An Annotated Bibliography Of
THE UNITED STATES MARINES
IN
AMERICAN FICTION

HISTORICAL BRANCH, G-3 DIVISION
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PREFACE

This bibliography of selected books is published for the information of all who are interested in the history of the Marine Corps as represented in fiction. Inclusion of a particular title does not constitute Marine Corps endorsement of that work.

R. E. Cushman, Jr.
Major General, U. S. Marine Corps
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3

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UNITED STATES MARINES IN AMERICAN FICTION

Compiled by
Truman R. Strobridge

Introduction

The following list is intended as a research tool for historians, writers, librarians, and others interested in the public image of the United States Marines as portrayed in American fiction over the years. The presence or absence of any particular work, however, does not express approval or disapproval. The only criteria used for inclusion are the ones given below. If any pertinent work has been omitted, it was unintentional and not deliberate.

As with any compilation of a bibliographical nature, certain standards of selection had to be rigorously applied. The tests in this case were: (1) Was it a work predominantly about United States Marines? (2) Was it a work of fiction? (3) Was it published in book form?

The resulting list consists of novels and collections of short stories in which the major fictional characters are United States Marines. Many borderline cases, inevitable in any task of selection, had to be discarded. Numerous war anthologies contain short stories about Marines, but if these made up a small percentage of the total book, inclusion was not considered appropriate. Several novels in which Marines loomed large in the plot, but were not the major characters, were eliminated, such as John B. Durgan, Two Per Cent Fear; A. B. "Ed" Edelmann, Condition is Red; Frederic Wakeman, Shore Leave; and Kenneth Dodson, Away all Boats. On the other hand, Andrew Geer, Reckless, Pride of the Marines, and Robert Leckie, Helmet for My Pillow, books usually classified by librarians as fiction, have been omitted because the compiler considers them primarily non-fiction works rather than fiction.

In the bibliography which follows, no attempt at literary evaluation has been made. Both good and poor literary works have been included in an attempt to
survey the public image of Marines as viewed by writers. The annotations are designed to give a brief understanding of what the book is about, and not to serve as a critical judgment upon the work or the author. To make it easier to view the fictional Marine over the years, these books are arranged chronologically as to date of publication. Author and title indexes can be found in the appendixes.

Bibliography


   An early novel about John Kendall, a quartermaster sergeant in the Marine Corps, who falls in love with the colonel's niece and sees action in Nicaragua.


   Richard Comstock, the enlisted hero of this teen-age novel, travels to several southern lands and witnesses a lively skirmish in Mexico.


   A juvenile novel describing the peacetime experiences of Private Warfield "Wardy" Brown and his young Marine companions as they change from youngsters into Marines.


   A sequel to The Marines Have Landed. The hero engages in several of the expeditions of the "Banana Wars" and progresses from Corporal to Second Lieutenant.


   A sequel to The Marines Have Advanced. Lieutenant Comstock goes to France during World War I, where he and his friends encounter many adventures, including contact with the extensive spy system of the Germans.


   A sequel to Lieutenant Comstock, U.S. Marine. It deals with the hero as a member of the Fourth Marine Brigade in France during World War I and follows him through the actions from Belleau Wood to the Meuse-Argonne.


   Eleven short stories about Marines in France during World War I, written by an ex-Marine who was there.

A collection of five short stories centered about the Marines of the 49th Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, in France during World War I, especially the actions of Belleau Wood, Soissons, and Blanc Mont.


The principal character of this novel of Marines in France during World War I, Private Hicks, slowly becomes adjusted to the daily tasks of surviving under front line conditions and the constant advance into almost certain death.


A novel about a Marine officer who undertakes a spy mission to Mexico City just prior to the Vera Cruz incident in 1914. General Butler’s somewhat similiar real-life spy mission to Mexico City might have inspired this novel.


Ten short stories about Marines, ranging from World War I in Europe to the "Banana Wars" in the tropics.


A juvenile novel about two lads, too young to enlist, who stow away on a transport and follow the Marines to adventure in Nicaragua.


Told in the first person, this story begins with the Marines going into action for the first time at Belleau Wood and ends with the armistice.


A collection of ten short stories, eight of which concern Marines, ranging in scene from the trenches of World War I in France to the air patrols in Nicaragua.


A novel about the Marines in Santo Domingo during the "Banana Wars."


A novel dealing with Marine flier, Rorrie O’Rourke, and his exploits in Haiti in operations against the rebels.


A collection of fifteen short stories, dealing primarily with Marines in action from China to Nicaragua.
   A novel centered about an Army flier detached to Haiti for service with the Marines and the Garde d'Haiti.

   A collection of sixteen short stories about Marines in their far-flung stations, filled with mystery, adventure, and lure of foreign countries as experienced and narrated by a Marine officer on duty beyond the seas.

   A novel dealing with the exploits of the Fourth Marines in China and at Bataan and Corregidor.

   A juvenile fiction book, designed for children from six to ten years of age.

   Thirty-seven stories of Marines, ranging in scene from the battlefields of France to South America, the Caribbean, and North China. Initially published as four separate books---Fix Bayonets!, Red Pants and Other Stories, Marines and Others, and Salt Winds and Gobi Dust---the majority of these tales plus several others which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post have been incorporated into this single volume.

   A novel about a Marine stationed in the United States during World War II. On a weekend pass, he visits Washington, D. C., and becomes involved in a murder.

   A short historical novel based on the invasion of Tripoli in 1805 by General William Eaton, Lieutenant O'Bannon and a few Marines. Written for the high school level of reader.

   A Dodd, Mead Career Book, designed for teen-age girls, this novel describes a Woman Marine's induction, training, her duty assignment in California, and her romance with Captain Richard Whiting, USMC.

   A novel based on the famous Choiseul Diversion in the late fall of 1943, when a party of Marines landed on Choiseul Island to keep the Japanese occupied while the First Marine Amphibious Corps prepared to land in force at Bougainville.

A novel depicting the brief Marine Corps career of Glen Manson. The story follows him from boot camp to advanced training, from there to combat and death.


A novel about the Marines on an island in the Pacific during World War II, the English proprietor of the island, his three beautiful daughters, and the natives.


A novel dealing with a group of Marines stationed on an isolated island in the Pacific, and the effects upon each of them of the Second World War and the heat.


This novel relates an incident of the war in Korea, telling the story of Dog Company, a Marine unit, whose mission it was to cover the withdrawal from the Reservoir to Hungnam on the coast.


A novel about a young Marine who goes AWOL from boot camp, and the effect of that act on him and his mother.


This novel follows the radio squad of the 2d Battalion, 6th Marines through their adventures from Guadalcanal to Iwo Jima.


A novel centered around Noumea, New Caledonia, the Red Cross women who staffed the service club there, and the Marines of the mythical 5th Marine Raider Battalion.


United States Marines in the Mediterranean against the Barbary pirates. Written for the Junior High School level of reader.


The Saipan campaign of World War II is the setting of this novel, and the hero is a Marine infantry platoon leader.


Written for the teen-ager, this story concerns the Marine Corps recruit training at San Diego and the experiences of a youth undergoing the Corps' recruit training.

A novel of Marines during World War II, it relates the last days of the training camp, the last furlough home, and action against the Japanese on a Pacific beachhead.


A novel dealing with a Marine officer in the Gendarmerie d'Haiti during the period of the United States Marines' involvement in Haiti.


A novel of the Korean War with a "frozen Chosin" background, being primarily the story of a Marine company commander as he learns in action the difference between command and leadership.


A novel dealing with a Marine officer's experiences with the Corps from Nicaragua to Korea.


A novel following Private Andrew Willy through the conquest of Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa to the occupation of Nagasaki and his discharge after 30 months of active duty with the Marine Corps.


A novel which gives a portrait of a battalion of Paramarines, temporarily off the front lines and camped on New Caledonia during World War II.


A fictionalized account of the 9th Marines during World War II.


A novel dealing with a Marine's tour of recruit-duty in Chicago during World War II.


Ten short stories about Marines in World War II, from their training in the United States to the jungles of the Pacific.


A novel about a Marine, following him from his childhood in Montana, through boot camp, combat on Guadalcanal, and back to the States.


A novel dealing with the improbable exploits of the Public Information Section of the 1st Marine Division during the Korean War.

A novel about Marines who are veterans of the Korean fighting, but now have the peacetime duty of training and waiting in Japan for the next war.


A novel about Marines during the Korean War.


A novel about a fantastic plot by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to remove the President and take over the government of the United States. The hero, Marine Colonel Martin J. Casey, uncovers the conspiracy and works with the President to thwart it.
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