

FORTITUDINE

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HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXVII

SUMMER 1997

NUMBER 1

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TO ANOTHER MARINE



TWENTY-FIFTH PAMPHLET, ON JAPAN OCCUPATION, TO COMPLETE WORLD WAR II ANNIVERSARY SERIES . . . ROEBLING 'ALLIGATOR' AT AIR-GROUND MUSEUM NAMED ENGINEERING LANDMARK . . . COLLECTING AN ORAL RECORD FROM 26TH MEU(SOC) MARINES IN ALBANIAN EVACUATION OPERATIONS . . . ANNUAL CHRONOLOGY SPOTLIGHTS 1996 MARINE CORPS

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**HISTORY
AND MUSEUMS
DIVISION**

Marine Corps Historical Center
Building 58, Washington Navy Yard
901 M Street, Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20374-5040
Telephone (202) 433-3534

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FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Volume XXVII

Summer 1997

No.

This quarterly bulletin of the Marine Corps historical program is published for Marines, at the rate of one copy for every nine on active duty, to provide education and training in the uses of military and Marine Corps history. Other interested readers may purchase single copies or four-issue subscriptions from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. The appropriate order form appears in this issue.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Memorandum from the Chief Historian: Center Completes Pamphlet Series Saluting Heroes of World War II
Benis M. Frank 3

Historical Quiz: From 'Amphibian Tractors' to LVTs in the Marine Corps
Sgt Dieter Stenger, USMC 11

Quantico's 'Alligator' Listed as Engineering Landmark
Sgt Dieter Stenger, USMC 12

Answers to Historical Quiz: From 'Tractors' to LVTs in the Marine Corps
Sgt Dieter Stenger, USMC 13

Wealth of Papers Allows HQMC Archives to Share
Frederick J. Graboske 14

Current Chronology of the Marine Corps: Bosnian Aid, Recruit Training Changes Marked 1996
Ann A. Ferrante 16

Corps' Oldest Library Gets Newest Search Software
Evelyn A. Englander 18

26th MEU(SOC) Marines Describe Civilian Evacuations
David B. Crist 19

New Base Facilities Named for Memorable Marines
Robert V. Aquilina 22

Marine Corps Chronology: July-December 1949
Robert V. Aquilina 23

Gleaming Brass, Interactive TV Enliven Corps Museum
Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas 24

ABOUT THE COVER

George Godden, who was assigned during World War II as picture editor of *Leatherneck Magazine*, served as model for Tom Lovell's artistic gunny for a *Leatherneck* cover in the period of the U.S. occupation of Japan. Lovell, already a well-established artist and illustrator, himself was serving as a staff sergeant on the magazine's staff, and along with fellow artist and close friend John Clymer, was the creator of much of the magazine's enduring cover art of the time. Some of the covers of historic Marine Corps events painted by Lovell and Clymer later became a series of prints widely distributed by the *Marine Corps Gazette*. Although originally a New Englander, Lovell went on to become a reknowned painter of the American southwest and of other minutely researched historical subjects, and continued with his work until his accidental death, in a tragic car crash in which his daughter also was killed, near his home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on 29 June.

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Center Completes Pamphlet Series Saluting Heroes of World War II



Benis M. Frank

The official United States commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II ended in 1995 with events observing the signing of the surrender documents by the Japanese on board the *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945. We expect to complete publication of our planned World War II commemorative series of pamphlets this year. During the inaugural meeting of the History and Museums Division's newly formed World War II Commemorative Committee in January 1990, then-Division Director BGen Edwin H. Simmons predicted that it would take seven years for the titles in the series to be published, and he was not far off the mark.

We planned to publish 32 titles in all, but will complete the series with 25, the last four of which are scheduled to appear in coming months. The series as published will cover every Marine Corps landing and campaign in the Pacific War, as well as some additional topics relating to the Marine Corps in World War II, such as African-American Marines, Women Marines, defense battalions, Marine Raiders, and the like.

The planning for the series began when principal HD staff members met with Gen Simmons, who outlined his views of what the purposes and goals of the committee should be. Our program would be related to the Department of Defense 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee's themes, "Honor the Veteran" and "A Grateful Nation Remembers." In addition, the purposes of our World War II pamphlet series were threefold: 1) expressing appreciation to the World War II generation of Marines; 2) reacquainting the American public with the Marine Corps'

World War II accomplishments; and 3), and most importantly, telling today's Marines what their forebears did 50 years ago. It was decided that approximately 60 percent of each pamphlet would be devoted to previously researched material, while the remaining 40 percent would represent heretofore unseen or unpublished material, such as items from oral histories and personal papers, artwork from our Marine Corps Art Collection, and photographs which had not appeared elsewhere. At the same time, the museums side of the division was



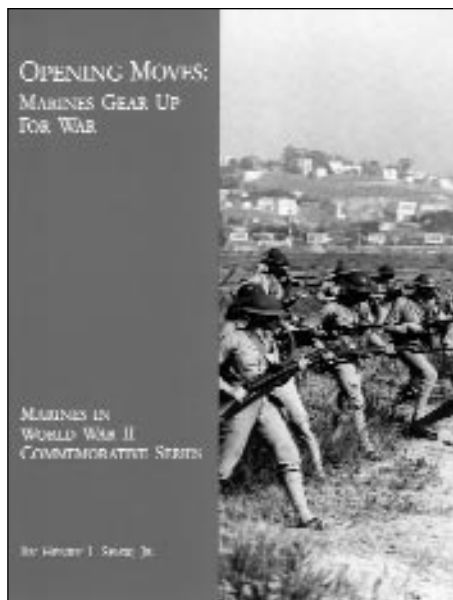
W. Stephen Hill's well-received design.

brought into the planning, for it was determined that there would be exhibits with appropriate contemporary artifacts designed to parallel each period/event of World War II to be commemorated. In addition to these exhibits, Museums Branch exhibitry personnel would make a total of approximately 55 event-associated modules which would be shipped for temporary loan and exhibit to Marine bases and commands both at home and abroad from Europe to Okinawa, to universities and colleges which had NROTC units, to the sites of battle

commemorations, and to recruiting stations and reserve unit training centers.

The business of the initial meetings of the committee was to determine various pamphlet subjects and titles, and to consider whom we felt would be the best author of each booklet. In addition, W. Stephen Hill, our Visual Information Specialist, was tasked with preparing proposed layouts for the pamphlets and developing a special Marine Corps 50th anniversary logo which would appear on each pamphlet as well as on official Marine Corps Historical Center stationery and envelopes. The logo Hill designed, as shown at left, was well received and also immediately adopted. The symbol shows a silhouette of the Marine Corps Memorial set against large outlined numerals, "50th," with the legend "1941 WWII 1945" in reverse outlined letters reminiscent of the incising on the statue's base. It should be noted that this logo eventually was widely used during the commemorative period by Marine Corps organizations as well as by Marine veterans' groups. The logo even appeared in some of the publications of the Army-oriented DOD World War II Committee, which also had lapel pins made up with the logo on it.

The number of events which we could commemorate could have been unending, but had to be made finite. We decided that the major campaigns of the war from the Marine Corps' viewpoint would be the focus of our effort. Clearly, the capture and defense of Guadalcanal would be a highlight of the 1992-1993 commemorations, but the immediate prewar period, including the Iceland occupation in 1940-1941, and the anxious few

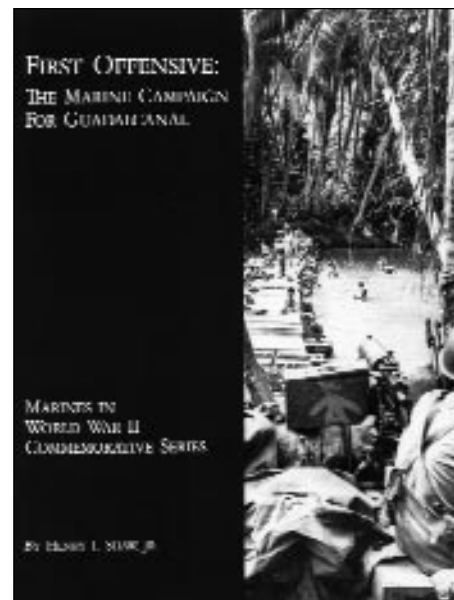
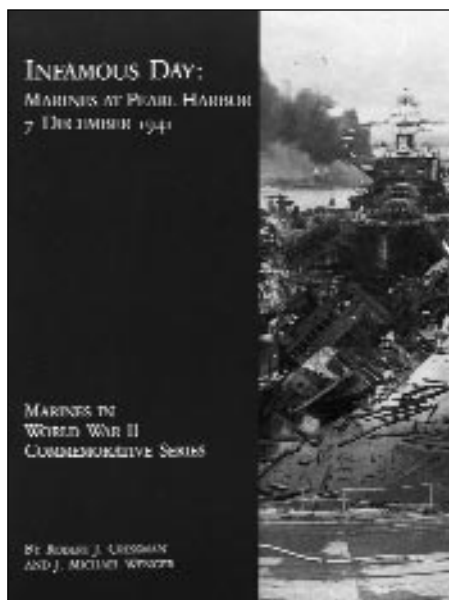


months after Pearl Harbor in 1941-1942, when Marines on Wake and in the Philippines fought and died or were captured, would also be covered both by story and artifact. At the war's end, the battles in 1945 for Iwo Jima and Okinawa were obvious subjects for coverage, as were the immediate postwar occupations by Marines in North China and Japan (although we were unable to achieve the writing of the North China history). In all, 28 subject areas were initially identified for historical writing and museum exploitation during the 1991-1997 period.

Our immediate concern was how the History and Museums Division was to accomplish this task of exhibitry and publications while continuing with our normal daily workload. Initially we felt that our historians could undertake this program as an additional duty, but this proved elusive at first and impossible at the last. We figured that each publication title needed to be completed at least a year before commemoration of the event. In this way, layout and other editorial work could be done in time so that publication of the pamphlet would coincide with the anniversary of the event. We were able to accomplish this with the Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Guam, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa pamphlets. Three of our historians—Henry I. “Bud” Shaw, Jr., former chief historian; J. Michael Miller,

former personal papers collection curator; and historian Charles R. Smith—were able to write pamphlets in the series, and more of this below.

We brought up the shortfall in available authors in the History and Museums Division by taking advantage of some former Marines and friends of the Marine Corps, accomplished authors who expressed an interest in being one of the writers in this ambitious 50th anniversary program. The one-time chance to write an official history not loaded with footnotes and appendices had an appeal. Those individuals who took on a topic well within their experience or expertise agreed to hew to the same guidelines and editorial authority that govern the historians of the History and Museums Division. I found that as I edited and otherwise prepared each manuscript for publication, some required little or no tweaking, while some others—and not too many, fortunately—needed considerable touching up. Some manuscripts came fully accompanied by photos, maps, and sidebars. Others required map and photo research. Such staff members as Richard A. Long, Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas, and I provided sidebars where needed, and Art Curator John T. Dyer, Jr., recommended certain pieces of combat art suitable for the various pamphlets, while volunteer George C. MacGillivray recommended appropriate maps.



Finally, financial support for the authors' travel and research came in the form of numerous small grants made possible by a bequest from the estate of Emilie H. Watts in memory of her late husband, Thomas M. Watts, who served as a Marine and was the recipient of a Purple Heart, and later from similar grants established by the Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

The first of the pamphlets to be published, *Opening Moves: Marines Gear Up for War*, by Bud Shaw, appeared in March 1992. In it, he looked at the pre-World War II “Old Corps,” and its posture on the eve of war when the Marine Corps was about the size of the New York City police force. He discussed the 20 years of expeditionary duty during the so-called “Banana Wars,” and the development of amphibious warfare doctrine at Quantico, leading to the publication of that doctrine in *Tentative Manual for Landing Operations*. The author also discussed the various fleet landing exercises in which the doctrine was rehearsed and refined, and the development of the various types of landing craft which came to be used in the Pacific War. In this pamphlet, Mr. Shaw spoke of the formation of the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions, and treated the growth of Marine Corps aviation in the prewar period, and the aircraft it had in its arsenal. He concluded by saying, “In a general sense, the Marine Corps was

ready to fight on 7 December 1941, as it has always been, regardless of size.”

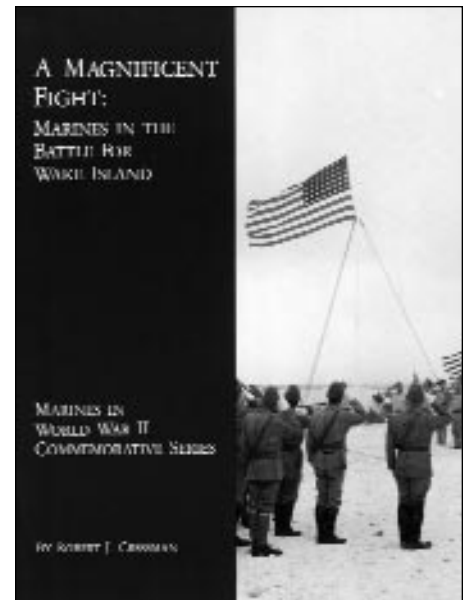
The second and third pamphlets to appear were *Infamous Day: Marines at Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941* and *First Offensive: The Marine Campaign for Guadalcanal*. The Pearl Harbor pamphlet was written by Robert J. “Bob” Cressman, a former Marine Corps Historical Center reference historian who is now with the Naval Historical Center, and J. Michael Wenger, a freelance military historian.

In their history, Cressman and Wenger, both of whom have written extensively about Marine Corps and naval operations in World War II, related the response to the Japanese sneak attack on 7 December 1941 by Marines on board Navy ships anchored in Pearl Harbor, Marines stationed at the barracks in the Navy Yard, and those at the Ewa Mooring Mast Field. The authors pointed out that many of the Marines who survived the attack would go on to fight the enemy in subsequent operations of the Pacific War.

Mr. Shaw’s second pamphlet for the World War II series documented the actions of the 1st Marine Division (Reinforced) under the command of MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift in the landings on Guadalcanal, Tanambogo, and Gavutu in the first U.S. offensive of World War II. Guadalcanal was a very complex

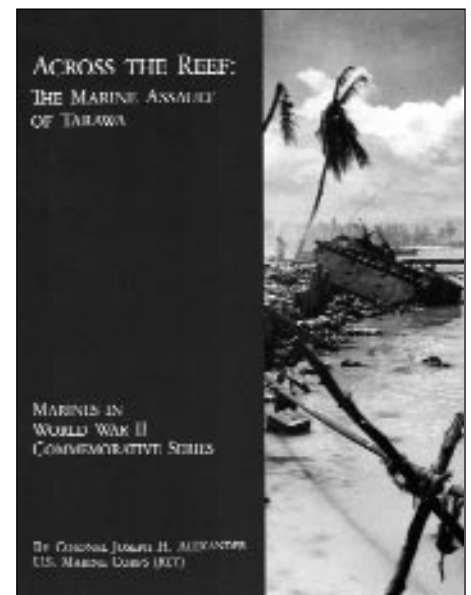
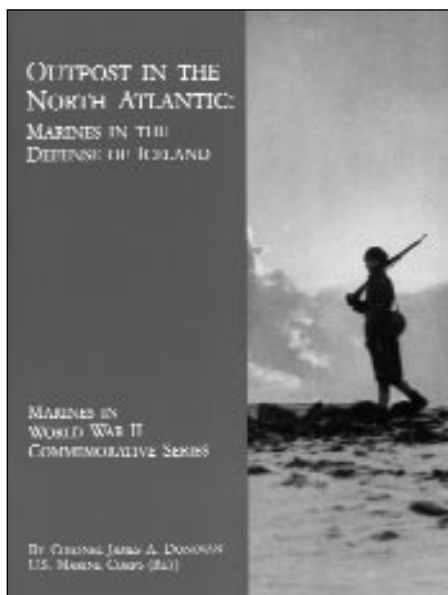
operation, as the author explained in his history, telling of such major matters as the Navy-Marine Corps command relationship in amphibious landings, the combat-testing and -refinement of amphibious warfare doctrine, land- and carrier-based air operations, logistics at Guadalcanal, naval operations in the waters around Guadalcanal, and the influence of all of these elements, and more, on the overall victory at Guadalcanal. Mr. Shaw also told of the ill-fated Japanese attempts to throw the Marines off the island, and in the enemy’s failure to do so, how the myth of Japanese invincibility was punctured. Equally important is the story of Marine air at Guadalcanal and veteran aviator BGen Roy S. Geiger’s Cactus Air Force. This pamphlet, like many of the others in the series, was replete with contemporary photographs and combat art not previously seen.

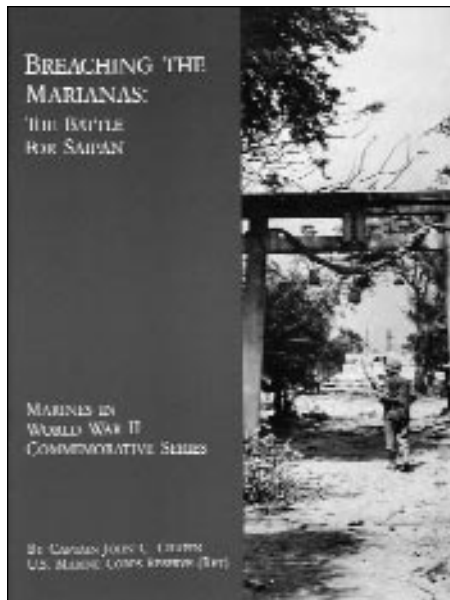
Following not too long after the Guadalcanal history was Col James A. Donovan’s *Outpost in the North Atlantic: Marines in the Defense of Iceland*. The choice of Col Donovan as author of this pamphlet was particularly fortuitous because, as a second lieutenant, he was a member of the 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, when it was deployed to Iceland to join British forces to defend that country from a potential Nazi takeover. Col Donovan provided a good picture of life in a prewar Marine infantry battalion as it prepared for war, and then deployment to an unknown destination. He told of the brigade’s eight-month stay on Iceland under conditions for which the Marines were not prepared, either in dress or equipment. Col Donovan gave a good picture of the day-to-day, often boring, conditions of the Marines as they trained in an unfamiliar environment, and how they were able to keep busy in the long, dark days of winter. For them, the highlight of the deployment was the day that Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill reviewed a parade of the Allied garrison. This pamphlet is particularly striking because of the inclusion of Col Donovan’s contemporary sketches,



many of which were seen here for the first time

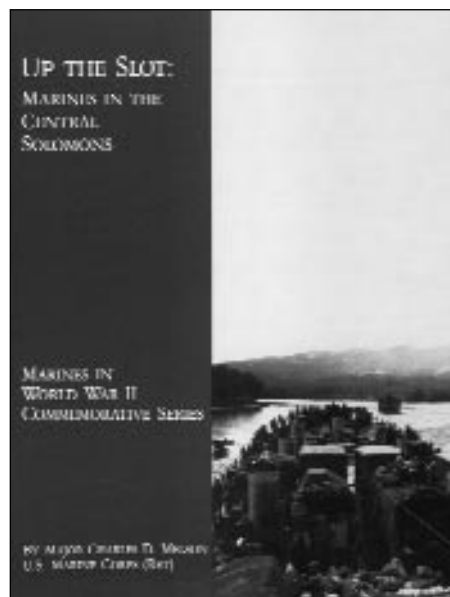
Bob Cressman’s second title in the series was *A Magnificent Fight: Marines in the Battle for Wake Island*. Although the gallant and heroic story of the Wake Marines had been told many times before, the exhaustive and complete research the author accomplished for the pamphlet gave a fresh new perspective. As a matter of fact, the pamphlet served as the basis for a full-length book by Cressman, later published by the Naval Institute Press. By means of maps, illustrations, and first-hand accounts—both American and Japanese—the author provided an almost minute-to-minute account of what happened on Wake from just before the first bombs were dropped





to the point when the entire garrison was surrendered. In between was a moving description of the valorous attempts of both the reduced force of Marine aviators and ground crewmen and all others, Marines, sailors, and civilians on the island to force the enemy to make an extraordinary effort to take Wake.

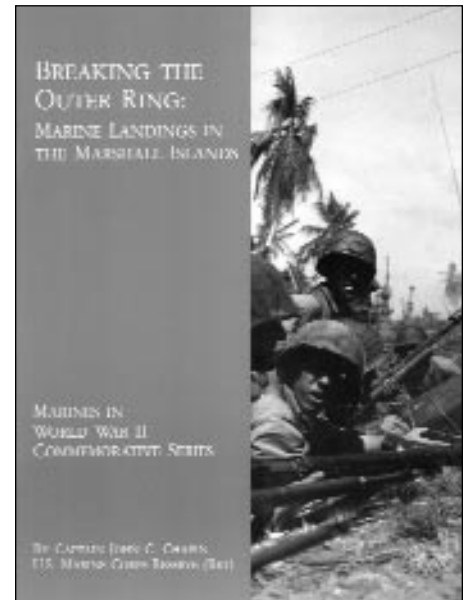
The first of retired Marine Col Joseph H. "Joe" Alexander's three pamphlets in the series appeared in November 1993, in time for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the horrific landing and battle on Tarawa. In *Across the Reef: The Marine Assault of Tarawa*, Alexander melded the material of previously published



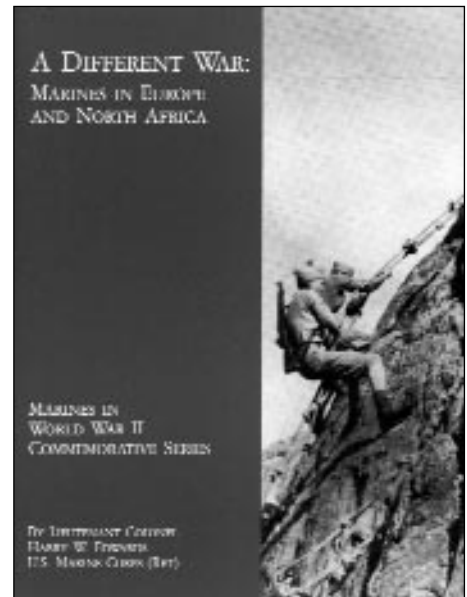
official histories together with the personal reminiscences of Tarawa veterans found in the Center's Oral History Collection. In addition, he used the personal papers and photographs found in the Personal Papers Collection here, as well as some never-before-seen photographs obtained from other sources. The author constructed, step by bloody step, the story of the most furious 76 hours in Marine Corps history, which began on 20 November 1943. During those hours, the outcome was sometimes in doubt. Col Alexander clearly outlined the bravery and leadership of officers and enlisted Marines alike in his moving narrative. Like Mr. Cressman, Col Alexander expanded his pamphlet into a full-length book, *Utmost Savagery: The Three Days of Tarawa*, which also was published by the Naval Institute Press, to great critical acclaim. As a matter of fact, in 1995, it earned him the Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Book Award presented by the Marine Corps Historical Foundation; the Franklin and Theodore Roosevelt Naval History Prize given in 1995 by the Navy League of New York and the Roosevelt Foundation; and the 1996 Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for History given by the Navy League of the United States.

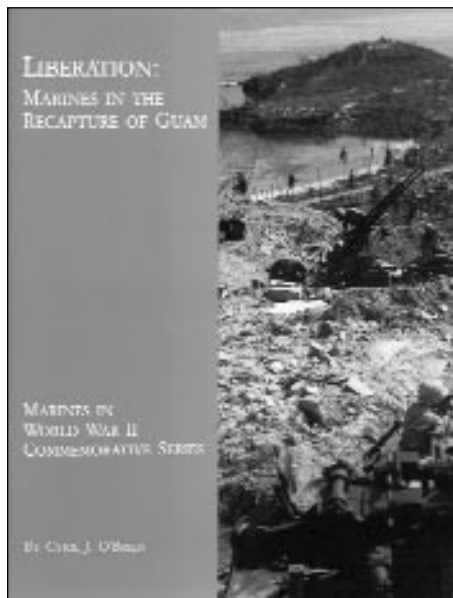
Another pamphlet appearing at the same time was *Up the Slot: Marines in the Central Solomons*, written by Maj Charles D. Melson, USMC (Ret), a former member of the History and Museums Division staff. Maj Melson told the story of the fighting which took place in mid-1943 in the Central Solomons at New Georgia as the Allies climbed up the Solomons chain, beginning with the landing on Guadalcanal in August 1942 and ending with the 1 November 1943 invasion of Bougainville at Empress Augusta Bay. Maj Melson looked at the New Georgia operation from the point of view of the Army and Marine Corps ground units; the activities of the Marine defense and raider battalions; and the role played by Marine air over New Georgia and up and down the Solomons chain.

Five new titles appeared in late



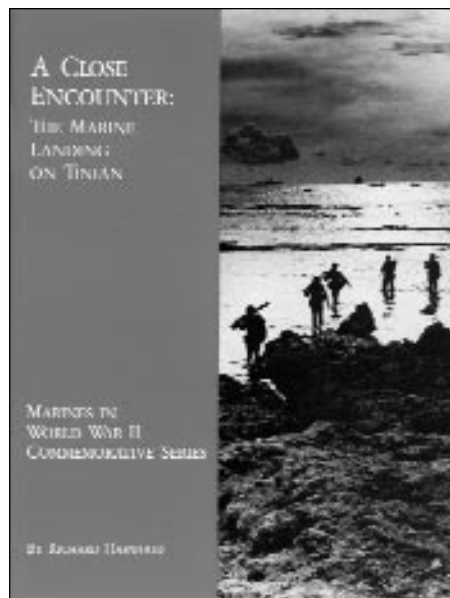
1993-early 1994. Two of them, *Breaking the Outer Ring: Marine Landings in the Marshalls* and *Breaching the Marianas: The Battle for Saipan*, were written by Capt John C. Chapin, USMCR (Ret), a veteran of both of those campaigns. Capt Chapin was our most prolific writer in the series, because before we closed it out, he did pamphlets on Bougainville and the liberation of the Philippines, more of which will be found below. The Marshalls combat narrative told the story of MajGen Harry Schmidt's 4th Marine Division which landed in the Marshalls in January-February 1944: on Roi-Namur by the 4th Division; on Eniwetok by the 22d Marines together with the 106th





Infantry of the Army 7th Infantry Division; on Majuro by the Marine V Amphibious Corps Reconnaissance Company; and on Kwajalein itself by the 32d and 164th Infantry. The success of these operations did indeed breach the outer barrier of Japanese-held islands which guarded the Home Islands of Japan.

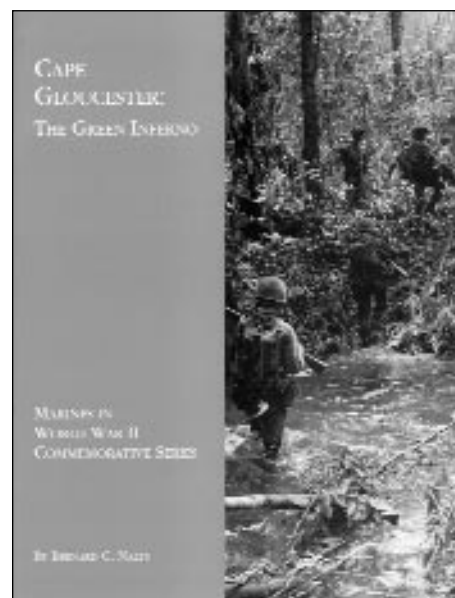
Chapin's second pamphlet relates the story of the terrible battle for Saipan, the length of which forced a delay in the landing on Guam. The 2d and 4th Marine Divisions, earlier blooded on Tarawa and in the Marshalls, respectively, forced heavily defended beachheads against deadly Japanese fire directed by observers



looking straight down on the beaches from the heights above. As the author concludes, "... 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"

In an entirely separate theater, Marines fought *A Different War: Marines in Europe and North Africa*. In his history, LtCol Harry W. Edwards, USMC (Ret), a former head of the Marine Corps historical program and commander of the Marine Detachment at the American Embassy, London, near the end of World War II, answers for all time what Marines did in Europe during the war. 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 its bagpipe band; and the individual senior Marines serving on the staffs of the commands heading up the North African, Italian, and Normandy landings. He also deals with the Marine detachments on board U.S. Navy capital ships in European waters.

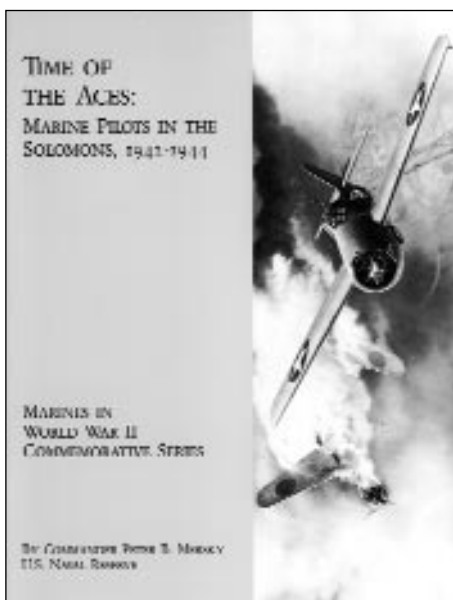
Former Marine Corps combat correspondent, Capt Cyril J. O'Brien, USMC (Ret), drew upon his own experiences when he wrote *Liberation: Marines in the Recapture of Guam*. As an enlisted

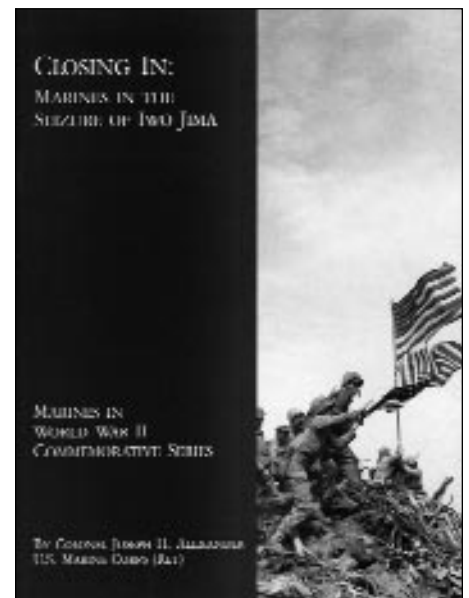
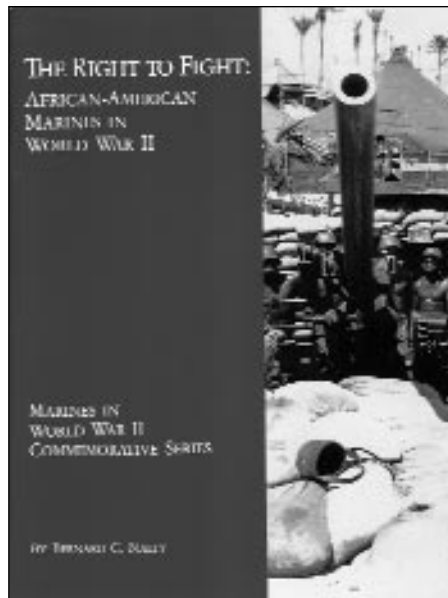
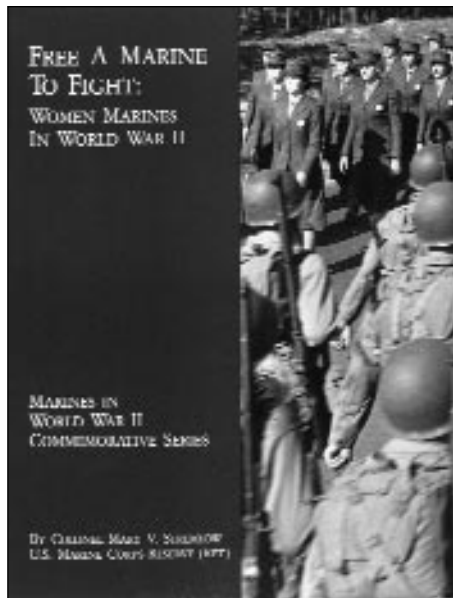


CC, O'Brien covered and wrote dispatches about the fighting on the island. The defeat of the Japanese on Guam meant the recapture of the first piece of American territory lost to the Japanese in the early days of World War II.

Cmdr Peter B. Mersky, USNR (Ret), a widely published writer on military aircraft, prepared *Time of the Aces: Marine Pilots in the Solomons, 1942-1944*. As the title suggests, this is the story of Marine airmen who rose from Henderson Field on Guadalcanal and from other fields on islands up the Solomons chain to successfully challenge experienced Japanese fighter and bomber pilots. From the two years of the Solomons campaign, beginning with the 7 August 1942 landing of the 1st Marine Division on Guadalcanal, more than 70 Marine aces emerged—pilots who had shot down at least five planes—11 of whom were awarded the Medal of Honor. An interesting addition to his pamphlet was information about the Japanese pilots and planes Allied aviators met in the skies over the Solomon Islands.

As the WWII commemorative period began drawing to a close, we continued busily to publish our series of pamphlets. Added to the group was *A Close Encounter: The Marine Landing on Tinian*, written by Richard Harwood, himself a veter-





an of Tinian, as well as of Tarawa, Saipan, and Iwo Jima. At the time of writing this history, Harwood had recently retired as deputy managing editor of *The Washington Post*, but was continuing his journalistic career as a syndicated columnist. Adm Raymond A. Spruance, a senior commander in the Pacific War, called the shore-to-shore landing on Tinian of the 2d and 4th Marine Division on 24 July 1944 the most perfect amphibious assault of the war, and certainly less costly than the Saipan landing which preceded it. After a series of suicidal Japanese counterattacks, the Marines rapidly drove south across the island. "The fighting," 4th Marine Division commander MajGen Clifton B. Cates reported, "was different from most any that we had experienced because it was good terrain It was a good clean operation and I think the men really enjoyed it."

Cape Gloucester: The Green Inferno returned the series to the Solomons campaigns. It was written by Bernard C. Nalty, a former civilian historian with both the Marine Corps and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who had retired after 20 years as a civilian historian with the Air Force historical program. In this pamphlet, we learned that, after a period of rest and rehabilitation in Australia following Guadalcanal, the 1st Marine Division came under Gen Douglas MacArthur's Sixth Army for the landing on 26

December 1943 at Cape Gloucester, on the island of New Britain. Here, Marines found that as they swept east with a mission of destroying the major enemy base at Rabaul at the tip of the island, the terrain was every bit as much of an enemy as the Japanese. The three-month operation resulted in the destruction of both enemy forces and their vital supplies. In the end, the Marines did not have to capture Rabaul, since it was neutralized by Allied planes flying from airfields quickly prepared by Seabees on Bougainville and by planes rising from the decks of aircraft carriers. Peter Mersky's *Time of the Aces* . . . tells of this aspect of the war.

In our planning, we made certain that one of the titles in the series would deal with the women Marines in the war. For this title, we called upon Col Mary V. Stremlow, USMCR (Ret), a former member of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation Board of Directors and the author of the official *A History of Women Marines, 1946-1977*, which we published. The notion of using women to relieve male Marines "for essential combat duty" initially was unpopular on all Marine Corps levels. But as women were incorporated into the Corps, attitudes changed and adjustments were made, largely owing to the excellent individual reputations of Women Reservists and top-quality leaders such as Col Ruth Cheney Streeter, first Director of Women Marines. By war's end, less

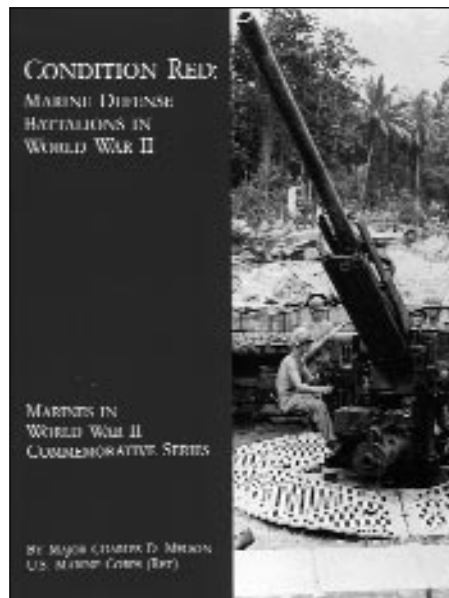
than three years after the formation of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, 18,460 active-duty women held assignments in more than 200 occupational fields at Marine bases throughout the United States and in Hawaii. MajGenComdt Thomas Holcomb, who initially opposed having women in the Corps, paid them a simple but distinct honor when he said: "Like most Marines, when the matter first came up I didn't believe women could serve any useful purpose in the Marine Corps Since then I've changed my mind."

The Right to Fight: African-American Marines in World War II was Bernard C. Nalty's second title in the series. He was particularly suited to be author of this history, for he was the co-author of a 13-volume series, *Blacks in the United States Armed Forces: Basic Documents*. In *The Right to Fight* . . . , Nalty told the story of the recruitment of African-Americans into the Marine Corps in 1942, and their training at a segregated boot camp, Montford Point, in westernmost Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Nalty related the activation of two African-American Marine defense battalions, the 51st and 52d, and a host of ammunition and depot companies which supported Marine divisions in combat in the Pacific War. In telling this story, he doesn't gloss over the fact that young African-Americans had to fight for "The Right to Fight," in order with

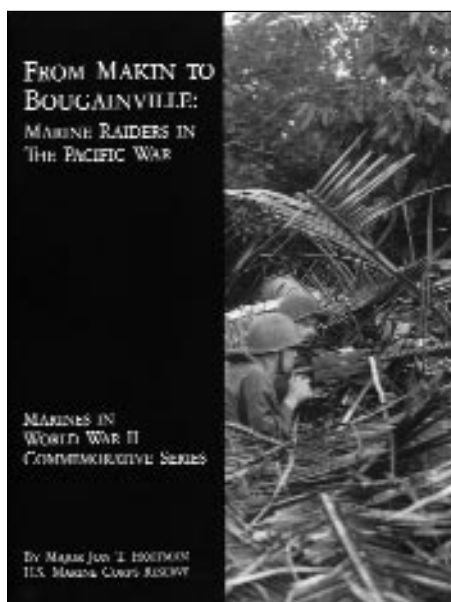
validity to call themselves “Marines.”

Col Joe Alexander’s second title for this series was *Closing In: Marines in the Seizure of Iwo Jima*. Like his pamphlet about the Tarawa landing, this, too, was well received. As is known, Iwo Jima was the largest all-Marine amphibious operation of World War II. Seventy-two thousand assaulted the heavily fortified island in February 1945. In 36 days of fighting against a disciplined force of deeply entrenched Japanese, the Marines achieved total victory, attaining all tactical objectives and destroying a reinforced enemy division while doing so. The victory was not without cost. The landing force sustained 26,000 casualties. More than 6,000 died. Twenty-two Marines, four Navy hospital corpsmen, and one Navy landing craft skipper were awarded the Medal of Honor. Half of them were posthumous awards. As Col Alexander so well demonstrated in writing about Iwo Jima, FAdm Chester Nimitz was exactly right when he said of the operation, “Among the Americans who served on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue.” These words are now chiseled into the granite base of the Marine Corps Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Prolific author and historian Maj Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR, biographer of MajGen Merritt A. Edson, wrote *From Makin to Bougainville: Marine Raiders in the Pacific War*. When it appeared,

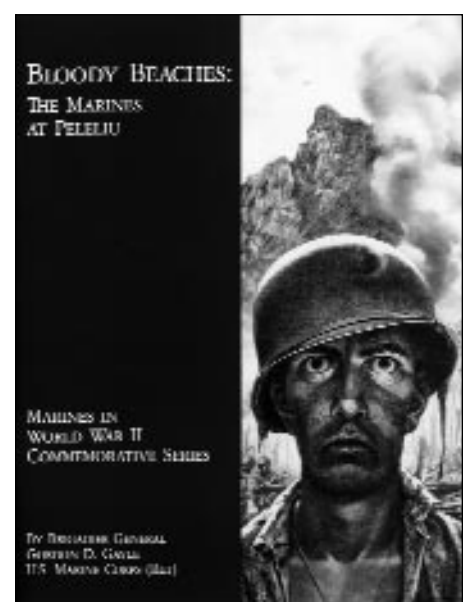


many former members of Edson’s Raiders, the 1st Raider Battalion, wrote to say that the title should have been “From Tulagi to Bougainville,” since the landings on Tulagi took place earlier than the one on Makin. Perhaps they are right. In any case, in this pamphlet, Maj Hoffman told of the development of the raider concept in the Marine Corps, the formation and deployment in combat of the first raider units, and of LtCols Edson and Evans F. Carlson, the two key Marine Corps personalities and commanders in this evolution. Hoffman also related Marine Corps attitudes concerning the establishment of raider units, and the unhappiness of infantry unit commanders when outstanding officers and enlisted Marines opted to join or were recruited by one of the two new raider battalions. He wrote of the 2d Raider Battalion’s raid on Makin Island, 17-18 August 1942—indeed after the 7 August landing on Tulagi of the 1st Raider Battalion. The Makin raid was the only operation of its type conducted by Marine raiders in the Pacific War. Hoffman also wrote about the dramatic action in which the 1st Battalion was involved—the landing on Tulagi on 7 August and the Battle of “Bloody” or “Edson’s” Ridge on Guadalcanal the nights of 12-13 and 14-15 September 1942. While raider units as such lasted for only about two years, as this pamphlet told, in those two years, Marine raiders performed ably in combat and their accomplishments are firmly set in



Marine Corps lore, traditions, and history.

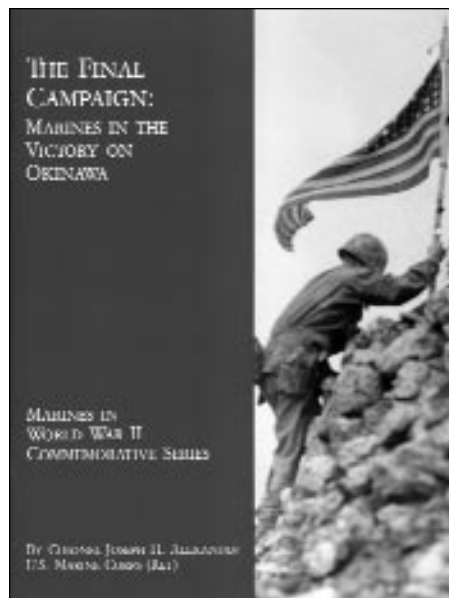
Maj Melson’s second pamphlet in the series was *Condition Red: Marine Defense Battalions in World War II*. It should be noted at the outset that the editorial expenses of this particular history were supported by generous grants from the Defense Battalion Association and several of its individual members. In his history, Maj Melson traced the origins and activities of the 20 defense battalions stood up by the Marine Corps in the war. As the possibility of war with Japan loomed, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen Thomas Holcomb seized upon the idea of forming defense battalions as a means of increasing the Corps’ strength beyond the prewar figure of 19,000 officers and men. Just before the onset of war, the first of several 900-man defense battalions took shape in the United States. The mission of these units was to “hold areas for the ultimate offensive operations of the fleet.” Of the seven defense battalions organized by late 1941, one stood guard in Iceland, five served in the Pacific, and another trained on the West Coast for eventual deployment to the Pacific. The first real test of the defense battalions came with the savage air attacks on Wake Island on 8 December 1941. After 15 days, Wake’s defenders, with limited means at their disposal, sank one warship with aerial bombs and another with coast artillery



fire, and during the final Japanese assault on the island, the Marines inflicted hundreds of casualties on the enemy. From the beginning at Wake, Melson covered the major activities of Pacific-deployed battalions. As the Pacific War drew to a close, many battalions found themselves in the backwater of the war, “struggling with boredom rather than fighting an armed enemy.”

One of the most difficult battles in the Pacific War for the Marines was described by a veteran of that landing in *Bloody Beaches: The Marines at Peleliu*. BGen Gordon D. Gayle, USMC (Ret), was a major commanding the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, in the unrelenting fighting which began on 15 September 1944. On that date, the division landed against heavy opposition on an island dominated by a long, precipitous coral ridge, the Umurbrogol, honeycombed with caves and masked by dense jungle. Here the Japanese constructed defensive positions which made Peleliu a veritable, formidable fortress. It was in the early fighting that then-Maj Gayle exhibited the intrepid leadership which earned him the Navy Cross. Although the beachhead was established on D-Day and after five days of heavy fighting the southern end of the island was in Marine hands, the battle was far from over. Bypassing the island’s heavily fortified central ridges, the 1st Marine Division secured Peleliu’s northern tip and adjoining islands. Yet, the Umurbrogol Mountain with the enemy deeply dug into its caves presented a major, festering problem as the Marines concentrated on reducing these positions. In the end, reduction of this redoubt cost both the 1st Marine Division, and the Army 81st Infantry Division, which relieved it, heavy casualties. This pamphlet was particularly enhanced by the inclusion of the striking artwork accomplished by Texan artist Tom Lea, who accompanied 1st Division Marines ashore. His vivid paintings brought the reality and horror of Peleliu to life.

The fourth and last Pacific battle of the 1st Marine Division was chronicled



by Col Alexander’s third pamphlet in the series, *The Final Campaign: Marines in the Victory on Okinawa*. As did the other titles in the commemorative series, these two rang true and accurately portrayed the mind-boggling realities of the horrors of Peleliu and Okinawa. Although the troops of III Amphibious Corps (1st and 6th Marine Divisions) and the Army XXIV Corps (7th and 96th Infantry Divisions) landed unopposed on 1 April 1945, wondering where the Japanese were, they were not long in finding out. What was a “cakewalk” landing would turn into a nightmare battle lasting more than 80 days. For the troops on the ground, the aircraft in the air, and naval shipping offshore, there was no respite. Col Alexander was quite successful in bringing together all the disparate elements which led to the defeat of the enemy. And with the publication of the Okinawa pamphlet, our commemoration of the World War II battles of the Marine Corps ended, but not quite.

We expect to publish the last four pamphlets in our series shortly, bringing the collection to a grand total of 25 histories. Prolific Capt Chapin is the author of two more histories, *Top of the Ladder: Marine Operations in the Northern Solomons* and *And a Few Marines: Marines in the Liberation of the Philippines*. The first will tell the story of the Bougainville operation and the diversionary action at Choiseul, and touch on the beginning

of Allied air operations from the Piva strips on Bougainville. With the completion of their ground operations on Bougainville, Marine units refocused their attention on the Central Pacific and the bloody battles fought there. In his Philippines pamphlet, Capt Chapin will tell about the support Marine artillery units provided to the Army units committed to recapturing the Philippine Islands. An important aspect of this campaign was the role of Marine aviation in rendering close air support to Army infantry units committed to annihilating the enemy in the Philippines. The success of the efforts of Marine air is demonstrated in the laudatory messages Army commanders sent to the Marine aviation command and their demand for all the Marine air support they could get.

J. Michael Miller’s *From Shanghai to Corregidor: Marines in the Defense of the Philippines* will tell the heroic story of the 4th Marines, stationed for many years in Shanghai, and their deployment to the Philippines on the eve of World War II. The regiment fought valorously on Bataan Peninsula and on the island fortress of Corregidor to no avail. Relentlessly, the Japanese army overcame all American resistance. The story will end with the burning of its regimental colors by the 4th Marines and the survivors herded into captivity and the so-called “Bataan Death March,” an event so monstrous and inhumane that it remains an indelible blot on the history of World War II.

Bringing the series to a close will be Charles R. Smith’s *Securing the Peace: Marines in the Occupation of Japan*. In this pamphlet, Mr. Smith, one of our senior historians, will tell the story of the landing of V Amphibious Corps troops on the west coast of Kyushu and their deployment. Not knowing what to expect, and combat-ready to repel all anticipated Japanese reaction to the occupation, the Marines instead found a population sick of war and ready to cooperate with the occupying forces. For many of the combat troops who fought across the Pacific, this was a satisfying and relieving situation. And

for many of the Marines who took part in the occupation, their memories of the postwar Japan they discovered are probably the pleasantest of all the memories they have of the war.

Now that our World War II commemorative series is nearly completed, I think we can look back at this effort with some pleasure and pride. That is not to say that there weren't some glitches and errors along the way, which I believe we have cleared up.

We did receive some satisfying praise such as "It's rewarding to receive the WWII Commemorative Series Pamphlets. All are interesting and sober reminders of the long hard march to Tokyo. Bless all campaigns and . . . the men who were there." And then, one letter that said, "The Commemorative Series is great! Many

new details and information." That is exactly what we hoped to provide in each title. Dr. Philip K. Lundeberg, Curator Emeritus of the National Museum of American History, and one of the leading experts on naval history wrote:

Many thanks for the fascinating *Up the Slot* and *Time of the Aces*, latest in your excellent series on Marines in World War II. I am impressed by the new generation of authors this series introduces. These publications employ an exceptional range of well-chosen graphics: charts, photos, combat art and modern interpretive sketches. Together they illuminate a text of rich dimension: tactical, logistic, strategic, technological and, not least, the human equation. Peter Mersky's "other side of the hill"

account of Japanese aviators in the Solomons places the achievements of Marine Corps airmen in the finest perspective. Here again we find the wisdom of honest evaluation of hardy opponents. Quite a far cry from the naive focus of our historical accounts of World War I.

This, of course, was a heady letter from Dr. Lundeberg, but in it I think he caught what we tried to do in the series, and I hope that we accomplished what we set out to do: honor the Marine veterans of World War II; inform the current generation of Americans of the sacrifices these Marines made to secure the peace and ensure freedom for all; and, most importantly, educate today's young Marines about the traditions and history of their Corps. □1775□

Historical Quiz

From 'Amphibian Tractors' to LVTs in the Marine Corps

by Sgt Dieter Stenger USMC
Curatorial Assistant
Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum

1. In the early 1920s, who produced the study entitled *Advanced Base Operations in Micronesia* that examined the requirements to seize advanced naval bases, based on Japanese mandates in the Pacific?
2. Who, in the mid-1930s, invented the amphibious tractor, nicknamed the "Alligator," that would revolutionize amphibious warfare?
3. Which Marine captain was directly involved in the early testing of the amphibian tractor as the Assistant G-4 of the 1st Marine Brigade and, in 1965, served as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific?
4. Company A, led by Second Lieutenant Victor J. Croizat and belonging to which amphibian tractor battalion, left Dunedin, Florida, on the morning after the attack on Pearl Harbor, for New River, North Carolina, to join the 1st Marine Division?
5. What tactical role did the amphibian tractor play throughout the Central Solomons campaign that began with Guadalcanal on 7 August 1942 and ended with the landing on Cape Gloucester on 15 December 1943?
6. What famous bloody battle in November 1943 marked the turning point in the tactical employment of the amphibian tractor from cargo to personnel carrier?
7. The LVT (A) 1, or armored amphibian tractor, was fitted with the M3A1 "Stuart" tank turret. What caliber was the main gun on the LVT (A) 1?
8. Besides the .30-caliber and .50-caliber machine guns, 37mm cannon, and 75mm howitzer (LVT [A] 4), what other weapons system expanded the tactical capability of the amphibian tractor as demonstrated on Peleliu?
9. On February 1945, what island was assaulted by more than 448 amphibian tractors belonging to the 2d Armored Amphibian Tractor Battalion, and the 3d, 5th, 10th, and 11th Amphibian Tractor Battalions and is considered the largest all-Marine battle?
10. Where is the World War II-Korea LVT Museum located today?

(Answers on page 13)

Quantico 'Alligator' Listed as Engineering Landmark

by Sgt Dieter Stenger, USMC
Curatorial Assistant, Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum

On the afternoon of 21 May, the Roebling "Alligator" amphibian tractor on display in the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum was recognized by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) as a Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark. The Society's Landmarks Program illuminates the national technological heritage and serves to encourage the preservation of the physical remains of historically important works. Since 1971, when the program was established, 193 historic appointments as landmarks, sites, and heritage collections have been made. Recognition of the "Alligator" had been an ongoing project for the regional branch of the ASME over the past two years.

Brought to national public attention in a *Life* Magazine issue in 1937, the amphibian tractor was an obscure invention by steel magnate and entrepreneur Donald Roebling. The "Alligator" was designed for rescue work in the Florida Everglades, until it was discovered by the Marine Corps. In

At right, the amphibian tractor "Alligator," on display at the Air-Ground Museum, was designated a historical mechanical engineering landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

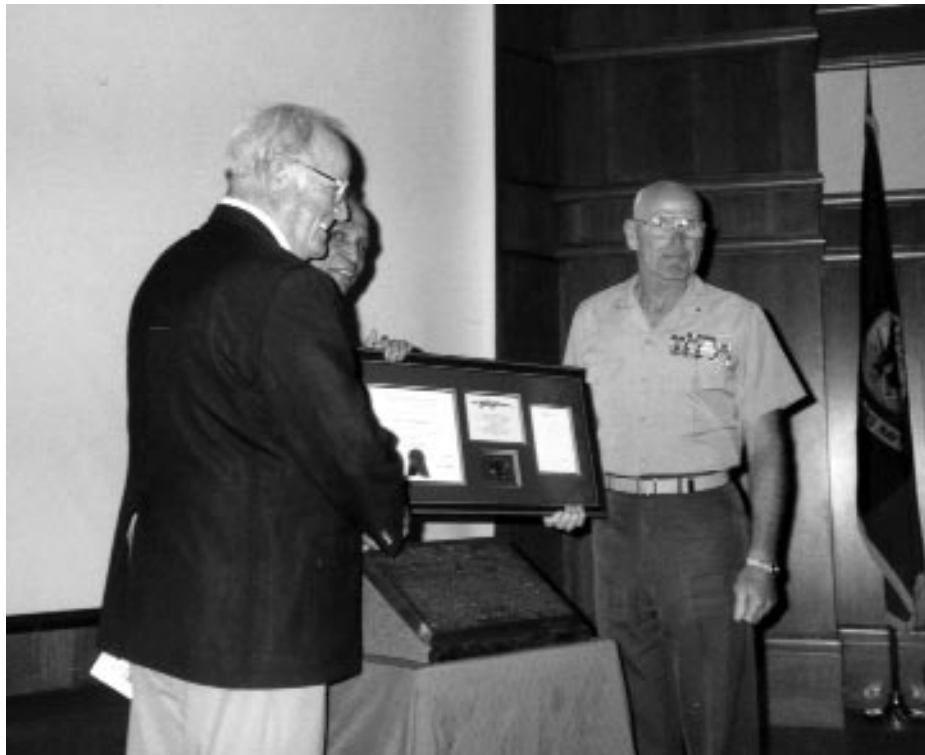


MajGen Leslie M. Palm, Director, Marine Corps Staff at Headquarters Marine Corps, left, joins History and Museums Director Col Michael F. Monigan, center, and Air-Ground Museum Exhibits Specialist Ronnie D. Alexander at reception.



1941, the first LVT-1 was delivered for testing to Dunedin, Florida, where the nucleus of the future amphibian tractor battalions was formed in the small town's hotel. The amphibian tractor elevated amphibious warfare to new levels of combat efficiency and effectiveness during World War II, providing a solid foundation for the Fleet Marine Force doctrine that had been newly established in 1933. The Roebling "Alligator" was the progenitor of several generations of the landing vehicle, tracked (LVT), that was renamed the Assault Amphibian Vehicle (AAV) in the 1970s. Today, the AAV is on active duty serving with several assault amphibian battalions around the world. The newest generation is the advanced assault amphibian vehicle (AAAV), that will bring the all-important vehicle up to, or even beyond, modern weapons systems standards.

The "Alligator" on display in the Air-Ground Museum is the third



Robert M. Vogel, left, and K. H. Shankar, center, present the Landmark plaque to BGen Edwin C. Kelley, Jr., CG, Marine Corps Base, Quantico.

amphibian tractor that Roebing produced in the 1930s. This model, serial number 18R658, is the one which the Marine Corps decided to purchase with military specifications. Originally donated by the Roebing family to the local Gandy Marine Corps Reserve Facility in Florida, the "Alligator" stood on display in Gandy to commemorate both the tractor and its inventor, Donald Roebing. In 1984, the "Alligator" was brought to Quantico, restored, and placed on exhibit in the "Early Years" hangar of the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum.

The Engineering Society viewing of the original "Alligator" commenced at the Air-Ground Museum with a historical exhibit that traced the development and restoration of the amphibian tractor. Shortly after the arrival of MajGen Leslie M. Palm, USMC, Director of the Marine Corps Staff, the party moved to the Marine Corps Research Center. After a welcome by BGen Edwin C. Kelley, Jr., USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, the ASME Landmark Programs were briefly explained by Mr. Robert M. Vogel, Secretary of the Society's National History and Heritage Committee. A

Fortitudine, Summer 1997

history of the "Alligator" was given by Museums Branch Curator of Material History, Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas. A plaque was then presented by the former President of the ASME, Mr. Robert B. Gaither, to the Marine Corps. Accepting this recognition were BGen Kelley and Col Michael F. Monigan, USMC, Director of Marine Corps History and Museums. The contents of the plaque appear at right above.

Closing comments were provided by Mr. K. H. Shankar, Chairman of ASME's Northern Virginia Section, who then invited the assembly for refreshments at a reception co-hosted by the ASME and the Marine Corps Historical Foundation.

The unequaled performance of the amphibian tractor during WWII is more than deserving of the highest accolades. As a combat assault vehicle, the LVT shuttled thousands of men and tons of materials to the threshold of the Japanese-held Pacific islands. Beginning at Guadalcanal in 1942 and ending on Okinawa in 1945, Roebing's humble experimentation with amphibian vehicles brought his legacy and contribution to the forefront of modern amphibious warfare.

□1775□

NATIONAL HISTORIC MECHANICAL ENGINEERING LANDMARK ALLIGATOR AMPHIBIAN 1940

This vehicle, originally designed for civil rescue work in flooded areas and travel in swampy regions, was developed by Donald Roebing in 1935. It was modified for use as a ship-to-shore transport for men and supplies during WWII. The paddle-tread propulsion system made it a true amphibian, the predecessor of all tracked landing vehicles. This example is believed to be "Alligator Three," prototype of over 15,000 various types and models after the war. Development of the helicopter precluded further civilian applications.

Answers to the Historical Quiz

From 'Tractors' to LVTs In the Marine Corps

(Questions on page 11)

1. Major Earl H. Ellis
2. Mr. Donald Roebing
3. Captain Victor H. Krulak
4. 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion
5. Logistical support, as amphibian cargo-carriers that hauled ammunition and medicine, evacuated the wounded, and brought other supplies into the beachhead.
6. Tarawa
7. 37mm
8. The flamethrower
9. Iwo Jima
10. Assault Amphibian School Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California

Wealth of Papers Allows HQMC Archives to Share

By Frederick J. Graboske
Head, Archives Section

The Marine Corps Historical Center has nearly 2,700 collections of donated personal papers. They cover the period from the Revolutionary War through the recent humanitarian assistance to Somalia. In addition to these, we have hundreds more currently awaiting processing. Given the volume and the quality of materials already on hand, it is now incumbent on us to become more selective in the collections we are willing to accept. Our focus is on memoirs and letters home, the kinds of materials that provide a personal feel to records of combat. We ask that prospective donors contact the head of the Personal Papers Unit, Amy C. Cohen (202-433-3396, DSN 288-3396) prior to sending material to us.

Our mission is the collection of materials on the general history of the Marine Corps with special emphasis on combat operations. There are other archival repositories within the Marine Corps with specialized collections. The Parris Island and San Diego command museums have collections related to the history and activities of those posts. The Marine Corps University Research Center Archive at Quantico has collections related to that post and to the activities and functions of the Marine Corps Schools. If offered materials which are not precisely suitable for our collection, we often can offer advice on the appropriate repository.

Once materials have been accepted and processed for inclusion in our collections, they remain there permanently. We do not destroy material because we need the space, because we no longer think it is important, or for any other reason. Only twice in the past five years have we transferred unprocessed collections to other repositories, in both cases because the interest to Marine historians was small in relation to the volume of paper. Only our Director or Deputy Director can approve such transfers, known as de-accessions. In one case, the papers

of a professor of amphibious warfare at the Naval Academy were sent to the Academy's own archive. In the other case, the papers of a prominent journalist who once had served as a Marine OSS officer were sent to the Library of Congress.

Not long ago we cooperated with CBS News as they prepared to interview former Assistant Commandant Gen Walter E. Boomer on the Gulf War. In return for the documents we copied they provided videotape copies of the broadcast version as well as outtakes. They have no objection to researchers viewing the tapes, but they assert their rights under the copyright law to approve the making of any further copies.

Once we have accepted a collection, we decide on its priority of processing. There are two criteria: importance to Marine Corps history and researcher interest. The first criterion covers the papers of former Commandants. This year we have processed the papers of Gen Carl E. Mundy and currently are working on a 50,000-page accretion to Gen Alfred M. Gray's papers. Both of these projects were entrusted to one from among our excellent group of volunteers, retired Col Alfred J. Croft. In addition, we are

organizing records related to the Commandant's House; these are in the care of another volunteer, Charles Engelhardt. There are accretions to several other Commandants' papers, which we intend to complete this summer. Not infrequently, the processing of accretions exposes weaknesses in the original description and arrangement, which we then correct.

The second criterion, researcher interest, involves other sections of the Historical Branch. The Reference Section suggested a collection related to the Marine Corps Memorial; that has been completed. The Chief Historian suggested the Korean War photos about which I previously have written in this column. There are nearly 5,000 of them, almost all with the original captions. We expect that project to be complete this month, so that we will be able to assist the historians preparing our Korean War commemorative booklets, and other historians preparing for the 50th anniversary of that war.

For 10 years we have relied on George MacGillivray, another of our excellent group of volunteers, to service our map collection. He comes in on Tuesdays, and we have held all map inquiries until then. Last summer,

Archives volunteer Charles Engelhardt currently is organizing records in the collection relating to the Commandant's House, below, at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. More such volunteers are needed.



Bosnian Aid, Recruit Training Changes Marked 1996

by Ann A. Ferrante
Reference Section

The "Current Chronology of the Marine Corps" highlights important events in contemporary Marine Corps history. It has been compiled by the Reference Section for the past 14 years by researching literally hundreds of pages of primary and secondary sources each week. Below are selected entries from the 1996 chronology:

11 Jan - President Clinton signed an Executive Order establishing an Armed Forces Service Medal to recognize members of the Armed Forces who serve in significant foreign operations such as peacekeeping or prolonged humanitarian operations, yet not against armed opposition or involving hostile action. It would be awarded only for operations for which no other U.S. service medal is approved. The medal would be effective for service on or after 1 June 1992, corresponding with the beginning date of U.S. assistance in Bosnia.

17 Jan - After 55 years in the Navy Annex building in Arlington, Virginia, Headquarters Marine Corps moved to new offices on the E-Ring of the Pentagon, adjacent to those of the Secretary of the Navy. Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen Charles C. Krulak addressed an audience at the dedication ceremony. Although the move was not the first for Headquarters Marine Corps, which has been located at various sites in the Washington, D.C., area since 1800, it was perhaps the most significant link of the Marine Corps command with that of the other Armed Services.

19 Jan - BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Retired), retired as the civilian Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, a position he held since leaving active duty in 1978. General Simmons' 54 years of cumulative service was marked during ceremonies in Washington, D.C., with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Charles C. Krulak, presiding.

26 Feb - 12 Mar - More than 4,200 Marine reservists from 38 different states participated in Exercise Battle Griffin 96 held in Norway. It was the largest Marine Reserve exercise scheduled for 1996. The exercise tested the Norway Air-Landed Marine Air-Ground Task Force program, the Corps' only land-based prepositioning program, and involved staging Marine Corps equipment in specially constructed caves in Norway. The exercise also provided Marines an opportunity to train for combined-arms operations in an extreme, cold-weather environment.

7 Mar - Three American servicemen were convicted by a Japanese court of abduction and rape of a 12-year-old Japanese girl the previous September, a crime that ignited a public outcry against the presence of American military bases on Okinawa. Most American bases and about three-fifths of the 47,000 American troops in Japan are located on Okinawa. The two Marines and one sailor were sentenced to 6 1/2 - 7 years in a Japanese prison.

18 Mar - More than 500 Marines and 3,500 Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel began a major staff training exercise at Camp Blanding, Florida. Exercise Internal Look 96 took place to prepare for future crises in the Persian Gulf and was the largest U.S. Central Command exercise within the United States this year. The Central Command last held an Internal Look exercise in 1990 just before Iraq invaded Kuwait. Gen Colin Powell, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, credited that 1990 exercise for preparing U.S. planners to succeed in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

27 Mar - President Clinton nominated MajGen Carol A. Mutter for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general and assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Already the senior woman in the military, Gen Mutter, 50, was serving as Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command at Quantico, Virginia. Unfortunately, Gen Mutter would not make history as the first woman in the U.S. military to wear three stars. That honor went to VAdm Patricia Tracey who was nominated some seven weeks after General Mutter but was officially promoted 10 July, 13 days before Gen Mutter.

20 Apr - In Operation Assured Response, a reinforced company from the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) was airlifted into the U.S. Embassy compound in Monrovia, Liberia, in order to provide security and assist the embassy and its Marine detachment in evacuation of American and designated foreign citizens due to continuing political unrest and increased lawlessness in the Liberian capital. Ten days later, several of the 270 Marines guarding the embassy returned fire from Liberian street fighters, killing three and wounding several more. Some 2,100 people were flown from the embassy to neighboring countries and thousands of others assisted in leaving by commercial ships.

25 Apr - 20 May - Combined Joint Task Force Exercise 96/Purple Star linked the armed forces of the U.S. and the United Kingdom in a corps-level wargame exercise that spanned military installations in Virginia, North Carolina, South

Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. It involved more than 53,000 total troops of whom 38,000 were U.S. forces including Marines from the II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) and the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The joint/combined exercise was directed by Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command, General John J. Sheehan, USMC, and it was designed to represent methods by which a coalition force could prepare for possible security challenges.

5 May - A new memorial to American servicemen who died in El Salvador, 1981-1992, was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery. The black granite marker is in memory of five Marine Corps security guards who were among 21 U.S. military personnel who died while assigned to duty in the then-embattled Central American country. The memorial was sponsored by No Greater Love, a Washington-based non-profit organization, that holds tributes for the families of those who died serving their country overseas.

10 May - The lives of 14 U.S. servicemen (12 Marines, one sailor, and one soldier) ended tragically when a CH-46E Sea Knight transport helicopter and an AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter collided in the air over Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, while participating in Combined Joint Task Force Exercise 96. The crash was the deadliest Marine training accident in seven years. On 20 March 1989 a CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter crashed into a mountainside near Pohang, South Korea, during Exercise Team Spirit, killing 19.

14 May - More than two decades after the final shots were fired in the Vietnam War, President Clinton signed an executive order ending Vietnam's designation as a combat zone. The recommendation to end the combat zone status came from the Pentagon. The designation had been preserved for people declared missing from the Vietnam War, but the last government-acknowledged prisoner of war was declared dead 19 September 1994.

21 May - Marines from the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) responded to U.S. Embassy security requirements in the Central African Republic following a request from the U.S. ambassador for security assistance due to civil unrest following an army mutiny. Marines in Operation Quick Response

processed departing personnel, conducted communications, and reinforced existing security for the embassy. The 22d MEU(SOC) continued to provide security at the American embassy in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, in Operation Assured Response.

7 Jun - Nine Marine lieutenants were found guilty of at least one of four charges stemming from a cheating scandal during August 1995 at the Basic School, Quantico, Virginia. The nine lieutenants from Charlie Company were implicated in cheating on a land navigation final exam. Officials discovered that at least 16 lieutenants were involved in a scheme where some students were given "cheat sheets." Further investigations indicate that as many as half of the 250 officers in the company may have relied on the lists.

12 Jun - The Marine Corps deployed its first full aviation squadron to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of Task Force Eagle, the U.S. contingent assigned to NATO's Operation Joint Endeavor. The 1st Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron would support the U.S. contingent of the Multinational Military Implementation Force by providing field commanders with real-time imagery for reconnaissance and surveillance.

14 Jun - Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 235 was deactivated at Naval Air Station Miramar, San Diego, California. The "Death Angels" was originally activated in 1943 and participated in four World War II campaigns as well as the Vietnam War during 1966 - 1968.

17 Jun - Last February, changes in the conduct of the semi-annual physical fitness test were announced in ALMAR 070/96 and included a longer run and more sit-ups for women, plus a modification in the execution of pull-ups for men. The above revisions remained valid but additional guidance on the pull-ups as well as the proposed scoring matrix was announced in ALMAR 213/96. Of major concern to male Marines is the implementation date of the "dead hang" pull-up (without "kipping") that would be

Squadron 235 Insignia



Gen Richard I. Neal

implemented, along with the other revisions, on 1 January 1997 vice 1 July 1996.

Jul - The Marine Chemical and Biological Incident Response Force (CBIRF) based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, was a member of the U.S. joint task force keeping watch over the Olympics held in Atlanta. The new force was made up of 350 Marines and sailors. Its mission was to respond swiftly to any threat in the U.S. or in a U.S. interest abroad, identify problems, decontaminate areas, treat casualties, and bolster local medical agencies' treatment capabilities. Formed during April 1996, the CBIRF responded in a security capacity after the Centennial Park bombing.

11 Jul - Col John R. Bourgeois retired after 17 years as Director of "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band and Music Advisor to the White House. The 25th Director in the band's history, Colonel Bourgeois ended an acclaimed career that spanned nearly 40 years. The Marine Band marked the special occasion with a concert at DAR Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C. The director's baton was passed to Maj Timothy W. Foley.

20 Jul - 5 Aug - A number of Marine athletes participated in the Centennial Olympic Games held in Atlanta, Georgia. Marine Cpl Tom Gough was a standout, setting three American weightlifting records, including a 440.9-pound clean and jerk on his first attempt and a 369.3-pound snatch on his third attempt. Cpl Gough placed 14th overall in the 91 kilo division in his first Olympic appearance.

25 Jul - The Marines received authorization for 12 more general officers after weeks of leading a military services assault to break through a five-year-old congressional ceiling on the number of authorized flag officers. The Marines would be entitled to raise the number of active duty generals from 68 to 80. It would give the

174,000-member Corps one more general than it had in June 1945 when the force was 475,000 strong.

30 Jul - Gen Charles C. Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps, unveiled his plan "Transformation" that would be a process of making Marines for the 21st century. Gen Krulak's vision of what the 21st century holds for U.S. Marines led to a new approach in training Marines for warfighting. The Commandant called for making Marines tougher physically, mentally, and morally. The biggest change would occur in the eleventh week of boot camp when both male and female recruits would be tested by the "Crucible," a 54-hour event which would offer highly focused physical and mental challenges. Major changes under the transformation program would begin at the recruit depots during October.

16 Aug - Marine 1stLt Jeanne Buchanan became a Naval Flight Officer and received her wings at graduation at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Lt Buchanan completed her training with Training Squadron 86 and would go on to train in the EA-6B Prowler electronic jamming jet. She is the second woman in the Marine Corps to be "winged" and trained to fly an aircraft, and the first in a fixed-wing tactical aircraft. The first female Marine aviator, 1stLt Sarah Deal, was trained to fly the heavy CH-53E Super Stallion transport helicopter.

20 Aug - The U.S. Atlantic Command's second monthly contingency readiness exercise at Port-au-Prince, Haiti, began when a reinforced platoon from U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic, departed for training as part of Exercise Fairwinds. The Army and Marine Corps alternated deployment of forces for this series of exercises since July. Exercise Fairwinds, which included engineering, medical, and security force training, began in April 1995 and was designed to ensure that various U.S. military forces were prepared to deploy and conduct their respective missions while remaining self-sustained.

1stLt Jeanne Buchanan



30 Aug - Approximately 570 Marines from 2d Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, at Camp Pendleton, California, were deployed to the fire lines in northern Oregon to assist 1,600 firefighters in mop-up efforts, helping to bring the 50,650-acre site at Umatilla National Forest under control.

17-26 Sep - Exercise Fuerzas Unidas Counterdrug (Riverine) '96 took place in Panama. It involved military personnel and civilians from Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, and the United States. The latest in a series of multinational exercises sponsored by the U.S. Southern Command, it was the first hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps. The focus of the exercise was to develop ways to eradicate the shipment of illegal drugs from the region. It also was the first exercise to concentrate on riverine operations in combating illegal drug trade.

19 Sep - Gen Richard I. Neal was promoted to his present grade and named the next Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps during a frocking ceremony at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. He assumed his new position on 27 September, succeeding Gen Richard D. Hearney who retired from the Marine Corps with more than 34 years of service.

25 Sep - Deputy Secretary of Defense John White informed Congressional leaders that the Department of Defense would redouble its efforts to investigate matters relevant to the illnesses of Persian Gulf War veterans. He would head a new "action team" that would reassess all aspects of the Pentagon's many programs of

research and inquiry into the causes of Gulf War ailments. Among the new actions would be a \$5 million research effort looking into the possible effects of low-level chemical exposure.

26 Sep - After more than 15 years of debate by Marine Corps uniform boards, female drill instructors were issued the same trademark "Smokey the Bear" field hat as their male counterparts. The scarlet shoulder cord worn by female drill instructors since 1983 would no longer be authorized.

Oct - The Marine Corps grounded 90 of its 170 AV-8B Harrier aircraft following the latest two Harrier crashes in a series of recent major mishaps involving Marine pilots. Seven Harriers crashed in the past year, including two during the month of October. The Harrier's 406 model single-engine was the principle target of investigators. This was the second time those planes were grounded in less than a year — 70 Model 406 powered Harriers were grounded in March.

18 Oct - Of the Marine Corps' 154 CH-53Es, 68 were still grounded as of this date awaiting parts that should prevent repeats of the 9 May crash at a Sikorsky facility in Connecticut. While the recovery effort would continue, it fell off schedule because of the need to manufacture some of the parts. The Marine Corps grounded the helicopters in June after the initial crash investigation.

9 Nov - New battle honors were unveiled at the Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, Virginia, better known as the Iwo Jima Memorial, during

annual wreath-laying ceremonies in honor of the 221st birthday of the Marine Corps. "Persian Gulf 1987-1991 ★ Panama 1988-1990 ★ Somalia 1992-1994" joined numerous other Marine Corps operations. Architectural sculptor Tom Winkler of Wheat Ridge, Colorado, engraved and gold-leafed the new honors in conformity with the style of the existing lettering on the memorial.

Dec - Beginning this month, every recruit graduating from boot camp and every officer candidate completing Officer Candidates School will receive a laminated plastic card embossed with the Marine Corps' core values. All Marines would sign the back of the card as a visible demonstration of their individual commitment and carry the card at all times as a daily reminder that they joined a corps of dedicated professionals for whom honor, courage, and commitment are a way of life. This was part of the Marine Corps Values Program consisting of initial entry training, reinforcement education, and sustainment education.

2 Dec - U.S. and Japanese officials signed an agreement to reduce the size of American military presence on the island of Okinawa yet maintain the present U.S. Armed Forces troop strength there. The U.S. will return control of more than 12,000 acres of land on Okinawa to the Japanese, 97 percent of which was used by the Marine Corps. The 12,000 acres was to be turned over to Japan by 2008. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, the largest Marine Corps facility to be returned to Japan within seven years, was considered for relocation to a revolutionary floating sea-based facility off Okinawa. □1775□

Corps' Oldest Library Gets Newest Search Software

by Evelyn A. Englander
Historical Center Librarian

During the past year, the library has been developing a computer-based catalog of its holdings to supplement the traditional library card catalog. At this time, the catalog is in its test or developmental phase. Two thousand bibliographic records from the past 10 years have been loaded into the computer along with InMagic software, which was selected to make the quick searching of records possible.

The bibliographic citations from 1843 to 1986 will be added to the computer catalog within a few weeks, and then records of all the holdings can be searched by computer. It is the InMagic software which makes it possible to search each word/term. The software also has the capability to accommodate images within its textbase.

In the library's case, its records, when taken from OCLC (Online Library Cataloging Center)—a bibliographic utility with more than 13,000 member libraries, worldwide—are in MARC format (machine readable format). InMagic has a MARC adaptor that translates these MARC records into standard English that can be easily read.

The library's holdings can be searched by author, title, publication date, publisher, or any key word in its database. Terms can be combined or limited to make the searching as precise as possible. The hope is that the catalog is user friendly and effective. This same InMagic software would be appropriate for searching the Center's other collections as in the future their records are converted to electronic format.

In accord with the Division's mission to promote the study of Marine Corps history, and with the traditional library approach for sharing bibliographic information, it is planned to offer copies of the diskettes of our library holdings to the Marine Corps University's Research Center to incorporate into its online catalog, "Chesty."

We also plan to provide other interested DOD and Marine Corps libraries a CD-ROM of our library holdings—libraries such as the Naval Academy, the Naval War College, the Navy Department Library, and the Marine Corps base libraries. Also in the future, it is hoped this catalog will be internet accessible (and InMagic has available another adaptor to convert it to HTML for the World Wide Web). □1775□

26th MEU(SOC) Marines Describe Civilian Evacuations

by David B. Crist
Oral History Unit

Since the end of the Cold War, Military Operations Other than War (MOOTW) have become common Marine Corps operations. Increasingly, the most prevalent of these endeavors is the NEO, or non-combatant evacuation of civilians. Seven times since 1990 Marines have been called upon to evacuate civilians threatened by the anarchy and civil war caused by collapsing central authority. All but one of these NEOs transpired in Africa. The lone exception occurred in March as Marines of 26th MEU(SOC) executed Operation Silver Wake in Tirana, Albania, as Europe, too, proved it was not immune to the problems of the late 20th century. Over two weeks in June, the author, as a member of the Oral History Unit, collected documents and conducted 33 interviews with the Marines of 26th MEU(SOC), recording a Marine Corps success, one that displayed the versatility and utility of the MEU in contemporary operations.

Albania's problems originated when government-sponsored pyramid money schemes collapsed, bankrupt-

ing one in every four Albanians. The recent proliferation of satellite dishes among the populace fanned the flames of discontent as Albanians viewed western television and discovered the shortcomings of their 40 years of Communist rule. Albanians rampaged through the streets, looting not only businesses, but also armories as the military disintegrated along with civil authority. The MEU's S-2, Captain John P. Talnagi, estimated that more than 5 million weapons and pieces of ammunition were looted from Albanian arsenals. This included the larger weapon systems, such as T-54 tanks, which were seen filled with civilians "joy-riding" through the city streets. Widespread shooting occurred throughout the capital of Tirana, as men, women, and even young children armed with AK-47s randomly fired into the air.

By his own admission the Commanding Officer of 26th MEU(SOC), Col Emerson Gardner, "leaned forward." With the situation in Albania deteriorating, the MEU was scheduled for a port visit in Malta. Gardner

pushed to have the U.S.S. *Nashville's* course changed to Corfu, Greece, where it would be much closer to respond to any contingency. Simultaneously, he ordered the Forward Command Element (FCE), commanded by MEU Executive Officer LtCol Daniel F. Tarpey, to cross-deck four CH-46s and two AH-1W Cobra helicopters from the U.S.S. *Nassau* to the *Nashville*. From there, coupled with the embarked infantry company, the Marines possessed the capability to quickly insert a force into the embassy if required. Earlier, Col Gardner had relayed his concept of operations to Sixth Fleet and the European Command (EUCOM), informing them of the MEU's ability to respond to the growing crisis.

These precautions proved fortuitous, especially for the American citizens in Albania. On 13 March, the U.S. ambassador in Tirana requested additional security for the embassy and the evacuation of American citizens from the country. Only the *Nashville* and her embarked Marines were available to quickly respond to the crisis. At dusk, the helicopters lifted off from the *Nashville* with 30 Marines bolstering the six-man FCE, four men from 26th MSSG as the Evacuation Control Center (ECC) and a platoon from Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, as the security force. The Marines had been briefed that they would be flying into a passive environment. As they approached the landing zone, all were surprised and more than a little apprehensive at the sight of the large amount of tracer fire which filled the night sky.

The Marines landed in a football field-sized clearing located at the bottom of a large depression in the middle of the Rilindja Ridge housing complex, one mile south of the embassy. They were greeted by 51 embassy dependents who, unknown to LtCol Tarpey, were awaiting an immediate evacuation. After some brief confu-

Some of the 877 American citizens and third-country nationals prepare for evacuation by Marine Corps helicopters in Tirana, Albania. As anarchy gripped the Albanian capital, entire families were forced to flee, bringing what few personal possessions they could carry with them.

Photo courtesy of Maj Robert H. McKenzie, USMC



sion, they were loaded on board the helicopters and flown to the *Nashville*. The FCE was established in an abandoned embassy employee's house and the ECC was set up in a parking lot near the main gate. 2dLt John K. Jarrard dug his platoon in around the housing complex to provide security. But with only 18 men in an area that required two platoons, he admitted later of spending an anxious night as stray rounds impacted into the housing complex.

All the while, the *Nassau*, with the remaining aviation assets and the designated helicopter company, steamed north from Malta to the Albanian coast. The next day, the morning of the 14th, HMM-365 inserted 150 Marines into the small LZ at Rilindja Ridge. This force comprised Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines; a full ECC; and a BLT tactical CP. Two platoons and the ECC were deployed around the housing complex, while one platoon secured the embassy compound. A plan to use a large airfield in the north of the city was scrapped at the last minute, according to Tarpey, due to the heavy volume of fire between competing factions at one end of the runway. Additionally, EUCOM objected to the idea of U.S. forces securing a runway which every other nationality would try to use to evacuate their own citizens. Throughout the day, Marine CH-46 and CH-53 helicopters ferried evacuees from Tirana to the *Nassau*, where after further processing, Marine and Navy helicopters flew them to Brindisi, Italy. The evacuation stopped at dusk due to the increased hazards of flying at night and the noticeable increase in volume of fire as Albanians emerged into the darkened streets to unload, as one Marine stated, "a few clips of ammunition into the sky." By the end of the day, 357 civilians, including 278 American citizens, had been evacuated to safety.

The next morning the evacuation resumed until halted after the only exchange of fire between Marines and Albanians during the entire operation. In the first incident an AH-1W, flown by LtCol Richard J. Crush and Capt



Photo courtesy of Maj Robert H. McKenzie, USMC

Marines from 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, guard the main gate into the U.S. Embassy's housing complex at Rilindja Ridge. One mile south of the embassy, Rilindja Ridge became the evacuation point for civilians fleeing Albania in March and April 1997.

Dennis J. Kiely, flew over an abandoned S-60 site on a large ridgeline southwest of the Rilindja Ridge housing complex. They observed what appeared to be a man pointing an SA-7 in their direction. Kiely released flares while Crush banked the Cobra hard down and to the right. Crush came back over the position for a second time, only now with his wingman close behind. As Captain Kiely recalled in his interview:

As we once again passed abeam of them a different character jumped up and picked up the tube and put it to his shoulder. This time I really thought he was going to launch it. He just had that look . . . Col Crush breaks hard down, we pop off a bunch of flares and say, OK you bastards, this time it's going to be it. As soon as Col Crush breaks hard and down I start seeing smoke and orange fire and I thought they had launched on us. What it turned out was Woodman and Trigger [their wingman] were there and saw them raise the tube and they didn't know what they were going to do, and they just opened up on them. I guess that was the rounds impacting on the deck.

A short time later, another AH-1W overflew a ZSU position on the same ridgeline. After drawing fire twice, the Cobra returned fire with its 2.75" rock-

ets, silencing the position. Following these incidents Sixth Fleet ordered a halt to the evacuation to reassess the threat. But there were no further provocative actions toward the U.S. forces and the Albanians appeared to go out of their way to avoid any activity that might be construed as hostile. By the end of the second day 688 civilians had been flown to safety. The evacuation continued over the next few days with the number of evacuees dropping off sharply. The BLT commander, LtCol Richard S. Moore, began to rotate additional companies, a platoon at a time, into the embassy and housing area to provide relief for Bravo company.

One tense moment, as related in the oral history interviews by Capt Van K. Tran and his crew chief, LCpl James P. Ryba, occurred when two Marine CH-53s were tasked to rescue a number of Turkish nationals trapped on a beach. When they touched down on the grid coordinates given them, instead of the Turks, they found themselves overwhelmed by hundreds of panicked Albanians who were under the false impression that the helicopters were there to rescue them. As Captain Tran observed:

People started coming to where we were and I didn't think too much of it, until I noticed that people started running toward the Dash 1 helicopter. I turned to the co-pilot and said, "Hey, look

at that [laughing], they are trying to get into Dash 1." At that point I turned around and there were Albanians inside my helicopter!

The Marines had to physically remove the Albanians from the helicopters as some clung desperately to seats or anything they could hold on to. Unfortunately, the 53s could not take off for fear that the tail rotor would dip down into the crowd clustered around the back of the helicopter. Eventually the Marine security force and the sand kicked up by the rotor wash kept the Albanians at bay long enough for the two helicopters to take off. The Turkish nationals were eventually rescued by an Italian naval vessel.

Meanwhile, 26th MEU(SOC) began to monitor another crisis, this time in Zaire. A civil war and the impending collapse of the Mobutu regime posed a growing danger to American lives. In preparation for an evacuation, a Joint Task Force (JTF) of mainly Army and Air Force personnel out of Europe had already been sent to the airport at Brazzaville, Congo, just across the river from Kinshasa. It comprised a 675-man headquarters element commanded by an Army major general, but had few actual troops to do the evacuation and little NEO experience. The Amphibious Ready Group received a tasking on 20 March to conduct split operations and dispatch the *Nassau* to support the JTF in the Congo. Fortunately, Col Gardner and his MEU had trained for split operations in both the MEU workup and just a few weeks prior in an exercise. Gardner ordered six helicopters, plus some ammunition and spare parts, to cross deck to the *Nashville* while the *Nassau* with Bravo company and the bulk of the aviation assets headed south at 19 knots for the 5,200-mile journey to the Congo.

As an evacuation could be ordered at any time, Col Gardner devised a proactive plan that would enable the MEU to respond quickly if the JTF requested support as the *Nassau* transited around Africa. As he explained in his oral history interview:

I had three Marine KC-130s attached to me for an exercise in Israel . . . and I just kept them So we developed a series of rolling packages in which we could fly Marines by helicopter to various air stations as the ship passed them and then load 117 Marines onto each C-130 and fly them straight to Brazzaville. The time it would require to reach it depended upon which airfield they flew out from. So from the 21st on, we could have had Marines in Brazzaville if need be, and as the ship closed, our response time was reduced.

They arrived off the coast on 2 April and fell underneath a newly revamped and scaled-down JTF, with the Marines now providing the bulk of the forces. Operation Guardian Retrieval, as it was called, took on a decidedly Marine appearance. 26th MEU(SOC) carried on board a prototype of a command and control suite called the "JTF enabler." This package of computers and secure communications was designed to allow the MEU to "enable" the establishment of a functioning joint headquarters above and beyond a MEU's capabilities. This JTF enabler now formed the backbone of the new headquarters' command and communications abilities, eliminating the need for such a large support force that marked the earlier JTF. Constraints imposed by EUCOM limited the number of forces in Brazzaville and thus the MEU developed a detailed evacuation plan which kept the bulk of its forces on ship some 200 miles away. It conducted numerous rehearsals to hone a plan which would allow for Marines to be in Kinshasa within just a few hours

All the while, the remainder of the MEU continued to support Silver Wake in Albania. Officially the evacuation ended on 26th March, but the Marines continued to provide security for the next 30 days until a more permanent arrangement could be made. The mission finally ended on 29 April when a composite Marine security force company from the U.S. and Italy arrived to relieve the MEU.

On 26th May portions of 22d

MEU(SOC) on board the U.S.S. *Kearsarge*, which had sailed early, arrived to relieve 26th MEU(SOC). While the situation in Kinshasa had stabilized somewhat, the possibility of a rapid deterioration existed. After a smooth turnover, 26th MEU sailed north for the wash-down in Rota, Spain. There, they rejoined the rest of the MEU for the first time in more than two months.

The experiences of 26th MEU in Albania and Zaire serve as an excellent example of MEU operations in the 1990s. The need to respond rapidly to developing crises and the increasing need to conduct split operations, in this case more than 5,000 miles apart, illustrate the challenges for amphibious forces today. It is a good example of the expeditionary nature of the MEU. For example, at the airport in Brazzaville, the trucks required to refuel arriving aircraft were broken and the Army and Air Force lacked the internal ability to repair them without contractor support. Marines from the MSSG using the facilities on the *Nassau* simply manufactured the required parts, thus eliminating the problem. The JTF enabler package proved its worth by allowing the MEU to provide the backbone for the JTF command and reduce the overall size of the U.S. forces committed. Although the Marines succeeded overall, as Col Gardner readily admits, "I could not have done it without help." Augmentation from Marine Forces Atlantic was needed to "fill in the holes," as the Marines T/O proved incapable of manning both the FCEs required for the two operations.

The interviews with 26th MEU are part of a continuing effort conducted by the Oral History Unit and the Historical Center to record contemporary Marine Corps operations. The collection has amassed more than 100 interviews since the 1990 evacuation of the embassy in Liberia. Both Reserve and active-duty historians have added to the collection by conducting additional interviews on other recent humanitarian and NEO operations such as those in Haiti and Sierra Leone. □1775□

New Base Facilities Named for Memorable Marines

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

Regular readers of *Fortitudine* will recall that the Reference Section of the Marine Corps Historical Center administers the Marine Corps Commemorative Naming Program. The purpose of this program is to recognize and pay tribute to heroic and distinguished Marines by naming buildings, classrooms, streets, roads, and other facilities on board bases in their honor.

Facilities are normally named in honor of deceased Marines or members of other military services who died while in service with Marine Corps units. The names of individuals who have made outstanding contributions of a lasting nature, either to the Marine Corps, or to the welfare of Marines, may also be considered. To date, more than 725 facilities are so named, and more than 525 Marines so recognized.

The following are among the significant naming actions which have been approved by the Commandant of the Marine Corps since December 1996:

In December 1996, the Commandant approved the naming of the Marine Corps Training Center, Folsom, Pennsylvania, in honor of MajGen Smedley D. Butler, USMC (Deceased). A legendary figure in the Marine Corps, the career of the dynamic Smedley Butler is well known throughout Delaware County and the Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania.

Then-BGen Smedley D. Butler



Cpl David B. Champagne

In January of this year, the Commandant concurred in the naming of the new Bachelor Enlisted Quarters at the Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, Rhode Island, in honor of Cpl David B. Champagne, USMC (Deceased). Cpl Champagne was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism while serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, in May 1952 during the Korean War.

In January, the Commandant also approved the naming of the new Corporals' Classroom at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, in honor of former Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Leland D. Crawford (Deceased). Throughout his military career, SgtMaj Crawford made important contributions to the Marine Corps and to the welfare of all Marines.

In March, the Commandant approved the naming of the future headquarters of the 14th Marines at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas, in honor of Col Richard M. Cutts, USMC (Deceased). The new headquarters is scheduled to be completed by October. Col Cutts was the first Commanding Officer of the 14th Marines when the unit activated 26 November 1918 at Quantico, Virginia. He served a distinguished career in the Marine Corps from 1899

until his death in 1934.

In April, the Commandant approved the naming of Courtroom 1, in Building 22163 at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, in honor of MSgt Daniel L. Corwin, USMC (Deceased). MSgt Corwin, a court reporter by military occupational specialty, was instrumental in the design and equipping of two recently renovated courtrooms at Camp Pendleton. His insight in constructing the courtrooms was essential and ensured that the rooms were functional and contributed to the effective administration of justice. MSgt Corwin, his wife, and son died tragically in an automobile accident on 31 October 1996. He had completed 15 years of active military service.

In May, the Commandant approved the naming of the Academics Building at Officer Candidates School, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Quantico, Virginia, in honor of Frederick C. Branch. On 10 November 1945, Mr. Branch became the first African-American commissioned as a Marine officer. He subsequently commanded an African-American volunteer reserve unit in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and after his service with the Marine Corps, began a 35-year career as a science teacher.

□1775□

SgtMaj Leland D. Crawford



July - December 1949

by Robert V. Aquilina
Assistant Head, Reference Section

Fortitudine's Chronology feature continues with debates in Washington during the summer and fall of 1949 over the future role of the Marine Corps in the United States defense establishment.

Summer 1949 - An Officer Candidate Screening Course was established in the Marine Corps. The course was designed to test leadership potential of a small group of talented enlisted men, and was opened to enlisted Marines with a college education or GCT score of 120. After four weeks, those who qualified were commissioned and ordered to Basic School for further training.

11 Aug - In Palestine, BGen William E. Riley, USMC, was assigned to the United Nations' Palestine Truce Mission as Chief of Staff. The UN's Palestine observance staff under Gen Riley was to be cut from 500 to 40 persons.

24 Aug - In Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, a bronze memorial tablet was dedicated in honor of 32 Marines who died in a plane crash on the South Tacoma Glacier on 10 December 1946.

6 Sep - A battalion landing team of the 21st Marines left Morehead City, North Carolina, to become the landing force of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean. It was redesignated 2/2 (Rein) on 20 October.

30 Sep - Marine Corps strength as of this date was 84,200.

17 Oct - The 2d Marines was reorganized and enlarged to full regimental strength. At the same time, the 6th Marines was also reactivated on the regimental level.

17 Oct - In Washington, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Clifton B. Cates, voiced his opposition to what he believed was an attempt by the Army General Staff to drastically reduce the size of the Marine Corps. Marine

Corps authorized strength stood at 100,000 men but was slated to be reduced to 67,000 by 30 June 1950. General Cates was supported in his views by retired Marine Commandant Gen Alexander A. Vandegrift.

20 Oct - In Washington, Gen J. Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assured the House Armed Services Committee that the Army did not intend to phase out the Marine Corps and assume its amphibious operations or to force the Navy to transfer its air arm to the Air Force.

21 Oct - In Washington, Defense Secretary Louis A. Johnson indicated he had asked former Navy Secretary John L. Sullivan to resign because he had opposed unification of the Armed Services. Sullivan, who quit on 26 April over a carrier dispute, denied Johnson's statement and said he had supported unification but was opposed to the abolition of Marine and Navy aviation and the "slow death" of the Marine Corps. Johnson said the Marine Corps would continue.

25-26 Oct - In Hawaii a 35,000-man, 90-ship Army-Navy-Marine task force "liberated" Hawaii from the theoretical enemy "Aggressor" in Exercise Miki - the largest U.S. post-war amphibious maneuver.

30 Oct - The Defense Department announced the laying up of various Navy ships in line with announced plans to reduce Navy and Marine manpower by 54,891 men by 1 July 1950.

5 Nov - The first enlisted pilots to fly the Lockheed TO-1 "Shooting Star" jet underwent training at the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro, California. □1775□

At services on the slopes of Washington's Mount Rainier in August, Marines present flags to parents and friends of 32

fellow Marines who lost their lives in a plane crash nearby on 10 December 1946.



Gleaming Brass, Interactive TV Enliven Corps Museum

By Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas
Curator of Material History

Visitors to the Marine Corps Museum now will see a number of changes which have been made over the past year. While some are decorative, others are new exhibits, or are substantial upgrades of existing displays. All of these are the result of collaborative efforts on the part of many staff members throughout the History and Museums Division.

Upon entering the museum, repeat visitors will find a new stand of colors where the Dahlgren boat howitzer used to be. The howitzer has been moved, and is now included with the other early landing guns. The new Marine Corps color has all of the battle and campaign streamers attached to it and is a duplicate of the Battle Standard carried by the Color Guard at Marine Barracks, 8th and I, Washington. The background wall behind the colors is now covered in scarlet carpeting, with new bold, polished brass letters announcing "United States Marine Corps Museum." This treatment, designed and executed by the staff of the Exhibits Section, also includes new golden oak trim leading up from the entrance area. On one side, the entrance to the Gift Shop has been refurbished, while the museum security staff desk area at the top of the other stairway has been completely removed, reconfigured, restored, and reinstalled. The seal of the Marine Corps is prominently placed



In the Museum's "Time Tunnel" display on the contemporary Marine Corps, "Ready, Responsive, Combined-Arms Team," an interactive TV invites viewer participation.

over the museum security desk.

Just beyond the new desk area, a new exhibit on the Commandants of the Marine Corps was designed, constructed, and installed in May by Ronald J. Perkins and Ronnie D. Alexander of the Air-Ground Museums Exhibits Section. The large, fine-quality photographs were reproduced from the original art under the direction of Chief Curator Charles A. Wood and Art Curator John T. Dyer, Jr., while new biographies were prepared by

staff historians and edited by Chief Historian Benis M. Frank and Curator of Material History Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas. This long-term standing exhibit replaces the temporary Korean War exhibit which was mounted in conjunction with the dedication of the Korean War Memorial in the summer of 1995 (See *Fortitudine*, Summer 1995), and highlights each of the Commandants of the Marine Corps.

Upon entering the "Time Tunnel," the visitor will immediately notice that the new lighting system is rheostatically controlled by means of a timer and that the small lights are much softer, but yet more focused than the large track lights which had been installed when the museum opened. These lights are also installed inside each exhibit case, and they afford the opportunity for more dramatic highlighting of the artifacts, documents, and graphics. The lights gradually come up when a visitor trips a sensor and then fade out after the viewer has moved on to see another exhibit. Besides saving money, this system also reduces the amount of light damage to sensitive artifacts and documents. The installation of this system was a major project in late 1966, as about one-third of the artifacts and graphics in each case had to be removed for the electricians to

(Continued on page 15)