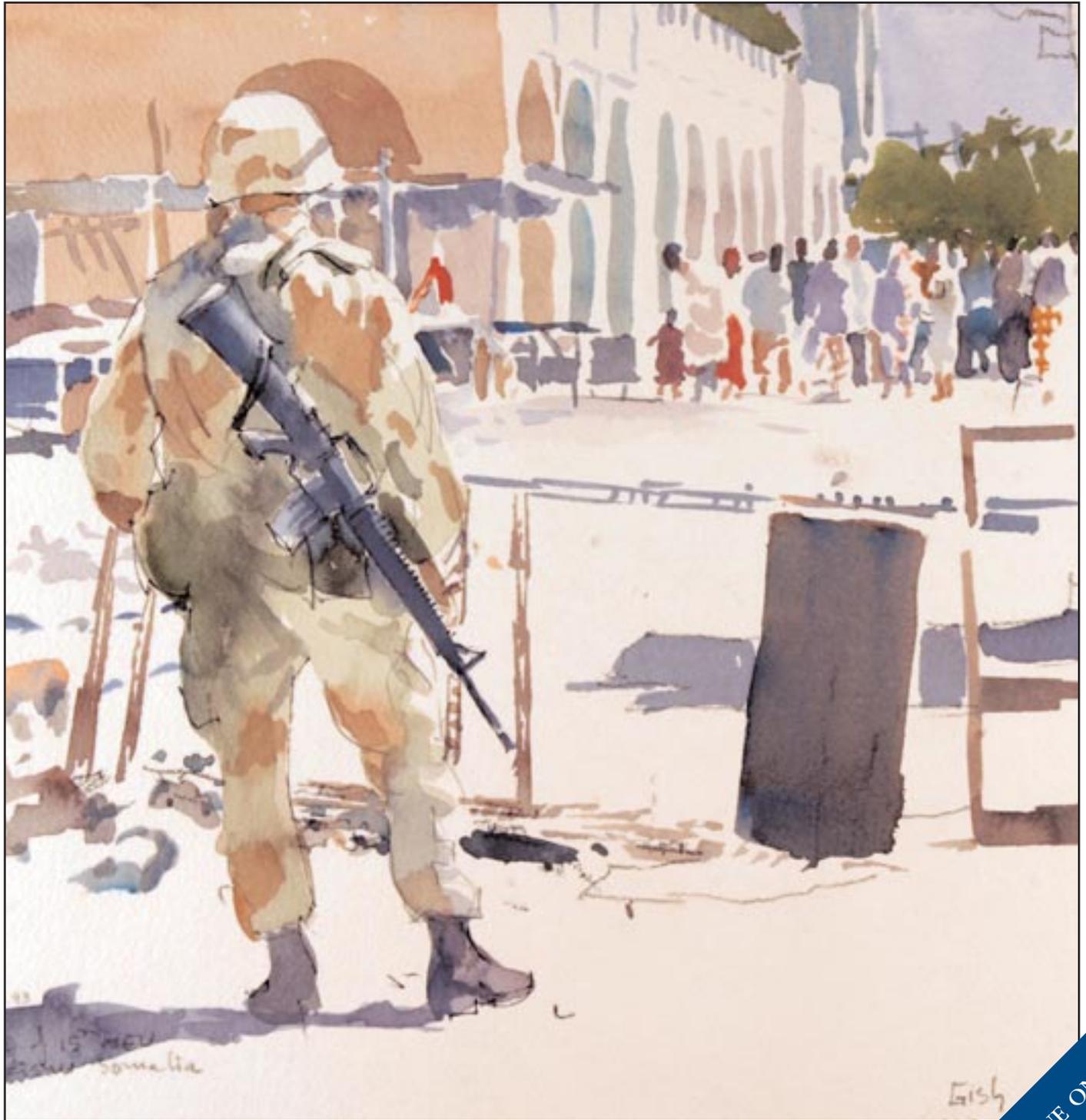


# FORTITUDINE

BULLETIN OF THE MARINE CORPS HISTORICAL PROGRAM

HISTORICAL BULLETIN VOLUME XXXI, NUMBER 1

2004



SO PROUDLY WE HAIL... USEFUL TOOLS IN URBAN FIGHTING... MENACE IN IRAQ... UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL  
SMITHSONIAN BORROWS FAMOUS IWO JIMA FLAG... FIRSTHAND IN FALLUJAH... SEA COBRAS OVER GRENADA  
FIGHTING IN URBAN TERRAIN... LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE... 2002 CHRONOLOGY

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# FORTITUDINE

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

Historical Bulletin Vol. XXXI, No.1

2004

*"We can only know who we are by being certain of who we have been."*

Gen Leonard F. Chapman Jr.  
24th Commandant of the Marine Corps

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

*Memorandum from the Director: So Proudly We Hal*  
*Col John W. Ripley, USMC (Ret)* . . . . .3

*Heritage Center News: Laying the Foundation for Excellence*  
*Col Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR* . . . . .4

*Marine Corps Chronology: 2002 Annual Chronology: Part I*  
*Kara R. Newcomer* . . . . .6

*History Writing: Useful Tools in Urban Fighting*  
*Charles R. Smith* . . . . .8

*Ordnance Collection: Menace in Iraq*  
*Dieter Stenger* . . . . .9

*Oral History: House-to-House Fighting in Hue, 1968*  
*Dr. Gary D. Solis* . . . . .10

*Uniform and Heraldry Collection: Smithsonian Borrows Famous Iwo Jima Flag*  
*Jennifer Castro* . . . . .11

*Combat Art: Peter Mike Gish: Artist, Teacher and Marine for Life*  
*Charles G. Grow* . . . . .12

*Archives: Marines Fighting in Urban Terrain*  
*Frederick J. Graboske* . . . . .14

*Aviation Collection: Sea Cobras Over Grenada*  
*James T. D' Angina* . . . . .15

*Field History: Firsthand from Fallujah*  
*Col Nicholas E. Reynolds, USMCR and Maj John P. Piedmont, USMC* . . . . .16

*Exhibit News: Exhibiting the Battle for Hue*  
*Ronnie D. Alexander* . . . . .18

*In Memoriam: LtGen Adolph Schwenk Passes*  
*Robert V. Aquilina* . . . . .19

*Historical Quiz: Marine Operations in Urban Terrain*  
*Stephanie Boyer* . . . . .20

*Books in Review: Up Close and Personal*  
*Charles D. Melson* . . . . .21

*Book Notes: Urban Combat From the Crusades to the Gulf War*  
*Evelyn A. Englander* . . . . .22

*Answers to the Historical Quiz: Marine Operations in Urban Terrain*  
*Stephanie Boyer* . . . . .23

**ABOUT THE COVER**



*Cover Illustration: A Marine with 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit in Mogadishu, Somalia, during Operation Restore Hope, January 1993. Control Number 24-1-193.*

*Inside Cover Photo: Colonel Peter Michael Gish, USMCR (Ret), paints a watercolor of the Beavertail Lighthouse at Jamestown, Rhode Island, September 2003. Photo by Charles Grow*

This quarterly bulletin of the Marine Corps historical program is published for Marines, at the rate of one copy for every nine on active duty, to provide education and training in the uses of military and Marine Corps history. Other interested readers may purchase single copies or four-issue subscriptions from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office. The appropriate order form appears in this issue.

## So Proudly We Hail



Col. John W. Ripley, USMC

Our Museums Branch has loaned one of its signal artifacts to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (NMAH) for a special exhibit uniting four historic flags from World War II. The second, larger American flag raised on Mount Suribachi, usually on view at the Marine Corps Museum, now shares gallery space with three other significant flags from World War II. The exhibit, entitled "So Proudly We Hail," opened May 27 to coincide with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. The weekend events drew large numbers of veterans to the National Mall, as well as thousands of other visitors who simply wanted to be part of the city-wide celebration of America's Greatest Generation. Our Headquarters Marines were present for everything and personally assisted many former Marine veterans.

Each of the four flags on display at the NMAH has its own fascinating story, and together they represent the contributions and legacy of those who served in World War II. The flags have earned their respective places in history because of acts of bravery and dar-

ing carried out by those who put patriotism before personal glory. "So Proudly We Hail" honors World War II veterans and the flag under which they served.

"The American flag has come to represent the ideals on which the nation was founded," said exhibition curator Marilyn Zoidis. "These flags will illustrate for visitors the sacrifices made by World War II veterans in order to protect these ideals, so often taken for granted."

The exhibit impressively displays our famous Iwo Jima flag, which includes a credit telling visitors the flag is on loan from us. Other flags in the exhibit are: the first American flag to enter Berlin in 1945; a flag constructed with material from a captured Nazi flag, a blue dress uniform and salvaged red fabric; and the 31-star flag carried when Commodore Matthew C. Perry's black ships first entered Japan's Edo (Tokyo) Bay in 1853. That same flag was brought on board the USS *Missouri* (BB 63) for the formal surrender of Japan on 2 September 1945.

The Department of the Navy requested the Perry flag be flown to the USS *Missouri* from the U.S. Naval Academy. The courier made his way across seas and continents with his precious cargo, finally delivering the flag that had been the first American flag to enter Japan.

During the press briefing at the NMAH on 25 May, Major Norman Hatch, USMC (Ret), once again presented the facts surrounding the first and second Iwo Jima flag raisings, often the subject of misconceptions



Photo: DoD (USMC) 80-G-413988

*Arguably the most famous battle photograph ever taken was this picture by Associated Press photographer Joseph Rosenthal showing the second American flag being raised on Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima.*

and inaccurate stories. The award-winning photographer and veteran of the Tarawa and Iwo Jima campaigns recounted the actions of that day in vivid detail and offered his view of the subsequent publicity and use of the Joe Rosenthal photograph that captured the moment that became a touchstone of the war.

Our Museums Branch staff worked on the loan and physical transfer of the Iwo Jima flag; no small effort considering the great security requirements and delicate handling necessary in moving the flag.

"So Proudly We Hail" is one of several exhibitions related to World War II at the Smithsonian this summer and will run through 6 September as a complement to the museum's Star-Spangled Banner and Pentagon flag. Reports so far indicate it is a very popular exhibit and certainly worthy of our readers' interest. □1775□



Photo courtesy National Museum of American History Collections  
*One of the flags on display at the Smithsonian Institution's "So Proudly We Hail" exhibit is this famous flag that accompanied Commodore Matthew C. Perry when he met with Japanese officials in 1853.*

## Laying the Foundation for Excellence

by Col Jon T. Hoffman, USMCR  
Deputy Director

The National Museum of the Marine Corps project literally is taking concrete steps forward these days as Centex Construction Company has begun pouring the foundations for the wall that will ring the central atrium of the building. The main footings for this 40-foot wall are 15 feet wide and 5 feet deep, with an additional “shear key” that goes down another 5 to 10 feet from the center of the main footing. These large foundations are needed to bear the weight of the ring wall and the massive central steel and glass skylight rising high above.

While the recent rainy season has not provided much help, Centex also has nearly completed the earthwork for the entire building footprint, cutting down high areas and filling and compacting low spots. Work to extend water and sewer lines from the on-site utility hub to the building location continues, while plans are well underway to bring gas and electric service to the Heritage Center campus.

Another major event has been the



Photo: LCpl Jason W. Fudge

*The crane, cement trucks and concrete pumper provide a sense of scale to the future central atrium. Exhibit galleries will radiate outward from the ring wall.*

Marine Corps Heritage Foundation’s decision to fund the construction of the space for four more galleries in this first phase of the project. The

additional 15,000 square feet will provide the future home for From the Halls of Montezuma (1775-1865), First to Fight (1866-1914), Every Marine A Rifleman (1914-1918), and The Marines Have Landed (1919-1939). The exhibits in these four galleries will not be ready in time for the grand opening of the first phase because of the lead time required to finalize their design and fund exhibit fabrication, but the Foundation’s effort has many important benefits. Completing the gallery space now will save considerable money, since the construction contractor is already mobilized on site and no demolition of existing walls will have to be undertaken (which would have been the case if the work had been done later as an addition). This also will complete the entire quadrant of the building facing toward the parking lot and public entrance, thus avoiding future construction activity in this high-traffic area. The Marine Corps also will be able to install the exhibits in these galleries at a much earlier date, thus achieving a primary goal of presenting a complete



Photo courtesy Jacobs Facilities, Inc.

*Excavation for the inner core footing of the new National Museum of Marine Corps has progressed and reinforcing bar has been installed for several sections of the footing. Once the reinforcing bar is in place and secured, concrete is poured to form the primary underground support ringing the structure.*

story of the Corps from 1775 to the modern era sooner than anticipated.

Work continues by the History and Museums Division and supporting entities on the development of government-funded contracts to create and install exhibits in the initial galleries. Much of this administrative process should be complete and the contracts signed by the end of the current fiscal year on 30 September. One of the four main contracts covers the creation of cast figures, which will be exceedingly lifelike mannequins produced by forming a mold of an actual person. The galleries in the first phase will contain 83 of these figures, nearly all of them depicting Marines throughout the history of the Corps (plus a few sailors and civilians). Marine Corps Base Quantico's public affairs office and G-3 section are assisting the Division and the cast figure contractor in holding a casting call for current Marines to serve as models. This is a unique opportunity for a few good men and women stationed in the National Capital Region command to be immortalized in a historic role in the National Museum.

Work continues on the selection of more than 1,400 images (both photos



Photo courtesy Jacobs Facilities, Inc.

*Crews from Oncore, the NMMC concrete subcontractor, work on placing a portion of the shear key that will provide underground support for the central atrium in the new museum in Quantico, Virginia.*

and artwork) that will illustrate the initial phase of exhibits. Some of these will be enlarged to mural size to cover entire walls. The design firm has completed the main text for the exhibits and the Division is now reviewing

these words for final approval. The Division's own curators will be writing the labels identifying and describing the several hundred artifacts on display, as well as the captions for the illustrations. While planning and design of the National Museum kept the Division extremely busy over the past two years, the effort involved in fabricating the exhibits during the next two years will be even more intensive.

The U.S. Congress contributed another important milestone to the program in July when it passed legislation directing the U.S. Mint to strike a specially designed silver dollar in 2005 to commemorate the 230th anniversary of the Marine Corps. The measure then moved to the desk of President George W. Bush for signature. The Mint strikes two such commemorative silver dollars each year, but these particular coins are certain to be a hot collector's item when they go on sale sometime next year. Proceeds from the sale of the 500,000 Marine coins will add \$5 million to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's fund for construction of the National Museum. □1775□



Photo: LCpl Jason W. Fudge

*The central region of the now cleared site of the National Museum for the Marine Corps has become a hub of activity as crews have excavated a huge ring and begun pouring the reinforced concrete that will support the massive atrium of the building. When complete, the gleaming structure towering over the trees will be easily visible to travelers along Interstate 95, which can be seen here skirting one side of the site.*

## 2002 Annual Chronology: Part I

by Kara R. Newcomer  
Reference Historian

The “Current Chronology of the Marine Corps” serves as a valuable source of information on significant events and dates in contemporary Marine Corps history. Since 1982, the Reference Section at the Marine Corps Historical Center has compiled the yearly chronology by researching numerous primary and secondary sources each week. The following highlights entries from the first half of the 2002 Chronology.

**1 January** - For the first time since 1989, the American flag was ceremoniously raised alongside the national flag of Afghanistan as a display of strengthened U.S. and Afghan relations. The 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) (MEU (SOC)) participated in the ceremony outside the secured Kandahar International Airport.

**9 January** - All seven Marine crewmen were killed when their Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Miramar-



Photo by: LCpl Marcus L. Miller  
*U.S. Marines raised the American flag along with the Afghan flag in a ceremony held at Kandahar airport.*

based KC-130R Hercules transport aircraft crashed near a forward operating base at Shamsi, Pakistan. Enemy ground fire was not suspected in the crash. The Marines, from the Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 (VMGR-352), were the first casualties officially attributed to the war on terrorism.

**10 January** - Marines from the 26th MEU (SOC), along with other U.S. and coalition forces, took defensive positions and returned fire at the Kandahar International Airport after shots were fired near the northern perimeter. The gunfire erupted shortly after the departure of a C-17 transport plane carrying 20 detainees bound for Camp X-Ray, Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba.

**11 January** - The first 20 detainees from Afghanistan arrived at Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Naval Base, Cuba. Marines from 1st Battalion, 2d Marines, provided security along the route to Camp X-Ray to prevent an escape attempt and provide for the safety of the detainees.

**18 January** - Marines relinquished control of the largest U.S. base in Afghanistan, located at the Kandahar International Airport, to the Army’s 101st Airborne Division. Approximately 2,000 Marines took control of the airport a month before, having moved up from a base they had established about 70 miles southwest of the city.

**7 February** - Colonel Rayfel Bachiller, Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force (JTF) Olympics, carried the Olympic torch through the streets of Salt Lake City, Utah. JTF Olympics comprised nearly 5,000 service members responsible for providing security support for the 2002 Winter Olympic games. Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, the number of service members assigned to the JTF was increased from its original strength of

1,500 personnel, which was established in January 2001.

**8 February** - The 26th MEU (SOC) completed a back load to the USS *Bataan* Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) after completing an historic mission. The 26th MEU (SOC) far extended the perceived operational reach of a deployed amphibious force by conducting combat operations deep into northern Afghanistan. The unit successfully operated at distances of 750 miles from U.S. Navy shipping in the North Arabian Sea during Operation Enduring Freedom.

**14 February** - The first members of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 arrived at MCAS New River, North Carolina, with nine of its helicopters and the rest of the squadron’s 170 per-



Photo by: Cpl Allan Grdovich  
*For some veterans, like Vaughn Boever, emotions ran high during the Korean War Commemorative ceremonies held at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in April 2002. The event commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, sometimes called the “Forgotten War.”*

sonnel expected to arrive 20 February to begin pre-deployment training with the 24th MEU. This was the first time the reserves would help ease the increased demand for heavy-lift helicopters in Operation Enduring Freedom. To date, approximately 4,255 Marine reservists have been activated for Operation Enduring Freedom.

**23 February** - The 57th anniversary of the Iwo Jima flag raising was marked with the release of the Marine Corps' newest advertising campaign, "The Climb." The ad campaign marked several firsts for the Corps' most visible recruiting message, including using an enlisted Marine as the commercial's focus for the first time in 30 years. Also, the ad depicted Marines in the new digital pattern combat uniforms.

**3 March** - Marines with the 15th MEU (SOC) returned home to Camp Pendleton, California, on board the three ships of the USS *Peleliu* ARG after being deployed for seven months. The 15th MEU (SOC) was the first Marine unit on the ground in Afghanistan and established the forward operating base, Camp Rhino, after capturing an airfield south of Kandahar on 25 November 2001. The feat was particularly unusual for Marines—an expeditionary and amphibious force—since the large operating base was located 400 miles inland.

**26 March** - The 225 Marines of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251, the "Thunderbolts," returned home to cheering friends and family at MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina. The squadron was the first Marine aviation element to launch air strikes in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. They deployed in late September 2001 and spent 135 days flying 700 combat sorties off the USS *Theodore Roosevelt* in the Arabian Sea with only eight days off.

**11 April** - Servicemen and women from past and present came together at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for a daylong commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean War. Commandant of the Marine Corps,

Gen James L. Jones, and Secretary of the Navy, Gordon R. England, were among the 1,400 in attendance at the emotion-filled event.

**1 May** - The Department of Defense announced that service members on active duty on or after 11 September 2001 were eligible to receive the



*National Defense Service Medal*

National Defense Service Medal. The medal would also be awarded to members of reserve components ordered to federal active duty, regardless of duration, except for certain categories.

This marked the fourth time the National Defense Service Medal has been authorized.

**9 May** - Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth A. Walsh, a World War II Marine Corps fighter ace and Medal of Honor recipient, was posthumously inducted into the Naval Aviation Hall of Honor at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida. Walsh was credited with 21 kills and was awarded the Medal of Honor for engaging numerically superior enemy forces. Three Navy pilots also were inducted into the hall.

**29 May** - For the first time since the 11 December 2000 crash that killed four Marines, the V-22 Osprey resumed flying. The flight marked the beginning of an 18-month developmental flight plan. The Corps planned to buy 360 Ospreys at a cost of about \$68 million each to replace its Vietnam-era fleet of CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters, but the redesigned aircraft faced many months of testing.

**17 June** - Marines and Philippine soldiers returned fire after 10 suspected Muslim rebels fired upon them in the southern Philippines where they were guarding a Navy Seabee road construction site. The firefight on Basilan Island was the first combat



Photo by: Cpl Juan Vara

*David W. Prather (left), a Riverdale, Georgia, native who served as a radio operator with the 1st Marine Division during the Korean War, discusses the capabilities of the UH-1N "Huey" with 1stLt Matt G. Humphrey, a pilot with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 167.*

American forces had seen in five months of antiterrorism training. No Marines or soldiers were injured in the gun battle.

**20 to 22 June** - Marines at and around Camp Lejeune marked the 60th anniversary of the first group of black recruits to begin training at Montford Point, North Carolina, with events throughout the weekend. During World War II, 20,000 African-American men trained at Montford Point, which was renamed Camp Gilbert H. Johnson for the camp's first black noncommissioned officer and one of the first black sergeants major in the Corps.

**28 June** - A Marine Corps Security Force Company based in London since 1941 was officially deactivated. The 80 Marines guarding Navy buildings at Eastcoate, headquarters to U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, were assigned elsewhere. The security force battalion's three companies, previously based in Rota, Spain, London, England, and Naples, Italy, would now be based in Rota as part of a reorganization that Marine Forces, Europe, officials said would allow the Corps to "better support naval installation security requirements" in Europe.

□1775□

## Useful Tools in Urban Fighting

by Charles R. Smith  
History Writing Head

From the Marine Corps' first expeditionary landing in March 1776 at New Providence in the Bahamas, through the streets of Derna in North Africa and Mexico City in the 19th century, the bloody two-day fight in downtown Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914, the towns and villages of Haiti during Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller's day, and the rubble-strewn cities of Garapan, Saipan and Naha, Okinawa, Marines have played a role in battles for urban areas. But those battles were traditionally an uncommon experience until more recent history.

Since the end of World War II, Marines have been sent on a stream of deployments to far-away cities where they faced the enemy in urban settings. Today, the sight of Marines patrolling the streets of foreign cities has become commonplace.

In recording his thoughts shortly after the South Korean capital of Seoul was recaptured in September 1950, Major Martin J. Sexton, aide de camp to Major General Oliver P. Smith, noted:

Officers and men who participated in this fighting told me that only by going through these experiences of fighting in a built-up area, with the problems of channelization, supply, evacuation of wounded, fire support...can a person truly understand them. So it appears to me that it is necessary that this problem be taken under study and the experiences of those officers and men who were participating in this type of fighting be [recorded].

The combat experience of those Marines who fought in Seoul and of others who struggled in urban environments during the last half-century has not been neglected by the History and Museums Division. Prior to the recent conflicts in the Middle East, one would have to look back several decades to Seoul during the Korean War and Hue City during the Vietnam



Photo: DoD (USMC)

*Marines watch for snipers that seemingly hid behind every other widow during the heavy fighting in downtown Seoul. The recapture of the South Korean capital would provide a large topic for study by future participants in urban warfare.*

War to find battles where Marines engaged in sustained urban combat to either take a city, hold a city, or destroy enemy military forces using a city for shelter. Both of these urban operations have been covered in three Division publications: *U.S. Marine Operations in Korea: The Inchon-Seoul Operation* (1955); *Battle of the Barricades: U.S. Marines in the Recapture of Seoul* (2000); and *U.S. Marines in Vietnam: The Defining Year, 1968* (1997).

While combat in urban centers has garnered major attention, other types of urban operations such as policing actions and raids have not been overlooked. Policing actions such as those in the 1994 occupation of Haiti and the early actions in Somalia, where the main focus was preventing the outbreak of violence, have been dealt with in the recently published, *A Skillful Show of Strength: U.S. Marines in the Caribbean, 1991-1996* (2003) and the forthcoming "U.S. Marines in Somalia: With the Unified Task Force During Operation Restore Hope."

Raids, which may have a variety of goals, such as evacuating embassies, rescuing hostages, arresting enemy leaders, or securing or seizing port facilities or airfields, have also been the subjects of recent publications. *Just Cause: Marine Operations in Panama, 1988-1990* (1996) deals with Marine efforts to protect not only American interests in the troubled Central American nation, but also to aid in the seizure of indicted Panamanian leader General Manuel Noriega. In addition, the forthcoming history, "Marines in West Africa, 1990-2003," covers the evacuation of American and foreign nationals from Monrovia, Liberia and Freetown, Sierra Leone.

While military operations in an urban environment are complex and a manpower-intensive form of combat, the Division has provided a number of tools that will assist Marines in developing the background and skills necessary to be successful when fighting in that setting. □1775□

## Menace in Iraq

by Dieter Stenger  
Curator of Ordnance

Perhaps the most dangerous threat to Marines and coalition forces operating in the Persian Gulf region is the rocket-propelled grenade, or RPG. It is estimated that 50 percent of U.S. casualties are attributed to RPG attacks. Indeed, insurgents can fire the light-weight RPG easily from a concealed position and relocate quickly, a classic “hit and run” guerilla tactic. The Museums Branch of the History and Museums Division is supporting new endeavors for needed weapon systems to defeat the RPG threat.

The Soviet designed portable RPG-7 antitank weapon was first introduced in 1962. While the tube measures 40mm, the RPG-7 fires an 85mm PG-7 grenade designed to penetrate steel. When the grenade is fired and emerges from the tube, large knife-like fins spring up for flight stability. After 10 meters of flight, the rocket motor fires to give the grenade greater velocity, up to 300 meters per second, and a maximum effective range of 500 meters against static targets. The grenade can penetrate 12.6 inches of armor under normal conditions. Although intended as an antitank weapon, it can easily be employed in a variety of tactical situations. The RPG-7 weighs approximate-

ly 20 pounds loaded and can be fitted with a PGO-7 optical sight or the NSP-2 infrared night sight.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, Corporal Lawrence D. Boeck, then a radio operator and guide for the 2d Platoon, Company I, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, was attacked by RPGs on numerous occasions.

“More than anything, the RPG was a menace because they were everywhere,” said Boeck, who is now a member of the History and Museums Division staff. “They were effective because they could be fired from any position at vehicles, people, and buildings. A perfect example of fire and forget.”

Boeck noted, however, that Iraqi insurgents were not well trained. While there were isolated coordinated attacks where numerous RPGs placed continuous fire on a single target, most RPG attacks were poorly executed and missed their targets.

“Insurgents jumped up out of hiding and fired without first aiming,” Boeck said. “Most of the grenades simply flew over our heads. Who knows where they landed. The insurgents do not care what they hit, as long as it is something.”

At present, no technological counter-device exists to defeat incoming rocket-propelled grenades, over and above Enhanced Appliqué Armor Kits that are found on amphibious assault vehicles or improvised protective measures such as sand bags, storage boxes and back packs.

Both the Marine Corps and Army are addressing the RPG threat. A number of Department of Defense research labs and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency are working together to develop early warning RPG recognition and defeat devices. The programs are experimenting with sensors that track incoming RPG rounds and destroy them in flight.

In support of these programs, the museum provided an RPG-7 launcher and a PG-7 grenade, captured in 1991 during Operation Desert Storm. The exact measurements will help researchers determine how to adjust the sensor to detect the threat, identify the grenade and track its trajectory. There is a potential that combatants located in buildings could also be detected. If successful, a sensor could be mounted in a vehicle and used to find these threats.

The U.S. Army’s Tank-automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center is developing the XM8 Programmable Grenade Launcher (PGL), an anti-RPG device based upon the widely fielded 66mm smoke grenade launcher. The XM8 is an improved digitized launcher that can be fielded to existing vehicles and fixed positions. PGLs can be set up on the fly with smoke, antipersonnel and countermeasure grenades and operated from a simple control box or a networked computer.

Operation Iraqi Freedom emphasized the need for a system that can defeat the rocket-propelled grenade, and the Museums Branch is proud to help in that endeavor.

□1775□



Photo by SMSgt Fernando Adams, U.S. Air Force

*This pile of rocket-propelled grenade launchers at Tallil Air Base, Iraq, shows one of the problems American forces face in urbanized fighting in that country. Coalition forces throughout southern Iraq collected more than 600 grenade launchers.*

## House-to-House Fighting in Hue, 1968

by Dr. Gary D. Solis  
Oral History Head

The house-to-house fighting in Hue was as vicious and deadly as any since Stalingrad. In 25 days of fighting, 142 Marines were killed and close to 1,100 were wounded. In addition, 74 U.S. Army soldiers were killed and 509 wounded. General Peter Pace, the Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice-Chairman, was a second lieutenant in Hue. The general recalled in an oral history interview, "Of the 158 Marines [of my company] that went into Hue City, only three or four of us did not get wounded."

The Vietnam War had been dragging on for three years when the February 1968 Tet holiday truce was shattered by a bold North Vietnamese Army (NVA) offensive. Catching U.S. forces off-guard, the attack created tactical chaos throughout Vietnam.

Hue, a city of 140,000, is actually two cities divided by the Perfume River. The fortified three-square-mile Citadel lies on the north bank and the more modern city is on the south. On the night of 30 January, two NVA regiments entered Hue, simultaneously attacking the Citadel's South Vietnamese command center and the U.S. Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) compound. Both encampments fought off the NVA attackers while Marines quickly fought their way into the city. Recognizing the enemy was far stronger than realized, Lieutenant Colonel Marcus J. Gravel, the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, brought the rest of his battalion, plus elements of 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, into the fight.

Two days later, beginning to appreciate the true strength of the enemy, other American forces began fighting their way through the city. Lieutenant Colonel Earnest C. Cheatham arrived and led the remainder of his 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, through streets too narrow for tanks. Marines manhandled 106mm recoilless rifles up and down stairways, firing at enemy targets a few yards away only to be answered by NVA B-40 rockets. Back-blasts blew

down walls behind the Marines and, once, collapsed an entire building.

On 3 February, Cheatham's battalion

began fighting through French-built Hue University. Using 3.5-inch rockets and fire team rushes, Captain George R. Christmas' unit would capture a building, then provide covering fire for Captain Michael P. Downs' advance. Popping smoke to cover their movement, the Marines quickly learned the enemy keyed on the smoke. "Everything that was on our flank just opened up on that street," Christmas said. The Marines quickly changed tactics and used smoke to draw fire, thus determining the NVA's positions and targeting them with 106mm fire. The NVA fought "wall-to-wall, room-to-room," recalled Gravel.

The M50 Ontos, a small tracked vehicle mounting six 106mm recoilless rifles, is little remembered today, but it proved its worth in Hue. It went where tanks could not, and although highly vulnerable to enemy rocket fire, it was agile in the confines of alleyways and courtyards.

By 6 February, 5th Marines finally captured the provincial headquarters and the end of the fight for the city was in sight. The battle for the Citadel, however, was only beginning.

On the 7th, the enemy blew the bridge across the Perfume River, dividing the city from the Citadel. South Vietnamese forces, although reinforced by now, could make no headway

against the NVA on the north side of the river. Marines, supported by five tanks from 1st Tank Battalion, took the fight

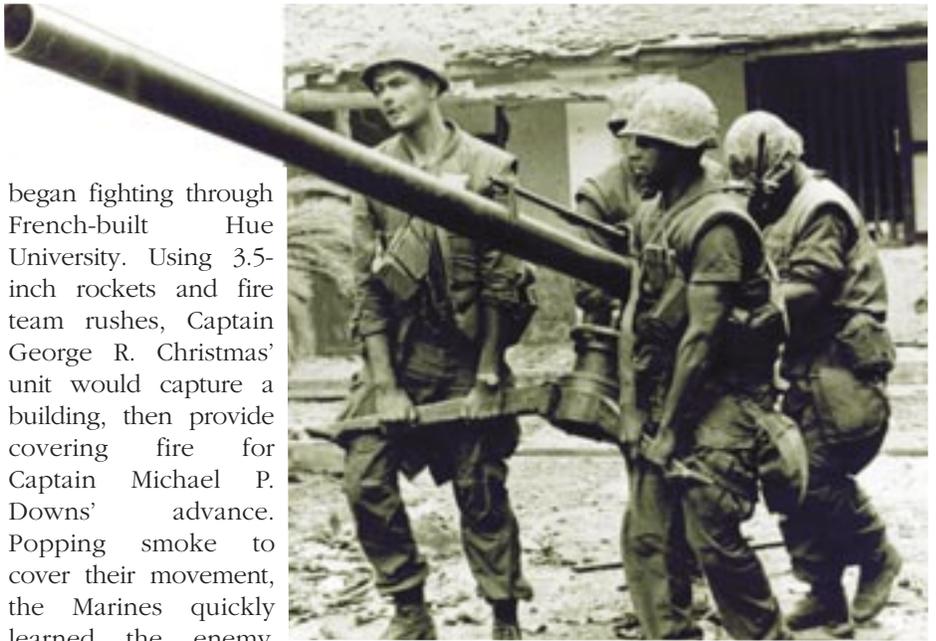


Photo by Sgt. B. A. Atwell

*Marines move a 106mm recoilless rifle amid heavy fighting in Hue during the NVA's 1968 Tet offensive.*

to the enemy. On the 14th, with supporting artillery and naval gunfire, the attack resumed. Clearing weather also brought F-4B Phantoms and F-8 Crusaders screaming down on enemy positions. But the NVA, protected by the Citadel's thick walls and high embankments, held on until the 15th, when the walls finally began to crumble under explosive pounding. After a final Marine assault and hand-to-hand fighting, the Citadel's central tower was captured, only to be followed by more house-to-house fighting through the streets of the Citadel. Enemy resistance ended 25 February.

More than 3,000 hastily buried bodies, former civilian residents of Hue, were later found. They had been executed by the NVA. An estimated 2,500 to 5,000 NVA and Viet Cong died in the fight for Hue. Marine courage, tenacity and skill in house-to-house fighting, along with superior firepower, proved decisive. □1775□

## Smithsonian Borrows Famous Iwo Jima Flag

by Jennifer Castro  
Collections Manager

Rarely has the second flag raised on Iwo Jima in World War II left the possession of the Marine Corps since it was raised on Mount Suribachi in 1945. So the current Smithsonian Institution's "So Proudly We Hail" exhibit honoring veterans of that war and featuring one of the Corps' most prized artifacts is significant on many levels.

When the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (NMAH) began planning its special exhibit of World War II flags, which coincided with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., it sent a request to the History and Museums Division to borrow our Iwo Jima flag. The Division agreed to loan this famous American icon to the NMAH for display with three other World War II flags from the collections of the U.S. Naval Academy Museum and the Smithsonian Institution. Each flag in the exhibit represents the sacrifice, duty and valor of a generation of American servicemen.

The loan involved careful planning

for the removal of the Iwo Jima flag from its display case in the Marine Corps Historical Center on the Washington Navy Yard, D.C., packing and transporting the fragile cargo and acquiring special insurance for the flag.

The staff at the Marine Corps Museums Branch worked closely with the NMAH's curator, Marilyn Zoidis, and Deputy Registrar, Thomas Bower, to make the loan a smooth and safe event. The loan of the Iwo Jima flag to the Smithsonian guarantees Marines and the general public who visit Washington, D.C. for the formal dedication of the World War II memorial and subsequent events will have an unprecedented opportunity to see the flag in this inspiring setting.

The "So Proudly We Hail" exhibit is open to the public in an exhibition space adjacent to the conservation display for the Star-Spangled Banner on the second floor of the NMAH from 25 March to 6 September 2004, during which time the Smithsonian expects

more than 150,000 visitors will see the exhibit. Photography is prohibited in the exhibit because the increased light levels would be detrimental to the long-term care and preservation of the flag.

The NMAH also has a special gallery located in an area to the rear of the exhibit that asks visitors to reflect on their feelings and memories of the American flag during World War II. The museum has placed some of these captured memories on display on a board in the exhibit area. Comments from several visitors indicate the American flag evokes feelings of victory. One Marine wrote about seeing the American flag upon his return to the states after the war. He and the Marines from his battalion were in San Diego, California, awaiting a roll call and he watched the flag flying in the breeze 40 feet in front of him. He recounted he had tears in his eyes and wrote that flag symbolized everything he had fought for.

The first time the large Iwo Jima flag left the protection of the Corps it was used with Rosenthal's famous photograph as a symbol for the 7th War Bond Drive tour in 1945. Privates First Class Ira A. Hayes and Rene Gagnon, Jr. and Hospitalman Second Class John H. Bradley, the surviving Marines and Navy corpsman that raised the flag on Mount Suribachi, escorted it on the tour. The flag was raised many times during that 33-city tour to celebrate the victory of Marine Forces in the Pacific theater, to include once at the U.S. Capitol.

Once the flag has been removed from the "So Proudly We Hail" exhibit at the NMAH, it will return to the Marine Corps Museums Branch for conservation and eventual display in the new National Museum of the Marine Corps along with the first flag raised on Iwo Jima. The new museum is scheduled to open in November 2006. □1775□



Photo by Charles Grow

*Pulling the famous Iwo Jima flag from its display at the Marine Corps Historical Center on the Washington Navy Yard took careful handling by staff members. The flag is currently on loan to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History as part of the "So Proudly We Hail" exhibit.*

# Peter Mike Gish: Artist, Teacher and Marine for Life

by Charles G. Grow, Art Curator  
and Meghan J. Rivers, Art Intern

In July 1943, Peter Mike Gish embarked upon an incredible journey that began as a Naval Aviator in World War II and continues even today with his artistic endeavors. During his 50 year affiliation with the military, this modern Renaissance man not only proved himself a competent combat pilot, he developed uncanny artistic skills to become a renowned artist and teacher.

Gish enlisted in the V-5 program when he was 17 to become a naval aviator, but World War II ended before his new gold pilot's wings had been tested in combat. After his final Corsair flight in 1946, the fresh Marine lieutenant attended Dartmouth College on the G.I. Bill. He then traveled to

*Seascape: Mediterranean coast near Marseilles in the south of France, 2003.* Reproduced with the artist's permission. All rights reserved.

*Arms Sweep: Mogadishu, Somalia. Operation Restore Hope, January 1993.*

Control Number 24-1-186

Paris in 1951 and spent a year honing his artistic skills at Beaux Arts.

In 1952, Gish was recalled to active duty and served as a helicopter pilot during the Korean War. Upon his release from active duty, he traveled to Spain and Austria in pursuit of his artistic ambitions. In Salzburg, Austria, he studied under the well-known Austrian impressionist Oskar Kokoshka from 1957 to 1959. Gish completed his formal training with a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Yale School of Art and Architecture in 1964. Armed with talent, skills and an



*Red for Intensive Care: Somali child. Operation Restore Hope, January 1993.*

Control Number 24-1-197

Ivy League pedigree, Gish accepted a professorship at Fairfield University and raised a family in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Throughout his civilian pursuits, Gish maintained his standing in the Organized Marine Corps Reserve, where he filled several billets including commanding Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 768 (HMM-768) at Floyd Bennett Field in New York City from 1967 through 1968.

In June 1967, then Lieutenant Colonel Gish deployed to Vietnam as a combat artist. His paintings from that era focused on human character and resilience in a war zone. He compassionately portrayed the Vietnamese people, young Marines and Navy doctors laboring over wounded bodies. Gish also co-piloted 26 combat missions, including insertions, extractions





*Civic Action (MEDCAP): Ky Ha, South Vietnam. Medical Civic Action Patrol (MEDCAP), August 1967.*

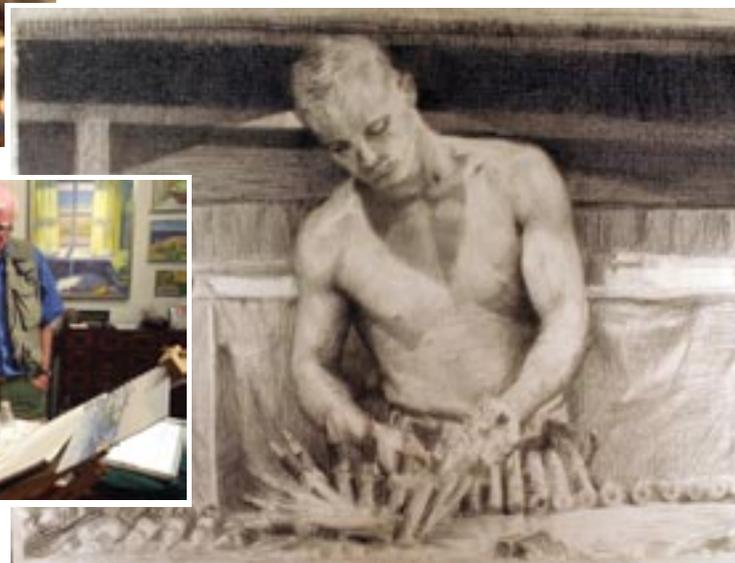
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and medical evacuations.

Some 24 years after Vietnam, the veteran colonel documented the Kurdish relief effort in Turkey and Northern Iraq. His Kolinsky sable brush recorded the drama of the Kurdish people in search of freedom from Saddam Hussein's tyrannical rule. Barely a year later, Gish



Photo: Charles Grow  
*Perpetually Studios: Col Mike Gish demonstrates color mixing to retired Marine Jack Dyer.*



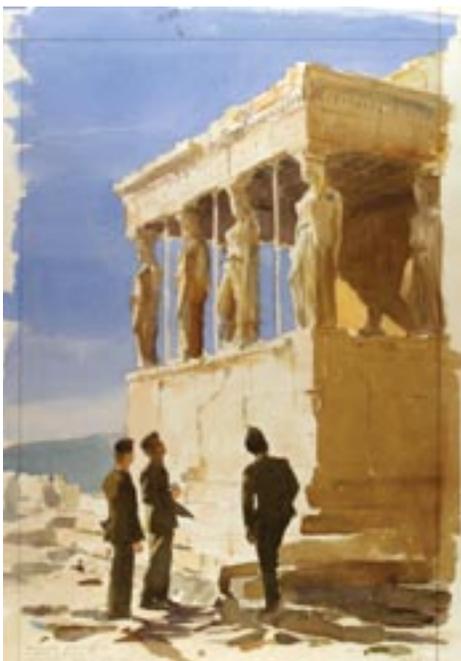
*Fall Landscape (above): Saunderstown, Rhode Island. Autumn 2003.* Reproduced with the artist's permission. All rights reserved.

*Belting Ammo (center): South Vietnam. August 1967.*

Control Number 24-9-18

*Liberty in Athens: Marines on Liberty at the Acropolis in Athens, Greece, 1971.*

Control Number 24-1-78



deployed to Somalia in support of Operation Restore Hope, where he painted images of Marines and non-governmental organizations protecting and feeding a starving Somali nation. After celebrating the anniversary of his enlistment a half-century later, Gish left Mogadishu and retired from the Marine Corps.

snows to paint every day. His watercolor and oil paintings depict humanity and inspire hope among those who view the works that they, too, may see things as beautifully and passionately as retired Marine Colonel Peter Mike Gish. □1775□

*15th MEU in Argentia Market: Mogadishu, Somalia. Operation Restore Hope, February 1993.*

Control Number 24-1-202

Today, master plein air artist Peter Gish maintains a home and studio in Rhode Island, where he reads and speaks French, travels often and enjoys flights with family and friends. He also has learned to play the piano for a second time.

Still living the self-disciplined lifestyle he learned so well as a Marine, Gish wakes early, braves high winds, summer heat and winter



# Marines Fighting in Urban Terrain

by Frederick J. Graboske  
Archives Head

For the Marine Corps, military operations in urban terrain implies professional training in the conduct of a specific kind of warfare, sometimes involving security and stabilization operations and sometimes maneuver warfare. With the latter, lines of battle move through urban areas; with the former, the situation is static.

We have transferred our older records to the National Archives, but researchers there can find documents concerning operations in Naha as Marines destroyed Japanese forces on Okinawa in 1945, as well as records of the battle for Seoul in 1950 when the Marines pushed the North Korean invaders out of the city. For the recent wars in the Middle East, we have records of the capture of Kuwait City and its airport in 1991 and of securing Iraqi cities, such as Nasiriyah, during the advance to Baghdad in 2003. One of the recent command chronologies describes enemy fighting on three levels: from buildings, in the streets, and



Photo: DoD (USMC) 20035551421

*Marines of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, from Camp Pendleton, California, engage the enemy throughout the streets of northern Baghdad, Iraq, to secure Saddam Hussein's Presidential Palace during Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

from the sewers. Marines solved the latter problem by placing heavy sandbags on, or spot welding, the manhole covers.

In Vietnam, the problem was not so much attacking established enemy defensive positions in urban areas as dealing with infiltrators, as in Hue during the Tet offensive in 1968. We have extensive records of the long battle to evict the communist forces from their positions while attempting to minimize damage to historic structures, such as the Citadel.

Marines of 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, were sent into Santo Domingo as peacekeepers in May 1965. This operation had all the elements of subsequent peacekeeping operations. It was a joint operation under U.S. Army control. The Marines attempted to maintain control of their sector by establishing a line between the opposing Dominican forces and setting up checkpoints at critical intersections. They received sniper fire from both sides and had to modify the rules of engagement as circumstances changed. We have detailed records of this operation, including the messages.

We also have the records for the Marine peacekeeping forces assigned to Beirut in the period 1982 to 1984. These aggregate several thousand pages, have been reviewed for public release and have been digitized. We hold thousands of pages of records related to the humanitarian operations in Kismayo and Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1992. Many remain classified.

A further example of urban peacekeeping operations is the deployment of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Los Angeles in May 1992. This organization was created in response to Department of Defense civil disturbance plan Garden Plot, which was necessitated by the breakdown of civilian authority in southern California following disturbances triggered by adjudication of the charges against police officers accused of mistreating Rodney King. Marines were deployed in the Los Angeles area to restore order. The imposition of a curfew by the military dramatically reduced the level of violence, and the task force stood down after a week. We hold 500 pages of records from this operation and its follow-on studies. □1775□



Photo: DoD (USMC) 200342512407

*Marines of 2d Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, a reserve infantry unit based in Albany, New York, guard a bridge over the Euphrates River in Nasiriyah, Iraq, in April 2003.*

## Sea Cobras Over Grenada

by James T. D'Angina  
Assistant Aviation Curator

Most military aircraft are ill suited to support ground troops in an urban environment. However, one aircraft in the Marine Corps' arsenal has proven worthy of the challenge: the Bell AH-1 Cobra has been providing ground troops with close air support for nearly 40 years. The Cobra's reliability, firepower and surgical accuracy make it one of the few aircraft able to operate effectively in the highly exposed urban environment. The Cobras' success can be directly attributed to the Marines who fly them. Whether over the jungle canopies of Vietnam or the city streets of Fallujah, Iraq, Cobra pilots, nicknamed Snake Drivers, have always put themselves in harm's way for the Marines on the ground.

One operation that exemplifies both the skill and bravery of the pilots during the Cobra's career with the Marines was the 1983 Grenada intervention. The Revolutionary Military Council, a group with ties to Cuba and the Soviet Union, seized control of the island, threatening the safety of American civilians. In October, President Ronald W. Reagan ordered American forces, including the 22d Marine Amphibious Unit from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to re-take the Caribbean island of Grenada. Operation Urgent Fury, the U.S. invasion of Grenada, began on 25 October 1983. Marine Corps aviation assets during the operation were limited in size but proved vital to the success of the invasion.

At 0500, helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 261 (HMM-261) launched their initial assault from the deck of the amphibious assault ship USS *Guam* (LPH 9). AH-1T Sea Cobras escorted the helicopter transports to Landing Zone "Bizzard," an abandoned racetrack. From the landing zone, Marines captured Pearls Airport; Cobras flew ahead of the platoons and eliminated an anti-aircraft position close to the airport. Soon after, Marines were able to



*Depicted in a painting by Mike Leahy, Capt Jeb F. Seagle pulls severely injured Capt Timothy B. Howard away from their burning aircraft. The original painting is displayed at the Pentagon and is part of the Marine Corps Museum's art collection.*

capture the town of Grenville.

Army Rangers met heavy resistance from Cuban and Grenadian soldiers from the moment they hit the ground. Army AH-1S Cobras were unavailable during the opening days of the conflict; therefore, the four Marine Sea Cobras were heavily tasked to support both Marine and Army operations throughout the first two days.

In one instance, the 1st Ranger Battalion was receiving heavy fire from a 90mm recoilless rifle set up in a house near their position. With some uncertainty due to the Army and Marines using different maps, the Forward Air Controller had to employ a hand-held mirror as a targeting system. With this primitive guidance, the Cobra pilots were able to fire a tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided (TOW) missile through one of the house's windows, silencing the weapon.

During an engagement over Fort Frederick, one of the Sea Cobras was

hit by anti-aircraft gunfire. Rounds entering the cockpit struck the pilot, Captain Timothy B. Howard. The copilot, Captain Jeb F. Seagle, was knocked unconscious from the impact. Capt Howard landed the helicopter despite his right forearm being severed below the elbow and wounds to his leg. Seagle regained consciousness when the aircraft landed hard and pulled Howard clear of the burning wreckage. Seagle applied a tourniquet made out of radio cord to Howard's arm. The fire caused the helicopter's ordnance to explode, which kept enemy soldiers from reaching them. When they began to receive small arms fire from enemy soldiers, Seagle distracted the force away from Howard in an attempt to find help for the pilot. In doing so, Seagle made the ultimate sacrifice.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps will be featuring an AH-1J Cobra as a part of the Desert Storm gallery. □1775□

## Firsthand from Fallujah

by Col Nicholas E. Reynolds, USMCR  
Field History Branch OIC,  
and Maj John P. Piedmont, USMCR, Field Historian

The tempo of field history operations remains high. Although we have sent, and will continue to send, historians on short deployments to places like Haiti and Afghanistan, our focus remains on Iraq, where we have embedded a team of historians with I Marine Expeditionary Force (IMEF). The historians who spent the spring and early summer of 2004 in Iraq were Lieutenant Colonel David E. Kelly, a seasoned field historian who came out of retirement to go on this deployment, and Major John P. Piedmont. In some ways, their assignment has been more difficult than was covering the Iraq War in 2003. Still, they have succeeded in capturing the flavor of this phase of a harsh, largely urban war.

Shortly after Major Piedmont arrived at IMEF, Fallujah exploded in violence and the 1st Marine Division, with Regimental Combat Team 1 as its main effort, cordoned off the city and began a coordinated attack from several directions. After several days of hard fighting and steady advances, they were stopped in place by higher headquarters to allow truce negotiations to occur.



Photo by: Maj John P. Piedmont

*From the rooftops in Fallujah, Iraq, India Company's field of fire across a large open space ensures no unfriendly forces will slip by unnoticed.*

*The following edited excerpt from Major Piedmont's journal describes a day and night spent in Fallujah with Company I, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines (commonly 3/4).*

24 April 2004: Yesterday 3/4 let me go out to Fallujah to overnight with India Company. India's position is in the northeast quarter of the city, I'd say about 700 or 800 meters straight west from the MSR [main supply route]. The line is a few hundred meters long and is in the shape of an

'L,' with the long side running north and south. It is the position they occupied when word came down to cease the advance.

I spent the bulk of the time with 1st Platoon, under command of 1st Lieutenant Andrew C. Lee, a dyed-in-the-wool Boston Irishman who served six years as an enlisted reservist in 1/25 before going on to join the Merchant Marine as an engineering officer. After Sept 11, he walked in to the OSO [Officer Selection Office], presented his credentials and went to OCS [Officer Candidate School]. He fought in the battalion in OIF 1 [the initial combat phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom].

Lieutenant Lee's platoon occupies the roofs of four or five houses right on the street that is the limit of advance. Everything to their front is bad Fallujah. On the avenue of approach that tees into their line is a burned out car (their handiwork); another hulk is in a trash-filled lot only 50 meters across the street. These vehicles carried several enemy fighters on a last ride, meeting their end under the massed fire of 1st Platoon's weapons.

Fallujah stinks, literally. It stinks like Mogadishu stank and probably still



Photo by: Maj John P. Piedmont

*Sgt Noel Balatico, 1st Platoon guide, travels between rooftops through holes battered in the walls in Fallujah, Iraq. The area erupted in violence shortly after the Marines arrived in the country.*



Photo by: Maj John P. Piedmont  
*1st Platoon's commander, 1stLt Andrew C. Lee, near his platoon's position in Fallujah, Iraq.*

does. The streets and empty lots serve as the local garbage dumps, and that was the case before the Marines arrived. The Marines burn their trash as best they can. Open garbage pits are just recruit depots for the flies, whole squadrons, groups and wings of them. They infest everything. The Marines occupy the daylight hours keeping score of the flies they kill. When the sun goes down the flies conduct a relief-in-place with the mosquitoes. The whole place is unhealthy filthy.

That being said, some of the houses are sizable and well appointed, clearly owned by people of relative wealth. Though the workmanship is shoddy, with no staircase having any treads or risers of uniform size, and rebar sticking out of walls to impale the unwary, the stone and block construction provides a good foundation for the defense, and these Marines have built their positions into real strongpoints. They defend from the roofs, though they also occupy the ground floors, except in one odd case where the owners are still at home. They barricade the gates in the walls that surround each house and block staircases leading topside. Always a

Marine watches the rear for anyone coming up an alley. They go from roof to roof over makeshift bridges and through holes battered in the walls of the rooftop patios.

India [Company] has been on duty here since they stopped the advance. In 1st Platoon, the machine gunners and other weapons crews have been two hours on and two hours off for 13 days. Their entire life is spent on the roof or down in the interior of the houses. Sanitation is rudimentary at best. All the time they keep watch on the avenues of approach and on the few residents still in town. They note any and all movement. When they see a clear hostile they engage. The snipers have taken a grim toll. The dead are carted off by their brethren or by the Red Crescent [the local equivalent of the Red Cross]. I was told that in one case several bodies lay out for days while feral dogs and cats feasted on them and the flies swarmed.

Several times each day the mosques of the city blare out the call to prayer. In the evenings this is followed by a local who blasts propaganda from what the Marines of India Company think is a makeshift pysops [psychological operations] vehicle. You can hear the voice move slowly

in the darkness, so they must be right. They try hard to pinpoint the vehicle so they can bring fire on it, but so far have not been successful. The man shrieks on for hours. You can pick out the words, 'Fallujah,' 'jihad,' 'mujahideen.'

The company position is a strong one, anchored on a solid corner building that looks out on a large empty lot and commands three avenues. No force in Fallujah could move them an inch, for as one of their officers pointed out, a Marine rifle company in the defense is a tough thing to unhinge. The 60mm mortar attached to 1st Platoon is high atop the roof of that building, well protected from observation and direct fire. It is mounted on a custom bed of sandbags and dirt constructed by its crew.

For all the strength of the position and the clear tactical advantages we have, the Marines up there on the line can't move an inch beyond the limit of advance. No patrolling forward, no periodic house clearing actions on the next block to make sure evildoers aren't doing evil, no ambushes to catch an unwary jihadist. But Captain Shannon L. Johnson, the company's commanding officer, says the only direction these Marines want to go is west. □1775□



Photo by: Maj John P. Piedmont  
*Cpl Nicholas Kemp (center rear) and the 1st Platoon 60mm mortar crew stand watch on rooftops in Fallujah, Iraq, along the forward limit of advance. Other members of the crew shown are LCpl Sumner (left), PFC Kennedy and PFC Rodriguez.*

# Exhibiting the Battle for Hue

by Ronnie D. Alexander  
Exhibits Specialist

The Tet offensive of 1968, which included Khe Sanh and the battle for Hue City, was a momentous event in the course of the war in Vietnam. On 30 January of that year, a massive Communist offensive erupted across Vietnam, shattering a ceasefire announced for the national Tet holiday. In a masterfully orchestrated strategic surprise, the enemy struck every allied stronghold in the country. The allies, including the Marine embassy security guard staff in Saigon, fought back with determination.

Most Tet attackers were quickly repulsed or killed, but the battle for the ancient imperial capital of Hue raged on for 25 of the bloodiest days of the war. The intense fighting flattened much of the city, including its majestic cathedral. When Republic of Vietnam Army troops finally overran the last of the North Vietnamese Army diehards, they found shallow graves in the city containing more than 3,000 civilian bodies. Communist death squads had methodically killed anyone with an education or “counter-revolutionary” taint. Marines suffered 1,242 casualties during the battle for Hue.

In honor of the battle, the new National Museum of the Marine Corps will feature a Hue exhibit located in the Vietnam Gallery. This tableau will depict an urban street scene in Hue during the Tet offensive with an M50 Ontos armored vehicle sporting six 106mm recoilless rifles as the centerpiece on the street immediately adjacent to the Citadel. The Ontos has been completely restored by the Museums Branch’s restoration staff and will be worked into the scene realistically covered with dust and bits of debris on its surfaces.

There will be three cast figures within the tableau. One of the figures, a Marine rifleman, will be to the left of the Ontos leaning against the wall and firing an M79 grenade launcher at an unseen target. A Navy Corpsman will be binding the wounds of a Vietnamese girl who was caught up in the fighting.

The Citadel wall to the left of the Ontos will appear to be constructed of large terra cotta bricks. Remnants of concrete and stucco will remain in a few places, but the majority of concrete will have fallen away due to age

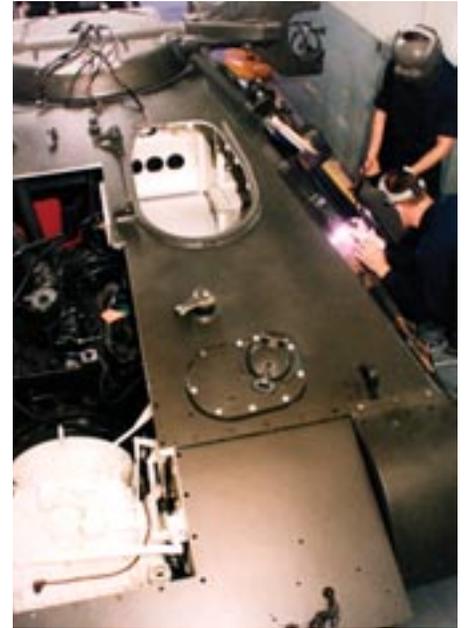


Photo by MCHC

The Marine Corps Museums Branch Restoration Section restores the M50 Ontos self-propelled armored vehicle for display.

and battle damage. The base of the wall rests on a beam of hewn stone and the surface of the wall tapers back from the bottom to the top, which has a hewn capstone. A large stone finial caps the brick column at the end of the wall.

The façade of the two-story house to the right of the Ontos will feature evidence of severe battle damage. Second story windows will be in a state of destruction with casements and frames broken and shards of glass remaining in some frames. The corrugated tin roof will be littered with debris. There are to be two stone steps leading to a door, which will be askew and show signs of battle damage. The unpaved dirt street between the Citadel wall and the house will also be littered with debris of bricks, wood and deformed sheets of corrugated tin. Debris in the background will be arranged in a manner to hide the juncture between the street and a wall mural beyond. □1775□

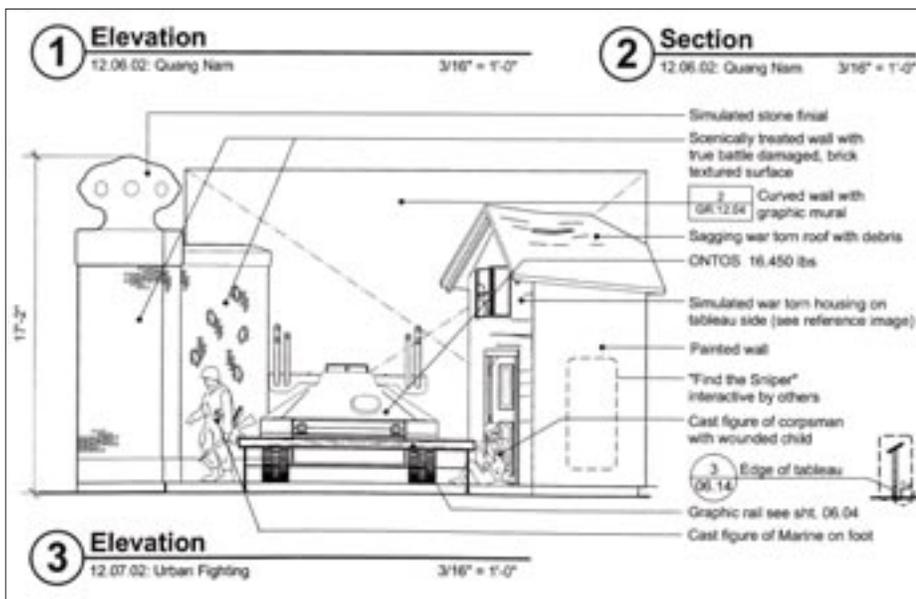


Exhibit designers front view elevation of urban fighting in Hue City with a restored M50 Ontos self-propelled armored vehicle as the centerpiece.

## LtGen Adolph Schwenk Passes

by Robert V. Aquilina  
Reference Assistant Head

### **LtGen Adolph G. Schwenk**

Lieutenant General Adolph G. Schwenk, USMC (Ret), died 24 March 2004 at the age of 81. Prior to enlisting in the Marine Corps Reserve in September 1942, the New York City native attended Wesleyan University in Middleton, Connecticut. He attended Yale University under the V-12 program until February 1944, when he was sent to Parris Island, South Carolina, and subsequently was commissioned a Marine second lieutenant in July 1944. He served in the Pacific as a platoon commander with the 3d Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, and later became Special Services Officer, Headquarters, V Amphibious Corps, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific. During the Korean War he participated in combat operations as a company commander and later as Assistant S-3 Officer, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for exceptionally meritorious service while serving in Korea. Following completion of the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico in June 1954, he served in a variety of assignments, which included service in the Office of the Naval Attaché, Rome, Italy. Additional assignments included tours of duty on Okinawa, Japan; Camp Pendleton, California; and Headquarters, Marine Corps. In February 1968, he assumed command of the 27th Marines, and deployed with the unit to the Republic of South Vietnam. He later served as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, with the 1st Marine Division. For his service in Vietnam, he was awarded a gold star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit with Combat "V." He returned in April 1969 to the United States. Following his advance-



*LtGen Adolph G. Schwenk*

ment to brigadier general in August 1971, he was ordered to Camp Pendleton as Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division. Advanced to major general in March 1975, he was assigned duty as Director, J-3, Headquarters, U.S. European Command. Two years later, in July 1977, he became the Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force/Commanding General, 3d Marine Division, on Okinawa. Upon promotion to lieutenant general in October 1978, he was assigned duty as Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans, Policies and Operations, Headquarters, Marine Corps. He assumed duty on 1 October 1980 as Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, at Norfolk, Virginia, and served in this capacity until his retirement on 1 July 1982.

### **BGen Charles S. Todd**

Brigadier General Charles S. Todd, USMC (Ret) died 28 May 2004 in Point Loma, San Diego, at the age of 90. The Columbus, Ohio, native was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in September 1935, after he resigned a commission in the U.S. Army Reserve. During World War II, he participated in the 1941 defense of Guam, and when the island fell, became a prisoner of war and spent 45 months in various internment camps. He was awarded a Bronze Star following the war for his heroism in the defense of Guam. He served with the Headquarters Squadron of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Korea during 1952-53, and was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" for outstanding service. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general upon his retirement from the Marine Corps on September 1958.

### **BGen Alvin S. Sanders**

Brigadier General Alvin S. Sanders, USMC (Ret) died 8 May 2004, at the age of 87. The Columbia, South



*BGen Alvin S. Sanders*

Carolina, native was commissioned as a Marine second lieutenant upon graduation from Clemson College in 1938. During World War II, he served with the 4th Marine Division, and participated in the Roi-Namur landings during the Marshall Islands campaign. He was later wounded in action 23 September 1944 on Angaur Island during the Peleliu campaign and was hospitalized until April 1945. From May 1945 to August 1947, he served at Headquarters, Marine Corps with the Division of Plans and Policies. He next served on Guam with the 1st Provisional Brigade, and Headquarters Detachment, Fleet Marine Force, Guam. During the Korean War, he served with the 1st Marine Division in Korea, and was awarded a Legion of Merit with Combat "V." Following the Korean armistice, he served in a variety of duty stations, including Marine Corps Supply Activity, Philadelphia; Camp Pendleton; and Washington, DC. In June 1962, he was assigned as Special Assistant to the Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps. On 2 December 1963 he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and assumed duty as Deputy Fiscal Director of the Marine Corps. In February 1965, he assumed his last assignment as Commanding General, Marine Corps Supply Center, Albany, Georgia, and served in this capacity until his retirement from the Marine Corps on 1 May 1967. He was awarded a second Legion of Merit for his service in this assignment.

### **Pvt Raymond M. Clausen**

Former Marine Private Raymond M. Clausen died 30 May 2004 at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, at the



Pvt Raymond M. Clausen

age of 56. The New Orleans, Louisiana, native enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve on 30 March 1966, and was discharged to enlist in the regular Marine Corps on 27 May 1966. After recruit training at MCRD San Diego, infantry training at Camp Pendleton, and aviation schooling at Memphis, he was ordered to Vietnam to serve as a jet helicopter mechanic with MAG-16. Following a short period in the United States, he volunteered for a second tour of duty in Vietnam in November 1969. On 31 January 1970, while serving with HMM-263, Clausen made six

forays into a minefield to lead a total of 18 Marines, including several who were seriously wounded, to safety. For his heroism in this action, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Private Clausen was released from active duty on 19 August 1970 following his return to the United States.

**William Manchester**

William Manchester, whose gripping accounts of men at war made him one of the most popular American historians of the 20th Century, died 1 June 2004, at the age of 82, at his home in Middletown, Connecticut. The Attleboro, Massachusetts, native served in the Marine Corps during World War II and was wounded in action on Okinawa while serving with 2d Battalion, 29th Marines, 6th Marine Division. He was

discharged from the Marine Corps on 24 October 1945 at the rank of sergeant. Manchester graduated from the University of Massachusetts following the war, and entered into journalism, initially as a newspaper reporter and later as an author. His experiences on Okinawa during World War II left a haunting, lasting impression and resulted in the publication in 1980 of *Goodbye Darkness: A Memoir of the Pacific War*. In recalling his World War II service, Manchester noted the difficulty experienced by subsequent generations in understanding the intense feelings of patriotism that motivated Americans of his era. His choice for later books included biographical studies of John F. Kennedy, Douglas MacArthur and his unfinished work on Winston Churchill. □1775□

*Historical Quiz*

**Marine Operations in Urban Terrain**

*by Stephanie Boyer  
Reference Intern*

1. In the summer of 1900, the 1st Marine Regiment led a successful assault on this Chinese urban center to relieve an international force, including the Marine Legation guard defending the city from attacks by Boxers.
2. The occupation of this Mexican city and port in April 1914 was ostensibly designed to secure an apology for an alleged indignity to the United States flag.
3. As part of the Mariana Islands campaign, in July 1944 the 2d Marines captured this town on Saipan, marking the regiment's greatest forward surge since D-Day.
4. Following the September 1950 Inchon landings, the 1st and 5th Marines successfully seized this Korean city through close combat with grenades and rifles, attacking barricade-to-barricade with the support of tanks and Marine aircraft.
5. In the spring of 1965, Marines defended the U.S. Embassy and secured a site for the evacuation of almost 3,000 U.S. citizens and foreign nationals after rebel troops seized substantial control of this Dominican city during a Communist-inspired coup.
6. Marines engaged in house-to-house street fighting when clearing this Vietnamese city after the North Vietnamese Army had successfully infiltrated and captured it during the 1968 Tet Offensive.
7. Responding to the Lebanese request for multinational forces to restore order after the 1982 assassination of Bashir Gemayel, Marines were subjected to terrorist bombings and numerous other attacks in this urban center.
8. In 1989, Marines used their new light armored vehicles to maintain order in this Central American nation when ousted President Manuel Noriega attempted to use urban military forces to regain authority after his loss in May elections.
9. In February 1991, as part of Operation Desert Storm, the 1st and 2d Marine Divisions defeated Iraqi forces and captured this city and airport, taking more than 19,000 prisoners and destroying an estimated 4,000 tanks in just four days.
10. Sent in December 1992 to this African nation on a peacekeeping mission in part with an international famine relief effort, the Marines also periodically raided compounds suspected to be bases for urban guerillas, confiscated weapons and engaged in frequent street battles.

*(Answers on page 23)*

## Up Close and Personal

by Charles D. Melson  
Chief Historian

*Phase Line Green, the Battle for Hue, 1968.* By Nicholas Warr. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1998.

Great battles have been described as those that extend in time, place and have important impact on events that surround them. Throughout history these have involved sieges and defenses of cities having historical, cultural and military significance. For U.S. Marines, along with Peking, Vera Cruz, Shanghai, Naha, Seoul, Santa Domingo and Baghdad, the battle for Hue City, Vietnam, in early 1968 remains one of these “great battles” that changed history. In the fight, American and South Vietnamese forces suffered about 600 dead and nearly 3,800 wounded or missing. People’s Army of Vietnam and National Liberation Front losses have been estimated between 2,500 to 5,000. Some 3,000 civilians were executed in communist reprisals, with others dying indirectly or made refugees in their own country. The battle broke the back of the southern communist insurgency and repulsed the northern invasion, but caused American policy makers to revise their strategy toward Vietnamization rather than using Americans to fight the war.

Nicholas Warr served in a rifle company with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, throughout the battle in the Citadel. In fact, for 12 of his 13 months in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 he remained at the small unit level as a rifle and weapons platoon commander, then company executive officer and finally company commander. Entering the Marine Corps through the enlisted commissioning program, opting for the infantry rather than the supply field, Warr declined augmentation after this life changing experience. His book tells why.

Deployed to protect Route 1 between Da Nang and Phu Bai when the 1968 Tet Offensive began, Warr’s company and battalion were engaged in “search and destroy” operations in



Photo: DoD (USMC) A371377

*A machine gun team with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, in Hue City on 19 February 1968. The gunner lays down a base of fire from the kneeling position as his “A” gunner ensures an uninterrupted supply of ammunition.*

the coastal hinterland contending with booby traps, snipers and ambushes. Two weeks after the battle for Hue was underway, after southern Hue had been pacified, his battalion was sent north as part of the forces to retake the old walled city, the Citadel. The immediacy of this shift to “destroy and search” in the built-up area took adjustments at all levels that were made at the cost of lives to learn “tactics, techniques and procedures” not considered since basic training days. Objectives were set, phase lines established, but heavy fire support was initially not to be used, and urban terrain was misunderstood. Insight to the enemies location, disposition and intent were lacking at the platoon level until there was close combat at a deadly cost. Fighting was at street and room distances from an unseen and determined enemy. It was so intense that Marine dead and wounded had to be recovered after dark to limit further casualties, particularly among aggressive small unit leaders. While the Vietnamese communists skillfully used

individual and crew served weapons, the Allies only resorted to supporting arms advantage late in the game. Warr believed his platoon lost 44 men to death or wounds over a two-week period. The survivors would also be marked forever by this experience in a way only appreciated after the war.

The book tells the story of combat from the perspective of someone in the chain-of-command giving orders to others, but having to follow them as well. The various demands of leadership and loyalty are dealt with in a realistic fashion. Doubts in the individual and the strength provided by unit cohesion and heritage also comes into play. In the end, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, accomplished its mission and moved on to the next battlefield. Context and reflection would only come later after returning home, and in some cases this would take years.

If one book were to be read on this classic Marine battle, I would recommend Warr as that choice. □1775□

## Urban Combat From the Crusades to the Gulf War

by Evelyn A. Englander  
Historical Center Librarian

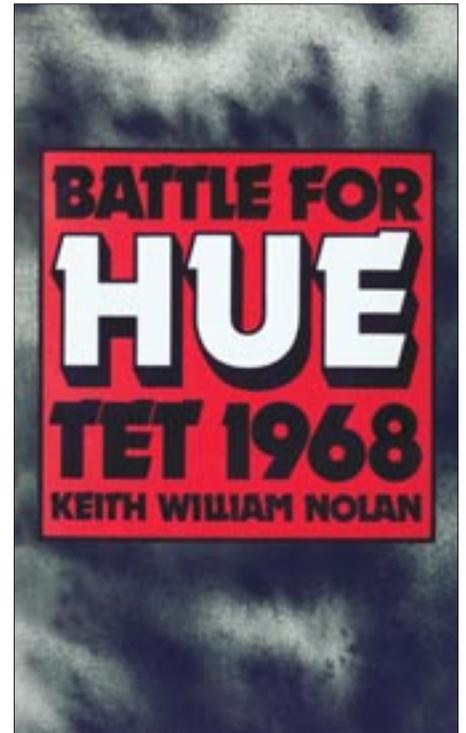
This is a selection of commercially published books about urban warfare. Most of these books are available through brick-and-mortar or online bookstores or through your local library and their interlibrary loan program.

*Honing the Keys to the City: Refining the United States Marine Corps Reconnaissance Force for Urban Ground Combat Operations.* Russell W. Glenn, et al. Santa Monica, California: Rand, 2003. 108 pp. This publication was sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory and was conducted at Rand's National Defense Research Institute. The authors have tried to identify current problems in Marine Corps urban ground combat reconnaissance tactics, techniques and procedures. They focused on four challenges: the constant adaptation required by the urban environment; the complexity of ground reconnaissance in built up areas; the demands of urban operations on personnel; and the demands on equipment and technology. The

analysts aim to narrow the gap between these four challenges and the appropriate doctrinal, training and equipment solutions. Includes bibliography.

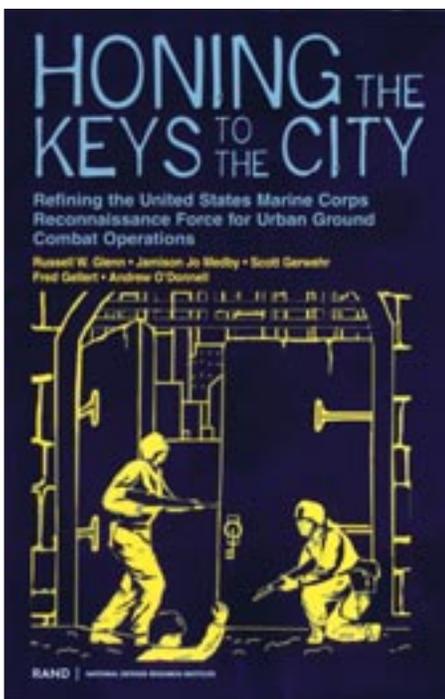
*Sieges: A Comparative Study.* Bruce Allen Watson. Westport, Connecticut: Praeger Publishers, 1993. 176 pp. The author of *Sieges* analyzes seven campaigns from the First Crusade to the Gulf War and explains the constants and variables of siege warfare while looking at the relationships between man, weapons and tactics during a siege. It is the author's premise that, as we see from the daily papers and the nightly news, numerous sieges continue to take place throughout the world at any given time. As the author points out, most sieges are conducted in confined spaces that often bring armies to a grinding halt. This limited space also has important implications for the manner in which sieges are fought. Space limitations can change human conduct, norms and perceptions. His seven examples include five chosen for close examination: Jerusalem from the First Crusade; Malta from the 16th century; Sebastopol in the 19th century; Kut-al-Amann in World War I; and Singapore from early World War II, plus lesser narratives on the campaigns of Dien Bien Phu and Kuwait. Includes extensive bibliography.

*Enemy at the Gates: The Battle for Stalingrad.* William Craig. New York, New York: Reader's Digest Press; E.P. Dutton, Inc., 1973. 462 pp. The battle for Stalingrad from 1942 to 1943 has been described as the ultimate urban warfare. In the end, the struggle cost the lives of nearly two million men and women with 99 percent of the city being reduced to rubble. It was also the turning point of World War II on the Eastern Front. The campaign began in August of 1942 with the German Army's crossing the Volga. After three months of bitter fighting in which the Germans destroyed the city of



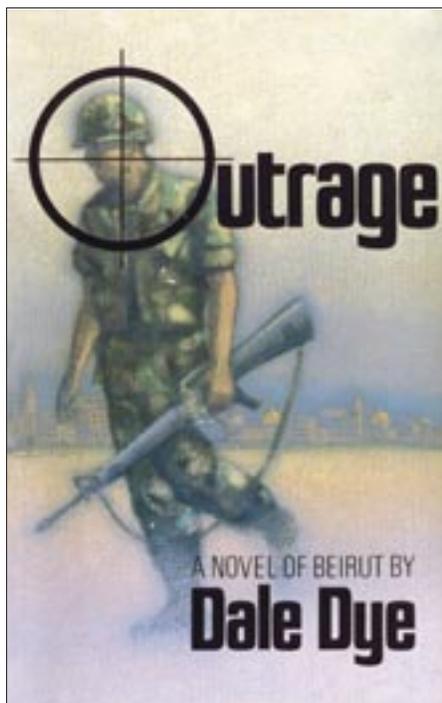
Stalingrad, the Soviets were able at the end of November to mount a counter-attack on the flanks of the German Army, eventually isolating the opposing German forces. The author goes on to describe the German 6th Army's effort from November 1942 to February 1943 to hold on and the Soviets almost superhuman effort to destroy their enemy. In the end, the Soviets, with seven field armies, did prevail. The author shows the tragedy and horror of this campaign for the combatants on both sides.

*Battle for Hue: Tet, 1968.* Keith William Nolan. Novato, California: Presidio Press, 1983. 201 pp. In addition to *Phase Line Green*, reviewed in this issue, the books *Battle for Hue* and *Fire in the Streets* are earlier narratives of the Marines' experiences in the campaign for Hue City in which the Marines killed 5,113 enemy troops while suffering 142 casualties and 1,100 wounded. Also, Communist forces executed 2,810 civilians with thousands more reported missing. In



his book the *Battle for Hue: Tet, 1968*, Nolan describes the battle from the perspective of the U.S. infantryman. He follows the battle as it raged from the Treasury to the Post Office, to the Capital, the Citadel and the Imperial Palace. Nolan was only 20 years old when he wrote this book. He used both interviews and official Marine Corps documents. The author went on to write other books about the Marines in Vietnam, including *Into Laos: the Story of Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719, Vietnam 1971*; *Death Valley: the Summer Offensive, I Corps, August, 1969*; *Operation Buffalo: USMC fight for the DMZ* and *The Battle for Saigon; Tet, 1968*.

*Fire in the Streets: the Battle for Hue, Tet, 1968*. Eric Hammel. Chicago, Illinois: Contemporary Books, 1991. 397 pp. Hammel describes the fighting in Hue City during the 1968 Tet Offensive. The nature of the urban fighting neutralized the Marines' advantage in mobility and the combat was also affected by the U.S. desire to minimize the damage to Hue. There were two distinct centers of focus. The Marines advanced through downtown Hue south of the Perfume River while the South Vietnamese forces attacked the Citadel, which was an enemy fortress on the river's north bank. Hammel describes the contributions of both the Marines and the Republic of

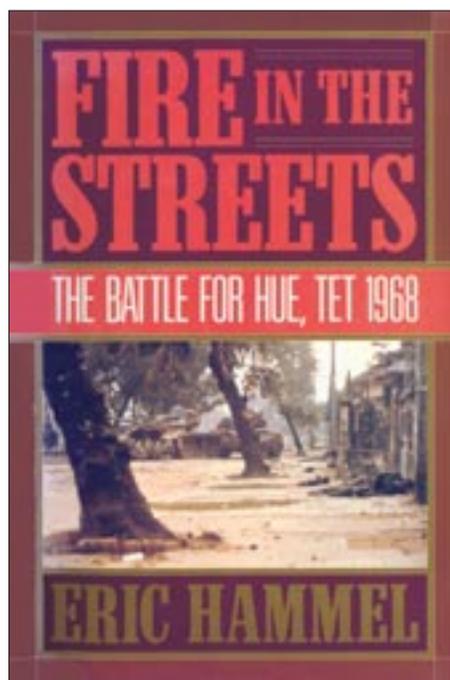


Vietnam Army. In writing the book, he used both interviews with participants and published documents. He also described the contributions of two U.S. Army battalions that attacked from the south from Camp Evans in their attempt to seal off Hue from the outside. He focuses on lessons learned by the Marines from waging battle in an urban environment.

*Outrage: a Novel of Beirut*. Dale Dye. Boston: Little, Brown, and Co., 1988. 200 pp. The author, retired Marine Corps Captain Dale Dye, was in charge of the Marine Corps Public Affairs office in Beirut from late 1982 to spring 1983. Subsequent to his Marine Corps career, he has been a consultant for movies and television, along with writing other books. During 1983, more than 200 Marines were stationed in Beirut with an ill-defined mission to remove the Palestine Liberation Organization and to keep the peace. The novel describes the events leading to the bombing of the Marine Barracks on 23 October 1983 and then describes its aftermath. His characters include Arabs devoting their lives to stopping the fighting, Israeli soldiers deriding the Americans' peace efforts, journalists, terrorists and, of course, the Marines. The author says his novel contains large amounts of fiction

woven around a central core of fact. This is his tribute to those Marines with whom he served.

*The Root: The Marines in Beirut, August 1982 - February 1984*. Eric Hammel. New York, New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1985. 448 pp. A narrative account of the Marines' deployment to Beirut between August 1982 and February 1984, and the skirmishes fought in and around Beirut. The author conducted more than 200 interviews with Navy and Marine Corps veterans of the deployment in writing his book. These interviews provide the book's focus. The first three quarters of the book describe the initial deployment of the 32d Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU). It was during this time when Yassir Arafat and his troops were evacuated. The remainder of the book focuses on the bombing of the 24th MAU headquarters and barracks in October 1983 and on the months immediately following. The book describes in detail how the Marines responded to this catastrophe, often using their own words. □1775□



### *Answers to the Historical Quiz*

## Marine Operations in Urban Terrain

*(Questions on page 20)*

1. Peking
2. Vera Cruz
3. Garapan
4. Seoul
5. Santo Domingo
6. Hue
7. Beirut
8. Panama
9. Kuwait City and Kuwait International Airport
10. Somalia

