be the unit's deployment to Desert Shield and its activities in Desert Storm. The story can be told by various appropriate scale maps from a world map to illustrate the deployment half-way around the world to a tactical battlefield map with hour-by-hour and day-by-day movements shown. Enlarged photographs, newspaper, or *Brown Side Out* stories on the unit, sketches or art done by members of the unit, and souvenirs such as demilitarized enemy weapons, uniforms, insignia, and personal equipment, would be fine components. For advice on exhibit techniques write or call the Museums Branch. □1775□

Marine's Telling of 1861 Florida Navy Yard Fall Given

by J. Michael Miller
Curator of Personal Papers

THE FIRING ON Fort Sumter, off Charleston, South Carolina, is generally acknowledged to be the opening act of the Civil War, but several incidents preceded the firing which could have provided the spark to open hostilities, notably the surrender of the Warrington Navy Yard in Pensacola, Florida, on 12 January 1861.

A recent donation to the Personal Papers Collection by Mrs. Helen H. Little of Annapolis, Maryland, provides new insight into this event. The papers of Marine Sgt James P. Ivey contain an exciting new account of the surrender as witnessed by Ivey himself.

In January 1861, the Marine detachment at the Warrington Navy Yard was commanded by Capt Josiah Watson, a veteran of the Seminole War who was in his 26th year of Marine Corps service. His command consisted of seven noncommissioned officers and 30 privates who were quartered both in the Navy Yard barracks and in town. Watson's Marines and 80 sailors were the only protection for the Navy Yard which was surrounded by a less-than-formidable, two-foot-high brick fence. The Marine detachment was not even required to post sentries in the two gates leading to the town.

Capt Watson's primary difficulty in Pensacola in early January was in supplying his men with rations, as the local contractors refused the Government of the United States credit for any local items. Mr. C. P. Knapp, the food supplier under contract, informed Capt Watson that should Florida leave the Union, he would at that time refuse the Marines any support. Capt Watson wrote to Maj William B. Slack, the Marine Quartermaster, "Government credit is very low on this point. Should you direct me to purchase, send the coin."

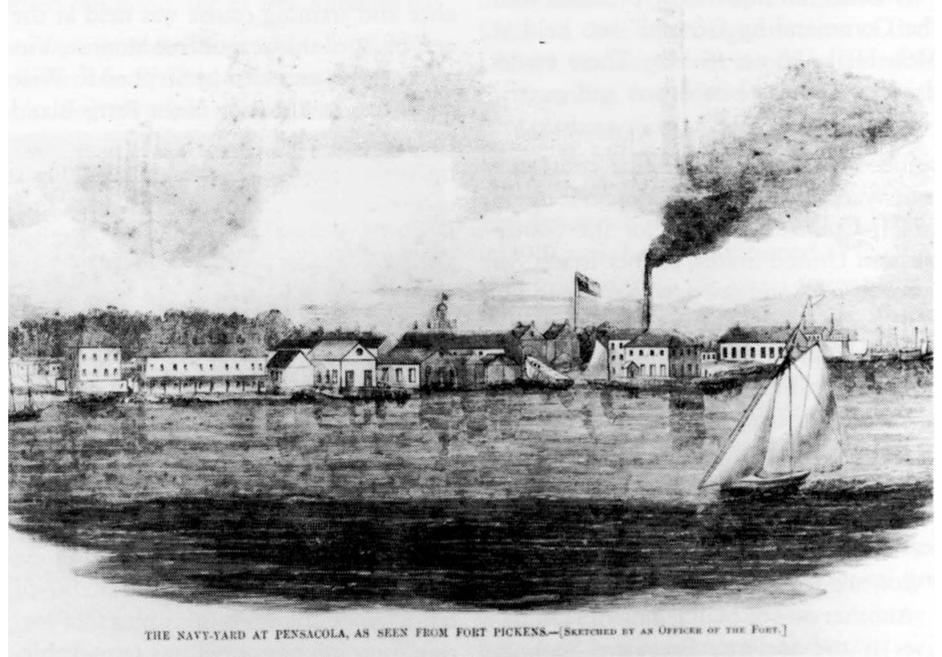
MAJ SLACK directed Watson to apply to Commo James Armstrong, commanding the Navy Yard, for rations which would be charged to the appropriation of the Marine Corps for provisions. The exchange of letters prompted the Secretary of the Navy to alert Commo Armstrong to protect public property, and be vigilant against any armed force. Armstrong was

also directed to provide the civilian mechanics and laborers of the Navy Yard, who were dissatisfied by not having been paid since 1 November, government rations for subsistence to forestall any rebellion inside the yard.

On 10 January 1861, the state of Florida formally seceded from the United States. Rumors of the potential seizure of the Navy Yard by state authorities plagued Armstrong but were regarded as harmless. More dangerous were the laborers inside the yard, many of whom were regarded as southern sympathizers. Several of the Navy officers and enlisted men also pronounced themselves as secessionists should hostilities begin.

CAPT WATSON WAS having breakfast on the morning of 12 January when Commo Armstrong called him to headquarters. Watson was informed that his command was to be under arms and ready for "immediate use and service." He deployed a sergeant, corporal, and three privates to the north gate and awaited further orders in the Marine Barracks, his men fully equipped with cartridges, muskets, and bayonets.

Warrington Navy Yard in a contemporary view shows the extent of the lightly guarded facilities at Pensacola as the Civil War neared. Seven noncommissioned officers and 30 privates reporting to a veteran captain composed the Marine Barracks at the Yard.



THE NAVY-YARD AT PENSACOLA, AS SEEN FROM FORT PICKENS.—[SKETCHED BY AN OFFICER OF THE FORT.]

AT NOON, 12 January, a force of 600 to 800 armed civilians approached the east gate and demanded entrance. Sgt Ivey wrote, "I term them in my own words, a disorganized mob having the appearance of a gang of pirates or filibusters of the first water . . . no two in appearance alike, some with revolvers strung to their side and some with rifles." The crowd soon seized the gate and demanded the surrender of the Navy Yard to the State of Florida.

Commo Armstrong at once began destruction of his signal books. He was informed by a Marine sentry that a commission wished to see him and he directed his second in command, Cdr Ebenezer Farrant, to bring the delegation to his office. In a brief meeting, Armstrong "declared with deep emotion, that although he had served under the flag of the United States for fifty years . . . he would strike it now . . . rather than fire a gun or raise a sword against his countrymen."

The crowd, now composed of both secessionists and Union men, moved to the center of the yard, to the flag staff. Ivey heard the order to lower the flag given to Quartermaster William Conway, "a

weatherbeaten tar whose gray hairs were flying in the breeze and whose sorrowful countenance showed it was a distressing order to him." Sgt Ivey, not knowing that the order came from his own officers, began to admonish him, saying, "Conway, you old — — — —, do not haul that flag down, for if you do, I hope your arm may become paralyzed."

THE OLD SAILOR replied, "My boy, you little know what you are talking about. I am complying with an order from my superior officer and things are now changed within a few short hours." However, Conway refused to lower the flag, and was replaced by more willing

volunteers. Conway was later awarded a gold medal for his refusal to lower the flag. Despite Conway's refusal, at 1330, the Stars and Stripes were lowered and replaced by the secessionist flag, seen by Ivey as "a piece of dirty yellow bunting with one single star in the centre and very likely the former property of Uncle Sam."

Capt Watson was ordered by Commo Armstrong to meet the commissioners, and then informed of the surrender. In turn, Watson ordered his men to stack arms. The order moved "some Marines to tears . . . they would not suffer the humiliation." However, the muskets were surrendered, and the Marines were ordered into two rooms while militia companies

from Alabama occupied the rest of the barracks. Two days later, the Marine detachment, along with loyal citizens and their families, were sent north on the USS *Supply*.

SGT IVEY RETIRED from the Marine Corps in 1894, after having served more than 30 years of active duty. His memories of the Pensacola surrender remained strong over the years, and he later wrote, "My advice and parting conclusion is that I hope and trust that our Government will never allow a repetition of the past. Treat them with all leniency and kindness but do not let the South be considered martyrs." □1775□

Readers Always Write

A Salute to Col Streeter and the 1942 'Lady Marines'

LYRICAL GIFT TO THE LADIES

Col Stremlow's fine account of Col Ruth Cheney Streeter (*Fortitudine*, Winter 1990-1991) brought back many recollections of the Women Marines (WRs) and their impressive impact upon all hands when these dedicated "Lady Marines" arrived on base, ready to go to work. We were "snowed" by their sharp appearance and their every formation seemed almost a precision drill. They were impressive!

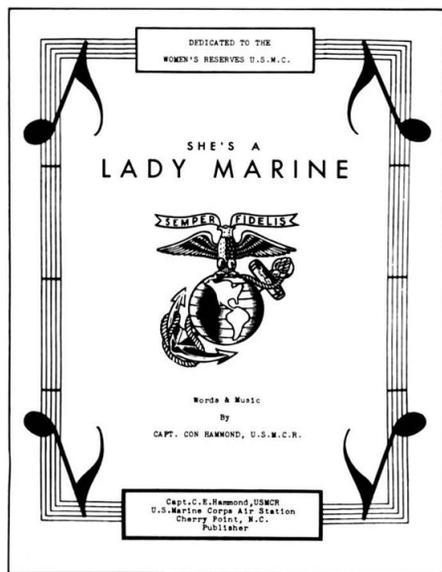
As a hobby, I had composed several tunes before becoming a Marine in 1942. Thus, it was inevitable that the sight of those WRs would inspire a lyrical reaction. It was all in fun, not commercial, that words and music became a song, "She's a

Lady Marine." Composed at MCAS, Cherry Point, it soon spread to other bases as WRs dispersed.

On 17 May 1981, a large reception was tendered to Col Streeter by her many friends in Morristown, New Jersey, where she lived. With dignity and grace she related to the gathering many of her per-

sonal experiences in public life. Those of us present, in dress blues, were honored to share the title of United States Marine with this gracious lady.

In salute to her memory, I submit my World War II "inspiration" to *Fortitudine*.
Col Cleon E. Hammond, USMCR (Ret)
Enfield, New Hampshire



Historical Quiz

Marine Corps General Officers, Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm

by Lena M. Kaljot
Reference Historian

Identify the Marine general officers of primary commands that deployed to Southwest Asia:

1. Chief of Staff, U.S. Central Command.
2. Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force.
3. Commanding General, 1st Marine Division.
4. Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division.
5. Commanding General, 7th Marine Expeditionary Brigade.
6. Commanding General, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing.
7. Commanding General, 1st Force Service Support Group.
8. Commanding General, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade.
9. Commanding General, 2d Marine Division.
10. Deputy Operations Officer, U.S. Central Command.

(Answers on page 19)

Historical Stock-Taking Heats Up as Desert Storm Wanes

by Maj Charles D. Melson, USMC (Ret)
Historical Writer

THE END OF the fighting in the Middle East has not marked the end of the efforts by the Marine Corps History and Museums Division to identify, recover, and exploit the war's historical record. The senior Marine commander during the war, I Marine Expeditionary Force's LtGen Walter E. Boomer, emphasized this effort with a message to his force on 2 March stating that now was the time "to collect all historical and battlefield information regarding this epic event."

Col Charles J. Quilter's Field Activities Branch, the designation for the in-theater operating unit of the History and Museums Division, staffed by the division's mobilization training unit, has returned from overseas. The field historians, all professional historians in civilian life, have taken just enough time to shake the dust off their boots and have started writing reports and drafting the initial historical narratives of the commands to which they were attached. At the same time, the records are beginning to arrive from the various corners of the globe to which Marine units returned after leaving Saudi Arabia.

Missing until late June from the roster of returned historians was LtCol Ronald J. Brown, who stayed behind to cover the refugee support activities in northern Iraq which were conducted by Marine Corps air, ground, and logistics units. One artifact of interest returned by LtCol Brown was a large-scale "overlay" map prepared by 2d Topographic Platoon, 2d Force Service Support Group, FMF Atlantic, drawn on a bed-sheet for use in briefing Marines

Maj Charles D. Melson, a member of the History and Museums Division staff, returned to active duty to act as the collator of collections of all historical material related to Operations Desert Shield/Storm. As such, he is cataloging primary source material arriving at the Historical Center from forward deployed units as well as Marine Corps supporting commands.

Some Early Lessons Learned

BASED ON THEIR experience at I MEF and U.S. Central Command headquarters the returning field historians observed that the way battlefield records are generated, stored, and used are often in conflict.

The following advice is provided to commanders by the field historians: when the dust settles again and the paperwork stirs, make sure somebody who can read and write takes care of the command chronology. Though the chronology seems a minor concern in the present (it doesn't pay, clothe, resupply, or shoot), it will become the *only* way of telling the unit's story (consider that it has taken 20 years for the Corps to digest and report its experience in Vietnam). For a lot of your men and women, particularly the casualties, this may be their only documented claim to fame.

It is recommended that the format illustrated in MCO P5750.1F, the *Manual for the Marine Corps Historical Program*, be used as a guide and not a rigid prescription; it can be added to for clarity and completeness. Some general observations in this area include: regiments often submit their input simply as a cover for battalion chronologies, without telling their own important story. Once at Headquarters Marine Corps, these reports are broken up into unit files by designation (i.e., 8th Marines, 2/4, 3/23, 1/25). Each chronology should be able to stand on its own and not be dependent upon the others for basic information.

Chronologies sometimes are written with the presumption that they will be read by individuals with the same assumptions and knowledge as the author who also may abbreviate much of his remarks. This results in a fragmented or incomplete story which becomes less usable as time passes. This can be avoided by using full names and ranks and full unit identification (particularly for subunits and non-table of organization formations). Most acronyms (FSCC, TACP, FAC, CP, COC) should be avoided in favor of full terminology.

Full names (first, middle initial, last) are very important. Most officers can be tracked down in the "blue book" lineal list, but this is not the case for enlisted Marines, unless they retire after 20 or more years. The unit diary system does not provide complete unit rosters, or casualty lists, or even unit and billet assignments in any practical form. As now configured, the chronology lists the commanders and key staff members, but these are not the only ones to accomplish the unit's tasks. Use the full identification for all individuals mentioned, otherwise the report of their participation has a reduced chance of remaining in the official memory.

Necessary documents to include are unit or task force rosters, draft public affairs news releases, maps and overlays, voice call-sign lists, casualty rosters, award recommendations, key message traffic (normally we just see the operational logs), and photographs (a mix of human interest, combat action, and the handshake variety). Never assume that other pertinent items will be available later, or that someone else will provide this material.

Finally, for the commanding officer, once his name goes on the command chronology, it becomes his words (and that is how they often are quoted by the History and Museums Division). As a result, the commander should make sure it reflects his views, concerns, and personality. An interesting, well-written report will get more attention from any future historical researcher, because it tells a story about people and not just anonymous units and equipment, and this is the best you can do for your own.—CDM

about events during the ground battle for the liberation of Kuwait. This allowed the participants in the fighting literally to gain the "big-picture" of what they accomplished.

THE COMBAT HISTORIANS and artists from MTU (History) DC-7 were in the Middle East doing the things which field historians are supposed to do: They amassed a large and important body of documentation, photography, videotapes, oral history interviews, and artifacts for shipment to the Marine Corps Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard. They also assisted reporting units in preparing their command chronologies for submission through channels to the Marine Corps History and Museums Division (See "Lessons Learned" box on page 10). Slated to debrief the returnees is the MTU Executive Officer, LtCol Ronald H. Spector, USMCR, former Director of Naval History and currently professor of history and international affairs at George Washington University.

LtCols Charles H. Cureton, Dennis P. Mroczkowski, and Frank V. Sturgeon returned to the Historical Center in late April to write after-tour reports and begin writing monographs about the operations of the major commands to which they were assigned. LtCol Brown is slated to write a monograph about the refugee relief operations. The material from these monographs later will serve as the basis for a one- or two-volume history of Marine Corps operations in the Gulf War. It is anticipated that one of the MTU members will remain on active duty to write this official history of Marine Corps operations in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The shape of the historical effort for the desert operations is now more focused than the description provided in the Fall 1990 issue of *Fortitudine*. By order of appearance, there will be a major exhibition at the Marine Corps Museum this summer. The field historians are preparing unit-level accounts for I Marine Expeditionary Force, 1st Marine Division, 2d Marine Division, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, the Force Service Support Groups, and the Marine Expeditionary Brigades. The division will publish an anthology of Desert Shield/Desert Storm reporting and analysis in 1992, followed by the major official history within the next three years.

□1775□



Plate Details Marine Gear Used in Mideast

by Capt George Wong, USMC

Secretary-Recorder, Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board

AT THE ONSET OF Operation Desert Shield, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), in his dual capacity as Director of Marine Corps History and Museums and President of the Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board (PMCUB), saw an opportunity to execute a uniform plate in the spirit of the 1983 Uniform Plate Series. The development of this uniform plate, eventually titled *U.S. Marines in the Middle East, 1991*, was a joint project of the History and Museums Division, HQMC, and the PMCUB.

Shown in the plate are the various uniforms worn by Marines participating in both Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The uniforms are current as of 16 January 1991. It should be noted, however, that uniforms and uniform regulations are never static but reflect changing situations and requirements.

The artist, Maj Donna J. Neary, USMCR, was the same artist responsible for the *U.S. Marine Corps Uniforms, 1983* plate series. Maj Neary was already on active duty working on a History and Museums Division project to produce a set of plates showing past uniforms of the Marine Corps Band. As the Middle East operations began, she was diverted from that project to work on the desert uniforms plate.

BEFORE MAJ NEARY began painting, the uniforms to be shown, the format, and background scenes were carefully selected. These and other decisions required a long and painstaking process intended to ensure accuracy of detail. First, Maj Neary submitted a "composition sketch" in pencil. This sketch showed her recommended arrangement of figures and poses. Upon approval of the sketch, photographs were taken of Marines in the exact uniforms and poses. The Marines were inspected closely prior to photography as a last-minute measure to ensure that their uniforms fit properly and were worn in accordance with regulations. Working from the photos, Maj Neary first completed a detailed pencil drawing of each figure, and then combined these detailed sketches to form her final illustration.

Gen Simmons and Marines from various HQMC divisions reviewed the results of each stage of the project, critically examining the work and paying meticulous attention to detail. Maj Neary endeavored to follow all such advice, with the result that even the most minute details are clearly portrayed.

The "Marines in the Middle East" print has been published officially, as an adjunct to the 1983 uniform series, and distributed to all Marine Corps units for appropriate display. The plate is accompanied by an explanatory text describing the uniforms shown. Principal researcher and writer of the text was Capt George Wong, Secretary-Recorder of the PMCUB.

Leader Reviews Combat Art Team's Success in Gulf War

by Col H. Avery Chenoweth, USMCR (Ret)
Field Coordinator, Marine Corps Combat Art Program

WHEN KUWAIT was suddenly invaded by Iraq on 2 August 1990, dozens of former, retired, and active-duty Marine artists went on "alert," anticipating that combat was going to be captured by artists once again. Many showed interest in going themselves; that was certainly true in my case.

Col Brooke Nihart, the Marine Corps' Deputy Director for Museums, telephoned me early in August and asked if I would be interested, to which I replied, "I'll get my desert cammies and be there in 48 hours!" Art Curator John T. "Jack" Dyer, Jr., at the Marine Corps Museum, was on the phone going down his lists of artists, getting responses similar to my own. To many of us not on active duty (I was in retirement), it meant some adjusting and replanning. Fortunately for me, I had recently retired to a new house my wife and I had built in Beaufort, South Carolina, in between the Marine Corps Air Station and the Parris Island base. I was in a position to drop some personal art projects and "ship out."

Sgt Charles Grow, USMC, formerly of Parris Island but now assigned to Quantico, was just as ready, willing, and able. But it didn't happen quite as fast as we want-

Col Chenoweth, recalled to active duty at age 62 to head the combat art program in the Mideast, sketched this self-portrait.



Of "Last Tank Battle, Kuwait Airport," Col Chenoweth says "The last tank battle — or last battle of any sort — was [Task Force] Ripper's total destruction of the 100-vehicle unit protecting the international airport at the southern outskirts of Kuwait City."

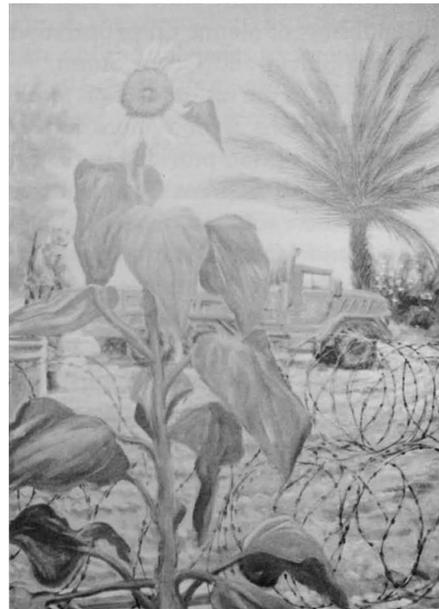
ed; we didn't get our orders until late November — which turned out to be just as well, since that gave us enough lead time in Saudi Arabia to get acclimated and reconnoiter before the ground war started.

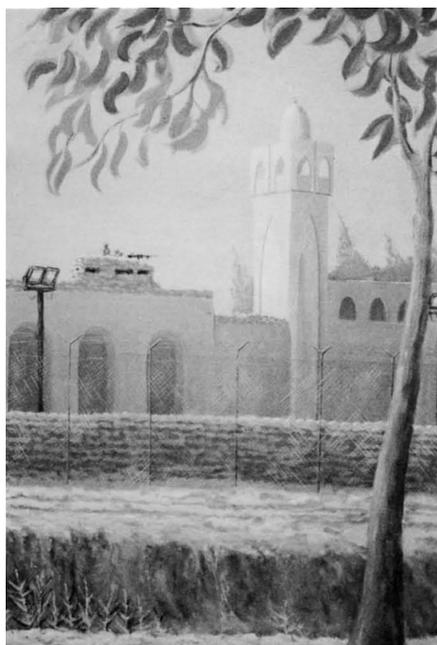
THIS WAS TO BE my third war, if it turned into a shooting one. I had been a rifle, machine gun, and recoilless rifle platoon commander with the 5th Marines in 1951 in the Korean War, and later, as a result of sketches I had done in combat, I became officer-in-charge of the newly created 1st Marine Corps Combat Art Team at HQMC. When Vietnam came along 15 years later, I went back on duty (as did many others) and overseas as a combat artist under the direction of Col Ray Henri, who headed the program under Division of Information. Now it was my turn to "head" the program, so to speak, for BGen Edwin H. Simmons, Director of Marine Corps History and Museums. I was recalled to active duty at age 62 and ordered to Saudi Arabia with the title of "Field Coordinator, Combat Art." My duties primarily were to set up the program at I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters, establish a SOP, liaison with necessary units, and more or less

"pave the way" for the artists who were to be sent over later. The creation of artwork was almost to be secondary to my trailblazing mission.

Sgt Grow, who is a parttime student at the Savannah College of Art and Design,

Each day Col Chenoweth passed this "Survivor, Desert Shield" and spoke words of encouragement to it to "hang in there," but it "succumbed to the brutality of war."





Chenoweth view of "I MEF (Rear), Al Jubail," shows the headquarters within a former police station near a mosque, a surrounding ditch, and bunkers on the roof.

was designated a combat artist and the "studio manager." He followed me over a couple of weeks later via Camp Lejeune, where he sketched the mount-out of the troops there. Earlier, in late August, I had covered another mount-out, that of the aviation units from MCAS, Beaufort (VMFA-333 and -451), as well as the MALS-31 group out of Beaufort and Cherry Point as they boarded the USNS *Wright* (T-AVB-3) at Morehead City, North Carolina. These sketches went into the Fall 1990 issue of *Fortitudine* and were exhibited at the main entrance to HQMC.

PRIOR TO Sgt Grow's arrival around Christmastime, I had secured suitable studio space, consisting of a single room in the rear of a Butler-type building directly across from the I MEF Headquarters at Al Jubail. While filthy with debris, sand, and grit, it did have running water, was lockable, and had fluorescent lighting. Sgt Grow brought along with him two large wooden lock boxes, crafted by Benny L. Lenox, Sr., in the museum woodshop at the Historical Center, in which to keep supplies and artwork as it was finished.

As for equipment, the two of us had conferred well in advance of the assignment and had brought all the necessary art materials and cameras that we felt we needed. Grow used a standard military map case to carry primarily hard-bound

sketch books, other pads, pencils, and pens, etc. Watercolors, oil paints, and other materials were to remain at the "studio" since we couldn't always carry everything. I acquired a compartmented and zippered shoulder bag for my sketchpads and stuff, and a special camera holster into which I could put my Nikon 35mm with its attached 75-212mm zoom lens. I also took an amateur 35mm Olympus fixed-focus automatic camera as backup and for wide-angle, quick reference. We were able to get some film from the Public Affairs Office and photo units, but it was limited. Fortunately, excellent processing vans were set up right outside our studio and we were able to get some of our film developed from time to time in order to check our results. We were shooting Kodak Ektachrome ASA 200 mostly; occasionally, Kodacolor 100 and 200 for prints.

THIS WAR TURNED OUT to be a bit different from others as far as how much Marines had to carry: the new helmet; the 782 gear (with two canteens of drinking water—none for watercolor painting!); the Beretta pistol; the armor vest; the gas mask and case; and the ALICE pack, which contained two gas suits, gas overboots and gloves, and personal items; and the sleeping bag, with art and camera gear, all adding up to about 100 pounds. Fortunately, the weather was

Sgt Charles Grow joined the combat art team as "studio manager," was a prolific contributor to the program, and in January was one of the first Marines to see action in the war. Here, from his sketchbook, is a Marine identified as "Gunzo" Haynes, Cpl."



GySgt Gerald E. Sabatino, a Reservist and Long Island policeman, rendered "Tower 4 Caltraps, Al Jubail Airfield." GySgt Sabatino helped to organize the "studio."

cool and rainy in January and February so we didn't suffer from the heat.

My Korean experiences involved a lot of walking. Vietnam, a lot of helicoptering. Desert Shield was totally different: use of military vehicles was highly restricted and helicopter rides scarce. The sand took a terrible toll on machines and distances between units were very great. Consequent-

ly, to get around, smaller vehicles were used: Japanese Hondas, Toyotas, and Mitsubishi's; Land Rovers; and some American cars. Most were provided by the Japanese (via the Saudis). I was assigned a Honda Accord until I was able to exchange it for a 4-wheel drive Jeep Cherokee (immediately spray-painted the color of sand) with which I was then able to cruise all over the desert.

SGT GROW, in the meantime, had attached himself to a photo team which then joined a reconnaissance team that patrolled the Kuwaiti-Saudi border, all the way from Khafji, on the Gulf in the west, to the "elbow," and up north to the "armpit." When the air war (Desert Storm) began on 17 January, Grow became one of the first Marines to see action. At the "elbow," at a police station a short distance away from the Umm Hujul, a click [kilometer] or two into enemy territory,

Sgt Grow, who produces artwork in several different styles and uses various techniques, expresses his sense of humor through one of these styles, catching the Sergeant Major on a windy day returning from his ablutions; how did he keep that cigar going?



the recon team spotted a likely target. The photographers could not take shots and get their film processed quickly enough to do the neighboring artillery much good, so Sgt Grow looked through the binoculars and sketched the enemy position—a couple of buildings and a steel tower. Adding compass directions, he took the sketch over to the artillery battery, which judged it to be significant enough to warrant a barrage which destroyed the target. Sgt Grow actually performed the sort of mission that combat artists were called upon to do before the advent of sophisticated intelligence-gathering techniques.

GYSGT GERALD E. SABATINO, a 6th communications Battalion reservist and Long Island, New York cop-and-artist, showed up shortly after Christmas and asked to join the team. I was delighted and put him on TAD with us to run the "shop" so to speak. Gunnery sergeants have a way



In Col Chenoweth's "Ripper in 'MOPP 4,'" members of the advance echelon task force of the 1st MarDiv are suited for a gas alert.

of knowing their way around and getting things done, which he did admirably. His sketches were good, too.

AFTER I HAD GONE AROUND to all the basic organizations (3d Marine Aircraft Wing at Bahrain, 4th MEB aboard the USS *Nassau* in the Persian Gulf, the 1st and 2d Divisions, and the MAGs) and had everything in order for other artists to arrive, I discovered at a secret briefing some disturbing information about impending terrorists' attacks. Things tightened up fast; helmets and armor vests were mandatory, as was a "round in the chamber" between compounds. I quickly called BGen Simmons to hold up sending anyone else until the situation settled down a bit, which it did in about a week. At about that time several artists were lined up to go over, with LtCol Keith A. McConnell, USMCR, from the West Coast public affairs unit being the most quickly mobilizable.

The war was cranking up considerably about this time (mid-February) and in the briefing I attended, I learned the detailed plans and the timing of the Ground War—which caused me to be very circumspect when urging Col Nihart to get the artists over as fast as possible. As it was, the ground phase started early in the morning of 24 February.

SGT GROW WAS IN PLACE with Task Force Grizzly of the 1st Division; I had taken GySgt Sabatino with me in the Jeep,

which by then I had dubbed the "Combat Art Tactical Studio," and we joined the 1st Division Command Post on the 22d. I had assigned LtCol McConnell to cover the 2d Division just to the north of us, but we had no definite word of his arrival. As it turned out, LtCol McConnell did make it to the 1st Division CP at Kuwait International Airport at 0600 the morning the "ceasefire" was called, Thursday, 28 February. On the 28th, incidentally, I also met the Navy combat artist Cdr Chip Beck, who had arrived from a ship offshore that night, too, right after the war had ended.

Grizzly, with Sgt Grow, had stopped at Al Jaber airfield (what was left of it), halfway into Kuwait, and remained there until after the ceasefire.

During the four-day war, GySgt Sabatino and I saw quite a bit and experienced some incoming, although the actual fighting was intermittent and so rapid that it was hard to keep up with. We passed through the so-called "Saddam Line" of minefields which Task Force Ripper had breached, and we passed hundreds of prisoners; knocked-out tanks, personnel carriers, and howitzers; destroyed bunkers and towers; and burning oil fields. On Tuesday I took a hop in a psy-ops helo which flew low all over the desert battlefield with the loudspeakers urging the Iraqis to lay down their weapons and surrender. The burning oil wells were an awesome sight from above, as was Al Jaber airfield, 1st MarDiv's first objective, with its totally destroyed massive concrete hangars. We landed on the rubble-strewn runway.

THAT NIGHT, HOWEVER, was one that no one who was there will ever forget. At about midnight the Iraqis torched every one of the remaining oil wells in Kuwait. The deafening crescendo woke everyone and we walked out to see the night sky glowing red and the horizon rimmed with fires. I counted 126 in an arc of only 43 degrees. The roar was like a hundred freight trains. In the middle of it, a 155mm howitzer battery opened up periodically with "time-on-target" fires. What a sight and what an experience. Up to this point we had had a number of gas alerts as well. Someone would yell, "Gas," and everybody would frantically try to MOPP 4—putting on the complete gas outfit (we already had the cumbersome and hot suit and boots on, so this meant



Col Chenoweth noted that, as point vehicles engaged the enemy, following troops were often called upon to "mop-up" by-passed Iraqis. In "Flank Threat," Marines briefly out of MOPP gear have sprung into action from a LAV to secure the right flank as enemy are spotted. The desert terrain is dotted with knocked-out enemy vehicles.

we had to put the mask and gloves on, too). And, stay that way for an interminable length of time, it seemed.

Dawn did not come at the expected time the next morning—in fact, it never came. The overcast from the well-head fires was so thick that it blotted out the sunlight. The wind whipped up and it was unbelievable. By noon it was blacker than midnight. The convoy finally got underway shortly after and, even with headlights, I could barely see the taillights of the vehicle ahead of me. It had rained, too, and the sand turned to mud; my Jeep fishtailed all the way.

It took about four hours to creep 30 kilometers up near Kuwait International Airport where Ripper was finishing the last big battle of the war. As we finally got out of the blackness and into the fading afternoon sun, we passed Marine M60 tanks and LAVs just cooling down from the battle.

We drove onto the tarmac at the airport—or what was left of it—around twilight. Now the sky was lit up brightly by the oil fires. I did my last combat sketch by the red glow, a sketch in colored pencil on black cardboard. The war was virtually over at this point and verified the next morning when the President called for a ceasefire around 0800.

ON THURSDAY MORNING, the 28th, I detached the Marine Combat Art Team at 0700 and we drove through totally deserted and destroyed Kuwait City on our way back along the coast to Al Jubail and I MEF (Rear). There were no military units in the city except a 2d Force Recon Team which had just dashed in to

recapture the American Embassy. GySgt Sabatino and I were the second group of Americans and Marines to get to the embassy. There was no evidence of Kuwaiti, Saudi, Moroccan or any armed forces anywhere, only a handful of citizens waving flags or driving around honking their horns. When we drove out of the city to the south we passed the Saudi, Kuwaiti, Moroccan, and Qatari armies lined up on the road, apparently never having entered the city at all.

UNEXPECTED NEWS reached me that day and I was home on emergency leave two days later. Sgt Grow and GySgt Sabatino returned about a month and a half later. We are all now in high gear to produce a number of finished pieces for the big exhibit that will be held this summer at the Marine Corps Museum.

Personally, the experience of a third major war in one's lifetime—and over a span of 41 years—is almost indescribable. The same faces were there, young, strong, "Gung Ho" Marines—that unchangeable breed. But the "look" was so different. Korea was dark, murky, cold, icy, and snowy, a spin-off of World War II in terms of gear and feeling. Vietnam had its tropical lightweight gear; it was steamy, sweaty, humid, with short, snappy engagements. Now, the hot, dry desert and the new, sophisticated, high-tech equipment and a scale of distances beyond comprehension.

SO NOW WE CAN SIT BACK and await the artistic depictions, the historical writings, the reassessments, the lessons learned, and, of course, the fresh "sea stories." □1775□

New Research Details Fate of Missing Korean War Pilots

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

THE REFERENCE SECTION of the Marine Corps Historical Center receives many inquiries from Marine veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam concerning their military service, or a particular battle or campaign in which their unit participated. Recently, the Section received a request from a retired Marine for documentation of a tragic six-plane loss that took place in September 1952 during the Korean War. In attempting to shed more light on the incident than is found in previously published accounts of Marine Corps operations during the Korean War, the Reference Section recalled and examined pertinent operational records from the Federal Records Center in Suitland, Maryland.

From the first week of August 1950 when eight Corsairs of VMF-214 catapulted from the deck of the USS *Sicily*, off Korea, to the signing of the armistice in July 1953, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW) flew 127,496 combat sorties. Almost 40,000 of them represented the Marine Corps' close air support specialty, although 1st MAW units also conducted interdiction, air defense patrols, and air rescue operations, along with helicopter medevac and resupply missions, and photo and armed reconnaissance air support. The use of Marine air support, both helicopter and fixed-wing, proved a decisive factor in the successful allied prosecution of the Korean War.

Allied air superiority in Korea was not achieved at a cheap price: 258 1st MAW Marines were killed and 174 wounded in action. A particularly tragic mishap on 10 September 1952 cost the lives of six Marine pilots and aircraft from the "Able Eagles" of Marine Fighter Squadron 115 (VMF-115).

EVENTUALLY ONE OF THE Marine Corps' best known fighter squadrons, VMF-115 was activated 1 July 1943 and played a prominent role in the Pacific during World War II (earning a Presidential Unit Citation for its participation in the Philippines Campaign). At the start of the Korean War, the squadron was located at Cherry Point, North Carolina, but was deployed during January and February

1952 to Korea and assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 33, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

During the month of September 1952, VMF-115 was located at K-3 air base, Pohang, Korea. The commanding officer of the squadron was LtCol Royce W. Coln, USMC, and as noted, VMF-115 was attached at this time to MAG-33, 1st MAW. Among its assigned missions were the destruction of enemy air power, close support of United Nations ground forces, armed reconnaissance and offensive strikes, interdiction of enemy ground lines of communication, escort/cover for United Nations air, sea, or land forces, and air defense of military installations.

THE OFFICIAL operational reports submitted by the squadron indicate that on 10 September, 23 F9F Panther jets from VMF-115 and VMF-311 set out on an interdiction mission to attack reported enemy troop and supply targets near Sariwon, about 35 miles directly south of Pyongyang. Following a successful strike, the 21 aircraft that completed the mission were returning to their K-3 home base when they were diverted by MAG-33 operations to land at K-2 airbase, Taegu, because of bad weather in the K-3 sector. Shortly after this message had been radioed to all the pilots, word was received from the K-2 base that 15 of the F9F Panthers had safely landed at that field. The remaining six planes, all from VMF-115, were in radio contact over K-2 and reported their fuel condition, but contact was not made again. As darkness fell over the area, there still was no word from the overdue Panthers. Telephone and radio calls were placed to operating airstrips in all of South Korea, but to no avail.

On the following day (11 September), all aircraft were made ready to search VMF-115's assigned sector for the six missing aircraft, but continued bad weather throughout the day curtailed hopes for conducting a search operation. However, on 12 September, MAG-33 operations received a terse message from K-2 base, which was forwarded to the VMF-115 Duty Officer. Despite poor weather, a search helicopter had discovered the wreckage of the aircraft strewn about a mountainous

area southeast of Taegu. The scene was located by the search helicopter at approximately 23 nautical miles southeast of K-2 and 27 nautical miles southwest of K-3, in the vicinity of Unmun-San, a mountain peak that rises to 4,068 feet. An investigating party was immediately organized which examined, on 13 and 14 September, all six crash sites (with the last site physically located by Republic of Korea units operating in the area) and positively identified both aircraft and pilots. From dog tags, bureau numbers of the aircraft, and other material evidence, the identities of the six Marine pilots were confirmed to be Maj Raymond E. De Mers, Maj Donald F. Givens, 1stLt Alvin R. Bourgeois, 2dLt John W. Hill, Jr., 2dLt Carl R. LaFleur, and 2d Lt Richard L. Roth.

FROM EXAMINATION of the crash sites, it was determined that the six aircraft, flying in formation in poor weather, crashed into the side of the mountain while descending towards K-2. Ironically, the aircraft would have required only an additional 600 feet of altitude to clear the summit. It is noteworthy that Marine intelligence sources estimated that the physical location and disintegration of the aircraft were such that all pilots had no forewarning of the impending disaster, and thus had been unable to avert the subsequent crashes. By order of the Commanding Officer of MAG-33, a minute review of operations SOP was made to guard against any possible future disaster. Air facilities charts were clarified and prepared for wider distribution covering all "K"-type fields in Korea.

In conducting the research for this article, the Reference Section was able to speak directly with the investigating officer of the air crash, who filed an official report on the tragedy to the Commanding General, 1st MAW. The officer recalled the substance of this report, which included under opinions, the following:

The lead pilot of the formation, a qualified flight leader, may have departed from the instrument let-down procedure upon seeing what appeared to be a "hole" in the overcast. This would not have been unusual, as the previous flights landing at

K-2 immediately before had reported large holes occasionally seen during their approaches. The hole may have closed quickly after the flight left the minimum altitude, however, causing the six aircraft to re-enter the overcast. Under these conditions, the flight hit the Unmun-San mountain peak.

THE CRUCIAL ROLE played by the 1st MAW during the Korean War was recognized following the armistice when it was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation. Marine Fighter Squadron 115 shared in this award, and also received the Korean Service Streamer with four bronze stars, and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation

Streamer. The "Able Eagles" of VMF-115 flew 9,250 combat sorties, and logged more than 15,350 combat hours during their participation in the war.

As noted earlier, allied air superiority in Korea was not achieved at an easy price, a fact made manifest by the 10 September 1952 loss. □1775□

Two of Corps' Earliest Medal of Honor Holders Recalled

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

TWO OF THE EARLIEST Marine Medal of Honor recipients were honored when the Commandant of the Marine Corps recently approved the naming of facilities for them.

In May, the Commandant approved the naming of a lounge area on board Marine Corps Security Force Company, Kings Bay, Georgia, commemorating Cpl John F. Mackie, USMC. Mackie, who was the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor, enlisted in the Marine Corps at Brooklyn, New York, on 23 August 1861. He was awarded the Medal of Honor on 10 July 1863 for bravery while serving on board the USS *Galena* in the attack on Fort Darling at Drury's Bluff, James River, Virginia, 15 May 1862. It was noted that while "enemy shellfire raked the deck of his ship, Cpl Mackie fearlessly maintained his musket fire against the rifle pits along the

Cpl John F. Mackie, cited for bravery during the Civil War, is commemorated by a new Marine facility at Kings Bay, Georgia.



shore and, when ordered to fill vacancies at guns caused by men wounded and killed in action, manned the weapons with skill and courage."

Cpl Mackie was later transferred from the *Galena* to the Norfolk Navy Yard, and in June 1863, he joined the nine-gun screw sloop USS *Seminole* as "orderly sergeant in charge." Mackie remained on board the *Seminole* for the remainder of the war. He was discharged from the Marine Corps on 24 August 1865 at Boston, after having completed four years and four months of continuous service. He later married and settled in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area, where he died in 1910.

ANOTHER EARLY Medal of Honor recipient was honored, also in May, when the Commandant approved the naming of a historical room and pub at Marine Barracks Hawaii, in honor of SgtMaj John H. Quick, USMC. The pub will be a gathering place for the hundreds of Marines stationed at the Barracks, and will contain many photos, plaques, and historical memorabilia.

SgtMaj Quick, a native West Virginian, enlisted in the Marine Corps at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on 10 August 1892. He served continuously in the Corps on board naval vessels and ashore in all parts of the world until 20 November 1918, when he was placed on the retired list. He briefly returned to active duty in 1920, but was shortly thereafter again placed on the retired list because of bad health. He died in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1922.

It was in Cuba during the Spanish-American War that Quick's gallantry was the subject of official dispatches and a number of commendations, which resulted in his being awarded the Medal of Honor. During the battle for Cuzco Well on the morning of 14 June 1898, the USS

Dolphin was signalled to shell a nearby Spanish position. The message, however, was misinterpreted, and the vessel began dropping shells on a small detachment of Marines who were enroute to join the battle. The problem of redirecting the fire of the *Dolphin* was solved by SgtMaj Quick, who heroically placed himself in plain sight of the vessel, but in danger of falling shells, and signalled for the fire to be stopped, using a blue flag belonging to the Cubans. He then scrambled to the top of a nearby hill to better signal the ship, and was immediately subjected to a furious enemy fire. The *Dolphin* received his signal, however, and shifted her fire, which caused the Spanish to retreat.

SGTMAJ QUICK later distinguished himself in operations on Samar in 1901, at Vera Cruz in 1914, and at Belleau Wood in France during World War I, where he received the Distinguished Service Cross and the Navy Cross. □1775□

SgtMaj John H. Quick, famous for his actions in the Spanish-American War, has a historical room named for him in Hawaii.



Research, Writing Enriched by Marine ‘Spoken History’

by *Benis M. Frank*
Chief Historian

BASED UPON ITS experience in preparing the official histories of Marine Corps operations in World War II and in the Korean War, by 1965—the year the first Marine Corps units were committed in Vietnam—the Marine Corps Historical Program had developed a fairly satisfactory historical collection plan. It was, of course, refined during the years Marines were in Vietnam. As were its predecessor histories, the multi-volume history of Marine Corps operations in Vietnam was to be based upon such official documentation as situation reports, message traffic, operations and intelligence section journals, periodic operations and intelligence summaries, and special action reports, as well as, more importantly, monthly command chronologies prepared by committed units.

In October 1965, one other element entered into the collection plan, and that was what was initially entitled “Historical Interview Program for Vietnam Returnees,” a title for what eventually became the Marine Corps Oral History Program.

For some time—even before the Vietnam War—Marine historians had wanted to begin an oral history program based on the Columbia University model and much like the project Columbia was conducting for the Naval Historical Program. For various reasons, the program was not instituted until Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr., became Commandant and supported the concept.

IN OCTOBER 1965, an order was published setting up a Marine Corps-wide interview program to be conducted at and by major commands in the United States. This order directed that Marines returning from Vietnam be interviewed about their experiences. The program was expanded the following year to include interviews conducted in the field by major commands in Vietnam—the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions, the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Force Logistic Command, and III Marine Amphibious Force. Additionally, Fleet Marine Force Pacific (FMFPac) would debrief senior commanders and staff officers en route home from Vietnam. As a matter of fact, written into the orders

of every departing senior officer was the requirement to report at Pearl Harbor for such debriefing.

The purpose of this new oral history program was to interview Marines who had stories to tell from which could be derived some lessons learned. We also were embarking upon an ambitious writing program which was planned to result in a number of published volumes relating to the history of Marine Corps operations in Vietnam. These interviews would be used to flesh out the austere command chronologies, journals, and other official documentation in the preparation of an objective history. There are nearly 7,000 interviews in this segment of the collection. Their subjects range over Marine activities at home and aboard. Most deal with operations in Vietnam.

MANY OF THE interviews conducted in Vietnam were done by enlisted Marines, generally individuals trained as radio journalists. These teams of interviewers questioned subjects from combat actions to chaplain services, including employment of snipers and war dogs, enemy tactics, booby traps, and weapons. The tapes of these interviews together with informative documentation sheets were all sent directly to the History and Museums Division for accessioning.

At the height of the Vietnam War, 200-300 interviews were being received each month. Now, in addition to their use by Marine historians, these field interviews are being used by researchers—freelance writers as well as historians from the other service historical offices—and by veterans who want to hear what was captured on tape about a patrol or a fight in which they participated. These field interviews also are being used by Veterans Administration therapists in treating patients suffering from post-Vietnam stress syndrome, when the interview is one the veteran himself made or is about a patrol or operation in which he was involved.

As noted earlier, the program established in 1965 was expanded with the addition of two other elements. One was to interview in depth retired prominent Marines, usually general officers, about their

careers. This type of interview was to be and has generally been conducted by the Oral History Section—although there have been some volunteer interviewers such as LtGen Alpha L. Bowser and Maj-Gen Norman J. Anderson. This effort has resulted in a collection of nearly 450 interviews of varying lengths. Because a number of the retired interviewees served in Vietnam, the historians preparing the Vietnam histories provided some specific questions which when answered assisted in preparing their manuscripts. These interviews have been used extensively by such outside researchers and authors as John Toland, Allan Millett, and Max Hastings. This portion of the overall oral history collection captures on tape the voices of some of the Marine Corps’ most important leaders, as well as some of the most respected Marines of recent years. These interviews also are transcribed. Generally, it is easier for researchers to read the printed word than to capture the message from a voice on a tape. Also, interviews with retired Marines often are transcribed so that they may see what they said over many hours and clarify information in writing where desirable to do so. The transcripts of these interviews are indexed and bound with a biography and photograph of the interviewee. One copy of each transcript goes to the interviewee, one is sent to Breckinridge Library at Quantico, and one is retained in the Oral History Collection.

ANOTHER ELEMENT IN the program is the issue-oriented interview. Perhaps the entire program can be called issue-oriented because it is concerned solely with Marine Corps history. Within that category, however, there are certain issues that we specifically investigate. An early one dealt with the Navajo Code Talkers, American Indians who were enlisted in World War II to be voice communicators and who, by transmitting messages in the Navajo tongue, gave combat units the use of a virtually unbreakable code. When Navajo veterans formed their Code Talkers Association in Window Rock, Arizona, in 1971, I was there to interview some of the original 29 members.

Another group of issue-oriented inter-

views was done with the members of Marine amphibious units which deployed to Beirut in 1982. These interviews, and those conducted with the Marines of the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit who landed in Grenada in 1983, served as the basis for the preparation of monographs about Marines in Lebanon and Grenada. A number of interviews with Marines who served in Panama before, during, and af-

ter Operation Just Cause have also been obtained. We also have interviewed Marines involved in Operation Sharp Edge, the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit's non-combatant evacuation operation in Liberia, and, of course, we plan to conduct extensive interviews with Marine participants in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In the years ahead, we will continue to

interview retired prominent Marines as well as to conduct issue-oriented interviews which will capture contemporary Marine Corps operations on tape for the historical record.

What a pity we don't have the voices of Archibald Henderson, Smedley D. Butler, Holland M. Smith, and others of their caliber in our tape archives. What stories they could have told! □1775□

Longtime Center Staffer Named Chief Historian, Retired Marine Artist Takes Over Exhibits Unit

A NEW CHIEF HISTORIAN and a new head of the Exhibits Section of the Marine Corps Museum are among individuals recently announced to fill billets in the History and Museums Division.

Benis M. Frank, who observed his 30th anniversary with the Division on 12 June, was selected to succeed Henry I. Shaw, Jr., as chief historian on 1 May. Mr. Frank is a Marine veteran of World War II (Peleliu and Okinawa) and the Korean War and served with the 1st Marine Division in both instances. A native of Connecticut and a graduate of the University of Connecticut in 1949, he was in graduate school at Clark University when he returned to active duty in 1950. He joined the then-Historical Branch in 1961 as a civilian historian, and pioneered and headed the Marine Corps Oral History Program from 1966 until November 1990, when he became acting chief historian. Mr. Frank was the co-author with Mr. Shaw of *Victory and Occupation*, the fifth volume of the five-volume *History of U.S. Marine Corps Operations in World War II*. Mr. Frank also has written several other official publications, the latest being *Marines in Lebanon, 1982-1984*. In 1981, Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region, a professional organization of oral historians, gave him its Forrest C. Pogue Award for Excellence in Oral History.

ON THE MUSEUMS SIDE of the house, retired MSgt James A. Fairfax has joined the division as head of the Exhibits Section. He brings to the position long experience as a combat and commercial artist. As a Marine he covered the Vietnam War, created recruiting posters and, for the Marine Band, designed phonograph

record album covers. After retiring from the Corps, Mr. Fairfax worked in the fields of fine and commercial art and also taught.

Another new staff member at the Marine Corps Historical Center is Ms. Rita J. Ellis, who was welcomed on 6 May. She is the secretary to the deputy directors and the chief historian. Ms. Ellis is a native of Washington, D.C., and a graduate of McKinley Technical High School.

THE AIR-GROUND MUSEUM at Quantico has had changes as well. Capt Cardell N. Parker, after two years with the museum as operations, training, and public affairs officer, as well as executing a major restoration project on the track-mounted 7-inch gun, leaves the Corps after 13 years' active commissioned service. GySgt Robert L. Holloway joined the museum from MCAS Beaufort and is in charge of security, including the Marine receptionist-guards in the museum, plus the operations and training duties.

Jack Shulimson, head of the Histories Section and senior Vietnam historian was awarded a PhD degree in American Studies by the University of Maryland on 23 May. Dr. Shulimson's dissertation title is "Search for a Mission: A Study of Marine Corps Institutional Survival and Professionalization, 1880-1898." He is the author of *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: An Expanding War, 1966* and co-author of *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Landing and the Buildup, 1965*. Dr. Shulimson also edited *The Marines in Vietnam, 1954-1973, An Anthology and Annotated Bibliography*. He currently is working on the final volume of the Vietnam series which concerns Marine operations in 1968. □1775□

Answers to Historical Quiz

Marine General Officers In Operation Desert Storm

(Questions on page 9)

1. MajGen Robert B. Johnston joined the command on 15 June 1990.
2. LtGen Walter E. Boomer assumed command on 8 August 1990, immediately before deployment.
3. MajGen (then-BGen) James M. Myatt assumed command at Camp Pendleton on 8 August 1990.
4. BGen Thomas V. Draude assumed his assignment in October 1990.
5. MajGen John I. Hopkins assumed his assignment on 18 July 1989.
6. MajGen Royal N. Moore, Jr., also Deputy Commander, I Marine Expeditionary Force, assumed his assignment on 18 August 1989.
7. BGen James A. Brabham, Jr., assumed his assignment on 14 July 1989. He also functioned as commander of the Marine component of the Central Command (ComUS-MarCent) until Gen Boomer's arrival.
8. MajGen Harry W. Jenkins, Jr., assumed command on 22 August 1989.
9. MajGen William M. Keys, also Deputy Commander, II Marine Expeditionary Force, assumed his assignment at Camp Pendleton on 27 September 1989.
10. BGen Richard I. Neal, well known to the American public for his frequent televised briefings, assumed his assignment during October 1990.

New Books Survey Cuban Crisis and Final Vietnam Year

by Charles R. Smith
Historian

THE SEVENTH VOLUME to be issued in the continuing operational history series of Marine participation in the Vietnam War has just been published by the History and Museums Division. The 315-page *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Bitter End, 1973-1975*, by Maj George Ross Dunham and Col David A. Quinlan, is available for public sale by the Superintendent of Documents (Order No. 008-055-00178-1). Its \$25 price includes numerous map, chart, and photo illustrations, many of which were obtained from private collections of the participants.

In January 1973, as a result of the Paris Peace Accords, the last American combat troops left Vietnam. A few Marines remained behind as part of the Defense Attache Office, Saigon, and as members of Marine Security Guard detachments at U.S. consulates and the Saigon Embassy. In Thailand, Marine officers also made up part of the planning staff of the U.S. Support Activities Group Thailand. The hope was that both the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam) and the Khmer Republic (Cambodia) would remain independent, non-Communist nations. By the winter of 1974, this hope nearly had been dashed.

WHEN THE GOVERNMENTS of South Vietnam and Cambodia collapsed in the wake of the Communist offensives of 1974 and 1975, units of the III Marine

Amphibious Force on Okinawa and, in particular, the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade, evacuated thousands of allied and private citizens, as well as Americans, from the two devastated capitals—Phnom Penh and Saigon. The Marines provided for the immediate well-being of these refugees at Subic Bay in the Philippines, and on Guam. Later, at a resettlement center at Camp Pendleton, Marines helped many of these same refugees to begin new lives as American citizens.

When the last evacuation helicopter touched down on the deck of the carrier *Okinawa* on 30 April 1975, the Marine Corps' decade-long involvement in Indochina appeared to have ended. In a bizarre epilogue to the war the following month, however, Marine units at a cost of 14 men participated in the recovery of the U.S. container ship *Mayaguez* and its crew, captured by Cambodian Communists near Koh Tang Island.

While *Marines in Vietnam, 1973-1975* provides few answers to the remaining unresolved questions about the American war in Southeast Asia, it does portray the continuing dedication of U.S. Marines to Corps and country.

THE AUTHORS, Maj George Ross Dunham and Col David A. Quinlan, are both graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy. Col Quinlan graduated in 1960 and in 1979 earned a juris doctor degree from the George Washington University School of Law. He served as an infantry officer in Vietnam and in the spring of 1975 commanded the Amphibious Evacuation Force during the evacuation of South Vietnam. He began this volume in 1976 during a brief tour with the History and Museums Division. Col Quinlan retired from active duty in 1984 and now resides in Hartford, Connecticut.

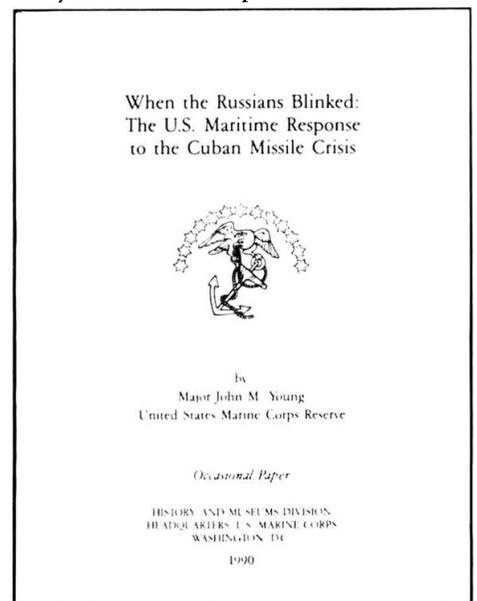
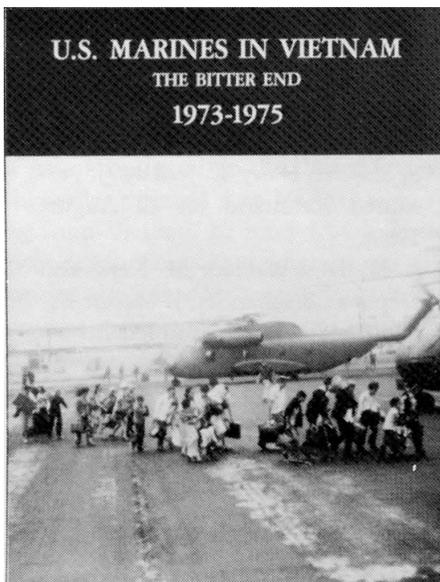
Maj Dunham, a naval aviator, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1969. He holds a master of arts degree from Pepperdine University and later taught at the Naval Academy. As a KC-130 pilot he served in both Vietnam and Thailand. Assigned to the History and Museums Division in 1984, Maj Dunham completed the

bulk of the volume. Now retired, he resides in Houston, Texas.

A NEW ADDITION to the History and Museums Division's Occasional Papers series also has been published. *When the Russians Blink: The U.S. Maritime Response to the Cuban Missile Crisis*, is the thesis written by Maj John M. Young, USMCR, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a master of arts degree, which he received in 1989 from the University of Tulsa, and is based on his extensive research conducted at the Marine Corps Historical Center.

Maj Young is a native Oklahoman who graduated from the University of Oklahoma and the University's College of Law, from which he received a juris doctor degree. He served as a Marine Corps judge advocate from 1975 to 1979, following which he transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve. Maj Young is a practicing attorney in Sapulpa and is currently the logistics officer for the Marine Corps Mobilization Station at Oklahoma City.

Maj Young notes that surprisingly little has been written about the military response to the Cuban Missile Crisis, as it has become known. In conducting his research, the author was able to have declassified many formerly top secret operations plans and command diaries of U.S. Navy and Marine Corps units which, as he



writes, "formed the core of a massive quarantine and planned invasion force that was larger than the Allied invasion force on D-Day" in 1944.

THIS PAPER traces the history of the U.S.-Cuban relationship over the years, and the Kennedy Administration's response to the discovery of nuclear missiles in Cuba targeted at the United States.

Reserve Collections Aid Marine History Studies

(Continued from page 24)

The past year has brought an abundance of new acquisitions into the Marine Corps Museum. Some significant artifacts come to mind because of their intrinsic value, scarcity, and history.

AN 1804-1832 Marine Corps button was found in a "Georgia" Civil War camp site in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, in 1970, and is considered very rare. David Newton of Stafford County, Virginia, kindly donated the button last summer. As many Marines know, the 1804-32 button represents the oldest U.S. military insignia still in use today, found on all Marines' dress and service buttons. The eagle perched upon a fouled anchor and surrounded by six-pointed stars now also symbolizes the Marine Corps Historical Program.

Michael Gould, grandson of BGen Moses J. Gould, recently donated his

From among the papers of BGen Moses J. Gould is his photograph of captured Sandinista soliders taken in 1928, when as a first lieutenant and acting commander of special expeditionary ground forces at Quilali, Nicaragua, he earned the Navy Cross.



Maj Young also analyzes naval planning by a study of applicable maps, intelligence reports, and troop deployment orders for a contingency aimed at Cuba. Finally, the author discusses the probable effect on Russian leaders of an American invasion of Cuba and a quarantine of Soviet vessels bound for Cuba. Maj Young concludes his paper with an assessment of the effects that the crisis continues to have on rela-

grandfather's identification tags and personal papers to the museum. The personal papers include orders, after-action reports, original photographs, and newspaper clippings concerning the Marine operations against the Sandinistas in Nicaragua during December 1927 through January 1928. The Marine air operations at Ocotal, Quilali, and El Chipote largely overshadowed ground operations due to the innovative and successful use of close air support, aerial reconnaissance, resupply, and medevac during this action. 1stLt (later BGen) Christian Schilt was the recipient of the Medal of Honor for resupplying and evacuating 18 seriously wounded Marines under enemy fire at Quilali, flying a Vought O2U "Corsair" with oversized wheels.

1stLt Moses J. Gould earned the Navy Cross for his actions as the acting commanding officer of the Special Expeditionary Forces on the ground at Quilali. His personal papers contain a wealth of information on guerrilla warfare, along with an interesting after-action report on the use of the Thompson machine gun in combat; a detailed after-action report on the

tionships with Cuba and Latin America as a whole.

As with other volumes in the Occasional Papers series, distribution of *When the Russians Blinked* is limited to Marine Corps and Navy organizations and libraries, and to university and public libraries, in order to make Marine Corps historical evidence available to their specialist users. □1775□

ground operations at Quilali, including reflections on "in country" training and guerrilla ambushes; aerial photographs of the Sandinistas' stronghold at El Chipote; photographs of Marines and captured Sandinista prisoners; description of the building under fire of an expeditionary airfield; and preparation and planning for logistics and communications as well as mule handling problems and pack arrangements for ground operations.

ANOTHER LARGER acquisition was a Bell AH-1J Cobra helicopter gunship flown from California to Quantico. A Sikorsky CH-53A Sea Stallion also was flown to Quantico from Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Maryland, by RAdm Donald V. Boecker, commander of the Naval Aviation Test Center, and presented to the Air-Ground Museum. These aircraft will become main exhibits in the future Vietnam War display at Quantico, but for now are only two of the Marine Corps collection of 140 historical aircraft.

Other interesting artifacts recently acquired are a Douglas R5D Skymaster (C-54), which was flight-delivered to MCAS El Toro for its command museum which opens in 1991; a Sikorsky HO3S helicopter, delivered to MCAS New River on 17 December 1990 for eventual installation in the projected museum at MCAS Cherry Point.

THE RESERVE collections at all Marine Corps museums are open to serious researchers by appointment only. The Historical Center itself is open Monday through Friday from 0800 until 1600. Personal papers, Marine Corps art, military music, and an outstanding library are located there.

The reserve collection at Quantico includes 46 aircraft, large ground equipment (artillery, tanks, trucks, amtracs, etc.), small arms, edged weapons, uniforms, personal equipment, historic flags, medals, and badges. □1775□

The U.S. Marine Corps and the Vietnam War: 1970

*by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section*

Part VII of *Fortitudine's* continuing chronological series on Marine Corps participation in the Vietnam War focuses on 1970, a period which witnessed the gradual withdrawal of Marine combat forces from South Vietnam's northernmost corps area, I Corps, as part of an overall American strategy of turning the ground war against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong over to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Vietnam. The following entries were excerpted from the History and Museums Division monograph, *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: Vietnamization and Redeployment, 1970-1971*. Readers desiring a more detailed examination of Marine Corps activities and operations in Vietnam during 1970 will find it in that volume.

6 Jan—An estimated force of 100 Viet Cong attacked Fire Support Base Ross, which was then occupied by Companies A and B of the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines; the battalion headquarters group; and two artillery batteries. Thirteen Marines were killed and 63 were wounded while the Viet Cong left 39 dead behind.

8 Jan—Building on the combined action platoon concept, III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) formally established the Combined Unit Pacification Program (CUPP). Under the CUPP, Marine rifle companies deployed their squads in hamlets to work with the South Vietnamese Regional Forces and Popular Forces, much as the Combined Action Platoons did. The CUPP differed in that the rifle companies were given no special training, and the Marine units remained under the operational control of parent regiments, operating generally within the regiment's area of operations.

11 Jan—III MAF formally activated the Combined Action Force, incorporating the four combined action groups (CAGs) under its own headquarters rather than through an assistant chief of staff within III MAF.

Probing for cached enemy munitions along a stream bank eight miles northwest of Da Nang are Marines PFC Arthur E. Ogden, Jr., left, and Sgt Randall Jernigan, of Force Logistic Command.



Three Marines of the 2d Platoon, Company C, 1st Tank Battalion, prepare to move out in their C-23 tank, during an operation staged 15 miles southeast of Da Nang on 12 February 1970.

28 Jan—Troop movement began for Keystone Bluejay, the first redeployment of 1970, and continued until 19 March. Among the ground and aviation units redeployed were the 26th Marines, VMAs-223 and -211, VMFA-542, HMH-361, and MAG-12.

31 Jan—III MAF strength in Vietnam was 55,191.

19 Feb—LtGen Herman Nickerson, Jr., USMC, and LtGen Melvin Zais, USA, briefed Gen Creighton W. Abrams, USA, on the planned Army takeover of responsibilities in I Corps Tactical Zone on 9 March. Abrams sanctioned the arrangement proposed by Nickerson whereby III MAF, while becoming subordinate to XXIV Corps, remained the parent unit of 1st Marine Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW), preserving the integrity of the Marine air-ground team concept in Vietnam.

9 Mar—LtGen Nickerson passed operational command of units in I Corps to LtGen Zais and XXIV Corps, and simultaneously passed command of III MAF to LtGen Keith B. McCutcheon, USMC. Major elements of III MAF at the time included the 1st Marine Division (Rein), 1st MAW, and the Force Logistic Command.

19 Mar—The 26th Marines, which had received a Presidential Unit Citation for the defense of Khe Sanh, departed Vietnam. Following the regiment's departure, the 1st Marines was left to control the Rocket Belt, a block of territory of some 534 square kilometers roughly delimited by a semicircle with a 12,000 meter radius from the Da Nang airfield.

14 Apr—MajGen Charles F. Widdecke, USMC, relieved MajGen Edwin B. Wheeler, USMC, as Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, and as Deputy Commander, III MAF.

21 Apr—President Nguyen Van Thieu said that the South Vietnamese could gradually assume greater responsibilities as the Americans withdrew from Vietnam, but that his country would require more aid from allies.

23 Apr—The 1st Force Service Regiment command post was closed down in Vietnam and opened at Camp Pendleton.

30 Apr—President Richard M. Nixon announced that several thousand American troops, supporting the Republic of Vietnam



A five-hour grasslands march in January has brought members of the 3d Battalion, 26th Marines to a cooling stream and a little closer to home on Hill 190, six miles northwest of Da Nang.

Armed Forces' invasion, entered Cambodia's Fishhook area bordering South Vietnam to attack the supposed location of the headquarters of the Communist military operation in South Vietnam. American advisors, tactical air support, medical evacuation teams, and logistical support also were provided to the South Vietnamese. Withdrawal of American units from Cambodia was completed when the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) returned to South Vietnam on 29 June.

1-31 May—The Viet Cong progressively returned to guerrilla warfare and terrorism in 1970. During May the Viet Cong in Quang Nam Province killed 129 civilians, wounded 247, and kidnapped 73. Most of the latter were young males, who were presumably forcibly recruited.

4 May—Four students at Kent State University in Ohio were killed by soldiers of the Ohio National Guard which had been called upon to halt riots stimulated in part by the Cambodian invasion.

11 Jun—Units of the North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong attacked Thanh My hamlet, eight kilometers southwest of Hoi An, resulting in 150 civilians killed and 60 wounded. After destroying the hamlet, the enemy withdrew leaving 16 dead behind.

30 Jun—The Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, was deactivated and the following day Army-Marine Corps service support agreements went into effect.

1-2 Jul—MajGen Alan J. Armstrong, USMC, replaced MajGen William G. Thrash, USMC, as Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

2 Jul—To unify command and strengthen the administration of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, President Nguyen Van Thieu incorporated the Regional (RF) and Popular Forces (PF) into the Vietnamese Army and redesignated corps tactical zones as military regions (MRs).

3 Jul—The Hai Lang PF Platoon, RF Group 1/11 and Companies 121 and 122, and CAPs 4-3-2 and 4-1-2, located nine kilometers southeast of Quang Tri city, were attacked by an enemy force of unknown size. Supported by gunships and artillery, the allies killed 135 enemy and captured 74 weapons while losing 16 killed and six missing in action.

15-16 Jul—Operation Barren Green was launched by elements of the 5th Marines in the northern Arizona Territory south of

the Vu Gia River to prevent the VC/NVA from collecting the ripened grain of this fertile region.

16 Jul—Marine units, primarily of the 7th Marines, began Operation Pickins Forest south of An Hoa in the Song Thu Bon Valley.

16 Aug—Operation Lien Valley was begun by 1st Battalion, 5th Marines about 11 kilometers southwest of An Hoa.

Sep—By the end of the month, the 1st and 5th Marines and 2d Battalion, 7th Marines, were the only Marine maneuver units remaining in the field.

5 Sep—The 5th Marines began shifting elements of its infantry battalions to assume responsibility for the 7th Marines' area of operations in the Que Son area, as the 7th Marines began preparations to stand down from combat operations.

1 Oct—The regimental colors of the 7th Marines were trooped for the last time in Vietnam, and the regimental command group departed Vietnam for Camp Pendleton, California.

14 Oct—At the request of the Commanding Officer, 4th Marines, the 1st MAW decentralized helicopter support by dispatching six CH-46Ds, four AH-1G gunships, one UH-1E command and control aircraft, and usually a CH-53 to LZ Baldy on a daily basis. The helicopter package, operating under the control of the 5th Marines, was provided to improve the regiment's mobility and tactical flexibility.

22 Oct—Elements of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, including the People's Self-Defense Force and the National Police, launched Operation Hoang Dien, an ambitious and essentially South Vietnamese pacification operation in Quang Nam Province.

31 Oct—Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, promulgated the Allied Campaign Plan for 1971. Reflecting the changing emphasis of the war, the plan emphasized the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces' increasing assumption of tasks previously undertaken by the redeploying Americans.

23 Nov—U.S. Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird reported that a joint American force conducted an unsuccessful helicopter raid on Son Toy prisoner of war camp 20 miles west of Hanoi on 19 November. The prisoners had been moved some weeks before.

1 Dec—The 1st LAAM Battalion was deactivated at Twentynine Palms, California. The battalion was one of the first units to arrive in Vietnam in 1965.

3 Dec—American strength in Vietnam was down to 349,700, the lowest since 29 October 1966.

10 Dec—President Richard M. Nixon warned that if North Vietnamese forces increased the level of fighting in South Vietnam as American forces were withdrawn, he would begin bombing targets in North Vietnam again.

24 Dec—LtGen Donn J. Robertson relieved LtGen McCutcheon as Commanding General, III MAF. □1775□

Doing doubletime to board a Marine CH-46 helicopter are members of 3d Battalion, 26th Marines, headed for an operation to help counter the North Vietnamese Army in the north of I Corps.



Acquisitions

Useful 'Reserve Collection' Built of Many Small Gifts

*by LtCol William A. Beebe II, USMC
Officer-in-Charge, Marine Corps Air-Ground Museums*

MANY PEOPLE and organizations donate artifacts and memorabilia to the Marine Corps Museum in expectation that they immediately will be placed on exhibit.

The Marine Corps Museum at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C., the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum at Quantico, Virginia, and both of the Marine Corps Command Museums at San Diego, California, and Parris Island, South Carolina, display artifacts which support an exhibit's theme.

Consideration is given to the time and manpower necessary to research and restore each artifact shown and to write an accurate, interpretive text concerning its historical significance. Not every artifact can be displayed, but all are at least candidates for such eventual exhibit.



1804-32 button from Civil War campsite

"Why, then, do museums need artifacts if they are not likely to be exhibited?" is still the most often asked question. The Marine Corps History and Museums Division and command museums not only provide museums for the

Marine Corps and the general public, they also avail serious researchers the benefit of studying material history through their reserve collections. Museums are resources for scholarly research, inspiration, and the certification of lessons learned, beyond just the enjoyment of viewing interesting objects.

ARTIFACTS, RELICS of the past, sometimes spark the understanding that sheds great light on history. That is why the museums maintain a reserve collection, and why many undisplayed items are essential both to the Marine Corps Historical Program and to the scores of Marines and other researchers who annually browse undisturbed among the reserve pieces.

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