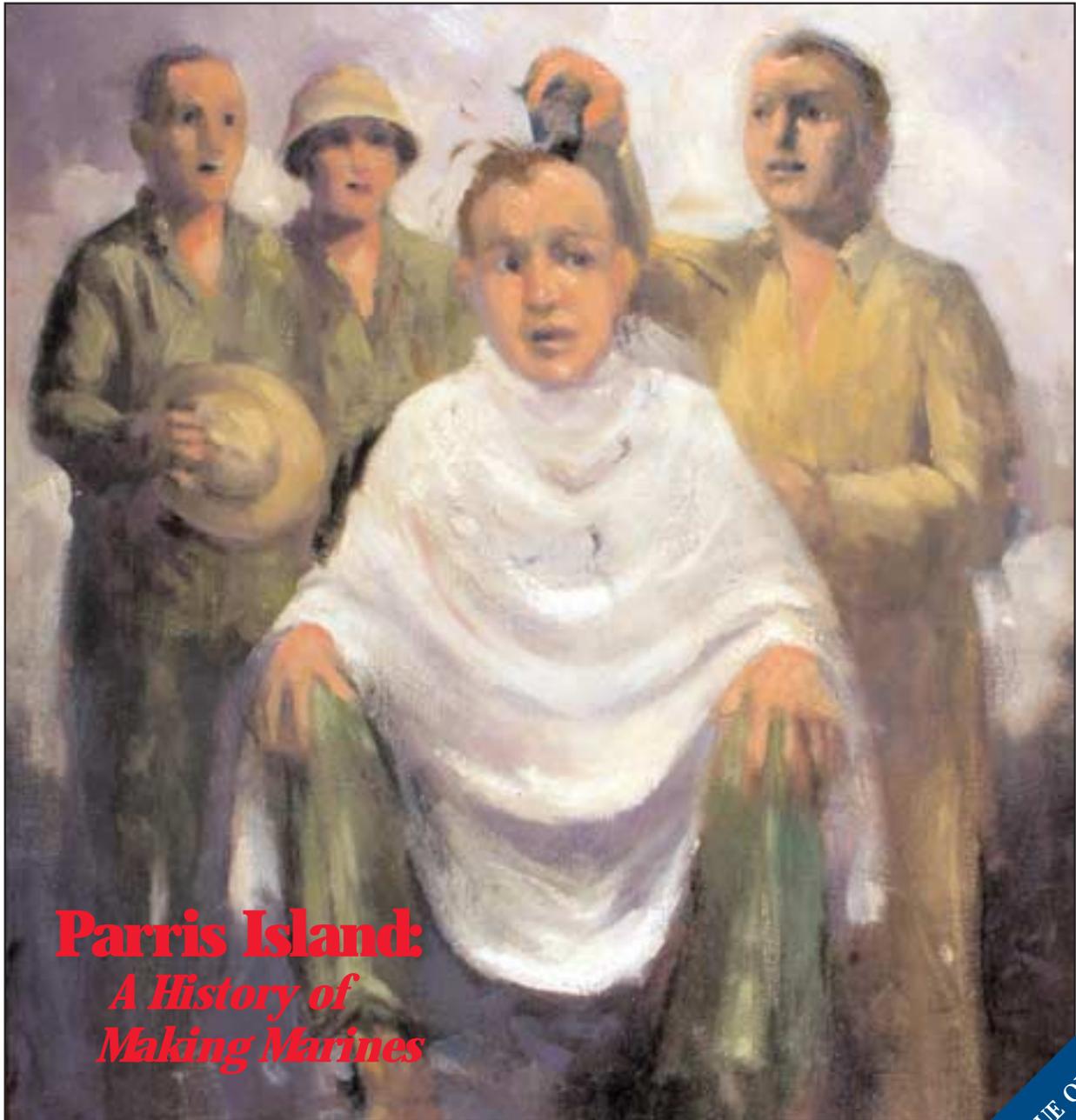


# FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 2

2004



## **Parris Island: A History of Making Marines**

'THE CHANGE IS FOREVER' . . . PARRIS ISLAND MUSEUM. . . CONCRETE AND CONTRACTS. . . LOW COUNTRY MARINES  
EVERY MARINE A RIFLEMAN. . . THE CRUCIBLE. . . PARRIS ISLAND IN WORLD WAR II. . . GLIDER GROUP 71  
HISTORY OPERATIONS AT HOME AND ABROAD. . . LEGENDARY 'ACE' PASSES. . . COMMANDANTS OF THE CORPS

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# FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Vol. XXXI, No.2

2004

*"We can only know who we are by being certain of who we have been."*

Gen Leonard F Chapman Jr.  
24th Commandant of the Marine Corps

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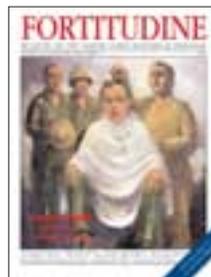
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**ABOUT THE COVER**



*Cover Illustration: Gibney 280-2-103: Boot Camp Haircut, Parris Island, is an oil painting that depicts a recruit receiving the infamous "high and tight" haircut at Parris Island, South Carolina, during 1942.*

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.



*Col John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret)*

## ‘The Change is Forever’

In this issue of *Fortitudine* we purposely have selected the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina, to highlight its extraordinary usefulness to our Corps, and not just for recruit training. I will leave the history to the following pages, but all Marines have a legacy, physical and emotional, with this tiny spot on the map that is smaller than most of the battleground islands Marines made famous in the Pacific. For a Marine returning to Parris Island it is impossible not to feel the discipline and esprit straightening your backbone as you cross the causeway. Even with 30 to 50 years absence you find yourself mentally preparing for the well-remembered “professional” greeting; the rigid, efficient, devoid of nonsense welcome—all of which has a purpose. Greatest of all, however,

for any Parris Island veteran is the memory of the life change he or she experienced. No matter who you are when you arrive at Parris Island, you leave a completely different person with a seabag full of pride, useful skills, mental attitude and greatly increased physical ability. Our present recruiting slogan, which we haven’t always had, states the issue perfectly, “The Change is Forever.”

The term “professionalism” is a much used descriptor by Marines. For anyone who may not understand how this applies in our Corps, they should visit our recruit depots to see how the concept manifests in every aspect of life there, and most especially in the conduct of training by the drill instructors. Here it has reached a level of perfection that every organization in the world; business, industry, pri-

vate or public, and every country across the globe, would love to emulate.

No matter how often you see it, or perhaps remember it from your past, nothing speaks so visibly or profoundly of the remarkable transition from a recruit to a physically, mentally, emotionally prepared Marine than what is seen in the eyes of parents and families at recruit graduation. After the parade, when everyone meets on the drill field, there is a continuous display of pride, affection and outright awe. It is especially noticeable with the fathers who are looking, perhaps for the first time in their lives, at a Marine they never would have known existed—not until Parris Island made it so.

The change is, indeed, forever.

□1775□



Photo: DoD (USMC) A88856

*“Boots” receiving instructions in bayonet fighting at Parris Island, South Carolina, under the watchful eye of a drill*

*instructor in 1952. In the years of the Korean War, approximately 138,000 Marines were trained at Parris Island.*

# The Parris Island Museum

by Stephen R. Wise, Ph.D.  
Parris Island Museum Curator

Parris Island, South Carolina, has a unique and rich history marked by international occupation and military activity. Native Americans, French, Spaniards, English, Yankees and Confederates all fought for control of the island, which has supported a variety of military installations and commands over the years. Modern Marines know it best for its current focus on recruit training, but Parris Island also has been home to an army quartermaster station, a naval station, aviation units, defense battalions and elements of 1st Marine Division. While at times Parris Island has been host to both the United States Army and Navy, it has been home to the Marine Corps for more than a century.

The fascinating history of Parris Island is dramatically portrayed at the Parris Island Museum, located at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. The museum has collected, preserved and exhibited artifacts, art, memorabilia, photographs and personal papers of lasting historical and traditional value. The Parris Island Museum is devoted to the education, enrichment and inspiration



Photo: Parris Island Museum

*Many of the Parris Island Museum's cases have been upgraded to include Ethafoam supports in place of mannequins to display uniforms. The new supports not only focus attention on the artifacts themselves, they do not produce harmful gases that can damage the fragile materials in the collection.*



Photo: Parris Island Museum

*Visitors to the Parris Island Museum get a glimpse into the history of the Corps and the evolution of the uniforms worn by Marines throughout the centuries. The museum has been undergoing extensive renovations and expansions in recent years.*

of Marines and the general public.

The museum had its beginning in 1972, when then Major General Robert H. Barrow, the commanding general of Parris Island, received permission from the Marine Corps History and Museums Division to establish a museum in the depot's War Memorial Building. Work was completed in 1974, and on 8 January 1975, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., dedicated the Parris Island Museum as the Marine Corps' first Command Museum. Major themes included the history of recruit training, women Marines, local military history and general Marine Corps history. The museum has continued to expand, adding display areas and enlarging its staff and support facilities.

On 8 January 1993, the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums, Brigadier General Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), declared the Parris Island Museum a certified Marine Corps Command Museum. The facility reflects the deep pride and appreciation held by the Marine Corps for its heritage. As part of their training curriculum, all recruits at Parris Island tour the museum.

Museum visitors are immersed in

the Corps' rich heritage from the moment they enter the War Memorial Building and step into the museum's rotunda. Here they are surrounded by the story of Marines at Parris Island and the history of recruit training. The first deck begins with the establishment of the recruit training station and flows through the World War II years. The story continues on the second deck with the Korean War era and carries through to the present. Using a mix of artifacts, graphics and interpretive panels, the evolution of recruit training is detailed from 1915 to modern day.

To enhance this initial impression, the display cases in the rotunda were recently upgraded to present a more contemporary appearance that better accents the artifacts. But the new look is more than aesthetic. The displays employ advanced techniques for conserving historical artifacts. To increase the emphasis on the object as an artifact, most commercial mannequins have been replaced with hidden supports that are custom fit to each piece. Uniform supports are made of Ethafoam, which does not emit gasses harmful to textiles. The case walls were also changed to a new

system that makes mounting exhibits much easier and allows regular exhibit updating. In addition, the museum's color scheme was specifically chosen to blend the display cases into the background so artifacts stand out as focal points.

In conjunction with the renovation of the rotunda cases, the museum also has initiated an ambitious renovation plan for the local history wing. This area chronicles the region's military history from the arrival of Europeans to present day. The story progresses through the American Revolution and Civil War, then culminates in the current Marine Corps Air Station located in nearby Beaufort, South Carolina. Among the Marine Corps topics covered in this area are the 1910-1912 Officers' Candidate School, which produced such notable commanders as Alfred A. Cunningham, Roy S. Geiger, Julian Smith and Alexander A. Vandegrift. Also presented are displays on Parris Island's 1919-1921 aviation command, Page Field and the training of the 3d, 4th and 5th Defense Battalions.

Visitors also experience the history of the island itself. The local history wing offers diverse exhibits on the earliest history and prehistory of Parris Island. Here, the story of the Native Americans who occupied the island for at least 4,000 years is presented. This wing leads into the arrival of French and Spanish explorers, who founded some of North America's earliest colonies.

The museum's initial renovation, now well underway, begins with a brief discussion of archaeology using a floor-to-ceiling diorama of a 16th century Spanish barrel-lined well during excavation. This dramatic tool visually explains the basic premises of archaeological investigation, such as stratigraphy and archaeological chronologies. Archaeological investigations then blend into the next section of the exhibit, Native Americans, and on to the 16th century arrival of Europeans on Parris Island.

After introducing the visitor to the Age of Exploration and initial contact with native peoples, the founding of Charlesfort is explored. Charlesfort

represents a 1562 French attempt to colonize North America, with Parris Island being chosen as the location for the settlement. The colony failed and was soon replaced by a Spanish colony, Santa Elena, in 1566. The main focus of this exhibit room covers the 20-year occupation of Parris Island by the Spanish, the subject of intense research by the University of South Carolina's Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The Santa Elena renovations are only the first step in the redesigning of the local history wing. New exhibits in the remainder of the wing will continue the story of warfare and military bases in and around the Port Royal and Parris Island area.

The museum's largest exhibit hall is the 20th century Marine Corps History wing on the second deck. Looking back as far as 1909, this area houses interpretive displays covering World War I, the Banana Wars, China Marines, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, Desert Storm and Somalia. There also are panels and cases on lesser-known actions in which Marines have participated.

The opening section of the hall details the experiences of Marines who took part in expeditions to Mexico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Nicaragua. Many of the junior officers serving in these

expeditions were graduates of Parris Island's Officers' Candidate School and were tasked with a variety of missions, including protecting sites vital to the defense of the Panama Canal, defending American interests and restoring order in civil war-torn Nicaragua from 1910 to 1912. They also worked with the local government to fend off bandits and establish order in Haiti from 1914 to 1922, and to organize a stable government and native constabulary in the Dominican Republic from 1916 to 1924.

From this section a visitor passes into the World War I area, a conflict that caused a massive expansion of the training camp on Parris Island. To add to the feel of the "Great War" exhibit, an immersion case system was constructed reminiscent of a World War I wood-lined trench. Visitors walk through the trench flanked with period artifacts on both walls. They exit through a machine gun bunker into the next area where the role of the Marine Corps during the decades leading up to World War II are interpreted. The next section provides extensive coverage of Marines in World War II.

The World War II section, thematically grouped, offers a wide array of information and artifacts. Each major campaign is covered. The objects in this area, many donated by the veter-



Photo: Parris Island Museum

*This training diorama at the Parris Island Museum gives Marine recruits and visitors a chance to examine the cockpit of a Marine fighter jet up close. Providing a wide range of topical displays, the museum ensures visitors get a broad view of the overall war fighting capabilities of the Marine Corps.*

ans who used or captured them, trace the movement of the Marines from island to island in the Pacific and on to final victory over Japan.

The museum's Korean War and Vietnam displays also have been expanded and upgraded over the past few years. The Korean War exhibit now contains eight cases with 16 feet of interpretive display area where photos and narratives cover the story of the Marine Corps' involvement in the conflict from General Douglas MacArthur's initial call for a Marine air-ground team in July 1950 to the 1st Marine Division's relocation in March 1955. The renovations of the Korean War area opened more space for expanding the Vietnam section, a display area that has seen growing interest as the veterans of that era enter their retirement years.

As part of an on-going effort to expand the museum experience to better serve all audiences, a new "junior recruit" program also has recently been launched. Developed primarily by museum volunteers, young visitors follow "yellow footprint" signs with interpretive messages geared especially to their reading level. Each stop discusses a topic of Marine Corps history or tradition and offers answers to questions in a workbook. After successfully completing the guidebook, the "junior recruit" is

awarded a certificate or pin similar to how recruits earn their Eagle, Globe and Anchor after completing basic training.

To expand the museum's multimedia capabilities, a new surround-sound theater was constructed and opened in 2003. With a full-wall projection system, the facility offers continuous programming about recruit training. It also doubles as a screening room for recruits to view historical footage on Marine Corps history. The space also offers a contained facility for special events and programs.

Just outside the theater is a recently completed exhibit featuring Marines from 1775 to the present. Using primarily replicated uniforms on specially selected mannequins, each major era is represented from the birth of the Corps to the Gulf War. Highlighting the exhibit is a beautiful mural, skillfully blending the background through time to correspond to each uniform display. The piece was among the final major works done for the museum by Gunnery Sergeant Wendell "Bud" Wass, USMC (Ret) before his retirement. His artwork can be found throughout the museum.

On the exterior wall of the new theater is a popular display on famous Marines. Many people are surprised to learn that a variety of political, sports and entertainment celebrities were

also Marines. Following this theme, the museum recently acquired objects related to movies and television productions that center on Parris Island. These items will be exhibited in the theater area.

Adjacent to the theater is the newly renovated and expanded Alexander Ship's Store, the museum's gift shop operated by the Parris Island Historical and Museum Society. This non-profit organization assists the museum in many ways, including a recently established artifact acquisition fund for purchasing artifacts that have special interest to Parris Island. The society also provides the museum with equipment and supplies needed to enhance the museum's operations and exhibit needs as well as sponsoring special events and providing volunteers. Information on membership in the society can be obtained by writing to P.O. Box 5202, Parris Island, S.C., 29905 or visiting us online at [www.pimuseum.us](http://www.pimuseum.us).

Along with its exhibits, the Parris Island Museum is home to a research library and archives. The library has more than 1,800 volumes dealing with Parris Island, Marine Corps and military history. The museum's archive section contains 830 personal paper collections relating to Marine Corps history. Among the larger collections are those of General Edwin Pollock, Sr., Major George H. Osterhout and Major General Oscar Peatross. Especially helpful to people doing research on Parris Island and recruit training is the collection of Dr. Eugene Alvarez, who compiled an extensive set of papers, interviews and photographs relating to Parris Island.

The museum archives also includes more than 4,000 images and 300 maps, the majority depicting or related to Parris Island and recruit training. So far in 2004, more than 70 active duty Marines and civilian researchers have used the museum's collections.

With more than 1,300 individual artifacts on display, the Parris Island Museum continues to meet its mission of serving as a place of remembrance and a source of inspiration and training for those studying the heralded past of Marines and Parris Island. □1775□



Photo: Parris Island Museum

*Every recruit is required to visit the Parris Island Museum. The experience helps to instill in the new recruits a sense of the Corps' heritage by depicting a long history of dedication, honor and tradition that are trademarks of the Marines that went before them.*

## Museum Gathers Momentum: *Concrete and Contracts*

by Col Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR  
Deputy Director

Despite an unusually wet summer in Virginia, Centex Construction Company and its subcontractors continue to make major progress on the National Museum of the Marine Corps. To date, workers have poured more than 5,000 cubic yards of concrete. Much of the foundation system is complete, while support columns and portions of the inner ring wall are beginning to rise from ground level. Less visible efforts include grading and filling of other parts of the site, the installation of water, sewer and storm drainage pipes in the parking lot area, and the extension of permanent underground electric power lines toward the building. Preparations are underway at Banker Steel's plant in Lynchburg, Virginia, for the fabrication

of steel components for the central gallery skylight and mast. Plans tentatively call for the steel structure to be "topped out" on site by 23 February 2005, which will coincide with the 60th anniversary of the flag raising on Mount Suribachi during the battle for Iwo Jima, the inspiration for the towering spire.

The Marine Corps has signed two major contracts for creation of the exhibits. Studio EIS will create the 83 cast figures that will provide a life-like presence throughout the museum. Batwin + Robin Productions will develop and produce the multimedia elements of the exhibits. The main feature will be an eight-minute film that will introduce visitors to the Marine Corps after they enter the



Photo: Jacobs Facilities, Inc.

*The columns of the central gallery of the new National Museum of the Marine Corps are seen towering from the site as construction crews march forward toward completion of the main museum structure, which is scheduled to open in late 2006.*



Photo: Jacobs Facilities, Inc.

*Having stripped the forms from the lower half of this section of the inner ring wall, workers install forms for the upper half of the structure. Once concrete is poured here, the wall will be at its full height of 40 feet.*

museum. Other media will include four alcove theaters along the fast track that will highlight the Marine air-ground team, the Corps' partnership with the Navy and operations from the sea, the major contributions of the Corps (such as the amphibious assault, vertical envelopment and close air support) and the Medal of Honor.

The U.S. Mint will put the U.S. Marine Corps commemorative silver dollar on sale in May 2005. Coupled with a recent decision by the U.S. Postal Service to issue a stamp set honoring U.S. Marines during 2005, this will be a banner year recognizing the Corps. The four-stamp group will depict John Basilone, Smedley Butler, Dan Daly and Lewis "Chesty" Puller. The Mint likely will sell a packaged set of the silver dollar and stamps. A portion of the proceeds of the sale of the coin will support construction of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

□1775□

## Parris Island and Port Royal

by Kara R. Newcomer  
Reference Historian

The “Current Chronology of the Marine Corps” serves as a valuable source of information on significant events and dates in contemporary Marine Corps history. Since 1982, the Reference Section at the Marine Corps Historical Center has compiled the yearly chronology by researching numerous primary and secondary sources each week. The following highlights pertain to Parris Island and Port Royal, South Carolina.

**November 1861** - The first Marines in the area of Parris Island sailed into Port Royal Harbor, South Carolina, as members of detachments on board various ships with the Atlantic Blockading Squadron. The commanding officer, Captain Samuel F. Du Pont, USN, seized the area, which was used as an important base for the Union Navy throughout the Civil War.

**7 August 1882** - An act of Congress authorized the establishment and construction of a coaling dock and naval storehouse at Port Royal Harbor. A select group of naval officers chose Parris Island as the site.

**26 June 1891** - To help protect the interests of the Government during construction, a Marine guard contin-



Photo: DoD (USMC) DM-ST-86-05534

*Women Marine recruits are exposed to tear gas during basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina, in 1985.*



Photo: DoD (USMC) 2003112110429

*Sergeant Sheri Battle, a drill instructor with Platoon 4040, instructs a new female recruit in her squad bay at Parris Island during boot camp training in 2003. The first women recruits began arriving at Parris Island in February 1949.*

gent of one sergeant, two corporals and ten privates were assigned to Port Royal, thus establishing the first Marine post on the island. Proper housing for the guard was slow in coming, with the Marines moving into barracks nearly two years after the post was created.

**1 May 1895** - First Lieutenant Clarence L. A. Ingate was the first officer assigned to command the Marine detachment at Port Royal. On 15 September 1896, with the succession of command to First Lieutenant Henry C. Haines, the detachment became Marine Barracks, U.S. Naval Station, Port Royal, South Carolina.

**1 January 1909** - The designation Marine Barracks became Marine Officers' School, U.S. Naval Station, Port Royal, South Carolina, with the purpose of indoctrinating newly commissioned officers.

**1 June 1911** - A recruit depot began operation at Port Royal on a three-company basis as a secondary func-

tion of the Marine Officers' School. It had been postponed from an original start date of November 1910.

**30 August 1911 to October 1915** - The Marine Officers' School and two recruit companies transferred to Norfolk, Virginia, after the Department of the Navy decided to use Port Royal for a disciplinary installation.

**25 October 1915** - The recruit depot separated from the Officers' School and returned to Port Royal. It was established as Marine Barracks, Port Royal, South Carolina, with the principle mission of training Marine recruits. Three days later, the Navy transferred the land and buildings to the Corps.

**6 April 1917 to 11 November 1918** (World War I) - The recruit depot underwent a massive expansion of installations, the number of Marines trained and the type of instruction recruits received to meet the demands of the ongoing war. It was during this time that Marine Barracks, Port Royal,

South Carolina, was redesignated Marine Barracks, Paris Island, South Carolina, and the government took possession of the remaining private land on Parris Island. Marine Corps Order No. 32 officially changed the name "Paris" to "Parris" on 3 May 1919.

**November 1918 to December 1941** (between the wars) - Parris Island continued to thrive as a recruit depot in the early years between World War I and World War II, as well as having an advanced training seagoing depot, field music school and aviation elements. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the number of recruits trained fell dramatically and other operations on the island also plummeted. Increasing global hostilities in 1939 brought a revival to the recruit depot and in the two years prior to the United States entering into World War II, Parris Island underwent a massive construction boom that provided new barracks and training facilities.

**7 December 1941 to 14 August 1945** (World War II) - In the first months of World War II, Parris Island staggered under the massive number of incoming recruits until shortened training periods were instituted. Later, as the influx of recruits slowed slightly and deficiencies in the shortened program were noticeable, training was once again increased to help prepare Marines for combat. Approximately 205,000 recruits were trained at Parris Island during the war, including Women Marine Reservists.

**28 February 1949** - Female recruits began arriving at Parris Island to form the first platoon of Women Marines after the Marine Corps began accepting women into the service following the passage of Public Law 625 (The Women's Armed Services Integration Act of 1948). Parris Island remains the only recruit depot to train female Marines even today.

**9 September 1949** - The segregated African-American Marine Corps recruit training facility at Montfort Point, North Carolina, is closed and recruit training at Parris Island is racially integrated.



Photo: DoD (USMC) DM-SD-04-14572

*Marine Corps recruits from the Third Recruit Training Battalion, India Company, engage in pugil stick combat training at Parris Island, South Carolina.*

**25 June 1950 to 27 July 1953** (Korean War) - Parris Island once again witnessed an increase in the number of recruits to meet the demand for combat troops in Korea. The number of recruits overwhelmed the limited ranks of available, experienced drill instructors (DIs), leading to the reestablishment of the Drill Instructors' School. Approximately, 138,000 Marines graduated from Parris Island during the war.

**8 April 1956** - Tragedy struck the recruit depot when six recruits drowned during a late night march after a junior DI led the men into one of the tidal streams (Ribbon Creek) on Parris Island. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Randolph McCall Pate, ordered better supervision of the DIs and training in general to assure there would never be a repeat of the Ribbon Creek incident.

**1962 to 1973** (Vietnam War) - More than 200,000 recruits trained at Parris Island during the Vietnam War, the longest war fought by the United States to date. Rather than adding new platoons, training time was cut from 12 to 10 weeks to accommodate the number of recruits.

**1 April 1976** - Parris Island Recruit Depot was redesignated Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Eastern Recruiting Region, Parris Island, South Carolina.

**19 April 1984** - The causeway that links the Parris Island recruit depot to the Beaufort community was dedicated in memory of General Edwin A. Pollock.

**9 September 1994** - The 4th Recruit Training Battalion Reading Room at Parris Island was dedicated in honor of Corporal Germaine C. Laville, one of only three World War II women Marines killed while in performance of their duties. Corporal Laville died in a fire 3 June 1944 at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina.

**16 December 2002** - The Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island Headquarters was dedicated in honor of General Robert H. Barrow (Ret). General Barrow, 27th Commandant of the Marine Corps, served as the commanding general of MCRD Parris Island from 1972 to 1975. He was the driving force behind reforms to ensure effective but wholesome recruit training. The event, which occurred during General Barrow's lifetime, was unique in that it is an honor usually reserved for deceased Marines.

**Present** - Approximately 20,000 recruits graduate each year from Parris Island, which is one of the most famous military training facilities in the United States.

□1775□

## Low Country Marines

by Charles D. Melson  
Chief Historian

For most, South Carolina and Parris Island conjures up images of Marine “boot camp” and the “DI from PI.” The Corps imprint on this region is broader and much more long standing than just being the location of one of its two enlisted recruit depots.

Most of these activities have been located between the major historic seaports of Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, along a coastal strip of tidal swamp and low-lying landmass. To suppress piracy, runaway slaves and Native Americans, Marines were sent to Charleston as early as 1808 when a temporary barracks was established on Sullivan’s Island and then Fort Mechanic. This effort assigned some two dozen Marines to the gunboat flotilla sailing along the Carolina and Georgia coasts. One of its commanding officers was First Lieutenant Archibald Henderson, who later became the fifth commandant. Marine Barracks at Charleston came into being in 1903 and maintained security and order at the naval base and weapons depot until it was converted to a Marine Corps Security Force Company in 1987.

Other actions took place around the former French, Spanish and English settlements and defenses known as Port Royal, located in present Beaufort County. In 1861, bluejackets and Marines of the Atlantic Blockading Squadron seized Port Royal and used it as a base for the Union Navy throughout the Civil War. Retained as a mooring and coaling station, by 1891 the U.S. Navy established Naval Station, Port Royal, which included a complement of Marines. A subsequent Marine Barracks was intended to train officers and recruits until interrupted by the greater demands of expeditionary service between 1911 and 1915 and by the establishment at Port Royal of a naval disciplinary base.

The need for trained Marines during World War I prompted the establishment of Marine Barracks, Port Royal, which was renamed Parris Island.



Photo: DOD (USMC) 515750

*Early Marines at Port Royal, South Carolina, included this group of officers serving as instructors in 1909. In the center is LtCol Eli K. Cole, then commanding the Marine Officer’s School.*

Marines undergoing instruction peaked during the war at 13,286. World War II caused further expansion (the first bridge to the island was built in 1929). This second expansion was to cope with the some 205,000 recruits who passed through the depot. Of the posts and stations in the region, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, as it was named in 1946, is the largest (comprising roughly 6,000 acres) and the older of the two recruit depots. It still trains most recruits from east of the Mississippi River.

At the same location, Marine Corps Air Station, Parris Island, was formed in 1940 as the air detachment of the barracks. Close to Parris Island is the current Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, now a major airbase capable of supporting jet fighters and attack airplanes. Its origins were as a naval air station in 1943, becoming a Marine auxiliary landing field in 1955 and expanding to a Marine Corps Air Station of some 6,000 acres by 1960. At one time, it was the permanent home of two aircraft groups from 2d Marine Aircraft Wing at “South Carolina Fighter Town.”

Marines have been motivated to write about this experience from the beginnings: Major George H. Osterhout, “After Three Hundred and Fifty Years” in 1923 and First Lieutenant James Snedeker, “The Story of Ribaut” in 1935 are early examples. Others who wrote about Port Royal and Parris Island over time were Colonel Clyde H. Metcalf, Major Arthur J. Burks and the G3 Historical Branch of Headquarters Marine Corps. In 1962, Elmore A. Champie documented the story with a historical pamphlet for the Historical Division entitled *A Brief History of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, 1891-1962*. A more recent narrative was sponsored by a Marine Corps Heritage Foundation grant to Professor Eugene Alvarez in 1984.

The uniquely evocative coastal locale provided the source of inspiration for contributions to modern popular culture and journalism, to include Jack Webb’s “The DI,” Pat Conroy’s “The Great Santini” and Thomas E. Rick’s “Making the Corps.”

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## *Ordnance Collection*

# Every Marine a Rifleman: The M1903 Springfield Rifle

by Alfred V. Houde, Jr.  
Assistant Curator of Ordnance

The .30-caliber Model 1903 "Springfield" rifle was developed on the lessons learned during the 1898 Spanish-American War, during which the U.S. Army's standard issue .30-40 caliber Krag-Jorgensen rifles proved no match for the enemy's clip-fed Spanish 7mm Mauser rifles. Taking the combat experience gained during that war, the U.S. Armory in Springfield, Massachusetts, began work in 1900 to develop a new service rifle to replace the Krag. This new rifle was officially adopted on 19 June 1903 and was based on the M1898 German Mauser design. It originally had a ramrod bayonet, but the rifle was redesigned in 1905 to accept the knife-type bayonet. Marines carried the peerless .30-caliber Springfield rifle into battle for more than 30 years.

The chief improvements of the Springfield over the Krag rifle were in the quality of ammunition and ease of loading. The Springfield was loaded into a staggered magazine from a single five round "stripper" clip rather than hand loading five separate rounds. Ammunition was improved in 1906 by the use of a pointed 150-grain projectile patterned after the German "Spitzer," or pointed projectile, versus the heavier, round nose projectile used in the .30-40 Krag round and the original .30-03 cartridge.

The first Springfields were issued to Marines in 1908, and were employed in combat during the Nicaragua campaign in 1912. Before the Vera Cruz campaign in 1914, the Marine Corps almost completely rearmed with the new Springfield M1903 rifle. The superb accuracy of the M1903 rifle both in combat and match shooting served the Marines well and gained them acclaim as one of the best shooting military units in the world.

The Marine Corps further developed its marksmanship program around the M1903 rifle when the recruit depot opened shortly before World War I. As outlined in the 1913 edition of the *U.S. Marine Corps Score Book and Rifleman's Instructor for the New*



Photo: Marine Corps Museum

*A Marine in the prone position with an M1903 Springfield .30-caliber rifle learns the basic techniques of marksmanship that are carried on even today.*

*Springfield Rifle*, each Marine was required to know the nomenclature and function of every part of the rifle. Moreover, each Marine was trained in the proper care and maintenance of the rifle. Marine recruits learned that proper rifle care resulted in better shooting qualities. The manual also introduced the phrase "clean before you eat, noon and night." Before recruits qualified on the range, instructors ensured that each man understood how to set the sights, hold the rifle in all the basic positions and aim. As an incentive, marksmen received \$2.00, sharpshooters \$3.00 and expert riflemen \$5.00 per month extra pay.

When the United States entered World War I, the Marine Corps numbered only 13,000 men and Parris Island trained a mere 835 recruits. Before the war ended, the Marine Corps reached a staggering peak enlistment of 75,000 men and the Parris Island Depot trained more than 13,000 recruits at a time. During this period, 50,000 recruits graduated from Parris Island, most of them going on to serve in France. On 4 June 1918, in the first major battle for Marines during the war, the Germans advanced through the wheat field in front of Belleau Wood. Marine riflemen stopped the

Germans as far out as 800 yards with aimed rifle fire. On that day, the skill of the Marines and accuracy of the M1903 Springfield rifle became legendary.

The Marine Corps replaced the M1903 Springfield in 1942 with the semi-automatic M1 Garand rifle. However, high production demands for the M1 Garand required variants of the Springfield rifle to remain in limited service during World War II and Korea, mostly as sniper rifles or grenade launcher's.

Today, the phrase, "Every Marine a Rifleman," is rooted in basic marksmanship training. Regardless of their military occupational skill, Marines are first and foremost riflemen. Although the Springfield has long since been retired, the tradition of Marine Corps marksmanship continues for all new Marine recruits graduating from Marine Corps Recruit Depots.

A very early production series M1903 Springfield rifle, serial number 78, will be on display in the National Museum of the Marine Corps that highlights icons of the Corps. The .30-caliber M1903 Springfield rifle remains one of the most closely identified icons of the Marine Corps.

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## The Crucible that is Parris Island

by Charles G. Grow  
Art Curator

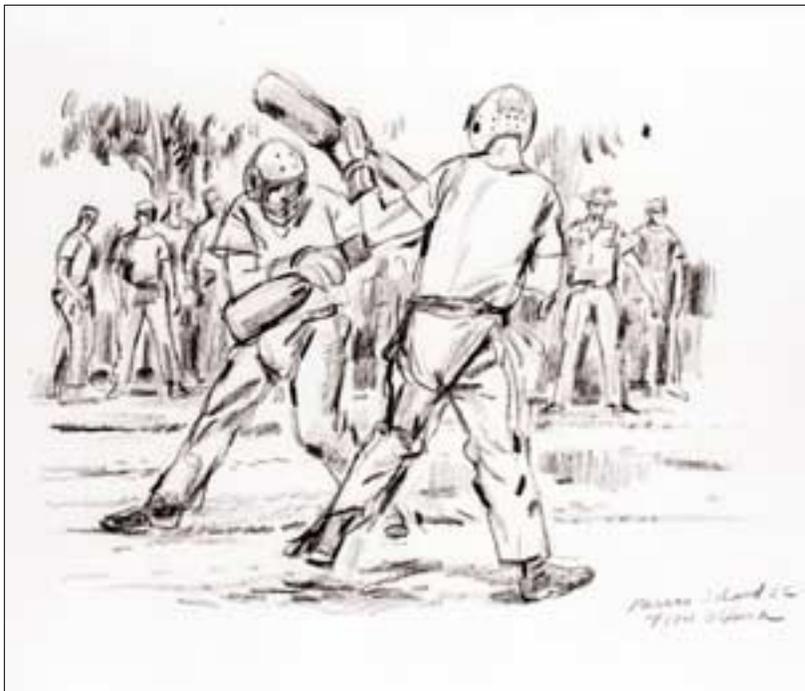
The Marine Corps Art Collection represents a diverse tapestry of images produced by more than 300 officers, enlisted Marines and civilian artists, some of whom either trained at or visited Parris Island. The accompanying drawings and paintings represent differing viewpoints of the Parris Island experience.

Sergeant Richard Gibney survived World War II to become an accomplished painter, muralist and stained glass artist. He enjoyed decades of artistic endeavors before being asked to produce a series of paintings for the Marine Corps Art Collection. In 1991 and 1992 he turned in more than 50 paintings and sketches, five of which reflect on his time at Parris Island. He



Gibney 280-2-102

*You'll Be Sorry, Parris Island, is an oil painting that depicts new recruits being chided by more seasoned "boots" at Parris Island, South Carolina, during 1942.*



O'Hara 22-9-5

*Pugil Sticks is a marker sketch that depicts Marine recruits training with pugil sticks at the bayonet course at Parris Island, South Carolina, during July 1963.*

focused on the transition from New Yorker to Marine recruit. Boot camp served him well throughout several campaigns during World War II, including Tarawa. Gibney's link to Parris Island continued when he was asked to produce a series of large stained-glass windows for the depot chapel.

Two famed Marine artists from the World War II generation include Staff Sergeants John Clymer and Tom Lovell. Both of these successful civilian artists were shipped to Parris Island for boot camp on 15 April 1944. Collectively they painted historical scenes of Marines in action and hundreds of magazine covers, including the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Leatherneck*.



Condra 42-9-16

*Learning to Shoot* is a pencil sketch of Marine recruits snapping in with M-14 rifles at Parris Island, South Carolina, during July 1968.



Posterrec 999-99-277

*Be a Marine: Free a Marine to Fight* portrays Corporal Veronica Bradley, a woman Marine reserve sergeant with a clipboard noting aircraft maintenance during 1943.



Gibney 280-2-101

*Leaving Home, Saratoga Springs, New York*, portrays young Richard Michael Gibney saying goodbye to his family on his way to boot camp at Parris Island and World War II from Saratoga Springs, New York, in 1942.

Tom O'Hara was one of a handful of civilians deployed to Vietnam in support of the Navy Art Cooperation and Liaison Committee (NACAL). Later, Mr. O'Hara spent a few days at Parris Island during July 1963. With confident pencil strokes, he recorded the physical rigors endured by recruits. This effort helped him understand the Marines he later documented during a brief 1968 visit to Japan and Danang, Vietnam.

Colonel Edward Condra, III, USMCR (Ret), also documented training events at Parris Island during 1968. This engineer and public affairs officer sketched enlisted Marines engaged in marksmanship training. Condra went on to establish and direct the command museum at Parris Island from July 1974 to January 1977, for which he earned a certificate of commendation from then Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Louis H. Wilson.

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## Boot Camp at Parris Island in World War II

by Fred H. Allison, Ph.D.  
Oral Historian

Boot camp is the essence of Parris Island, that common experience that is fundamental to becoming a Marine. Our knowledge of Marine Corps boot camp in World War II has been significantly enhanced thanks to Lisa Craft, a History Division intern. As a recipient of the Beeler-Raider Fellowship in 1998, she interviewed 22 World War II Marines (some spoke as drill instructors (DIs), some as recruits) about their experiences at boot camp at Parris Island in World War II. These interviews reveal that, in essence, Marine Corps boot camp has not changed since World War II.

The emphasis is still on creating Marines, and the methods for accomplishing this are the same; lots of discipline, close order drill, classroom instruction, the rifle range, inspections and physical training, all under the guidance of omnipresent DIs. However, the way these methods have been implemented and under what circumstances have changed. Perhaps the most striking difference was that Parris Island during World War II was an all male, all white environment.

Just like today, the arrival at boot camp and the initial encounter with drill instructors was a startling and often terrifying event. Unlike today, World War II recruits had this experience at the railroad depot in Yamasee, South Carolina. Then, like today, the early hours and days of boot camp were given to exchanging the recruits' vestiges of individuality for a uniform appearance. They were stripped naked, sprayed down to kill lice or other unwanted organisms, given a haircut and issued uniforms, equipment and a bucket full of other necessary gear.

World War II recruits brought to boot camp more of the regional oddities that had to be sublimated before they could be Marines. One recruit could not initially wear Marine-issued boots because he had never worn shoes at all, having grown up in the



Photo: DoD (USMC) 9328-26

*Marine recruits in close order drill at Parris Island, November 1942. It is uncertain what purpose the piece of paper behind the eagle, globe and anchor served.*

hills of Appalachia. A recruit from Texas complained that Marine-issued, low-heeled boondockers took some getting used to, as his feet had only known cowboy boots. Localisms were also evident in the Civil War jibes recruits from the North and South passed to one another.

Recruits then, as today, lived in squad bays by platoon with about 65 recruits per platoon; some billeted in wooden barracks. The barracks had no indoor plumbing. The head was a separate structure, essentially a mammoth outhouse. Business was done on a plank with four holes over a stream of constantly flowing water that carried the sewage away. One practical joke was to light paper or wood and float it under those inside the outhouse. The recruits, issued soap and brushes, had to wash and scrub their own uniforms every three days. Recruits in World War II, raised on the thin fare of the Depression, considered boot camp food good. In some cases, the food was served family style. Good manners did not necessarily prevail. One of the interviewees recalled that no one passed anything; "you ate what was in front of you." If

you sat by the bread, you would eat a loaf of bread for lunch.

Physical training included calisthenics conducted prior to breakfast, the obstacle course, team sports and boxing. Close order drill was a major part of the training as it is today. The parade ground then was sand, and sand fleas were part of drill.

Instilling Marine Corps discipline was the core curriculum, just as it is today. Unlike today, however, there evidently was no standardization in the methods used by DIs, who received little formal training. Even the selection of DIs was haphazard. Some were recently graduated recruits hand picked by their own DIs to become instructors themselves and learn "on the job." Their techniques varied. One DI flicked a recruit's forehead repeatedly with his finger after the recruit left his rifle leaning against a tree. Forcing a recruit to sing the Marine Corps hymn with a bucket over his head was the favorite punishment of another DI. For not shaving properly a recruit was dry shaved by another recruit using sand as a "lubricant."

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## The Marine Corps Campaign Hat

by Neil B. Abelsma  
Uniforms Curator

The Marine Corps has several instantly recognizable symbols and icons that evoke emotions for viewers. For modern Marines, one of the most potent is the drill instructor campaign hat, which inevitably brings back a flood of memories about boot camp training. The history of the hat, however, goes back further than its current use.

When it was a standard issue item, the campaign hat was highly regarded as practical and suitable for garrison and field wear. It has a long tradition and has been in service in various styles in both the Army and Marine Corps from the 1850s. The hat evolved from the Army's felt "Hardee Hat" of the 1850s. In the 1880s and 1890s, the hat took on a center crease design (which was introduced to the Marine Corps in 1898). The Marine Corps adopted the modern Montana Peak (four dent crown) design, sometimes called the "lemon squeezer" design, in 1912. The origin of the design is not

clear, but some troops during the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection peaked their campaign hats to shed water better, a practice common to cowboys on the Northern Plains in the 1880s. Known to Marines as the "field hat," it would appear in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, World War I Europe, Nicaragua and China. Along with the eagle, globe and anchor emblem, it emphasized U.S. Marine Corps presence.

After the start of World War II, the field hat was eliminated as a uniform article by Circular Letter 584, dated 28 May 1942. As in World War I, the flat garrison cap replaced the field hat, which was too large for a knapsack or sea bag. The cost in manufacturing the field hat during war was also a consideration. A few units early in the war did retain them, and the hat could be used for rifle range wear and by marksmanship teams until the early 1950s.



*Portrayed by Col Donna Neary, then Maj Smedley D. Butler, flanked by Sgt Ross L. Jams and Pvt Samuel Gross, bursts into the Haitian fort in the 16 November 1915 action against the bandit "Cacos."*



*Actual campaign hat worn by MajGen Smedley D. Butler.*

Despite its diminishing use, the campaign hat was not destined to disappear. When the Marine Corps, under Brigadier General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., re-evaluated the recruit training system following the Ribbon Creek tragedy at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, in 1956, a drill instructor advisory council, consisting of senior noncommissioned officers, was created. This council made recommendations on training procedures, customs and philosophy. One of the recommendations was to issue better headgear to protect drill instructors from the hot local sun. A master sergeant on the council advocated the field hat, which was preferred by the drill instructors. General Greene immediately obtained funds and ordered the hats from the J. B. Stetson Company. On 21 July 1956, 603 drill instructors received new field hats. The same reasons that had made the field hat so popular in the past were again the same reasons for bringing it back. But the hat also restored confidence to the training program and brought with it pride, prestige and esprit de corps. It has a rich history and tradition that will continue as the symbol for the Marine drill instructor.

In February 1961, the campaign hat was authorized for wear by members of rifle and pistol teams, drill instructors at Parris Island and San Diego, California, and permanent rifle range personnel. □1775□

## Parris Island

by Frederick J. Graboske  
Archives Head

The Archives Section holds several types of records relating to Parris Island and the South Carolina area. Of course we have the command chronologies from Parris Island, Beaufort and the barracks in Charleston (until it was shut down in 1987). The records from Parris Island start in 1965, when the Commandant, General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., established the command chronology reporting series. Any official records prior to that will be in Record Group 127 in the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. No records exist for the periods of World War II or Korea; apparently the volume of combat records was so great that other records were not saved. Construction and financial records may be located in the records of the Naval District and

in the National Archives.

The command chronologies document the activities of the base, including the training of recruits. Some veterans are disappointed to learn the records do not include photographs of the graduating classes. These kinds of records may be available at the command museum in Parris Island, which does have a small archival collection. We sometimes receive requests from the Department of Veterans Affairs for copies of records to verify a veteran's claim of post traumatic stress syndrome resulting from an alleged incident that took place during recruit training. The command chronologies of posts and stations tend to focus on aggregate numbers: recruits graduated, courts martial, church services, etc. They do not mention incidents in the

mess hall or accidents during training. This type of information may be available through the unit diaries, but not in the command chronologies.

We have an extensive map collection, which we currently are inventorying. Twelve of the items relate to Parris Island, including preliminary designs for a women Marines complex. There are two maps of Beaufort. Several years ago we transferred 40 reels of microfilm of the Parris Island *Boot* to the National Archives. They covered the period 1943 to 1969. Microfilm of Beaufort's *Jet Stream* also has been transferred. This microfilm should supply some data on the bases' activities during this time.

There are other materials in our Special Collections related to Parris Island. We have a box of photographs, some dated as early as 1909. One of these is of Sergeant Edwin E. Denby in 1917. Another is of Denby as Secretary of the Navy in 1921 affixing a plaque naming a building for him. Some of these photographs show the officers' school in Port Royal. The main value of the collection is in the aerial photographs of the area. We also have a small collection related to the Charleston barracks. The Oral History collection has dozens of interviews with individuals who served at Parris Island. These range from World War I veterans to women Marines to aviators in the 1920s. There are approximately 20 interviews of individuals who served at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.

Some of the records mentioned have been digitized. The command chronologies for Parris Island for the period 1965 to 2002 and most of the relevant oral histories are among these. We hope to complete the entire oral history collection of audio and videotapes in 2006, using equipment provided to us by the Naval Historical Foundation with grant money from the C. Douglas Dillon Fund. □1775□



Photo: DoD (USMC) 515723

*Then Secretary of the Navy Edwin E. Denby affixes a plaque naming a building on Parris Island after himself in 1921. As a sergeant in the Marine Corps, Denby had earlier been assigned to Parris Island in 1917.*

## Marine Glider Group 71

by James T. D'Angina  
Assistant Aviation Curator

In May 1941, 500 German Junkers JU-52 transport aircraft and 74 Deutsche Forschungsanstalt fuer Segelflug (DFS) 230 gliders were used to carry the German paratroops in the invasion of Crete. The Germans defeated the Allied Forces there using airborne troops. The DFS 230 glider, which was armed with a machine gun, could carry one pilot and nine fully equipped troops. The Germans' advances in glider technology were a direct result of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which restricted powered aircraft but not gliders. The Marine Corps' interest in using gliders to augment its amphibious assault force came in response to this airborne invasion. In the month after the fall of Crete, the Marine Corps requested the Navy's Department of Aeronautics to begin design studies on gliders. The United States was far behind the Germans in glider technology, and procuring a suitable glider for the mission was a major undertaking. By the time a glider was produced, the mission was no longer viable.

The Marine Corps had envisioned using airborne operations before the Crete invasion. In 1940, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General Thomas Holcomb, had directed that each regiment of Marines have one battalion designated as air troops. This battalion was made up of one paratroop company and three companies that were to be air-landed in traditional transport aircraft. The Secretary of the Navy also became interested in using gliders in combat after the German invasion of Crete, not realizing the heavy casualties the invading German forces had suffered during the operation.

The Marine Corps wanted an amphibious glider capable of launching from land or sea. At a minimum, the aircraft had to transport 12 troops, not including crew, with the ability to deliver paratroops by static line. The aircraft also had to transport support



Photo: Marine Corps Museum

*The Marine Corps Museum's Schweizer LNS-1 two-place sailplane. This LNS-1 is on loan to Kalamazoo Air Museum, Kalamazoo, MI, and is painted in trainer yellow, with polished metal leading edges on its wings.*

equipment and be armed for defense. The Bureau of Aeronautics had two glider designs suitable for the Marine Corps. As an interim measure, the Navy procured some Schweizer LNS-1 two-man sport gliders, which were to be used as trainers until larger gliders were available.

Finding adequate schools to train the pilots was nearly as difficult as obtaining the gliders. Two schools in Illinois were being used to train Marine glider pilots: the Motorless Flight Institute in Harvey, and the Lewis School of Aeronautics in Lockport. Civilian schools were used to train a cadre of 12 pilots before starting the first service school. Only officers were allowed to train for the positions until the service school could be established. A quota for 100 noncommissioned officers and 50 commissioned officers through the rank of captain was released for the service school and no aviation experience was necessary to apply. The quotas were filled within two days of the release.

Parris Island's Page Field was picked to start initial training, and on 24 April 1942, Marine Glider Group 71 was established with two squadrons: Headquarters and Service Squadron 71 and Marine Glider Squadron 711.

Despite initial enthusiasm, the glider program fell into decline by February 1943. The large Waco gliders had not arrived and lessons learned on Guadalcanal made the use of gliders impractical. Efforts to make further advances in the glider program were halted.

The Marine Corps glider program was terminated by order of the Commandant on 24 June 1943. By the date of decommissioning, the group had received 10 of the 12-man Waco LRW-1 gliders. The Marines never flew these gliders. Following the deactivation of Marine Glider Group 71, the large gliders were transferred to the Army Air Corps, which already used the Waco glider as a cargo transport, designated CG-4.

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## History Operations at Home and Abroad

by LtCol Nathan S. Lowrey, USMCR  
Field Historian

While recording the remarkable exploits of the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit in Afghanistan, which was recounted to me in a very matter-of-fact manner, my immediate thought was that the Old Corps has nothing on these kids (this is a sentiment my colleagues in Iraq also have expressed). What follows in this article is a brief situation report, which describes several administrative changes and operational transitions within the Field History Branch, to reveal the acceptance of our own wartime roles and responsibilities as routine requirements that need to be accomplished without question.

After more than four years at the helm, Colonel Nicholas E. Reynolds handed leadership of the Field History Branch over to Colonel (select) David T. Watters. In addition to orchestrating Branch efforts to document the Marine Corps' participation during Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, Reynolds was himself mobilized for 18 months, deployed to both Iraq and Haiti, and completed a draft monograph entitled

*The U.S. Marines in Iraq: With I Marine Expeditionary Force.*

Colonel Watters originally joined the History and Museums Division in 1999 and has served as the Field History Branch's executive officer for the past three years. Among other accomplishments, he has worked to formalize a working relationship with senior operational commands and facilitate the wartime deployment of field historians. He deployed to U.S. Central Command as a joint historian during Iraqi Freedom. Colonel Watters takes charge during a transitional period as we shift resources to maintain historical coverage of Marine operations around the globe.

At this time we have eight reservists on active duty, busy documenting Marine Corps operations in a variety of capacities. Following the return of Lieutenant Colonel David Kelly and Major John P. Piedmont in August, Lieutenant Colonel John R. Way, Captain Stephen "Joe" Winslow, Jr., and Chief Warrant Officer-3 William E. Hutson replaced them in Iraq during

September. They are now following the action in I Marine Expeditionary Force's area of operations as part of the Expeditionary Forces Combat Assessment Team.

Meanwhile, back in the states, six other historians and one artist are busy collecting information from returning units and working on a variety of historical products. Lieutenant Colonel Nathan S. Lowrey, tasked with managing the ongoing collection of historical data, recently assembled a catalogue listing more than 75,000 items from Iraqi Freedom. He also has just returned from a productive visit with the 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit afloat and has begun working on a monograph describing Marine operations in Afghanistan.

Majors Melissa D. Mihocko and Thomas W. Crecca are deeply involved in their monograph's, which describe 1st Force Service Support Group operations during Iraqi Freedom and the contribution of the Marine Corps Reserves to the war against terror. Major Piedmont has just completed a visit with Marine Detachment 1, initiating his research for a monograph describing their evolution and employment as part of the Special Operations Forces. Staff Sergeant Michael D. Fay is currently preparing for a 2005 showing of his combat art from Afghanistan and Iraq at the prestigious Farnsworth Art Museum and Wyeth Center in Rockport, Maine. Although not on active duty, Colonel Reed R. Bonadonna and Major Chris M. Kennedy continue to work on a history of Task Force Tarawa and an anthology for Iraqi Freedom.

As we enter the third year in the war against terror, we have come to accept the prospect of mobilization and deployment as part of the routine business that includes recruiting, training and equipping Marines. Indeed, six of the unit's members are on their second mobilization, and three of these have already completed two overseas tours in support of the war. □1775□



Photo: LtCol Benjamin R. Braden, USMC

*A ground assault convoy from 22d Marine Expeditionary Unit stops outside the relative security of Kandahar Airfield before heading into enemy territory to establish Forward Operating Base Ripley at Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, as part of Operation Mountain Storm in April 2004.*

## Legendary Flying 'Ace' Passes

by Robert V. Aquilina  
Reference Assistant Head

### *MajGen John G. Bouker*

Major General John G. Bouker, USMC (Ret), died 6 September 2004 at the age of 90. The Greenfield, Massachusetts, native enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in June 1935 while attending Dartmouth College. He was commissioned a Marine Reserve second lieutenant upon graduation in 1936. During World War II, he participated in the Treasury-Bougainville, northern Solomons and Okinawa campaigns, and was awarded a Bronze Star with Combat "V."

Following the war, he served in a wide variety of stateside and overseas



*MajGen John G. Bouker*

assignments, which included tours of duty at Pearl Harbor, Camp Pendleton, Quantico, Camp Lejeune and Washington, D.C. He commanded the 3d Marines, and following promotion to brigadier general in 1961, became Deputy Director of the Marine Corps Reserve. In 1965, he was appointed Commanding General of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, which participated in the April to June 1965 operation in the Dominican Republic. He later served as Commanding General, Force Troops, and his last assignment was as Deputy Commander, Fleet Marine Force Pacific and Deputy Commander,



*Col Joseph A. Bruder*

Marine Corps Bases, Pacific. Bouker retired from the Marine Corps in 1968.

### *Col Joseph A. Bruder*

Colonel Joseph A. Bruder, USMC (Ret), died 31 August 2004 in Alexandria, Virginia, at the age of 86. The Jersey City, New Jersey, native enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1941, attended the 8th Reserve Officer Class and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1942. He participated in a number of campaigns in the Pacific, and in August 1945, while serving on the staff of the commander of the occupied Yokosuka Naval Base in Tokyo Bay, personally carried the surrender documents that were signed by the Japanese. During the Korean War, he participated in combat operations with the 5th Marines. He later served tours of duty in Jamaica, France, Japan and Lebanon. Bruder retired from the Marine Corps in 1970.

### *LtCol John F. Bolt*

Lieutenant Colonel John F. Bolt, USMC (Ret), died 8 September 2004 in Tampa, Florida. The Sanford, Florida, native was born 19 May 1921, and enlisted in the Navy in 1941. The following year he received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. During World War II, he

shot down six enemy aircraft while flying with Marine Fighter Squadron VMF-214, the famous "Black Sheep" squadron. He later commanded the squadron when its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Gregory "Pappy" Boyington was shot down and captured as a prisoner of war. During the Korean War, Bolt flew 89 combat missions as a "Panther" jet (F9F) pilot with the "Able Eagles" of VMF-115. Because of his familiarity with the F-86 "Sabre" jet, he later completed his Korean tour by flying the aircraft with the 39th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Fifth Air Force. Assigned his own "Sabre," Bolt shot down six enemy jets, was awarded a Navy Cross and became the first jet ace in the history of Marine Corps avi-



*LtCol John F. Bolt*

ation. He also held the distinction of being the only combination propeller/jet ace in Marine Corps history. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1962, and began practicing law in New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

### *MGySgt Richard E. Bush*

Master Gunnery Sergeant Richard E. Bush, USMCR, died 7 June 2004 at his home in Waukegan, Illinois, at the age of 70. The Glasgow, Kentucky, native enlisted in the Marine Corps on 22 September 1942, and completed recruit training at the Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. On 16 April 1945, Corporal Bush was a squad leader serving with 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 6th Marine Division, on



*MGySgt Richard E. Bush*

Okinawa, where he was seriously wounded while leading his men in a charge against an enemy stronghold. Later, while being treated for his wounds, he threw himself upon an enemy grenade that had been hurled into the makeshift medical camp. The resulting explosion severely wounded the young Marine. Six months later, President Harry S. Truman presented the Medal of Honor to Master Gunnery Sergeant Bush in a White House ceremony. In later years, he worked for

the Veterans Administration as a counselor and was the recipient of numerous civilian awards for his efforts in assisting other veterans.

#### *Sgt Charles Corrado*

Sergeant Charles Corrado, the longest-serving musician in the Marine Band, died 26 June 2004, at his home in Potomac, Maryland, at the age of 64. A native of Boston, Massachusetts, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1958, and saw service on Okinawa and Camp Lejeune before auditioning and becoming a member of the Marine Band. A self-taught musician, his dedication to his craft brought him to the highest standards of excellence. He soon became a Presidential favorite, and as a member of the "President's Own," he subsequently performed before nine American Presidents and leaders from around the world. Although suffering from a terminal illness, he was granted an extension to work so his official retirement date was 11 July 2003, the 205th anniversary of the Marine Band. □1775□

### French Government to Honor WWII Vets

French President Jacques Chirac has announced his government is looking for veterans who participated in the campaign for the liberation of France during World War II. President Chirac has authorized the decoration of 100 World War II veterans each year with a special Legion of Honor award to recognize the sacrifice made by U.S. Forces and to express the gratitude of the French people for liberating them from German occupation. The French Embassy plans to award the first of these special decorations to veterans in Washington, D.C., in January 2005. To be considered, veterans should provide a short letter explaining the conditions in which they served in the liberation of France, a copy of their discharge papers and any other documentation that may help verify their participation, including U.S. medals and the French *croix de guerre*.

Mail all materials to:  
Consulat général de France à  
Washington  
4101 Reservoir Road N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20007

## *Historical Quiz*

### Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island

*by Stephanie Boyer  
Reference Intern*

1. The Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island currently trains Marine recruits from east of the Mississippi River. What was the original designation of the installation when it was established in 1891?
2. What is the name of the aviation landing field at Parris Island?
3. Archeologists have recently verified that Spanish explorers established a fort and a town on Parris Island in 1566, making the island the second oldest settlement on United States soil. What name did the Spaniards give the fort and town?
4. Small boats were the only mode of transportation between Port Royal and Parris Island before the completion of this bridge and causeway in 1929.
5. In addition to recruit training, Parris Island is also home to these four schools.
6. The oldest standing monument on Parris Island is the 1915 gravestone for this beloved canine mascot that landed with Marines on Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914.
7. The first Marines to land on Parris Island were a battalion of Union Marines, who took possession of nearby Fort Beauregard and Fort Walker in what year?
8. From 1911 to 1915 the recruit depot was moved to this location because the U.S. Navy needed space for its Naval Disciplinary Barracks.
9. The first Womens' Recruit Training Battalion was activated at Parris Island in what year?
10. Approximately how many Marine recruits trained at Parris Island between December 1941 and December 1945 (World War II): 110,000 recruits, 205,000 recruits or 325,000 recruits?

*(Answers on page 23)*

## Commandants of the Corps

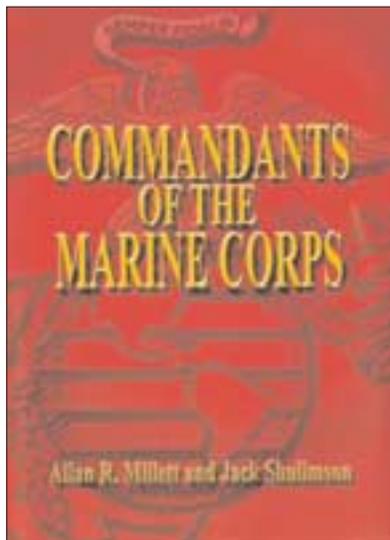
by Charles D. Melson  
Chief Historian

**C**ommandants of the Marine Corps by Allan R. Millett and Jack Shulimson. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2004. Although many have been proud to claim the title of U.S. Marine since 1775, only 31 can claim the distinction of being the Corps' senior leader. This book will take the reader into this unique and interesting group. While most writing about senior service leaders seems proforma, this work is not. The Marine Corps ethos calls for leaders that all can relate to as the head of a fighting organization, just as the Marine Barracks and Commandant's House at Eighth and I Street in Washington, D.C., takes on aspects of every Marine's home away from home. The group ownership of the designated head is as much symbolic as the duties are mainly institutional and managerial (in earlier times Commandants took the field as well, coming back "when the war is over").

The editors of this book were the well know historians Dr. Allan Millett and Dr. Jack Shulimson, who brought together a virtual "murderer's row" of expert writers and historians for this project. Millett, a retired reserve colonel, is the Major General Raymond E. Mason, Jr., Professor at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He is well known as a specialist in American military policy and the author of *Semper Fidelis: The History of the United States Marine*



Official paintings of Gen Robert H. Barrows and Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., and a photo of LtGen John A. Lejeune, each of which is discussed in *Commandants of the Marine Corps*.



*Corps* and *In Many a Strife: General Gerald C. Thomas and the U.S. Marine Corps, 1917-1956*. Shulimson, the former head of the Marine Corps history writing section, is a long time scholar of the Corps. He was the author or co-author of three volumes of official history of the Vietnam War and *The Marine Corps' Search for a Mission, 1880-1898*.

**E**ssays dealt with the men who led the Corps from Samuel Nicholas in 1776 to Robert H. Barrow in 1979 in 27 self-contained chapters. Commandants after 1983 were not addressed for reasons made clear by the editors, ranging from history to current events. A brief list of authors and subjects in sequence includes James C. Bradford (Nicholas), Brendan P. Ryan (Burrows), Gerald C. Thomas (Wharton), Merrill L. Bartlett (Gale), Joseph H. Alexander (Henderson, Harris, Zeilin), Shulimson (McCawley, Heywood), Robert J. Cressman (Elliott), Brian M. Linn (Biddle), Bartlett (Barnett, Lejeune, Neville, Fuller), Donald F. Bittner (Russell), John W. Gordon (Holcomb), Jon T. Hoffman (Vandegrift), Paolo E. Coletta (Cates), Victor H. Krulak (Shepherd),

V. Keith Fleming (Pate), Howard Jablon (Shoup), Millett (Greene), Ronald H. Spector (Chapman), John G. Miller (Cushman), David H. White (Wilson) and Edwin H. Simmons (Barrows). All but one chapter (Gale) has a picture of its subject and is supported by well-documented source notes that reflect the extensive holdings at the Marine Corps Historical Center, the Gray Research Center, the Library of Congress and National Archives. Of value is the preface and introduction that gives an overview and analysis of the headquarters and staffs these senior Marines had to work with and how these changed over time. Another reoccurring theme is how officer promotions went from in-service decisions to selection boards and the intended and unintended consequences of each system. The family and military careers of the gentlemen indicated that not everyone came from the same mold to make Commandant. The challenges and demands faced by their Service were also varied and exclusive to a time and place. The one constant was duty in the Washington, D.C., arena alongside the other branches of government (and personalities). Two of these Commandants, Greene and Barrows, were also commanding generals at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island.

This is a well laid out hardcover book of some 580 pages with notes, bibliography, list of contributors and index. It can be read cover to cover or would be a standard biographical reference for libraries, speechwriters and historians. The different styles and approaches of the authors ensure that each portrait is distinct and well received for critical analysis and grasp of the subject. In some cases, this was from personal experience, as most Marines will recall having seen, or met, the man in charge when they served in uniform.

□1775□

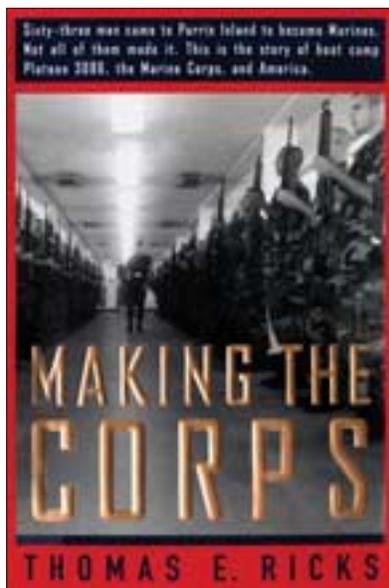
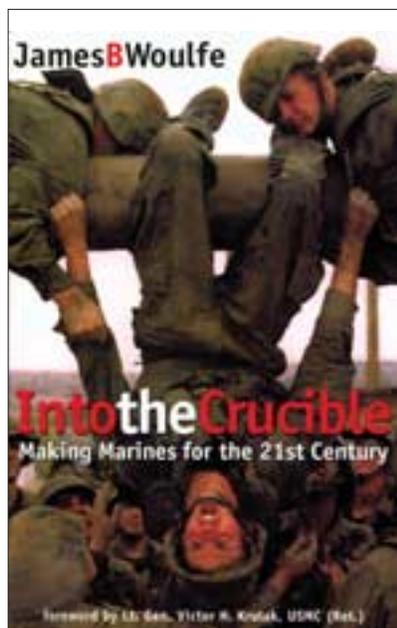
## Parris Island Reading

by Janet M. Nahrstedt  
Historical Center Library Intern

This is a selection of commercially published books about Parris Island. Most of these books are available through brick-and-mortar or online bookstores or through your local library and their interlibrary loan program.

*Spanish Artifacts from Santa Elena.* Stanley South, et al. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina, 1988. 472 pp. This anthropological report details the archaeological history of Parris Island, South Carolina. The island was once the site of Santa Elena, the first Spanish colony in the New World, predating English settlement in Jamestown by more than 40 years. The settlement of Santa Elena was part of an ultimately unsuccessful effort by the Spanish to colonize what is now the southeastern United States. Although Spain occupied the fort for only 21 years before being driven out, the site remains a valuable source of information about the history of the colonization of America.

*Into the Crucible.* James B. Woulfe. Novato, California: Presidio Press,

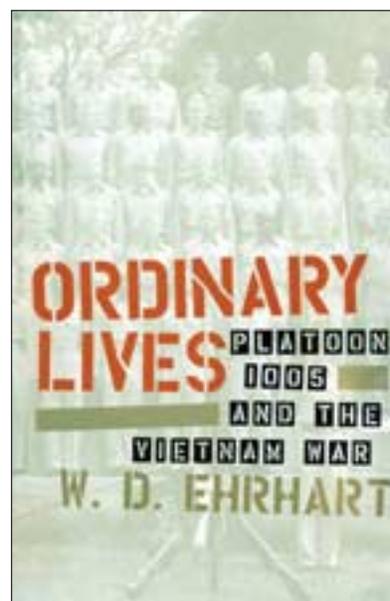


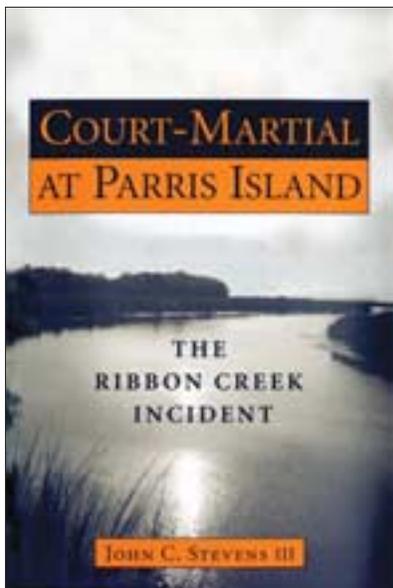
1998. 183 pp. In his book, Woulfe focuses on the final and most grueling 54 hours of Marine Corps recruit training, known as the Crucible, which each recruit must pass to earn their eagle, globe and anchor and the title of United States Marine. The Crucible was created in 1996 by then Commandant General Charles C. Krulak to serve as a culmination of the boot camp experience and a final step in the transition from civilian to Marine. This intense series of events provides a final test for recruits, straining them mentally and physically and demanding success both individually and as a team. Woulfe does an excellent job of discussing the history and purpose behind each event of the Crucible, many of which are named after Medal of Honor recipients.

*Making the Corps.* Thomas E. Ricks. New York, New York: Scribner, 1997. 320 pp. Thomas E. Ricks is a noted military journalist and Pentagon correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal*. This book documents the experiences of Platoon 3086 as the recruits make their way through boot camp at Parris Island and into their first years of ser-

vice. Ricks uses this theme to discuss the intricacies of Marine Corps culture, its strong sense of history and pride and the characteristics that set this branch of the military apart from all the others. Ricks provides an interesting documentary of the boot camp experience along with commentary on changing civil military relations and the public view of the Marine Corps.

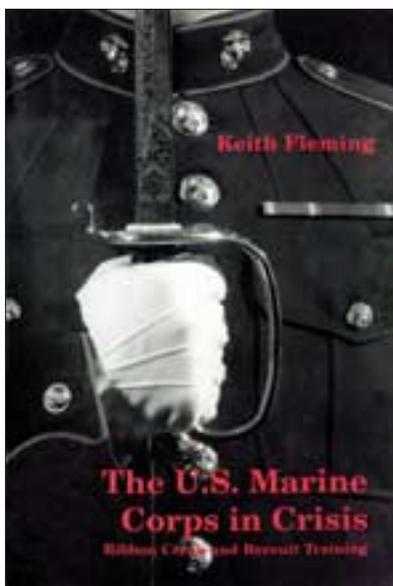
*Ordinary Lives: Platoon 1005 and the Vietnam War.* W. D. Ehrhart. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Temple University Press, 1999. 334 pp. William D. Ehrhart entered boot camp at Parris Island with a group of 80 volunteers in 1966 as part of Platoon 1005. Nearly 30 years later he began a search to learn what had come of his fellow platoon members, most of whom he had not seen since graduation. In his book, Ehrhart provides a look into the lives of the members of his recruit platoon after the left Parris Island, through the Vietnam War and into the present. Using military records and interviews with platoon members and their families, the author determines the members of Platoon 1005 form a





fairly accurate cross-section of the diverse Vietnam generation.

*Court Martial at Parris Island: The Ribbon Creek Incident.* John C. Stevens, III. Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press, 1999. 184 pp. During a forced night march led by drill instructor Staff Sergeant Matthew McKeon in April 1956, six recruits drowned in Ribbon Creek at Parris Island. This event created a national uproar against harsh treatment during Marine Corps boot camp and spurred a massive reconsideration of recruit training techniques. The book is writ-



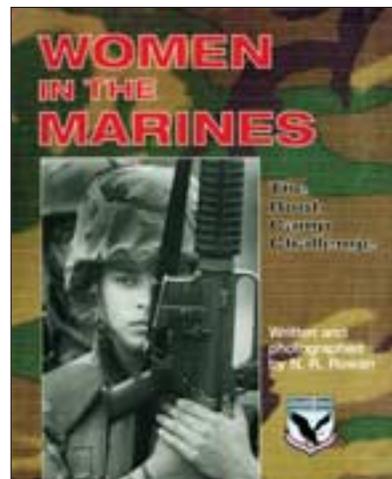
ten by a trial judge and former Marine and explores the event, the crisis faced in the Marine Corps in the wake of the tragedy and the following court martial of McKeon.

*The U.S. Marine Corps in Crisis.* Keith Fleming. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press, 1990. 150 pp. This book also analyzes the Ribbon Creek incident of 1956. Keith Fleming is a retired Marine officer and former historian in the History and Museums Division, Headquarters Marine Corps. The book studies the Ribbon Creek incident from many angles. Fleming discusses the history of Marine Corps recruit training leading up to the Korean War and the conditions that led to the incident, the event itself, the court martial of Staff Sergeant McKeon, and the crisis faced by the Marine Corps in responding to the incident. He also discusses the ramifications of the crisis as it affected future Marine Corps recruit training, the media and legislative relations with the military after the Korean War.

*Women in the Marines: The Boot Camp Challenge.* N. R. Rowan. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Lerner Publications Company, 1994. 72 pp. This is an excellent juvenile book intended for readers in grades five through eight. Rowan discusses the past and present roles of women in the military and particularly the Marines. The book focuses on the experiences and challenges of boot camp from the perspective of female recruits and outlines many of the career opportunities available to women Marines. The book provides a

### Periodical Donations

The Library of the Marine Corps Historical Center welcomes newspapers such as *Sea Tiger* from Vietnam, *Brown Side Out* from Desert Storm and copies of *Leatherneck* magazine and newspapers from Marine Corps deployments from World War II. Please send your contributions to Marine Corps Historical Center Library, 1254 Charles Morris St. S.E., Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5040.



great source of information for young readers interested in learning more about what boot camp and the Marine Corps are all about. □1775□

### Answers to the Historical Quiz

#### Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island

(Questions on page 20)

1. U.S. Naval Station, Port Royal, South Carolina
2. Page Field (named for Captain Arthur Hallet Page, Jr., USMC, a prestigious World War I aviator who died in a plane crash in 1930)
3. Fort San Felipe II and Saint Elena
4. Horse Island Bridge and Causeway
5. Drill Instructor School, Recruiters School, Personnel Administration School and Field Music School
6. Mike, a full-blooded Irish terrier
7. 1861
8. Norfolk, Virginia
9. 1949
10. 205,000 recruits

