MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

An Annotated Bibliography

of

NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT

HISTORICAL DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1971
An Annotated Bibliography
Of
Naval Gunfire Support

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Historical Division
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Washington, D. C. 20380
1971
Preface

This bibliography is published for the information of all who are interested in the history of naval gunfire support. Inclusion of a particular work does not necessarily constitute Marine Corps endorsement of that work.

J. R. CHAISSON
Lieutenant General, U. S. Marine Corps
Chief of Staff

Reviewed and Approved: 17 November 1971
Introduction

The list which follows contains titles of generally available articles and books that are related to naval gunfire support. Inclusion of any given title does not constitute Marine Corps acceptance or endorsement of the author's views, conclusions, or accuracy. The annotation supplied is in the nature of a description of the contents rather than a critical evaluation.

Analyzes the weaknesses and strengths of naval gunfire support during the period.

Cdr V. T. Boatwright, USN. "What the Army Should Know About Naval Gunfire." Combat Forces Journal, v. 2, no. 7 (Feb 52), pp. 30-31.

Rebuttal to Lieutenant Colonel Heinl's article of October 1951 by the Navy Gunnery Officer in OVERLORD, with Lieutenant Colonel Heinl's answer.


Results of a careful study in the Marine Corps Schools of combat developments, representing the approach to the problem of coordinating supporting fires at that time.

Cdr Malcolm W. Cagle, USN and Cdr Frank A. Manson, USN. The Sea War in Korea. Annapolis: U. S. Naval Institute, 1957. xxix, 555 pp., illus., maps, notes.

A general history of the Navy's part in the Korean War.


Relates the story of how battleships, cruisers, and destroyers supported Marines at Tarawa with naval gunfire.


An account of naval operations in Korea based largely on official records of the U.S. Navy. Marine Corps operations mentioned throughout.


Discusses the form that naval gunfire support will take in nuclear war.

Author contends that air, artillery, and naval gunfire can be made more efficient by coordinating liaison between the supporting arms and the supported infantry group.

Gen Wallace M. Greene, Jr. USMC. "Navy 'Gun Gap' Worries Marines." U. S. Naval Institute Proceedings, v. 90, no. 12, whole no. 742 (Dec 64), Notebook.

News item published in Washington Evening Star, 6 October 1964, quoting General W. M. Greene, Jr., Marine Corps Commandant, as saying, "a further reduction in available naval gunfire support will increase the 'gun gap' and reduce our shore bombardment capability."


Contains brief summary of reasons for bringing back battleships to support troops in the Republic of Vietnam.


The author gives his solutions to the problem: halt all decommissionings which reduce number of guns, re-commission additional conventional heavy cruisers, raise a battleship to readiness, invigorate research, etc.


A brief study on the Marine/Navy controversy regarding the length of preliminary bombardment of Iwo Jima where almost 6,000 Marines died.

Maj Robert D. Heinl, Jr., USMC. "Naval Gunfire Support In Landings." Marine Corps Gazette, v. 29, no. 9 (Sep 45), pp. 40-43.

Discusses the development of naval gunfire support from the beginning of World War II.

A history of the Naval Gunfire Section, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, and its role in the training of personnel of all services in the employment of naval gunfire.

LtCol Robert D. Heinl, Jr., USMC. "The Most Shot-At Island In the Pacific," U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, v. 73, no. 4, whole no. 530 (Apr 47), pp. 397-399.

The story of Kahoolawe, an island in the Hawaiian group, which was used as a shore bombardment range and impact area for some 880 ships during World War II.


Author discusses the development, techniques, and doctrines of naval gunfire support.


Author looks at naval gunfire in its staff context and discusses the planning, execution, and coordination of gunfire support as developed during the Pacific War.


Author explains differences in use of artillery and that of naval gunfire, with examples of how naval gunfire support made the difference in victory or defeat on many amphibious landings during World War II.


Author traces the background of the Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Company.


The author discusses the limitations and failures as well as the possibilities of the Joint Assault Companies.

Author discusses the planning, execution, and coordination of gunfire support as developed during the Pacific War.

Col Frederick P. Henderson, USMC. "Naval Gunfire." Marine Corps Gazette, v. 40, no. 3 (Mar 56) and v. 40, no. 6 (Jun 56), pp. 44-51 and pp. 36-44.

A troop's-eye view of naval gunfire support in the Solomons' campaigns before such support was meticulously planned and coordinated as it would be later.

LtCol Frederick P. Henderson, USMC. "Naval Gunfire in the Solomon Islands Campaign." Unpublished manuscript, 1954. 85 pp. (In Marine Corps Historical Library)

The story of naval gunfire support in the Solomons, where Marines and sailors gave the first test of battle to the doctrines and techniques they had developed in theory and practiced in pre-World War II training. The author ("old 0840") participated in most of the gunfire support planning and operations of the Solomon's campaign.


A defense of the battleship.

James D. Hessman. "Resurgence of Naval Guns in the Age of Missiles." Navy, the Magazine of Sea Power, v. 12 (Jun 69), pp. 32-34.

The editor of the Armed Forces Journal discusses the resurgence of the naval gun which came about with the Vietnam war.


Discusses the problems of executing counterbattery fires against the enemy battery positions and defenses, from the standpoint of the Ship's Control Officers, who were charged with the effective employment of the firing batteries.
An interpretive history of the development of amphibious weapons, tactics, and doctrine by the Marine Corps during World War II. Naval gunfire support is covered extensively throughout.

1st Lt John M. McLaurin, Jr., USMC. "Making the Most of Naval Gunfire." Marine Corps Gazette, v. 31, no. 2 (Feb 47), pp. 44-45.

Gives examples of how cooperation and ingenuity between land and sea keynotes efficient supporting fire.


An account of the activities of the Northern Attack Group, with Maj Gen Harry Schmidt's 4th Marine Division, in the seizure of Roi-Namur.

Cdr I. E. McMillan, USN. "Naval Gunfire at Guam." Marine Corps Gazette, v. 32, no. 9 (Sep 48), pp. 52-56.

An account of naval gunfire support given to Marines at Guam.


A concise history of the gradual development of naval gunfire support.


Author advocates the use of rockets on battleships.


Operations of the 1st Marine Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 15 September-7 October 1950.

A quasi-official account of the U.S. Naval Service in the Second World War. Includes many mentions of Marines in all areas of activity: amphibious warfare, aviation, ship's detachments, naval gunfire, garrison forces, etc. Contains staff lists, ship lists, and lists of awards and decorations throughout. Volumes of particular pertinence to Marine operations are: vol. 1 (Iceland, pp. 74-79); vol. 3 (Wake Island, pp. 223-254); vol. 4 (Makin, 235-241, Guadalcanal, pp. 245-296); vol. 5 (complete); vol. 6 (Central and Northern Solomons, pp. 89-431); vol. 7 (Gilberts and Marshalls, pp. 69-354); vol. 8 (Marianas, pp. 149-422); vol. 12 (Palaus, pp. 30-54); vol. 13 (throughout); vol. 14 (Iwo Jima, Okinawa, throughout); and vol. 15 (all campaigns indexed throughout).


Reprinted from the *Cavalry Journal*, Jan-Feb 44, the article describes the increased use and efficiency of British naval gunfire in support of the Army ashore during World War II.


A comprehensive account of the campaign. Appendices include Japanese and American casualty statistics, capsulized citations of Medal of Honor recipients, and Japanese and American command and staff lists.


A translation of the author's article in *Krasnaia Zvesda* (USSR) of 27 Apr 46. Discusses the use of naval guns in support of the Russian Army. The Russian author calls for better training in postwar Russian armed forces.


A staff artillery coordinator advises on the grouping of bombardment ships, shelling times, and support and target areas.

Author briefly traces the history of the organization and the functioning of Shore Fire Control Parties since Guadalcanal.


Author suggests ways to improve naval gunfire support.


Reports proposal to place battleships into active service with the amphibious forces.


Presents a broad concept of naval gunfire support.


A news item reprinted from the Baltimore Sun, 3 September 1965, giving statistics and examples of naval gunfire support in the Republic of Vietnam.

LtCol James B. Soper. "Naval Gunfire Today and Tomorrow." U. S. Naval Institute Proceedings, v. 92, no. 9 whole no. 763 (Sep 66), pp. 52-59.

The author discusses the need for landing fire support ships to serve as the main backbone of the modern era, while emphasizing the need for using battleships until these newer invocations are ready.


Author discusses in general how naval gunfire works in Vietnam and some of the problems encountered.
Contains a chronology of naval gunfire support in South Vietnam during 1969.


Contains many references to naval gunfire given U. S. Army units.


Contains many references to naval gunfire support given U. S. Army units.


IV. Operations In the Western Pacific. Planned 1971.
V. Victory and Occupation. 1968. 945 pp.

This series contains numerous references to naval gunfire support during World War II.

U. S. Marine Corps. Historical Division and Historical Branch, G-3 Division. Campaign monographs of World War II.

1. The Guadalcanal Campaign (1949)
2. Marines in the Central Solomons (1952)
3. Bougainville and the Northern Solomons (1948)
4. The Battle for Tarawa (1947)
5. The Campaign on New Britain (1952)
6. The Marshalls: Increasing the Tempo (1954)
7. Saipan: The Beginning of the End (1950)
8. The Recapture of Guam (1954)
9. The Seizure of Tinian (1951)
10. The Assault on Peleliu (1950)

Contain numerous references to naval gunfire support of landing operations and units ashore.

Capt Paul Van Leunen, Jr., USN. "Naval Weapons Today." Naval Review (1965), pp. 54-56.

Compares the number of active gun barrels available for shore fire support in the fleet of 1965 with the same gunpowder of the fleet of 1945.

Col Donald M. Weller, USMC. "Firepower and the Amphibious Assault." Marine Corps Gazette (Part I), v. 36, no. 3 (Mar 52), pp. 55-61 and (Part II), v. 36, no. 4 (Apr 52), pp. 60-69.

A pioneer of naval gunfire support examines firepower in World War II, comes up with some glaring weaknesses, and poses problems for the Marine Corps to solve in its role of amphibious advisor to the Armed Forces.

Col Donald W. Weller, USMC. "Salvo-Splash! The Development of Naval Gunfire Support in World War II." U. S. Naval Institute Proceedings, (Part I), v. 80, no. 8, whole no. 618 (Aug 54), pp. 839-849 and (Part II), v. 80, no. 9, whole no. 618 (Sep 54), pp. 1011-1021.

A study of the changes and development of naval gunfire support from the beginning of the war to the end.


Relates the story of the battleship USS New Jersey in Vietnam.
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