PARRIS ISLAND MUSEUM MARKS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO RECRUIT DEPOT... STAFF AND FRIENDS BID A FOND FAREWELL TO BGEN EDWIN H. SIMMONS, LONGTIME DIRECTOR OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

This issue combines in one the Winter 1995-1996 and Spring 1996 issues. Please see page 2 for details.

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TO OUR READERS

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Saluting a Marine of Depth and Dignity

YOU MAY VERY WELL wonder why this section of Fortitudine has changed and why its previous occupant, of 25 years standing, is no longer here. BGEn Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), Director of Marine Corps History and Museums and longtime author of “Memorandum from the Director,” re-retired on 3 January after nearly 54 years both as a serving Marine officer and, for the past 24 years, as a civil servant.

During the past year Gen Simmons entertained notions of retiring, and on 23 October 1995, discussed his intention to retire with the Commandant, Gen Charles C. Krulak, via electronic mail. The Commandant told him, “Ed, I knew the day was coming but I must confess that your E-mail left me feeling somewhat empty—53 years of faithful service to corps and country—you should feel great pride in what you have done and the impact you have had over those years.” That same day, Gen Simmons informed his staff that the rumors it had heard about his impending retirement were true, and added, “I will leave with unbounded admiration for a great and talented crew.”

On 3 January, the Director sent the following “all hands” e-mail to the History and Museums Division staff: “This will be my last transmission as Director. For me it has been a great 24 years that have gone by all too quickly. Some of you have been with me all this time. Others have arrived more recently. But regardless of your relative longevity, I am proud of you all and of the products we have turned out. But then, what better subject could a military historian want than the United States Marine Corps? With all best wishes to each and every one of you, Semper Fidelis, E. H. Simmons.”

Also on 3 January, at the direction of the Commandant, Gen Simmons became Director Emeritus of Marine Corps History and Museums and moved himself and his belongings to another office in the Historical Center, and the Division continued operating under the acting director, Col Michael F. Monigan, USMC.

Gen Simmons is one of the last veterans of the great landings of World War II to leave Marine Corps service. His career spanned one-quarter of the Marine Corps’ existence, and made him uniquely suited to his assignment as Director of Marine Corps History and Museums. His great depth of experience also made him an important advisor to Commandants for more than the last quarter-century.

IN THE FACE OF ALL THIS, I have been tasked with preparing the “Memorandum...” for future issues, and I obviously have a very hard act to follow. I want first to acknowledge the towering contributions of my predecessor. But where to begin describing him? How to describe him?

A brief recital of his background might be a good starting point. Gen Simmons is a native of Paulsboro, New Jersey; he went to school there. Recently reflecting upon his career and experiences, he noted that while growing up in Paulsboro, he wanted to be variously a professional soldier, a history teacher, and a writer, and the Marine Corps allowed him to be all three.

After high school, he went on to Lehigh University, where he earned his bachelor of arts degree in journalism in 1942. He had been elected to Phi Beta Kappa the

BGEn Simmons receives the Secretary of the Navy’s Distinguished Civilian Service Award from the Commandant, Gen Charles C. Krulak, in the Commandant’s new office at the Pentagon on 19 January. It was the first such ceremony to be held there.
year before. He was active in ROTC at Lehigh and held an Army commission for a brief time after graduation, before he resigned to be commissioned a Marine second lieutenant on 12 June 1942. His career eventually included command or acting command in combat of every echelon from platoon through division. 

Upon completing the Reserve Officers Course at Quantico, he taught other new officers for a while before deploying overseas as an engineer assigned to the 5th Field Depot in the South and Central Pacific. He took part in the recapture of Guam and served with the 7th Service Regiment on Okinawa and in China.

Robert H. Barrow, a future Commandant, his regimental commander was the legendary Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller. During the battle for Seoul, for leading the defense of a city bridge with a mixed platoon-sized force against a two-battalion North Korean attack reinforced by a tank battalion, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal. Later in his career, added to the Silver Star would be the Distinguished Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, and a Purple Heart Medal.

Following the war, he served as managing editor of the Marine Corps Gazette for three and a half years and, while at Quantico, attended Junior School. He was with the Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, when the Korean War erupted. His battalion became part of the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, with which he participated in the Inchon landing and the Chosin Reservoir campaign. A fellow company commander was
Col Michael F Monigan, USMC, History and Museums Division acting director, chats with Bliss Simmons, left, and Courtney Simmons, at the farewell luncheon.

His post-Korean assignments included a tour with the Naval ROTC unit at Ohio State University, where he earned a master of arts degree in journalism. For a little more than a year, August 1959 to October 1960, Gen Simmons served as the Naval Attache to the U.S. Embassy in the Dominican Republic and was a central figure in the events prior to and following the assassination of dictator Rafael Trujillo. In July 1965, he began the first of his two tours in Vietnam. In the first tour he served as G-3 of III Marine Amphibious Force and then as commanding officer of the 9th Marines. Returning to Washington, he was Deputy Fiscal Director of the Marine Corps, 1967 to 1970, and was promoted to brigadier general in 1968. He went back to Vietnam in 1970 for a year's tour as Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Marine Division and subsequently Deputy Commander, 3d Marine Brigade.

Gen Simmons returned once again to Headquarters Marine Corps as special assistant to the Chief of Staff for strategic studies and, in December 1971, was appointed Director of Marine Corps History and Museums. He went on the retired list the following July, but was recalled to active duty as Director. He retired again in July 1978, and returned to the History and Museums Division in October as a Civil Service employee to resume his position as Director. He served collaterally for many years as president of the Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board.

All during his active service years, he was a prolific writer and contributed articles and signed book reviews to many professional journals. As his personal contribution to the 200th birthday of the Corps, he wrote The United States Marines, 1775-1975, which now has undergone many reprints. He currently is working on what should become the standard history of Marines in World War I.

Gen Simmons signs the guest book as he arrives at the dinner given for him by Gen and Mrs. Krulak at the historic Commandant's House. As part of his duties for 25 years, Gen Simmons monitored the care given the house's heirloom art and furniture.

Following news of Gen Simmons' upcoming retirement, his friends and associates made plans to honor him in various ways. The first event was truly a first, in that it was the first time the Commandant's new offices in the Pentagon were used for a decoration ceremony. At this time, 19 January, Gen Krulak decorated Gen Simmons with the Secretary of the Navy's Distinguished Civilian Service Award. The citation read:

For nearly 54 years, Gen Simmons' leadership, vision, devotion to duty, erudition, impeccable integrity, and personal dignity, have been guiding lights to the Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy. He is the principal architect of the Marine Corps Historical Program, establishing it as a model which all other Services' historical agencies have emulated. Gen Simmons' creative leadership has resulted in many notable achievements such as the development of an outstanding and highly praised command museums program, the amassing of a valuable collection of personal papers, an equally significantly rich oral history collection, a prodigious and impressive Marine Corps art collection, as well as a highly acclaimed publications program. Under his
direct guidance, a vast number of well-received and favorably reviewed histories have been published documenting the Marine Corps’ experience and its rich legacy of service, sacrifice, achievement, warfighting skills, and soldierly virtues. These histories represent for future generations of Marines the very ethos and traditions of the Marine Corps. General Simmons is a founding member and senior vice president of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation. He is a well-recognized and respected author and lecturer, as well as a prolific writer. His influence has been pervasive in a number of areas, from inculcating an appreciation for military history and the Marine Corps’ naval character at professional military schools to, as President of the Permanent Marine Corps Uniform Board, ensuring that traditions are preserved and safeguarded. General Simmons has represented the Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy with dignity and honor at the highest levels of government, in the military, academic arena, and the professional community. He has been and continues to be an inspiration to all those who have come into contact with him, and his lasting personal contributions have

been indelibly inscribed in a dynamic and functional Marine Corps Historical Program.

In his comments at the ceremony, Gen

Kruglak characterized Gen Simmons as “a tremendous warrior, a tremendous scholar,” and said that a film about the Marine Corps’ last 50 years “would see Ed

More than 200 friends and colleagues crowded the ballroom of the Bolling AFB Officers’ Club for the 1 February luncheon. Those attending the event were entertained by Pipe Major Dr. Michael Green, left, and Drum Sergeant Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas.
Simmons in a starring role.” The Commandant imagined this movie’s credits showing Gen Simmons as screenwriter, wardrobe and prop chief (referring to his longtime commission as president of the Uniform Board), director, and producer. Attending the presentation were Mrs. Simmons and three of their four children—Courtney, Bliss, and Clark.

That evening in the Marine Corps Historical Center’s Special Exhibits Gallery, the Center’s staff and the members of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation honored Gen Simmons at a reception. LtGen Philip Shutler, USMC (Ret), president of the Foundation, praised Gen Simmons’ services both to the Corps and to the Foundation, and on behalf of the Foundation presented him a framed reproduction of the stylized map of Belleau Wood which hangs in the Conference Room of the Historical Center. On behalf of the History and Museums Division staff, I presented the former Director a one-fourth-sized model of an M1917 watercooled .30-caliber machine gun, assembled by master model-maker Gordon Heim of the Division’s Exhibitory Unit.

The following evening, Saturday, 20 January, the Commandant and Mrs. Kru-lak hosted a dinner in honor of Gen and Mrs. Simmons in the Commandant’s House at the 8th and I Streets Barracks. The other guests were the chiefs of the other Service historical offices and their wives. Present were Dr. Alfred Goldberg, historian of the Office of the Secretary of Defense; BGens David Armstrong, USA (Ret), director of the Joint History Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; BGens Mountcastle, USA, Chief of the Army Center of Military History; Dr. Dudley; and Gen Shutler.

Among the many tributes paid to Gen Simmons were those by Mr. Gordon Heim, Sr., treasurer of the Marine Corps Historical Foundation and longtime treasurer of the 1st Marine Division Association; Dr. Dudley; BGens Mountcastle and Armstrong; Mr. Herman Wolk of the Office of Air Force History; Dr. Goldberg; military historian Dr. Allan Millett of Ohio State University; Mr. Bowsher, the Comptroller General; and Gen Shutler.

Gen Simmons now keeps bankers’ hours at the Center, which does not mean he is not fully occupied finishing his World War I history, preparing articles and speeches to which he has been committed for a long time, and responding to a healthy batch of correspondence which comes in daily. He also continues his interest in the conduct and welfare of the historical program without being himself directly involved. However, as may be seen in the accompanying photograph, retirement seems to suit him well.

Happily ensconced in his new office is the Director Emeritus of Marine Corps History and Museums, a title directed by CMC. Band, and Drum Sergeant Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas of The City of Alexandria Pipe Band (and Curator of Material History in the Marine Corps Museum).

New Phones, Closings at Center

by LtCol Dave Beasley, Jr.
Executive Officer

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE History and Museums Division of Headquarters Marine Corps working at the Marine Corps Historical Center at the Washington, D.C. Navy Yard, now have “voice mail,” and a number of other communications innovations, right at hand. The Center recently had its telecommunications system upgraded as part of the Department of Defense TEMPO conversion, a program under which outdated analog capacity lines are being replaced by digital capacity lines. As a result, most of the Center’s telephone numbers have changed.

Other changes at the Historical Center include the closing of the Marine Corps Museum every Tuesday, and the addition of Thanksgiving Day and New Years Day to Christmas Day as the holidays during which the Museum also will close. The Museum is closing on Tuesdays to allow for an on-going effort to clean, refreshen painted surfaces, and install remodeled and new exhibits. The Museum will be open each Monday and Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday and federal holidays, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.; and, during the summer parade season, Friday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m.

The prefix for all of the new telephone numbers at the Historical Center, is (202) 433-. The Defense Switching Network (DSN) prefix for the same numbers, for calls from within the Department of Defense, is 288-. The new numbers are:

Duty Desk, -3534
24-Hour Information, -3840
Director, -2273
Secretary to the Director, -7607
Deputy Director, -3838
Head, Historical Branch, -3837
Chief Historian, -3839
History Writing Unit, -4222
Reference Section, -3483

Phone numbers for the Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia, and the Museums Branch of History and Museums Division, remain the same: (703) 784-2606/07 (DSN 278-).
BOOKS ABOUT PEOPLE and events answer important questions, such as cause and effect, location, and key players. However, books may not answer all of the questions individuals have about a person or a period. For those questions, they need original sources. And for people who want to know more about the lives of Marines in the past, the original sources of the Marine Corps Personal Papers Collection are extremely important.

The Marine Corps Collection is large and growing steadily. As archivist of the collection, I frequently have the pleasure of coming across special items within it that enlarge the Marine Corps story by tracing the career of one Marine. Such an individual is Col Luther A. Brown, Jr., who was awarded the Legion of Merit for skill and exceptional courage in dealing on behalf of his Marines, and other Allied troops, with Japanese prisoner of war camp authorities in World War II.

"On one occasion he saved the life of a high British official by disarming the Japanese Chief Officer Interpreter who was at the point of slashing the Briton with his sword," the medal citation reads, "Subsequently, during an official interview, he returned a blow struck by the Japanese Camp Manager and immediately took bold measures which resulted in the transfer of that officer from the camp."

In 1966, Col Brown donated his papers to the Historical Center. These papers span his 30-year career as a Marine, with service in Saint Croix in the Virgin Islands, in Nicaragua, and in Shanghai, Peking, and Tientsin in China, as well as at various bases in the U.S. His entire career is open to the researcher by reading letters, orders, and various other documents and memorabilia. The collection is fascinating for anyone who wants to know what it was like to be Marine from 1923 to 1953.

Brown was unusually fortunate at the beginning of his career. He had several opportunities presented to him and, in choosing one, in 1917 was admitted into the Naval Academy through "an extra appointment" and graduated in 1921. By October 1922 he sought to be commissioned in the Marine Corps because, as he stated, "the Naval Service has never appealed to me as it should." Thereafter he appears to have been well guided by a succession of senior Marine officers.

Brown's commission was approved in December 1922, despite deficiencies in his eyesight. The Surgeon General signed an endorsement to the Major General Commandant recommending that "the defective vision in [this] case be waived."

However, in September 1924, Marine Corps Aviation "had 33 vacancies for pilots ... and it was essential that the quota be maintained at full strength." All officers were considered; Brown was put forward as a strong candidate. He delayed his acceptance out of respect for his wife's "reluctance." In the end their deliberations over a career change were futile because, once again, he was unable to pass the physical examination.

In January 1925, Brown sought a change of duty station in hopes of recovering from a "financial embarrassment." Promotions at the time were based on four major qualifications: mental, physical, moral, and professional. As a result of the debt which Brown had incurred he lacked the moral qualification and, consequently, could not be promoted to first lieutenant. Brown sought a new duty station in Haiti, where he thought he "would be better able to pay off my debts."

There were no openings in Haiti. However, there would "probably be a vacancy in the Virgin Islands very shortly." A few weeks later Brown was on his way to St. Croix with the USS Grebe. He was still having financial difficulties into 1928, and it was not until action came down...
from the Commandant, MajGen John A. Lejeune, placing Brown on a financial schedule in which he would be required to submit "special monthly reports," that the situation began to change. Brown was named to first lieutenant by January 1930.

In 1931, Brown traveled to China for the first time with the American Legation Guard for rifle matches and then a tour of duty with the 4th Marines. This was followed by a variety of assignments in the U.S., and return to China by mid-1940. By 12 March 1941 he was named commanding officer of the Marine Detachment, Tientsin.

LESS THAN NINE MONTHS after Brown's arrival, he and his entire detachment were forced to surrender to the Imperial Japanese Army at 0000, 8 December 1941. The Japanese gave the detachment the ultimatum to either "disarm [them]selves voluntarily" or "the Japanese Army shall be obliged to resort to arms and disarm all." By 1000 that morning, a radioed message came in from Col W. W. Ashurst, USMC, CO, Marine Forces, North China, stating: I AM COMPLYING COMPLYING WITH DEMANDS OF THE IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY. ADVISE YOU TO DO LIKewise." Brown responded to the Japanese in writing. "You are advised that the proposal submitted . . . is accepted." The same day then-Maj Brown and his subordinates became POWs who were to be imprisoned in China and Japan until the end of the war in September 1945.

While imprisoned, Brown continued to look after his Marines, as others had done for him early in his career. He insisted that "in accordance with the provisions of the Boxer Protocol, all of my officers and men be returned to the United States by first available conveyance." In addition, because "[these] Marines from North China were not [technically considered] POWs" and through a connection with the Swiss International Red Cross, he was able to have "for a considerable period" Red Cross parcels delivered to the Marines semianually. In order to reduce the number of "mass punishment[s] . . . cut[s] in rations and the withdrawal of blankets," Brown encouraged Col Ashurst to sign a letter stating that the Marines would stop all attempts to escape. Brown knew that "such a paper signed under duress was regarded by the Americans as not binding.

In prison Brown taught himself to read, write and speak Russian with proficiency. As he described in a letter to the Commandant dated 18 February 1948, the Marines also planted a garden and by their "last season in Shanghai" were able to cultivate from "a camp farm of 15.5 acres . . . 660 pounds of fresh vegetables per day over a period of eight months." Brown was also proud to inform the Commandant that "typical of U.S. Marine characteristics, one of our men constructed a short-wave set and using it judiciously, kept [the others] well informed from San Francisco as to the progress of operations.

The observations reported here only scratch the surface of this collection's contents. There is a particular abundance of descriptive information on the treatment of prisoners of war. The collection includes copies of The North China Marine POW Bulletin which were generated from March 1948 to January 1952. The bulletins announce where fellow POW survivors are, what they are doing, and touch on some of their individual experiences.

Historical Quiz

Marines in Disaster Relief Missions

by Jennifer Josey
University of Georgia
Historical Center Intern

1. Where in the Caribbean Sea did U.S. Marines land in January 1907 in order to assist in rescue work following a severe earthquake?
2. In what Central American city did the officers and men of the 2d Marine Brigade work during 31 March–9 April 1931 to rescue civilians, restore order, and put out fires caused by an earthquake?
3. Name the Marine unit that the U.S. ships Casa Grande, Monrovia, and Rockbridge carried to the Ionian Sea islands of Zante, Cephalonia, and Ithaca to provide rescue and relief after a four-day series of earthquakes in August 1953.
4. On 21–24 February 1983, a blizzard struck a region that the U.S. Marines were occupying as part of a multinational peacekeeping force. Rescue efforts of American, French, and Italian troops of the multinational force spurred an unusual cooperation among what three nations of the region?
5. Name the group of islands that received disaster relief from the Marine Corps twice in 1970 as a result of Typhoons Georgia and Joan.
6. During 24 September-10 October 1989, Marines from the 2d Force Service Support Group, Marine Wing Support Squadron 273, and Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 provided relief on the coast of the southeastern U.S. What was the disaster that necessitated their assistance, and where did it occur?
7. In April 1989, the Alaska Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) 89-1, on board the USS Juneau began assistance in a major clean-up operation. They were later relieved by MAGTF 89-2 of the USS Cleveland. What were they helping to clean?
8. This operation, originally called Productive Effort, involved nearly two weeks of disaster relief in the Bay of Bengal as the result of a cyclone. What was the operation renamed?
9. When and where did the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit provide assistance by carrying more than 200,000 pounds of concrete to a vent in the side of a volcano in order to alter the course of lava flow?
10. From August-October 1992, Marines participated in a hurricane clean-up that was one of the largest peacetime military operations in the U.S. Which hurricane was it and where did it hit?

(Answers on page 17)
New Books

Photo Collections Capture Marines in Training, at War

by Jennifer Josey
University of Georgia
Historical Center Intern

This issue’s reviews focus on books of photographs or books about military photographers.


As a national security correspondent for Newhouse News Service, David Bowne Wood, along with photographer Bob Mahoney, spent nearly a year with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and in Somalia. Wood was motivated by a curiosity about the Marines. He mused that “They live isolated lives, cloistered in timeless rituals and bent to service like monks of an austere sect,” and wondered, “Who are these guys? Where do they come from, and why? And what’s it like with them out there?” His book provides answers from Wood's anonymous questionnaire, allowed an unusual and honest look into their lives and activities. $24.95


This is a compilation of more than 200 of the sparkling Kodachrome images of the unique Jeffrey Ethell collection of World War II color photography. This private collection, consisting of more than 20,000 color slides, was started by the writer and historian in 1968. The photos are organized into four chapters: Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, and Behind the Lines. He provides captions and a brief foreword which traces the development of color film and processing and its use in the early 1940s. The volume includes written contributions from World War II veterans Gen Charles E. “Chuck” Yeager and Col Clarence E. “Bud” Anderson. $29.95


This book, which includes photographs by the author, details in layman’s terms what boot camp involves for a female recruit at Parris Island, South Carolina. The last two chapters are devoted to the opportunities for women Marines after basic training and to the growing role of women in America’s Armed Forces. (Out of print, but may be available from local libraries.)

Maj. John T. Quinn II, USMC, a historical writer in the History and Museums Division, was recognized on 12 April for attaining second place in the 1995 Chase “Boldness and Daring” Essay Contest. The honor, in the form of a plaque and a check, was presented to Maj Quinn in ceremonies at the Marine Corps Historical Center by Col John E. Greenwood, USMC (Ret), editor of the Marine Corps Gazette.

The awards, named in honor of the late MajGen Harold W. Chase, USMCR, are presented annually to the best essays which advocate changing an existing Marine Corps policy, procedure, or practice in order to produce an improved, more effective, or more efficient Corps. This year judges chose from among 39 candidate essays.

Maj. Quinn’s article, titled “The Future Fleet Landing Force,” addresses the prospects for Marine Corps expeditionary forces. The article proposes reorganization of Marine expeditionary units to reflect more closely future amphibious shipping and missions in order to attain greater operational flexibility. He also proposes more permanent relationships between MAGTF units through a regular system of cross-attachments between infantry regiments and helicopter groups.

This is Maj Quinn’s first “Boldness and Daring” Award; his article will appear in the June issue of the Marine Corps Gazette.
A helmet worn during World War I by Gen Clifton B. Cates, 19th Commandant of the Marine Corps, was donated to the Marine Corps Museum late last year by his son, Capt Clifton B. Cates, Jr., USN (Ret). This battle-scarred and dented helmet bears the unique insignia of Company E of the Third Army Composite Regiment, American Expeditionary Force. It is the most significant helmet from the World War I period in the museum’s collection.

Gen Cates entered the Marine Corps in 1917 from his native state of Tennessee, giving up his law practice. Assigned to the 96th Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, he sailed for France in January 1918. Six months later, then-2dLt Cates was fighting in the battle of Belleau Wood, where he was wounded and gassed. He was awarded both the Navy Cross and the Army Distinguished Service Medal for his part in the capture of Boursesches on 6 June and its subsequent defense against repeated German counterattacks. Eight days later, he won another Army Distinguished Service Medal for bravery while fighting in another part of Belleau Wood. The French government also bestowed on him the Croix de Guerre, with gold star, in recognition of his valor during this pivotal battle.

Over the next five months in France, Cates saw action in all of the campaigns in which Marines fought. In July 1918, he gained the first of his two Silver Star medals for his gallantry under fire at the battle of Soissons (where he was wounded for a second time), and was also awarded another Croix de Guerre, with palm, by the French. In addition, the French made now-1stLt Cates a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. He received his second Silver Star medal and another Croix de Guerre, with palm, for his actions at the battle of Blanc Mont in October. In total, he received no less than five Divisional and General Headquarters Citations by the time of the Armistice in November.

The green-painted, British-made helmet shows the effects of these hard-fought battles. There is a large creased dent across the front of the helmet, and a bullet hole in the rim. On the top of the helmet is another smaller dent. Gen Cates penned his name inside the shell of the helmet which now, sadly, is devoid of its liner and chin strap. On the inner rim of the helmet is the following red ink inscription, written in Gen Cates’ own distinctive handwriting:

Dent & hole made 6 Jun 1918
Small dent made 3 Oct

In a letter which he wrote home on 14 June 1918 (and now preserved in the Marine Corps Historical Center’s Personal Papers Collection), then-2dLt Cates graphically recounted the action in which the helmet sustained its first battle damage:

...We charged across an open field for eight hundred yards and there were eleven machine guns playing on us—honest, the bullets hitting the ground were as thick as rain drops—one hits me solid on the helmet—denting a dent in it the size of a hen egg—it knocked me cold for a minute; another bullet went thru the brim of my helmet, clipping my ear ...

Twelve days later, he mentions the helmet in another letter to his mother which he wrote while he was recuperating after being gassed:

...I wish you could see your son with his equipment on—dirty, torn, ragged suit; wrapped puttees; shoes that used to be boots, but are now cut off; steel helmet, with a hole thru it and a big dent; pistol belt and suspenders; first aid package and cover; pistol and holster; canteen, cup and cover; knapsack, which holds toilet articles, maps, message books, extra cartridges, etc; field glasses and case; two extra pistol clips and cases; German gas mask (which saved my life); French gas mask; big German Lugar [sic] pistol and holster; big musette bag with cigarettes, chocolate bars, magazine, writing paper, condiment can, malted milk tablets, comb, little clothes brush, alkaline tablets (for gas), and other junk; a blanket roll, which contains a poncho, blanket, air pillow, handkerchiefs, socks, underwear, etc.; and a German raincoat slung over my arm.

The second dent was made by German machine gun fire during the capture of Blanc Mont ridge by the 4th Marine Brigade on 3 October 1918. Cates was awarded a citation by the General Headquarters of the American Expeditionary Force for his exploits during this action.

During the occupation of Germany in 1919, General of the Armies John J. “Black Jack” Pershing organized a Composite Regiment which was made up of companies drawn from each of the divisions in the Third Army. The Composite Regiment served as an escort to Gen Pershing when he was honored during parades on 4 and 14 July in Paris, and later in London on 19 July. After its arrival in the United States in September 1919, the Composite Regiment paraded in New York and Washington. Two companies were furnished by the 2d Division. Then-Capt Cates commanded Company E, and was assisted by then-1stLt Merwin H. Silverthorn, also destined to rise to the rank of general officer in later years. The Marines of Company E had the familiar star and Indian head insignia of the 2d Division painted on their helmets, but without the prescribed colored background shapes that were used to designate the component units in the division (see “Star and Indian Head Insignia,” Fortitudine, Vol. IX, No. 4, Spring 1980). They also wore pouches with this insignia sewn on the left shoulders of their Army olive drab wool coats.

Plans for this helmet include a short special exhibition in the Marine Corps Museum’s “Recent Acquisitions” case and later display in the standing World War I exhibit in the “Time Tunnel.”

Acquisitions

Cates’ Vented, Dented WWI Helmet Enters Collection

by Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas
Curator of Material History

Fortitudine, Winter-Spring 1996
Commandant Establishes a Beachhead in the Pentagon

by Charles R. Smith
Historian

Headquarters Marine Corps will be in the Pentagon by the end of the year. So predicted the Corps’ new Commandant, General Charles C. Krulak, at his initial briefing in July 1995 of headquarters Marines and civilians.

The shift of Headquarters from the Navy Annex to the naval passageways of the Pentagon, General Krulak said, would not only improve the Corps’ ability to work with the Navy on issues, but also would increase the Corps’ understanding of the other Services and their departmental headquarters and, in turn, increase their understanding of the Corps. The Marine Corps will be on an equal playing field with the other Services, he said, and “it will allow us to be even more responsive. This is important to a Force in Readiness.”

By early January, office spaces in the Pentagon’s E-Ring had been vacated and renovated. On the day the Blizzard of 1996 struck Washington, the Commandant and several key members of the Headquarters staff moved in, completing the first of a three-phased, multi-year consolidation of Headquarters into the Pentagon and Navy Annex.

Reaction to the change varied. Some Marines said the move should have taken place long ago, while others, noting that Marines pride themselves on being a unique service, pointed out that maintaining a separate headquarters outside of the Pentagon somehow complemented that uniqueness.

The move to the Pentagon was not the first move of Headquarters Marine Corps, but it was perhaps the most important. The symbol of leadership for Marines serving throughout the world, Headquarters Marine Corps has been located at various sites throughout its 220-year history.

From 1775 to 1781, except for a short period during the British occupation, the various headquarters of the Continental Marines were located in Philadelphia. While the locations of all the headquarters sites are unknown, it is known that Maj Samuel Nicholas and his small “staff” occupied a number, all situated in Philadelphia’s waterfront district.

With the reestablishment of the Corps in July 1798 a small barracks with a headquarters was situated in a leased building on the corner of Filbert and Thirteenth Streets, at the north end of Philadelphia’s Center Square. As the Corps grew in strength, and to avoid the yearly yellow fever epidemics, an encampment was established northwest of the city on the Germantown Road.

Because the Government had moved from Philadelphia to the new capital at Washington, Maj William Ward Burrows and a small group of Marines arrived on 15 July 1800 and set up a temporary tent camp overlooking the Potomac

(Continued on page 14)
Marine Barracks at 8th and I Streets, Southeast, served as Headquarters Marine Corps from 1804 to 1901. Center House, at left in this 1857 photo, was torn down in 1907-1908. Headquarters moved to the Bond Building, below, on 14th Street Northwest, in 1901.

Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Second move was to the Mills Building, below, for a decade prior to World War I.

The Navy Department Building on marshy ground along Constitution Avenue, Northwest, was home to Headquarters between world wars. Below, for more than 50 years, since 1941, home has been the Navy Annex to the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.
Art Chosen for CMC Tells History

Members of the Marine Corps Museum staff met with the Commandant’s aides last fall, when the offices blocked off for Marine Headquarters in the Pentagon were first undergoing renovation. After measuring the area, the staff searched the Museum collections to select the most appropriate art and artifacts for display. Since the Commandant’s office and reception spaces were to be a showcase for the Marine Corps, only original art was considered and the opportunity to exhibit some of the collection’s larger significant pieces was taken.

A plan was submitted by Thanksgiving and, once approved, the stage was set for installation in early January. The art and sculpture were installed in various offices during the second week of January and included such notable pieces as Tom Lovell’s Tarawa and Alex Raymond’s Marines At Prayer. Two large paintings by John Clymer, the Seminole War Patrol and the Wasp and Reindeer (a War of 1812 ship-to-ship action, with Marines positioned prominently in the rigging), were also hung in the offices. A bronze miniature of Rick Hart’s Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial statue also was selected.

Art which provides a mini-chronology of Marine Corps history was chosen for the passageway outside of the Assistant Commandant’s office suite. In this small exhibit, reproductions of paintings in the collection were used because of the danger of possible accidental damage in the busy passage. High-quality photographic reproductions were framed in identical moldings. The 13 pieces cover the story of the Marine Corps from the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf War.

At the Assistant Commandant’s suggestion, a captured Iraqi ZPU-1 anti-aircraft gun was installed in a 12x5-foot section at the entrance to the passageway. Before being emplaced, the gun was cleaned, prepared, and demilitarized by the Museum’s restoration staff. This gun was captured by Marines under Gen Krujak’s command during the Persian Gulf War.

Concurrently, the Museum staff designed and built two mahogany exhibit cases and created a panoply of flags for the Commandant’s Pentagon dining room. The cases hold a rare pattern 1892 Marine officer’s dress spiked helmet and a tall and striking bearskin cap which was worn by the drum major of the Marine Band in the 1970s. The panoply of flags takes up the entire east wall of the room and includes the United States, Marine Corps, and Commandant’s flags. In addition, a framed guidon from World War I and a framed Marine Corps aircraft insignia also adorn the walls. The large insignia was cut from the fabric covering a 1920s vintage aircraft fuselage and is autographed by a number of early aviators. Silver pieces and statuary also were added to give a “regimental” feeling to the room. —Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas

Curator Kenneth L. Smith-Christmas notes details of a large, painted insignia cut from the fabric of a 1920s Marine Corps aircraft fuselage and autographed by early Marine aviators. It hangs, framed, in the Commandant’s dining room.
The Parris Island Museum is located in the War Memorial Building on board the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina. The building was dedicated on Armistice Day 1951. Designed as a recreation center for enlisted personnel, the structure stands "as a magnificent monument to Marines of the past as well as a source of inspiration and opportunity for Marines of the future."

Early in 1972, MajGen Robert H. Barrow, commanding Parris Island, contacted the Marine Corps History and Museums Division regarding the establishment of a museum for the depot. By the end of the year an outline of exhibit themes was set. The museum project was begun by Maj Will A. Merrill, who was followed by Maj Keller E. Johnson. Maj Johnson undertook the first work on the designated areas of the War Memorial Building, and it fell to Maj Edward M. Condra III to complete the task. With the technical assistance of GsGt Peter Dawson, and with backing from the depot's Maintenance Department, museum spaces were established on the building's first deck and in one room on the second deck.

Work was completed in 1974, and on 8 January 1975, the Parris Island Museum was dedicated by then-Marine Commandant Gen Robert E. Cushman, Jr., under a new program aimed at eventually making it a certified Marine Corps Command Museum. The museum's major themes were recruit training and local military history. The museum was to become a way to help families of new Marines understand the Parris Island experience, and, by explaining the region's military heritage, tie the recruit depot closer to its Port Royal/Beaufort, South Carolina, neighbors.

When opened in 1975, the museum was declared to be the first step in establishing a Marine Corps-wide system of command museums. Like the other museums in the program, the Parris Island Museum has not remained static, and on 8 January 1993, it was fully certified by the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums as a Marine Corps Command Museum.

The Parris Island Museum cares for its collections and prepares exhibits for more than 65,000 visitors each year. The museum is used by drill instructors to instill a sense of pride in their recruits. Through its exhibits and collections, the museum continues to meet the original mission of the War Memorial Building by serving not only as a place of remembrance but also as a source of inspiration and training.

The museum tour begins at the front door, where built-in exhibit cases display examples of recent donations to the museum, and information on coming events is available.

Passing by the guard desk visitors enter the rotunda of the building where, at its center, there is a miniature replica of the Marine Corps War Memorial, the famous statue of the flag-raising on Iwo Jima.

Around the rotunda, on two decks, are eight wall cases containing uniforms, weapons, and accoutrements from various periods of Parris Island history. These cases and the accompanying narrative depict the evolution of Parris Island and recruit training from its beginning in 1861, when the first Marines arrived in the area, to the contemporary 1990s.

In the east wing of the first deck is the Contemporary Room, which affords the visitor a glimpse of the experience of male and female recruits' training from the "Boots' first arrival through graduation. Highlighted by a life-sized photographic reproduction of a squad bay scene, the numerous photographs on exhibit are augmented by artifacts, audiotapes, and narrative labels.
The NCOIC of the Parris Island Museum, Cpl Silento McMorris, replaces a label in the local history display in the west wing.

Just off the Contemporary Room is the museum gift shop, operated by the Parris Island Historical and Museum Society. Profits from purchases made at the gift shop, manned by the Society's volunteers, plus donations and membership monies, are used to assist the museum.

A long hallway off the rotunda leads to the west wing where exhibits portray the military history of Port Royal from the first European exploration to the current Marine Corps Air Station. The exhibit begins with a number of 16th-century artifacts recovered from the archaeological excavations at Santa Elena, the Spanish village which was located on Parris Island from 1566 to 1587. Since 1979 the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina has been carrying out the excavations and conducting research on Santa Elena.

Using the Santa Elena exhibit as a starting point, visitors begin a journey covering the military history of the Port Royal/Beaufort area. Visitors pass through an area of dioramas and uniform paintings chronicking military activity from the periods of the American Revolution and the Civil War to the advent of the Marine Corps Air Station at Beaufort.

Leaving the main deck by way of the stairhalls to the second deck, the visitor reviews a temporary exhibit on the 50th Anniversary of the Women Marines, consisting of photographs, videos, and narrative labels.

Off the rotunda is the museum's Weapons Room. On exhibit are 11 long arms used by the Marine Corps, ranging from the Revolutionary War Short Land Pattern Musket to the M-16, coupled with a case containing weapons used against the Marines during their various 20th-century campaigns.

In the west wing is located the "20th-Century Marine Corps History" exposition, portraying the time period in which all of the Parris Island graduates have participated. Exhibits in four large halls take visitors through World War I, Banana Wars, China Marines, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, and Desert Storm actions. Rounding out the display are additional panels and cases covering smaller and transitional Marine Corps actions.

Across from the "20th-Century" exhibit is the museum's theater, which was outfitted by the World War II Drill Instructor's Association. Presentations, using both video and slides, are given to museum visitors on the history of the Marine Corps and Parris Island. A small research library, used by base personnel and civilian researchers conducting studies on the history of Port Royal, Parris Island, and the Marine Corps, is adjacent to the theater. This is also the area of the museum's administrative operations, preservation laboratory and accessioning functions, and exhibits workshop.

During the past year, the museum has been working to upgrade its existing displays. Artifacts on display have been rotated and new pictures and maps mounted throughout the museum. Completed in 1995 was the museum's Civil War area, which now covers the campaign that took place in the Port Royal region during 1864 and 1865. Among the troops participating in the campaign was a battalion of Marines. Perhaps the most impressive display item in the Civil War area is the uniform coat of Col Alfred Hartwell, a federal officer who commanded a brigade during the Honey Hill Campaign. The coat is on long-term loan to the museum from his great-grandchildren.

Additions to exhibits in other areas include a Japanese naval ensign taken at the end of World War II from the Sasebo Naval Base in Japan. The flag was donated by Battery H, 3d Battalion, 13th Regiment, 5th Marine Division. Another item placed on display is a 1929 Recruiting Banner from the 4th Marine Corps District Recruiting Station in Philadelphia.

In conjunction with the depot photo lab, the museum has started renovating the Contemporary Room by replacing old photographs with new pictures showing current recruit training.

One recent museum activity has centered on rotating displays placed throughout the base. For the most part they have dealt with the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, such as the Women Reserves display located in the museum stairhall. Other exhibits have been placed...
in the depot headquarters building and the visitors' center. The museum also has constructed temporary exhibits for the town of Port Royal and the Beaufort Historical Society. In conjunction with the Beaufort Museum, a display on Beaufort in the 20th Century was completed. Other activities with the Beaufort Museum included joint tours and a celebration of National Historical Preservation Week that featured a lecture and tour of the Parris Island Historic District.

The museum also has been active in carrying out educational programs and tours for local schools, tour groups, and base personnel. The tours visit such places as Honey Hill, Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumter, and the Chattanooga-Chickamauga National Battlefields. The museum additionally assisted the officers of the 3d Recruit Training Battalion in its two-day tour of the Chickamauga battlefield.

In 1995, the museum accommodated 153 tour groups. More than 400 artifacts and collections new to the museum were accessioned. A great deal of the work of the museum has gone on behind the scenes. Thanks to the Parris Island Historical and Museum Society, the museum now has a new data-base system for recording its collections. Known as the Regis System, it has been used to inventory the museum’s holdings. All in all, the records for more than 3,100 items have been transferred to the new system, as well as the records and finding aides for 3,800 negatives and slides, 150 maps and 1,000 pamphlets. Currently the museum is preparing its library books for inclusion in this system. The data-base gives the museum an efficient and easy method of recording the collections and allows a quicker recall than the previous system. Because of the new system, we have been able to begin a full inventory check and rearrange our storage area.

The museum is also switching its lighting system to all ultra-violet-filtered fluorescent tubes and filtered track lights. This will assist in the protection of the 1,400 artifacts on display and allow the museum to exhibit more delicate, light-sensitive items.

In 1995, the museum has submitted a request to Public Works which will design and contract for an expansion of the museum gift shop. This project will be funded by the historical society and will result in the gift shop doubling in size. Future projects call for the installation of an elevator and the upgrading of the museum's climate controls. Displays on the defense battalion training area on Hilton Island, known as Camp McDougal; aviation on Parris Island; and the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort are all planned.

The Parris Island Museum is open 1000-1630 seven days a week. The museum is closed on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Answers to the Historical Quiz

Marines in Disaster Relief Missions

(Questions on page 9)

3. 2d Battalion, 6th Marines.
4. Syria, Israel, Lebanon.
5. The Philippine Islands.
6. Hurricane Hugo in the Charleston and Myrtle Beach areas of South Carolina.
7. The area around Valdez in Alaska’s Prince William Sound, where an Exxon oil tanker spilled more than 10 million gallons of crude oil.
8. Operation Sea Angel, because the people of Bangladesh referred to the Marines as "angels from the sea."
Last spring I was visited by two representatives of Japan’s National Diet Library (NDL), the research facility of Japan’s legislature. They asked permission to microfilm the Marine Corps World War II records for inclusion in the NDL’s collection of materials relating to the war and U.S. occupation. Our then-Director, BGen Edwin H. Simmons, USMC (Ret), quickly agreed to the request, in return for our receiving a copy of the microfilm. Since last fall the two researchers have been working in the Marine Corps Historical Center preparing the records for microfilming.

The NDL is planning the construction of a new building to ease the storage pressure of its growing collections of books and manuscripts. As part of the NDL’s planning process its staff is inviting a dozen archivists from around the world to visit Tokyo to deliver lectures on their respective archival programs. I was fortunate to be one of those asked to participate.

The trip also provided me the opportunity to study the Japanese system of handling governmental records. The NDL is the equivalent of, and was modeled upon, our Library of Congress. There are some important differences. The records of our Congress eventually go to our National Archives. The Diet’s records go to the NDL. Because Japan has a parliamentary system, the Diet’s records are executive as well as legislative and include the records of the prime minister and the other ministers.

The NDL is rapidly converting its finding aids to electronic form. In my meeting with the Librarian of the Diet, he expressed great interest in our plans to digitize our Gulf War records and put them onto the Internet. I subsequently had the opportunity to visit the Reitsumeikan University in Kyoto, which has a cooperative arrangement with the NDL for the records of the occupation period. Microfiche of the Supreme Commander Allied Powers (SCAP) records is sent to Reitsumeikan where the students create an electronic index to the documents. Ultimately they will do the same with our World War II records.

The NDL is one of four government archives in Tokyo. The National Archives receives the program records from the various government ministries. Archivists there told me that approximately 10 percent of the records are saved; the comparable figure for our own National Archives is between two and three percent. In our country there is an agreement between the National Archives and the originating agency specifying which records will be transferred and when. In Japan the ministries make the decisions about what is to be saved and when the transfers will occur.

Knowing the problems our National Archives has had with electronic records, I asked officials of the Japanese National Archives how they handled such materials. The archivists replied that they hadn’t yet received any, but that they had a computer for any floppy disks or CDs that might come in. (I was there to learn, not to prescribe, so I did not suggest that they might some day receive spools of magnetic tape from mainframe computers used by scientific agencies. These tapes might use software and hardware no longer readily available. Translation programs can cost as much as $50,000.)

It was while visiting the National Archives that I became aware of great differences between the United States and Japan on privacy issues. In our country,
certain information, such as Social Security numbers and census data, cannot be released during a person's lifetime, or for 75 years. The same is true in Japan, but with an 80-year retention period. The difference lies in the implementation. With their strong sense of family and of the necessity to "save face," the Japanese will not release even century-old records if they think there is any possibility that information in them might embarrass the individual's descendants. I saw passport applications and education records from the 19th century that never had been released because of these privacy concerns. Contrast this attitude with Amy Cantin's description of the contents of the Luther A. Brown collection, elsewhere in this issue.

Later that day I visited the Diplomatic Record Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This archive and that of the Self-Defense Forces, were in existence when the National Archives was created and continue to be separate from it. The Record Office Director was interested in the various declassification initiatives now underway in the American government. The Japanese have an equivalent to our State Department's Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS) series. Whereas the FRUS runs 25-30 years behind the current date, the Documents on Japanese Foreign Policy has been published only to 1932. They produce one or two volumes per year.

Mr. Graboske and his wife, Patricia, a staff member of the Smithsonian Institution, were able to take advantage of many of the cultural exchange opportunities offered to them during their visit. Here they visited the Daibutsu Great Buddha in Kamakura.

In the Ashikaga Shogun's teahouse in Kyoto, Mr. Graboske takes both the stone seat and the stance of the warlord himself.

Kinkaku-ji, the Golden Pavilion, in Kyoto, is coated with gold leaf and recently had a new coat applied. The name of the pond which surrounds it is Kyoko-ichi, Mirror Pond.
The next day I met with the major general who is the director of the military history department of the National Institute for Defense Studies. He expressed great interest in learning more about the Marine Corps historical and archival programs. During my tour of this archive I had the opportunity to examine its World War II records. In 1945, between the armistice and the signing of the surrender document, the Japanese military made a concerted effort to destroy its war records. There is virtually nothing from the Imperial Fleet after 1942. There are more records from the Imperial Army, but only because an individual disobeyed orders and saved those in his custody.

When the Japanese began preparing a history of the war, they contacted the former high-ranking officers and asked for memoirs or diaries if they had kept them. Many were donated; now the volume of this material equals that of the official records. These donated materials played a pivotal role in the production of the 102-volume history of the war. Unfortunately, there were no deeds of gift for these memoirs and diaries, and the privacy problems described above are even more intense with these records. A professor of the military history department described an incident in which family members had reacted angrily to mention in their ancestor’s diary of human medical experiments conducted in Manchuria. The reference had been published in the war history; the family forbade the archivists from showing the document to anyone else.

This trip was a great opportunity for me to discuss archival and public access issues with Japanese colleagues. My conversations with them and with other foreign archivists in the past have convinced me that the Marine Corps Historical Center archive is the most user-friendly in the world. I take no credit for this; my predecessors and Gen Simmons, now our Director Emeritus, are responsible for our success. My task as we prepare for the 21st century is to improve this high level of service.

The thoughtfulness and generosity of my hosts made it possible for me to use my spare time to visit some of the famous tourist sites in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Nara. In the Kamakura district, near Tokyo, I visited the shrine to Hachiman, the Shinto god of war. Later in the day I visited Yasukuni shrine, dedicated to the war dead since the restoration of the Emperor Meiji in 1868. On August 15, the anniversary of the cessation of hostilities, the Japanese cabinet ministers visit this enormous shrine in central Tokyo in remembrance of the World War II dead. I also had the opportunity to visit some of the famous Buddhist temples in Kyoto and Nara, both former national capitals.

My visit was both professionally and personally rewarding. Seeing the Japanese archival system and talking with Japanese archivists and historians helped me in my immediate and long-term planning for Marine Corps archival programs. Experiencing the shrines and temples and mingling with Japanese people deepened my appreciation for their history and culture.
The Marine Corps Air-Ground Museum, located at Quantico's old Brown Field, reopened on 1 April, to begin its 18th season. The highlight of this new season is the installation of a fully-restored Curtiss JN-4HG “Jenny” in the Early Years Hangar. This aircraft was acquired from Mr. Howard Wells of Sepulveda, California, after he spent more than four years painstakingly restoring the aircraft to something closely approaching the original factory-fresh condition. According to knowledgeable sources, this particular “Jenny” is the only gunnery training (HG) model in existence and the only one still extant which actually flew with the Marine Corps.

In order to place the aircraft in the museum, a circa-1925 Boeing FB-5 biplane fighter which was on loan from the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum had to be removed. It was dismantled in February by the museum’s restoration staff for its return to the Smithsonian. This aircraft had been borrowed in the late 1970s in a derelict condition. It was then fully restored by the Marine Corps Museum staff before the first “Early Years” section of the former Marine Corps Aviation Museum opened at Quantico in 1980. A Curtiss F6C-3 fighter was moved from an adjacent exhibit and put in its place, while a N2S Stearman trainer aircraft was placed in the F6C-3’s area. The new “Jenny” will be installed in the area formerly occupied by the N2S in this game of “musical aircraft.”

After having been on exhibit for many years between the “World War II” and “Korean War” hangars, the museum’s Douglas R4D “Skytrain” has been partially disassembled and moved under cover. The effects of being outdoors had taken their toll, and besides its deterioration, it was becoming increasingly difficult to keep it clean and presentable. Options for its replacement are now under consideration.

Inside the hangars, the security systems have been fully upgraded to state-of-the-art standards, while drainage problems on the outside have been improved through a series of construction contracts. Despite the seasonal closure of the museum, several special tours of the facilities have been given by the staff to support professional military education programs which were initiated by various commands at Quantico.
Fortitudine’s chronology series continues with a selection of events in the Marine Corps during January-June 1947, including the continued redeployment of Marine Corps units in the Pacific, the surrender of Japanese “holdouts” on Peleliu, and the passing of two prominent Marine general officers.

12-13 Jan—The 2d Marine Division, commanded by MajGen Thomas E. Watson, participated in amphibious maneuvers with the Fleet in Caribbean waters.

23 Jan—LtGen Roy S. Geiger, USMC, died at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, eight days before his formal retirement. President Harry S. Truman later signed a bill providing a posthumous four-star rank for Gen Geiger.

3 Feb—In China, the 1st Marine Division was directed to provide tactical and logistical support to the U.S. Army’s Peiping-based forces until their withdrawal was completed and at the same time, to finish its own preparations for departure from China.

10 Feb—In Paris, peace treaties that formally ended World War II were signed among the Allies and several of the Axis Powers, LtGen Roy S. Geiger, USMC, died at the end of January, only eight days before his expected retirement. President Truman later signed a bill elevating the wartime hero posthumously to general, including Italy, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, and Romania.

5 Mar—The 7th Marines was disbanded at Camp Pendleton, California, upon its return from China, with most of its personnel and equipment being transferred to the 3d Marine Brigade.

6 Mar—MajGen John H. Russell, the 16th Commandant of the Marine Corps (1934-1936), died at age 74 in Coronado, California.

17 Mar—A detail of 21 Marines from Garrison Forces (Oahu) was airlifted to Peleliu, and 41 Marines were deployed from Guam to help subdue a group of Japanese holdouts who had thrown hand grenades at a Marine patrol and had fired upon native villagers.

31 Mar—In the United States, the wartime draft law expired.

1 Apr—In China, operation plans were issued detailing the steps to be taken in the withdrawal and redeployment from China of the 1st Marine Division and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

4 Apr—The Marine Corps Reserve Officer Training Program was formally reactivated.

15 Apr—In Washington, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Retired MajGen John H. Russell, 16th Commandant of the Marine Corps and one of the last living Marine commanders of World War I, died at his home in Coronado, California, in March.
was being reorganized into more flexible units and armed with more powerful infantry weapons. Marine units would be able to disperse by air, surface vessels, or submarines without administrative delay or loss of firepower.

26 Apr — On Peleliu, a lieutenant and 26 other Japanese soldiers and sailors formally surrendered to the Americans, two and one-half years after the American occupation of the island. The lieutenant surrendered his sword and battle flags to Captain L. O. Fox, USN, Commandant of the Palau Islands, backed by 80 Marines in full battle dress. One week later, seven additional Japanese holdouts surrendered, ending the last resistance on Peleliu.

24 Apr — On Guam, the advance command posts of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing and Marine Aircraft Group 24 from China were activated.

30 Apr — The 11th Marines returned to Camp Pendleton, California, on board the Navy transport 'Cavalier' following five years on duty in the Far East.

1 May — In China, a new command, Fleet Marine Force, Western Pacific (FMFWesPac) was activated at Tsingtao under BGen Omar T. Pfeiffer. Its principal mission was to provide security for United States naval training activities. The command consisted of a Headquarters and Service Battalion; 3d Battalion, 4th Marines; 2d Battalion, 1st Marines; 12th Service Battalion; and Air FMFWesPac (Wing Service Squadron, VMF-211, and VMR-153).

9 May — In China, the rear echelon of Marine Aircraft Group 24 closed out all Marine facilities at South Field, Peiping, China, and left for its new base in Guam.

12 May — In China, the 5th Marines (less the 1st Battalion) departed for duty in Guam.

22 May — Marine Corps Aviation celebrated its 35th anniversary.

25 May — The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, followed the rest of its regiment from Taku, Hopeh, China, to Guam.

6 Jun — In Annapolis, Maryland, 33 graduates of a class of 500 at the U.S. Naval Academy accepted commissions in the U.S. Marine Corps.

21 Jun — The 1st Marine Division command post was closed in Tientsin, China, and opened on board the USS 'Renville'.

30 Jun — The strength of the Marine Corps was 92,053.

As Marine activities in China winded down, duties in Guam. As Marine activities in China winded down, a new command, Fleet Marine Force, Western Pacific (FMFWesPac), was activated at Tsingtao to monitor Navy training.
Raiders History, Humanitarian Relief Series Introduced

by Benis M. Frank
Chief Historian

From Makin to Bougainville: Marine Raiders in the Pacific War, the 18th title in the History and Museums Division's series of World War II 50th anniversary commemorative pamphlets, is the latest to be published. Written by Maj Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR, this monograph tells of the development of the raider concept in the Marine Corps, the formation and deployment in combat of the first raider units, and of LtCols Merritt A. Edson and Evans F. Carlson, the two key Marine Corps personalities in this evolution. He writes of the 2d Raider Battalion's raid on Makin Island 17-18 August 1942, the only operation of its type conducted by Marine raiders in the Pacific War. Also narrated in the pamphlet are the dramatic actions in which the 1st Battalion was involved—the landing on Tulagi on 7 August and the Battle of Bloody Ridge on Guadalcanal the nights of 12-13 and 13-14 September 1942. While raider units as such lasted for only about two years, in those two years Marine raiders performed in combat magnificently and their accomplishments are firmly set in Marine Corps lore, traditions, and history.

A second new publication appearing on the scene is Charles R. Smith's U.S. Marines in Humanitarian Operations: Angels from the Sea; Relief Operations in Bangladesh, 1991. This is the first of a new series dealing with Marine Corps humanitarian operations and concerns the Marine Corps response to a deadly Indian Ocean cyclone which devastated Bangladesh in April-May 1991. While on its way back to Camp Pendleton after its involvement in the Persian Gulf War, the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade was diverted to Bangladesh to aid in relief operations together with other U.S. military and civilian agencies. In this monograph, Mr. Smith, who has written Marines in the Revolution and U.S. Marines in Vietnam, 1969, and is currently writing a World War II 50th anniversary commemorative pamphlet concerned with the postwar Marine occupation of Japan, has just about detailed the day-to-day operations of Marines and sailors in helping to alleviate the disastrous condition of the Bangladeshi population so hard hit by the cyclone.

Two other titles close to publication and distribution are another commemorative pamphlet and a general history monograph. The pamphlet is "Condition Red!: Marine Defense Battalions in World War II," by Maj Charles D. Nelson, USMC (Ret), a former member of the History and Museums Division staff and author of a pamphlet published in 1993, Up the Slot: Marines in the Central Solomons. The historical monograph is "Just Cause: Marine Operations in Panama, 1989-1990." The monograph was written by LtCol Nicholas Reynolds, USMCR, a member of the IMA detachment assigned to the History and Museums Division. It is based largely upon LtCol Reynolds' research into extensive official documentation collected and interviews conducted in Panama by the writer of this article, then head of the Oral History Section.