The Register Series is prepared under the joint direction of the Curator of Manuscripts and the Head Curator, and includes similar registers of the papers of notable Marines held by the Marine Corps Museum, which, due to the limited staff, cannot undertake research within the collections for individual requestors. Serious scholars wishing to use the holdings will be welcomed by the Museum staff; however, since at present space for researchers is somewhat limited, two weeks advance notice is requested. A letter specifying the intention of the researcher and the proposed date of his visit addressed to the Curator of Manuscripts, Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, Virginia, 22134 will be of great assistance.

Subsequent to 1 June 1973 the Manuscript collection will be located in Building 198, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D. C., and will be accessible to researchers from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday, federal holidays excepted.

Literary rights to the contents of this collection derive from the principle of common law that the writer of an unpublished letter or other manuscript has the sole right to publish the contents thereof, unless he affirmatively parts with the right; the right descends to his legal heirs regardless of the ownership of the physical manuscript itself. It is the responsibility of the author or his publisher to secure the permission of the owner of literary rights in unpublished writings.

**COVER SEAL**

The seal used on the cover of this and other Marine Corps Museum publications is an interpretation of an 1812 U. S. Marine Corps hat device by JoAnn Wood.
REGISTER

OF THE

WILBURT SCOTT BROWN PAPERS
1900-1968

(P.C. 163)

Compiled by

Martin K. Gordon

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MUSEUM

QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

1973
FOREWORD

In 1967 the Marine Corps Museum began a program designed to acquire and preserve the personal papers of former Marines for future students of history. A substantial number of collections have been acquired spanning the broad sweep of our nation's history from colonial times to the present. Many manuscripts have an appeal transcending Marine Corps history per se, and it is toward these that the museum addressed its efforts in organizing material. In order to introduce the collections to military scholars and the academic community, the Register Series was begun. It is hoped that this series will stimulate investigation of this virgin field of military manuscripts in the pursuit of authenticity, accuracy, and, hopefully, a greater appreciation of what lies behind the more formal facade of the "official records." Comments from the readers of this register as well as from those who use the collection will be most welcome, and where appropriate will be used to improve future volumes.

Martin K. Gordon, the compiler of this register, received a BA from Notre Dame, an MA from the University of Wisconsin, and a Master of Philosophy from the George Washington University, where he is presently a doctoral candidate in American studies. A professional in the field of personal papers preparation and preservation, Mr. Gordon was formerly Curator of Research Collections of the Milwaukee County Historical Society.

Reviewed and Approved 20 February 1973
Brigadier General Wilburt S. Brown just prior to his retirement in 1953 and subsequent promotion to Major General.
The Wilburt Scott Brown Papers (P.C. 163) are a useful source of information for many of the concerns of the Marine Corps in the second quarter of this century. The bulk of this material is in his correspondence, memoranda, and speeches. Iconographic materials in the collection fully illustrate many of his important posts and activities.

Brown served in Nicaragua from 1927 to 1929. His supply problems, private spy system, routine concerns, and contributions to an early Marine Corps study of guerrilla warfare, are all available for study as those of a competent Marine lieutenant in that time and place. Photographs in Folder 49 furnish background material for this period. In 1964, Brown went through this material and added several notes and comments elucidating it. These comments have been interfiled with the material for the sake of clarity rather than kept in a 1964 chronological file.

Life on the USS Pennsylvania just before the outbreak of World War II constitutes the subject of the next group of material. During that war Brown won a Legion of Merit for his leadership of the 1st Marine Division's artillery on Okinawa.

It is after World War II, however, that armed forces problems in general and Marine Corps ones in particular become easier to study through this collection. In 1946, Brown was the commanding officer of the regiment whose members were ambushed by uniformed Chinese Communists near Anping, North China. Brown received a reprimand as a result and this generated analyses of the incident which are in these files along with Brown's administrative materials from this period.

Brown went from North China to duty at the Air University at Maxwell Field, Alabama, and was in an excellent vantage point to both observe and comment on the interservice rivalries of the postwar years. He felt integration if not unification of the services was a necessity but he did not want to see the Army
and the Navy reduced to mere support organizations for the Air Force. He tended to view strategic bombers as simply another way to deliver artillery shells and his correspondence from 1946 through 1949 reflects his interest in and knowledge of the unification controversy of the era of the establishment of the Department of Defense. Of course, Brown's interest in amphibious warfare and artillery coordination doctrine development make this collection important for any student of the history of Marine Corps artillery.

There is a fairly small but quite interesting body of Korean War letters in folders 19, 21, and 22. Brown's own service in the war is well represented both in these folders and in the section of Historical Diaries in folders 42-48, but these Korean War letters are from field grade artillery officers Brown had trained at Camp Lejeune in the late 1940s and they furnish an artilleryman's perspective on that war when they write to Brown from Korea, one letter actually being written "in combat."

His last assignment as Commander, Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, generated material on the cold war concerns of a commander, reactions to changes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and related topics. There is also a small quantity of material on Brown's involvement in the tactical use of nuclear weapons.

To sum up, the key subjects for this collection are: Nicaragua, USS Pennsylvania - 1940, armed forces unification, Marine Corps amphibious warfare and artillery doctrinal development, Korea, the cold war, and military schools after 1946.

Letters are sometimes filed chronologically by the last letter in a chain of correspondence rather than the first item so the word "attached" in an annotation in the description usually means that earlier correspondence is filed under the date.

Martin K. Gordon
Martin K. Gordon
The George Washington University
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Accessions Information

The Wilburt S. Brown collection was obtained by the Marine Corps in two separate increments. The first, a small segment containing routine correspondence, was donated by General Brown himself in September 1967. The second and by far the major portion of the collection was donated by the general's widow in December 1969.

Physical Description

Fifty-three (53) folders and approximately one hundred (100) photographs and glass slides, including official correspondence, orders, receipts, and endorsements, some informal letters, rosters, maps, lectures, class schedules, notes, programs, souvenir booklets, training brochures, newspaper clippings, speeches, and memoranda.
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Wilburt Scott Brown was born in Beverly, Massachusetts on 20 December 1900, the son of Robert J. Brown, Senior, and Margaret J. Brown, both natives of Ireland. Educated in Massachusetts, a state he claimed as his home until after his retirement, Brown attended Phillips Andover Academy for one year. He then left the Y.M.C.A. College in Boston after his first year there to enlist in the Marine Corps on 28 May 1918 and participated in World War I.

Although the war only lasted seven months after his enlistment, Private Brown was able to fight at St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. On 4 October 1918, he received a wound in the right elbow while in action with his unit. Staying in the Marine Corps after the war, Brown was discharged a sergeant on 8 July 1920 so that he could enter the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis on the next day. He resigned two years later on 30 August 1922 and reenlisted in the Marine Corps as a private. After working his way up to corporal, Brown accepted a commission as a second lieutenant and soon thereafter began his new career at the Basic School at Philadelphia on 27 July 1925.

Subsequently assigned to the Marine Barracks in Quantico, Virginia, the lieutenant participated in the colorful duties of appearing at the Philadelphia Exposition and in guarding the U. S. Mails. Then in March 1927, Brown, with the remainder of the 5th Marine Regiment, went to Nicaragua as reinforcements for the small detachment already there. He soon was to earn a nickname which stayed with him for the rest of his life. While on one of the many patrols which marked this campaign, Brown wore out two pairs of his size 14 boots and had to have a third pair air-dropped to him. He was a large man and the air supply unit claimed they would need two trips at one boot per trip to re-supply him. Several versions of this story claim that they did make runs to deliver the boots and Brown thus acquired the sobriquet of "Bigfoot" which he even used as a signature after World War II (See the August 1947 correspondence in Folder 10 for examples of this.)
The lieutenant won a Letter of Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy when, in January 1928, he was leading the point of the advance guard of a force of Marines in Nueva Segovia, Nicaragua, and a bandit sentry on the outskirts of the town of Buena Vista challenged the column. Without asking any questions, Brown shot the sentry and with two squads of the advance guard routed a bandit force of about 30 riflemen. Brown’s men suffered no casualties. His division commander recommended Brown for the Navy Cross but the Navy Department decided that the Letter of Commendation would be sufficient. Brown’s commanding officer again attempted to have him commended in December of 1928, when Brown, then a battalion quartermaster, organized a pack train service which kept 36 scattered Marine detachments adequately supplied in spite of bad weather and poor terrain during the Nicaraguan elections of that year.

Brown left Nicaragua in October 1929, for a decade spent at sea, on Guam, and as a student in the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia.

In July 1941, Brown left the USS Pennsylvania for duty as Executive Officer of the 4th Battalion, 10th Marines at Camp Elliott, San Diego, California. He soon became battalion commander and served in that capacity until ordered overseas to American Samoa as Executive Officer of the 8th Defense Battalion in March 1942. He became ill with a fungus infection and was returned to the United States for treatment. After his recovery and in spite of his request for overseas duty, he was sent to the Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma from which he graduated in June 1943. He then helped organize and served as artillery and naval gunfire instructor for the Troop Training Unit of the Amphibious Training Base at San Diego, California. During the period of his service there, four Army infantry and two Marine divisions were trained at the base.

The by then temporary Colonel Brown was ordered to the Pacific in October 1944, where he organized and briefly commanded the 15th Marines. He next became commander
of the 11th Marines, artillery regiment of the 1st Marine Division. Pioneering in the coordination of naval gunfire, artillery, and air support, he led this unit through the Okinawa campaign and the occupation of North China after the end of the war. Colonel Brown's leadership on Okinawa brought him the Legion of Merit and a citation which reads in part,

Colonel Brown displayed exceptional ability in supporting the rapid advance across the central part of the island, clearly demonstrating the efficient training he had given his regiment prior to the landing. When the Army forces . . . required additional fire support, he displaced his battalions expeditiously, rendering early and effective fire support. When his parent division was committed in the southern zone, he coordinated all supporting fires, including naval gunfire and air strikes, with consummate skill. For a period of eighty-three days his regiment maintained constant fire support for the assault element under the most adverse weather conditions, despite exceedingly difficult terrain and intense enemy counter-battery fires. His effective and inspiring leadership was responsible in a large measure for the surmounting of all difficulties and his determination and professional skill were highly instrumental in assuring the success of the operation.

Following the war, Brown won an Oak Leaf Cluster from the United States Army for his Legion of Merit, not only for "exceptionally sound judgment and professional skill in directing the landing of his regiment in the North China Theatre," as that citation reads, but also for the efficient maintenance of law and order and security for the Japanese forces in his area.

In October 1946, Brown returned to the United States and joined the Air University at Maxwell Field, Alabama both as a student and as an instructor in the
Naval Division, teaching amphibious warfare and fire support coordination with air support, subjects upon which he was an authority.

From the Air Command and Staff School of the Air University, Brown went to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in June 1949, where he became commander of the 10th Marines. In April 1951, he became one of the few officers of either the Army or the Marine Corps to command both an artillery regiment and an infantry regiment in battle when, in Korea, he took over the 1st Marines. While there he won the Silver Star for his combat leadership. As that citation states,

When one of his assault battalions was subjected to an accurate enemy mortar and artillery barrage which inflicted heavy casualties, including four company commanders and ten other officers, Colonel Brown proceeded to the area in the face of the murderous fire and skillfully reorganized the battalion, enabling it to continue the attack. Moving to an exposed position in full view of the enemy and under continuous hostile mortar and artillery fire, he directed his men in seizing all assigned objectives and in inflicting a serious defeat upon a tenacious enemy.

Brown also won the Ul Chi Medal with Gold Star from the Republic of Korea for his services to the Korean Marine Corps in their training and equipment procurement. The obvious seriousness with which he undertook his Korean assignments did not interfere with his sense of humor, however, when he took advantage of North Korean propaganda about United Nations crimes against humanity. He had learned from Prisoner of War interrogations that the enemy thought the colored smoke shells which he used for signaling were new types of poison gases, so he soon exhausted his regiment’s supply of these shells in support of an assault. The supply was not renewed while Brown was commander of the unit.
In December 1951, Brown returned to the United States for a brief tour of duty at Camp Pendleton, California following which he was assigned to the faculty of the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. On 7 August 1952, he was promoted to brigadier general and became Commanding General of Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, at Camp Pendleton. In April of the following year, General Brown participated with the Marine Corps Provisional Atomic Exercise Brigade, which he commanded, in maneuvers held in conjunction with nuclear weapon testing at Yucca Flats, Nevada. He voluntarily retired that December and was advanced to the rank of major general by reason of his decorations for combat service.

After his retirement, Brown returned to college and earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in history from the University of Alabama on 2 June 1963. He then joined the faculty of the Department of History there. Brown fulfilled an ambition of his which dated to his days as a student at the Marine Corps Schools at Quantico, when he, 30 years later, researched and wrote a scholarly study of the Battle of New Orleans as a classic example of an amphibious operation. Brown died in Birmingham, Alabama, 13 December 1968 and his book, The Amphibious Campaign for West Florida and Louisiana, 1814-1815, was published by the University of Alabama Press the following year.
15 May. C. Frederick MacGill, Victory Cottage Campaign Committee, Fifth Liberty Loan, to Pvt Brown, United States Marine Headquarters, Boston, Massachusetts.

A form letter thanking the recipient for his assistance in making the Victory Liberty Loan a success.

12 May. The Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia, to Cpl Wilburt S. Brown via The Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Schools Detachment.

Brown, "Having been recommended for advancement to commissioned grade," is ordered to report to building No. 4, for preliminary written examination.


Corporal Brown scored an academic average of 94 on a scale of 100 and a military efficiency grade of 3.808 on a scale of 4.


Transmittal of Brown's commission as a second lieutenant dated 19 February 1925, No 4. He is appointed for a probationary period of two years.

1925
21 February. (Cont’d)

A letter congratulating Brown on his appointment as a second lieutenant, urging him to perform well, and enclosing a poem written by Kipling for his son when he joined the British Army during World War I.

1925
18 December. U.S. Marine Corps Schools Certificate.

Certification that Second Lieutenant Brown attended the Basic Class 3 August 1925 to 18 December 1925 and received satisfactory marks in all his subjects. Attached is his record while a student in the Basic Class. His final average was 84.74 and he stood eleventh in a class of 21.

1926

A company roster. Brown was commander of the 2d Platoon.

1927

Transmittal of the result of the competitive examination for probationary officers. The marks are categorized and Brown’s overall average is 3.48.

Folder 2

1927
31 March. 20th Company, 5th Regiment, U.S. Naval Forces Ashore in Western Nicaragua, Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

Organization chart and roster of the 1st Platoon under its commander, Wilburt S. Brown.
1927 31 March. The Commanding Officer, HQ, 5th Regiment, Managua, Nicaragua, to The Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

Orders for a detail of the 3d Battalion to protect a road camp working on the Matagalpa/Chaguitille section of the Matagalpa/Managua road. Includes an explanation for the necessity of this detail and the procedures it is to follow.

1927 1 June. 20th Company, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, 2d Brigade, U. S. Marine Corps, Jinotega, Nicaragua.

Roster of men stationed at San Rafael, Nicaragua, under the command of Brown including members of the 8th Machine Gun Company.


1927 12 September. Commanding Officer, Marine Detachment, 5th Regiment, Jinotega, Nicaragua, to 2dLt W. S. Brown.

Orders to take a section of men to the village of La Virgin and investigate conditions there. He is not to interfere with any civil or military authorities of Nicaragua in the district.

1927 16 September. LtCol B. S. Berry, 2d Brigade Executive, Managua, Nicaragua, to Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, Matagalpa, Nicaragua, via radio.

Orders for troop movements to Jinotega and Quilali, in order to deny Quilali to bandit forces.
Folder 2 (Cont'd)

1927 16 September. R. S. Coffman, Commanding Officer, Marine Detachment, Jinotega, Nicaragua, to Brown.

Informal order for Brown to return quickly as possible from his current assignment for a 40 man patrol which will depart from Jinotega on the 20th and will probably see some action. Use fast mules.


Order specifying route of march for the units moving out in obedience to the Brigade order of 16 September.

1927 21 September. R. S. Coffman, Commanding Officer, Marine Detachment, Jinotega, Nicaragua, to 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown.

Orders for Brown to take 40 enlisted men and 1 corpsman and occupy Quilali. The route of march is specified.


"We did not have any typewriter in Jinotega in fall of 1927. Company HQ was in Matagalpa with that article of issue. Coffman was in command. I joined him from San Rafael in early July, and made many useless patrols. Here are orders for some. The one to Quilali was recalled after I was two days en route, and then I was sent with some twenty-five men, as I remember it, to reinforce Captain Roger Peard at Pueblo Nuevo via Esteli."

4
1927

27 November. Capt Roger Peard to 2d Lt Wilburt S. Brown.

A confidential letter transmitting advance information about an operation to capture Chipote and establish new outposts. Brown is urged to get his landing field into shape as the planes will provide full support.

1927

1 December. Frank D. Strong, Regimental Adjutant, to Capt Dick Livingston at Matagalpa.

Discussion of supply problems for the forthcoming operation and manpower and equipment allocations. This statement is written on the letter: "27 Aug 1960: This note was sent to Capt. Livingston at Matagalpa. I cannot remember how it came into my possession. I think through Capt. Peard. WSB."

1927


1927


1927


These orders and memoranda outline an attack on the mountain fortress of the bandit, Sandino, in central Nueva Segovia, Nicaragua. They discuss the units and posts involved and the radio procedures to be used. See also the following entry.
1960  

“All this had to do with Capt. Livingston’s ill-fated venture in January, 1928. He left Mata-
galpa as scheduled. Lt. Richal and 1st Sgt Bruce (a Guardia Lieut.) came thru Telpaneca and left
there shortly after Christmas. Bruce was killed and Richal almost blinded at Paso Real north of
Quilali. Livingston had been ambushed the pre-
vious day near Quilali, and he was wounded. A
gunnery sergeant brought Richal’s patrol into
Quilali. Then I was called from Telpaneca to
Ocatal and took a relief column towards Quilali.
Peard had then relieved Livingston of command
via air and joined my column in San Albino.
A Guardia colonel then showed up to command
the joint columns so Peard and I got one com-
pany, the 16th, which garrisoned Quilali. Bn.
HQ. & the 20th Co. fell to ‘Red’ Kenyon. ‘Ma’
Shaw and Lt. Everett Clark had the 8th MG
Co., both of them & Bn. HQ Co. were in San
Albino. Lt. George Esau had the 45th Co. on
a roving mission. We did take Chipote but then
Sandino was at La Fundadvia near Matagalpa.
WSB.”

1927  
23 December. The Brigade Commander, HQ, 2d
Brigade, MC, Managua, Nicaragua, to 2d Lt Wilburt
S. Brown.

A request for Brown’s preference for his
next duty because his six months away from the
line of communication will soon be up. Brown
requested, in his endorsement, either a con-
tinuation of his present assignment or a transfer
to the Guardia Nacional. His continuation was
granted.

A letter refuting the rumor that some of the officers and men on the recent patrols were “hopped up” and reporting on Richal’s condition and the coming reinforcements. This statement is written on the letter, “27 Aug 1960 This reached me in San Albino by air drop. WSB.”

February. Roster of the 16th Company, 5th Regiment, Quilali.

Second Lieutenant Wilburt S. Brown is the only lieutenant listed in this company.

3 February. 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, USMC, 16th Company, Special Expeditionary Force, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, San Albino, Nicaragua, to El Jefe Director, Guardia National de Nicaragua, Managua, Nicaragua.

A request for a transfer to duty with the Guardia National which is endorsed by his superiors because of his ability to speak Spanish, his knowledge of the Guardia, and his excellent performance of his duties. This request was denied because of a lack of a vacancy for him. This statement is written after the final endorsement: “27 Aug. 1960 Never understood why. I had commanded Guardia in battle but I could never get paid for it. WSB.”

21 February. Special Order No. 21, HQ Northern Area, Western Nicaragua, USMC, Ocotal, Nicaragua...by order of Col Dunlap.

Order directing the transfer of two lieutenants. It specifies their route and escort requirements.
1928 15 March. The Commanding Officer, HQ, 5th Regiment, 2d Brigade, MC, Managua, Nicaragua, to 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown.

Travel orders for him to report to Matagalpa and to report to the Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, for duty as Battalion Quartermaster. His related orders are attached.


Discussion of disallowance by the General Accounting Office of bachelor officer's rental allowance paid Brown because he is considered to be on field duty.

1928 8 May. Charles R. Sanderson, Brigade Quartermaster, HQ 2d Brigade MC Managua, Nicaragua to the Regimental Quartermaster, 5th Regiment, USMC, Managua, Nicaragua.

Brown is now battalion quartermaster, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, 2d Brigade, and this is an inquiry asking him to explain why he purchases certain basic items from private sources rather than requisitioning them from regimental stocks. Brown, in his endorsement, analyses the supply problems of the battalion and points out such things as the supply trucks coming from the regiment without even enough gasoline to get them back again and his achievement of a reduction in the price of bull carts. His basic arguments are that it is cheaper to buy some supplies locally and the Marine Corps ought to realize that it is trying to survive under basically war-like conditions. His commanding officer, John A. Gray, defends Brown's conduct in his covering endorsement. This statement is written
on Gray's endorsement: "27 August 1960 This endorsement on my basic letter saved me from disciplinary action for what I said but the Major got hell instead. Much later the QM saw the affair differently and apologized...WSB."


A request for information about an episode mentioned in Carleton Beals' "This is War, Gentlemen," in The Nation magazine for 6 March 1928. The episode allegedly took place in Macuelizo, 11 December, and involved the Marines in looting and shooting members of the Liberal Party. Larsen wants to know whether or not such an episode did take place and the sources of information of whoever makes any statement about this so-called incident.

1928 11 June. 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown to the Brigade Inspector, Managua, Nicaragua.

Endorsement to the Inspector's inquiry of 18 May (q.v.) for information on the Macuelizo incident. A patrol from Brown's outpost had intercepted a letter from Chavarria to Jose Leon Diaz, a bandit, telling him of a projected attack by the bandit forces on Telpaneca or Jicaro. Brown then had the message delivered and informed Major R. W. Peard, Guardia Nacional, of what he had done. Peard then ordered out a patrol to intercept the bandits. This patrol was attacked by a superior force in Macuelizo and eventually withdrew with one man dead. This statement is written on this endorsement: "27
Aug 1960 The letter captured is attached hereto. Also there are a couple of other intelligence reports to my agent, Nicarror Espinosa. He, by the way, was killed by Sandino for collaborating with me, after I left Nicaragua. WSB."

Discussion of Sandino and local villages.

Discussion of the location of Sandino.

Diaz has been keeping vigilant but does not have much to report since his last letter.

Orders concerning Sandino.

A special letter of commendation for his service in Nicaragua. First, for his extraordinary heroism in attacking a bandit force preparing to ambush a marine column and secondly for his...
1928  
21 June. (Cont’d)

Distinguished service in commanding a combined Marine Corps and Guardia Nacional garrison and in developing a well organized native information service. Brown was originally nominated for a Navy Cross but received this letter instead. This statement is written at the bottom of the last accompanying endorsement: "June 25, 1963 A new medal—the Navy-Marine Corps Medal—was later authorized for outstanding service in time of peace and was to replace all letters of commendation such as the above. I received mine in Fort Sill in 1952, 28 years after the event for which rewarded. WSB."

1928  
22 June. Capt Roger W. Peard, USMC and Guardia Nacional de Nicaragua, Ocotal, Nicaragua, to the Brigade Inspector, Managua.

Copy of first endorsement sent by Peard to Brown for his information. Discussing incident in article by Carleton Beals, "This is War, Gentlemen," in The Nation magazine, 6 March 1928 which took place at Buena Vista. Peard reports that the bandits themselves caused the depredations which Beals discusses as the village was found burning by the Marines when they entered it.

1928  

A request for information about Brown's engagement with a group of bandits 7 December 1927 at El Portero for a possible magazine article.
3 August. Charles R. Sanderson, HQ, 2d Brigade, Office of the Brigade Quartermaster, Managua, Nicaragua, to Lt W. S. Brown, USMC, Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

Responding to Brown's reply to his letter of 8 May (q.v.), Sanderson writes that he hadn't realized how bad the supply problem was in the 5th Regiment. The situation should improve from now on but there is still a severe stationary shortage.

10 August. Wilburt S. Brown, Matagalpa, Nicaragua, to Col Chas. R. Sanderson, Managua, Nicaragua.

Thanking Sanderson for his letter of 3 August, Brown reports an improving supply situation and is relieved that some of his earlier endorsements had not "offended beyond hope."

12 August. 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, Matagalpa, Nicaragua, to Maj W. H. Rupertus, Operations Officer, USMC, Washington, D. C.

Acknowledges letter of 26 July (q.v.) and discusses the El Portero incident. His official report would be more accurate than this letter because Brown did not keep a copy of the report and is writing from memory. This incident is where Brown acquired Polanco's flag. It was a routine assault on a bandit village (A sketch of the village, drawn 33 years after the event is attached.)

A form letter praising the role of Marine Corps aviation in China and in Nicaragua, stating its need for pilots, and inviting Brown to apply for the aviation physical examination. This statement is written on the back of the letter: “27 Aug 1960 I refused this offer because I already had tried and failed to pass the aviation physical exam of that period. I tried again on the Saratoga and failed again.”

Explains that his mental attitude is such that he would rather not stay in the Guardia for a third year, but highly recommending the application of Wilburt S. Brown for Guardia service because of his proven tactical and administrative ability as well as his knowledge of Spanish. This statement is written on the letter: “27 Aug 1960 This had no good effect either. WSB.”

A recommendation to the Major General Commandant that Second Lieutenant Wilburt S. Brown be commended for organizing a pack train service during the period of registration and voting in the Nicaraguan National Election, 15 September 1928 to 5 November 1928, which kept 36 widely scattered detachments of Marines at the voting mesas well supplied in spite of the weather and terrain.
1928 24 December. Capt William W. Aiken, Commanding Officer, Marine Detachment, Tuma, Nicaragua to 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, Bn-4, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, USMC.

A letter of appreciation thanking Brown for providing such a fine Christmas dinner for his detachment and enclosing a copy of the Christmas menu. (Menu not with letter.) This statement is written on the letter: "27 Aug 1960. This poor buzzard went to jail for embezzling Post Exchange Funds in San Diego in 1930 but one can see he was not entirely bad. WSB."

1928 2 Quartermaster, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, to Carlos P. C. Potter.

Three expense statements, apparently for goods and services rendered during October.

1929 20 January. 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, HQ, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, 2d Brigade, USMC, Matagalpa, Nicaragua to the Commanding General, 2d Brigade.


1929 24 January. The Battalion Commander, 3d Battalion, HQ, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, 2d Brigade, Matagalpa, Nicaragua to 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, USMC.

Orders for Brown to proceed via Jinotega to San Rafael and take command of the U.S. Marine Detachment there. The orders relieving Brown, at his own request, of his quartermaster assignment, are also included here.
1929 12 March. 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, USMC, to the MajGenCmdt, HQ, USMC, Washington, D.C.

Renewing the request Brown made, upon graduation from the Basic School, for sea duty.

1929 12 March. Memorandum from the Paymaster, MC, HQ, USMC, Washington, to 2dLt W. S. Brown, USMC.

Discussion of the question of the rights of officers without dependents in China and Nicaragua to rental allowances. Requesting information on periods when Brown was not actually engaged in combat operations in order to help determine his rental allowance.

1929 18 April. 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, Marine Detachment, Tuma, Nicaragua, to the Paymaster, Marine Corps.

Acknowledges memorandum of 12 March, supplies the requested detailed information on his movements in Nicaragua and offers any assistance possible to correct the "injustice" of not paying these rental allowances.

1929 18 April. The Commanding Officer, HQ, 5th Regiment, 2d Brigade, MC, Managua, Nicaragua to 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown.

Orders for Brown to proceed to the west coast of the United States and report to the commanding general of the Department of the Pacific for duty in that department.

1929 23 April. Dave Stafford, HQ, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, Matagalpa to Wilburt S. Brown.

A personal letter with gossip on officer and post changes in Nicaragua.
Folder 2 (Cont’d)

1929 2 May. 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, Marine Detachment, Tuma, Nicaragua to the Senior Member, Board of Awards, HQ, 5th Regiment, Managua, Nicaragua.

Brown nominates the following men for decoration by the President of Nicaragua and summarizes, one by one, their combat performances in Nicaragua: Sergeant William E. Roberts, Corporal Daniel Macon, Corporal Joseph Tucker, Privates Lloyd Krummel, Floyd B. Howard, -- Harris, -- Handzlik, -- Kincannon, -- Barr, and Victor Hughes; also Private First Class James E. Tillotson, Sergeant Robert Thacker, Corporal George L. Plantier, and Quartermaster Sergeant Herbert England.

1929 4 May. The Battalion Commander, HQ, 3d Battalion, 5th Regiment, 2d Brigade, USMC, Matagalpa, Nicaragua to 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, USMC.

Orders to report to Campo de Marte for duty with the 49th Company, 5th Regiment.


Summarizing his work under Brown in Nicaragua, Macon asks Brown for a letter of recommendation. He is an honorably discharged sergeant.

1930 11 January. 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, USMC, USS Saratoga, Flagship, Aircraft Squadrons, Battle Fleet, U.S. Fleet, To Whom It May Concern.

A letter of recommendation for ex-Sergeant Daniel E. Macon, summarizing and praising his performance in Nicaragua.
1930 6 May. George Richards, Paymaster, HQ, USMC, to 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, USMC.

A detailed chronology of Brown's assignments in Nicaragua with a covering memorandum that this is to help clarify the amount of rental allowance Brown is entitled to for his time in Nicaragua.

1930 4 August. 2dLt Wilburt S. Brown, Marine Detachment, USS Saratoga to the Paymaster, HQ, USMC, Washington, D. C.

Clarifying the certificate of his service in Nicaragua written by the Paymaster and discussed in his letter of 6 May (q.v.). Brown points out that if he had fewer contacts with the enemy while on patrol, he would have received a larger rental allowance.

1930 1 October. MajGenCmdt, HQ, USMC, to lstLt Wilburt S. Brown, USS Saratoga.

Transmittal of an award of the Nicaraguan Medal of Merit and Citation "in recognition of the exceptional services rendered to the Republic."

1930 1 October. Maj E. N. McClellan, Officer in Charge, Historical Section, USMC, Washington to 1stLt Wilburt S. Brown, USMC, USS Saratoga.

A request for information "regarding the movements of Sandino from the time he arrived in the vicinity of Jinotega early in 1927 until he occupied San Rafael del Norte and Jinotega and later appeared around Telpaneca and San Albino in June, 1927." This statement is written on the bottom of the letter: "27 Aug 1960 All of this is probably in the files of the USMC Historical Section. WSB."

A five page reply to McClellan's inquiry of 1 October (q.v.) which lays heavy stress on the politics of the various Nicaraguan factions in those years and the role of the United States military and civilian forces in the country at that time.

9 February. E. N. McClellan, HQ, USMC, to 1stLt Wilburt S. Brown.

An enthusiastic acknowledgement of Brown's "splendid letter" of 20 November 1930 (q.v.)


Enclosing the Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal No. 323 for service in Nicaragua 1927-1929.

19 May. Charles Bayly, Long Beach, California, to Lt Brown, Marine Detachment, USS Saratoga.

Bayly has written a play about the Marines in Nicaragua and wants Brown to go through it on behalf of the Marines.

11 April. Col E. B. Miller, Assistant Commandant, Marine Corps Schools, Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia, to 1stLt W. S. Brown, Marine Barracks, Mare Island, California.

A request, accompanied by a four page questionnaire, for Brown's ideas and suggestions on the Marine Corps and bush warfare. The Marine Corps Schools staff is compiling a text on the
Folder 2 (Cont’d)

1933 11 April. (Cont’d)

subject. This is filed with the first four pages of Brown’s analysis of bush warfare in Nicaragua which end with the hand-written addition: “My records stopped here but Marine Corps records might have saved all my report. WSB.”

Also in this folder is correspondence between Wilburt S. Brown and Jose S. Rivera of San Rafael del Norte, Nicaragua between 20 November 1940 and 20 February 1941, in Spanish: a May, 1927, photograph of an airplane picking up a message bag; routine correspondence about Brown’s changes of station while in Nicaragua and his return to the United States along with his requests for leave while in Nicaragua, usually to visit his fiance. Also correspondence about the turning over of his quartermaster records to his replacement and his Marine Corps Institute course in bookkeeping.

Folder 3


Brown requests aerial photographs to be taken to test his ability to camouflage a 155mm gun. The resultant photographs are attached.

This folder also contains memorabilia of First Lieutenant Wilburt S. Brown’s stay on Guam, 1934 - 1936, along with two speeches in manuscript form, presumably by him on The Duties and Responsibilities of Non-Commissioned Officers in War and The Principles of War: and two routine Battery G orders.
Folder 4

This folder contains notes and drafts of papers on the German East Africa Campaign in World War I.

Folder 5

This folder contains the "Sea School Schedule for Two Weeks" of the Sea and Field Music Schools, Recruit Depot, Marine Corps Base, San Diego, California. It includes the daily schedule of activities for the term beginning 16 October 1937 and a set of lectures given during the two week course.

Folder 6

1939 24 April. Officer of the Day Detail, Office of the Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Mare Island, California.

Captain Wilburt S. Brown is to have alternate days of being supervisory officer of the day on the days that Platoon Sergeant J. J. Kasparek is officer of the day.

1939 29 April. Capt W. S. Brown, Office of the Post Quartermaster, USMC, Marine Barracks. . . Mare Island, California to the Commanding Officer, Post.

Brown protests his detail as supervisory officer of the day because of his heavy responsibilities in the under-manned Post Quartermaster's Office. It is also an apparent violation of the Marine Corps Manual since officers junior to Brown are available for this duty.

1939 29 April. Capt W. S. Brown, Post Quartermaster, to the MajGenCmdt, HQ, USMC, Washington, D.C.
Brown is reporting an apparent violation of Article 1-4, Marine Corps Manual, to the Commandant. He has been detailed, as a staff officer, as an officer of the day while junior officers are available and believes this to be a violation of this article of the Manual.

A three page order setting forth of the specifications Brown will be looking for in anyone who wants a promotion.

Acknowledging Brown's recommendation of Sergeant Major James R. Lane for promotion.

A detachment roster.

Orders for Brown to assume the post of Senior Patrol Officer for the Shore Patrol in San Francisco, 17-19 October 1939 inclusive.
1939 2 December. E. F. Cutts, Commanding Officer, USS Pennsylvania, San Pedro, California, to Capt W. S. Brown, USMC.

Orders for Brown to take a detail, herein listed, to the United States Fleet Training Base, San Clemente Island, California, for small arms practice.


A request to examine Captain Wilbur S. Brown for promotion to the next higher grade and setting forth the procedures to be followed. Attached are the necessary papers for Brown's written professional and physical examinations.


Brown has qualified for promotion to major and his nomination to that rank will shortly be prepared for transmission to the Senate.

1940 19 October. S. B. McKinney, Senior Officer Present Afloat (Commander Battleship Division Three) USS Idaho, Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington, to Maj W. S. Brown, USMC.

Order detailing Brown as Chief Range Officer Rifle Range, Camp Wesley Harris.

1940 1 November. A request for an assignment to other duty commensurate with Brown's rank. A relief would not be needed since the war organization of the detachment is only two officers and the first lieutenant of the detachment is competent to command it. "Furthermore, the secondary battery officer of the ship, to whom I am assistant, is a graduate of the class of 1933, so assignment of a captain to this vessel would be a further source of embarrassment."

1940 1 November. E. F. Cutts, the Commanding Officer, USS Pennsylvania, Navy Yard Puget Sound, Bremerton, Washington to Maj W. S. Brown, USMC.

Orders for Brown to assume the post of Senior Patrol Officer for the Shore Patrol in Bremerton 1 November to 15 November and renewed for the period 16 November to 30 November.


A receipt for 100 army cots from Major W. S. Brown, United States Marine Corps.

(1940?) Memorandum from Maj W. S. Brown, Senior Patrol Officer, Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton to the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet.

A two page analysis of the venereal disease problem in the Seattle-Bremerton Area with Brown's recommendations for control measures.

A request for detachment from present duty because the ship's gunnery officer told Brown's first lieutenant that the gunnery officer would try to obtain an unsatisfactory fitness report for Brown if the Marine detachment did not conduct its next firing to his satisfaction.

1941 23 June. W. S. Brown, Major, USMC, Memorandum for the Commanding Officer.

Reporting that he has turned over the Ship's Service Funds of $3,211.16 to Lieutenant D. B. Cushing, USN. Countersigned by Cushing.

? Chester's Mother to the Commanding Officer, USS Pennsylvania.


Two letters apologizing for the conduct of her son, Marine Private First Class Chester Turner, and thanking Brown for trying to straighten him out.

This folder also contains an extensive set of ship's orders, ship's newspaper reports, and memorabilia relating to the crossing of the Equator by the USS Pennsylvania, 23 July 1940, including a photograph of W. S. Brown as a Pollywog. Additional material contained herein are copies of the Keystone, the ship's newspaper, printed rosters of the ship's officers, and rosters of the secondary aft battery to which the Marine detachment was assigned.

Attached is Battalion Field Order No. 3-41 with Annex A, administrative order No. 1-41, all three concerning Battalion Field Exercises in the Cleveland National Forest. This is a detailed training exercise for the battalion of which Brown is the executive officer.

1941 19 December. Maj W. S. Brown, HQ, 4th Battalion, 10th Marines, 2d Marine Division, Memorandum to All Hands.

Commending his men for their high morale and discipline during the present crisis particularly during calibration practice, he announces his confidence that they will continue to do their duty in the future.


Reporting that none of the equipment reported short in the "Wilbur Brown Detachment" is available at the Base Property Office.

1942 3 March. LtCol R. C. Anthony, Base Property Officer, MC Base, San Diego, Memorandum for Maj W. S. Brown, USMC.

Report of supplies available for Brown's troops from the San Francisco depot.

1942 4 March. BGen Rupertus, Office of the Commanding General, MC Base, San Diego. Base Transfer Order No. 147.
Orders for Major Brown to take command of a detail of probably over 900 officers and men, now being formed. Related orders are also in this file.

An undated map of Tutuila Island.

19 March 1942 Brown arrived on Tutuila, American Samoa.

28 March. BGен Larsen, HQ, 2d Marine Brigade, FMF, In the field. Brigade Special Order No. 14-42.

Brown is ordered to the 2d Defense Battalion.

29 June. HQ, Defense Force, Straw Area, In the field. "Notes on Combat organization, Arms, Equipment, and Tactics of the Japanese."

13 July. Walter S. Suess, Photographic Laboratory, Navy Yard, Mare Island, California, to Maj Wilburt Brown, USMC, USS Pennsylvania.

Requesting a letter of recommendation from Brown to the Marine Corps and mentioning current conditions on Mare Island.

25 August. HQ, Defense Force, Straw Area. Special Order No. 45.

Lieutenant Colonel Brown and two lesser ranking officers will form the Training Center Staff. Brown is to nominate two more officers and eight enlisted men to be added to the staff.
1942 21 September. LtCol W. S. Brown, HQ, 8th Defense Battalion, In the field, to Battalion Quartermaster, Eighth Defense Battalion.

This is the Fifth Endorsement, the previous material is not available. It is a discussion of the disposition of the supplies Brown brought with him from San Diego with inventory sheets attached.

1944 17 July. BGen Harry K. Pickett, Commanding General, Troop Training Unit, Training Command, Amphibious Forces, Pacific Fleet, U. S. Naval Amphibious Training Base, Coronado, California, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, USMC.

Transmittal of a letter of commendation for Brown for the quality of training he, among others, gave Major General J. L. Bradley's 96th Infantry Division.


A training lecture.


A training lecture.

1944 27 October. The Commanding General, HQ, 6th Marine Division, In the Field, to Col Wilbur S. Brown, USMC.

Orders for Brown to report to the Commanding General of the First Marine Division as relief for Colonel William H. Harrison, United States Marine Corps.
1945

February. 3d Marine Division Action Report.

A one paragraph statement on how to achieve coordination between supporting arms.

1945

1 May. BGen L. J. Stewart, U. S. Army, HQ, 7th Inf. Division Artillery, to Commanding Officer, 11th Marine Artillery Regiment.

A letter of commendation for the 4th Marine Battalion.

? Map of camp area, 11th Marines, Motobu Peninsula, Okinawa.

?"Roster of 2nd Lieuts. (Major Brown's Organization)

1945


Requesting Brown to account for his officers' field equipment. Stapled to it is a receipt for this equipment dated 20 August 1945.

1945

30 October. HQ, 1st Marine Division, FMF, Division General Order No. 209.

Brown is appointed a member of a board of review for all requests submitted for consideration for regular commissions.

1945

5 November. HQ, 1st Marine Division, FMF, Division General Order No. 212.

Brown is appointed senior member of the Division Exchange Council.
1945 23 November. The Commanding General, HQ, 1st Marine Division, FMF, to Col Wilbur Brown.

Authorization for Brown to wear the American Campaign Ribbon.

Plan of French Arsenal, Tientsin, China.” Compiled by 3 Section Eleventh Marines.

Brown encamped at the French Arsenal in November 1945.

This folder also includes reports on Brown's fall 1941 and fall 1945 medical examinations and a roster of detachees from his regiment since July 1945.

Folder 9

1946 20 February. The Commanding General, HQ, 1st Marine Division, FMF, to Board for interviewing applicants for Regular Commissions in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Because it is not practical for the Board to travel to a central location, subsidiary Boards are established in Peking, Tientsin, and Tangku-Chingwångtiao. Brown is a member of the Subsidiary Board Number One for the Tientsin Area.

1946 20 February. HQ, 1st Marine Division, FMF, Division General Order No. 225.

Modifying General Order No. 209, 30 October 1945 (q.v.) so that any three of the herein named officers can act as a review board for interviewing applicants for commission.
Folder 9 (Cont’d)


Notification that Brown is eligible for consideration for retirement.

1946 21 March. Statement of PFC Robert D. Haig, HQ & Service Battery, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, FMF.

Statement that, although provoked, Haig did not mistreat Japanese prisoners placed under his care. He did, however, kick one prisoner who poured half a gallon of kerosene over Haig’s parka.

1946 31 March. To Accompany Each Report on Fitness. For file in office of Commanding General, First Marine Division.

A family and personal information form. Brown lists as additional duties: Senior member, Division Exchange Council and President, North China Marine Officers’ Club.

1946 29 April. For the Commanding General, BGen Robert W. Burns, USA, Chief, Military Personnel Division, Office of AC/AS-1, to Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D. C.

An announcement of the establishment of the Air War College and the Air Tactical School under the Air University. Also a request for a Marine Corps colonel who is not an aviator and a naval captain experienced in submarine warfare for the staff of the school.
1946 30 April. HQ, 1st Marine Division, FMF. Division General Order No. 230.

Establishing a Division Exchange Council with Brown as its senior member.

1946 31 May. CMC, HQ, USMC, Washington, to Col Wilbur S. Brown, USMC, 1st Marine Division.

Letter enclosing an Oak Leaf Cluster to be worn in lieu of the Legion of Merit Brown received from the Army in 1945. Because this was Brown's second Legion of Merit, he was asked to return it to Headquarters Marine Corps for disposition and to accept instead the Oak Leaf Cluster.

1946 19 June. Col Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, to CMC.

A report that Brown received, 4 June 1946, the Special Breast Order of Yun Hui with Ribbon from the Chinese Government.

1946 27 June. HQ, 1st Marine Division, (Reinforced), FMF. Modification No. 3 to Division Special Order No. 233-46.

Lieutenant Colonel Clifford H. Shuey is designated to relieve Brown as Senior Member of the Division Exchange Council.

1946 27 June. HQ, 1st Marine Division, (Reinforced), FMF. Modification No. 2 to Division Special Order No. 234-46.

Colonel Brown is hereby designated Senior Member of the Organization Council.

1946 9 July. The Commanding General, HQ, 1st Marine Division, (Reinforced), FMF, to Col C. C. Brown, USMC.
C. C. Brown is the senior member of a board hereby convened to study the G Series (P) Tables of Organization. Wilburt S. Brown is also assigned to this board.

Returning the Legion of Merit in accordance with instructions received 31 May 1946 (q.v.).

Appointing a Division Recreation Council with Wilburt Brown as its senior member.

A thank you letter for the floral tribute Shih Fu sent as an expression of sympathy at the deaths of Second Lieutenant Douglas A. Cowlin, Corporal Gilbert B. Tate, and Private First Class Lawrence F. Punch.

Either this letter or a similar one was sent on this date to: Li Han Yuan, Chief of Police, City of Tientsin; Lieutenant General Mou Ting Tang, Commanding General, 94th Army, Tientsin; Chang Ting Noh, Mayor of Tientsin; and, Hua Yang Furniture Company, 106 Rue de Baron Gras, Tientsin.
17 August. The Commanding General, HQ, 1st Marine Division, (Reinforced) FMF, to the Recreation Council, Special Services Section, 1st Marine Division, (Reinforced).

Approval of the report of the meeting of the Recreation Council and notification that the administration and auditing of Enlisted Clubs is the responsibility of the organization commander of organizations maintaining such clubs. Attached to this is the report of the meeting of the Recreation Council for 6 August 1946 with its discussion of and recommendations for employees and subsidiary recreational organizations including their salaries and activities along with an audit of the Recreation Fund of the Division.

25 August. HQ, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, Station List.

28 September. HQ, 1st Marine Division, (Reinforced), FMF. Division Special Order No. 426-46.

Effective 1 October 1946 Colonel Eugene F. C. Collier is assigned as Commanding Officer of the 11th Marines to replace Colonel Wilburt S. Brown.

30 September. The Commanding General, HQ, 1st Marine Division, (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, USMC.

Brown is ordered, as a change of station, to the Army Air University, Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama, for duty at the university. A thirty day delay before reporting is authorized.

30 September. Lt(jg) R. W. Schaffarzick, (MC) USNR, Medical Officer, HQ, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Quarantine Clearance for Colonel Wilburt S. Brown.
1946 1 October. Col Wilburt S. Brown, HQ, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, (Reinforced). Memorandum to all hands.

"Before departing from command...I wish to give all officers and men my heartiest thanks for your splendid work and spirit. The regiment has changed its personnel by more than three hundred per cent during the past year, but the spirit of the regiment has never changed. It was the finest shooting artillery regiment in the world at the Battle of Okinawa. With the spirit you have and some time for training, I know it will be again. "Goodbye and thanks."

1946 7 October. Col Wilburt S. Brown, USMC, Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Alabama, to CMC (Terminal Leave Division), HQ, USMC, Washington.

A claim for compensation for sixty days of unused leave.

1946 6 November. Muir S. Fairchild, MajGen, USA, Commanding, HQ, Air University, Maxwell Field, Alabama.

A policy statement on academic freedom and the resolving of divergent faculty views. Faculty members who disagree with school policy or doctrines have the right and obligation to present their views before the Faculty Board of their school or college for adjudication. Appeal authority and final decision rests with the Faculty Board of the Air University.

Also contained herein are routine travel orders transferring Brown temporarily to other posts in China, usually in connection with division artillery concerns and his requests for leave in either China or Japan and the subsequent paperwork. Also an unidentified eleventh endorsement by Brown, 12 November 1946 to a request for information from the Commandant of the Marine Corps about Private Frederick R. Pless, Marine Corps Reserve.
1947 23 January. Col Wilburt S. Brown, Instructor, Naval Division, Air University, Air Command and Staff School, Maxwell Field, Alabama to Col Gerald R. Johnston, USA, Public Relations Course, Special Staff School, Craig Field, Selma, Alabama.

If Brown had known, before he addressed Johnston's public relations class on naval organization, that the students had a special interest in public relations, he would have slanted his talk more in that direction. Thus, Brown is writing this letter to elaborate on public relations in the Navy.

1947 24 January. Col G. R. Johnston, USA, Army Air Forces Special Staff School, Craig Field, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, Instructor, Naval Division, Air University.

Thanking Brown for his talk before Johnston's class and his letter of 23 January.

1947 11 February. Wilburt S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, Air University to Col R. E. Hogaboom, USMC, Senior Course, Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia.

Gossip about Kelly Turner's visit to the Air University and asking for information to use against Kelly's assertion that MacArthur's forces made 144 landings under only air support with a total of only 17 casualties on the beach.

1947 3 March. MajGen O. A. Anderson, USA, Commandant, Air War College, Air University, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, USMC.

A letter of appreciation to Brown for his presentation to the Air War College on "Coordination of Naval Air Arm with Naval Gunfire and Artillery."
1947

13 March. Col W. S. Brown, Instructor, Naval Division, Air Command and Staff School, to Col G. F. Good, USMC, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia.

Brown is coming up to Quantico on Monday with a committee for consultation on the Iceland Problem.

1947

29 July. Col R. O. Bare, USMC, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, USMC.

The Naval War College is going to use as a physical objective for its amphibious problem this year, the same place the Marine Corps Schools used last year and which Brown heard. Bare wants Brown’s advice on why airborne forces were not used in this problem. Bare is leaving it up to Brown’s judgement whether or not to mention at the Air University that Bare is asking these questions.

1947

29 July. Col R. E. Hogaboom, USMC, Senior Course, Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, to Col W. Brown, USMC, Air University.

The Amphibious Warfare School has been directed to present its last year’s Naval War College Problem before the Armed Forces Staff College and Hogaboom would like everything Brown has on the airborne problem. He will return any lectures or other materials that Brown sends him.

1947

1 August. Col Wilburt S. Brown, HQ. Air University, to Col R. O. Bare, USMC, Naval War College.
1947 1 August. (Cont’d)

Acknowledging his letter of 29 July, Brown reports on his difficulties in getting the Air Force to admit that they ought to coordinate any of their activities with ground forces. Brown analyses the airborne problem in last year’s exercise and points out that the Air Force finally had to admit that the carrier-based aircraft and ground units could solve it better than could the Air Force. It is the wrong sort of problem for land-based aircraft. Brown is sending a copy of this letter to Bob Hogaboom who wrote on the same day asking the same question. Brown also requests Bare to send him a copy of a Naval War College lecture on Navy staffs and a map.

1947 4 August. Col Wilbur S. Brown, Air University, to Col R. E. Hogaboom, USMC, Marine Corps Schools, Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia.

Acknowledging his letter of 29 July and sending him a copy of his letter of 1 August to Colonel Bare. After some personal gossip, Brown argues that the problem which the Air University worked on won’t be of much help to Hogaboom, “Fact was deserted for fancy, and enemy airfields were all over the island.” Also, the Air Force problem only began after the landings had taken place.

1947 5 August. Col Wilbur S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, Air University to Col R. O. Bare, USMC, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

A detailed analysis of the airborne operations in the Iceland amphibious exercise.
1947 5 August. Col R. O. Bare, USMC, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, USMC, Air Command and Staff College, Air University.

Thanking "Bigfoot" Brown for his letter on the problem and observing that the Air Force seems to have skipped World War III and is planning for No. IV. The letter praises Admiral Spruance and recommends three new publications on amphibious warfare to Brown.

1947 11 August. Col R. E. Hogaboom, USMC, Marine Corps Schools, Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, USMC, Air University.

Hogaboom thanks Brown for his letters but still wants a copy of the problem itself if possible. He has abstracted parts of Brown's letter for circulation among the Amphibious Warfare School staff.

1947 22 August. Col Wilburt S. Brown, USMC, Air University, to Col R. E. Hogaboom, USMC, Marine Corps Schools, Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia.

Brown is sending a copy of the papers on the Iceland Problem by registered mail to Hogaboom. "No approved solution was prepared by the staff and the solutions of the student staffs could not be released. The General and the Tactical Air people did not consider any of the solutions presented as representative of Air Force opinion, due to the influence exerted by the Ground and Naval Divisions on the students." Brown wants Hogaboom to present his Naval War College demonstration to the Air Command and Staff School. Brown has been charged with coordinating all amphibious warfare instruction.
1947 26 August. Col R. E. Hogaboom, Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, Air University, Maxwell Field.

An acknowledgement of the Iceland Problem papers and a discussion of when the Amphibious Warfare School could make a presentation to the Air University. Hogaboom recommends that Brown have the Commandant of his school make a formal request to the Commandant Marine Corps for this presentation.

1947 18 September. Col Wilburt S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, Air University, to Capt M. E. Murphy, USN, Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet, Coronado, California.

An informal inquiry about the possibility of the observers from the Air University attending the amphibious demonstration projected for the Command and General Staff College of Fort Leavenworth.


"I agree with you that Letters of Instructions are becoming too numerous to be of much value to the average run of Marine officer." A board is now beginning work on a new Marine Corps Manual. "That old word 'economy', so little used since 1941, is becoming more and more common around here."

1947 6 October. From CMC, HQ, USMC, Washington, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, Air University, Maxwell Field.
1947 6 October. (Cont’d)

A report to Brown concerning his request for removal of the admonitions placed in his record as the result of an incident between a Marine patrol from his regiment and Chinese forces later identified as Communist at Anping on the Tientsin - Peiping road, 29 July 1946. Attached to it are three accounts of the incident by Marine Corps officers who were involved in it, a copy of the applicable General Order and an analysis of the incident and its background by K. E. Rockey, Commanding General, First Marine Division (Reinforced). This was a Chinese ambush of the patrol which involved casualties on both sides.

1947 10 October. Col Wilbur t S. Brown, Air University, to Col A. W. Mason, USMC, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia.

Brown is trying to conform the staff planning for the annual Amphibious Problem with staff doctrine as practiced at the Armed Forces Staff College and asks Mason’s assistance with this task.

1947 11 October. Col Wilbur t S. Brown, Maxwell Field, Alabama, to the Editor, Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Alabama.

A letter to the editor defending President Lincoln against another letter to the editor which apparently blamed him for starting the Civil War. This letter not only gives Brown’s views on the necessity for fighting the Civil War but also his views on war in general and why he respected his Japanese enemies more than his Nicaraguan ones.
1947

17 October. Col A. W. Mason, Armed Forces Staff College, to Col Wilbur S. Brown, Air University.

The Staff College's problem was classified Secret so Mason had to send it to the Air University's Record Section. Mason thinks its form is quite good, although some changes might be made in it for the next problem.

1947

2 December. Col A. N. Stubblebine, Assistant Commandant, The Quartermaster School, Camp Lee, Virginia, to Col Wilbur S. Brown through the Commanding General, Maxwell Field, Alabama.

A letter of appreciation for the three hour conference Brown gave at the Quartermaster School on amphibious operations. It was extremely realistic.

1947


A request for comments on the enclosed first published draft of the Marine Corps Historical Monograph, "The 1st Marine Division on Okinawa."

Folder 11

1946-1947

Two lectures prepared for the Class of 46-47 at the Air Command and Staff School of the Air University by Wilbur S. Brown.

These lectures, "Naval Gunfire Support" and "Moral and Leadership" were Brown's draft copies and, as such, contain corrections in his handwriting. They also, as do many of the lectures he gave at the School, contain anecdotal and autobiographical material about Brown and his views on the art and science of warfare.
Folder 12

1947-1948 Lectures prepared for the Class of 47-48 at the Air Command and Staff School of the Air University by Wilburt S. Brown.

He lectured on such topics as naval organization, staffs, and intelligence work, along with naval gunfire support and related items.

Folder 13

1949 Lectures and publications prepared for the Class of 49 and 49-A at the Air Command and Staff School of the Air University by Wilburt S. Brown.

Topics covered in these lectures are amphibious operations and the coordination of air support with naval gunfire and artillery. Attached is the Air Command and Staff School publication, *Joint Operations*.

Folder 14

1948 20-21 April. The Air University, Air Command and Staff School, School Amphibious Problem, "Operation Pistol."

Folder 15

1948 6 February. Col Wilburt S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, Air University, Memorandum, "Comment on Liaison Aircraft Controversy."

Brown defended the right of the Army, and parenthetically the Marine Corps, to possess and to use organically assigned aircraft as it sees fit. This specific entry refers to the controversy over Army use of its aircraft in Germany. Brown commented, "It goes back to the Air Force's implicit conviction that they must assume control of everything other than a kite or balloon that flies."
1948

17 March. Col Wilburt S. Brown, Air University, to the Secretary of State, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, State House, Boston, Massachusetts.

A request for an absentee ballot in which Brown stated that he had always maintained Holliston, Massachusetts, as his legal residence and had never even attempted to vote before the 1944 presidential election.

1948

17 May. Wilburt S. Brown, Air University, to BGen Bonner Fellers, USAF, Republican National Committee, 1337 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C.

Brown commented on General Fellers' talk to two of the schools of the Air University and disagreed with his emphasis on air superiority without regard for balancing it with strength in the Army and the Navy.

1948

19 May. Bonner Fellers, Assistant to the Chairman, Republican National Committee, Washington, D.C., to Col Wilbur S. Brown, the Air University.

An acknowledgement of Brown's letter of 17 May in which Fellers denied any real disagreement between the two officers. Fellers is convinced that Congress will support American air superiority but will cut the budgets of the other two services if they do not economize. He discussed the cost of air superiority and criticized the Navy for wanting a larger Air Force than the regular Air Force.
Brown attacked the concepts that airborne troops can be used without ground or amphibious troops in rapid support of them and that bomber attacks can be made without fighter cover. Both of these fallacies were in use in the tactical and strategic problems at the Air Command and Staff School this year. "The concept of air power that I deplore and fear is the mystical cult that believes the future of air power belongs to the U.S.A.F., as the priesthood of a new religion, with any army or navy encroachment into the air as a heresy. I believe air power is fire power, as such is only an auxiliary weapon of national defense or portent, and is only of temporary value as such until guided missiles can be built to deliver more accurate fire power without so much fanfare."

26 May. Col Thomas A. Lane, CE, Air Command and Staff School, Air University, to BGen Bonner F. Fellers, Republican National Committee, Washington, D.C.

A carbon copy of Colonel Lane’s letter in which he analyzed “the implications of taking military strategy out of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and placing it in the Republican National Committee.” He also mentioned his admiration for MacArthur’s approach to military leadership.

2 June. Wilburt S. Brown, Air University, to Col Noel F. Parrish, USAF, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base.

A discussion of Parrish’s thesis and of the military schools system. “I most thoroughly endorse your contempt for the lecture technique, however.”
1948 4 June. "Graduation Exercises of The Air War College and The Air Command and Staff School regular and associate course School Year 1947-1948."

1948 23 July. Wilburt S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, Air University, Memorandum for Capt Duckworth, USN.

A discussion of the work-load imposed on both students and faculty at the School.

1948 31 August. Col Karl L. Polifka, USAF, President, Board of Governors, Officer's Club, Maxwell Air Force Base, to Col Wilburt S. Brown.

A letter of appreciation for the nine months tenure of Brown as Chairman of the Entertainment Committee of the Officer's Club.

1948 12 September. An unidentified clipping which discusses at length the Air University and its schools and colleges.

1948 21 September. Wilburt S. Brown to RAdm C. R. Brown, USN, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island.

A discussion of the growth of dogmatic attitudes at the Air Command and Staff School particularly about logistics doctrine. Also a complaint about the Air University Quarterly Review's alterations of the review Brown submitted to it of Dudley Knox's History of the United States Navy. Attached to this letter is a copy of the review and Admiral Brown's reply to the letter.
25 October. Wilburt S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School to the Commandant, Air Command and Staff School.

A four-page "Minority Report" on the matter of grading and informing students thereof. Brown argued for a less mechanical method of grading and evaluating the students.

9 November. Col M. L. Curry, USMC, Joint Strategic Plans Group, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, to Wilburt S. Brown, the Air University.

Curry has been informed that he might be Brown's relief at the Air University and here inquires about Brown's duties and living conditions at the university. He also comments on his duties with the Joint Chiefs.

18 November. Wilburt S. Brown to Col M. L. Curry, the Pentagon Building, Washington, D.C.

Brown answered Curry's letter of 9 November with a lengthy analysis of his role as a Marine officer in an Air Force environment, his concern for unification, and a discussion of base living conditions.


A discussion of the three Marine reserve aviators who have just completed the associate course at the Air Command and Staff School: Lieutenant Colonel James L. Mueller, Major Frank S. Hoffecker, and Major Grant W. Metzger. He also considered it important for Marine aviators to attend the Air University.
1948  19 November. Wilburt S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School to the Commandant, Air Command and Staff School.

A "Minority Report" of the Curriculum Committee in which Brown repeats his constructive criticism of 25 October.

1948  3 December. BG Christian Schilt, USMC, HQ, Marine Air Reserve Training Command, to Col Wilburt S. Brown.

An acknowledgement of Brown's letter of 19 November (q.v.) and a discussion how one of the officers can be assigned to active duty.

This folder also contains a continuation of routine correspondence with Colonel Robert E. Hogaboom, Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Schools, and others exchanging school problems and other information and discussing visits of the Amphibious Warfare School problem presentation group to the Air University. Also, other routine administrative material is in this file.

Folder 16

1949  28 January. Wilburt S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, to Col R. O. Bare, USMC, Director, Senior Course, Amphibious Warfare School, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico.

In addition to the usual discussions of the tactical and strategic problems of the various schools, Brown also discussed the need for naval and Marine personnel to attend the Air War College and Brown's work in securing more spaces for these personnel. He also gave his views on General Truscott's Army Advisory Panel on Joint Amphibious Operations.
1949

8 March. Wilburt S. Brown to Col R. McC. Pate, USMC, Director of Instruction, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico.

After a discussion of possible dates for a Marine amphibious demonstration at the Air Command and Staff School, Brown went on to discuss the Caribbean maneuvers which he had just attended. He felt "the show" was "a very expensive anachronism but it was a huge social success." Brown especially enjoyed meeting Major General Wildman-Lushington and Colonel Leicester of the Royal Marines. He also feels that the demonstration should be put on for the Canadian Army Staff College since they have requested it.

1949

22 March. BGen V. F. Megee, USMC, Fleet Marine Force-Atlantic, Norfolk, Virginia, to Wilburt S. Brown.

A request from Megee for Brown's help in locating a transcript of the courses Megee took at the defunct Air Corps Tactical School in 1936-37. After kidding Brown about his large feet, he comments that he is not certain that he has been forgiven for his "alleged part in the shoe dropping episode in Nicaragua."

1949

23 March. Wilburt S. Brown to Col R. McC. Pate, Director of Instruction, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico.

Brown reported that since recent objective studies of the Air Force Strategic Bombing Survey have tended towards dissipating the Douhet and Billy Mitchell theories, the Air Force is suspected of trying to smother the reports. So Brown has obtained a complete set for the Marine Corps School library and suggests that they be kept in the archives there.
Folder 16 (Cont'd)


No transcripts were kept but Major General Earl Barnes has kept for his personal records a copy of the standings of all the classes of the Air Tactical School and Megee stood 31 in a class of 64. This is answer to Megee's letter of 22 March (q.v.).

1949 30 March. Col R. McC. Pate, Marine Corps Schools, to Wilbur S. Brown.

In acknowledgement of Brown's letter of 23 March (q.v.), "Your suspicions in connection with the Air Force are probably well-founded, and your action was that of your usual self, that is, prompt and to the point."

1949 4 April. Wilbur S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, to Capt S. G. Kelly, USN, Office of the CNO, Pentagon Building.

A discussion of the precise motto of the Air University.

1949 16 May. Wilbur S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, to the Deputy Commander for Education, The Air University.

1949 25 June. Col W. H. Hardy, USAF, Commandant, USAF Special Staff School, Air University, to Commandant, Air Command and Staff School, Air University.

A letter of appreciation for a lecture Colonel Brown presented to the members of the Academic Instructor Course 6 May 1949. The lecture was excellent and the students were appreciative. It was on the U. S. Navy and naval staffs.

1949 15 July. Wilbur S. Brown HQ, 10th Marines, Camp Lejeune, to Gen George C. Kenney, USAF, Air University.

In this farewell letter to the Commanding General of the Air University Brown thanked them for putting up with him for three years, the longest he has ever served in one post. He also repeated his views that service integration is a necessity and elaborated on them.


A regimental memorandum from Colonel Brown to the officers of his regiment. They are to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Marine Corps Manual, 1949, prior to 1 December and an examination on its contents for all officers is being contemplated by regimental headquarters.

1949 16 September. Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, to BGen C. F. Schilt, USMC, Chief of Staff, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk.
1949 16 September. (Cont'd)

Major Donald E. Noll of Brown's unit has been detailed to Schilt for supervision of the Army staff's naval gunfire planning. Noll is an excellent officer but he is not qualified for this particular assignment so will Schilt please try and arrange as much advanced training for him as possible.

1949 20 October. Commanding General, 2d Marine Division, to Col Wilbur S. Brown, 10th Marines.

A commendation for the excellence of the Fire Support Coordination demonstration given by a group of officers and enlisted men under Brown's direction on 29 September 1949.

1949 6 December. Col Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, to RAdm H. S. Duckworth, USN, Air University.

A discussion of the United States Strategic Bombing Survey Report, Air Campaigns of the Pacific War. Attached to this letter is earlier correspondence between Brown, Rear Admiral Duckworth, and Rear Admiral Charles R. Brown. These letters analyse the history of the pamphlet as Air Force propaganda, point out that it was not authorized by members of the survey, point by point refute some of its fallacies and errors, and discuss why Secretary of the Navy Sullivan did not sign a letter which was prepared for him protesting this publication.

1949 12 December. Col Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, to Message Center, Marine Corps Gazette, Box 106, Quantico.
Folder 16 (Cont'd)

1949

12 December. (Cont'd)

A letter to the editor in which Brown praises the present day Marine Corps and points out that some old officers have been complaining at least since 1918 that the Corps is going downhill.

1949

13 December. HQ, 10th Marines, 2d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, Camp Lejeune.

A regimental memorandum from Brown to his unit passing on a letter of appreciation commending it from the Commandant, Marine Corps Schools for its artillery demonstration of 17 November 1949.

Photographs contained in Folder 16:
- All four sections of Class 49-A, Regular Course, Air Command and Staff School.
- A West Point-Annapolis Dinner in which W.S. Brown towers over the rest of the group.
- "Admiral Cat Brown, first Chief of Navy Section Here shown at big party of Mediterranean fleet in North Africa."

This folder also contains routine correspondence with several officers of the Amphibious Warfare School exchanging school problem and other information and discussing visits of the Amphibious Warfare School problem presentation group to the Air University. Also routine administrative correspondence relative to his change of station to Camp Lejeune and related personnel matters are included herein.

Folder 17

1949

27 May. Col Wilburt S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, to LtCol Robert D. Heinl, USMC, Historical Section, HQ, USMC, Arlington Annex.
1949 27 May. (Cont’d)

A letter of transmittal for Brown’s typescript, "The United States Builds her Own Maginot Line." The essay is an attack on the concept that Air Force strategic bombing alone can win any war to come. It argues that balanced military, naval, and air forces are necessary to secure the bases that the Air Force needs and that strategic bombing alone cannot win a war anyway and includes one of Brown’s favorite sayings that air power is not synonymous with Air Force.

Folder 18


Acceptance of Brown’s letter to the editor.


This letter elaborated on Brown’s critique of Shore Party Doctrine in the USF 6 Series. He discussed the problems of planning for small units versus large units and of achieving consistency in doctrine. Also, unless the Navy modifies its insistence upon command the Army and the Air Force will not accept the Series.

1950 15 February. (Cont'd)

An acknowledgement of Brown's letter of 6 February (q.v.) thanking him for his criticism. Complete copies of the 2d Division's critique of the USF Series are being forwarded to Commandant Marine Corps.


Lieutenant Colonel Robert D. Heiml has submitted to the Gazette Brown's lecture, "Geopolitics for A Marine." The Editorial Board will probably accept the article but with the deletion of certain paragraphs directly critical of the State Department.

1950 15 March. Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, 2d Marine Division, to LtCol R. L. Smith, USMC, 2d Engineer Battalion, 2d Marine Division.

A letter of congratulations for Smith's basketball team's winning of the Post Championship for 1950.


1950 4 April. LtCol F. J. Karch, USMC, Canadian Army Staff College, Fort Frontenac, Kingston, Ontario, Canada to Col Wilbur S. Brown, 10th Marines, 2d Marine Division.

A request for a copy of a lecture Brown gave at the Air University on the organization of the Navy Department.
1950  **11 April.** Wilburt S. Brown to LtCol F. J. Karch, USMC, Canadian Army Staff College.

Brown is sending his lecture on Navy Department organization to Karch as requested. It must be updated everytime it is given because of changes in the department.


The Gazette would like to publish Brown's article on "Geopolitics for a Marine." but the article must be revised, preferably by Brown, to delete his strong criticisms of the State Department. Colonel Heinl had already completed much of the actual editing of the copy.

1950  **? April.** HQ, 10th Marines, 2d Marine Division. "Standard Operating Procedure, Tactical Employment of Field Rocket Artillery."

1950  **3 May.** W. S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, "Critique of Operation Crossover - Artillery."

1950  **3 May.** Col W. S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, to Capt C. E. Coffin, Jr., USN, USS *Bexar*, Naval Station, Norfolk.

A letter of appreciation for the courtesy and consideration Brown's regiment received while embarked on the USS *Bexar* during the recent exercise.

1950  **5 May.** Capt C. E. Coffin, Jr., USN, USS *Bexar*, to Col Wilbur W. Brown, Commanding Tenth Marines.

A thank you letter for Brown's letter of appreciation and, in turn, an acknowledgement of the "smartness and cooperation" of the 10th Marines while on the *Bexar*. 

55
1950

Brown enclosed his rewritten version of his article on "Geopolitics for A Marine." He regretted having to rewrite it because he is inclined to blame everything wrong on FDR.

1950

1950
17 May. BGen R. McC. Pate, USMC, Chief of Staff, HQ, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, to Col Wilburt S. Brown.

Letters of appreciation for the excellent demonstration of Fire Support Coordination which the 2d Marine Division put on for the Marine Corps Schools.

1950

Colonel Brown and three officers of his staff, named herein, are cleared to have access to development information through "SECRET."

1950
26 May. LtCol J. S. Twitchell, USMC, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, to Col Wilburt S. Brown.

Twitchell is sending Brown a copy of the Artillery School's Special Text on the Fire Support Coordination Center. There are many things in it which the Marines would disapprove but Twitchell was overruled on them.
Folder 18 (Cont'd)

This folder also includes correspondence with Headquarters, United States Marine Corps over the turnover of officers in Brown's regiment and correspondence with the Army Field Forces Board No. 1 at Fort Bragg about exchanging visits.

Folder 19


A lengthy report on training facilities at Camp Lejeune with recommendations on each facility at the camp.


A summary of the meeting which stressed such things as the need for improved saluting and military courtesy observances, the procedures for the processing and distribution of new personnel arriving at the camp, and the need for all units to go through channels in writing the Commandant Marine Corps.

1950 15 August. Col Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, to Commanding General, 2d Marine Division.

Brown's mostly favorable comments on the new aluminum protractor to be used in artillery fire direction control work.

A letter which commended the first issue of the combined Infantry-Field Artillery Journal and in which Brown reminisced at some length about his artillery work on Okinawa.


The Gazette has accepted Brown's article, "Geopolitics for a Marine" and payment for it is enclosed. Brown's article, "Another Slant on Fire Support Coordination," has been sent to Washington for security review. An attached earlier letter from Pounds to Brown commented that Pounds agrees with Brown's view of the State Department but that he is forced to maintain "fine" relations with that agency.

1950 7 September. Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, Memorandum: To All Hands.

This statement of "Recommended attitude toward recent unfortunate publicity," refers to President Truman's comment that the Marines are a "police force for the Navy." Brown here commented that because the "person in a very high place" who had made a slighting remark about the Marine Corps had apologized for it, the officers and men of the unit, who are all gentlemen, should accept that apology as the conclusion of the incident. Brown hopes that the members of the regiment will not continue to talk about it because "The greatest fault of the Marine Corps is its overweening pride and its braggadocio which many people of the other services find insufferable." The original
Folder 19 (Cont’d)

1950 7 September. (Cont’d)

letter of apology from President Truman is in the General Clifton B. Cates Papers and a facsimile is in the Major General William A. Worton Papers (P.C. 141) both papers are in the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, manuscripts holdings.

1950 5 October. Joe Burke (In the field, Korea) to Col Wilburt S. Brown, 10th Marines, Camp Lejeune.

An informal report on the performance of Burke’s rocket battery both during the Inchon Landing, in which it participated, and in the fighting afterwards. He stresses the need for cribs in the ammunition carrying vehicles to prevent the fuzed rounds from shifting and for officers to be trained to lay fire only by inspection. He also discussed some of the tactics he used to keep his battery from being hit by enemy counterfire.

1950 8 October. Col Homer Litzenberg, USMC, Inchon, Korea, to Col Wilburt S. Brown.

An informal report to Brown on Col Litzenbergh’s Seventh Regimental Combat Team from the time it left Pendleton up to 8 October. The unit participated in the re-taking of Seoul and would have advanced even faster against the North Koreans if the tank commander had been more aggressive and if they had experienced men and better equipment for removing the mines the North Koreans left in the roads the team was trying to capture. The practice at Camp Lejeune in infantry-artillery-tank-engineer-air teamwork has paid off during this campaign.

A discussion of Brown's problems in training his practically all-new regiment. If he does well, the Division of Reserve Training will probably claim all the credit although he isn't getting that many trained reservists. Brown requests Weller to look around for an article Brown wrote, "The United States Builds its Own Maginot Line," which he sent to Washington in 1949 for security clearance and which he suspects Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson has had impounded.


The author, on duty as Supporting Arms Coordinator of the 1st Marines, discussed several of the problems he had encountered in Korea and possible solutions. They included the difficulty of getting permission to fire on targets of opportunity outside of the unit's zone of action during a fluid front situation, problems with the radio sets, the great value of the white phosphorous shell, the use of different fuzes, problems with infantry officers not knowing the capabilities and limitations of their supporting artillery, and the importance of firing in defensive fires whenever the infantry stops for the day, even if it is after dark.

1950? 16 October. Fox Parry, USMC, Commanding Officer, 3d Battalion, 11th Marines, Korea, to W. S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, Camp Lejeune.
Parry, formerly a member of Brown's regiment, reported on the activities of his battalion in combat. His was the first artillery north of the Han River and they have had problems with their communications. They must rely on their radios most of the time because of the rapid movements of all units and because of the terrain, but it was something of a problem to keep the batteries charged.

Baukhage has read Brown's article on "Geopolitics" in the Marine Corps Gazette and has mentioned on his air program that this article should be read as a companion piece to Alexander P. DeSeversky's Air Power. An excerpt from this program is attached to the letter.

Brown's opening remarks at the annual demonstration of Marine Corps artillery at the Marine Corps Schools. In this talk, he discussed the impact of the Korean War on his regiment and the work involved in training reserve personnel.
1950  8 December. (Cont’d)

A regimental memorandum in which Brown passed on the commendations given to the regiment by the Commandant, Marine Corps Schools and the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, for its excellent demonstration before the Marine Corps Schools.


Appleyard had a chance to send a message with a captain going back so he wrote this quick note. He wrote about some of the other officers who used to be in the 10th Marines with him and added, "We’ve been having one hell of a time with the CCF lately -- too damn many of them -- but this Eleventh is turning in one of the most remarkable fighting jobs in history." He felt that Brown would be proud of their combat record.


This folder contains much correspondence, rosters, and orders relating to the call up, and transfer of men and units incidental to the Korean War. There is also correspondence, memoranda, and related documents about the advantages of the use of the Fort Bragg Artillery Range by the 10th Marines even if it is owned by the Army, because of inadequate facilities at Camp Lejeune and at Quantico.

Folder 20

1949  13 June. LtCol Robert D. Heinl, Jr., Washington, D. C., To Col Wilbur S. Brown, Air Command and Staff School, Air University.
1949 13 June. (Cont’d)

An acknowledgement of receipt of Brown’s article which he will have edited and published. The article is not specified in this letter.

? Wilburt S. Brown, a typescript, “Another Slant on Fire Support Coordination” with illustrations.

Folder 21

1951 14 January. (?) to Col W. S. Brown.

A fragment from a letter from an officer in the 11th Marines in Korea which discusses the types of supervision over forward observers needed in combat and complains about the lack of press coverage given Colonel Litzenberg’s magnificent work in this campaign.


Letter returning Brown’s draft of an article, “Another Slant on Fire Support Coordination” which cannot be published because Headquarters, Marine Corps, has classified it as restricted. Attached is the letter from Headquarters which explains that it has been classified because it presents restricted information.

1951 22 January. Wilburt S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, Memorandum for all Hands.

The regiment will begin an intra-regimental athletic program in March 1951.

1951  **23 January. (Cont'd)**

A discussion of the role of the 4th Battalion in the retreat from Yudam-ni and of the lack of use of the Division's Fire Support Coordination Center since it has been in Korea.

1951  **25 January.** Col Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines to BGen J. C. McQueen, Director of Public Information, Recruiting and History, HQ, USMC, Washington.

A request for an explanation of the restriction placed on Brown's article, "Another Slant on Fire Support Coordination," with the story that he wrote it to refute an earlier article in the Marine Corps Gazette which attacked the coordination concept. Attached is McQueen's reply that the article was very good but went into too much detail on the subject. (q.v. letter of 18 January 1951)

1951  **29 January.** Col Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, Camp Lejeune, to the Editors, Saturday Evening Post, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

A letter to the editor appreciative of Marguerite Higgins' "The Bloody Trail Back" which appeared in the 27 January 1951 issue of the Post. Brown went on, however, to explain the role of Colonel Homer L. Litzenberg, commander of the 7th Marines, in the episode about which she wrote and protested the omission of his name and actions from the article. Attached is the reply of the Foreign Editor of the Saturday Evening Post which states that he will attempt to have the pertinent parts of Brown's letter published.

There is more correspondence in this folder concerning the use of the Fort Bragg Artillery Range and miscellaneous personnel matters.
1951  9 February. Col Wilburt S. Brown, HQ, 10th Marines, to Martin Sommers, Foreign Editor, Saturday Evening Post.

An acknowledgement of Sommers' reply to Brown's letter (q.v. 29 January 1951) in which Brown discusses his "admiration and respect" for the Saturday Evening Post.

1951  15 February. Col Bill McReynolds, USMC, 11th Marines, Korea, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, Camp Lejeune.

A seven-page close-typed report on McReynold's medium artillery battalion in Korea from the time of first landing, through the withdrawal to Hamhung. His 155mm howitzers were capable of destroying the Russian T-34 tanks with indirect fire but they need to be made self-propelled. The letter details the actions of his battalion and Colonel Brown, 5 March, had it reproduced with the caption, "Letter from a Marine officer in Korea. Reading Material for Officers."

1951  10 March. Col Wilburt S. Brown, Camp Lejeune, to Col John S. Twitchell, USMC, the Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

A request for information about a new Artillery School Course and about obtaining a copy of the transcript of Brown's work when he was a student at the school. "In this place we have a crisis every day and a reorganization at least once a week."

A discussion of the course Brown requested information about and of the 251 Marines presently attending courses at the Artillery School. Attached to it is a memorandum about Artillery School extension courses administered by the Marine Corps Schools.


A protest against the request of Major General Robinson, commander of the 2d Marine Division, that Brown be immediately relieved of his duties and detached from the division. Brown felt that in protesting an apparently unfair reprimand the general had given one of Brown's subordinates, Brown was merely being loyal to his conscience and to the Corps but the general felt that Brown was being personally disloyal to him and that is the reason for the request for the transfer.

14 June. Col Wilburt S. Brown, Commanding Officer, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, Regimental Memo No. 40-51, "Operations of This Regiment since June 1."

Praise for the combat performance of the regiment in the difficult actions of the last two weeks in securing the Brown Line.

27 June. Walter H. Boireau, Boston, Massachusetts, to Col Wilburt S. Brown, HQ, 1st Marines.

"Please know and understand that your Memo was deeply appreciated and understood not only by your men, but by the parents who were fortunate to receive it." (q.v. memorandum of 14 June 1951.)

A recommended revision of the standing operating procedure for fire support coordination.

1951 13 July. Col Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, to Capt Lester G. Harmon, "C" Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

A letter of commendation and appreciation for the excellent support this engineer company has rendered to the 1st Marines throughout the present campaign.

1951 14 July. LtGen Edward M. Almond, USA, Commanding, X Corps, to all units.

The farewell message of the commander of the corps to which the 1st Marine Division was attached in Korea.

1951 17 July. Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, 1st Marines, Memorandum to All Hands.

Brown's farewell message as commander of the regiment. Although he knew he would only be regimental commander for a short time, he has grown fond of the unit and it has performed well for him.

1951 4 August. Mrs. Samuel Walker, Marblehead, Massachusetts, "To the Colonel in charge of 1st Marine Division."
Folder 22 (Cont'd)

1951 4 August. (Cont'd)

This is a letter of complaint that Mrs. Walker's son-in-law, a veteran Marine officer, has been called up for active duty even though he is in the inactive reserves. Attached to it is Colonel Brown's reply which sets forth his philosophy of the need to fight the Communists in Korea, World War III might be near, and her son-in-law is needed to help train the new men who are doing the fighting in Korea.


A memorandum transmitting a detailed, 26 page, "Report of visit to the Far East by Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific and Staff, 27 August 1951 to 12 September 1951," which analyses all phases of Marine Corps activity in Korea and Japan in this period.

1951 2 First Marine Division, November 1 - December 15, Chosin Reservoir.

A Government Printing Office pamphlet which describes the operations of the 1st Marine Division against the Communist Chinese offensive during the above dates. It furnishes useful background information for some of the letters from Korea contained in Folders 21 and 22.
Folder 22 (Cont’d)

This folder contains more material on the 10th Marines activities at Fort Bragg including post-exercise reports and evaluations of the participating units. Also included are the orders involved in Brown’s changes of station and administrative items relating to relations between the 1st Marine Division and its Combat Service Group, post exchanges, and clubs.

Folder 23

1952 15 January. Oliver P. Smith, Commanding General, HQ, Marine Barracks, Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California. Memorandum to all officers, Marine Barracks.

A thirteen-point restatement of basic command responsibilities of the officers.


This letter is an informal discussion of some old common friends, the desertion problem which some officers are trying to alleviate by changing the definition from 30 to 60 days absence and an invitation for Brown to make suggestions to the board now working on revisions in the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

1952 4 February. Wilbur S. Brown, HQ, Marine Barracks, Camp Pendleton, to BGен Homer L. Litzenberg, HQ, USMC.

An acknowledgement of Litzenberg’s letter of 28 January with news of Brown’s sons in it. Brown also makes some recommendations for changes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice to simplify Special Court Martial procedures. He also argues that discipline in the brigs must be maintained at all costs.
1952  7 April. Col Wilburt S. Brown, HQ, Marine Barracks, Camp Pendleton, to “Chappy” (Colo- nel Chapman?).

A discussion of the need for nursery schools at Camp Pendleton. They had been established without legal authority before both Brown and the present commanding general came onto the base and now Brown wants to place them on some kind of legal basis.


An analysis of the government’s claim to the Santa Margarita River which flows through Camp Pendleton.


A graduation speech in which Brown stressed the importance of administration in the Marine Corps and talked about his experiences as an enlisted man in the 1920s.


A request for Brown’s recommendations for curriculum changes for the Basic Officer’s Course of the Artillery School. Attached is Brown’s reply in which he expressed amazement at his work-load in his new assignment at Camp Pendleton and made several recommendations for changes in the course at the school.
24 October. BGen Wilburt S. Brown, HQ, Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, Camp Pendleton, to LtCol J. O. Appleyard, USMC, Artillery Section, G-3, HQ, USMC.

A discussion of the feasibility of the establishment of a basic artillery officer's course at Camp Pendleton. The present procedure of sending artillery second lieutenants to the Artillery School at Fort Sill does not produce a satisfactory product because, among other things, the course there tries to train new lieutenants as battalion commanders and covers too much irrelevant material.


Brown approved of using the 7th Engineer Battalion of his command for various projects around the post. It would improve the skills of the men and raise their morale at the same time. Any individual who objected to working on the Officer's Club building project would be assigned to other projects.


Brown had a request from an old friend of his, Colonel J. Ogden Brauer, USMC, the Director of Reserves in Los Angeles, to give an updated version of his paper on "Geopolitics for a Marine," before the Marine Corps Newsmen's Association of Los Angeles. Brown wanted guidance on whether or not he should give the talk and what kinds of prior approval he would need if he gave it. Attached is the correspondence with Brauer about this talk and a second occasion upon which he gave it in Los Angeles, and related items.
1952  22 December. BGen Verne McCaul, HQ, USMC, to W. S. Brown.

McCaul encouraged Brown to give his talk in Los Angeles (q.v., letter of 16 December) but stated that the guidelines forbade discussion of politics, military policy, or foreign policy, without prior clearance for the policy topics. Even then, prior clearance would not help Brown with question and answer period, mis-quotations, or other problems.

This folder also contains routine administrative items from Brown's staff positions at Camp Pendleton and his assignment to the Army Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma as relief for Colonel John S. Twitchell along with the orders relative to his assignment as an observer at Camp Desert Rock, Nevada, 19 May 1952 for Exercise Desert Rock VII.

Folder 24


A request for information about any work the Army has done on increasing the stability of the 4.5 Rocket.


An analysis of American and British methods of locating enemy artillery for counter-battery firing purposes. The British have a better system.
25 August. W. S. Brown, Senior Marine Corps Liaison Officer, The Artillery School to: C. G., MCDC, MCS, Quantico, Virginia; G-3, HQMC (Attention Artillery Officer, that section); 10th Marines, 2d Marine Division; C. O. 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division; C. O. 12th Marines, 3d Marine Division; and, C. O. Supporting Arms Regiment, T&R Command, Marine Base, Camp Pendleton, California.

This is the first of what Brown hoped would be a monthly letter on artillery training and development. He also hoped that a correspondence net would come out of this letter with the addressees writing to each other about common problems. This letter discussed the problems of getting the Army to adopt the fire support coordination center, shell reporting and crater analysis, and the need for more Marine artillery officers. Appended to it were copies of Colonel Henderson's letter to Brown of 8 August (q.v.).

19 September. BGcn W. S. Brown, The Artillery School, to BGcn H. L. Litzenberg, USMC, Marine Corps Development Center, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico.

A discussion of the successful visit of Litzenberg's two representatives to the Field Artillery Board.

23 September. W. S. Brown, Senior Marine Officer, The Artillery School to (same distribution as letter of 25 August).

The second of Brown's monthly letters on artillery training and development. The letters will be quarterly in the future because of insufficient time for replies to reach the editor. These issues mainly deal with various interservice artillery boards and meetings.
Included in this folder are the following lectures and publications:
- "Intelligent Use of Artillery Ammunition"
- "Naval Gunfire Planning"
- "Field Artillery Basic Observers Course Proposed Syllabus"
- "Recent History and Development of Naval Gunfire and Fire Support Coordination"
- Notes on U. S. Marine Corps Special Field Artillery Organization and Techniques. By Col W. S. Brown, USMC
- "Rough Draft - Naval Gunfire for Weapons Effect"
- Soviet Artillery. A brochure prepared at The Artillery School under the direction of the Department of Gunnery.
- "2d Marine Division Fire Support Coordination Demonstration."

This folder also contains routine administrative items from Brown's months at The Artillery School and School publications along with an unidentified class picture.

1953


A thank you letter for hospitality Brown and his men showed Hyon Zoon while he was in the United States. "My Corps has grown up completely by the assistance of your Corps."

Brown sent Dreith a copy of a talk he had given the day before on "What a Marine Expects of His Chaplains." He also discussed a program of anti-communist schooling in the force which he commanded and asked about the possibility of such an anti-communist educational program throughout the Naval Service led by the chaplains.


Dreith acknowledged Brown's letter of 15 January (q.v.) and will have Brown's talk published in the Spring issue of The Chaplains Bulletin. He also reported on a new character guidance program which the Office of Chief of Chaplains is developing and agreed, with Brown that an educational campaign against Communism was necessary and should be developed.


Memorandum transmitting to Brown a copy of the brochure "Why We Fight In Korea" which is read to all replacement personnel early in their training.

1953 26 January. (Cont’d)

An acknowledgement of Dreith’s letter of 23 January (q.v.) which recommends the deletion of personal anecdotes from Brown’s article before it is published. Brown also discusses the research he is doing on the nature of communism, mentioning several books on the subject, and agreeing with the chaplain that a religious faith is the only firm foundation for opposition to it.


A discussion of the changes made in Brown’s article before publication and of Chief of Chaplains Salisbury’s retirement ceremonies. Attached is an earlier letter of Dreith’s in which he commented that Brown takes an above average interest in the chaplains assigned to him.


A request for a copy of Brown’s Air University lecture on Navy Department organization for a friend of Slaughter’s who has to talk on the subject in England. Brown’s reply, with which he sent Slaughter a copy of the 1949 version of the talk, is attached.

1953 10 February. BGen W. S. Brown, Camp Pendleton, to BGen H. L. Litzenberg, Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico.
1953 10 February. (Cont’d)

A protest against giving any publicity which might be mis-construed as approval to the LVT-P5 vehicle testing program, in spite of the desires of Borg-Warner’s president and of the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The vehicle, so far as the testing has gone, has thirteen major defects.

1953 12 February. BGen H. L. Litzenberg, Quantico, to BGen W. S. Brown, Camp Pendleton.

Litzenberg concurs in Brown’s views of 10 February and will try to stop the publicity.

1953 10 - 13 March. “Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Headquarters Field Command, Sandia Base, New Mexico.”

A certificate that Brigadier General Brown has successfully completed the Special Weapons Orientation Course.


Brown’s command has so far attained 112% participation in the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation with $3,392.00. It also has raised another $2,200.00 which has not been added into the percentage participation yet.

1953 23 March. BGen Verne McCaul, Office of Public Information, HQ, USMC, to BGen W. S. Brown, Camp Pendleton.

J. Henry Davis Company might produce an NBC television series based on factual dramatic or humorous stories about the Marine Corps. McCaul has told Davis that Brown “Has the largest fund of humorous story material to be found within the Corps” so Davis might be calling on Brown.
Folder 25 (Cont’d)

This folder also contains administrative and personal correspondence along with several letters of appreciation for various geopolitical lectures Brown gave on and off the post.

Folder 26

“Airlex II Critique for General Brown to be presented at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, 6 March 1953.”

Folder 27

1953 10 April. RAdm A. K. Morehouse, USN, Chief of Naval Advanced Training, Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, to BGen Wilburt S. Brown, Camp Pendleton.

Morehouse agreed with Brown’s critique of Rear Admiral D. V. Gallery’s manuscript, “Uniform Code of Military Justice,” as being too rough on even the useful lawyers in the services. The correspondence between Brown and Morehouse in which they discuss the new Uniform Code of Military Justice is attached as is a copy of Gallery’s essay and Brown’s 6 February 1953 recommendations to the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, in which, for six pages, he recommended simplifications and changes designed to protect the government’s interest in obedience to the laws.

1953  

27 April. (Cont'd)

Brown has finally located the copy of his old skit on fire support coordination which Roach had requested and is forwarding it to him on loan. Brown also discussed the history of the skit. Attached is earlier correspondence between Brown, Roach, Colonel Joseph L. Winecoff, USMC, and various Marine Corps headquarters in which Brown and Winecoff attempt to get a Bronze Star for Roach for his performance in Korea in combat.

1953  


A letter of appreciation for Hadow's willingness to speak to the Officers' Wives Club on Coronation Day and an invitation to Hadow to have lunch with some of the officers before his speech. Attached is earlier correspondence in which Hadow sent Brown a copy of a letter from a colonel of the Black Watch praising cooperation between the United States Marines and the Black Watch in Korea, and Brown requested Hadow's help in getting an Englishman admitted to the United States.

1953  

19 May. MajGen Oliver P. Smith, Commanding General, HQ, Marine Barracks, Camp Pendleton, to W. S. Brown.

A letter of appreciation for the improvements Brown has made as President of the Board of Governors of the Camp Pendleton Commissioned Officers' Mess.
1953 22 May. Cdr K. A. Ayers, USN, Bureau of Ships, Department of the Navy, Washington, to BGen W. S. Brown, Camp Pendleton.

A thank you letter for Brown making it possible for Ayers to attend Desert Rock Exercise No. Nine and a discussion of the ability of the LVTP-5 to protect troops from air blasts.

1953 25 June. BGen Wilburt S. Brown, Camp Pendleton, to LtCol L. P. Harris, USMC, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, 2d Marine Division, Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

A discussion of the supply accountability problem during the recent Provisional Atomic Exercise Brigade exercise. (Brown was the brigade commander.) Attached is earlier correspondence about this same problem, about security and publicity problems related to this atomic exercise, and a letter discussing how Brown became involved in this exercise.

This folder also contains miscellaneous correspondence and orders; other minor material relating to the Marine Corp Provisional Atomic Exercise Brigade; and prepared folders issued by Headquarters, Marine Corps, for 1953 Armed Forces Day commemorations.

Folder 28

1953 3 July. BGen Wilburt S. Brown to BGen A. H. Butler, USMC, G-4 Section, HQ, USMC, Washington.
A report on the LVTP-5 testing program which Brown's command was conducting at the time. The program has been hampered by the transferring of experienced men out of the test unit by Headquarters Marine Corps and by the fragility of the vehicles which usually break down before the tests can be started on them. The Commandant Marine Corps had visited the test unit 23 June and stated that he understood its problems.

Brown discussed the problems involved in training men from his Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, at Kaneohe, Hawaii. He felt that such a training program might be practical for small units and urged development of integrated amphibious battalions so that the different branches could both learn more about and be trained as infantry.

Headquarters Marine Corps was contemplating reducing Force Troops Atlantic and Pacific and Brown here recommended which of his units should be left on the Pacific Coast and which could be based on the Atlantic. He needed his engineer battalion to help complete the base at Twenty-Nine Palms and thought that because of the excellent artillery range there, he should be permitted to keep the artillery at Camp Pendleton. He claimed that he was objective in this evaluation of his units because he did not think he would be commander of Force Troops, Pacific much longer.
8 September. BGen Wilburt S. Brown to Superintendent, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis.

A request for a transcript for the two years Brown spent at the Naval Academy because he has put in a request for retirement and wants to return to a university for a Ph.D. "I was dropped from the rolls in September, 1922, over a scrape on the beach with the Shore Patrol in Fort de France, Martinique. My scholastic record for the two completed academic years was good, though."


Discussion of a visit of Lieutenant General John C. Westall, C.B., C.B.E., Commandant General, Royal Marines, to the United States. He will visit the Force Troops Pacific and a copy of his itinerary is enclosed. Brown's acknowledgement is attached.

17 October. BGen W. S. Brown, HQ, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific Troops and Force Troops, FMF, Pacific, Camp Pendleton, to "Merritt" (Col Merritt Adelman?).

In discussing who will be attending a forthcoming Marine Corps artillery conference at the Marine Corps Development Center, Quantico, "Buzz does not expect much in the way of results from the big conference because of the extreme coldness of HQMC towards artillery in general. It is to be hoped that my retirement will occasion an improvement in that attitude, but that cannot occur soon enough to affect this conference." Brown thought something useful might come out of the meeting.
Folder 28 (Cont’d)

1953  8 October. HQ, Force Troops, FMF Pacific, Camp Pendleton.

Copy of a set of principles for an assistance program among various Marine units and bases related to Fleet Marine Force Pacific.

1953  27 October. HQ, Force Troops, FMF Pacific, Camp Pendleton.

A brochure made up for the visit of Brigadier General Kim Tai Sik, Commandant, Korean Marine Corps Schools, to Force Troops, Pacific, which contains information about the unit and its training procedures. Tai Sik’s thank you letter is attached.

1953  5 November. BGen Wilbur S. Brown to LtCol John L. Clark, USMC, HQ, 3rd Marine Division, Japan.

A discussion of the amateur radio station at Camp Pendleton and a refutation of Clark’s criticism of it.

This folder also contains some miscellaneous correspondence as well as letters relating to Brown's various speaking engagements in Southern California in this period and to the visit of Lieutenant General Franklin A. Hart, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific to Brown's command, November 1953.

Folder 29

Contained herein is the paperwork involved in Brown's voluntary retirement from the Marine Corps including the proceedings of his Physical Evaluation Board, routine paperwork -- in particular -- that involved his retirement promotion to major general, and his farewell message to his troops and related letters.
Folder 30

These six letters, both official and off-the-record, contain Brown’s detailed comments on and corrections of the Marine Corps historical monographs dealing with the campaign on Okinawa and his period in combat in Korea. They were written between 1954 and 1959.

Folder 31


Rockey has preserved Brown’s memorandum of 14 June 1951 (q.v.) and would like Brown to autograph the enclosed typewritten copy of the original mimeograph document.

Folder 32

This folder contains a selection of Brown’s speeches about Marine artillery, fire support coordination, and related topics such as critiques of tactical exercises.

Folder 33

Contained herein is a miscellaneous selection of Brown’s speeches at dedications, commencements, and other events. Also included are several speeches, by other Marine Corps officers, which Brown saved. Two of the more significant are “Admiral ‘Cat’ Brown’s Lecture in Tuscaloosa, ‘A Battle Cry Against Communism’” and “Art Mason’s original lecture on New Orleans given to MCS in 1935. Revised by Dave Nimmer in 1937.”
Folder 34

Filed herein are:
- A brief history of the 10th Marines, 1918-1946.
- An undated unofficial memorandum from Commandant Marine Corps on the organization of and personnel allowances for Fire Support Coordination Centers.
- An undated memorandum from J. D. Price, "Recommendation of Air Board Relative to Policy Statement," which discusses the current campaign to eliminate naval aviation and includes two suggested press releases which might help stop this interservice rivalry: "Unilateral USN Policy Statement"; and, "Joint USN - USAF Policy Statement."

Folder 35

The following lists are herein filed:
- 1st Marine Regiment Officer Assignments, Col W. S. Brown, Regimental Commander.
- Headquarters 10th Marines, 2d Division, Fleet Marine Force, Camp Lejeune, "Roster of Officers Selected for Transfer."
- Lineal list of Officers of the 10th Marines.
- Regimental Headquarters, 11th Marines.
- 2d Marine Division, Station List, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, 1 July 1950.
- Statistical studies of enemy and United States killed in the battles of World War II.
- Unidentified rosters.

Folder 36

This folder contains material relating to the following items: Brown's World War I decorations; his 1945 Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster; the Republic of Korea UL Chi Medal, 1954, and
Folder 36 (Cont’d)

the Republic of China Special Breast Order of Yun Hui which he received; various service school certificates; his Honorable Discharge as an enlisted man; the Silver Star for his performance in Korea; the Navy and Marine Corps Medal; and change of station orders for 1952 and correspondence with Headquarters Marine Corps about replacing some medals Brown lost; along with his promotion papers to the rank of brigadier general; two fitness reports on Brown 31 August 1952 and 6 August 1953 and the fitness report he wrote on Colonel Wallace O. Thompson, November 1953.

Folder 37

This is a file of Brown’s travel and change of station orders, 1925 - 1947 which also includes his commissions received in this period.

Folder 38


Folder 39

This file contains a roster of the Marine Corps Provisional Atomic Exercise Brigade which Brown commanded during the maneuvers incidental to Exercise Desert Rock V, 18 April 1953. Also included are the pamphlets on atomic warfare and its defenses which Brown acquired during his attendance at the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project at Sandia Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 10 - 13 March 1953.
Included herein are souvenirs of various reunions Brown attended, a picture book from his North China service, 1945 - 1946, a few unlabeled notes made by Brown while at the Air University, song sheets, a booklet Camp Lejeune Leathernecks published by the Marine Corps Training Center at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and a copy of the Navy Chaplains Bulletin, Spring, 1953, which contains his article, “What a Marine Expects of a Chaplain.”

Folder 41

Miscellaneous newspaper clippings about Brown and about topics that interested him. Sixteen items.

Folder 42

1951 February, 1st Marine Division (reinf.), Historical Diary with photographic and map supplement.

Folder 43

1951 March, 1st Marine Division (reinf.), Historical Diary with photographic and map supplements.

Folder 44

1951 April, 1st Marine Division (reinf.), Historical Diary with photographic and map supplements.

Folder 45

1951 May, 1st Marine Division (reinf.), Historical Diary with photographic and map supplements.

Folder 46

1951 June, 1st Marine Division (reinf.), Historical Diary with photographic and map supplements.
Folder 47

1951 July. 1st Marine Division (reinf.), Historical Diary with map supplement.

Folder 48


Folder 49

Photographs taken in the 1920s of Brown playing football, his fellow officers, Marine Corps Bases in Nicaragua, and Nicaraguan bandit units.

Folder 50

Photographs taken in the 1930s of Nicaraguan scenes, artillery pieces, and miscellaneous views.

Folder 51

Photographs taken in the 1940s which include combat scenes on Okinawa, 1945, scenes in North China, 1945 - 1946, and some views of the 10th Marines, Camp Lejeune.

Folder 52

Photographs taken in the 1950s which record Brown's work with the 1st Marines and the rear echelon of the 1st Marine Division in Korea and his many duties at Camp Pendleton.

Folder 53

Unidentified photographs.
Packet 1

1953  3 December. The papers relating to the commissioning of Brown as a captain in the Marine Corps and the commission itself.

Packet 2

A set of six slides used as teaching aides in lectures on planning amphibious operations.

Packet 3


A record of the service in the Marine Corps of Wilburt S. Brown between 28 May 1918 and 7 July 1920, when he was discharged to enter the United States Naval Academy.
APPENDIX A

A Partial Chronology of the Life of Wilburt Scott Brown

1900 Dec 20  Born in Beverly, Massachusetts.

1918 May 28  Left school and enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps. Served in France with the 20th Company, 5th Marine Regiment and was awarded two battle clasps and a Purple Heart Medal, after service at St. Mihiel, the Meuse-Argonne, and Mont Blanc.

1920 Jul 7   Discharged from U. S. Marine Corps as a sergeant.

1920 Jul 8   Entered U. S. Naval Academy as a midshipman.

1922 Aug 30  Resigned from the U. S. Naval Academy.

1922 Sep 11  Reenlisted in U. S. Marine Corps.

1923 Jan 12  Promoted to private first class.

1923 May 23  Promoted to corporal.

1925 Feb 19  Commissioned a second lieutenant from the ranks. Stationed at Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Norfolk, Virginia.


1926 Jan 4   Assigned to 66th Company, 5th Marine Regiment, Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia. Also served on detached duty with the Marine mail guard and Philadelphia Exposition units.
Appendix A, (Cont'd)

1927 Mar 7  Arrived on detached duty at Camp De Marte, Managua, Nicaragua.

1927 Jun 25  Assigned to the 5th Marine Regiment, Nicaragua, as permanent duty station.

1928 Jun 21  Awarded Letter of Commendation from the Secretary of the Navy "For the splendid professional ability displayed while in combat" 19 Jan 1928 near Buena Vista, Nicaragua.

1929 May 28  Detached to Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Mare Island, California.

1929 Aug 29  Detached to Marine Corps Base, San Diego, California, for attendance at the Sea School.

1929 Oct 5  Joined USS Saratoga as Detachment Officer for his first sea duty.

1930 Aug 19  Promoted to first lieutenant.

1931 Jun 24  Detached to Headquarters, Department of the Pacific.

1931 Jul 24  Joined Guard Company No. 1, Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Mare Island, California.

1933 May 27  Detached to Marine Barracks, Naval Station, Guam.

Appendix A, (Cont’d)

1935 Jul 29 Detached to Marine Barracks, Quantico, Virginia, where among other duties attended the Base Defense Weapons Course, Marine Corps Schools.

1935 Dec 3 Promoted to captain.

1936 Sep 8 Detached to Marine Corps Base, San Diego, California. Served as a battery commander.

1938 Feb 18 Detached to Marine Barracks, Navy Yard, Mare Island, California, for quartermaster duty.

1939 Jun 3 Detached to USS Pennsylvania as commanding officer of the ship's Marine detachment.

1940 Jul 3 Promoted to major.

1941 Jul 22 Became Battalion Executive Officer, 4th Battalion, 10th Marines, 2d Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force.

1941 Nov 12 Became battalion commanding officer.

1942 Mar 19 Arrived in Tutuila, American Samoa, as Executive Officer of the 8th Defense Battalion.

1942 May 8 Promoted to temporary lieutenant colonel.

1942 Sep 19 Hospitalized with a tropical disease.

1942 Nov 19 Ordered back to the United States for further hospitalization and treatment.
Appendix A, (Cont’d)

1943 Mar 26  Attended Army Field Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

1943 Jul 16  Assigned to Marine Barracks, Camp Elliott, San Diego, California. Helped organize and served as artillery and naval gunfire instructor at the Troop Training Unit, Amphibious Training Command, Pacific Fleet. Also served elsewhere on Pacific Coast in connection with the training of Army troops.

1944 Apr 1  Promoted to temporary colonel.

1944 Oct 17  Assigned overseas with the 6th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, where he organized and served briefly as first commanding officer of the 15th Marines.

1944 Oct 27  Became commander of 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

1945 Apr 1 to Jun 22  Participated in combat action against the Japanese on Okinawa. Awarded Legion of Merit with combat “V” for outstanding services by Lieutenant General Roy S. Geiger, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific.

1945 Sep 30  Arrived Port of T’ang-Ku, North China, for occupation duty with his regiment. Awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster (Army) by the Commanding General, United States Forces, for his performance here.

1946 Oct 1  Assigned, after leave, as an instructor in the Naval Division, Air Command and Staff School, Air University, Maxwell, Alabama, also as a student at the school.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1947 Aug 7</td>
<td>Promoted to permanent colonel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949 Jun 28</td>
<td>Became commander of 10th Marines, 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Also Division Artillery Officer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951 Apr</td>
<td>Ordered overseas as commander of the 1st Marines in Korea. While there, awarded the Silver Star Medal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951 Jul 18</td>
<td>Became commander of the Rear Echelon, 1st Marine Division, Korea.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951 Dec</td>
<td>Returned to the United States as Assistant Chief of Staff (G-2) and Post Inspector at Marine Barracks, Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952 May</td>
<td>Detached to The Artillery School, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, as Senior Marine Liaison Officer.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1952 Aug 7</td>
<td>Promoted to brigadier general.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953 Apr 18</td>
<td>Participated as Commanding General of the Marine Corps Provisional Atomic Exercise Brigade in maneuvers held in conjunction with nuclear weapons testing, Yucca Flats, Nevada.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1953 Dec</td>
<td>Retired from the Marine Corps and was promoted at retirement to the rank of major general.</td>
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</table>
Appendix A, (Cont’d)

1963 Jun 2  Received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in history from the University of Alabama and became a member of the faculty of this university.

1968 Dec 13  Died, Birmingham, Alabama.

APPENDIX B

Sources and References

Part I


"To honor professor Brown, whose death occurred as this volume was being prepared for press, the first three copies were hand bound in blue Morocco and were presented by the President of the University of Alabama to Mrs. Wilburt Scott Brown, to the President of the United States, and to the Commandant of the United States Marine Corps." -- statement on the copyright page.


An explanation of the term and of basic geopolitical theories and the World War II German interpretations of them. He argues that America, as the new world leader, must keep the Rimland out of Communist domination and that a brigade of Marines should always be stationed in the Mediterranean and one in the East Indies.


For the background of this article, see entries under Folder 25 in the "Description" part of this Register.


"This book adds much to our knowledge about the crucial New Orleans campaign, and therefore merits inclusion in the roster of good scholarship."
Appendix B, (Cont’d)


Two of General Brown’s obituaries.


A discussion of the development of the Fire Support Coordination Center with the argument that all these layers of coordinators delay prompt support for the infantry. This is probably the article which caused Brown to write “Another Slant on Fire Support Coordination” as a refutation of it. See folders 19, 20, and 21, especially Brown’s letter of 25 January 1961.

“Veteran of Four Wars Retiring from Service.” Los Angeles Times, 26 November 1953. (Copy in Folder 29)

A biography of Brown, written upon his retirement which contains his version of the incident in Nicaragua wherein he earned his life-long nickname of “Bigfoot.” He had indeed worn out two pairs of boots on a long patrol and a third pair was air-dropped to him, but it only involved one plane and one trip.


The copy cited is in the Hispanic Foundation Collection at The Library of Congress. There is no specific mention of Brown, but this is an excellent analysis of Marine operations in Nicaragua from the Marine Corps' point of view and does discuss and furnish background information about both people and events mentioned in Folder Two of this collection.
Appendix B, (Cont’d)

Part II


This is a reasonably comprehensive listing of books and periodicals about the history of the United States Marine Corps. It contains a large number of references relating to the different periods and events about which there is material in the Wilburt Brown papers. The remaining four entries in this bibliography are simply those items which were of most assistance to the compiler of this Register, out of the many items contained therein.


Brown's sense of humor in Korea is discussed on page 134.


Furnishes background information on the Anping Incident in North China (page 17 and Appendix A).