



MARINES

FORTITUDINE

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

VOL III

SPRING 1974

NO. 4



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FORTITUDINE

was the motto of the United States Marine Corps in the 1812 era.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

Director's Page.....	3
Drawing Marines in Turkey.....	6
"An Old Navy Toast".....	7
Historians of the Corps.....	8
Lineage and Honors.....	12
Historians visit Quantico.....	13
The Squadron History Program.....	13
The Marine Corps Brevet Medal.....	14
VN Advisors Wanted.....	15
"Do it yourself" Oral History.....	16
USF Constellation.....	17
McCutcheon Papers.....	18
60 Years since Veracruz.....	19
People and Places.....	21
New Catalog Published.....	23

Cover

Marine Corps Reserve Capt Leonard H. Dermott's sketch of a Marine participating in Exercise DEEP FURROW 73. Story of the exercise appears on page 6.

Director's Page

"Every day is Christmas," is a cliché much bandied about the History and Museums Division and for good reason because a day seldom passes that some interesting and unexpected historical property doesn't arrive, usually the gift of some present or former Marine. The cliché took on a more specific meaning recently when we received something through the unlikely route of "Toys for Tots." The Marine Reservists of the Engineer Maintenance Company in Omaha found in one of their collection barrels, unannounced and anonymously, a copy of the *American Legation Guard Annual*, Peking, China, for 1932.



In that vintage year for China Marines, Capt. John W. Thomason, Jr., was the Post Adjutant and Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, and the annual bears his mark. There are several unmistakable although unsigned Thomason sketches in the book and much of the Commanding Officer's Message reads like Thomason:

"The Legation Guard is a fortunate detachment, as outfits go these peaceful days....In effect, this detachment is a miniature division, for it comprises the three combat arms of the Land Forces: artillery, cavalry, and infantry, carrying an appropriate variety of weapons -- while the Headquarters Detachment performs all the functions of division specialists, from searchlights to carpentering and catering....Aside from the rifle shooting which is the particular accomplishment of marines, we have fired our machine guns from a thousand yards down to a thousand inches; our field battery did its target practice with live ammunition on the artillery range in Tientsin; and we have worked out with our several grenades, our Trench Mortars and 37 mm guns, our sabres, and our sub-Thompsons....

"China is a fascinating place where anything can happen, although it seldom does; and in view of our mission in Peking, and our isolated situation, it follows that our standard of efficiency must be high....Our activities off the drill field, and out of ranks, have been as varied as our weapons."

In shooting for a small-bore trophy set up by the American Minister, "Appropriately enough, we won, over the excellent sharpshooters of the Queen's Regiment, the Italian Marines, and the French Colonials....

"The Medical Detachment has exercised vigilant supervision over our living conditions, which, in this country of sudden and exotic diseases, is no light assignment, and the health of the command has been, generally, good....although in the space of four months, six enlisted men died of disease, receiving our military honors, and the generous condolences of the foreign guards....

"Finally, the conduct of the conduct of the command has been extremely

gratifying, and should be a source of pride to all ranks....We have performed our mission, and, without losing sight of its gravity, we have had a good time while we were doing it...."

The editor of the *Annual* was Sgt Alvin L. Cramer, now a retired warrant officer living in Dearborn, Michigan (we printed some of his old China photos in the Fall 1972 *Fortitudine*). Amongst the many familiar faces peering out from the pages was that of a very young 2dLt James P. Berkeley, Mess Officer and Company Officer, Company "A." We wrote to General Berkeley and he not only remembered the 1932 *Annual* but also sent us his copies of the 1933 and 1934 editions.



2dLt James P. Berkeley in 1932

In 1933 Capt Thomason had left the Legation Guard and the new post adjutant and editor-in-chief was a thin-faced lieutenant named Evans F. Carlson. There was a change of commanding officers that year. Col Louis M. Gulick had departed the post on 23 May, having had the unique distinction of being commandant of the Guard on three different tours -- as a captain in 1907, as a colonel from June 1919 until June 1921, and again from 13 March 1932. His successor was Col Presley M. Rixey, Jr. whose son, Presley M. Rixey, III, was then serving as a first lieutenant with the 4th Marines in Shanghai.



LtGen James P. Berkeley in 1963

There is an excellent outline history of the Legation Guard by Lt Carlson in the 1933 *Annual* and I will be pleased to send a copy of it to any seriously interested reader. He notes that the chaos of the Chinese Revolution kept the International Guard on the qui vive but that there was never an instance where it was necessary to apply force for the protection of the foreign quarter.

1stLt Lewis B. Puller was a company officer in "A" Company and there is a picture of him receiving a Navy Cross (for his service in Nicaragua in 1932, the second of his five Navy

Crosses). In the 1934 *Annual* there is a photo of Puller swinging on board a train on his way to sea duty in the USS *Augusta*. 1stLt Charles E. Shepherd, Jr., relieved Puller as troop commander of the Mounted Detachment and about the mounts of that detachment, Pvt Ralph H. Brooks has this to say:

"....We must give a lot of credit to these little Mongolian ponies that we ride. Their weight runs about 650 to about 725 pounds, and they average thirteen hands in height. They are usually in their prime at about six or seven years of age. The average jump for them is about three and a half feet. Because of the size of these ponies, men picked for the Mounted must weight from 140 to 170 pounds. Each man coming to the Troops must have a clean record or he will not be accepted, and this is one of the reasons that we have one of the finest outfits in the Marine Corps."

Col Thomason, a continuing favorite with *Fortitudine* readers, did much between World Wars I and II to establish in the public's eye and ear the image of the salty, insouciant, hard-bitten, and infinitely resourceful U.S. Marine. Ralph Donnelly discusses him further in this issue's installment of his series, "Historians of the Corps."



ACTIVITIES



ORGANIZATIONS

Drawings by Capt John W. Thomason used as chapter heads in the 1932 American Legation Guard Annual

Drawing Marines in Turkey

By Capt Leonard H. Dermott, USMCR

In civilian life, Marine Corps Reserve Capt Leonard H. Dermott is an artist who maintains a studio and gallery year round in Milbridge, Maine.

Dermott is a veteran of Vietnam where he served as an artillery officer and a Combat Artist during 1967. He has produced many outstanding paintings and drawings for the Marine Corps Art Collection.

He again donned Marine green to cover the multi-nation NATO exercise "Deep Furrow" held in Turkey and in Greece in the fall of 1973. There he observed Turkish and Greek soldiery and British Royal Marines as well as his own U. S. Marines.

Some of his personal observations, information on his working methods, and philosophy on drawing and painting appear below.

On 19 September 1973 I joined the Reserve officers and men of "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division at their home training center in Hartford, Connecticut. We shortly boarded an aircraft for a long transoceanic hop to Izmir, Turkey where we joined the 4th Marine Amphibious Brigade task organized from Fleet Marine Force Atlantic units in North Carolina to participate in the NATO Exercise, DEEP FURROW 73. My role was to cover the event as a Marine combat artist.



Marines move inland moments after hitting Red Beach 1 on Saros Bay in the Turkish Trace during NATO Exercise Deep Furrow 73

During and since the Vietnam War Marines have grown accustomed to fellow Marine artists working with them in the field. Marine Corps art not only documents the history of the Corps but in its own unique way through public showings has brought the story of the Corps to an influential segment of the population who otherwise may not have been reached.

The Corps, rightfully proud of its history and traditions, has come to welcome the artist as the man capable of visually and interpretively recording its achievements and heritage. Thus, during this exercise, I found the utmost cooperation at every level of command in meeting the requirements of the artist.

After a couple of unsettled days of moving from one ship to another, I joined the command ship USS *Mt. Whitney* in Saros Bay. There I touched base with the Public Affairs section and set up base at the Command Information Bureau ashore on the morning of the 24th.

I knew that it would be useless to sit on the beach and try to paint a watercolor as the Marines stormed ashore so I made use of my camera in stopping the action for future reference in my studio in Maine where I would complete my finished work. Each evening I would have my photos processed aboard *Mt. Whitney* so that they could be sorted and filed be-

fore I returned to the field the next morning.

While in the field I always carried a small pocket notebook and would frequently jot down impressions of color or rough out rapid compositions which would later serve as recalls while doing my finished work. In the field everything had to be quick because the movement was continuous.

After concentrating ten full days on the exercise there were four days of liberty in Athens where I took the golden opportunity to gather into perspective 1,600 years of sculpture and architecture. On 5 October I rejoined Bravo Company and headed for home.

In recent years I have increasingly felt the value and beauty of drawing over more elaborate painting. Where color is merely sensuous it can distract from the essence of the subject. Hence some work can actually be rendered more powerful and expressive through drawing. I approached the DEEP FURROW assignment with this concept in depicting the joint participation of Regular and Reserve Marines, as well as the Turks and British Royal Marines. I am finding such an approach more sensitive, though ironically I spend more time on a drawing than on a watercolor -- in several instances spending two and three days completing a single drawing.

AN OLD NAVY TOAST

Here's to the Gyrene Captain,
with gin in his canteen.
We've heard of the Unknown Soldier,
but never an Unknown Marine.

Usually given at a Happy Hour ashore by a Captain USN to his Marine Detachment Captain USMC.

Historians of the Corps

By Ralph W. Donnelly

First and foremost he was a Marine. But he was equally well qualified and known as an artist and as an author. Tie all of these together in a unique bundle and you arrive at John W. Thomason, Jr., an historian of the Marine Corps.

Yet, as we try to relate him to the prototype of the professional historian who buttresses his position with copious footnotes, we try in vain. He had one experience in this area, and it was not a happy one.

Thomason entered the First Texas Battalion of Marines (National Naval Volunteers) on 6 April 1917, and was soon commissioned. First assigned as a Platoon Leader in the 49th (B) Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, he fought in all the battles of the 4th Marine Brigade in France, being one of the fortunate few officers who performed their stint without injury.

During the American occupation of Germany, Thomason, now a captain, commanded the 49th Company until July 1919 when he took over the 17th Company. It was not until August 1919 that he returned home. Before the close of the year 1919, Thomason was on duty in Cuba in command of a mounted company, the 37th Company of the 7th Marines, where he served until October 1921 when a reassignment brought him to the Marine Barracks, Naval Operating Base, Hampton Roads, Va. His early writings of his war experiences done at this time were rejected by magazine publishers, not for a failure to measure up in writing and sketching, but to the editorial omniscience that



the war theme was untimely. Efforts in the areas of guinea shooting in Cuba and the American tourist trade fulfilled his need to write and achieve publication.

In November 1923 he was assigned to the command of the Marine Guard at the Naval Ammunition Depot, Dover (Lake Denmark), N.J. His initial success took place shortly afterwards. It was the display of some of his drawings and water colors in 1924 that led to a meeting with executives of Charles Scribner's Sons, Publishers. They were intrigued with his drawings but felt they needed a textual account to go with them. Thomason had this material also; the end result was the highly successful *Fix Bayonets*.

His two-year tour at Dover was soon over, and he was sent to sea on board the cruiser USS *Rochester*, flagship of the Special Service Squadron. This assignment took him to Panama,

Costa Rica, Peru, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Nicaragua. It was not long before this experience was reflected in his stories.

World War I had been over about seven years when plans for the preparation of a history of the 2d Division, AEF, in France and Germany reached the execution stage, and the selection of a research and writing team was begun. Thomason's name was suggested, and Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune heartily endorsed him as a member of the panel. Orders were issued in March 1927 for Thomason to report to the 2d Division Historical Section convened at the U. S. Army War College at what was then called Fort Humphreys, now Fort McNair, in Washington, D. C.

As Col Roger Willock, Thomason's biographer, points out, "...Thomason was a firm believer in the theory that before writing on any subject it was incumbent on the author to be thoroughly informed in that particular field or topic." It took only a few months of reviewing and evaluating the material collected for the 2d Division history before Thomason realized they would produce a one-sided history and that it was necessary to review the war diaries of the German combat units. He then requested six weeks leave at his own expense to visit France and Germany and to inspect the German Army records at Berlin and nearby Potsdam.

By March 1930 Thomason had completed his assigned historical task and the completed work had been placed in the hands of his superiors. Thomason himself doubted whether the history would ever be published as the record indicated the German Army had not been decisively de-

feated, and, secondly, the elapsed time from the end of the war to a publication date was too long for widespread popular reception.

He was right. The history was never published. A portion written by Thomason, "Second Division - Northwest of Chateau Thierry - 1 June 10 July 1918," consisting of 264 type pages is retained on microfilm by the Reference Section of the History and Museums Division, HQMC. It is detailed on the company, platoon, and even individual level. It gives much information on the German Army and is one history which honestly acknowledges that the German divisions encountered by the American Marines at Belleau Wood were low rated divisions or assault divisions which were worn out and much reduced in strength, but still tough men in a fight.

He was in China in 1931 when he received a request, out of official channels, to return to the Army War College in Washington, D. C., to assist in writing the final draft of the history. He was personally opposed to returning to the history project as he had become dissatisfied with the entire project and chagrined at the disapproval of his recommendations as to the manner in which the history should be written. This made it easy to reject an interservice request improperly submitted out of official channels.

Duty in China was an experience which was considered a choice assignment in the Marine Corps, and Thomason made the most of orders which took him to the American Legation Guard at Peiping in September 1930. He returned to the United States in 1933. His experiences in France, the Caribbean, and China led to other self-illustrated books, *Red Pants*

(1927), *Marines and Others* (1929), and *Salt Winds and Gobi Dust* (1934).

An introduction to Dr. Douglas S. Freeman, the noted Confederate historian, in 1929 led to research on a biography of the colorful Confederate cavalry leader, James Ewell Brown ("Jeb") Stuart. In his usual thoroughgoing manner, he went beyond the available written records to communicate with surviving family members who shared personal recollections, family stories, and personal letters and papers which had been held private previously. In his foreword to the book, Thomason gave a brief review of his sources but frankly stated:

"....I have not wanted to clutter my pages with footnotes and references, thereby giving the specious appearance of a scholarship which I may not, with justice, claim. I will be happy to furnish specific sources to any person who is sufficiently interested to write me about any given point....For the most part, I have gone to the reports and the messages, and I have drawn my own conclusions from what I considered the best evidence....So, if you would verify or disprove anything that I have set down, take the official records, and your maps and go look at the ground. I have tried to be accurate without being tiresome and technical, and I have tried to be as unprejudiced as is possible to a grandson and nephew of Confederate officers and soldiers,.... What I have attempted is not a history of a war, but a portrait of a splendid human soul, expressed through the profession of arms."

His self-denigration as a scholar was destroyed by the excellence of the product titled simply *Jeb*

Stuart which appeared first as a series of six articles in Scribner's Magazine and then in 1930 as a book. As usual, the book was liberally illustrated by the author.

Although his military duties took him to Headquarters for duty as Aide to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy in December 1933, the Army War College (as a student this time), the Naval War College, and then to the West Coast where he soon became the commanding officer of the 2d Battalion, 6th Marines, his writing continued. His articles appeared regularly in the *Saturday Evening Post* and the *American Mercury*.

The Confederate forebears and neighbors of John W. Thomason, Jr., who had been born in Huntsville, Texas, on 28 February 1893, gave him a proud affection for the Confederate Army as well as an accumulation of stories, many of which emerged, first as short stories, and then in 1941 as *Lone Star Preacher*. Thomason's comment was:

"It is the fiction writer's privilege to take something from that one, and to add something of his own, for the creation of the story he has to tell. The strict shackles which bind the historian do not fetter the merchant of imagined tales. Yet your narrator concedes one hard limitation of which the annalist is free -- fiction must be probable. History can be, and frequently is, well over to the incredible side."

Included in the recently published *A Thomason Sketchbook* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1969) are two pages of sketches (pp.55 and 114) dealing with a Confederate cavalry leader about whom he never wrote,

Nathan Bedford Forrest. The late Robert Selph Henry told me that Thomason had agreed to illustrate Henry's *First with the Most - Forrest* (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1944) but only one picture had been completed before Col Thomason's death on 12 March 1944. Henry remarked how meticulous Thomason had been concerning details to be incorporated into the sketches, even to checking on whether Forrest was right-handed or left-handed as this fact would determine on which side of the horse his sabre scabbard would be carried. The one finished picture was utilized as a frontispiece and on the dust jacket.

Ostensibly a writer of fiction, Thomason has nevertheless produced historical works which describe how the Marine Corps functioned from World War I through the '20s and '30s, recreating the mood, probing

the thinking processes of the enlisted men and junior officers, and introducing the reader to the color and flavor of "the Old Corps." He has set the scene - he has performed the historical service of recreating the past.

His attitude toward writing was quoted by Col Willock, "I cannot afford to wait for moods nor can I afford to pay another to do my research. I enjoy drawing, but I can assure you, writing for me is very hard work." Willock notes that Thomason wrote rather slowly but exercised such unusual care that few corrections were necessary as evidenced from an inspection of the manuscripts of his short stories.

It might have been hard work for Thomason, but the history of the Marine Corps is better for it.



Marines under artillery fire, France 1918

Lineage and Honors

The lineage of a Marine unit is the record of its antecedents, changes, relocations, and overall evolution reduced to the simplest chronological statement, in short its genealogy. The honors of a Marine unit, on the other hand, is a record of its accomplishments, campaigns, and awards. The History and Museums Division has the responsibility for authenticating both the lineage and honors of Marine Corps organizations and provides certificates to them as a permanent, visible record.

This series, a continuing feature of *Fortitudine* reproduces the text of the lineage and honors certificates and continues with the recently updated statements for the 3d and 5th Marine Divisions.

LINEAGE: 3d Marine Division

Activated 16 September 1942 at Camp Elliott, California as the 3d Marine Division. Deployed during January-February 1943 to Auckland, New Zealand. Participated in the following World War II campaigns: Treasury-Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Guam, and Iwo Jima. Deactivated 28 December 1945.

Reactivated 7 January 1952 at Camp Pendleton, California as the 3d Marine Division. Redeployed during August 1953 to Camp Gifu, Japan. Redeployed during February 1956 to Camp Courtney, Okinawa.

Redeployed during April-May 1965 to the Republic of Vietnam. Participated in the war in Vietnam, April 1965 - November 1969, operating from Quang Tri Province and Thua Thien Province. Redeployed during November 1969 to Camp Courtney, Okinawa.

HONORS: 3d Marine Division

Presidential Unit Citation Streamer
with one bronze star:

World War II: Iwo Jima
Vietnam

Navy Unit Commendation Streamer

World War II: Iwo Jima

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Streamer
with four bronze stars

World War II Victory Streamer

National Defense Service Streamer
with one bronze star

Korean Service Streamer

Vietnam Service Streamer with two
silver and one bronze star

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm

LINEAGE: 5th Marine Division

Activated 1 December 1943 at Camp Pendleton, California as the 5th Marine Division. Deployed during August 1944 to Camp Tarawa, Hawaii. Participated in the following World War II campaign: Iwo Jima. Redeployed during September 1945 to Sasebo, Japan. Participated in the Occupation of Japan, September-December 1945. Relocated during December 1945 to Camp Pendleton California. Deactivated 5 February 1946.

Reactivated 1 June 1966 at Camp Pendleton, California. Elements participated in the war in Vietnam, 1967-1969. Deactivated 26 November 1969.

HONORS: 5th Marine Division

Presidential Unit Citation Streamer
World War II: Iwo Jima

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Streamer
with one bronze star

World War II Victory Streamer

Navy Occupation Service Streamer
with Asia Clasp

National Defense Service Streamer

Vietnam Service Streamer with three
bronze stars

Historians visit Quantico

Orientation on the Marine Corps was provided the civilian members of the Historical Branch when they visited Quantico on 21 February.

In addition to a briefing on the Education Center and a tour of the facilities and Breckenridge Library, the historians visited the Marine Corps Museum, Officers Candidate School, and The Basic School. Fi-

nale of the day was attendance at the live-fire night demonstration, Rifle Platoon in the Defense, nicknamed the "Mad Moment."

The purpose was to acquaint the historians with the Corps about which they are writing. The visit was the first of a new series of presentations and seminars for the members of the division.



Historians visit Obstacle Course

THE SQUADRON HISTORY PROGRAM

Two more squadrons have joined the aviation unit "buddy" history program. Maj Ashley Fisher, USMCR spent two weeks in January at the Histories Branch conducting initial research on VMA-124. The squadron is a unit of the Marine Air Reserve located at NAS Memphis. Maj Fisher has been active in public affairs both on periods of active duty and in civilian life. Publication of the pamphlet is anticipated in late summer this year.

The other squadron is HMM-263 based at MCAS Quantico. Equipped with CH-46 helicopters it is a member of MAG-26. Capt Donald F. Zeller who holds a degree in history has begun a period of intensive research and writing. Publication is also tentatively scheduled for late summer.

The "buddy" program has been set up to allow unit historians to conduct research in the Branch under the guidance of a professional writer. Editorial assistance is available to complete the pamphlet, which is published under the auspices of the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums.

The Marine Corps Brevet Medal

One of the most unusual of the personal awards which has been presented to Marines over the years, the Marine Corps Brevet Medal, was a twentieth century recognition of a practice in American military usage pre-dating the Revolution.

The brevet commission, a French custom adopted by the British as a means of circumventing rigid European regimental promotion rules in order to permit recognition of meritorious service or special qualifications, was first awarded to Marines during the War of 1812. The act of 16 April 1814 permitted the President to "confer brevet rank on such officers of the Marine Corps as shall distinguish themselves by gallant actions or meritorious conduct, or shall have served 10 years in any one grade."

Capt Anthony Gale was the first Marine to receive a brevet commission of major for serving 10 years in grade as a captain. Several other officers were brevetted during the war including a few for meritorious service in combat. The recipient wore no ribbon or medal for this honor, and received no extra pay. He was only entitled to be addressed at the next highest rank with the word "brevet" in front of it.

The act of 30 June 1834 rescinded the right to brevet an officer for 10 years of service in grade. Throughout the 19th century the brevet commission remained the principal award presented to officers for gallant actions under combat conditions. Twenty seven brevets were awarded to 26 Marine officers (one officer re-

ceived two) during the Mexican War. With the close of the Civil War, 21 more Marine officers had been brevetted.

The Medal of Honor was authorized during this time, but it was an award reserved only for enlisted men.

Brevets were also frequently employed in the 19th Century Army and in at least one incident a Marine serving under Army command was brevetted by the Army. Archibald Henderson, "Mr. Marine Corps" of the 19th century, received an Army brevet to brigadier general for his services in the Florida Indian Wars and thus became the Marine Corps' first general.

Brevets were awarded to officers for various actions during the Spanish American War, Philippine Insurrection, and the Boxer Rebellion.

But the day of the brevet was coming to a close. In 1870, another act was passed which stated that officers had to be addressed by their actual rank, not their brevet rank.

And, during World War I, with the authorization of the Navy Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal to begin the hierarchy of heroism the practice if not the legal authority for brevets ended for Marines.

The story of the medal itself was yet to come. In 1921, Major General Commandant John A. Lejeune recommended that a medal or ribbon be authorized for those officers who had received brevets. The medal was finally struck when the award was already obsolete since the last

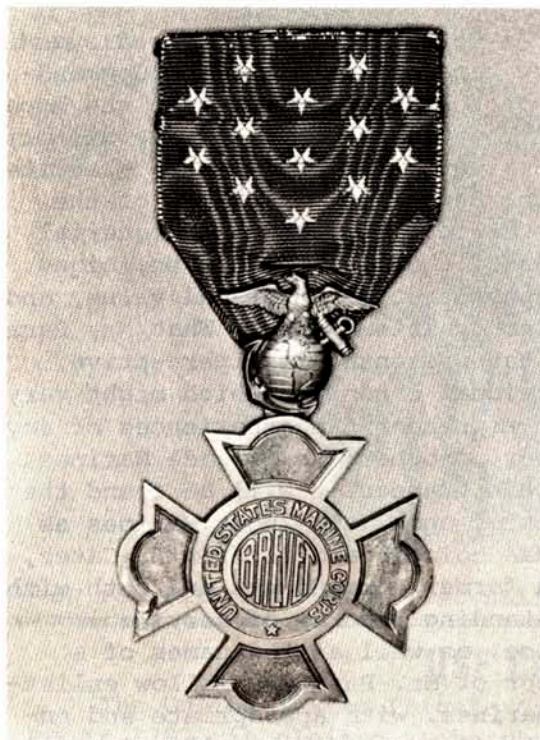
brevet was presented in 1901. Only 23 Marines were alive to receive the Brevet Medal for Civil War, postwar expeditionary, Spanish-American, Philippine Insurrection, and Boxer Rebellion exploits, but in those 23 were such names as Smedley D. Butler, Carl Gamborg-Andresen, Newt H. Hall, Charles G. Long, Wendell C. Neville, Percival C. Pope, and L.W.T. Waller, truly a "gallant band."

Subsequently the Brevet Medal was placed immediately after the

Medal of Honor in precedence.

The Brevet Medal is a bronze cross pattee with rounded ends attached to a dark red ribbon studded with 13 white stars. The obverse has the word "Brevet" encircled by the words "United States Marine Corps." On the reverse of the medallion is the inscription "For Distinguished Conduct in Presence of Enemy." The Marine Corps insignia joins the medal to the ribbon.

G.M.N & R.P.G.



Obverse



Reverse

VN ADVISORS WANTED

The Division of History and Museums, Headquarters Marine Corps is attempting to identify Marines who were assigned as advisors or served OJT in Vietnam, 1955-1973. If you have served in either capacity or know of anyone not currently on active duty who has, please provide HQMC (Code HDH) with the following information: Name, Rank, SSN, MOS, Former Serial Number, Mailing Address, Complete Identification of VNMC/ARVN unit served, Period of Service, Awards as an Advisor, Special Operations, and Articles Published.

"Do it yourself" Oral History

All oral history programs generally consist of three basic components -- an interviewer, an interviewee, and a tape recorder. In those cases where the interviewee has total recall, a story to tell, and written records available to support the events which he will narrate into the microphone of a tape recorder, then an interviewer may be considered superfluous. Also, one may not be available. In any case, this can then be called "do it yourself" oral history. An example is the transcript of an oral history provided by former GySgt Don V. Paradis that has recently been accessioned into the Marine Corps Oral History Collection.

Mr. Paradis enlisted in the Marine Corps in April 1917 when the United States declared war on Germany and the Central Powers. He received his recruit training at Parris Island before transfer to Quantico and assignment as a private to the 80th Company, 2d Battalion, 6th Marines, when it was formed in Quantico, and remained with this company throughout the fighting in France and the post-war occupation of Germany. In August 1919, the 80th Company was returned with its parent 4th Brigade to the United States and marched in two parades -- one up Fifth Avenue in New York and the second in Washington, where it was reviewed by President Woodrow Wilson before its disbandment in Quantico. Shortly thereafter, Paradis, who had risen to the rank of gunnery sergeant by the end of the war, together with the rest of the Marines who had enlisted only for the duration of the war, was paid off, and returned to civilian life.

In subsequent years, former GySgt Paradis amassed a considerable amount of material relating to the record of the 4th Marine Brigade in France, and, more directly, to the record of the 80th Company. He then recorded on tape an oral memoir of his experiences as a Marine and of the campaigns in which he fought as well as the occupation of Germany in which he participated.

In October 1972, Mr. Paradis sent these tape cassettes to the Commandant of the Marine Corps with the hope that they might prove of some historical value. The cassettes were audited by Mr. Benis M. Frank, Head of the Oral History Unit, and the material recorded therein found to be unique, of considerable historical value, and extremely interesting. What Mr. Paradis has presented is a perceptive, individual chronicle which might very well represent the experiences of any number of other 4th Brigade Marines. In this transcript will be found the names of such well-known Marines as Thomas Holcomb and Clifton B. Cates, both former Commandants and both with outstanding records of service in France, as well as the names of a number of Mr. Paradis' fellow enlisted Marines, with appropriate and enlightening comments on all. In addition, accompanying this memoir are a selection of letters Mr. Paradis sent to his family and friends from France and Germany, as well as a selection from Mr. Paradis' album of World War I-vintage photographs. The originals of both the letters and the photograph album are now deposited in the Marine Corps Manuscripts Collection held by the Marine Corps Museums in Building 198, Washington Navy Yard.

In acknowledging receipt of Mr. Paradis' oral history memoirs, the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Earl E. Anderson, wrote the donor as follows:

"The Marine Corps is indeed fortunate in retaining the loyalty of

so many men who served in its ranks, no matter the length of their tours of active duty....as you know, the health and well-being of the Marine Corps is sustained by the record of accomplishment of those who wore its uniform in all its battles, and your tapes add to that record." B.M.F.



Seven recruits in their first uniforms at P.I. Paradis is top row, right

USF CONSTELLATION

The United States Frigate *Constellation* in Baltimore, first launched in 1797, is claimed to be the oldest Navy ship extant and the oldest ship continuously afloat in the world. In contrast to its contemporary *Constitution* "Old Ironsides" at Boston which is maintained by the U. S. government, *Constellation* is being restored and maintained by a committee of private citizens headed by Adm Arleigh A. Burke, USN (Ret).

Many Marines shipped out on *Constellation* from 1798 until her retirement as an active warship in 1865 and the frigate moored at Pier 1 Baltimore serves frequently as the focal point of ceremonies conducted by the nearby 4th Engineer Battalion, Marine Corps Reserve.

Readers interested in learning more about *Constellation* and its restoration can write to U.S. Frigate *Constellation*, Baltimore, Md. 21202 and ask for a free copy of the committee's quarterly newsletter, *Yardarm*.

McCutcheon Papers

A collection of the personal papers of General Keith B. McCutcheon has been acquired by the Museums Branch. The donation was made by Mrs. McCutcheon and accepted by the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums on 9 January 1974.

Born in East Liverpool, Ohio, Gen McCutcheon graduated with honors from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1937. The same year he was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant. He completed flight training in 1940 and served aboard the aircraft carriers USS *Ranger*, *Wasp*, and *Yorktown*. He later completed aeronautical engineering courses at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning his Master's degree in 1944. That September, as a lieutenant colonel, he served as operations officer of Marine Aircraft Group 24 at Bougainville and at Luzon and Mindanao in the Philippine Islands. It was during this period that he was largely responsible for developing an entirely new concept of close air support and air control.

In post-war assignments as an instructor in the aviation section of Marine Corps Schools and with the Bureau of Aeronautics he was instrumental in conceiving the doctrine, tactics and techniques for helicopter warfare. He also was active the same time in jet propulsion, guided missiles, and pilotless aircraft.

His helicopter experience included command in 1950 of HMX-1, at the time the only helicopter squadron in the Marine Corps, commanding of-

ficer of Helicopter Transport Squadron 161 in Korea, and commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 26 in 1957. In these assignments he continued to develop new concepts of vertical amphibious assault.

Then-Brigadier General McCutcheon first reported to the Republic of Vietnam in June 1965 as Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force. On his return to the United States he was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff (Air) and directed the war-time build-up of Marine aviation and the introduction of a new generation of aircraft which included the AU-8 "Harrier." He returned to Vietnam in February 1970 as the Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force. He was appointed Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps but was unable to assume the post because of ill health. By special act of Congress he was promoted to general on 1 July 1971 and placed on the retired list the same day. The general died two weeks later.

A preliminary inventory of the papers has been held and a tentative catalog prepared. The collection contains personal correspondence, studies, and other information pertaining to all phases of his military career.

The collection represents a valuable addition to the manuscript files, particularly in the areas of close air support, air control, helicopter development, guided missiles, and the appropriate periods of the war in Vietnam.

C.A.W. and W.R.F.

60 Years since Veracruz

The first combat test of the newly formed Marine Advance Base Force (forerunner of the Fleet Marine Force) came with the landing at Veracruz, Mexico just 60 years ago this 21 April. U.S. non-recognition of the new Huerta government, an "insult" to the American flag, and the approach of a shipload of German arms resulted in the landing of two regiments of the Advance Base Force plus a regiment of Marines and bluejackets from the fleet.

Incident to this anniversary the History and Museums Division has received from LtGen James Berkeley, USMC (Ret.), papers of his father, then Maj Randolph Carter Berkeley, who commanded 1st Battalion, 2d Regiment at Veracruz. Included in the papers was his account of the action described in a letter home. We reproduce it here in part.

"....It never entered my mind, when coming ashore, as to whether I should be the first to land. I was only surprised that we were not shot up while in the boats. We did not encounter any opposition until we had advanced up the Calle Montesenos about two blocks on our way to take the round house. We then deployed across the head of about four streets and vigorously responded to their fire. In my command, the First Battalion, of the Second Advance Base Regiment, I had three companies of one hundred men each, which command I still have...."

"....I had one man killed and six wounded in my battalion, and all of my wounded are getting well. Most of these casualties took place at the head of the Calle Cinco de Mayo,

when we faced the masonry barracks of the Nineteenth infantry regiment (Mex.). In a little while we had loopholed a concrete wall, behind which we placed our riflemen and machine guns, covering different streets, and after that we never had a man touched. I could have advanced on the round house, but received orders to clear the streets and house tops, and Reid was sent around my rear to the round house.

"The second day we cleared out the town by advancing through the houses and over the house tops, while my machine guns held the streets running north and south. We did a good job, without the loss of a man. Our men were as cool and collected under fire as on the target range. Lying down at the heads of the streets, before they had any cover, they worked in pairs, giving each other the ranges, and picking their targets. We expended about thirty rounds of ammunition per man, including machine gun firing, in two days of fighting. Only once did I see more than one man at a time empty his magazine, and that never happened a second time. Also to show how our men behaved, we occupied the storehouse of a brewery the first night, and a railroad warehouse, where there was all kinds of liquor, and not a man touched a drop..."

Berkeley received one of the nine Medals of Honor awarded Marine officers for Veracruz. This may seem an excessive number for such a small brief action but it must be remembered that the Medal of Honor was the only award available at that time for distinguished conduct.

With the Berkeley papers is the

order of the Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, commending Berkeley and three others, Maj G. S. Reid and Navy Lts R. Wainwright and G.W.S. Castle. This letter merely commended the officers for their "eminent and conspicuous" conduct. The Medals of Honor came eighteen months later by General Order 177 of 4 December 1915.

The letter commending the four officers reads in part: "These officers were in the fighting of both days and exhibited courage and skill in leading their men through the action....The cool judgment and courage of Maj Berkeley and Maj Reid and their skill in handling their men in encountering and overcoming the machine gun and rifle fire down Cinco de Mayo and parallel streets accounts for the small percentage of the losses of Marines in their command." Endorsements bear the signatures of Commandant George Barnett, fleet commander Chas. J. Badger, 1st Marine Brigade commander Waller, and 2d Regiment commander Lejeune.

Berkeley went on to command the 11th Marines in Nicaragua where he was awarded the Navy Cross in 1927. He retired in 1938 as a major general.

Another important Veracruz item was added to the Museum collection recently with the arrival of memorabilia of the late John A. "Johnny the Hard" Hughes, a donation of his family. Included along with his sword and various papers and photographs was Hughes' Medal of Honor, a photograph of which is reproduced here. In a Secretary of the Navy letter, similar to Berkeley's, Hughes and seven other company commanders (three Marine and four Navy) were commended as "eminent and conspicuous in their conduct, leading their men with skill and courage." The medals came a year and a half later with the same general order. Hughes went on to command 1st Battalion, 6th Marines with distinction in France four years later where he received a Navy Cross and a Silver Star.

F.B.N.



Obverse



Reverse

Medal of Honor awarded to Capt John A. "Johnny the Hard" Hughes for leading his company at Veracruz "with skill and courage."

People and Places

BGen Edwin H. Simmons continued a busy winter of speaking on things historical, with a luncheon talk at the Annapolis Chapter of the Naval Academy Alumni Association on 13 February, a dinner speech at Fort Mifflin on 16 February, a lecture series at the University of New Brunswick, Canada, on 19-20 February, Mess Night at the Basic School on 26 February, and some remarks at a luncheon of Marine officers and Marine-officers-to-be at the University of Virginia on 28 February. At the University of New Brunswick he gave two lectures, "From Guantanamo to Guadalcanal" and "From Guadalcanal to Okinawa," and conducted a seminar on "Is Amphibious Warfare Still Relevant?" On Washington's Birthday, 18 February, he returned to Valley Forge for the national awards ceremonies of the Freedoms Foundation and on 24 March, for the Freedoms Foundation, he presented a George Washington Medal of Honor to the Washington, D. C. National Guard, in recognition of the Guard's sponsorship of the Sixth Annual Youth Leaders' Camp for high school young men wherein "participants learned and practiced basic principles of leadership in a wholesome, multi-racial, outdoor atmosphere."

BGen Simmons and Mr. Charles A. Wood drove to Charlottesville, Virginia on 28 February to call on Mrs. A. A. Vandegrift, widow of the late former Commandant, General A. A. Vandegrift, and receive a donation of the general's personal papers. In addition to a quantity of personal-official papers, the collection included the back-up material and marked galley proofs of Vandegrift's biography, *Once a Marine*, written by

Capt Robert Asprey, USMCR. A life-size bronze bust of the general by sculptor Felix DeWeldon was also received.

Col Brooke Nihart and LtCol Tom D'Andrea of the Museums Branch on 26 February toured the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center as guests of LtCol Russell Hendrickson, USMCR, the center's Chief of Exhibits Division. The center is charged with developing NPS museums, designing and building exhibits, researching and creating the site and exhibit interpretation, producing audio-visual materials, repairing and preserving historical artifacts, and training NPS people in various park and museum skills. The principal matter discussed with Mr. Hendrickson was further plans for the bicentennial refurbishment and expansion of the exhibits at the Marine Corps Memorial Museum in New Hall, Independence Mall, Philadelphia.

Col Herbert M. Hart, Deputy Director for Marine Corps History, represented the Corps at the 1974 Annual Meeting for State Historic Preservation Officers and Federal Representatives at the Department of Interior. He is also the author and photographer of a 6-page article, "Epitaph for an Airfield," in the current issue of the quarterly magazine of the Council on Abandoned Military Posts. The article tells of the dismantling last fall of Pyote Air Force Base, Texas.

BGen Simmons and Chief Historian Henry I. Shaw, Jr., are the authors of several chapters in the History of World War II, currently being published serially by Orbis Publishers

in England. The Director has written four chapters on operations in the Central Pacific while Shaw provided the section on Guadalcanal.

Articles by two historians appear in the current *Columbia Historical Records*, annual publication of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D. C. Benis M. Frank writes of the "Relief of General Barnett," regarding the 12th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General George Barnett (1914-20), and Martin K. Gordon writes of "The Black Militia in the District of Columbia." This article has since been reprinted in the newsletter of the D.C. National Guard.

Ralph W. Donnelly is the author and publisher of *Biographical Sketches of the Commissioned Officers of the Confederate States Marine Corps*. This 68-page, 24-illustration work is Volume I of what he projects to be a three-volume series on the CSMC. Copies can be obtained at \$4.00 each from 18 Kennedy Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22305.

Oral Historian Benis M. Frank was a guest lecturer at the Air Force Oral History Symposium and Jack Shulimson and Capt Robert Whitlow spoke before the Air Force Vietnam Historians Seminar on the Marine Corps Vietnam monograph series. Dr. Graham A. Cosmas, new arrival to our staff, attended the Air Force Oral History course for all three days.

Dr. Graham A. Cosmas has joined the writing staff after serving as a teacher on Guam. With degrees from Oberlin College and the University of Wisconsin, Cosmas is the author of the highly praised *An Army for Empire; the United States Army in the Spanish-American War*,

University of Missouri Press, 1971. One of his fellow students at Wisconsin is the other new professional historian, Martin K. Gordon, currently assigned to the reference unit. Gordon is a graduate of Notre Dame, Wisconsin and George Washington and a PhD candidate in the Joint Library of Congress-GW doctoral program.

Replacing SgtMaj Ethel M. Wilcox, who retired in November (see photograph opposite page), is Mrs. Cathy S. Bakkela. Coming from a position in Headquarters, Department of the Army, Mrs. Bakkela is the Director's new secretary. New stenographer for the Deputy Director for History is Mrs. Paula J. Flannery, whose husband is stationed at 8th and Eye. She was previously in the Installations and Logistics Division. SSgt Paul Lloyd, the new illustrator, brings to the division his experience in graphic arts and *Leatherneck* magazine. Mrs. Joyce E. Bonnett has moved from her position as Administrative Assistant in the Admin Section to new duties in the Archives Unit. Mrs. Bette L. Stacy has replaced Mrs. Hazel Lewis as typist with the Oral History Unit.

The active duty of Capt Linda Hewitt, who was with us to prepare a monograph on the Women Marines of World War I, has been completed and she is now, as a civilian, on the staff of Senator Henry (Scoop) Jackson, of Washington.

Mrs. Laurene Clarendon, secretary to the Deputy Director for Museums, departed in late December to be receptionist at the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. She has been replaced by Mrs. Joyce E. Blackmon whose husband, SSgt Clifford Blackmon, is Supply Chief of the Marine Band.



General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., CMC, presents The Meritorious Service Medal to SgtMaj Ethel M. Wilcox, concluding 28 years of Marine Corps service.

NEW CATALOG PUBLISHED

A new reference work from the Curator of Manuscripts has been published. The *Marine Corps Personal Papers Collection Catalog* describes the personal papers collections of over ninety Marines, relatives of Marines, and interested persons with collections associated with the U.S. Marine Corps.

This work spans the time period beginning with LtCol Samuel Miller's role in the Battle of Bladensburg in the War of 1812 through the historic sub-orbital flight of John Glenn.

This printing of an ongoing project to catalog the manuscripts collections of the Marine Corps Museums Branch is subject indexed and includes entries of manuscript collections from other repositories which complement the Museum's holdings.

This reference publication will be revised and expanded as compilation by the curator is completed.

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