MARINE HISTORIANS MAKE 'UNIMAGINABLE' VISITS TO SOVIET UNION UNDER EXCHANGE PROGRAM . . . 'STAFF RIDES' CARRY OFFICERS TO CIVIL WAR SITES FOR LESSONS IN HISTORY, TACTICS . . . GEN LEWIS W. WALT REMEMBERED ESPECIALLY FOR WW II, VIETNAM SERVICE . . . NEW PAINTING PAYS TRIBUTE TO SMEDLEY BUTLER
HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION

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

This quarterly bulletin of the Marine Corps historical program is published to educate and train Marines on active duty in the uses of military and Marine Corps history. Other interested readers may purchase single copies or one-year subscriptions (four quarterly issues) from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

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THE COVER

On 25 October 1917, the Russian imperial cruiser Aurora fired a signal shot launching the “October Revolution” attack on the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. In commemoration, the ship has been meticulously restored and maintained by the Soviet Navy—so well, reports recent visitor to Leningrad, BGen Simmons, in his “Memorandum from the Director” beginning on page 3, that she can be underway in 30 minutes. Another visitor to the Aurora, Col Nihart, describes his recent experience of the Soviet Union beginning on page 16. The illustration is by John T. Dyer, Jr.

CORRECTION

The photograph of LtGen Henry W. Buse, Jr., accompanying a notice of the death of the former chief of staff at HQMC and Commanding General of Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, was incorrectly printed from the wrong side of the negative on page 19 of the Winter 1988-1989 issue of Fortitudine. The staff regrets this error.
Memorandum from the Director

Mission to Moscow

Never a year or so ago could I have imagined that I would one day see the inside of the Frunze Military Academy, or the elegant headquarters of the Leningrad Military District, or visit the cantonment of the Tamansky Guards Division, but all these things, plus more, happened in the course of an eight-day JCS-sponsored exchange visit of U.S. military history chiefs to the Soviet Union.

We were the guests of the Institute of Military History and our primary host was Colonel General (which is to say three stars) Dmitri A. Volkogonov who claims a personal library of 15,000 volumes and whose revisionist biography of Josef Stalin has attracted international attention. He is now at work on a biography of Trotsky, a project which would have been inconceivable in the pre-Gorbachev era.

There were 11 of us in the delegation which was headed by BGen William A. Stofft, USA, the U.S. Army's Chief of Military History. The Russians did not always grasp that we were a delegation of parts from separate historical agencies and not Gen Stofft and his staff. The approach to military history in the Soviet Union is monolithic and not prone to understand varying perspectives and different viewpoints.

This exchange visit was just one of a two-year series of such visits set into motion by the visit of Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev hosted by JCS Chairman, Adm William J. Crowe, Jr., here in the United States last summer. The visit of the Soviet military museum directors in December has already been covered in For-titutidine (Spring 1989) and the return visit of our museum directors is reported upon elsewhere in this issue. By the time this piece appears in print, Adm Crowe will have made an 11-day June visit to the Soviet Union accompanied by the vice-chiefs of the four services, in our case, Gen Joseph J. Went, as the Assistant Commandant.

The other members of the predominantly U.S. Army military history delegation were:

Dr. Ronald H. Spector, Director of Naval History.
Dr. Richard H. Kohn, Director, Office of Air Force History.

ColGen Dmitri A. Volkogonov, third from left, meets with the U.S. delegation. Gen Volkogonov, a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, heads the Soviet Institute of Military History in Moscow. The Institute has about 300 employees or "scientific workers."

Dr. Alfred Goldberg, Historian, Office of the Secretary of Defense.
Mr. Willard J. Webb, Chief, Historical Division, Joint Chiefs of Staff.
Col Harold Nelson, USA, Director, Theory of War, U.S. Army War College.
Col John F. Concannon, USA, former U.S. Army Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Moscow.
Dr. Bruce Menning, Historian, Soviet Army Studies Office, Fort Leavenworth.
Mr. Bernard Orenstein, Translator, Soviet Army Studies Office, Fort Leavenworth.
Mr. Nicholas Orechof, Translator, Department of the Air Force.

Our odyssey began at Washington's Dulles Airport on Saturday, 1 April, with a puddle-jumper connecting flight to Kennedy Airport in New York where we were put into a holding area for the once-a-week departure of Pan American Flight 30. PAA 30, which has a Pan American flight crew and a joint Pan American-Aeroflot cabin crew, has a bad reputation, but actually is no more uncomfortable than any other cross-Atlantic flight in a Boeing 747 except that the flight time is twice as long. Moreover, we were two hours late in getting off the ground and equally late in arriving at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport. Two-thirds of the passengers seemed to be Russians, smoking very strong cigarettes and returning home with all sorts of consumer goods in bulky packages. My own section of the auditorium-size economy-class cabin was enlivened by the presence of a large contingent of high-school-age American gymnasts on their way to a meet in Minsk.

A light snow was falling as we arrived and our initial greeting was equally chilly. After being herded through several passageways and lines we came into our first exposure to Soviet authority in the form of a young soldier wearing the green collar tabs of the Border Guard who checked our official passports. After staring unsmilingly and repeatedly, first at me and
The headquarters of the Leningrad Military District occupies what was once the headquarters of the Imperial General Staff. This regally impressive crescent is across the square from the Winter Palace. The Czarist household guard entered through this arch.

then my passport photographs, he finally decided that I was the person I was supposed to be, and, removing one copy of my Soviet visa, wordlessly punched the button that opened the wicker and I was allowed to pass into the Soviet Union.

Proceedings then thawed. We were met by an active-duty major general (one star), Anatoly G. Khor'kov, a smiling, handsome man who is one of Gen Volkogonov’s deputies, and a retired Navy captain (but back in uniform for the occasion), Igor A. Amosov, who spoke excellent English. Later when I complimented him on his English he said with a wry smile that we were the first Americans with whom he had spoken since he was declared persona non grata as naval attache in Washington in 1954.

After our baggage was collected and without a customs inspection, we loaded on board a fine bus driven by a warrant officer and started on our way into Moscow. En route, Gen Khor’kov, an expert on the subject, lectured through an interpreter on the heroic reversal of the German offensive against the city. We could see little because of the snow but that made it all the easier to visualize the pанzers grinding to a frozen halt.

We were billeted in the Ministry of Defense Hotel, an 11- or 12-story building in Lenin Hills, and comparable in accommodations to an American commercial-class motor hotel. My room on the 9th floor had a private bath, a small refrigerator, a television, a balcony, and vaguely Scandinavian-style furnishings. My single bed was a foam rubber mattress on a plywood frame.

We took our meals in a large, ornate dining room at a long table with crossed U.S. and U.S.S.R. flags. On other tables in the room the U.S.S.R. flags were crossed with those of Cuba, East Germany, North Korea, and Vietnam. The meals were served with considerable style. The waiters were unsmiling, very young men in three-piece gray business suits. We understood that they were conscript soldiers. The heaviest meal was at noon and typically it would be zakouska (the Russian form of antipasto), soup (almost always some kind of borscht), a main course (most often a small beefsteak with fried potatoes and canned peas), and a dessert of excellent ice cream or pastries. At all meals there was fine-grained white and brown bread. The flags in the center of the table shared space with ranks of bottled mineral water, fruit juices, and soft drinks. There was one pale green beverage called “Georgian grass.” There was always a choice of tea or coffee with the tea being much the better of the two. The sugar cubes came obviously from Cuba which caused me to say something under my breath in Spanish to which Capt Amosov made prompt reply in the same language. It developed that he had served in Cuba from about 1968 to 1972.

In the late afternoon we went to the Central Museum of the Armed Forces where the military history of Russia begins with the Revolution of 1917 and the subsequent Civil War and ends with the Great Patriotic War, as World War II is universally called. It is a magnificent museum. The leitmotif is the famed Red Banners and we have our own armor, artillery, logistic support, and so on, and that we are by law a separate service. How much of this was comprehensible after translation, I am not certain.

During the discussion period I expressed an interest in the Soviet experience in North China at the end of World War II and also raised the question of the operational experience of the Soviets in Afghanistan. Neither then, nor at any time later, was there any real discussion of Afghanistan, or for that matter, was there any great curiosity shown as to the American experience in Vietnam. We met some officers who had served in Afghanistan but any discussion of their experience was closed out abruptly with the statement that Afghanistan had been a “mistake,” a mistake presumably made by the politicians.

Monday, 3 April, our first full day in Russia, was spent largely in a series of formal meetings in the Institute of Military History, a handsome, marble-faced building immediately adjacent to the hotel. There was a good deal of talk about “true facts,” the filling in of “blank spaces” in Soviet history, and the potential for writing joint history. The Institute has about 300 employees or “scientific workers.” Nearly that number were present in the Institute’s auditorium for the largest of the sessions which took the form of set-piece presentations by the principal members of the U.S. delegation.

My “Ten Minutes on the U.S. Marine Corps Historical Program” was read in translation by Mr. Orechof of our delegation. I spent half of my allotted time in trying to describe the Marine Corps itself, stressing that we are an air-ground organization and that in addition to our own aircraft we have our own armor, artillery, logistic support, and so on, and that we are by law a separate service. How much of this was comprehensible after translation, I am not certain.
Hitler's white uniform jacket showing burn marks from the fire in the bunker.

That night there was a formal dinner in the hotel hosted by ColGen Volkogonov. It was the only meal at which any amount of alcohol was served: vodka, Georgian wine, and brandy, in that order and in conservative amounts. From what we saw, the Soviet armed forces are serious in both their anti-alcohol and anti-tobacco programs.

The next day, Tuesday, 4 April, we went by bus, the same fine bus which we were later told had been built in Hungary, with military police escort (a first lieutenant in a sedan) to the cantonment of the Tamansky Guards Division located some 40 kilometers out of Moscow, off Route 30, the road to Minsk. Route 30 was a good macadam road still showing the effects of winter. Most of the traffic, which was not heavy, was made up of medium-size trucks, many of them with army markings. The countryside was flat and muddy, with the road walled with scrubby woods of white birch and pine trees (I was reminded of my own native South Jersey), and occasional villages which, with their frame houses, could have been used as stage sets for "Fiddler on the Roof" or "Dr. Zhivago."

First stop within the division camp was at an elaborate museum, just inside the gate, where we were oriented on the division's illustrious past. A reserve division, growing out of the Civil War, the division had distinguished itself in the opening rounds of the Great Patriotic War in 1941 at Smolensk and for it was given the coveted title of "2d Guards Division." Later in the war, for a successful amphibious landing on Taman peninsula in the Black Sea, it was further rewarded with the title "Taman' (or Tamansky) Division." The young officers we met, well turned out in handsome red-piped, gray-blue uniforms, were obviously proud of their unit and it was just as obvious that a primary mission of the division was to serve as a showplace.

Our own reception was somewhat diluted (we met a regimental commander, for instance, but not the division commander) because simultaneously with our visit the division was hosting a tour by the French minister of defense. After the tour of the museum, we were shown through a regimental area, seeing the regimental dispensary (immaculate, but no patients) and then, crossing the parade ground, visited a barracks.

The parade ground was obviously used for recruit training, being marked off for the school of the soldier and close order drill. As the officers freely told us, one of the division's principal missions is to provide troops for Moscow parades and ceremonies. I understood the regimental commander, LtCol V. I. Nosikov, to say that the current strength of his regiment was about 700. This made me think of Marine Barracks, Washington, which at just about the same time of the year would be filling its ranks with the recruits to prepare for the upcoming parade season.

We were told that we were the first Americans to visit the barracks. They are impressive-looking, five-story buildings of brick and cement; on closer inspection, as with most Soviet buildings, the construction is serviceable but roughly finished. We were shown through what was purported to be a company area, but which I suspect was kept in pristine condition with no company ever in residence. Accommodations and lay-out of the company area

Capt First Rank Aleksey M. Aleshin, director of the Central Navy Museum in Leningrad, presents a book to Dr. Ronald H. Spector Director of Naval History. The museum occupies a magnificent 18th Century building inspired by Athens' Parthenon.
were almost exactly as I had known them in the Marine Corps at Quantico, Lejeune, and Pendleton in the 1940s and 1950s before we abandoned squad bays for individual rooms.

One room, with its ironing boards, barber’s chair, and cobbler’s bench, and with its walls hung with charts showing how the uniform should be maintained, was particularly nostalgic for me. The Russian soldier still wears foot cloths instead of socks (“Traditional and more sanitary, washed twice a week,” verified one of the officers) and there was a wall chart showing how the cloth was to be folded around the foot.

During our tour of the company area we were taken to a classroom where an earnest young lieutenant just happened to be giving his platoon (about 12 or 14 very well-scrubbed Caucasians) a lecture on “perestroika.” I peeked over the shoulders of the motionless, well-scrubbed soldiers and saw that their notebooks were blank. We also visited classrooms with tanks (the T-62, I think), 122mm field guns, a tank gunnery simulator, and a gymnasium where a very husky, enthusiastic platoon in utility uniforms (I thought of Force Recon) put on a vigorous demonstration of unarmed, hand-to-hand combat.

We then saw a well-done orientation film showing the division’s wartime service and present mission. In addition to parades, the division, which has two mechanized infantry regiments and a tank regiment, is good in the snow and still does clearance of unexploded World War II ordinance. We also had a splendid lunch, one of the most elaborate of the trip, in the division “restaurant” which we were told was open to all ranks.

That afternoon on returning to Moscow we visited the museum dedicated to

**As the Russians See the U.S. Marines**

The U.S. delegation and its hosts stand on the deck of the meticulously restored cruiser Aurora. It was the Aurora that fired the 6-inch shell that signalled the beginning of the October Revolution in Leningrad.

This article, “The Leathernecks,” appeared in the March 1989 issue of Soviet Military Review. This magazine specializes in glowing accounts of the armed forces of the Soviet Union and other “socialist” states, and less glowing accounts, such as this historical profile of the U.S. Marines, of the forces of the “capitalist” states. The Soviet Military Review is published monthly in Russian, English, Arabic, Dary (Persian), Spanish, Portuguese, and French by the Khrayna Zveesda Publishing House in Moscow.
Borodino, the battle in which Napoleon eked out a Pyrrhic victory over Kutuzov. There is a magnificent collection of military portraits and battle paintings plus uniforms and artifacts, but the raison d’être of the museum is the circular diorama, completed in 1912 under Nicholas II by a French artist and his associates, which eclipses in my mind the similar cycloramas we have at Gettysburg and Atlanta.

That night at a buffet dinner given in the quarters of the U.S. Army attache (across the street from the controversial new embassy building), a senior Soviet officer asked me with a mischievous grin how we liked our visit to the Tamansky Division. I said I had found it very interesting.

“Did you see any live soldiers?” he asked.

“I saw two,” I said with some understatement, holding up two fingers.

The questioner thought my reply very funny and repeated it to his associates who also laughed.

That night we took the Red Arrow express, leaving at midnight, for Leningrad. Nicholas I is supposed to have laid out the route with a ruler, drawing a straight line from Moscow to what was then St. Petersburg. The Red Arrow is a world-class train, travelling smoothly over the Russian wide-gauge tracks at up to 200 kilometers an hour. We were in a first-class car, two bunks to a compartment. Second class has four beds to a compartment. Third class is, I suppose, like our chair cars.

I drew as a sleeping companion Dr. Ronald Spector, Director of Naval History and lieutenant colonel, USMCR. The stove at the end of the car warmed it and also provided hot water for the tea served in glasses held in traditional silver-plated holders.

I had learned that the Russians still read Tolstoy and that Pasternak and Solzhenitsyn are increasingly available. Well warmed with tea and hurrying through the Russian night, my own fantasy identities vacillated between Prince Vronsky rushing to an assignation with Anna Karenina and Dr. Zhivago searching for Lara.

Dawn saw us approaching Leningrad. Again I thought of New Jersey. The marshes with their apparent chemical plants reminded me of the aromatic approach to Newark. We were at the splendidly ornate railroad station at about seven (but no Anna Karenina was on the platform to greet me), and were taken to the Leningrad Hotel, a large tourist-class hotel across the Neva from the berth of the cruiser Aurora. It was the Aurora that began the October 1917 Revolution with its shelling of the Winter Palace. Later we would visit the Aurora and I found it the most carefully restored and maintained of any historic ship I have ever visited. I thought of our own poor USS Olympia, a ship of almost exactly the same time and class and just as historic, lying in almost sinking condition at Penns Landing, Philadelphia.

To compliment the captain, I said that it looked to me as though he could be underway in 12 hours. He looked at me unsmilingly and said, “Thirty minutes.”

In addition to the ubiquitous Lenin, Peter the Great and Catherine the Great are omnipresent in Leningrad (which every so often our hosts, perhaps to amuse us, would call “St. Petersburg”). At the Naval Museum, a magnificent 18th century copy of the Parthenon which under Catherine was the Customs House, there is the lifeboat-size miniature frigate with cannon to scale that Peter had sailed as a boy and in which he had dreamed his dreams of a Russian Navy. On the banks of the Neva is the great equestrian statue of Peter raised by Catherine and to which wedding parties still pay homage with brides in white dresses laying flowers. In the Hermitage, beyond the incredible collections of Rembrandts, Monets, Picassos, and the rest, is a more homely exhibit dedicated to Peter, including the pair of great jackboots he is credited with making after his incognito apprentice wanderings through Europe. The boots stand very high and support the claim that Peter was seven feet tall.

Headquarters of the Leningrad Military Region is in the great crescent that once housed the headquarters of the Imperial Army and which faces the Winter Palace across the square. We made an office call on the Acting Chief of Staff, ColGen Yeromin, going up a great marble staircase with bootéd sentries standing rigidly along the way, past alcoves holding heroic-sized bronze statues of Peter and other greats of Czarist times. More modern statues and paintings of Lenin seem almost an intrusion.

We visited the Artillery Museum, once the Imperial Army's artillery cantonment, and truly the most impressive collection of artillery and other ordnance that I have ever seen. Devotees of the AK-47, for example, would be thrilled...
to see the virtually complete collection of Kalashnikov's assault rifle development.

We also visited the Frunze Naval Academy, roughly the equivalent of our Naval Academy, which occupies a palace built by Peter the Great for one of his nobles and then taken back by Catherine the Great for use as a naval school. Our host was the commandant, VAdm Koval'chuk, a nuclear propulsion expert who was the first commander of the new battle cruiser Kirov. No cadets were in residence but we were told there were about a thousand of them and that it was a five-year course.

It was pointed out to us that Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov was a graduate of the Naval Academy. After several years' line service, he became inspector of naval bands. I commented to one of our officer guides, as we went down the palace's long corridors hung with portraits, that there were certain parallels between Rimsky-Korsakov and our own John Philip Sousa, both in their careers and in their work. Both, I thought, were influenced by Jacques Offenbach. My guide smiled politely but did not venture an opinion.

But the most moving and impressive visit we made in Leningrad was to the Piskaryovskoye Cemetery outside the city where 482,000 victims of the siege of Leningrad are buried. Most died not of bullets or the shelling, but of hunger. At the entrance to the cemetery there is an eternal flame and an honor guard that matches with a stiff-legged parade step. A long walk leads to a long wall, not unlike our Vietnam Memorial. The incised letters on the wall, however, are not the names of the dead, but rather are a poem to their memory and indomitable spirit. Funeral dirges, played through an excellent but unseen public address system, fill the air. Going down the long walk to lay a wreath, as we did, you go past square after square of raised earth. These are the mass graves, 15,000 bodies to a grave. These are the names of the dead civilians, who greatly outnumber the soldier dead, are not known, but of Leningrad's population of 2.3 million at the war's beginning, 1 million were evacuated, and of those who remained in the city, at least 600,000 died. Thousands of Soviet citizens visit this cemetery each day just as we have thousands each day at Arlington. Many of them are brides and grooms who lay flowers.

We roared back to Moscow on the returning Red Arrow express the night of Thursday, 6 April. The next day we visited the Frunze Military Academy, the equivalent of the U.S. Army's Command and Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. We would do well to give a little study to Mikhail V. Frunze. He is one of the great heroes of the Russian Revolution and Civil War and is regarded as a founder of the Red Army and a great military theorist. A handsome and dashing figure, he is credited with defeating Adm Kolchak on the eastern front in 1919 and Gen Wrangel on the southern front in 1920. He replaced Trotsky as the people's commissar for war in January 1923 and died, following an operation, in October of that year.

The Frunze Military Academy is a huge building occupying a solid block in Moscow. I thought to myself that this was the fabled academy that trained not only Soviet officers but also many Soviet Bloc and Communist-leaning Third World officers. Soviet officers enter as captains and majors and emerge three years later as majors and lieutenant colonels. The first year's instruction is at the regimental level, the second year's at the division level, and the third year's at the army or front level. The graduates go on to command regiments or to be principal staff officers of higher units.

The commandant of the academy is ColGen Konchits, a tall, imposing man who along with ColGen Volkogonov is one of the 40 or so World War II officers still on active duty.

Col Portugalisky heads the military history department and, judging from the orientation lecture he gave us, is an inspired teacher. His department not only conducts the history instruction at the academy, but also gives advanced-degree-level training to the uniformed military historians, of which there are many, in the Soviet forces.

Next we made a formal call on ColGen Branišlav A. Omlilčev, a Deputy Chief of the General Staff. He is a short, dark-haired man, rather brusque in manner and much younger than ColGens Volkogonov and Konchits. He received us in an elegant conference room in the old Ministry of Defense building, a building in the old style which contrasts sharply with the adjacent flat-sided marble-faced new Ministry of Defense which is called "Moscow's Pentagon." ColGen Omlilčev was one of those who chose to regard us as BGen Stoffi and his staff rather than a delegation representing separate and in-
dependent historical agencies. Dr. Goldberg, the OSD historian, gave an exemplary exposition of the composition of our delegation and our respective viewpoints, but ColGen Omlchev chose to shrug this off.

“Our way,” he said, meaning a monolithic approach to history, “I think is better.”

The day ended with another conference at the Institute of Military History with Gen Volkogonov and the principal members of his staff. This conference included breaking up into small groups to discuss subjects of special interest. In extension of my remarks at the opening session, Dr. Spector and I met with a genial, overweight colonel who spoke English; a rather reticent Navy captain second-class; and an intense young lieutenant colonel. It soon became obvious that none of the three had any knowledge of the American post-war occupation of North China which involved the III Amphibious Corps, or of the presence of U.S. Marine and Navy elements in China until the Communists’ final victory in 1949. Soviet military histories, as translated into English, attribute the defeat of Japan to the destruction of the Japanese Kwantung Army by the “August Storm,” the massive invasion of Manchuria, with the Pacific campaigns and the explosion of the atomic bombs being only incidental to the victory. Those of us who were in North China immediately after the war saw no Russians, although we knew they were to our north, and to us the Kwantung Army appeared remarkably intact. This led to a long discussion on importance of viewpoint and perspective in history.

This Friday meeting ended the business of the conference. Saturday, 8 April, was spent in a tour of the Kremlin, with emphasis on the Armory which equates to the Tower of London in that it houses the crown jewels and other incredibly rich icons and artifacts of Czarist days (as, for example, Catherine the Great’s gold-leafed summer coach).

“We preserve these things,” said our Marxist-oriented guide, “to do honor to the nameless craftsmen who created them.”

That evening we went to the Bolshoi Theater and had box seats (once again I was “Prince Vronsky”) as the guests of ColGen Volkogonov and his wife, Galina, at a superb performance, coincidentally, of Rimsky-Korsakov’s “The Golden Cockerel.”

Next morning, as we prepared to depart for the airport, it was suggested that we visit the Institute of Military History once again, this time to witness the balloting that was in progress. A red banner over the entrance proclaimed that this was a polling place. Inside it could have been election day in an American schoolhouse except the surroundings were infinitely more splendid and a continental breakfast was being served to the voters.

Quite by chance as we left the Institute we met Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, who along with Adm Crowe had put this series of exchange visits into motion, now retired but in full uniform, on his way to vote in the election.

Longtime Museum Exhibits Chief Carl M. ‘Bud’ DeVere Retires

A fter 14 years with the Museums Branch as exhibits chief, Carl M. “Bud” DeVere retired last December. DeVere, also a retired Marine Corps master sergeant, was responsible for redesigning and reinstalling the exhibits from the old museum at Quantico into the new Marine Corps Historical Center in the Washington Navy Yard.

Bud’s accomplishments were legion. He designed and mounted numerous major exhibitions in the Museum’s special exhibits gallery, including “Through the Wheat,” on Marines in World War I; “From Dawn to Setting Sun,” on Marines in World War II; “Arms and Men,” a history of infantry weapons; and the currently showing “The Eagle and the Dragon,” on Marines in the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. Additionally, a number of large art exhibits were shown in the gallery with his assistance.

Too numerous to detail were his smaller exhibits which were mounted in the Museum, at Headquarters Marine Corps, the Naval Academy at Annapolis, the Pentagon, Quantico, and elsewhere in the Washington area. Most important was his development of modular exhibits contained in easily portable, 3x4-foot cases and dealing with themes on Corps history and tradition.

Finally, on staff visits to both the Parris Island and San Diego command museums, he assisted in gallery and exhibit design and construction and moved and reinstalled the entire “From Dawn to Setting Sun” exhibit at Parris Island.

DeVere placed an indelible stamp on the Museum with his artistic, tasteful, and imaginative exhibits which received acclaim from all quarters. He was recognized officially for all of these superlative productive efforts by the award of the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal and unofficially by a retirement luncheon at which he received many testimonials and mementos from his friends and coworkers.

After the usual period for advertising a vacant civilian position and making a selection, Ms. Nancy Christin reported on board 22 May. She brings with her a wealth of hands-on display construction and artistic design experience from the retail store world. Her most recent position was head of displays at the Woodward and Lothrop department store at the Tyson’s Corner, Virginia. Before that she headed displays for the Army-Air Force Exchange System for the Southeastern United States.

Carl M. ‘Bud’ DeVere, Sr., left, is congratulated on retirement by BGen Edwin H. Simmons at a Historical Center assembly.
Acquisitions

Museum Enriched by Flurry of Donations

by Jennifer L. Gooding
Registrar

The Marine Corps Museum recently has received several significant donations of uniforms, medals, accoutrements, and personal papers, among which is a recent gift made by Dr. William M. Ditto of Greensboro, North Carolina. Dr. Ditto donated a footlocker with the American Expeditionary Forces Indian-head insignia painted on it, formerly belonging to his father, 1stLt Holton Y. Ditto, USMC. It contains a soap dish, the sewing kit Lt Ditto was issued at boot camp at Parris Island, and his campaign hat, Sam Browne belt, brown leather leggings, khaki summer-service and green winterservice uniforms, and his personal papers and memoir, which document his experiences and career in the Marine Corps.

Lt Ditto served with the 97th Company, 6th Regiment, 2d Division, American Expeditionary Forces, and fought in the battles of Verdun, St. Mihiel, Blanc Mont, and the Meuse-Argonne. He was awarded the Silver Star for his heroism in the battle of Blanc Mont.

Mrs. Ruth Richards Cummings of Washington, D.C., donated a silver-tipped bamboo swagger stick. This swagger stick was carried by her father, MajGen George Richards, USMC, as a young officer during the Boxer Rebellion. Then-Maj Richards was awarded the Brevet Medal and promotion to lieutenant colonel in 1901 for his performance of duty in that expeditionary tour in China. Gen Richards served for 43 years and was Paymaster of the Marine Corps from 1916 to 1936, when he retired. Gen Richards' swagger stick is among the oldest in the Museum's collection.

The Museum received a donation of two other unusual swagger sticks from Mrs. Ruth Coleman Bogert of Stafford, Virginia. These wooden swagger sticks have silver tips and at the top of each is a Haitian coin, one a twenty-cent coin and the other a ten-cent coin. The swagger sticks were acquired by Mrs. Bogert's father, former Marine Mr. Joseph L. Coleman, when he was stationed in Haiti. Both the Richards and Coleman swagger sticks have been exhibited recently, along with other important sticks.

From the estate of recently deceased BGen Edson L. Lyman, USMC, the Museum received uniforms that span his career in the Marine Corps from Nicaragua to World War II and the Korean War. Also received were Gen Lyman's impressive collection of medals and decorations, among them the Legion of Merit with Combat "V," Navy-Marine Corps Medal, Nicaraguan Medal of Merit, Chinese Order of the Cloud and Banner, and the Netherlands Order of Orange-Nassau with Swords.

Then-LtCol Lyman received the Order of Orange-Nassau with Swords in 1946 from Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands "in recognition of his distinguished and outstanding service rendered to the Netherlands government in connection with the organization and training of the Royal Netherlands Marine Brigade in the United States during World War II." As a colonel, Gen Lyman was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for his service on Okinawa in World War II. The Marine Corps Museum's Personal Papers Collection received the general's personal papers, officers' commissions, and the royal...
Theatre Development Fund.

Mr. Philip C. Frey of Randolph, Vermont, donated a large photograph taken in 1886 of Marines at the tomb of President Ulysses S. Grant. This is one of the older nineteenth century photographs in the Personal Papers Collection, and among the rarest in that it shows Marines of the period performing ceremonial duties.

The Personal Papers Collection also received several fine collections of personal papers, photograph albums, diaries, and scrapbooks from various donors. The estate of BGen Victor F. Bleasdale, USMC, donated his medals, memorabilia, and personal papers, which include then-Capt Bleasdale’s photographs and patrol notebooks from Nicaragua. These notebooks date from 1927 to 1929 and provide insight into Bleasdale’s experiences while stationed in Nicaragua fighting Sandino and other bandits. Also in the collection are photographs of Bleasdale and members of his company in World War I. Some show the remaining members of his company after heavy fighting in the battles of Belleau Wood, Soissons, Meuse-Argonne, and Blanc Mont. Gen Bleasdale’s medals and some of his photographs were recently put on exhibit.

From LtGen James P. Berkeley, USMC (Ret), of Virginia Beach, Virginia, the Museum received a variety of personal papers, photographs, and memorabilia documenting his 38 years in the Marine Corps. Included in the donation were two photograph albums, one containing snapshots taken in Nicaragua when Berkeley was an enlisted Marine from 1927-28, and the other containing pictures of Peiping, China, when then-2dLt Berkeley was a member of the Marine detachment at the American Legation there.

The Nicaragua album consists of photographs of Marines going about their daily routines, as well as in training, and photographs of the inhabitants of the country. In China Berkeley took pictures of many of the temples, palaces, and other sights around Peking.

These photographs dramatically illustrate the interaction of the Marines and the inhabitants of Nicaragua and China in their day-to-day lives.

Col Henry S. Miller, USMC (Ret), of Jenkintown, Pennsylvania, sent the Personal Papers Collection a transcript of a diary from 3 March to 13 November 1943 and a copy of a personal “Records of Operations” journal he kept from 28 November 1943 to 5 January 1944 as executive officer of VMF-214 in the Solomon Islands. The transcript and journal are significant because they are contemporary accounts of the period, unclouded by passing time. Col Miller kept day-to-day accounts of pilot’s missions, daily rosters, records of daily flights, and experiences of several well-known Marine Corps aviators. One page in the “Record of Operations” journal describes the day, 3 January 1944, when Maj Gregory “Pappy” Boyington was shot down by Japanese aircraft over Rabaul, New Britain.

Costumer Rescues 100-Year-Old Marine Drum Major’s Hat

by Nancy F. King
Curator of Uniforms

The Theatre Development Fund of New York City recently donated a circa 1875 drum major’s busby (referred to as a hat in various official Marine Corps Uniform Regulations) to the Marine Corps Museum. Ms. Lynn Hoffman was working for Costume Collection, a non-profit theatrical costume service, when the busby was given to the Museum. She recognized the busby as a rare piece and spoke with her husband, Peter Dervis, about it. Mr. Dervis, a recognized authority on military uniforms, confirmed her suspicions about the busby through preliminary research. They then contacted the Museum and took the necessary steps to have it donated to the Museum from the Theatre Development Fund.

The collection rarely receives nineteenth century artifacts, especially one-of-a-kind items. The busby has been modified as seen in the photograph, most probably by a costumer. Originally, this astrakhan lambskin busby would not have had the U.S. Army infantry insignia, tassel, and plume as shown. In its original configuration, it would have had the gilt chin strap; scarlet cloth “bag” on top and partially down the left side; girt cord and tassel; and a red, white, and blue plume on the right side. According to successive Marine Corps Uniform Regulations, this particular busby was used from at least 1875 to 1916. From 1859 until the adoption of this busby, a slight variation was used. It sported a red pompon in center front instead of a plume and had a leather chin strap.

In December 1916 the busby was dropped and a visored frame cap, the same type and dimensions as the regular enlisted dress cap, was adopted. It was made of scarlet cloth with a band of Mohair braid between the welts at the top and bottom of the band. There was black braid on the top of the crown that was patterned the same as the undress commissioned officers’ cap—the traditional quatrefoil. The visor, buttons, chin strap, and Corps device were all the same as the regular enlisted dress cap.

The disappearance of the busby followed prevailing practices in Europe, as the colorful uniforms of the nineteenth century were replaced by the drab, utilitarian garb of modern warfare. Aside from the very few ceremonial units, their fate was sealed by World War I. However, this direction was reversed when the Marine Band’s drum major again changed full dress headdress in 1968. The headdress adopted then and still worn today is the bearskin busby which is similar to those worn by the five guard infantry regiments of the British Army.
Marine Generals Resurvey Lessons of Civil War Battles

by J. Michael Miller
Curator of Personal Papers

The bloodiest day in American military history occurred on 17 September 1862 along the banks of Antietam Creek in western Maryland. The armies of Gen Robert E. Lee and MajGen George B. McClellan battled to a bloody stalemate at a combined cost of 23,110 casualties of approximately 100,000 men engaged.

This battle was chosen by the Commandant, Gen Alfred M. Gray, as the first "staff ride" in a series of battle studies for general officers in the Washington-Quantico area. Conduct of the program was tasked to the History and Museums Division, headed by BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret).

At 0630, 16 April 1988, three busloads of 44 Marine officers, including 23 general officers, departed from Headquarters Marine Corps for Antietam to participate in the staff ride and to apply the lessons learned to today's Marine Corps. Each participant had been provided an individualized read-ahead package containing books, extracts of after-action reports, memoirs, personal letters, and other pieces of data relating to the battle. During the day the Marine officers played the roles of the civil-war-era officers they had been assigned, such as Gen Lee and MajGen McClellan, and other less well known leaders from each army, and used the information from their notebooks to "refight" the battle from their individual perspectives.

The participants were divided onto two buses carrying the officers studying the Confederate command, and a third those involved with the Union's Army of the Potomac. Each bus was guided by a group leader assigned by Dr. Jay Luvaas of the Army War College, the acknowledged dean of Civil War field studies, who provided expert assistance throughout the project. Each bus retraced as far as was possible the route used by the respective commands to the battlefield, and participants were able to view the terrain as had, in 1862, the particular army to which they were assigned.

At 1300, the three groups joined together for the seminar portion of the day. Gen Simmons headed a modern version of the Congressional Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, as Senator Ben Wade, chairman of the committee. Each officer responded to questions taking the role of his particular assignments, including those playing Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. Although several of the Civil War officers actually were killed in action, their modern counterparts still had to answer for their actions at Antietam to this committee.

Gen Gray closed the day by summarizing the many lessons learned from the battle. He reminded his assembled officers that the value of studying history cannot be underestimated. The use of terrain appreciation by Lee is still of interest to the Marine Corps today, as is the great mobility of the Confederate army despite its lack of equipment and provisions.

The Valley Campaign

On 27 March 1989, five helicopters lifted off from Brown Field, Quantico, Virginia, to fly through 127 years of military history, back to the year 1862. The helicopters flew almost due west to tour and study the celebrated campaign of MajGen Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The campaign has been examined by military men of many nations as a classic example of an inferior army defeating a far superior one by maneuver and leadership.

On board the helicopters were Gen Gray and 31 other general officers from Headquarters Marine Corps and Quantico. The group again was escorted by Gen Simmons and members of the History and Museums Division. Gen Simmons and his staff had been challenged by the Commandant to create a succinct Shenandoah Valley battle study.
Recognized as one of the great campaigns in military history, the Shenandoah Valley Campaign is also one of the most confusing of all Civil War operations. Preparation of the study presented a real problem of briefly interpreting events in a logical and understandable way. The campaign consisted of six distinct battles and numerous skirmishes and cavalry actions. Three separate Union armies were involved in the campaign at different times and the small Confederate force under Jackson marched over 250 miles in less than a month, often doubling back on itself to defeat the Union hosts.

Logistical problems for the staff ride also had to be met. Crowded schedules of the general officers involved meant that the ride had to be restricted to one working day. Sixteen officers were to be transported from HQMC and an equal number from Quantico. To reach the Valley from the Washington, D.C., area over land represented a considerable expenditure of time even to visit the nearest battlefields. A suitable location also was needed for the seminar to amplify the fundamentals of the campaign and to sum up the lessons of the ride as they apply to the Marine Corps today.

The time and space factors were solved by HMX-1. The squadron provided the basic transportation and observation platforms, CH-46 helicopters. Routes were chosen that reconstructed those marched by Jackson’s forces and historically important sites selected for overflight. Communication inside the noisy “birds” was to be facilitated by the use of printed signs, held in the passenger cabin by preselected flight monitors.

Prominent Civil War historians, including Dr. Luvaas, Col Richard Smith, USMC (Ret), of the Lee-Jackson Foundation; and Mr. Keith Gibson and Dr. Cash Koeniger of the VMI faculty, were asked to participate and lend their knowledge and expertise. The staff of the Marine Corps Historical Center began to research and prepare complex read-ahead notebooks to prepare each officer well in advance of the ride. Ms. Evelyn A. Engleander and J. Michael Miller provided much of the impetus for the gathering of relevant information. Paul W. Hallam and Mrs. Patricia E. Morgan provided crucial services in finding repositories around the country which would lend books and Xerox rare manuscripts. Each notebook contained maps specially created by Mr. W. Stephen Hill of the battle areas, background reading on the campaign, and schedules of events.

The participants first were divided into two groups, Union and Confederate, allowing each officer the opportunity to see the campaign from the point of view of a particular side. To further place themselves in the characters of Civil War officers, members of the North and South groups were then subdivided into four teams to each side, each team playing the role of a particular general or other personality prominent in the battle. The notebook presented to each participant contained information on the general that his group was to represent, such as official reports, personal letters, and biographical information.

With read-ahead packages complete, the Marine generals were prepared for a full day in the Shenandoah Valley. The helicopters touched down near Harrisonburg, Virginia, at 0800 and each participant promptly boarded either a Union or Confederate tour bus for a view of the battlefields of Cross Keys and Port Republic, the concluding actions of the Valley campaign. The Union tour was led by Dr. Luvaas, with the Confederate tour being led by Mr. Miller.

For the next three hours, the Marines walked and rode through the battlefields, tracing the routes of their respective armies. In contrast the Antietam staff ride, most of the land occupied by the Valley battlefields is in private hands. However, the local citizens appeared more than happy to allow the visitors to walk the battlefields. The officers on the Confederate tour dodged cattle as they hiked across farm fields and splashed across coursing mountain streams, tracing the exact location of the Confederate attacks, to see the terrain exactly as the armies did in 1862. The Union tour used back roads to examine the Northern perspective with six different stops at critical points on the battlefields.

After the bus tours, the Marine generals re-boarded the helicopters for an aerial reconnaissance of the Shenandoah Valley, to view the confluence of rivers and mountain passes and to overfly principal towns and road networks. The culmination of the flight was the view of the mountainous battlefield of McDowell, one of the most inaccessible sites of the Civil War.

The choppers then set down on the parade deck of the Virginia Military Institute for the concluding seminar and a tour of the campus and the nearby grounds of Washington and Lee College, where the officers saw the burial place of Gen Lee and the classroom of Gen Jackson. The tours were given under the auspices of Col William H. Dabney, USMC, head of the NROTC unit. The generals received tours personally guided by cadets who had chosen to enter the Marine Corps upon graduation.

The seminar took place in VMI’s Lejeune Hall, where the participants heard a discussion of Jackson by author Byron Farwell, and a review of VMI’s relationship to the Civil War by Gen Simmons. The tour leaders were then called upon to make short summations of the campaign from their respective sides, followed by the Commandant, who made his own summation of the value of studying the Valley campaign for the modern-day Marine Corps.

He began by questioning the different groups on each side over their analysis of the battle. Gen Gray pointed out that the Marine Corps has often been called upon to fight in situations where friendly forces are heavily outnumbered. It is these times when the qualities of leadership which won the Valley Campaign for Jackson come into play. Such effective discipline within the ranks and knowledgeable use of terrain as Jackson’s are elements which would influence the outcome of any battle at anytime, he said.
Lejeune’s Senior Officers Learn the Lessons of Bentonville

by J. Michael Miller
Curator of Personal Papers

Brave Union troops who fought at Bentonville” rang out the toast, followed by complementary, “Brave Confederate troops who fought at Bentonville.” These salutations were given during a mess night hosted by then-BGen Donald R. Gardner, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, on the battlefield of Bentonville, North Carolina. The mess night was a component of a professional military seminar, also known as a “staff ride,” presented by Gen Gardner for the senior officers of Camp Lejeune.

Following the toasts, the assembled Marine officers listened to remarks by the guest of honor, MajGen Orlo K. Steele, Commanding General, 2d Marine Division, and were then treated to music by the reconstructed band of the 11th North Carolina Infantry regiment, a body of Civil War enthusiasts who play authentic instruments and use period arrangements and instrumentation. With the atmosphere of the Civil War well established, the officers retired to their tents to ponder the lessons of the battle and prepare for a battlefield tour and various briefs on the fighting the following day.

Each participant had long before begun to study the Bentonville campaign, fought about 70 miles west of Camp Lejeune. The battle was the largest and bloodiest to occur in North Carolina, taking place on 20-21 March 1865. Approximately 60,000 Union troops commanded by MajGen William T. Sherman marched into the state, continuing their devastation of the heartland of the Confederacy. This same army had conducted the famous “March to the Sea” through Georgia in the last months of 1864 and had continued almost unopposed into South Carolina.

Sherman was now opposed by the Confederate Army of Gen Joseph E. Johnston comprised of 25,000 men. Clearly heavily outnumbered, Johnston gambled on halting the Union advance by striking the Federals at Bentonville. Although initially the Confederate advance was successful, Sherman was able to bring the full force of his army to blunt Johnston’s attack. The movements that led to the battle of Bentonville foreshadowed the end of the Confederacy outside Virginia, as Sherman cut the rail lines leading to the Confederate capital at Richmond and the army of Gen Robert E. Lee. Johnston surrendered his force to Sherman on 26 April 1865.

To effectively study the campaign and battle, Gen Gardner started the formal phase of the staff ride with a presentation of the details of the battle by the Financial Management School’s officer class. The presentation was prepared with computer graphics equipment which allowed the movement of forces to be projected on a large screen while officers in period uniforms provided narration and analysis of the battle. The mission of the class had been to come up with a thesis as to why the Confederacy lost the battle and to find the lessons of warfighting that can be applied today.

The class concluded that the Confederate commander, Gen Johnston, lost the battle by failing to provide proper avenues of logistical support for his army and, indeed, by poorly fighting his army during the campaign itself, forgetting many of the fundamental principles of war. These precepts were brought home by Gen Gardner, who summed up the session by saying, “This was not just to study history, but moreover to see how we as commanders can draw some conclusions from lessons learned at the battle of Bentonville and apply them strategically to the future.”

The seminar continued in an important phase of individual study, using a prepared reading list. Eight titles were selected, with over half concentrated on the Union commander, Gen Sherman, and his march to the sea. One of the books was devoted exclusively to the subject of supply by the infamous Civil War “sutler,” a civilian contractor who followed the armies selling all manner of goods to the soldiers to supplement their regular supply system, the PX of the day.

Both of the initial phases of study led to a visit to the battlefield itself. The officers composing the study group left Camp Lejeune at 1300 on 7 March and arrived at the site of the battle two hours later. The staff ride began with an introduction to the battlefield park and a tour of its museum, both conducted by the park historian, John C. Goode, in period costume.

Mr. Goode then presented an explanation of the operation of Civil War field hospitals, at the Harper House, actually used as a hospital by the Union’s XIV
Corps at the time of the battle. Operating tables covered with straw, bandages, woolen batting to stuff into wounds, as well as period surgical instruments, brought alive the grim cost of the battle. More than 4,000 casualties were suffered by both armies during the battle.

The evening was concluded by the mess night, which included the period band concert, enabling the assembled officers to further imagine themselves as being involved in the battle of 124 years before. Reveille sounded at 0600 and the assembled officers began the day with a two-hour brief summarizing the situations of both armies, as well as a detailed blow-by-blow presentation of the battle itself. The group heard two appraisals, Confederate and Union, examining the campaign from the strategic, operational, and tactical perspective and with appropriate analysis. Also included in the brief was biographical information concerning the prominent generals on both sides, sutlers, chaplains, engineers, the ambulance corps, and the political situation in North Carolina at the time of the battle.

With the details of the battle fresh in their minds, the officers embarked on a two-hour tour of the ground itself, conducted by Mr. Goode. The participants walked the fields and pine forest, examining the gun pits and artillery positions on both sides. Gen Gardner summed up the tour, saying, "By coming out on the battlefield, we can see the terrain as the commanders saw it in 1865. You can apply the same tactical considerations to situations you might find yourself in now, situations like how to move your LAVs and artillery across the one bridge on Miles Creek, or where you can deploy your infantry battalions."

Guided through historic Harper House by park historian John C. Goode, center, were then-BGen Donald R. Gardner, Camp Lejeune Commanding General, left, and mess night guest of honor MajGen Orlo K. Steele, 2d Marine Division Commanding General.

The day was concluded by an artillery demonstration conducted by Mr. Goode, using members of the seminar to form the gun crew. The "volunteers," undaunted by the lack of any computerized firing mechanism on the Civil War artillery piece, performed admirably.

"We can see lessons to be learned from the past," according to now-MajGen Gardner, "through reading, research, and a lot of hard work."

**Historical Quiz**

**Commandants of the Marine Corps**

*by Lena M. Kalpot*

*Reference Historian*

Name the officers who were Commandants of the Marine Corps when the following events occurred:

1. The British marched into Washington, burning public buildings, but spared the Commandant's House.
3. The Marine Corps emblem, the eagle, globe, and anchor, was approved.
4. First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham became the first Marine Corps aviator.
5. Marines were first assigned to guard the mails as a result of a rash of mail robberies.
6. Marines raised the flag atop Mt. Suribachi during the battle for Iwo Jima.
7. The amphibious landing by the 1st Marine Division at Inchon during the Korean War.
8. Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr., made the first manned orbital flight.
9. The Commandant of the Marine Corps became a full, voting member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
10. Marines of the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit made an assault landing on the island of Grenada.

(Answers on page 18)
Military Museum Heads Visit Russian Counterparts

E ight American Service museum directors and staff members, including the Deputy Director for Marine Corps Museums, visited Moscow and Leningrad in late February and early March. They were guests of the Russian delegation which visited U.S. museums last December, as reported in Fortitudine (Winter 1988-1989).

The visit was the first of a series of "military contact activities" between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Soviet Ministry of Defense arranged by Adm William J. Crowe, Jr., and Marshal Sergei F. Akhromeyev. (See also "Memorandum from the Director" on page 3 of this issue.)

After a lengthy air trip delayed by weather the Americans arrived several hours late in Moscow and almost immediately were whisked off to the Bolshoi Theater where, from a State Box, they witnessed a beautiful rendition of the French ballet "Giselle."

In subsequent days we experienced behind-the-scenes visits to the Central Museum of the Armed Forces, Kremlin Armories Museum, and the Battle of Borodino Panorama and Museum. A high point was a visit to the Institute of Military Art where we viewed the paintings of 35 artists and visited them in their studios where they were painting reconstructions of historical events, portraits, and current military activities including events in Afghanistan and Nicaragua.

A trip of about 40 kilometers southeast of Moscow brought us to "Star City," the Cosmonaut training center and museum including the Mir space station trainer and the office of lost Cosmonaut Gagarin. At the nearby town of Moino in a snowfall we found the Soviet Air Force Museum under the direction of LtGen Sergei Y. Fedorov, who had visited us in December. The museum offered many exciting aircraft; the vaunted Stormovik tank killer of World War II; the TU-144 supersonic transport; the world's largest helicopter; Russian copies of our B-29 and C-47/R4D; as well as complete collections of MiGs from the MiG-3 of World War II to the current MiG-25 and MiG-29.

A quick flight to Leningrad introduced us to the new AN-72 twin-jet STOL transport. Once there we visited the Czarist period Admiralty building; the Central Naval Museum; the Museum of Artillery, Engineer, and Signal Troops; Peter and Paul Fortress; Winter Palace and Heritage Museum; Catherine the Great's Summer Palace; and the historic cruiser Aurora. The Aurora, built in the 1890s, participated in the Battle of Tsushima Straits against the Japanese in 1905. We were informed that it was damaged, but escaped to Manila where it was repaired in an American shipyard while an American hospital treated the crew's wounded. This revelation was in keeping with glasnost, as it was not mentioned during the writer's previous visit to the cruiser. In 1917 the Aurora's crew fired the shot from its forward 6-inch gun that signaled the start of the October Revolution.

During the visit we met on three occasions with senior, colonel-general level, military officers. Their message was the (Continued on page 23)
Videotape Describes Marine Artist’s 50-Year Career

by John T. Dyer, Jr.
Curator of Art

In the 1944 ink sketch with watercolor wash, “Hot Sand—Tarawa,” Jackson included Marine BAR man, grenadier, radioman, and wounded in a coconut-log former Japanese position. Jackson also portrayed Marines in the Roi-Namur and Saipan campaigns.
pains related to his Tarawa wound and the stress of intense study decided him to return to New York. He had two one-man shows and quit art school to wash dishes and work on construction jobs in order to eat and purchase art materials. In 1954, Jackson travelled to Europe to study the old masters. He studied by drawing from the museum-hung works, not copying but interpreting, mentally rejecting and accepting, allowing he had just whiffed the breeze of artistic knowledge.

Jackson's honest humility and the fact that he sought and chose his own path and had the courage to follow it, gain him many admirers. He is counted as one of the foremost painters and sculptors of the American West today. He'll finish a sculpture to serve as a model for a painting, and portions of the finished painting will suggest more sculptures. He was a gnat's hair away from going to Vietnam for the Marine Corps as a civilian artist in 1967 and might have bowed to the persuasion of program director Col Raymond Henri, USMCR, had Jackson not already been committed to finishing his 56-foot-wide mural "River, Road and Point" for the Fort Pitt Museum in Pittsburgh. Today Harry Jackson has studios in Italy and Wyoming and splits his time between them.

In a role similar to that of artist PFC Jackson was this "Combat Photographer" on Saipan in 1944. Jackson officially made terrain reconnaissance sketches during intelligence operations and on his own drew his professional colleagues and fellow Marines.

Readers Always Write

It's World War I, But Those Riflemen Are Not Marines

BRITISH RIFLES

You'll probably get a hundred letters on this one, but the caption in the last Fortitudine (Chronology: The Marine Experience in World War I," Winter 1988-1989) is in error.

Those are British soldiers because of the SMLE II rifles. There is only one weapon which could be considered like the profile of a 1903 rifle. Hence, they could not be U.S. Marines.

Robert J. Boyd Offutt AFB, Nebraska

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Boyd, who is Chief of the History Division for the Strategic Air Command, with his letter provoked reexamination of the photo, and its apparently erroneous caption, in the Center's reference files. Material History Curator Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas believes the individuals pictured may be U.S. Army infantrymen of the either the 27th or 30th Division, who are known to have used British manufactured rifles.

UNDERAPPRECIATED OFFICER

The article by Benis M. Frank, "Notable Amphibious Doctrine Papers Given to Center" (Fortitudine, Winter 1988-1989), was well written and extremely accurate. Gordon Craig did us a valuable service at a time when we needed it. He made other contributions as well.

Enjoyed the appreciation of Julian Smith ("Memorandum from the Director," Winter 1988-1989), a much underappreciated officer due to lack of flamboyance. Interesting photo portrait of him on page 3. We seldom saw the old special full-dress except on pot-bellied former Commandants. I remember Goettge in that uniform in the early Thirties—White House aide. An inspiring sight. However, the uniform shown on Julian C. is not that of a first lieutenant but a second lieutenant.

Gen Merrill B. Twining, USMC (Ret)
Fallbrook, California

Answers to Historical Quiz

Commandants of the Marine Corps
(Questions on page 15)

1. LtCol Franklin Wharton (1814)
2. Col John Harris (1859)
3. BGen Jacob Zeilin (1868)
5. MajGen John A. Lejeune (1921)
7. Gen Clifton B. Cates (1950)
Gen Lewis W. Walt, USMC (Ret), died on Easter Sunday, 26 March, at the Naval Home in Gulfport, Mississippi. Gen Walt, the first four-star Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, was born on a farm near Harleyville, Kansas, on 16 February 1913, one of 13 children. He lost both of his parents by the time he was 16 years of age and worked his way through high school and college.

His involvement with the military began at age 16 upon enlistment in the Colorado National Guard, where he would be wearing the chevrons of a first sergeant in six years.

Before completing his studies at Colorado State University, where he received a degree in chemistry, the future general of Marines gained recognition as an athlete and as a leader. He was twice president of his class and, as a senior, was the president of the student body, co-captain of the football team, captain of the wrestling team, president of the chemistry club, captain of the Scabbard and Blade ROTC fraternity, and was the lieutenant colonel of the Army ROTC program. Playing guard and tackle on the football team, he was selected as an all-conference guard. He was the javelin hurler on the track team and the heavyweight entry on the wrestling team.

Upon graduation from college, he was offered a position with du Pont as a chemist; in line for a tryout with the Chicago Bears football team; received a commission in the Army as a distinguished ROTC graduate; offered a position as the assistant football coach at the Colorado School of Mines under his former high school coach and Sunday School teacher; and, as the result of being contacted by a Marine Corps representative, given the opportunity to enter the Corps as a commissioned officer. The decision was made to enter the Marine Corps and...

1 July 1936, a distinguished career was begun which would entail service in three wars and in “every clime and place” as a leader of Marines.

Lieutenant Walt’s instructor and platoon leader at the Basic School was the legendary Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller (They would serve Corps and country together again.). After graduating with honors, Walt’s first foreign duty was in Shanghai, China, where as a platoon leader, he helped to protect the International Settlement.

Gen Lewis W. Walt, USMC (Ret)

Post-war assignments included duty as the chief of tactics instruction, Officer Candidate School, Quantico, and as the assistant division commander. In every case, he has handled his troops and the weapons under his control so that his unit has had fewer casualties than any other organization of comparable size engaged in the operations.”

Returning to combat in 1944, following recovery from wounds, he led the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines in the assault against enemy forces on Cape Gloucester, New Britain, and shortly thereafter was assigned as the executive officer of the 5th Marines. In the middle of this campaign, he was ordered to take command of the 3d Battalion, 5th Marines, during its intense battle for Aogiri Ridge. A Gold Star in lieu of a second Navy Cross was awarded to LtCol Walt in recognition of his “tireless, aggressive, and skillful leadership in inspiring the officers and men of the battalion as he visited the companies, under constant heavy enemy fire, and reorganized the battalion, enabling it to repulse an enemy counterattack.” Later, again as the regimental executive officer, LtCol Walt personally emplaced a 37mm gun into position, enabling the neutralization of an enemy position which had blocked the advance of the unit. In his honor, “Aogiri Ridge” was named “Walt’s Ridge” by BGlen Lemuel C. Shepherd, the assistant division commander.

Subsequent post-Korean War assignments included service as the commanding officer of the Basic School at Quantico; assistant director of personnel at Head-
quarters Marine Corps; member of the Joint Advanced Study Group of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; assistant division commander, 2d Marine Division; and director of the Landing Force Development Center, Quantico.

In 1965, he was promoted to major general and assigned as the commanding general, 3d Marine Division; commander, III Marine Amphibious Force; senior advisor, I Corps, for the Vietnamese forces, and also as I Corps naval force commander, all in Vietnam. He was promoted to lieutenant general in 1966 by President Johnson, during a brief official trip to the United States. His command in Vietnam included all Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine units in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

It was during his two-year assignment in Vietnam that his name became synonymous with his Marines in combat. As during his previous combat assignments, he was devoted to spending as much time as possible with the combat units and ensuring that the morale, comfort, and support of his men were all as high as possible. Upon completion of his assignment in Vietnam, LtGen Walt was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps as the deputy chief of staff for manpower.

In 1968, he was promoted to general and assigned as the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. Gen Walt retired from active duty in 1971, but not from a full-time schedule of public speaking and service to his country.

In addition to the two Navy crosses and the Silver Star Medal, Gen Walt was awarded two Distinguished Service Medals; the Legion of Merit with Combat "V"; two Purple Hearts; two Presidential Unit Citations; the Navy Unit Commendation; and numerous other awards from the United States, Korea, and Vietnam. He was a graduate of the National War College and received an honorary doctor of laws degree from his alma mater, Colorado State University, and from Barry College, Miami, Florida.

Gen Walt, who at the time of his retirement had more combat on the battlefield than most other living Marines, now rests in combat utilities among many of his Marines at the Quantico National Cemetery.

Neary Painting Illustrates Smedley Butler’s Sneak Attack

(Continued from page 24)

Furthermore, the campaigns were carefully selected to fill gaps in the Museum's art collection. As a secondary selection criterion, recipients who had buildings named for them received priority, in expectation that the placing of a new painting in the building would strengthen the Marine Corps commemorative naming program.

A list of possible candidates was drawn up by ad hoc committees composed of division staff members. The Fort Riviére scene was chosen as a pilot because it satisfied all the requirements and covered a period which was not well represented in the art collection.

Research began shortly thereafter and continued for some months. Butler's autobiography, Old Gimlet Eye, was used as the basic storyline, but this account was double-checked for accuracy by the examination of other sources. In the Personal Papers Collection, Butler's own letters to his family, Capt Chandler Harris' diary, and the original map of the fort were the cornerstones of the research, as was a document from the Reference Section files which detailed the uniforms, equipment, and weapons used in this fight. Maj Thomas Thrasher's article, "The Taking of Fort Riviére" in the 1931 issue of Marine Corps Gazette was a great help, as it also showed pictures of the fort within hours of its capture and shortly before it was completely destroyed by Marine dynamite.

After the research had been compiled in the Division's standard art research script format, the artist began to conceptualize the scene and produce several sketches which blocked out the individuals and the basic design. Once approved, the detailed work began in earnest, as photographic sessions with appropriately uniformed models and artifact selection were planned. From this series of photographs, taken on a morning at the Museum's storage and research facility, the artist was able to start on the details of the scene.

At her studio, the artist had a sampling of the artifacts from the Museum's collection to be shown in the painting, as well as several small arms on temporary loan from local private collections. At each stage of the painting, comments were invited and the entire work was reviewed on a monthly basis at Historical Art Committee meetings.

The final result was unveiled this spring. A reproduction of it has been mounted in the Commandant's Corridor at the Pentagon (see Fortitudine, Winter 1988-1989) in the section devoted to MajGenComdt John A. Lejeune. The original is slated to hang in the old Post Headquarters and former Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, when it is later formally designated as Smedley D. Butler Hall.

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Distinguished Senior Marines Buried with Full Honors

by Benis M. Frank
Head, Oral History Section

MajGen Henry Reid Paige

MajGen Henry Reid Paige, USMC (Ret), whose last assignment before retiring in 1961, was as commander of the 1st Marine Division, died on 22 April in Carlsbad, California, at the age of 85. Gen Paige was born in Ogdensburg, New York, and was commissioned in the Marine Corps after he graduated from the Naval Academy in 1927. Following Basic School, he tried out for the 1928 Olympic team as a hammer thrower. In the 1930s, Gen Paige served two tours at sea and spent two years at Marine Barracks, Guam. Early on, he became involved with the Marine Corps defense battalion program, serving with the 3d, 4th, and 5th Defense Battalions before the war. Gen Paige was deployed to Iceland with the 5th Defense Battalion before returning to the States and other assignments with Marine Corps artillery. In November 1943, he took command of the 7th Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion in the Pacific, and after the Peleliu operation he returned to Pearl Harbor to form the 1st Antiaircraft Artillery Group. Postwar assignments included tours at HQMC, National War College; Troop Training Unit, Atlantic Fleet; and Camp Lejeune, where he was base Chief of Staff and the Assistant Division Commander of the 2d Marine Division. He joined the 1st Marine Division in Korea in 1954 as ADC and also served as the Navy member of the United Nations Armistice Commission. He returned to Camp Pendleton with the 1st MarDiv and in 1955 became Director of the Education Center at Quantico. MajGen Paige was made G-4 at HQMC in 1957. He took command of the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton in 1959 and held that command until retiring. He was buried with full military honors in Eternal Hills Cemetery, Oceanside, California.

BGen Herbert J. Blaha

BGen Herbert J. Blaha, USMC (Ret), who was assistant wing commander of the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing at the time of his retirement in 1977, died at the age of 65 in San Antonio, Texas, on 13 April. A graduate of the Naval Academy, he was commissioned in 1946. Before receiving his wings in 1951, Gen Blaha served in China and Guam with the 5th Marines, and with the 9th Marines at Camp Lejeune. In 1953 he began a tour in Korea, first with VMF-311 and then with MAG-33. The following year, he was assigned as project officer with Marine Corps Guided Missile Unit 1, Point Mugu, California. Tours at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology followed. In 1959, he became air-to-surface weapons project officer in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations. Three years later, he went to Okinawa as executive officer and then commander of Marine Air Support Squadron 2. Before assignment to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in 1965, he commanded Marine Air Base Squadron 36 and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164. Gen Blaha served in Vietnam in 1968-1969 as XO and CO of MAG-36. Following his promotion to brigadier general, he was assigned as Deputy J-3, U.S. European Command. Before his last tour of duty with the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, he was Deputy Chief of Staff to CinClant. Gen Blaha was buried with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on 19 April 1989.

BGen Richard W. Hayward

BGen Richard W. Hayward, USMC (Ret), 83, died 2 February at Fairfax, Virginia, Hospital. The cause of death was heart failure. A native of New York City, Gen Hayward attended Cornell University before enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1926. He was commissioned from the ranks while serving in Nicaragua in the early 1930s. Before World War II, he served in China and the Philippines, and commanded Marine detachments in ships of the Asiatic and U.S. Fleets. He was one of the first officers to volunteer for the Marine Corps' parachute program, and commanded the 2d Parachute Battalion in combat. He also was executive officer of the 1st Parachute Regiment before these units were disbanded and the program ended. Gen Hayward commanded the 1st Battalion, 8th Marines in the Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa operations and participated in the occupation of Japan. In the interwar period, he saw duty in the Office of Naval Intelligence and served as chief of staff officer of the JCS. In February
1951, he assumed command of the 5th Marines in Korea and fought his regiment against the Chinese Communist Force's "Fifth Phase Offensive" in April of that year. Before his retirement in March 1958, Gen Hayward served as Deputy Chief of Staff, FMFPac; was a member of the Advanced Study Group at the Naval War College; was a strategy analyst on the staff of SAC; and completed his career on the Joint Staff of the JCS. For having been decorated in combat, he was promoted to brigadier general on his retirement. Gen Lyman was buried in Arlington Cemetery with full military honors on 7 February.

**BGen Edson L. Lyman**

BGen Edson L. Lyman, USMC (Ret), 85, died 22 April in El Paso, Texas. A native of Michigan, he served in the Michigan National Guard for four years before enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1926. He was stationed in Nicaragua for two years, 1927-1929, and was commissioned in 1930. In the prewar period, he served two sea-going tours and also was stationed for a time with the Marine detachment at the New York World's Fair in 1939. Gen Lyman commanded the 155mm Group of the 7th Defense Battalion in American Samoa, 1941-1943, and after a short tour in the States, returned to the Pacific to become executive officer of the 11th Marines for the Peleliu and Okinawa battles. From 1951 to 1953, Gen Lyman was a member of the U.S. Naval Advisory Group to Argentina and served as an advisor to the Argentine Naval Academy and the Argentine Marine Corps. His last assignment before retiring in 1958 was as commander of the Marine Barracks, Yokosuka, Japan. Gen Lyman was buried with full military honors on 8 May in the Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso.

**BGen St. Julien R. Marshall, Jr.**

BGen St. Julien R. Marshall, Jr., USMC (Ret), who headed the Discipline Branch at HQMC at the time of his retirement in 1955, died at his home in Arlington, Virginia, at the age of 85 on 24 March. A graduate of VMI (Class of 1924) and Harvard Law School (1934), he was commissioned in 1924. He was assigned primarily to JAG duties in the pre-World War II period. In World War II, Gen Marshall served as G-2 of the 1st Marine Brigade, 1st Marine Division, and V Amphibious Corps in succession, during which assignments he participated in the Kiska, Attu, Saipan, Tinian, and Guam landings. After the war, he was G-2 of FMFPac and served for three years, 1947-1950, with the CIA. Gen Marshall was buried in Arlington Cemetery with full military honors on 30 March.

**BGen John W. Sapp, Jr.**

BGen John W. Sapp, Jr., USMC (Ret), died at his home in Dover, New Hampshire, on 8 April at the age of 78. He was a member of the Naval Academy Class of 1934. In 1937, he received his wings and served as a Marine aviator until 1952, when he reverted to general service. In March 1943, while commanding VMTB-143 at Guadalcanal, he led a flight of 42 torpedo-bombers on a 300-mile flight to Kahili harbor, at the southern end of Bougainville, in the first aerial mine-laying operation in the Pacific. He returned to the States in March 1944 to take command of the Cadet Regiment at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Training Center. From 1946 to 1948, he was successively XO and CO of the air station at Quantico. After attending Senior School, he first commanded MAG-24 at Cherry Point and then became G-4 of the 2d MAW. From there he went to Naval War College at Newport, and following graduation, he was ordered to the office of the Chief of Naval Operations as a special weapons planning officer. Before retiring in 1957, Gen Sapp served at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, as G-3 and Chief of Staff, followed by a three-year tour as CO of the Marine Barracks, Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Gen Sapp was buried in Pine Hill Cemetery in Dover with full military honors.

**BGen Samuel R. Shaw**

BGen Samuel R. Shaw, USMC (Ret), charter member and former member of the Board of Directors of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation, died at the age of 78 at DeWitt Army Hospital, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on 4 April, after a heart attack. He was born in Cleveland in 1911, enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1928, was appointed to the Naval Academy from the ranks in 1930, and was commissioned in May 1934 upon his graduation. Following Basic School, he had a tour of sea duty on board the *Tuscaloosa*, and joined the 5th Marines in 1936. About this time, he became interested in competition shooting, and was a member of the Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol Teams of 1937, 1938, and 1940. He fired a "Distinguished" with the rifle in 1938. At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor, then-Capt Shaw commanded a company at Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor. In his oral history memoirs, Gen Shaw tells of going on horse patrol in the hills overlooking the naval base in an attempt to find Japanese who allegedly were spying on naval activities and flashing messages to Japanese aircraft from the heights. LtCol Shaw returned to the States in 1943, and was assigned as Operations and Training Officer, FMF, San Diego area. In 1944, he attended the Command and General Staff College short course at
Fort Leavenworth. Later that year, he joined the newly formed 6th Marine Division on Guadalcanal in time to take part in the invasion of Okinawa as commander of the 6th Pioneer Battalion. Shortly after the war’s end and the division’s landing at Tsingtao, LtCol Shaw became division G-4. Upon his return to the United States in 1946, he was assigned as a member of the Marine Corps Board at Quantico, which was then very busy supporting the Commandant in the Marine Corps’ fight for survival in the postwar unification struggles. LtCol Shaw remained at Quantico until 1949, when he was assigned as Marine liaison officer to RAdm Arleigh A. Burke’s OpNav23 (Organization Research and Policy Division), which also was deeply involved in another phase of the unification fight. In late 1949, he was transferred to the Plans and Policies Division at HQMC, where he remained for three years, first as the shore party officer and then as chief of the Joint Action Panel. He left for Little Creek, Virginia, in 1952 to become Marine Corps representative on the Joint Amphibious Board, where he remained for a year, and then was transferred to Quantico to become a member of the Advanced Research Group, a prestigious group of colonels, who were selected for this duty to provide solutions to problems given them directly by the Commandant. His subsequent assignments were to the 1st Marine Division in Korea as G-4; to HQMC as Director, Policy Analysis Branch; and then Deputy Chief of Staff, Research and Development. Col Shaw was promoted to brigadier general in 1957 and the following year he reported in at Quantico as Director of the Development Center and editor in chief of Marine Corps Gazette. In 1959, Gen Shaw took command of the Landing Force Training Unit, Pacific, in Coronado, where one of the operations his command studied had then-French Indochina as its target. He retired in 1962, and was recalled to active duty and appointed director of programs on the staff of the Preparedness Subcommittee, Senate Armed Services Committee. He also served as an advisor to President Kennedy in the Cuban Missile Crisis. While with the committee, he travelled to Vietnam 13 times. In 1972, Gen Shaw became chief legislative liaison officer for the Selective Service System. He retired for a second time in 1972, when President Carter decorated him with the Distinguished Civilian Service Award. Gen Shaw was buried with full military honors in the Quantico National Cemetery on 10 April.

Col John E. "Tony" Hough

Col John E. "Tony" Hough, who played on and coached the notable Marine Corps football teams of the late 1920s and early 1930s, died 3 May at Olney, Maryland, at the age of 87. A graduate of the University of Maryland in 1925, together with the late LtGens Robert B. Lucy and Joseph C. Burger, who also were noted Marine Corps football players, his early assignments were divided between normal junior officer tours and playing and coaching football. He coached the Florida team to the Fleet championship. In the 1930s, Col Hough served on the Arkansas, with the 4th Marines in Shanghai, and with the American Embassy Guard in Peking. In World War II, he was assigned to the 7th Defense Battalion in American Samoa, and was an observer with the 3d Marine Division in the Bougainville operation. Following the end of the war, he was assigned first to V Amphibious Corps in the occupation of Japan, and then to command of the 6th Marines. Before he retired in 1956, Col Hough commanded the Marine Barracks at Guantanamo Bay and was director of the 6th Marine Corps Reserve and Recruitment District in Atlanta. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery on 9 May.

Soviet Treatment ‘First-Class’

(Continued from page 16)

same: we were allies once, we should be so again; we should cooperate for peace and economic progress; the Yalta Treaty (which gave the Soviets hegemony over Eastern Europe) was a grand thing and should be maintained and extended.

One of our most interesting visits was to the Kantamirovsky Tank Division about 50 kilometers southwest of Moscow. It is a Category 2 division, about 50 percent manned, but it is also a show unit and one of those which parades through Red Square. We visited barracks, guard house, sick bay, laundry, club, and theater, and had an opportunity to talk with soldiers at almost every stop. High points were a regimental training building with 27 classrooms, one of which contained a T-64 tank and another a tracked APC; the division farm where much of the unit’s food is grown; and a regimental theater which included the unit’s “Hall of Battle Glory,” which is a small motivational museum tracing the regiment’s participation in the “Great Patriotic War”—World War II—with maps, photographs, and battlefield relics.

Our reception and treatment was first class throughout with military and museum-like comradeship the theme. We were billeted in the Ministry of Defense hotel in Moscow and the naval dacha in Leningrad. Meals were in the Russian mode and in good quality and sufficient quantity. Travel by car was preceded by a military police escort with blue and red lights flashing, all giving us a feel for how the nomenclature dines and travels. Vodka was strangely absent from all official meals and receptions, although Soviet wine and champagne was available. Upon inquiry it was explained that the military was setting an example in support of President Gorbachev’s anti-strong drink campaign.

Russian military museums are impressive in size, excellence of presentation, and depth of collections—44,000 flags and 14,000 small arms at the Central Armed Forces Museum alone. Staffs are more than commensurate with museum size, with 70 professionals out of a total of 300 in the principal museum.

The exchange was an exciting experience in comparative museology, military systems, economy, and culture. Whether the bilateral military exchange program, however, produces any serious or long lasting result remains to be seen.
Smedley Butler’s Raid Subject for Marine Artist

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas
Curator of Material History

The first Marine historical battle scene painted by noted artist Maj Donna J. Neary, USMCR, has recently been accessioned by the Marine Corps Museum's art collection. Maj Neary has completed other battle art for the National Guard Association, and she is well known as a painter of military portraits and highly detailed prints and illustrations of military subjects.

The subject of the Marine battle scene is the capture of Fort Riviére by Marines under then-Maj Smedley D. Butler in 1915. In the foreground of the painting, Maj Butler and two of his men burst into the derelict mountain fort which was being used as a hideout by a band of Haitian bandits or “Cacos.”

While the attacking force was temporarily stalled outside a debris-choked drainage tunnel, Sgt Ross Jams crawled through the tunnel, firing at the surprised Caco sentry. Butler’s orderly, Pvt Samuel Gross, followed Jams, with Butler close behind.

Once into the sunlit fort, the three kept up a sustained fire on the surprised garrison until the balance of Butler’s force could claw through the tunnel and force the surrender of the insurgents.

This action, on the morning of 16 November 1915, capped Butler’s three-pronged assault on Fort Riviére and signalled the end of the First Haitian Campaign. All three men subsequently were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroism.

The idea for this work came as the result of a meeting held to select Maj Neary’s ongoing Reserve project while a member of Mobilization Training Unit DC-7. It was determined that Maj Neary would undertake a series of historical paintings, similar to those of Col Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR (see Fortitude, Fall 1986 and Spring 1987). However, whereas Col Waterhouse’s paintings focus on 19th century amphibious and expeditionary operations, Maj Neary’s series would highlight selected Marine recipients of medals of valor in the actions for which the decorations were awarded.

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