

FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

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HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXIV

SUMMER 1994

NUMBER 1



FIVE NEW PACIFIC WAR TITLES ADDED TO 50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SERIES . . . WORLD WAR II WAR CORRESPONDENT AND HISTORIAN BOB SHERROD REMEMBERED . . . 19TH-CENTURY MARINE NCO SWORD RESTORED TO FORMER LUSTER . . . IMA DETACHMENT FORMED . . . FLIGHT LINES: OKHA SUICIDE BOMB

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FORTITUDINE

Motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era

Historical Bulletin Volume XXIV

Summer 1994

No. 1

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

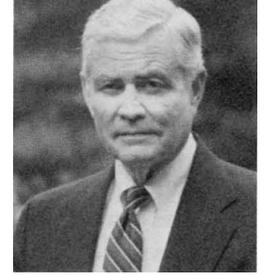
Memorandum from the Director: Remembering Bob Sherrod <i>BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret)</i>	3
Historical Quiz: World War II Medal of Honor Recipients <i>Lena M. Kaljot</i>	7
Readers Always Write: Careful Readers Scrutinize World War II Pamphlets	8
Five New Titles Enlarge World War II Anniversary Series <i>Benis M. Frank</i>	9
New Detachment for Reservists Aids Historical Program <i>Col Dennis P. Mroczkowski, USMCR</i>	10
Acquisitions: Museum Acquires and Restores Rare Marine NCO Sword <i>Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas and LtCol Charles H. Cureton, USMCR</i>	11
Answers to the Historical Quiz: World War II Medal of Honor Recipients	12
Museum Gets Nihart Body Armor Collection for Study <i>Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas</i>	13
Current Chronology of the Marine Corps: Corps Grappled with Complex Somalia Relief Effort <i>Ann A. Ferrante</i>	15
New Books: World War II Predominant in Marine-Interest Book List <i>Evelyn A. Englander</i>	17
WWII Bibliography Updated <i>Evelyn A. Englander</i>	17
Personal Papers Describe the Marine at 'Teapot Dome' <i>Frederick J. Graboske</i>	18
Flight Lines: The Okha Suicide Flying Bomb <i>Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas and Michael E. Starn</i>	19
World War II Chronology, 1941-1945: April-June 1945 <i>Robert V. Aquilina</i>	20
Students Given Shepherd, Gridley Memorial Fellowships <i>Charles R. Smith</i>	24

THE COVER

Combat artist Lt Mitchell Jamieson, USNR, produced this watercolor and crayon work, "Wounds in the Rain," during one of many visits with Marines in the World War II battle for Okinawa. Of this 1945 piece he wrote, "A sudden shower is falling although the sun is still out. The rain sparkles in the light and the vegetation seems to steam in the heat stretcher bearers put down their load to rest for a spell while their casualty is made more comfortable. For the painfully wounded, this is the beginning of a seemingly endless journey. Down the trail . . . through pine forests, little clearings, and cultivated bits of earth, into deep ravines, then up again over hills, following the thin ribbon of communications wire as if it were the thread life depended on. Then from the regimental CP the trip in ambulance or stretcher-equipped jeep to the division hospital along the coast road, a jolting, dusty journey." Reference historian Robert V. Aquilina details the hard-won Okinawa campaign in this issue's "World War II Chronology: 1941-1945," beginning on page 20.

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BGen Simmons

Remembering Bob Sherrod

ST. ALBAN'S Episcopal Church shares the grounds of the National Cathedral at Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues in Northwest Washington, but I am told that the parish is quite separate from the cathedral. The little church has a heavy, buttressed Gothic look. On this, the afternoon of 3 March, it was taken for "a service in Thanksgiving for the Life of Robert Lee Sherrod, February 8, 1909-February 13, 1994." Outside the church the weather was bleak, gray, and rainy, the trees and grass smudged with dirty, melting snow. Inside was warm and elegant with dark fumed oak, dark red carpeting, and much polished brass railing and candelabra. The winter light came through the reds and blues of narrow, sharply arched stained glass windows. There was a churchly smell of furniture polish and candlewax.

This was a memorial service rather than a funeral. The funeral had been earlier, restricted to the family, with burial in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. The order of worship for the memorial service nevertheless followed the Episcopal ritual, "The Burial of the Dead: Rite One." The officiant was a woman priest, the Reverend Margaret McNaughton.

The Marine Corps' presence was pronounced. There was a color guard of very tall Marines in blues, and, in scarlet jackets, organist Norman Scribner and the brass quintet from the Marine Band. Music played included the National Anthem, the funereal *Marines' Hymn Apotheosis*, the Navy Hymn *Eternal Father*, and Henry Purcell's *Voluntary on Old 100th*.

FIVE OF US GAVE REMEMBRANCES from the lectern which is elaborately carved into a huge eagle. Maxine Pineau, the widow of Capt Roger Pineau, USNR (Ret)—the naval historian who, himself, just recently died—spoke first, sketching in Bob's life from his first years.

"Bob Sherrod was born and raised in Thomasville, Georgia, a lovely southern town with excellent schools, where life was



Famed American portraitist Joseph C. Chase painted Sherrod in his war correspondent's uniform in 1945. The portrait has been loaned to the Historical Center.

pleasant," said Maxine. "The eldest of five children, he is survived by his sister, Louise Bassett, of Tallahassee. He never forgot his roots"

A great deal of South Georgia remained with Bob Sherrod, including his courtly way of speaking. He liked to say that he came from an old line of Confederates. Three of his four great-grandfathers were killed in what he had learned to call the "Civil War." The fourth great-grandfather lived until Bob was about eight years old and Bob never forgot the stories he told him. One was that the old Confederate had been wounded twice, once in the head and once in the heel, and the one in the heel had hurt the most.

That great-grandfather served in the 61st Georgia Infantry, the Wiregrass Regiment. We had a staff ride for Marine Corps general officers at Antietam in the spring of 1988 and Bob went along. It was a role-playing war game and Bob played the part of war correspondent George W. Smalley of the *New York Tribune*. I remember standing with Bob near the bridge which Burnside tried to cross with the IX Corps. The bridge was successfully defended by

Georgia troops and Bob supposed that his great-grandfather must have stood just about where we were standing.

"BOB WAS EDUCATED at the University of Georgia," continued Maxine Pineau in her remembrance. "In 1929, at the age of 20, he received the degree of Bachelor of Journalism. While a student, he began his career as the campus correspondent for the *Atlanta Constitution*."

These were the years of the Great Depression. There was no great amount of money in the Sherrod family and he was its first member to go to college. He liked to say that one of his professors said to him, "You write a pretty good sentence. Why don't you think about writing as a career?"

For a time he eked out a living reporting part-time for the *Palm Beach News*, and then, as Maxine told the congregation, "With little money but a lot of courage, he worked his way to New York on a ship. His timing was poor—he landed there the day the *New York World* went out of business—and unemployed reporters were numerous."

AFTER DRIFTING FROM job to job for several years, he was taken on by *Fortune* in 1935 for a six-month stint of writing about Miami and Palm Beach. He then switched over to *Life*. After a spell in Chicago, from where he covered the whole midwest, he was transferred to Washington, where he and two other reporters constituted what later became the Washington Bureau of *Time* and *Life*.

Bob Sherrod loved politics and he was essentially a political reporter until he was sent to the famous 1941 maneuvers in Louisiana. During these maneuvers he met certain Army officers including Col Eisenhower, Maj Guenther, BGen Mark Clark, and MajGen George Patton. But, as he later said, "none of whom I saw during the war because I went to the Pacific and they went to Europe."

On his return to his Washington beat,



A nattily-dressed 22-year-old reporter, Robert Sherrod sits at his desk at the Westhampton Beach, New York, Hampton Chronicle with Muriel King, daughter of John L. King, the editor and publisher. Sherrod brought his journalism degree up from Georgia.

his conversion from political to military correspondent continued. He got to know the military persons at the top: Adm Leahy, Adm King, Gen Marshall, and so on. He could tell you about them all. He had a story about Gen Marshall which also carried a whiff of the skepticism he had for the generalship of Gen MacArthur.

ON 15 NOVEMBER 1941, on the virtual eve of Pearl Harbor, Gen Marshall, then the Chief of Staff of the Army, called in seven of the top correspondents in Washington, Bob amongst them, for a very confidential interview. The United States, said Marshall, was on the brink of war with Japan. The Japanese were expected to strike at the Philippines. Under conditions of great secrecy, the defenses of the Philippines were being greatly strengthened. Already in place was the largest concentration in the world of B-17 bombers. Marshall was very optimistic as to the outcome. Asked about how the Navy came into the picture, he answered, "The grand strategy does not include the use of much naval force."

After Pearl Harbor, Bob was one of *Time's* first correspondents to be sent to the Pacific. He arrived in Australia in March 1942 and this is when he first met Douglas MacArthur. The MacArthur persona fascinated him and this fascination—a cynical fascination I should say—remained with him for the rest of his life.

SOME YEARS AGO, Bob and I worked with a Canadian TV company that was producing a documentary based on William Manchester's *American Caesar*. During the course of this video interview Bob was asked to suggest an epitaph for Douglas MacArthur. Bob's suggestion was "Here lies the world's greatest actor."

Bob's own first combat experience was with the Army in the Aleutians during the battle for Attu in May 1942. Jerry Hanifin, a *Time* correspondent now semi-retired and living in Florida, remembered Bob from that time.

"In a dispatch from Attu to *Time* magazine," said Hannifin, "retrieved from the archives by Marylois Purdy, our beloved Chief of Research, Bob wrote that the winds of Attu were worse than the Japanese bullets whistling overhead. . . . Fortunately for us all Bob dodged all those slugs, sometimes under extraordinary circumstances. On one occasion on Attu, a young Navy lieutenant coaxed Bob out of his rain-drenched foxhole in the rocks to come out to his destroyer overnight for a hot shower, a meal, and promised touch of bootleg bourbon—booze being a no. 1 no-no aboard ship. Bob yielded to the young officer's invitation, with the understanding that he would return to the beachhead at first light. Overnight a Japanese *banzai* charge to the death—including suicide—swept down on the [soldiers] in the foxholes, and in a ferocious firefight killed every man in the

squad to which Bob had been attached. Consider this an instance where a good shot of bourbon saved a good man's life."

AN ARMY GENERAL wrote to Henry Luce, the publisher of *Time* and *Life*, after Attu that "Sherrod is not only a splendid reporter but he is a fine fellow and a good companion." The general also told Luce that Sherrod "obtained his facts by going into the thick of things where he saw the action from the viewpoint of the fighting soldier."

After the Aleutians, Bob spent some time at sea with the Pacific Fleet. The naval strength that he saw convinced him that something big was about to happen in the Central Pacific. That something would be Tarawa. More than anything else, Tarawa established his reputation as a war correspondent. It also did something to him internally that forever afterward conditioned his way of looking at war.

Tarawa: The Story of a Battle, a recognized masterpiece of battlefield reportage, appeared in 1944. It was an immediate success and it is still in print. After the war, *Tarawa* was translated into Japanese and it is said that the Japanese edition outsold the English editions five to one.

Tarawa was followed by *On to the Westward* in which Bob moved with the Marines through the battles for Saipan and Iwo Jima. Of *On to the Westward*, also still in print, Orville Prescott of the *New York Times* wrote: "It is a good book, clear, simple, vivid, and as horrible as any account of slaughter and sacrifice should be. Mr. Sherrod has no particular mannerisms, no particular interest in exploiting his own personality."

OF THESE WARTIME BOOKS, Bob later wrote: "The function of a war correspondent, as I see it, is not to write complete stories. He cannot write with the perspective which time alone can furnish. Leave that to the historians and their mountains of official records. At best, the war correspondent can write what he sees and hears and feels; he can perhaps reflect the mood of men in battle, as those men appear and talk and fight."

After the war when he was covering the Pentagon, the Marine Corps asked him to write the official history of Marine Corps aviation in World War II. This he took on as an evening and weekend venture, while still working full time for Time-Life. It is

getting monotonous to keep repeating this, but the *History of Marine Corps Aviation in World War II* is also still in print.

Bob wrote the major portion of the text for *Life's Picture History of World War II*. The book sold 600,000 copies and made a reputed \$1.5 million for Time-Life. Bob liked to say that, for this, Time-Life gave him a generous bonus of \$5,000.

Bob left *Time* in 1952 to join the *Saturday Evening Post*. He became successively Far East correspondent, managing editor, editor-in-chief, and editor-at-large. One of his great experiences was to go around the world in company with Norman Rockwell, the artist, and Ollie Atkins, the photographer, interviewing such world leaders as Nehru of India, Ben Gurion of Israel, Nasser of Egypt, and Tito of Yugoslavia. He had some charming stories to tell of Rockwell as a traveling companion.

In 1966 he went back to *Life* magazine as a contract writer. He wrote a remarkably prescient article, "Notes on a Monstrous War," which appeared in the 27th of January 1967 issue. In it he said, "After nearly two months in Vietnam I find this the most hateful war we have ever fought"

"**B**OB WAS THE DEVOTED father of two sons, John and Robert, the proud grandfather of Amy, Bill, Sonia, and Marcia, and doting great-grandfather of three-year-old Jeremy and one-year-old Abigail," said Maxine Pineau. "Family connections of all kinds were important to Bob It was the tragedy of his life that he survived two beloved wives, but the last decade of his life was enhanced by his love for Bernice Jacobsen And friendships were important to Bob. The shared interests and mutual admiration between my late husband, Roger, and Bob were the foundations of a 50-year friendship of enormous importance to them both."

I remembered a Christmas season breakfast at the Pineau house about 10 years ago. Word processors and microcomputers were still quite new. I was considering buying one. Roger at that time was writing a book with John Costello, and he had a new computer of which he was very proud. He gave us a demonstration including the use of the modem to talk to Costello in New York. I was impressed. Capt Edward L. "Ned" Beach, the Navy submariner and writer, was there, and he said that he had a bottom-of-the-line

computer which he said wasn't much but it got the job done. Bob had watched the demonstration with mild amusement.

"My word processor is 25 years old," he said, "and she also makes coffee."

I never met his word processor, but I am quite certain that in addition to being an efficient typist, she was also an attractive young lady. Bob appreciated attractive ladies and he knew how to turn a compliment. Foster Hailey of the *New York Times* described him as "The sort of man whose tie women are always either straightening, or wanting to."

Bob was unfailingly helpful to other journalists, historians, and authors," said Maxine. "He was generous with his time, making his voluminous files available and reviewing manuscripts and books. His memory of World War II and subsequent events was encyclopedic"

ONE OF THOSE SHARING his memories of Bob at the service was Yoshihisa Komori, chief of the Washington bureau of the *Sankei Shimbun*.

"The very last time I spoke to Bob Sherrod was just a week before his passing," said Mr. Komori. "On the phone, I asked him some questions for my newspaper articles for readers in Japan, as I had done countless times in the prior 15-year period, this time about the Ernie Pyle Theater in Tokyo that the American forces used nearly 50 years ago. Of course, Bob had been there. Of course, he remembered it all. He told me how the theater had looked and how it had been used and so on, in his usual concise yet very illustrative fashion."

In the late 1940s, Mr. and Mrs. Sherrod, at left, entertained Medal of Honor holder Col David M. Shoup, USMC, and a friend at New York City's famous Stork Club. A popular war hero, Shoup became Commandant of the Marine Corps from 1960-1963.



"Then Bob went on to tell me about his involvement with this World War II correspondent, Ernie Pyle himself, after whom the theater was named. 'You see, Yoshi, I stayed one night with Ernie in the same living quarters in Okinawa, just a few days before he died. He was killed while covering [an action] on a small island near Okinawa. That was April 18, 1945, and the island is called Ie Jima.' Then, Bob kindly told me how to spell Ie Jima. So typical of Bob, precise, thorough, and professional."

BOB WAS NOT a great public speaker. He did not do well in front of a large audience. But he was a great conversationalist and a great raconteur. He was at his best at a luncheon table with two or three friends. He was superb at small dinner parties.

"In more recent years, my wife Susan and I have had the great joy and privilege of seeing Bob frequently, sometimes as often as every other week for weekend lunches," remembered Yoshi Komori. "These lunches were lively affairs, including a wide variety of old and new friends. As the discussions would proceed, Bob preferred not to focus on the past, but would express his always informed and insightful views on current national and world affairs. Bob was always accompanied by his beloved companion Bernice Jacobsen, with whom he had many years of happiness, and with whom he took his last trips—the very last one was to Texas, to participate in a symposium on the Pacific War."



In an August 1943 photograph taken at Adak in the Aleutians are, from left, an unidentified officer; Capt Harold Rosenthal, MC, USAR; Lt Sheldon Luce, brother of *Time-Life* founder and publisher Henry Luce; and *Time* magazine war correspondent Sherrod.

RICHARD HARWOOD, the now-retired deputy managing editor of the *Washington Post* and a World War II enlisted Marine, had similar memories.

"He was, as we all know, a modest man. He was not given to boasting or embellishment of his career. He was also very tough and courageous, never whining about the series of painful disabilities that afflicted him in recent years and made the normal rituals of life a chore. I admired him for that and for his good spirits. He had true grit. He also had good taste. Chris [Herbert C.] Merillat and I lunched with him at a little restaurant in Georgetown where, like many old goats, we savored the martinis, the gossip, tales of the Pacific, and horror stories about our various disabilities, from hangnails to fluttering hearts."

Dick Harwood had not known Bob in the war and "only became aware that he existed midway through the Iwo Jima campaign.

"Someone had gotten a copy of an abbreviated version of *Time* magazine, published as I recall, as a public service for troops overseas. The magazine was passed around and it contained a long and very understanding account of the Iwo battle, written, of course, by Bob. We were all impressed and I never forgot that story."

That abbreviated version of *Time* was called the "pony edition" and there were others of us at the service with reason to remember it.

DICK HARWOOD HAD written a moving tribute after Bob's death for the *Washington Post* (February 28, 1994) under the headline, "He Told Truth About War." In part it said:

Bob Sherrod was a war correspondent, a label that has various connotations. Many "war correspondents" cover their wars from a great distance, writing heated prose derived from communiques, after-action reports, briefings and press releases. Others experience directly the carnage, terror, cruelty and tragedy of battle As a *Time* correspondent, Sherrod was its exemplar in the Pacific in the 1940s, writing some of the most vivid accounts of men at war ever produced by an American journalist He was not, as some may have believed, a war lover, nor was he a pacifist. He loved and wept for those who fought, but hated the agony they endured. The purpose of all his writings was to remind the

politicians and the homebodies what they had done when they sent those boys to the butcher, to tell them that war is not a TV show, is not a Hollywood film, that it truly is an earthly hell.

One could hope, vainly no doubt, that the politicians and tub-thumpers of our own time, as well as those among this generation of journalists who dream of "glory" and professional profit, would study his work and learn from it.

DICK WAS MOVED to write his piece by the paucity of accounts marking the death of Bob Sherrod.

"*Time* magazine," he wrote, "noted his passing with a single paragraph, illustrating the truth that journalistic fame has the half-life of cotton candy."

I would have to say, "Not quite so."

If the journalist's writings go into books, then that writer gains a special kind of immortality, particularly if his books stay in print and are read by successive generations.

I thought of all the lunches and dinners and good conversations I had had with Bob. His stories always had a point and they were always well told. If you admired his walking stick with the inlaid mother of pearl, he could tell you that it was given to him by President Magsaysay of the Philippines. Mention of the Philippines would inevitably lead to some point to be made about Douglas MacArthur. A biography of MacArthur was to have been his last great work. Among other things, it was to have been the story of MacArthur's relations with the press. Bob, as a good reporter, met deadlines, but the deadline for this biography was one that he would not meet. Work on the book was interrupted by the devoted care he gave his third wife, Mary Gay, in her last few years—care that Bob gave with typical unselfish gallantry. Her memorial service was also in St. Alban's.

After her death, Bob never really got back to the book. There have been bits and pieces of his thoughts on MacArthur in book reviews that he did and in other short pieces, but no book, and that is our loss.

THERE IS AN ORGANIZATION called the Military Order of the Carabao, of which Bob was a member—and there were

many members at the memorial service. The organization was founded in 1901 by officers who took part in the liberation of the Philippines, which is another way of saying the Philippine Insurrection. It was rejuvenated after World War II by the admission of members who took part in the second liberation of the Philippines. Bob was an Associate Carabao, a special class of membership for war correspondents. There are luncheons and other kinds of meetings, but the chief function of the Military Order of the Carabao is its annual Carabao Wallow, a grand, old-fashioned kind of banquet evening, unabashedly patriotic and bombastic. The Marine Band and Drum and Bugle Corps play large parts in the evening which features a satirical musical revue, the humor consisting of pokes at the current politico-military scene. Bob enjoyed these evenings tremendously. We always sat at the same table, a table incidentally named in honor of the late Col Robert D. Heinl, Jr. Bob attended until just these past few years when his emphysema made it impossible.

I had become Director of Marine Corps History late in 1971 and a year later, actually at the Carabao Wallow in February 1973, I asked Bob if he would serve on the Commandant's Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History. He accepted and he served a three-year term. His advice was always pointed, trenchant, and useful. During these years, down to the virtual present, he was also frequently consulted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, whomever it happened to be, and there were several, on matters of public relations affecting the Corps.

IT GOES ALMOST WITHOUT SAYING, that when we formed the Marine Corps Historical Foundation in 1978 that he, Bob Sherrod, would be one of the seven founding members. He then would serve for six years on the Foundation's Board of Directors.

In 1987 he was awarded the Foundation's Distinguished Service Award for his lifetime accomplishments in Marine Corps history and his services to the Foundation. This was only the second time this award had been made. As his citation states, ". . . his direct and pungent advice has done much to shape" the programs of the Foundation.

"Direct" and "pungent" are good words to describe advice given by Bob Sherrod.



Sherrod, left, shortly to join the Advisory Committee on Marine Corps History, went on board ship in August 1972 for a talk with naval historian RAdm Samuel Eliot Morison.

He was demanding of himself and others and he was impatient of careless work. Almost every successive edition of those books of his would contain changes: small corrections of fact that he wished to make. When his *History of Marine Corps Aviation* was reissued by Presidio Press in 1980, he insisted on an "Addenda and Corrigenda" correcting some of the errors, none major, that had been made inevitably in the original edition. He also added some new material, most significantly, his "Supplement on Aces," fretting occasionally, as he wrote, "over the issue of claims versus realities." When the next edition came out, this time by Nautical and Aviation Publishing Company in 1986, there was more fine-tuning.

IN ADDITION TO his passion for accuracy, he was also a stickler as to construction and grammar and a compulsive proofreader. He had a passion for "getting it right." As an old-time editor, he liked to write in the margins of articles and manuscripts. I remember that in one of my pieces he disagreed with my use of the word "whom" in place of "who." He put

a circle around it and in the margin he wrote, "Wrong." There were other grammatical errors in the piece and he had circled these and had written in the margin, "Wrong, wrong, wrong." But at the end of the manuscript, there was a compliment. He had added, "You finally got it right."

Over a 20-plus-year period I had a great deal of correspondence with Bob Sherrod. I kept it all and it occupies a file that is, by actual measurement, four inches thick. Much of it consists of notes appended to marked-up copy. Amongst his varieties of impatience was his impatience with the modern-day U.S. Postal Service. He could never understand why it took five days for a letter to get from his apartment in Northwest Washington to my office in Southeast Washington. Generally, I would get a call on about the third day asking if I had received his note and, if it were an action item, what was I doing about it?

We learned of his final act of generosity to the Marine Corps after his death. In his will he had bequeathed his extensive library to the Marine Corps Historical Center. □1775□

Historical Quiz

World War II Medal of Honor Recipients

by Lena M. Kaljot, Reference Historian

Match the following World War II Medal of Honor recipients with the campaigns for which they were awarded their medals.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Sgt John Basilone | a. Okinawa |
| 2. LtCol Aquilla J. Dyess | b. Wake Island |
| 3. Capt Henry T. Elrod | c. Makin |
| 4. Capt Joseph J. Foss | d. Guadalcanal |
| 5. Cpl Louis J. Hauge, Jr. | e. Guam |
| 6. PlSgt Mitchell Paige | f. Guadalcanal |
| 7. Col David M. Shoup | g. Iwo Jima |
| 8. Cpl Tony Stein | h. Kwajalein |
| 9. Sgt Clyde Thomason | i. Tarawa |
| 10. Capt Louis J. Wilson, Jr. | j. Solomon Islands |

(Answers on page 12)

Careful Readers Scrutinize World War II Pamphlets

THE CONFUSION OF BATTLE

I have no desire to damn with faint praise or nit-pick over minor errors because I feel you . . . have done a wonderful job in publishing the Commemorative Series and creating a lot of interest in the history of WWII.

I served with the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines the entire time I was in the Pacific. We were fortunate to serve under Wm. K. Jones as our battalion CO. I was a platoon leader on Tarawa, then went to Saipan as exec officer of "C" Company. The CO was KIA shortly after we landed and attacked inland, so I received one of those unwanted battlefield promotions. I continued to serve as acting CO of "C" Company for Saipan and Tinian.

On page 30 [of *Breaching the Marianas: The Battle for Saipan*], citing the Medal of Honor recipients, [PFC Harold G.] Epperson is shown as being KIA on July 25th. The island was secure on July 9th, so this is an obvious error.

Epperson was serving in the machine gun platoon of "C" Company at that time. Jones had sent up a 37mm gun to cover an avenue of approach and of course this attracted the attention of the Japs and they tried to knock out the gun in the middle of the night. A machine gun section was emplaced around the gun. They threw grenades or charges in the area with little success, but unfortunately Epperson was KIA and a few more wounded The platoon leader . . . reported it and the incident was included in the daily report of casualties. We moved out the next day and it was . . . one of those things we put behind us Months later I was called up to explain why [Epperson] had not been recommended for a medal and to verify the facts. I'm sure I heard the racket and put the company on an alert status for a possible night attack. Since I did not personally observe the action I didn't know if he was trying to throw back the grenade, or get away from it, or deliberately covered it with his body. Only God really knows the answer to that question. I found it all but impossible to pick and choose among these men for medals. They were all heroes in my book and all those KIA deserved a

medal. But of course it doesn't work that way.

[Concerning the incidents of] falling on grenades, if you check the list of those awarded the Medal of Honor in 1943-45 you will note a number in this category. In fact, as I recall, it just got out of hand. If one received it, then all should receive it, and the facts were so difficult to verify. I'm sure it was done . . . with no formal order, but the practice just came to a halt for whatever reason after a certain cut-off date. This is all based on rumor, I suppose, but the record would tend to bear out this conclusion.

I would appreciate it if you would try to correct the date on Epperson's citation . . . for the record. It seems to be true that once a mistake creeps into an article or book it becomes "gospel" and is all but impossible to correct

LtCol Peter F. Lake, USMCR (Ret)
Austin, Texas

EDITOR'S NOTE: Series general editor Benis M. Frank responds: "The inaccurate date in PFC Epperson's Medal of Honor citation occurred as a result of a typographical error, since he was indeed awarded the medal posthumously for actions on 25 June, vice July. You are correct in noting that a number of Medal of Honor awards were made to individuals who threw themselves on enemy grenades to save their buddies. I feel certain that those who were reported to have done so were not acting because they wanted a Medal of Honor, especially a posthumous one."

CHURCH AND SHINTO SHRINE

Recently I sent you an inquiry regarding the publication *Breaching the Marianas: The Battle for Saipan*. Today I received the copy . . . There is one thing about that publication that may draw some letters. The caption for the cover photograph reads: *A Marine enters the outskirts of Garapan, Saipan, through the torii gate of a Shinto shrine. Department of Defense Photo (USMC) 92993*. I have had enough experience in publishing to know that one must believe what is said in the captions that accompany photographs one intends to use. However, this

shrine is not in Garapan. Therein lies an interesting story.

Under Japanese rule there were two population centers. One was Garapan. The other was built around the sugar refinery at what the records show as Charan Kanoa. This is a phonetic spelling from the Japanese pronunciation. The natives call it Chalan Kanoa. They manage the L's better than did the Japanese. That area was blown away during the pre-invasion bombardment and the refinery was left in ruins. Nearby, U.S. forces soon established a camp for civilians. When it was safe to do so, the camp was closed and the natives were free to resettle. One of the first things they did was build a church. The location they chose was the ruins of the sugar refinery. The church was built entirely by hand labor and Americans joined in to assist the natives in the venture. Today the church is designated as the cathedral. Alongside the church structure is a Catholic school complex. One of the buildings is from the old refinery, the only structure to survive. Next to the school is a cemetery. That torii gate and shrine can be seen today—smack dab in the middle of a Catholic cemetery.

Dr. Damon G. Nalty
San Jose, California

EDITOR'S NOTE: A photograph of the pamphlet cover appears on page 9.

FIRST ARCTIC MARINES

Just finished reading the monograph, *Outpost in the North Atlantic: Marines in the Defense of Iceland*. Pass on a well done to Col Donovan. Not only was his book an interesting read, but his style was excellent, as he was able to detach himself from the story. The sidebars on Gens Hermle and Marston were also excellent.

This publication is of some interest to us in the 2d Marines, currently the division's "cold weather" regiment and fresh from a two-month deployment to Bridgeport and Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Perhaps the Iceland Marines were the first to do an extended deployment in an Arctic climate!

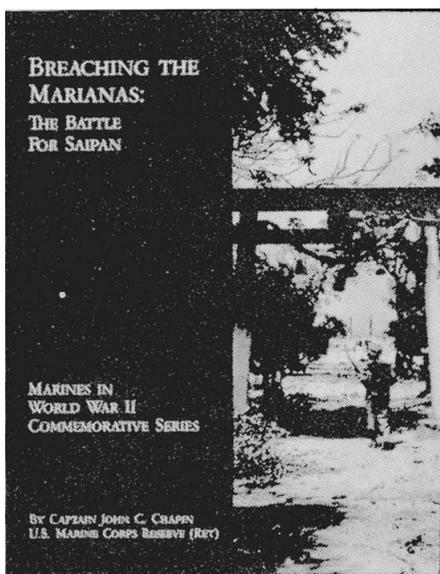
LtCol John D. McGuire, USMC
Executive Officer, 2d Marines

Five New Titles Enlarge World War II Anniversary Series

by Benis M. Frank
Chief Historian

FIVE NEW TITLES have been added to the History and Museums Division's "Marines in World War II" 50th anniversary pamphlet series. Two of them, *Breaking the Outer Ring: Marine Landings in the Marshalls* and *Breaching the Marianas: The Battle for Saipan*, were written by a veteran of both of those campaigns, Capt John C. Chapin, USMCR (Ret). The Marshalls combat narrative tells the story of MajGen Harry Schmidt's 4th Marine Division, which was formed at Camp Pendleton and steamed from San Diego to begin the longest shore-to-shore amphibious operation in the history of warfare—4,300 miles! In this pamphlet is the story of the landings in the Marshalls in January-February 1944: on Roi-Namur by the 4th Division; the landing on Eniwetok by BGen Thomas E. Watson's brigaded 22d Marines and the 106th Infantry of the Army 7th Infantry Division; the landing on Majuro by the Marine V Amphibious Corps Reconnaissance Company and the Army 2d Battalion, 106th Infantry; and the attack on Kwajalein itself by the 32d and the 164th Infantry. The success of these operations did indeed breach the outer barrier of Japanese-held islands which guarded the Home Islands.

Capt Chapin's second pamphlet tells the story of the terrible battle for Saipan, the length of which forced a delay in the Guam landing. The 2d and 4th Marine

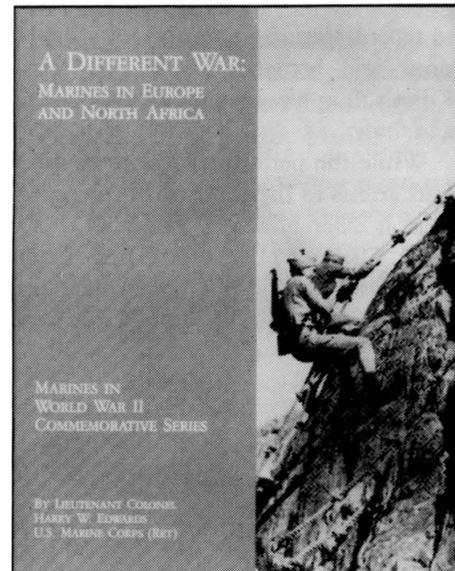
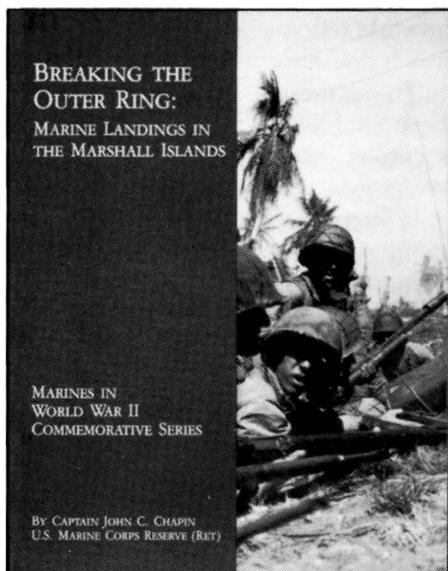


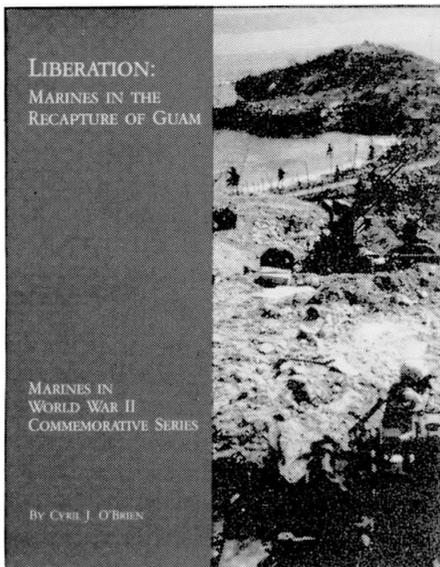
Divisions, recently blooded in the Tarawa and Marshall Islands landings, respectively, forced heavily defended beachheads against deadly Japanese fire directed by observers looking straight down on the beaches from the heights of Mount Tapotchau and Mount Tipo Pale. A feature of the Saipan operation not met in earlier Marine landings was a large number of island natives, many of whom committed suicide by diving from the cliffs at the northern end of the island. They did this rather than endure "suffering" at the hands of the American "devils," as they were warned by the Japanese military on Saipan. As the author points out, "... the hard experiences on Saipan led to a variety of changes [in amphibious landings] which paid valuable dividends in saving American lives in future Pacific campaigns. And the loss of the island was a strategic strike from which the Japanese never recovered"

THE THIRD NEW BOOK in the series is *A Different War: Marines in Europe and North Africa*. This pamphlet should answer the many questions about what Marines did in the European and North African theaters of war. After the author, LtCol Harry W. Edwards, USMC (Ret), finished his war tour in the Pacific, participating with the 3d Marines in the Bougainville assault, in 1944-1946 he commanded the Marine Detachment,

American Embassy, London, where he learned first hand of what he discusses in this pamphlet. LtCol Edwards deals with the missions of Marines assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Europe and North Africa; the Marine Barracks in Londonderry, Northern Ireland; and the individual senior Marines serving on the staffs of the commands heading up the North African, Italian, and Normandy landings. The author also tells of the Marine detachments on U.S. Navy capital ships in European waters and of the bagpipe band formed at Londonderry.

Liberation: Marines in the Recapture of Guam, written by Cyril J. O'Brien, a newspaper reporter who enlisted in the Marine Corps and fought as a rifleman with the 3d Marine Division on Bougainville, is the fourth new title. O'Brien was given Marine Corps Combat Correspondent status prior to the Guam landings, and as such, he covered and wrote dispatches about the fighting on the island. Taking part in the liberation of Guam was the 3d Marine Division, which assaulted Bougainville in November 1943. Also part of the III Amphibious Corps in the Guam landing was the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, consisting of the 22d Marines, which first fought in the Marshalls, and the reconstituted 4th Marines, comprised of former Marine Raider battalions. The liberation of Guam represented the recap-



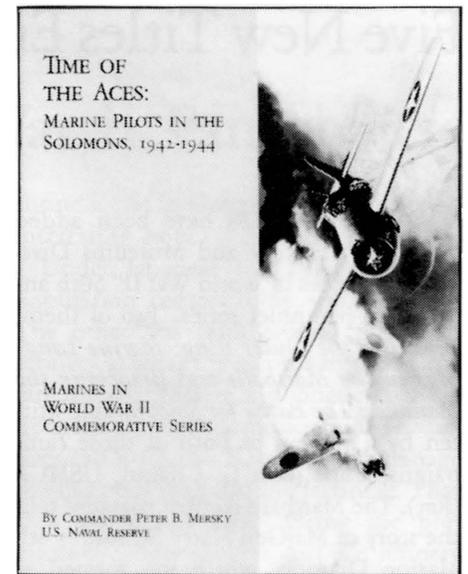


ture of the first piece of American territory lost to the Japanese in the war.

Cdr Peter B. Mersky, USNR (Ret), a widely published writer on military aircraft prepared the fifth new pamphlet. As the title, *Time of the Aces: Marine Pilots in the Solomons, 1942-1944*, suggests, this is the story of Marine airmen who rose from

Henderson Field on Guadalcanal, and from airfields on other islands up the Solomons chain, to challenge experienced Japanese fighter and bomber pilots with success. From the two years of the Solomons campaigns, beginning with the 7 August 1942 landing of the 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal, emerged more than 70 Marine aces—pilots who had shot down at least five enemy planes—11 of whom were awarded the Medal of Honor.

All of the pamphlets in the *Marines in World War II Commemorative Series*, including the newest five, are available to members of the Armed Forces and veterans of World War II at no cost except postage and handling (\$1.50 each) from the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, P.O. Box 420, Quantico, Virginia 22134-0420. Others may order the individual pamphlets from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The stock numbers for ordering are: *Breaking the Outer Ring: Marine Landings in the*



Marshall Islands, No. 008-055-00-191-9; *Breaching the Marianas: The Battle for Saipan*, No. 008-055-00-190-1; *A Different War: Marines in Europe and North Africa*, No. 008-055-00-192-7; *Liberation: Marines in the Recapture of Guam*, No. 008-055-00-193-5; and *Time of the Aces*, No. 008-055-00-188-9. □1775□

New Detachment for Reservists Aids Historical Program

by Col Dennis P. Mroczkowski, USMCR
Commanding Officer, Individual Mobilization Augmentee Detachment

IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, the Marine Corps Historical Center has been able to respond effectively to a number of operations around the world because of the Marine reservists who were rapidly deployed as historians and combat artists. These reservists have been “on the scene” to record Marine Corps and joint operations and activities in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, Somalia, and Italy.

While the performance of these reservists attests to their individual preparedness, as BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, said at a recent conference, “There was a little bit of luck involved.” Gen Simmons said, “We are very lucky; but we are lucky *because* we are well prepared.” In order to ensure that such “luck” continues, the Center has established a new reserve organization, an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) detachment. The detachment currently has five authorized members all historians. Four of

these officers (Col Dennis Mroczkowski; LtCols Charles Cureton and Nicholas Reynolds; and Major Jon Hoffman) were members of Mobilization Training Unit (History) DC-7. This unit will continue to support the Historical Center and will provide a pool of qualified members for the IMA detachment.

A new IMA member is Maj Jeffrey Acosta, who in civilian life is the curator of the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia. The reservists will drill at the Center during one weekend each month, the same as members of any Select Marine Corps Reserve unit. However, their active duty for training will be devoted to historical writing or artistic projects, and working with Marine Corps organizations during major exercises.

THE MISSION OF the new detachment is to “assist the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums to record, preserve, and disseminate the cumulative

operational and institutional experience of the Marine Corps . . . by providing trained and capable combat historians and combat artists for deployment with operating Marine Corps forces and joint service commands; by performing research and writing on historical subjects [and] by creating artworks reflective of Marine Corps operations and historical subjects” To fulfill this mission, a training schedule has been established to address the requirements of historians and artists in their professional roles and as Marine officers.

In keeping with the need for possible rapid deployment, the detachment is preparing a new Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) that is expected to be published at the end of 1994. This SOP will address those administrative procedures needed to bring a historian or artist onto active duty and to prepare him or her for deployment, and will define the duties of historians and artists while recording Marine Corps or joint operations in the field. □1775□

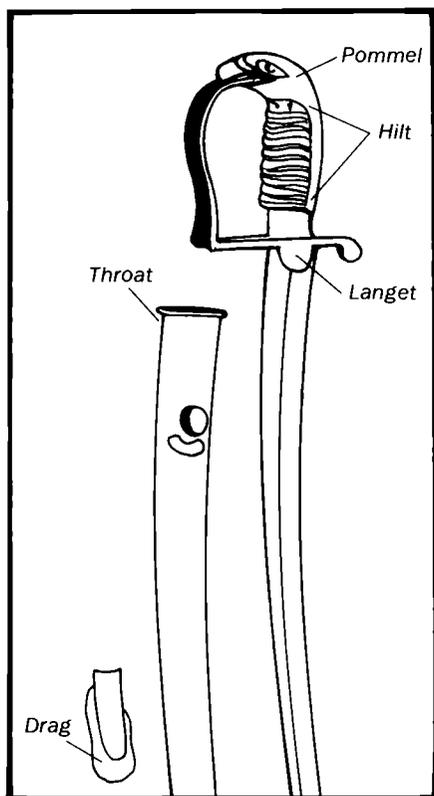
Museum Acquires and Restores Rare Marine NCO Sword

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas and
LtCol Charles H. Cureton, USMCR

THE RESTORATION is now complete of a rare noncommissioned officer's sword which the Marine Corps Museum acquired this year through the Museum Acquisition Fund of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation. The sword is the type carried by Marines from the late 1820s up to the Civil War and was bought from a collector in the Philadelphia area. According to the former owner, the sword had been discovered in an attic in Norfolk, Virginia, but there are no further clues as to its provenance.

When the sword arrived at the Museum, it was in rough, but restorable, condition. GySgt William Lightel, USMC (Ret), a longtime museum volunteer and antique weapons expert, was contracted to restore the sword. Last year, GySgt Lightel had restored Gen Gerald C. Thomas' sword prior to its being mounted in the Thomas Room at the Marine Corps Research Center (see *Fortitudine*, Summer 1993, "Museum Exhibits Adorn New Quantico Research Center"). In addition to restoring the sword, GySgt Lightel also reconstructed a brass drag for the leather scabbard, using photographs of an extant example. The photographs were supplied by Clarence F. Runtsch, a former Marine and sculptor, who has both a noncommissioned officer's sword and a musician's sword in his extensive collection of swords.

THE PROCUREMENT and issue of this type of sword are detailed in research conducted by LtCol Charles H. Cureton, USMCR, over the past 10 years for a planned publication on the Marine Corps uniform from 1829 to the Civil War. In the correspondence of the Quartermaster of the Marine Corps, which now resides in Record Group 127 of the National Archives and Records Administration, LtCol Cureton found that the Quartermaster obtained swords for noncommissioned officers and musicians from the Widman Company, a respected firm in Philadelphia. The company was founded by Frederick W. Widman, who had emigrat-



ed from Germany in 1816 and opened his own business as a swordmaker in 1825. For the next 23 years he produced a variety of high-quality swords, using steel blades which he imported from the city of Solingen in his native Germany. The well-known firm of William H. Horstmann acquired the company upon Widman's death in 1848, but aside from marking the blade with his firm's name, Horstmann made no alterations to either the noncom-

The NCO sword, an 1820 design, was complete but in need of conservation measures when purchased by the Foundation. The eagle's-head grip is of wood covered with black leather and decorated with twisted brass wire. The blade has a blued finish.

Photo by GySgt William Lightel, USMC (Ret)



missioned officer's or the musician's sword. The sword purchased by the Museum has the post-1848 Horstmann marking.

These Widman swords follow the style of the eagle's-head "family" of swords which were popular in America during the Federal period, from about 1805 to the Mexican War. The differences between the noncommissioned officer's and musician's swords ordered for the Marine Corps are in the configuration of the hilt and the length and finish of the blade. The noncommissioned officer's sword has a black leather-covered wooden grip which is wrapped with twisted brass wire. It has a brass "P"-shaped guard, eagle's-head pommel with a back strap, and langets.

The musician's sword is slightly shorter, has a solid brass hilt and grip, with a stylized eagle's-head pommel. While the noncommissioned officer's sword has a blued finish and gold-filled engraving on the upper half of the blade, the musician's sword has a bright steel blade.

THE BLADE OF THE noncommissioned officer's sword is 33 inches long and the blades of surviving such swords conform to measurements given in the correspondence in the Quartermaster files. The black leather sword scabbards have a brass drag and throat, with a stud mounted on the throat, since both swords were intended to be worn from shoulder belts.

The lack of any specific Marine Corps

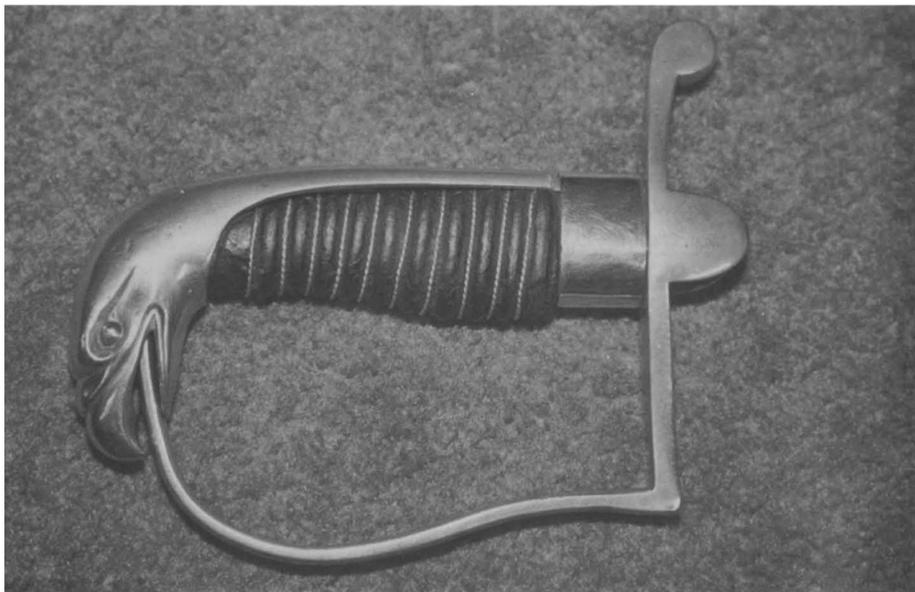


Photo by GySgt William Lightel, USMC (Ret)

After restoration by retired GySgt William Lightel the grip has more of its original colors and polish, including the glint of the twisted brass wire decoration against the dark leather wrapping. Conservation techniques also prolong the life of the sword.

markings on the sword blades is attributable to the fact that these swords were not procured solely by the Marine Corps, although there are indications that the Marine Corps was one of Widman's first customers for these swords. Unlike other Quartermaster purchases, these swords were not contracted for under a bid system. The Quartermaster purchased these swords directly from the dealer as they were required in order to maintain supplies. Although the correspondence over the first order apparently has not survived, the Marine Corps' early use of this sword is evident in contemporaneous art: the sword is illustrated in E. C. Young's watercolor of a Marine orderly sergeant, which is dated 1827. (At this same time, the Marine Corps also adopted the familiar Mameluke-hilt sword for its officers.)

Apparently Widman also sold swords of *In its mottled, unrestored state, the sword reveals the initials "EW," thought to refer to the supplier, the Widman Company.*



the same two types to militia officers, as some swords with possible militia associations have surfaced in other collections. There is nothing unusual about this, as sword makers who supplied arms to the U.S. Army also routinely sold official-pattern swords to militiamen. The attribution of the Widman pattern sword as being Marine Corps is confirmed in a pre-Civil War (c. 1856) Horstmann catalog which illustrated both types of swords under the heading "Marine Corps." According to official correspondence, the cost of the noncommissioned officer's and musician's swords remained constant throughout this period. The noncommissioned officer's sword cost \$7, the musician's sword cost \$5, and a shortened, "boy's" version of the musician's sword sold for \$3.75.

The noncommissioned officer's sword was authorized for all sergeants, orderly sergeants, the Quartermaster Sergeant of the Marine Corps, and the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps. Sergeants carried the sword in addition to their other equipment: typically musket, cartridge box, and bayonet. The sword was suspended from a double-frogged shoulder belt, holding both the sword and the bayonet. Orderly sergeants and staff noncommissioned officers, who were not equipped with a musket, wore it by itself from the shoulder belt. As a staff noncommissioned officer, the principal musician of the Marine Band also carried the NCO sword.

The musician's sword was carried by bandmen and all fifers and drummers in the Marine Corps. Musicians carried their swords in the same shoulder belts used by noncommissioned officers.

UNTIL RECENTLY, research had been confined solely to the existing uniform regulations (which offered little help) and supposition. There are no known paintings or drawings extant from this period which depict a Marine noncommissioned officer in sufficient detail to determine the design of the sword from the art alone. Accordingly, articles and books written in the 1950s and 1960s inferred that the swords which Marines had carried in the War of 1812 were used until they supposedly were replaced by the M1840 U.S. Army noncommissioned officers sword. Subsequent research, again by LtCol Cureton, reveals that this assumption is also in error. Instead, we now know that Marine noncommissioned officers have carried basically the same sword since 1859, and the only Marines who carried the M1840 Army noncommissioned officer's sword were bandmen who wore a modified version in the late 19th century.

Thanks to further primary source research and the opportunity to acquire this sword, we now know the exact pattern of the sword worn by Marine noncommissioned officers from 1827 through 1859. Even better, as a result of the restoration work funded by the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, we now have a displayable example for exhibit and study in the future. □1775□

Answers to the Historical Quiz

World War II Medal of Honor Recipients

(Quiz on page 7)

1. d
2. h
3. b
4. f
5. a
6. j
7. i
8. g
9. c
10. e

Museum Gets Nihart Body Armor Collection for Study

by *Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas*
Curator of Material History

COL F. BROOKE NIHART, USMC (Ret), the retired long-time Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums, has donated his collection of personal body armor for use as a study collection at the Air-Ground Museum at Quantico. Among his many pursuits, Col Nihart had two particular collecting interests: the small arms produced by the Virginia Manufactory of Arms in Richmond, and the development of body armor through the ages. He built his armor collection over a period of years prior to becoming the head of all Marine Corps Museums in 1973, mainly by purchasing items from well-known dealers.

The earliest pieces in the gift are two sets of rare Civil War body armor, which represent a period in which very little personal armor was produced. Both of these were made in Connecticut about 1862. The use of body armor by European and American armies in the field had sharply decreased after the mid-1600s and, with few exceptions such as these two sets, had ceased altogether by the outbreak of World War I in 1914. However, by 1915 it became apparent that body armor could effectively stop many of the wounds inflicted in static trench warfare. By America's entry into the war in 1917, all of the major powers had adopted steel protective helmets and the Germans had issued several versions of heavy breast armor for snipers and machine gunners. Many of the pieces in Col Nihart's donation date from the World War I period.

Experimental body armor designed by Maj Dean was manufactured by the Hale & Kilburn Co. of Philadelphia, with sponge rubber padding made by the Miller Rubber Co. of Akron. The entire delivery of 5,000 sets was sent to troops in France for testing.



The Model 3 was one of the World War I-era helmets designed by Maj Bashford Dean, the curator of arms and armor at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Like the Model 2 it was ballistically superior, but was rejected because it was too difficult to manufacture.

The U.S. Army's Ordnance Department sought the commissioning as a major of Bashford Dean, the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art's Curator of Arms and Armor, and charged him with the development of a suitable helmet for the American army. After a fact-finding mission to Europe, Maj Dean and his staff designed at least 15 different prototype helmets and several types of lightweight body armor. However, the speed with which the U.S. Army had to be equipped and the coming of the Armistice in 1918

precluded the adoption of Dean's designs. The U.S. Army and Marine Corps fought the war wearing an American version of the inadequate, but easily-produced British Brodie pattern helmet. (One of these familiar flat "dishpan" helmets was also donated by Col Nihart.) It is this experimental American armor that constitutes the core of Col Nihart's gift.

IN THIS DONATION are two sets of the experimental body armor designed by Maj Bashford Dean and his staff of museum specialists working for the Engineering Division of the Ordnance Corps. One set was manufactured by the Hale & Kilburn Company of Philadelphia, with sponge rubber padding made by the Miller Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio. The entire contract of 5,000 sets of this type of armor were sent to France for testing. In addition, the museum received examples of neck, shoulder, and shin armor, as well as two different versions of steel slitted eye defence shields.

The most unusual helmets in this gift are three examples of the helmets designed and produced by Maj Dean and his staff. One of them, a Model 2 helmet, was a ballistically superior helmet, but it



Maj Dean's Model 5, above, was meant to improve on the Model 2, rejected because it was thought to resemble too closely the German helmet. Although turned back by the U.S. Army, the Model 5 was adopted in 1918 by the Swiss Army and until quite recently was still in production. The influence of medieval design is seen in the Model 8, below, intended for use by snipers and machine gunners, but never adopted.



Dean's protective "Liberty Bell" helmet of lightweight steel was nearly adopted as the U.S. Army standard, but since the British Brodie pattern helmet was cheaper to produce, American soldiers wore a version of that far less satisfactory "dishpan" headgear.



was rejected because it too closely resembled the German M1916 "coal scuttle" helmet. An improved version of the Model 2 helmet, the Model 5 helmet, although also rejected by the American Army, was adopted in 1918 by the Swiss Army and saw service until recent years. The influence of medieval design is apparent in the third helmet of this group. It is the visored Model 8 helmet which was intended for use by snipers and machine gunners, but never adopted. The "Liberty Bell" helmet was provisionally accepted for the American Army, but few were ever produced, again due to the brevity of the American involvement in World War I. Two examples of this helmet were also donated to the museum in this gift.

To represent the other belligerents in World War I, the museum received a French M1915 Adrian helmet, a German M1916 "coalscuttle" field gray helmet, and an Austrian M1918 helmet. The Austrian helmet is painted white and was upgraded in the 1930s with a new liner and issued to a German Waffen SS (*Shutzstaffel*) unit on the Eastern Front in World War II. Other helmets from the 1930s include examples of the helmets worn by both the Falangist and Loyalist forces during the Spanish Civil War.

THE FOREIGN HELMETS from World War II include a Soviet M1936 helmet, a Dutch helmet, an Italian cavalry helmet (with crossed lances painted on the front), and both a British paratrooper's helmet and a M1944 helmet. American helmets from the same period include a large, gray Navy "talker's" helmet and two examples of the Army Air Force armored air crew helmet, all of them made large enough to accommodate earphones. With the aviator's helmets came an armored vest for aircrewmembers.

Several of the World War I experimental helmets and one set of body armor went on display in April 1994 at the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum. This special exhibit was mounted for a visit by the American Association of Arms Collectors and remained on public view until the end of May. In early June, its components, along with a number of other items from the collection, were packed and shipped to the German Army's Technical Museum in Koblenz, Germany, where they will be temporarily on display as part of an exhibit which documents the use of body armor through the ages. □1775□

Corps Grappled with Complex Somalia Relief Effort

by Ann A. Ferrante
Reference Historian

SINCE 1982, the Reference Section has compiled ongoing, current Marine Corps chronologies that outline significant events and dates in contemporary Marine Corps history.

Numerous primary and secondary sources are researched each week to produce the current chronology of the Marine Corps. The yearly chronologies serve as sources of information on significant events in Marine Corps history as well as tools for documenting important dates and anniversaries.

Selected entries from the 1993 Marine Corps Chronology are:

12 Jan—After five weeks of ground operations in Somalia, a U.S. Marine was shot and killed during a gun battle near the airport in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu. The Marine was the first American combat death in the military operation aimed at insuring the delivery of food and humanitarian relief supplies to thousands of people in the famine-stricken country.

15 Jan—After more than 11 consecutive days of rain, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton succumbed to flooding which left areas of the largest Marine amphibious base under as much as 15 feet of water. The base was officially closed 17-21 January to nonessential personnel. Gen Walter E. Boomer, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited on 21 January to assess the estimated \$70 million in damages.

18 Jan—Approximately 850 Marines from 3d Battalion, 9th Marines, left Somalia. An additional 1,900 Marines from the 1st Force Service Support Group and Marine Aircraft Group 16 left later in the month. The number of U.S. forces remaining in the country was just over 19,000, with the total coalition figures standing at 33,430 troops, including those from 22 other countries. Marine missions would be assumed by these coalition forces. Military relief operations to Somalia were in progress since August 1992 when Operation Provide Relief was initiated to provide food to Somalia via U.S. military aircraft. Oper-



The wash from a CH-53D Sea Stallion heavy helicopter from HMH-363 raises clouds of red dust outside a hunger-stricken Somali village. The aircraft avoids landing on mined roads as it delivers a load of grain from Australia during Operation Restore Hope.

ation Provide Relief was absorbed under Operation Restore Hope last December.

25 Feb-11 Mar—Approximately 3,500 Marines and sailors from the II Marine Expeditionary Force, 2d Marines, 2d Force Service Support Group, and Marine Aircraft Group 40 participated in Exercise Battle Griffin 93. The NATO exercise included sea, air, and land operations in Norway above the Arctic Circle.

1-18 Mar—Approximately 10,000 Marines participated in Exercise Team Spirit 93, a joint/combined training exercise held in the Republic of Korea (ROK). Team Spirit involved more than 100,000 troops from all four U.S. combat services plus South Korean forces, and was the largest exercise planned for the year.

29 Mar—The Senate Armed Services Committee opened hearings on homosexuals in the Armed Forces. The committee tailored the hearings to deal initially with five major subject areas: legal questions over a change in the present policy, effects on unit cohesion, experiences of foreign countries, views of a broad cross-section of military personnel, and views of the individual service chiefs and senior DOD officials.

20 Apr-25 May—More than 20,500 serv-

ice personnel of the U.S. Marine Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, along with allied forces, participated in Exercise Ocean Venture 93 held in Puerto Rico. It was designed to demonstrate the ability of continental U.S.-based forces to operate in a joint/combined environment.

23 Apr—The Department of Defense Inspector General released the final, 208-page report of the investigation into the allegations of sexual assault and other violations committed during the 1991 Tailhook convention held in Las Vegas. The report charged 117 officers with offenses ranging from indecent assault to conduct unbecoming an officer. Ninety persons, 83 women and seven men, were found to have been assaulted during the convention.

28 Apr—Secretary of Defense Les Aspin announced a revised policy on the assignment of women in the Armed Forces, implementing some of the recommendations made by the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces that released its report during November 1992. Aspin directed the military services to open more specialties and assignments to women, including permitting women Marines to compete for as-

signments in all aircraft, even those engaged in combat missions.

30 Apr—Marine Aircraft Group 32 at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina, deactivated as a result of downsizing requirements. Originally activated in 1943, the group served in the Pacific during World War II, then in North China before deactivating in 1947. The group reactivated in 1952. Elements of the group participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

4 May—LtGen Robert B. Johnston passed the command of the U.S.-led Somali relief operation, Restore Hope, to Turkish LtGen Cevik Bir. Approximately 4,000 Americans would remain in Somalia as part of the United Nations force.

7 May—President Clinton was treated to an evening of ceremonial pageantry as guest of honor at an Evening Parade conducted at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. It was his first official visit to a Marine Corps installation. Prior to the start of the parade, the nation's 42nd President and the First Lady attended a garden reception hosted by the Commandant and Mrs. Mundy.

9-30 Jun—Marines of the I Marine Expeditionary Force participated in Exercise Native Fury 93 held in Kuwait. The exercise provided training for Marines in Maritime Prepositioning Force operations.

20 Jun—The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) returned to Mogadishu, Somalia, to assist United Nations forces in maintaining peace in the war-torn country. Earlier this month, the 24th MEU was ordered to cut short Exercise Eager Mace 93-2 in Kuwait to respond to possible contingency operations in Somalia.

23 Jun—In an effort to alleviate the Marine Corps' shortage of tanks, an agreement was made for the Corps to receive 50 M1A1 tanks from the Army. The additional 50 tanks would bring the Marine Corps total up to 271.

27 Jun—The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission completed its deliberations and votes for the 1993 round of base closures. The most significant item for the Marine Corps was the prospective closure of Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, California.

10-25 Jul—Approximately 5,000 Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Special Operations personnel participated in Exercise Tandem Thrust 93 in the areas surrounding and including Guam, Tinian, and Farallon de Medinilla Islands. The joint task force exercise was designed to emphasize response to regional crises and low- to medium-intensity conflict.

19 Jul—President Clinton announced the new policy regarding homosexual conduct in the Armed Forces. The new policy, which became known as "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue," directed that homosexual conduct would be grounds for separation, yet sexual orientation would not be a bar to entry into the military or continued service unless manifested by homosexual conduct. It came following nearly six months of extensive review at the highest levels of government, and would become effective on 1 October.

22 Jul—Eight F/A-18D Hornets from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (All Weather) 533 arrived at Aviano Air Base, Italy, to participate in an extension of Operation Deny Flight, the enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina launched by NATO officials in conjunction with the United Nations on 12 April.

11 Aug—Defense Secretary Les Aspin reversed a new Marine Corps directive that would have barred enlistment of married recruits after 1995. The Secretary of Defense would initiate a Department of Defense-wide comprehensive study of first-term enlistment issues.

1 Sep—Following more than five months of detailed study and analysis, the Department of Defense announced results of its Bottom-Up Review, leveling off Marine Corps strength at 174,000 active Marines and 42,000 Reserve personnel. The review was a comprehensive look at the U.S. Armed Forces and overall military strategy in the post-Cold War era.

In the capital city of Mogadishu, Marines assigned to Task Force Somalia prepare to search an old, fortified compound for weapons caches. With the collapse of their government, Somalis found themselves at the mercy of "warlords" with "armies" of their own.



27-28 Sep—Following a string of mishaps that killed 13 people, the Commandant ordered all Marine aircraft grounded for two days. The standdown came in the wake of six accidents involving Marine aircraft in a six-week period. The standdown was used to review safety procedures, and affected all Marine aircraft except those in Europe under NATO command and the helicopters used by the President.

7 Oct—After the deaths of 14 U.S. soldiers in Somalia, President Clinton announced the deployment there of an additional 1,700 soldiers and 104 armored vehicles. Additionally, he directed an aircraft carrier and both the 13th and 22d Marine Expeditionary Units (Special Operations Capable) to positions off the Somali coast.

11 Nov—The Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated in a ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The bronze statue depicts three women and a wounded soldier. It honors the thousands of women who served in Southeast Asia.

22 Dec—The Department of Defense issued new regulations that would enable homosexuals to serve in the military so long as they keep quiet about their sexual orientation and refrain from engaging in homosexual acts. The policy allows service members to acknowledge homosexual feelings and sympathies, provided that they can demonstrate that they are not engaging in homosexual conduct. The new regulations would take effect on 5 February. They codify the Administration's compromise policy dubbed, "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue," which was challenged by the Supreme Court. □1775□

World War II Predominant in Marine-Interest Book List

by Evelyn A. Englander
Historical Center Librarian

THE LIBRARY of the Marine Corps Historical Center receives many recently published books of professional interest to Marines. Most of them are available from local bookstores or libraries.

The Proud: Inside the Marine Corps. Bernard Halsband Cohen. New York: Quill, 1992. 282 pp. The author spent a year traveling with the men and women of the Marine Corps, looking at their roles in today's world. "The Marine Corps," the author concludes, "is a relatively small group of men and women who still believe in themselves . . . it is a force that has retained its pride in an era that too easily lets slip the lion's share of that virtue. It seems to me necessary to keep that belief and that pride alive . . . I am convinced that people who really believe they are ready for anything are the ones most likely to be so . . ." Includes photographs. \$13.00

The Devils Anvil: The Assault on Peleliu. James H. Hallas. Westport, Connecticut: Praeger Publishers, 1994. 297 pp. The battle for Peleliu fought in Septem-

ber 1944 on a tiny coral island 500 miles east of the Philippines was one of this country's costliest victories in World War II. Writing in tribute to all who fought on the island, the author has tried to show Peleliu as it appeared to the rifleman as well as the planner. Hallas reports on the personal combat experiences of scores of officers and enlisted men. A list of those interviewed is included in the bibliography. Includes maps, photographs, bibliography \$27.50

Men of War: Great Naval Leaders of World War II. Stephen Howarth, editor. New York: St. Martin Press, 1992. 602 pp. Essays from 26 eminent-naval historians, including Marine Corps Chief Historian Benis M. Frank, on 31 leaders who planned and conducted the Second World War at sea: German, Japanese, British, and American. Mr. Frank authored the chapter on Marine LtGen Holland M. Smith. The sections of the book are: the high command; the air admirals; the amphibious admirals; and unsung heroes. Other biographies include: Admiral Arleigh Burke; Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay; Fleet Admiral William F. Halsey; Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo; Grand Admiral Erich Raeder; and Grand Admiral Karl Donitz. Includes maps and illustrations. \$27.95

Andrew Jackson Higgins and the Boats that Won World War II. Jerry E. Strahan. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1994. 382 pp. One key element of the amphibious landings of World War II was the LCVP (Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel). This is the story of the boat's designer and builder, Andrew J. Higgins, who started his career in New Orleans in 1938, with one small boat yard. (By 1943 this had expanded to seven plants.) During the war Higgins Industries produced 20,094 boats: the 36-foot LCVP; lightning-fast PT boats; tank landing craft; and airborne lifeboats dropped from B-17 bombers. Even Adolf Hitler was aware of Higgins, calling him "the New Noah." In writing his book, Strahan conducted personal interviews along with using the Hig-

gins Industries Archives. \$29.95

The Neck of the Bottle: George W. Goethals and the Reorganization of the U.S. Army Supply System. Phyllis A. Zimmerman. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1992. 201 pp. Dr. Zimmerman, who teaches at Ball State University, is a recipient of a Marine Corps Historical Foundation grant for her work on BGen Evans F. Carlson. In this history of Gen Goethals and his efforts to reorganize the U.S. Army supply system to meet the demands of World War I, Dr. Zimmerman shows these efforts fell far short of what was desired as the result of politics, inertia, and bureaucratic resistance to change. \$39.50

Dearest Buckie: A Marine's Korean War Memoir. John I. Williamson. Austin, Texas: Speights Publishing Company, 1993. 200 pp. Col Williamson, who was one of the commanding officers of 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, during the Korean War has compiled a book based on the letters he wrote to his wife during his tour of duty from 20 May 1952 to 14 April 1953. The author provides a glimpse of his emotions and describes the daily routine of Marines in the closing phase of the Korean War. \$17.45, including postage, from Speights Publishing Company, 1506 Thornridge Road, Austin, Texas 78758.

Arms for the Horn: U.S. Security Policy in Ethiopia and Somalia, 1953-1991. Jeffrey A. Lefebvre. University of Pittsburgh Press, 1991. 351 pp. Provides a background for understanding the present U.S. and U.N involvement in Somalia, by tracing U.S. diplomacy with northeast Africa in the decades following World War II. \$49.95

Saipan in Flames: Operation Forager, The Turning Point in the Pacific War. William H. Stewart in cooperation with Pedro P. Tenoria and J. M. Guerrero. J.M. & Associates, 1993, 110 pp. Mr. Stewart, an economist and military historical cartographer, uses his considerable skills to produce an interesting and well-designed

WWII Bibliography Updated

The U.S. Marine Corps in World War II, An Annotated Bibliography, which updates the original 1965 edition, is available from the Marine Corps Historical Center on diskette for WordPerfect 5.1 software.

The bibliography was compiled by two of the Center's interns, Lee Gatchel and Midshipman Walter Hoysa, USNA, with the guidance of the Center staff. It is planned that the bibliography will be revised at regular intervals. It is also to be available on MCCAT through on-line books.

At present the bibliography is 50 pages in length and is arranged in broad subject categories. Diskettes are available by writing to the Library at Building 58, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. 20374-5040.

commemorative edition for the 50th anniversary of the invasion of Saipan. The effective use of maps and charts combined with illustrations of the islands of the Northern Marianas makes this 110-page color book a valuable addition to all libraries interested in the battles of World War II. \$25.00 (available from JM & Associates, P.O. Box 1292, Saipan, MP, 96950 U.S.A.)

A View from the Rear Rank: A Story of Marine Air Warning Squadron Eight in World War II. Edward W. Farmer. Privately

published (three copies available at Marine Corps Historical Center Library). 250 pages, 17 chapters, 2 appendices, photos, maps. This book discusses aircraft warning squadrons of the Marine Corps as they were developed, equipped, and deployed during the latter stages of the war. While air control and direction were primitive compared to today, the job was done with what was available. The fragmented detachments of a unit of this size in active combat areas make for unusual and interesting situations not often recorded.

The first five chapters cover the training period in the U.S., and contain much of the "high jinks" of the time. The remainder covers the deployment of the unit, its excellent combat record, and its disposition at the end of the war. Throughout, there is enough of the "field Marine" vernacular to make the story real, but it is not overburdened in this respect. The book capably researched and is an interesting and balanced small unit history. (Review by MajGen John P. Condon, USMC [Ret]) □1775□

Personal Papers Describe the Marine at 'Teapot Dome'

by Frederick J. Graboske
Head, Archives Section

WHEN I ASKED to prepare a regular feature on what's new in the Archives, my expectation was that I would be writing about new donations of personal papers. Indeed, we have received several during the past months, and I will be writing about one of them below. But the Archives also has an Official Records Unit, which receives all the command chronologies. The importance of those documents lies in their role as source material for histories of the Marine Corps, and especially of its deployments, such as Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Somalia. The Marine Corps Historical Center deployed historians to both of those operations to ensure that important documents would be saved by the various units.

The 3d Battalion, 11th Marines, did a particularly thorough job on its command chronology for Somalia. Such deployments are a particular problem for our historians because units under unusual pressure sometimes fail to do command chronologies as required, or the ones they produce are so cursory as to be of little value. Not only are important pieces of USMC history lost, but also those units fail to receive the attention they deserve when the histories are written.

One of the great pleasures in working in the Archives lies in learning the histories of individual Marines. We recently received the papers of Maj George K. Shuler, who had a very interesting career. While attached to the USS *North Dakota*, he landed with the Marine detachment during the occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914. He commanded the 66th Company in the first Marine unit sent to

France in 1917, the 5th Marines. There he also won fame as the commander of the 3d Battalion, 6th Marines, at the battle of Blanc Mont in October 1918. For his bravery he was decorated by both the French and American governments, entitled to wear the Croix de Guerre, the Legion d'Honneur, and the Distinguished Service Medal. Although his war record undoubtedly enumerates his greatest services to his country, an equally interesting aspect of his career was political.

IN 1920 HE received a leave of absence from MajGenComdt John A. Lejeune so that he could seek political office. Shuler lost his race for the Congress and returned to the Marine Corps. While on active service in 1922 he faced an even tougher political test: Teapot Dome. This was later to become a great, national political scandal, akin to the Whiskey Ring of the Grant Administration and the Watergate of the Nixon Administration. Secretary of the Interior Albert Fall had leased the naval petroleum reserve called Teapot Dome, in Wyoming, to private companies for exploitation. That bribes were paid for these favors was exposed in 1924. In the meantime, another company, owned by a contributor to President Harding's 1920 campaign, who was resentful of Fall's apparent favoritism, began drilling without permits. On 30 July 1922, this came to the attention of Acting Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. He instructed MajGen Lejeune to send an officer "of discretion" to eject the Mutual Oil Company from the reserve. Lejeune's choice was Shuler.

He named Shuler Commandant of the

Salt Creek Naval District and dispatched him with four Marines to oust the intruders. As one newspaper put it, "He may give to these oil squatters a little more time in which to get off from government land than he did to the Germans in getting off from that hill in France."

Accompanied by members of the press, Shuler travelled from Washington to Casper and thence to the drilling site. He accomplished his mission quickly and with no difficulty. However, there was considerable criticism of the government for what was termed the unconstitutional use of military force in a private dispute. When the scandals broke in 1924, Shuler's role was remembered and he testified before the Congress on his expedition.

IN NOVEMBER 1922, Shuler was elected Treasurer of the State of New York and left the Marine Corps. In 1924 he received a few votes at the Democratic Party's national convention to be the candidate for vice president. He was not named to his state party's ticket in 1924 and retired to private life as the publisher of movie magazines. He did have one further contact with the Marine Corps. In November 1926, President Adolfo Diaz of Nicaragua asked Lejeune for a competent, well-trained American officer to head the constabulary and the Nicaraguan Army. Lejeune's first choice was Shuler, who turned down the offer because of the low salary. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee investigated the offer, which was regarded as tantamount to American intervention. Thus ended Shuler's connection to the Marine Corps, political to the last. □1775□

The Okha Suicide Flying Bomb

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas and Michael E. Starn

BY THE MIDDLE of the Pacific War, Japan had lost large numbers of its warships and aircraft. In late 1943, Japanese naval fighter pilots proposed special suicide attacks against the U.S. Navy ships supporting American amphibious landings on the Pacific islands. Originally, the idea was refused, but as the war worsened for Japan, support grew for kamikaze suicide operations. Kamikaze, meaning "Divine Wind," was a term derived from the name of the typhoon which frustrated the Mongolian invasion of Japan in 1280. The first use of Kamikaze tactics was in October 1944 when Japanese pilots flew Mitsubishi A6M Zero fighters armed with a single 500-kilogram

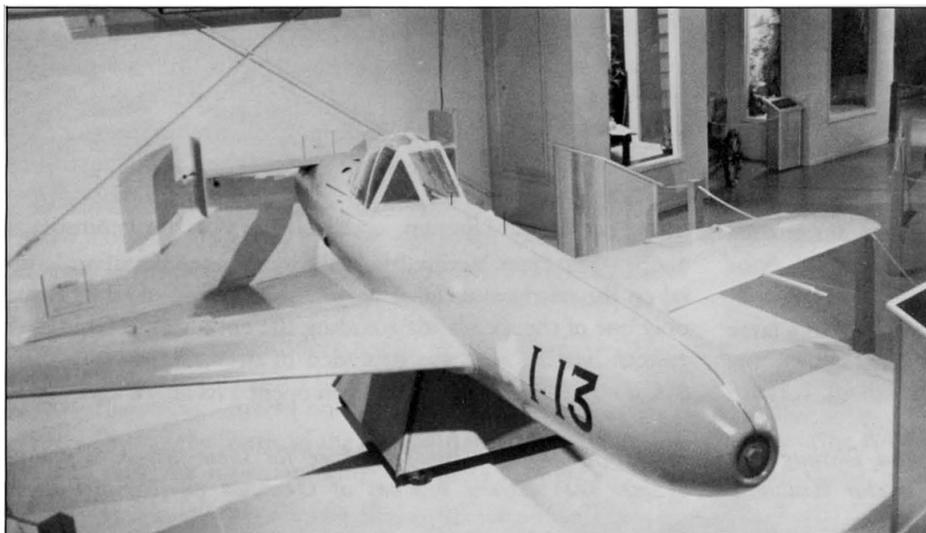
bomb against American ships supporting the landings on the Philippine island of Leyte.

During the summer of 1944, Ens Mitsuo Ota (one of the Japanese naval officers who had suggested the kamikaze program in the previous year) was given permission to draw up plans for a special kamikaze attack aircraft. The Japanese Navy approved Ota's design in late 1944. The aircraft was named Okha, which translates as "cherry blossom" in Japanese. (When the Okha became known to U.S. forces, it was labeled the Baka bomb, meaning "foolish bomb.") The Okha bomb was constructed of wood and metal, with silk-covered wings. Power-

ed by three rocket motors, it was usually carried close to the target and launched from the belly of a twin-engine Mitsubishi G4M "Betty" bomber.

The Okha was first carried into battle on 21 March 1945, by the 721st Kokutai. En route to the target, the 16 parent aircraft were intercepted by Allied fighters and were forced to drop their Okha bombs short of the target. The first combat success was achieved on 12 April when Okhas damaged the U.S. battleship *Tennessee*, sank the U.S. destroyer *Mannert L. Abele* and damaged three transport vessels. Statistics compiled at the war's end reveal that although very few Okhas were successful, kamikaze attacks during the last 10 months of the war accounted for 48.1 percent of all warships damaged and 21.3 percent of all ships sunk by Japan during the war.

The Okha on exhibit in the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum at Quantico is one of six Okha Bombs discovered at Kadena Airfield in 1945. When restoration by the museum began in 1977, some problems presented themselves. First, the aircraft had been on display, with little or no preservation, for two decades as war booty on Okinawa, where it had been captured. The second problem was that none of the museum staff could read Japanese. The Baka Bomb had already been stripped of its paint when Mr. Frank Howard, then the Museum's carpenter, began the restoration of the wooden structure. This phase of the restoration would require more than 70 hours of labor to return the aircraft to near original condition. One of the concessions, due to cost, was to cover the aircraft with paper, instead of silk, before painting it grey-green. The translation of the original *kanji* writing was accomplished with help of MajGen Tsuneo Azuma of the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force (and senior military attache with the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C.) MajGen Azuma not only translated the characters, but also assisted in the recreation of them on the completed aircraft for display. The aircraft has been on display since the Museum opened in 1978, and is one of the most popular attractions. □1775□



The Okha (cherry blossom) was known to U.S. pilots as the Baka bomb ("foolish bomb"). The lightweight aircraft was specifically designed for kamikaze operations.

Technical Data

Manufacturer: Dai-Ichi Kaigun Kokusho, Kasumigaura

Type: Single-seat suicide aircraft

Accommodation: Pilot only

Power plant: Three solid propellant rocket motors with a combined thrust of 1,764 pounds

Dimensions: Span: 16 feet, 9 9/16 inches; Length: 19 feet, 10 3/16 inches.

Weight: Empty: 970 lbs; Gross: 4,718 lbs.

Performance: Max speed, 403 mph at 11,485 feet; Dive speed: 576 mph; Range: 23 miles

Armament: 2,646 lb. warhead in nose

April-June 1945

By Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

Fortitudine's World War II Chronology continues with the largest Marine Corps operation of World War II. The American campaign for Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands would be the point of final intersection of the Navy and Marine Corps' drive across the Central Pacific and the Army's march up from the Southwest Pacific. The island of Okinawa is approximately 60 miles long and from two to 18 miles wide; the northern part was wild and mountainous, and the southern portion somewhat more open, but still hilly with several ridges crossing the island from east to west. After months of planning, the stage was set in early spring 1945 for one of the bloodiest American campaigns of World War II.

Okinawa

1 Apr—Preceded by naval gunfire and air support, the III Amphibious Corps (1st and 6th Marine Divisions, reinforced) and the XXIV Corps (7th and 96th Infantry Divisions, reinforced) landed on Okinawa north and south of Bishi Gawa, respectively, on the Hagushi beaches of the island's western shore. The XXIV Corps captured Kadena airfield and advanced south along the coast to the Chatan vicinity, and the III Amphibious Corps made extensive ground gains to the east. Yontan airfield was secured by the 4th Marines, and the 7th Marines moved through Sobe Village, a first-priority objective.

2 Apr—The 2d Marine Division effectively immobilized a large body of Japanese forces by a diversionary feint against the Minatogawa beaches on the eastern side of the island. Forward

With naval gunfire thundering in the background, landing craft of Company A, 1st Armored Amphibian Tractor Battalion,



First Division Marines go over the low wall on Blue Beach No. 2 on Okinawa on 1 April. The division and its parent III Amphibious Corps made large first-day ground gains to the east.

elements of the 7th Infantry Division reached the eastern coast, severing the island.

4 Apr—The 6th Marine Division attacked north up the west coast road; it was relieved of responsibility for the Yontan airstrip by the 29th Marines in III Amphibious Corps reserve. The 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, occupied the Katchin Peninsula.

5 Apr—The Fleet Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion landed on the northern coast of Tsugen Shima, Eastern Islands, the only one of the six islands guarding the entrances to Okinawa's eastern beaches that was defended in strength.

6 Apr—The 96th Infantry Division opened its attack against the

form into line 500 yards offshore for their first-wave charge against the western beaches of Okinawa on 1 April 1945.





Famed Scripps-Howard newspaper columnist and combat correspondent Ernie Pyle, hatless and sharing around his pack of cigarettes at left center, talks with 1st Division Marines at an

Okinawa roadside rest stop on 8 April. Soon after this picture, Pyle was instantly killed by a blast of Japanese machine gun fire on Ie Jima, an island adjacent to Okinawa in the Ryukyus chain.

Shuri defenses in the southern sector of the island.

6-7 Apr—Japanese air units from Kyushu launched the first of 10 major kamikaze attacks on Allied shipping off Okinawa.

7 Apr—During the Battle of the East China Sea, planes of Task Force 58 sank the superbattleship *Yamato*, a cruiser, and four destroyers, ending all chances of a Japanese sea attack on Okinawa.

7 Apr—The first F4U of Marine Aircraft Group 31 landed on Yontan airfield.

7 Apr—Elements of the Fleet Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion scouted the remainder of the Eastern Islands—Takabanare, Hamahika, and Kutake Shima.

8 Apr—The 29th Marines, 6th Marine Division, moved across the base of the Motobu Peninsula and occupied the villages of Gagusuku and Yamadadobaru.

9 Apr—The main body of the 27th Infantry Division went ashore on the Orange Beaches near Kadena.

9 Apr—The Kadena airfield was adjudged ready for its first planes, and Marine Aircraft Wing 33 began tactical operations from the field immediately.

10 Apr—The 2d Battalion, 29th Marines, seized Unten Ko on the Motobu Peninsula where the Japanese had established a submarine and torpedo boat base.

10-11 Apr—Elements of the 27th Infantry Division assaulted and captured Tsugen Shima, the only defended position in the Eastern Islands.

12-14 Apr—The Japanese launched coordinated counterattacks against the XXIV Corps line, coinciding with a second round of major aerial suicide attacks.

13 Apr—The Fleet Marine Force Reconnaissance Battalion occupied Minna Shima, an island lying off the northwest coast of Okinawa, in preparation for an assault on Ie Shima.

14 Apr—The 4th and 29th Marines launched a coordinated attack on the Motobu Peninsula inland in an easterly direction

Overcoming a line of well-camouflaged cave positions prepared by the Japanese around the Okinawan capital of Naha was a bitter task for 1st Division Marines, here with rifles aimed at the anticipated survivors of an explosive charge in one such cave.





Fighting for control of Okinawa continued for three months, into both May and June. Here, on 6 May, Marines man a machine

and west and southwest from the center of the peninsula, respectively.

16 Apr—The 6th Marine Division launched a full-scale attack from three sides against Japanese positions on the Motobu Peninsula; Companies A and C, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, took possession of Yae Take, the key terrain feature of the peninsula.

16-21 Apr—The 77th Infantry Division assaulted and captured Ie Shima, an island lying off the northwest coast of Okinawa.

19 Apr—The XXIV Corps launched a three-division assault against the Shuri defenses in the southern sector of the island.

20 Apr—The 4th and 29th Marines reached the north coast of Motobu Peninsula having eliminated all organized resistance on the peninsula.

24 Apr—The Japanese withdrew to the second ring of the Shuri defensive zone.

28 Apr—The 3d Battalion, 165th Infantry, 27th Division, captured Machinato airfield.

30 Apr—The 1st Marine Division was attached to the XXIV Corps, and began moving south to relieve the 27th Army Division.

2 May—The 27th Division officially passed to Island Command control. The 165th Infantry was assigned responsibility for the 1st Marine Division sector, and the 105th and 106th Infantry were sent north to relieve the 6th Marine Division on Motobu Peninsula and in the areas farther north.

3-4 May—The Japanese launched an all-out ground and air attack on XXIV Corps positions and U.S. shipping off the island. Marine aircraft and antiaircraft gunners as well as units of the 1st Marine Division assisted in repulsing the assault.

3-4 May—The III Amphibious Corps took over the western sector

gun atop a position called "King's Hill." On 3-4 May, the Japanese had launched a desperate, final ground and air attack.

of the Tenth Army front in the southern portion of the island.

3-9 Jun—The 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division, secured Iheya Shima and Aguni Shima west of Okinawa. Immediate steps were taken to set up air warning and fighter direction installations to strengthen the defensive perimeter surrounding Okinawa.

4 Jun—The III Amphibious Corps boundary was shifted to the west, and the 1st Marine Division—attacking in the narrowed III Amphibious Corps zone—was made responsible for cutting off Oroku Peninsula, capturing Itoman, reducing the Kunishi and Mezado ridge positions, and driving to the southernmost point of the island, Ara Saki. The XXIV Corps was assigned the commanding Yaeju Dake-Yuza Dake escarpment.

4 Jun—The 4th Marines spearheaded an amphibious assault by the 6th Marine Division against Oroku Peninsula in the southwest sector of the island.

11 Jun—MajGen Louis E. Woods, USMC, assumed command of both the Tactical Air Force and the 2d Marine Aircraft Wing.

13 Jun—MajGen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., USMC, commanding the 6th Marine Division, announced that all organized resistance on Oroku Peninsula had ceased.

14 Jun—The 6th Reconnaissance Company secured Senaga Shima, an island lying off the southeast coast of Oroku Peninsula.

15 Jun—The 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division, arrived on the island and was attached to the 1st Marine Division.

17 Jun—The XXIV Corps gained control of all the commanding ground on the Yaeju Dake-Yuza Dake escarpment, its primary objective.

17 Jun—A 7,000-foot runway at Yontan airfield was completed.

18 Jun—LtGen Simon B. Buckner, USA, Tenth Army commander, was killed while observing the progress of the 8th Ma-



MajGen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., commanding general of the 6th Marine Division, consults his maps during the fighting on

Oroku Peninsula. By 13 June, the future Commandant could announce that organized resistance on the peninsula had ceased.

rines' first attack on the island. MajGen Roy S. Geiger, USMC, senior troop commander, assumed temporary command of the Tenth Army and directed its final combat operations.

elements of the Tenth Army marked the official end of resistance by the Japanese *Thirty-Second Army*.

18 Jun—Tank-infantry teams of the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, crushed the last organized resistance on Kunishi Ridge.

22 Jun—The 1st and 6th Marine Divisions and the 7th and 96th Army Divisions were ordered to conduct a sweep to the north. Ten days were allotted to complete the mopping up-action.

21 Jun—Organized resistance in the III Amphibious Corps zone ended when units of the 1st Marine Division secured Hill 81, and the 29th Marines—in the 6th Division zone—swept through Ara Sake, the southernmost point of the island.

23 Jun—Gen Joseph W. Stilwell, USA, formally relieves Maj-Gen Geiger as Commanding General, Tenth Army.

21 Jun—MajGen Geiger, commanding the Tenth Army, declared the island secured.

25 Jun—The Tenth Army launched its four division clean-up drive to the north.

22 Jun—A formal ceremony attended by representatives of all

26-30 Jun—The Fleet Marine Amphibious Reconnaissance Battalion captured Kume Shima, the last and largest island of Okinawa Gunto. □1775□

A Marine convoy is halted on Okinawa's Motobu Peninsula, the heavily defended site of an enemy submarine and torpedo base.

Japanese strongholds on the peninsula were overpowered by full-scale attacks by the 4th and 29th Marines on 14-16 April.



OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Students Given Shepherd, Gridley Memorial Fellowships

*by Charles R. Smith
Secretary, Marine Corps Historical Foundation*

THE MARINE CORPS Historical Foundation recently announced the award of the first Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., Memorial Dissertation and the LtCol Lily H. Gridley Memorial Masters' Thesis Fellowships for the 1994-1995 academic year.

The Shepherd Fellowship, named to honor the 20th Commandant, went to David B. Crist of Florida State University at Tallahassee for a doctoral dissertation that will examine Earnest Will, the operation carried out in the Persian Gulf during the late 1980s to protect Kuwaiti tankers.

Dawn L. Tepe of Abilene Christian University was awarded the Gridley Fellowship for a thesis on women Marines in World War I. The Gridley Fellowship honors a pioneering Marine and the first woman to serve as a judge advocate in the Marine Corps.

David Crist's dissertation will consider the accomplishments of Central Command in the Persian Gulf as a prelude to

the actions taken during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. These involved a number of activities from escorting Kuwaiti tankers to assaulting fortified Iranian oil platforms. The study will examine the innovative tactics developed by Marine units to cope with what has been called a guerrilla war at sea.

DAWN TEPE POSSESSES background in the study of the World War I period in American history and has several scholarly papers and publications to her credit. Her thesis will provide a narrative of the background and development of the women reserve program, as well as a social history of the 305 women who served in the Marine Corps during the Great War.

Jefferson P. Marquis of Ohio State University received the Foundation's annual Dissertation Fellowship for a study of the American and South Vietnamese pacification program in the four years following Tet 1968 based on American,

South Vietnamese, and Communist sources. His analysis will focus on a comparison of two provinces—Long An in the Mekong Delta, where the South Vietnamese government took the lead with the U.S. Army and civilian support, and Quang Nam in I Corps where the key feature was the use of Marine Combined Action Platoons.

Full annual Master's Thesis Fellowships were awarded to Benjamin H. Kristy of Kansas State University, for an operational assessment of Marine Corps night fighters in the Korean War, and to David J. Ulbrich of Ball State University for a study of the creation and eventual employment of defense battalions under MajGen-Comdt Thomas Holcomb. A partial Master's Fellowship was granted to Marine Maj James R. Davis, who currently is assigned to the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch and who also is studying at the University of San Diego. His thesis will provide a historical perspective of the tactical development of Marine Corps tracked amphibious vehicles. □1775□