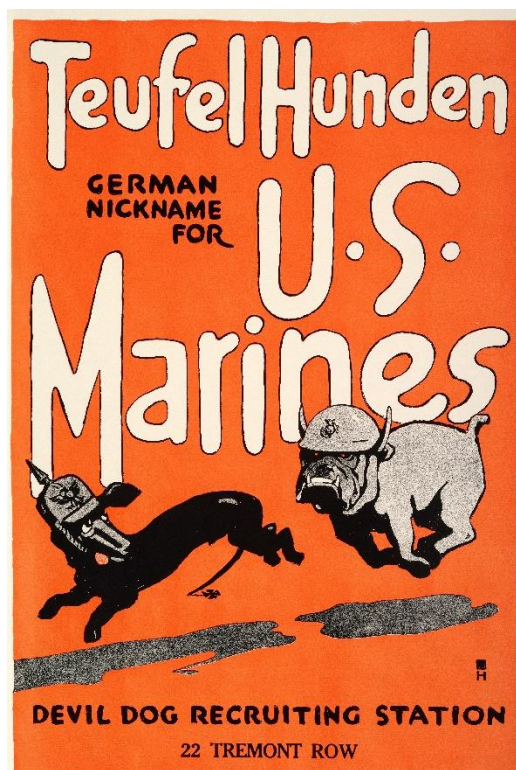




MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

Devil Dogs

Marines have had many nicknames, but one that has endured and is a point of pride is “Devil Dogs.” The name reportedly grew out of the legend of Marine exploits at Belleau Wood. Lore has it that the origins of the nickname came from German troops who commented on the aggressive nature of the Marines they faced, resembling dogs from hell, or *Teufelhunden*. There is no evidence that the Germans ever used the term, however, and it appeared on a recruiting poster prior to the battle. Regardless, the nickname has since become synonymous with Marines. Completing the mythic nature of the fight at Belleau Wood is a fountain in the village of Belleau, just north of the wood. Although the brigade did not take the town, generations of Marines have made the pilgrimage to drink from the “Devil Dog Fountain” in honor of their brethren.



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