MAGAZINE OF THE MARINES

Leatherneck

MAY 2017

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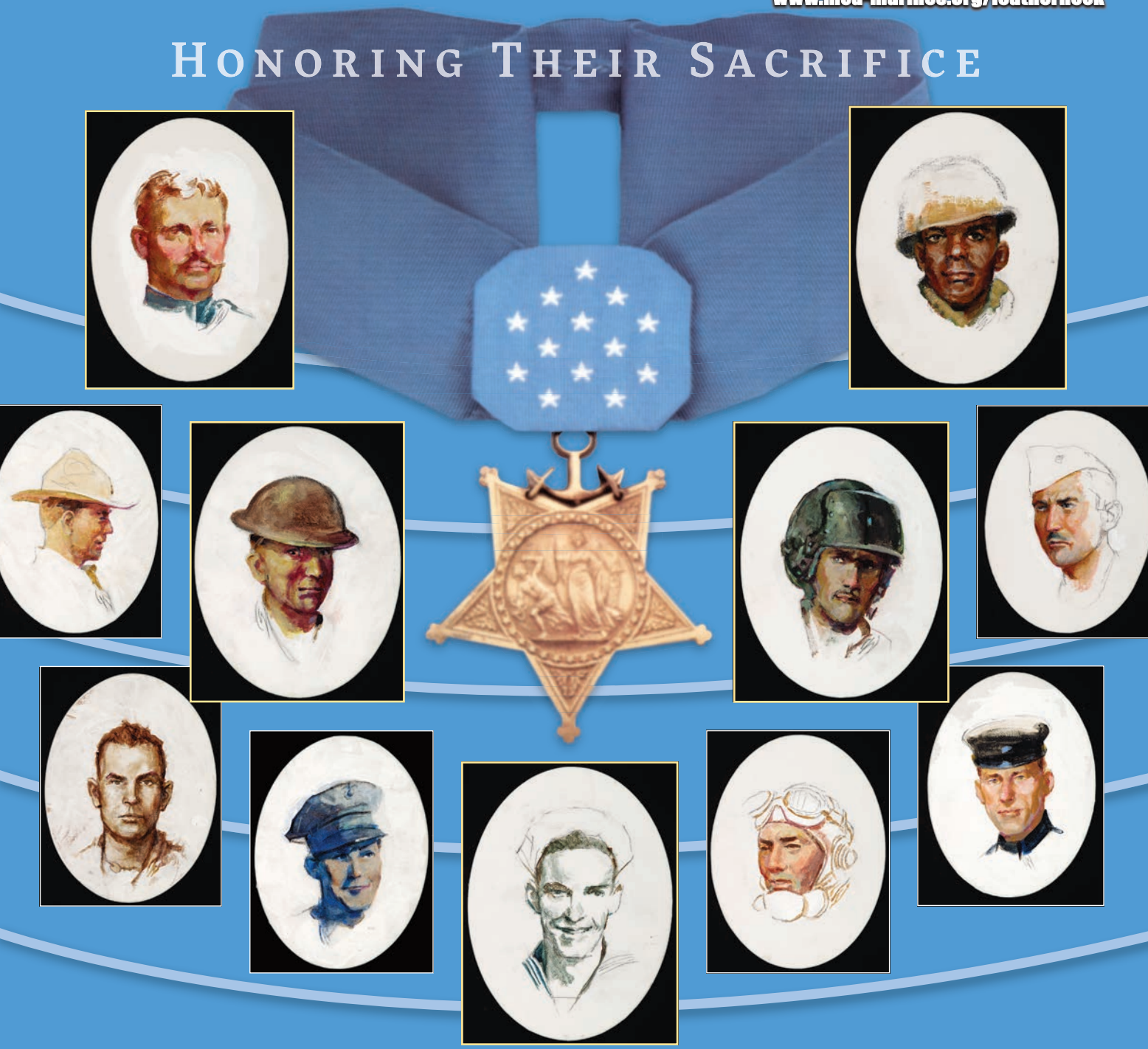
Honoring Their Sacrifice



The Medal of Honor Portraits

By Col Charles Waterhouse

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George has Emergency Assistance Plus	Both require	Bob does not
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COVER: Displayed on the cover, in various stages of completion, are some of the portraits of Medal of Honor recipients that Col Charles Waterhouse created as a "final gift" to his beloved Marine Corps. The Waterhouse MOH collection was donated by the family to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. Copies of the cover may be obtained by sending $2 (for mailing costs) to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134-0775.

Sound Off

Compiled by Patricia Everett

Letter of the Month

*(*Leatherneck *will pay $25 for a "Sound Off Letter of the Month" submitted by an MCA&F member or provide a one-year courtesy subscription to a non-member whose letter is selected.)*

This letter is in response to Jeannine Maughmer-Miller's story in the February issue about her son, Lance Corporal Ryan A. Miller, "Reunion Provides Emotional Lift for OIF Combat Veterans."

Ma'am, your son's sacrifice leaves me in awe. What you did for him and those who fought with him leaves me amazed. Your hard work to accomplish your mission is inspiring.

I want to thank you for your effort to do what you knew you had to do. Your efforts are truly in every Marine Corps tradition.

I did not lose a child in combat, but my wife and I did lose a child at 14 months, and we know that pain.

We had two sons after the loss of our daughter. Our firstborn son decided he wanted to be a Marine like his dad. I want to thank the Marine Corps, just like you wanted to thank those who served with your son.

Our son, Corporal Maxwell B. Pratt, served from 2007-11. He went to boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif., like I did. He went to Okinawa like I did. He came home after four years and went to college. He used the GI Bill and received a business degree and now works for a company in New Jersey.

The point is this: from hard times come good things.

Right now I'm looking at the photo of the veterans of 1st Plt, Lima Co, 3d Bn, 3d Marine Regiment on page 57 of the February issue and know you did a good thing.

LCpl Hugh B. Pratt
USMC, 1983-87
Bath, Mich.

Commemorative Series For Vietnam

I am a Marine who served in Vietnam. In the past, commemorative series were written for Marines in World War II (1941-45) and Marines in the Korean War (1950-53). Is a 50th-anniversary series going to be written about Vietnam? I have tried to find out with no success.

Michael G. Haverland
USMC, 1966-68
Livonia, Mich.

• *According to Dr. Charles Neimeyer, Director of the Marine Corps History Division, a series of commemorative histories is planned over the next seven years in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Several have already been published, and the Khe Sanh and Hue City histories will be published next year. The eventual goal is to combine all the commemorative histories into a single comprehensive volume–similar to what the History Division did for their Korean War commemorative series.—Editor*

11 Duty Stations in Three Years

My best friend, Pat Daily, and I joined the Marine Corps together on May 23, 1953. We boarded a train in Kansas City, Mo., bound for boot camp at MCRD San Diego, Calif. A few months later we were assigned to ICT at Camp Pendleton, Calif. In September 1953, Pat was assigned to Del Mar, Calif., and I went to Disbursing School at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

My next duty station was 3d MAW, NAS Opa-Locka, Fla., and approximately a year later, in November 1954, I was assigned to the Far East. I traveled to MCAS El Toro, Calif., then boarded USNS *General Nelson M. Walker* (T-AP-125) in December. While at sea we were told some were going to Korea and some to Japan. After a brief liberty at Kobe, Japan, we "Korean Marines" landed at Inchon Harbor in Korea in January 1955. We spent three days in Ascom City, Korea, traveled south three days on a train and ended up in Pohang Dong with K-3, 1st MAW.

In May 1955, I had the chance to transfer to 1st MAW, NAS Atsugi, Kanagawa, Japan, near Yokohama, until March 1956. I departed for the States from Yokohama aboard a Navy ship bound for Treasure Island, Calif.

Upon my arrival, Pat was at the bottom of the gangplank! He had been assigned to Treasure Island as a receiving clerk. We enjoyed a lot of liberty in San Francisco until our discharge on May 22, 1956. We headed back to Kansas City, Kan., in his 1955 red Plymouth convertible, two happy Marine sergeants obligated to the Corps until May 1961. We both had enlisted as eight year obligators with three years active duty and five years inactive reserve.

Sgt Harold "Hal" Yoker
USMC, 1953-56, 1966-69
Springfield, Mo.

The Corps Saved Me

I was brought up during the Depression. My father left and my mom was not able to take care of my sister and me so we were put in an orphanage.

I discovered the Marine Corps and made it my home. I loved the Corps and the assignments I had during my tenure. There is no one who loved the Corps more than me.

Our company lost 157 Marines, during Operation Meade River, out of 244 Marines. One night as I was just getting in my night defense, my CO ordered my company to move another 2,000 meters forward. It was getting dark and that's when we ran into the three machine guns. We spent the next several hours in hand-to-hand combat. Eventually "India" Co got everything under control.

I've been involved with the Marine Corps League for the past 30 years since I retired.

Capt R.E. Hoover Sr., USMC (Ret)
3d Bn, 26th Marines
Carlisle, Pa.

The Corps Needs the Support Provided by Admin Marines

This is in response to a letter about a retired gunnery sergeant that spent his entire career as an administrative Marine [MOS 0100]. His fellow Marines would tease him calling him a "Remington Raider," "typewriter jockey," and "admin pogue."

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The main point that I want to share is that all echelons of command from platoon to commanding general staffs have always and continue to supply the required administrative support. The Marine Corps would not be able to function without us admin pogues. The uniqueness of administrative personnel is of our versatile and many-sided adaptability to provide our skills to where and which unit we are assigned.

Stas Barlowski
USMC, 1965-69, 1976-92
Burnsville, N.C.

My DIs Made an Impact

Occasionally I'll read or hear about an incident involving a drill instructor who has crossed the line in their approach to training future Marines, and I understand that these incidents are rare.

When asked about who had the most influence in their lives, most of the Marines that I know and from stories that I have read, more often than not, will mention their drill instructors. Were they rough, tough and sometimes seemingly out of control—yes, but they were preparing future Marines to be the best they could be to defend our country.

As I write this, 54 years to the day that I arrived at MCRD Parris Island, I thank God for Staff Sergeant Bengin, Sergeant Volack and Sgt Cole. These three men taught a scrawny 5'4" kid, 15 days removed from high school, values that he needed to grow up, values that have served him well, especially to never quit. I was a work in progress, and they never quit on me.

My hope is that all drill instructors get the respect and appreciation they deserve and I hope they fully understand the impact that they have on all their recruits.

My head DI, SSgt Bengin, gave his all in Vietnam in 1969 and I think about him every day. Sgt Volack has passed on and Sgt Cole, if you see this, contact me as I would like to personally thank you.

Sgt Bill Ellis
USMC, 1963-67
Warrior, Ala.

I went through boot camp at Parris Island, S.C., from November 1954 to January 1955. Our senior drill instructor was Staff Sergeant Moore, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He was tough and I have to admit that I was one of his "s--tbirds" and frequently the victim of his wrath. As we were nearing graduation, he held a pep talk, and for the first time, he spoke to us as the Marines we were about to become and not the "maggots" we had been up until then.

As he did so often, he told us the importance of immediate compliance with orders given to us by a superior. But, he added, if we were ever given an order which we knew in our heart of hearts was morally wrong, we should have enough faith in our Corps and our country to disobey that order and risk the consequences. I never forgot that.

I didn't get sent to Vietnam, but if I had, thanks to Sgt Moore, I think I would have known the difference between carrying out a legal order and committing an atrocity. SSgt Moore was not only an outstanding DI, but also a very wise man. I will never forget him.

SSgt Paul E. Gill
USMC, 1954-66
Shippensburg, Pa.

Proud of My Time in the Corps

I get my copy of *Leatherneck* each month, and as an old jarhead, I read it cover to cover.

In 1947, a friend was in the local Marine Corps Reserve unit. He asked if I was interested joining the unit, and I said, "yes," but didn't know if I could pass the eye test. I joined the unit in Cumberland, Md.

It wasn't long before I said I'd like to be a regular Marine so off I went, took my test and passed everything.

I was at the rifle range in South Carolina, and although I had never shot a rifle in my life, I was high shooter on pre-qualiyfing day. That night I broke my glasses and could not see. I reported to my senior drill instructor whose name I will never forget, Staff Sergeant Lucky. He fixed my glasses so I could fire my rifle on qualifying day. I broke the range record and my name and picture was sent back to my hometown paper.

I stayed in the Corps for 21 years and 6 months then transferred to the Fleet Reserve and retired with 30 years.

I'm very proud of my time in the Corps.

Keep up the good work with the *Leatherneck*. I look forward to getting it each month.

MGySgt William W. Hunter
USMC (Ret)
1947-77
Plant City, Fla.

Marine Corps Combat Boots

I have just finished reading my March issue of *Leatherneck* and once again found the magazine very interesting. I do have one nit to pick with Randy Gaddo. His fine article on Marine combat boots was about as complete as one would want with one slight exception.

I was issued a pair of the tan boondockers on arrival for boot camp at Parris Island in January 1950. Thankfully these were about the only items of gear that did not require polishing.

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I was wearing them when I landed in Korea in the fall of 1951 but with the oncoming bitter winter, I was issued what could be called a pair of "shoe pacs." While warmer than the boondockers, they still could not withstand the bitter cold and deep snow of the Korean winter. Sometime that winter, I picked up a pair of thermal boots which we Marines quickly dubbed "Mickey Mouse boots" because they were of bulky rubber construction and did resemble Mickey's footwear. While they protected us from cold, they also caused your feet to sweat and usually required frequent changes of socks.

I was a bit surprised these were not shown in the article. As a post script to Randy's fine article, I would bet that my good friend Mawk Arnold (pictured in the article) still has a pair of his World War II "boondocker-sandals."

Jack T. Paxton, Executive Director
USMCCCA & USMCCCA Foundation
Wildwood, Fla.

In June 1960 I was in my first summer of the PLC program at Camp Upshur in Quantico, Va. We were issued black combat boots with the rough side out. The favored method of obtaining a high shine on those boots was to use Kiwi polish, water and the little glass jars in which restaurants, at the time, served cream for coffee. Polish—water—rub, rub, rub with the inverted creamer. After repeating this procedure hundreds of times, the leather would start to smooth out. Then you could finish the job using the standard method of water, Kiwi and an old cotton cloth.

When I returned to Quantico in 1962, the use of polish was forbidden. We were issued boots with the smooth side out and instructions to use nothing on them but saddle soap.

I don't remember the "McNamara boot" but I am familiar with McNamara's impact on Marine Corps footwear. In 1963 he took away the Marine officers' cordovan shoe, replacing it with Army black. A sad day for all of us at The Basic School that year.

1stLt Albert D. Bowers
USMC, 1963-66
Prescott, Ariz.

Marines in Trincomalee Today and 50 Years Ago

I am writing in reference to the article "Sri Lanka's New Marine Corps Benefits from Expertise of U.S. Marines," in the February issue.

BLT 3/3 formed at Camp Fuji, Japan and sailed Nov. 10, 1956, in response to the Suez Canal Crisis. On New Year's

[continued on page 60]

4 Myths About Renters Insurance

Written by Kate Hunger

Before writing off renters insurance as either unnecessary or too expensive, consider how much it would cost to replace your furniture, computer, clothing, food — all of your belongings — if your home were burglarized or damaged by fire, flood or a number of other causes.

Landlords insure the structure but not the belongings of their tenants. But peace of mind in the form of renters insurance can be had for about the cost of your favorite delivery pizza each month. Myths and assumptions about renters insurance sometimes stop renters from insuring their belongings, but understanding what's covered just might change your mind.

MYTH: "What I own isn't worth insuring."

Reality: Think about the total value of your belongings as if you had to start over. If your policy covers replacement cost[1], as policies from USAA do, your loss is covered for the cost of replacing your belongings, not their actual current value. In other words, your policy would pay to replace that hand-me-down plaid couch from Aunt Betty with a brand-new sofa.

"You can't think of your belongings as 'Everything I own is 10 years old, so I only need $5,000 of coverage,'" says Lisa Gaudi, director of property product management for USAA. Some items, such as jewelry, silverware and firearms, are subject to limits on loss due to theft, Gaudi notes, adding that Valuable Personal Property policies can be purchased to extend coverage for certain high-dollar items.

"You can't think of your belongings as 'Everything I own is 10 years old, so I only need $5,000 of coverage.'"

MYTH: Renters insurance is too expensive.

Reality: The average USAA renters insurance policy premium is $215 per year, and the average coverage amount is $28,000[2]. That's just under $18 a month. "For the cost of purchasing one pizza a month or a cup of coffee every week, it's really inexpensive," Gaudi says.

MYTH: Property is covered only in my residence.

Reality: Policy terms and coverage vary, but USAA policies cover your personal property whether it's in your residence or not. That means your laptop is covered in your car, on vacation — anywhere in the world.

MYTH: Renters insurance only covers losses for theft or fire.

Reality: While theft and fire are two types of loss covered by USAA renters insurance policies, there are actually 17 categories of loss covered. These include flood and water, windstorm and hail, vandalism, earthquake, volcanic eruption, and even damage caused by riots or falling objects.

USAA renters policies also include $100,000 liability coverage and $5,000 medical payments for slips and falls. Even though pets aren't covered by the policy as property, you are covered if your pet injures someone.

[1] With replacement cost coverage, at our option, subject to policy limits and policy deductible, if you actually replace the property we will pay you the lesser of our cost to restore, repair or replace the damaged property or the amount you actually spent to restore, repair or replace the property.

[2] The $215.00 per year and $28,000 average coverage calculations are based on average rolling twelve-month USAA Group in-force policies as of September 2016.

In Every Clime and Place

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

SALALAH, OMAN

11th MEU, Omani Soldiers Team Up During Sea Soldier 2017

On Feb. 15, U.S. Marines and Sailors with the *Makin Island* Amphibious Ready Group and 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit debarked USS *Somerset* (LPD-25) and landed at Senoor Beach, Oman, to begin Exercise Sea Soldier 2017.

Led by U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Exercise Sea Soldier is an annual two-week bilateral exercise aimed at enhancing communication and coordination between U.S. and Omani forces, building mutual warfighting capability and supporting long-term regional cooperation.

"Bilateral exercises like Sea Soldier are great opportunities for MEUs because Marines can disembark ships and conduct combat sustainment training in new, unfamiliar environments," said Colonel Clay C. Tipton, the 11th MEU commanding officer. "They have a chance to interact and learn from warriors of a different culture, and these exercises are conducted with key partners in the region to strengthen our collective ability to work together should we have to face emerging crises in the future."

The training includes military operations on urban terrain (MOUT); building clearing; checkpoint operations; command and control procedures; counter-IED training; live-fire ranges; squad to company tactics; mortar ranges; and the culminating final exercise,a combined Omani-U.S. raid.

"Every opportunity we have to position and launch the landing forces embarked aboard … *Somerset* is also an opportunity for our Sailors to exercise their technical and tactical expertise," said Captain Darren Glaser, USN, the commanding officer of USS *Somerset*. "Coming together as a larger, blue-green team in support of an exercise or a real-world operation is exactly what we train to do."

U.S. units participating in Sea Soldier included the 11th MEU's Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment; Combat Logistics Battalion 11; the MEU's command element; and USS *Somerset*.

In addition to USS *Somerset*, the *Makin Island* ARG, which arrived in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in late November 2016, is made up of USS *Makin Island* (LHD-8), the command ship for Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 5 and 11th MEU and amphibious dock landing ship USS *Comstock* (LSD-45).

While in the region, the Southern California-based Navy-Marine Corps team is tasked with helping ensure the free flow of commerce, providing crisis response and supporting ongoing missions in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

1stLt Adam Miller, USMC

CPL APRIL PRICE, USMC

LCpl Trevon Stubbs-Ashley, left, a rifleman with Co A, BLT 1/4, 11th MEU, prepares to run to an adjacent building while a soldier with the Royal Omani Army posts security during MOUT training, part of Exercise Sea Soldier 2017 in Oman, Feb. 26.

BAN CHAN KREM, THAILAND

Shoulder-to-Shoulder: U.S., Thai Marines Conduct MOUT Training

U.S. Marines with 1st Platoon, "Echo" Company, Battalion Landing Team 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) training with the Royal Thai Marine Corps in Ban Chan Krem, Thailand, Feb. 14.

The Marines and Sailors were in Thailand to participate in Exercise Cobra Gold 17, a co-sponsored, multinational exercise between the U.S., the Kingdom of Thailand and 27 other nations.

"The Royal Thai Marines requested this specific training, which is the foundation of [MOUT]," said First Lieutenant Christian Talarico, platoon commander, 1st Plt, Echo Co, BLT 2/5. "Our Marines are well-versed and more than capable to teach this training, which will provide a good foundation for the Thai Marines to build on and increase their proficiency."

With the assistance of interpreters, junior riflemen with the platoon led the training with customized classes on each aspect of MOUT, providing detailed demonstrations to the Thai Marines.

"We've had to communicate primarily through body language and example, with the help of interpreters," said Staff Sergeant Andres Lopez, platoon sergeant, 1st Plt, Echo Co, BLT 2/5. "It gives our junior guys a chance to practice teaching classes, develop practical training evolutions and carrying them out successfully under their leadership's supervision. It helps that a lot of what we are teaching are universal concepts for infantry Marines. Infantry, even if they are from different countries, function the same way in many aspects."

The U.S. Marine leadership tasked junior Marines with the majority of instruction and demonstration in order to build tactical expertise and professional communication skills among their latest generation of modern warfighters.

"Being responsible for creating and

SGT TIFFANY EDWARDS, USMC

U.S. and Royal Thai Marines discuss training techniques during Exercise Cobra Gold 17 in Ban Chan Krem, Thailand, Feb. 14. Junior U.S. Marines had the opportunity to teach classes to the Thai Marines during the MOUT portion of the exercise.

teaching classes and being responsible for whether the Thai Marines thoroughly learned the subject material gave the junior Marines extra leadership responsibilities," said Corporal Bradley LaFleche, 1st Squad Leader, 1st Plt, Echo Co, BLT 2/5. "Watching the development and progression of leadership skills throughout our deployment, especially with the junior Marines within my squad, has been pretty rewarding."

Cobra Gold is the largest Theater Security Cooperation exercise in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and is an integral part of the U.S. commitment to strengthen engagement in the region. During patrols of the region, the 31st MEU engages partner nations to sustain theater security and continue integrated bilateral training, furthering cohesion among militaries.

Sgt Tiffany Edwards, USMC

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.
Task Force Southwest Marines Test New Drone Capabilities

Throughout Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the armed services used unmanned aerial equipment to capture imagery of battlespaces, execute reconnaissance and conduct airstrikes on enemy targets. These devices proved indispensable in their abilities to move quickly and clandestinely.

A team of four Marines with Task Force Southwest practiced flying new drone technology, known as the Instant Eye small unmanned aerial system (SUAS), at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 8.

Unlike other drones, which require either a runway or throwing for takeoff, the Instant Eye is capable of launching and landing at 90-degree angles.

"We can take off in any direction we want and we can hover if we need to, which is a significant difference when it

SGT LUCAS HOPKINS, USMC

A Marine with Task Force Southwest flies the Instant Eye SUAS through an obstacle at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., Feb. 8. Unlike larger drones, the Instant Eye can maneuver in tightly confined spaces to record surveillance and conduct reconnaissance.

SOMAGAHARA, JAPAN

SGT ISAAC IBARRA, USMC

BLENDING IN—LCpl William Pearn, a machine gunner with Company G, 2d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, camouflages himself using surrounding vegetation during a stalking exercise, part of Exercise Forest Light 17-1 at Somagahara, Japan, March 10. Forest Light is one of various bilateral training opportunities conducted by Japan Ground Self-Defense Force and deployed U.S. Marine forces to demonstrate the enduring commitment by both countries to peace, stability and prosperity across the region.

comes to maneuverability," said Shaun Sorensen, a SUAS instructor with Training and Logistics Support Activity.

The aircraft's small size allows for optimum stealth. It uses rotary wing as opposed to fixed-wing capabilities, allowing for the device to move through tightly confined spaces such as buildings, around corners and up and over walls and hills.

"We can send this thing ahead and it can look for us," said Corporal Isaac Brown, an intelligence specialist with Task Force Southwest. "We don't have to send Marines not knowing what's on the other side of any obstacle."

According to Sorensen, the Instant Eye reduces the need for forward observation and can eliminate some of the risks associated with patrolling.

The Marines also practiced maneuvering the Instant Eye at night, through and around obstacles and indoors in order to bolster their flying skills in preparation for their nine-month deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Above all, the aircraft will greatly diminish the need to send Marines into possibly hostile areas without knowing key factors beforehand, such as the number of enemy troops or equipment.

"The Instant Eye is going to be a great tool for operations in Afghanistan; it allows us to go places we wouldn't necessarily want to for our first look," said Brown. "These systems are going to be invaluable to force protection."

Task Force Southwest is made up of approximately 300 Marines whose mission will be to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Army 215th Corps and 505th Zone National Police beginning this spring.

Sgt Lucas Hopkins, USMC

SMARDAN TRAINING AREA, ROMANIA

Exercise Promotes Interoperability Among NATO Allies

U.S. Marines from Black Sea Rotational Force (BSRF) 17.1 and soldiers from several Eastern European nations conducted combined-arms training as part of Exercise Platinum Eagle at Smardan Training Area, Romania, Feb. 19-March 1.

"We're here training with our NATO allies along with several other regional partners to increase our interoperability at the battalion and even smaller-unit level," said Captain Chase Bradford, the company commander for Weapons Company, BSRF 17.1. "This is to share our techniques and procedures at the tactical level to ensure that if we're ever called upon to defend together one of our NATO allies or regional partners, that we have the shared experiences of working together in the past."

The exercise included various ranges throughout the nearly two-week training evolution.

"We're here building those relationships with other nations," said Staff Sergeant Michael Moyer, a platoon sergeant with BSRF, who added that the exercise allowed the participating nations to collectively overcome difficulties and build faith and trust despite language barriers and differing tactics and procedures.

The event also allowed the Marines and soldiers from different countries to learn from each other as they took on the various courses of fire and witnessed their allies' capabilities.

"It's great to see the different ways that different people do things," said Moyer.

Platinum Eagle was the first of a series of military-to-military training events scheduled for BSRF 17.1 during their deployment to Eastern Europe.

"I think the most important thing the Marines can take away from here is the shared understanding of the techniques and procedures that our partners use to fight at the tactical level as well as the relationships that they're going to build out here," said Bradford. "I wake up every morning and look at my job as a Marine officer in one way, and that's to make sure the Marines are well-trained and well-taken care of to complete any mission that we ask them to accomplish."

Cpl Sean Berry, USMC

CPL SEAN J. BERRY, USMC

A U.S. Marine with BSRF 17.1 checks out a Romanian AAV during a site survey at Smardan Training Area, Romania, Feb. 22. The event was part of Exercise Platinum Eagle, a multinational exercise with NATO allies in the Black Sea region.

CPL ALVIN PUJOLS, USMC

Japanese soldiers and U.S. Marines practice AAV recovery in calm waters during Exercise Iron Fist 2017 at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 13. Sharing AAV techniques and tactics was just one part of the bilateral training exercise during which U.S. and Japanese servicemembers worked together to improve their combined operational capabilities.

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF.
Marines Share Amphibious Expertise, Assist JGSDF

The assault amphibious vehicle (AAV) is a tool that has bolstered the Marine Corps' reputation for being lethal from the sea.

During Exercise Iron Fist, which has taken place annually for more than a decade and has continued to solidify the interoperability between the USMC and the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force's Western Army Infantry Regiment, U.S. Marines taught JGSDF soldiers the basics of operating an AAV at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 13.

The JGSDF is increasing their amphibious capabilities by setting up a new unit known as the Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade, with a mission similar to that of a Marine Expeditionary Unit. As a result, the demand for knowledge and training about operating an AAV has increased.

"We will be taking everything we are learning back to Japan to start our own AAV School," said Sergeant First Class Tomohisa Hirakawa, an AAV operator with the JGSDF.

During their time in the U.S., the Japanese soldiers learned vehicle recovery, amphibious assault tactics and how to operate the AAV on land and sea.

"We have been using the 'crawl, walk, run' method to ensure the Japanese soldiers are well-prepared," said Sergeant Charles Fernandez, an AAV crewman with 3d AAB, during the training. "So yesterday we had them operate on land, today we are having them operate in calm waters and tomorrow they will operate in the open ocean."

One difficulty when operating a watercraft is the transition from land to sea.

"Operating on land is easy—the hard part is going into the water," said Hirakawa. "There are no brakes in the water so if you want to stop, you have to maneuver to a stop."

Even Fernandez, who has spent his entire Marine Corps career operating AAVs, remembers the difficulty of learning the transition from land driving to sea driving.

"There is no friction in the water and you have to remember that whenever you have to stop or maneuver in a specific direction," said Fernandez.

The Japanese soldiers faced the challenge head on and were quick to overcome any issues.

"Whenever a problem presented itself during training, the Japanese soldiers would solve the issue, and if it came up again, they would react quickly," said Fernandez. "They were not only quick learners but had an instant willing obedience to orders. Whenever I made a correction, they would immediately fix it without hesitation."

As the U.S. Marines and Japanese soldiers continued to exchange military techniques and tactics, they also built bonds and made memories. Some of the Japanese soldiers view the AAV was a symbol of the U.S. Marines' many amphibious triumphs.

"Whenever I saw an AAV, I knew it was the Marines—for me it was like their trademark," said Hirakawa. "It is an honor to be working and learning from them."

The Marines and JGSDF soldiers were scheduled to embark aboard a naval vessel and employ techniques, tactics and procedures while operating from ship to shore, putting to the test everything the JGSDF soldiers learned during the exercise.

Cpl Alvin Pujols, USMC

SGT LILLIAN STEPHENS, USMC

Several F/A-18C Hornets with VMFA-323 rest on the flight line prior to night operations at NAS Fallon, Nev., Feb. 15. The "Death Rattlers" of VMFA-323 are one of two Marine Hornet squadrons that deploy aboard Navy aircraft carriers.

FALLON, NEV.

Aviation Marines Train with Navy To Prep for Carrier Deployment

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 323 "Death Rattlers" departed Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., to conduct predeployment training with Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 11 at Naval Air Station Fallon, Nev., Jan. 25 to Feb. 23.

The Death Rattlers are one of two F/A-18 Hornet squadrons the Marine Corps has identified to deploy aboard aircraft carriers. This summer, VMFA-323 will deploy with CVW-11 as its only Marine aviation asset.

According to VMFA-323's sergeant major, SgtMaj Rob Alviso, the training evolution known as Air Wing Fallon focused on tactical air integration (TAI) and joint operations.

"Air Wing Fallon is part of the predeployment training cycle for the carrier air wing," said Major Scot Foster, the operations officer for VMFA-323. "The air wing gets together and focuses on a lot of air-specific things … a lot of large-force strikes, focusing on all the mission sets of the F/A-18, as well as the other aircraft that are part of [CVW-11]."

Together, naval aviation assets Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 8, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 75, Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 121, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VRC) 30, Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 142, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 146, VFA-147 and VFA-154 will deploy with the Death Rattlers aboard USS *Nimitz* (CVN-68) and operate within the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

"An aircraft carrier is a very visible sign of our nation's interests … ," said Foster. "Having the air wing aboard provides a reach-out capability: We can extend over land [and] we can extend out over the water. … For us as a squadron, we want to be prepared to do that."

With the resources NAS Fallon provides, Sailors and Marines were able to fulfill many predeployment training requirements, as well as refine integrations between Navy and Marine aviation assets, practicing a seamless blend between squadrons, tactical maneuvers, equipment and personnel.

During CVW-11's deployment, multiple aircraft will be required to work as a cohesive force to effectively employ their weapons system and ensure mission accomplishment.

"The entire air wing as a whole [is] getting together and focusing on the specific missions they may be asked to do aboard the carrier during deployment," said Foster. "[CVW-11] is the strike asset for the carrier strike group and this gives us an opportunity to hone our skills … to be that strike-capable asset for the admiral on the ship and do what the nation needs to do."

The Marine Corps established VMFA-323 in 1943 and the Death Rattlers have served aboard Navy vessels ever since. The squadron occasionally deploys to land-based sites, but often supports deployments at sea also added Foster.

"As a whole, the Navy and Marine Corps generals and admirals feel that it's good to maintain some of that continuity between Navy and Marine assets aboard the carrier," said Foster.

After completing training operations at NAS Fallon, VMFA-323 was scheduled to fulfill the next step in its predeployment training requirements aboard *Nimitz*.

"The nation is always going to have responsibilities for its military," said Foster. "It's important to train for that and prepare for that. Prior to deployment, we need to go out the door being trained and prepared for any of the tasks or missions that we may be asked to do. Air Wing Fallon is one step in that process."

Sgt Lillian Stephens, USMC

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Corps Connections

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

Farmingdale, N.Y.

COURTESY OF JAMIE B. DEPAOLA

Female WW II Veterans Honored During Luncheon

A multigenerational group of female Marine veterans gathered at the Black Forest Brew Haus in Farmingdale, N.Y., Feb. 18, at the 74th anniversary luncheon for Area 1, Women Marines Association. During the luncheon, three World War II female Marine veterans from New York were presented with certificates of special congressional recognition, awarded by U.S. Representative Lee Zeldin. Seated in the center of the photo, Josephine Cerbelli, Barbara Kruse and Annabelle Weiss also received their WW II Victory Medals during the luncheon. Kruse, who enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943, and Cerbelli and Weiss, who enlisted in 1944, were among a group of "trailblazer Marines," once ordinary women who chose to do something extraordinary by joining the ranks of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve in response to the nation's sudden entrance into the war, said Jamie B. DePaola, Area 1 Director, Women Marines Association.

During the luncheon, the attendees heard from guest speaker Edna Susman, who has begun documenting thousands of untold stories from female veterans through her involvement in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. Events like those sponsored by the Women Marines Association are yet another way that the stories of female veterans can be told, shared and passed along to future generations.

Submitted by Jamie B. DePaola

Camden, Ala.

Alabama Marines Assist Fellow Veteran in Need

During the 2016 holiday season, Marines from across the nation came to the aid of one of their own. Sergeant Kimberly Spruell left active duty and returned home to Camden, Ala., with her 14-year-old daughter, Aria, to care for her ailing mother and grandmother. In a county with an unemployment rate of around 19 percent, Spruell could not find a job and had to sell her car to feed her family and pay overdue utility bills. The family's home was in disrepair and they had no form of transportation.

Spruell's plight came to the attention of Marines through *The Birmingham News* and a local radio talk show. Without hesitation, the Marine Corps League detachments in Hoover, Ala., and Mobile, Ala., the Alabama Marine Foundation, the Recon Sniper Foundation and individual Marines across the nation pitched in to help the Spruell family. They gave her a car, paid her auto insurance and living expenses, provided relocation assistance in the form of a year's rent for an apartment and helped her find a job in Mobile, Ala. They also bought groceries for her and presented her with an Amazon.com gift certificate.

Spruell said she was amazed at the "gung ho" spirit of what she calls her "beloved big brother Marines."

COURTESY OF JOHN O'MALLEY

From the left, Jackie Grant, Gardendale Kia Customer Relations Manager; Ed Smith Jr., Commandant of the Victor "Brute" Krulak Detachment, Alabama Marine Corps League; Kimberly Spruell; Aria Spruell; John O'Malley and Tom Krebs stand together at the Gardendale Kia dealership where Spruell was presented with her car. The Alabama Marines exemplified the true spirit of "Semper Fidelis."

Submitted by Thomas Krebs

Virginia Beach, Va.

Foreign Policy Work Group Connects Students, Marine Corps Leaders

John Sutton, a teacher at First Colonial High School in Virginia Beach, Va., created the Foreign Policy Work Group (FPWG) in 2011 with the help of five JROTC students. The FPWG is a program designed to advance students' knowledge of international affairs, constitutional law and international law and studies. The program gives students opportunities to meet with notable figures such as Brigadier General Michael S. Groen, then-Director of Marine Corps Intelligence, pictured here with FPWG students at Naval Air Station Oceana, April 2016. Since Sutton began the program, 100 students have participated in 34 briefings with foreign policy experts, military leaders and decision makers. He has taken students to the Pentagon and provided them with opportunities to meet or hear from two Secretaries of Defense, the Director and Chief Legal Counsel of the CIA, the Attorney General of the United States and several Marine Corps general officers.

COURTESY OF MCKENZIE DOUGHERTY

Submitted by McKenzie Dougherty

Da Nang, Vietnam

COURTESY OF CAPT EDWARD F. "TED" BRONSON, USN (RET)

Capodanno Honored at Vietnam Memorial Mass

Beloved by the Marine Corps for his selfless devotion and for making the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam for which he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, Father Vincent R. Capodanno lives on through namesake chapels, memorials, military buildings, art, awards and scholarships. And since 2013, an annual mass in Da Nang, Vietnam, pays tribute to the chaplain whose love for Marines made him a legend of the Corps.

This year, on Feb. 13, Da Nang Bishop Joseph Ngan Duc Dang, center, came to the foot of the altar at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Da Nang after the conclusion of the Lieutenant Capodanno Vietnam Mass and thanked the Washington Navy Yard Parish, Washington, D.C., for providing a stipend that helped fund the event which included a large meal. He was surrounded by other members of the clergy, along with Captain John M. Shimotsu, USN, U.S. Pacific Command senior chaplain, third from right, and CAPT Edward F. "Ted" Bronson, USN (Ret), front row, second from the left.

For years, Bronson has volunteered his time and efforts to ensure that the heroism displayed by LT Capodanno is not forgotten around the world. In 2008, he helped orchestrate the annual memorial mass for Capodanno at the Washington Navy Yard Chapel. A few years later, he helped organize a memorial mass in Italy, and then in Da Nang in 2013. He has returned to Vietnam for the mass each year. Next year's Capodanno memorial masses in Vietnam will take place Feb. 11-12, 2018.

Submitted by CAPT Edward F. "Ted" Bronson, USN (Ret)

"Corps Connections" highlights the places and events through which active-duty and veteran Marines connect with one another, honor the traditions of the Corps and recognize the achievements of their fellow leathernecks. We welcome submissions of photos from events like the ones featured here. Send them to: Sara W. Bock, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail them to s.bock@mca-marines.org. Submission does not guarantee publication, and we cannot guarantee the return of photos.

KOREA 1952:

Firefight at Outpost 3

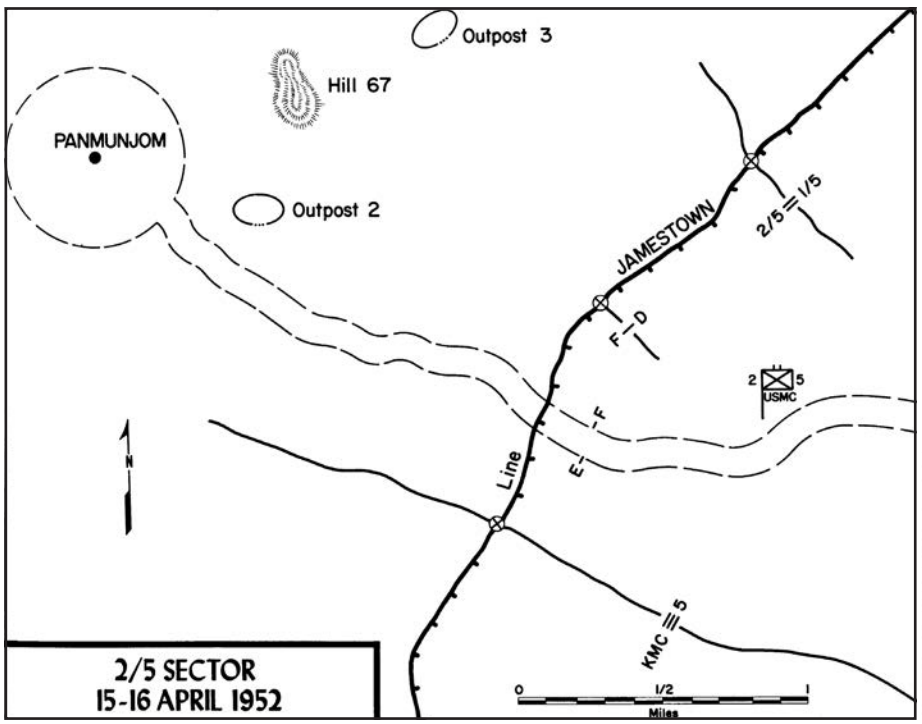
By Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua
USMC (Ret)

"There were 80 of us on that hill when an estimated 600-800 Chinese hit us hard that night. Sixty-six of us were killed, wounded or missing."
PFC Edgar "Bart" Dauberman, USMC
"Easy" Company, 2d Battalion
5th Marines

In the spring of 1952, General James A. Van Fleet, USA, Commander, 8th United States Army in Korea and supreme commander of all Allied Forces in Korea, undertook one of the most audacious operations in the history of warfare. With his Army fully engaged against Chinese and North Korean communists across the Korean peninsula, GEN Van Fleet completely realigned his entire force. Dubbed Operation Mixmaster, thousands of men and vehicles and thousands upon thousands of tons of supplies and equipment were shuttled hundreds of miles to new positions over a period of more than one week. It was a daringly unprecedented operation, and the Chinese and North Koreans, who could have ruined it all, were caught flat-footed.

For Major General John T. Selden's First Marine Division, Operation Mixmaster meant a move across the width of Korea, from positions near Pohang on Korea's eastern coast to a new location on the extreme left of the 8th Army line in the far west. From its new position on the Kimpo Peninsula west of Seoul on the Yellow Sea, the assigned sector of the 1stMarDiv stretched 32 miles eastward to the Samichon River, where it linked up with its "brother" division, the British Commonwealth Division. Thirty-two miles was an extraordinarily large stretch of front for a division to cover, but it was no coincidence that the two divisions were sited in such a manner. In planning the relocation of his forces, GEN Van Fleet specifically directed that what he termed "the two most powerful divisions in Korea" be positioned to block any Chinese attempt to access the Uijongbu Corridor, the traditional and natural geographic invasion route into South Korea.

One of 1stMarDiv's first tasks in taking over its sector of the Main Line of Resistance (MLR), dubbed the Jamestown Line, was the establishment of a Combat Outpost Line (COPL) designed to break up any Chinese attack against the MLR. Most of these outposts were quickly, if unofficially, dubbed by Marines with names of famous motion picture and TV stars; Hedy, Dagmar, Marilyn, Esther and Ingrid, while others reflected names in the news: Siberia, Warsaw, Berlin and East Berlin. One of the first combat outposts received nothing more in the way of identification than a number, Outpost 3 (OP 3). It would be the scene of the first Chinese attempt to test the COPL, and while it was a small engagement in light of things to come, it would entail some of the heaviest fighting of the Korean War. There, on an otherwise insignificant hill, a small reinforced platoon of Marines withstood every attempt by two Chinese regiments to exterminate them and wrote a lasting tale of courage in their blood and steadfast resistance.



COURTESY OF USMC HISTORY DIVISION

Before there was any shooting, however, there was a full ration of plain, old-fashioned, back-breaking work. Not an overpowering hill compared to the heights that confronted 1stMarDiv in the eastern region of Korea, OP 3 boasted an elevation of 400 feet. That, however, was the hill's elevation above sea level. In tactical terms, the hill rose little more than 70 feet above the surrounding terrain. If not overpoweringly tall, the hill covered a good bit of ground, a very good bit of ground to be defended by a platoon, even a reinforced platoon. Nor did the hill possess even the most rudimentary of fighting positions. Every bunker, every weapons emplacement, every inch of trench line had to be dug and dug and dug.

The task of all this digging, manual hauling of timbers and filling of sand bags, fell to the 2d Platoon of Capt Charles C. "Cary" Matthews' E Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines ("Easy"/2/5). There would be a full ration of sweating, straining work and, while none of the platoon were aware of it, not overly much time to complete it. Watching them intently from concealed positions on the bulky hill mass of Taedok-San to their front, Chinese observers were following their every move. Farther to the rear, two entire regiments of the 195th Division, Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) 65th Army were making final preparations for what they intended to be the obliteration of the handful of Marines on OP 3. They would be supported by the fires of 10 artillery battalions fielding 106 guns, in calibers ranging from

SGT ANGELO ROBERT CARAMICO, USMC

The 8th Army and the 1stMarDiv had 20 days to move 200,000 men and their equipment over distances ranging from 25 to more than 150 miles in an effort to realign forces. LSTs were used to move Marine tanks from one battlefront to another.

76 mm to 152 mm and one battalion of self-propelled, high-velocity 76 mm direct fire guns, all courtesy of the Soviet Union.

As Tuesday, April 15, 1952, dawned over OP 3, Lieutenant Dean Morley, platoon leader of 2d Plt of Easy/2/5, awakened to what appeared to be yet any other day, one he hoped would be uneventful. Throughout the day, Dean Morley got his wish. The Chinese continued to be relatively nonconfrontational. On OP 3, the Marines of the 2d Plt contented themselves with making improvements to their positions, gnawing at C-rations, making small talk and speculating on when the battalion would be withdrawn to regimental reserve and the intriguing possibility that there might be a shower point set up. Two machine-gun squad leaders, Sergeant Arthur G. "Artie" Barbosa and Corporal Duane E. Dewey, made their usual daily checks of ammunition supply and marking stakes for principal direction of fire and final protective lines. In the 60 mm mortar section like routine preparations were undertaken. None of it was lackadaisical, and everything was done competently and professionally. There was no sense in getting caught with your skivvies at half-mast. All in all, though, it was just another day on OP 3.

That ended abruptly during the waning hours of April 15. At 2330, a single green star shell was fired from the vicinity of Hill 67, which subsequent information would reveal to be the forward headquarters of the 195th CCF Division some 1,900 yards to the northwest. Everyone who was on watch on OP 3 saw it. Everyone back on the MLR saw it. Everyone knew what it meant. The Chinese were about to register their preparatory fires as a prelude to a major ground attack.

When the Chinese fire came, it came methodically and deliberately in the form of 76 mm howitzers and 122 mm mortars controlled by forward observers on Taedok-San. The Chinese, who tended to be quite skillful in these matters, raked OP 3 from front to rear and from side to side, concentrating their effort on key positions. The Marines of the 2d Plt, who had sweated, strained and voiced their displeasure at all the manual labor that went into fortifying the hill, hunkered gratefully in the bunkers they had built as the ground about them rocked like an earthquake, fires lighting up the night sky with the brilliance of a fireworks display.

Amazingly, despite the intensity of the Chinese fire, there were no Marine casualties as the Chinese gave OP 3 a first-class working over. To Marines with an ear for such things, though, there was a disturbing uneasiness at the lack of any evidence of the presence of incoming 122 mm or 152 mm artillery rounds in the downpour of shells pummeling the position. That could mean but one thing: the Chinese were saving their heavy hitters for the main event. It wasn't a comforting thought.

As suddenly as it had begun, the volcano of fire that engulfed OP 3 ended about 20 minutes later as another green star shell was fired from the same position as the first. No Marine on OP 3 had to be told what would be coming next. After an eerie quiet that lasted about five minutes, a third signal pyrotechnic fired once again from Hill 67 bathed the area out in front of OP 3 in a lurid green light which gave every tense face on the outpost an unsettling corpse-like tinge. No one had much time to contemplate that. Even before the

TSGT JACK A. SLOCKBOWER, USMC

Sgt Kenneth R. Snyder and Sgt Lucien Parent manned a light machine gun at a Marine outpost in Korea in April 1952.

illumination completely burned itself out, the Chinese, in what seemed to be inexhaustible numbers, came out of the dark and began moving toward OP 3.

When the Chinese came, they came in near mechanical waves, as though there were some manner of machine back behind Taedok-San grinding out rank after rank of automatons. If they were automatons, they were well-directed automatons, advancing implacably against the front and both sides of the Marines' defensive positions. The entire perimeter erupted in a blaze of muzzle flashes as the defenders of OP 3 laid into the oncoming tide of Chinese with everything they had. It was a one-sided contest. There were too many Chinese and not enough Marines spread over too large an area.

Soon enough, the attacking Chinese had totally enveloped OP 3 on all sides and were firing into the defenders from every point of the compass. With more Chinese following close behind, some forced their way into the forward positions by sheer weight of numbers. In the process they gave Hospital Corpsman Second Class Jerome "Jerry" Natt a baptism of fire that would have been hard to duplicate.

Jerry Natt had joined Easy/2/5 shortly after noon that day and had been sent forward at dark to join the platoon on OP 3. Assigned to a bunker with two Marines and advised to get some sleep, he was told that he would get an orientation tour in the morning. The Chinese arrived first, and with them came casualties. Immediately there was the cry of, "Corpsman!" One of the first to send up that call was one of the Marines Natt had shared the bunker with to "get some sleep."

The wounded Marine—Natt didn't know his name—was outside in a firing position. It was as dark as the inside of a cat out there. The corpsman could only attempt to find the man's wound by feel. Eventually, it was revealed to be a chest wound. Only because of the strobe-like light produced by incoming was Natt able to see well enough to stop the bleeding and put a dressing on the wound. Natt never forgot his abrupt "Introduction to Ground Combat 101," nor did he ever learn the name of the first combat casualty he treated. There would be more.

One among those was platoon leader Lt Morley, who went down hard hit (he would survive) and unable to continue. Lt Bill Maughan, a "short timer" due to depart in only several days, assumed command of the platoon. Maughan, a former enlisted Marine who had served in China before being commissioned, was immediately confronted by a problem, one that had been a disturbing possibility and was now a reality. Outpost 3 was too big an area to defend and there were too few Marines to adequately defend it.

COURTESY OF MAJ ALLAN C. BEVILACQUA, USMC (RET)

MGySgt Leland Brinkman and a fellow Marine in front of the OP3 Command Post, Korea 1952.

Slowly, steadily, the defenders of OP 3, taking their wounded with them and keeping the Chinese at bay, withdrew into a tight perimeter in the southeastern corner of the hill. It was a barroom brawl every step of the way, Marines and Chinese locked into a welter of personal combat featuring rifle butts, fighting knives, entrenching tools and bare fists. They were getting help from the 81 mm mortars of Weapons Co, the 5th Marines 4.2-inch mortars back on the MLR and the 105 mm howitzers of Lieutenant Colonel James R. Haynes' 1st Battalion, 11th Marines that pounded the Chinese relentlessly. Adding their voices to the symphony of explosives were the 155 mm howitzers of LtCol Bruce F. Hillam's 4th Bn, 11th Marines ranging farther back to punish Chinese assembly areas. It was not at all easy. Through rock-hard resistance and inspiring acts of personal courage beyond counting, the Marines established a defensible perimeter, but something had been left behind.

A member of the 60 mm mortar section was the first to notice it. A significant amount of 60 mm ammunition had been left behind. When you have both hands engaged in fighting the man who is attempting to kill you, there aren't enough hands left over to tug along a crate of ammunition in the bargain. Another part of that bargain is the fact that a pair of 60 mm mortars are of scant use if there is no ammunition for them. Somehow that ammunition had to be retrieved by whatever means necessary. That was when Stanley "Stan" Wawrzyniak took over. Wawrzyniak, the company gunnery sergeant and no stranger to combat, had volunteered to accompany the platoon to OP 3 just to see if he could "help out."

GySgt Wawrzyniak could smell a firefight from 5 miles off, and he couldn't be paid to miss one. The situation on OP 3 looked promising. Already a holder of the Navy Cross for his valorous acts while "helping out" during the bitterly contested battle for Hill 812 in eastern Korea the previous fall, he proved once again his uncanny ability to be the right man at the right time. A man utterly without fear, he waded into the hail of incoming fire and swarming Chinese not once or twice

but three times, returning each time with two cases of urgently needed ammunition. Being wounded during one of these forays didn't stop him. After his final trip, he waved off medical attention to make a complete circuit of the new perimeter to direct the fires of individual positions. Only after that, did Wawrzyniak consent to allow a corpsman to stop the leakage of blood from two separate wounds. For his actions in the early morning hours of April 16, 1952, GySgt Stan Wawrzyniak would receive a gold star in lieu of a second Navy Cross.

(Author's note: It was my good fortune to know LtCol Stan Wawrzyniak as a friend for many years until his death. He truly was that combat oddity, a man utterly without fear. Stan Wawrzyniak would not have backed off from an enraged gorilla.)

As chaotic as the situation on OP 3 was, it was not without one saving grace. For all the ferocity of the Chinese ground assault, that assault was not properly supported by artillery. Despite meticulously registering their fires on the positions of Easy/2/5 on the hill, when the Chinese infantry moved forward, the fires of the artillery were, for the most part, some 1,000 yards off target. While there was enough incoming on the hill itself to keep life from being dull and uninteresting, the bulk of the Chinese fires were falling off to the west at the time when they were most needed. Had some Chinese forward observer misread his map? Had the Chinese fire direction center incorrectly calculated elevation and deflection? Had someone erred in plotting the gun-target line?

USMC

Cpl Duane E. Dewey

Whatever the cause, it was enough to allow the defenders of OP 3 a few fleeting moments to catch their breath. As quickly as the Chinese attack had begun, it stopped, and the Chinese infantry withdrew to regroup before coming on again, this time properly supported by artillery.

While the first Chinese attack had approached tidal-wave proportions, the second Chinese attempt to wrest control of OP 3 struck like a human avalanche. By this time half of the defenders of OP 3 were dead or wounded. That didn't prevent the wounded who still were capable of using a weapon, however, from using it to good effect. The Chinese were resolved to take the outpost. The Marines were even more resolved to hold it.

Hell was in session on OP 3, and machine-gun squad leader Sgt Artie Barbosa was suddenly fighting a one-man war. With his entire squad but one down, killed or wounded Sgt Barbosa manned the gun himself, laying withering streams of fire on Chinese attacking from two directions. As one after another of his squad fell, Barbosa, despite the deadly Chinese fire directed at him, single-handedly carried the machine gun and tripod to a position where it could enfilade both sides of the Chinese avenues of attack. Through his actions, Sgt Barbosa laid a carpet of dead Chinese at the points where the attackers came closest to breaching the perimeter.

While it cannot be said that any one man saved the day on OP 3, had Artie Barbosa not been there, the outcome of the firefight on OP 3 may have had a different ending. The Marine Corps felt the same way. For his courage and complete disregard for his own safety, Sgt Artie Barbosa would receive the Navy Cross. Rifleman Bart Dauberman, who lives today in Pennsylvania, still thinks

USMC

The 1stMarDiv was tasked with establishing a Combat Outpost Line designed to break up any Chinese attack against the MLR.

it should have been the Medal of Honor.

If Artie Barbosa didn't receive America's highest award for military valor, Cpl Duane Dewey did. Duane Dewey, the squad leader of the other machine-gun squad that fought on OP 3, had his hands as full as anyone beating off what seemed to be a never ending supply of Chinese. Then a Chinese grenade landed alongside a corpsman who was caring for a wounded Marine.

Duane Dewey didn't hesitate. He shoved the corpsman aside and threw himself atop the deadly device—after first putting his helmet over it. Incredibly, despite offering up his own life to save the lives of others, Cpl Dewey lived. One year later, fully recovered, Duane Dewey went to the White House where recently inaugurated President Dwight D. Eisenhower placed the blue ribbon of the Medal of Honor about his neck. Asked why he had first placed his helmet over the grenade that was about to detonate, he replied that he thought "maybe it wouldn't hurt so bad." Duane Dewey is made of tough stuff. He spends his time today in Florida and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He still attends Easy/2/5 reunions.

There were courageous acts aplenty in a night that was torn apart by explosions and the never ending deadly roar of gunfire. One of the most courageous among those was the action of SSgt Quinton Barlow, the 2d Plt's platoon sergeant—he was the man who seemed to be everywhere at once. If there was any point at which the Chinese threatened to break through the perimeter, SSgt Barlow was there to pitch in and help beat it back. Moving from position to position amid a whiplash storm of incoming fire, Quinton Barlow went undeterred from one threatened point to another, giving no thought to his own safety, always managing to be in the most dangerous location. Quinton Barlow would become the third defender of OP 3 to receive the Navy Cross.

Almost as quickly as the firefight on OP 3 had begun, it ended. The Chinese attackers had met more than their match. Two entire regiments of Chinese never succeeded in their objective of wresting OP 3 from less than 100 Marines who intended to hold the hill or die on it. The sole Chinese who succeeded in breaking through that stalwart wall were three who were immediately overcome and taken prisoner. They seemed to be glad to be out of it.

At daybreak on April 16, the defenders of OP 3 were relieved. As they filed off the hill, they brought nine of their dead and 39 of their wounded with them. They brought as well one Medal of Honor, three Navy Crosses, six Silver Stars, four Bronze Stars and a basket full of Purple Hearts.

Has there ever been such an engagement in all of Marine Corps history, one in which so many testimonials to bravery and valor were showered on a single reinforced platoon? It would be interesting to find out.

Less than a week later, OP 3 was abandoned. The hill was simply too large to be defended by much less than a company, and the MLR could not spare a company for duty on an outpost. The war in Korea would go on and battles involving much larger units would be fought. Places with names such as Yoke, Bunker Hill, Ungok, the three Nevada Outposts (Reno, Carson and Vegas) and the Hook would all find their way into the record before the guns fell silent at Boulder City on July 27, 1953.

The firefight on OP 3, a minor engagement compared to the much larger battles in that war 65 years ago, would be forgotten, earning at most a page or two in Korean War histories. It would not be forgotten, however, by the Marines of Easy/2/5 who were there. They will gather one last time this summer, those who are still with us, men well into their 80s, to recall those long ago days and the men they shared them with. So many of those Marines of Easy/2/5 have answered their final roll call. After this last gathering, the proud banner that hung over their annual reunions will be presented to the 1stMarDiv for safekeeping, perhaps to serve as a testimonial to what rock-hard Marine resolve and Marine courage can achieve.

Author's note: Deep gratitude and appreciation are owed MGySgt Leland "Lee" Brinkman, USMC (Ret) and Marine veteran PFC Edgar "Bart" Dauberman, Easy/2/5 Marines who were there, for their invaluable assistance in putting this narrative together.

Author's bio: Maj Allan C. Bevilacqua, a Leatherneck *contributing editor, is a former enlisted Marine who served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, as well as on an exchange tour with the French Foreign Legion. Later in his career, he was an instructor at Amphibious Warfare School and Command and Staff College, Quantico, Va.*

LCPL BRIDGET M. KEANE, USMC

Marine veteran 1stSgt Arthur Barbosa looks at a display at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Command Museum, containing a photo taken of him more than 60 years ago. Barbosa received the Navy Cross for his courageous actions while serving as a squad leader with E/2/5, 1stMarDiv during the Korean War.

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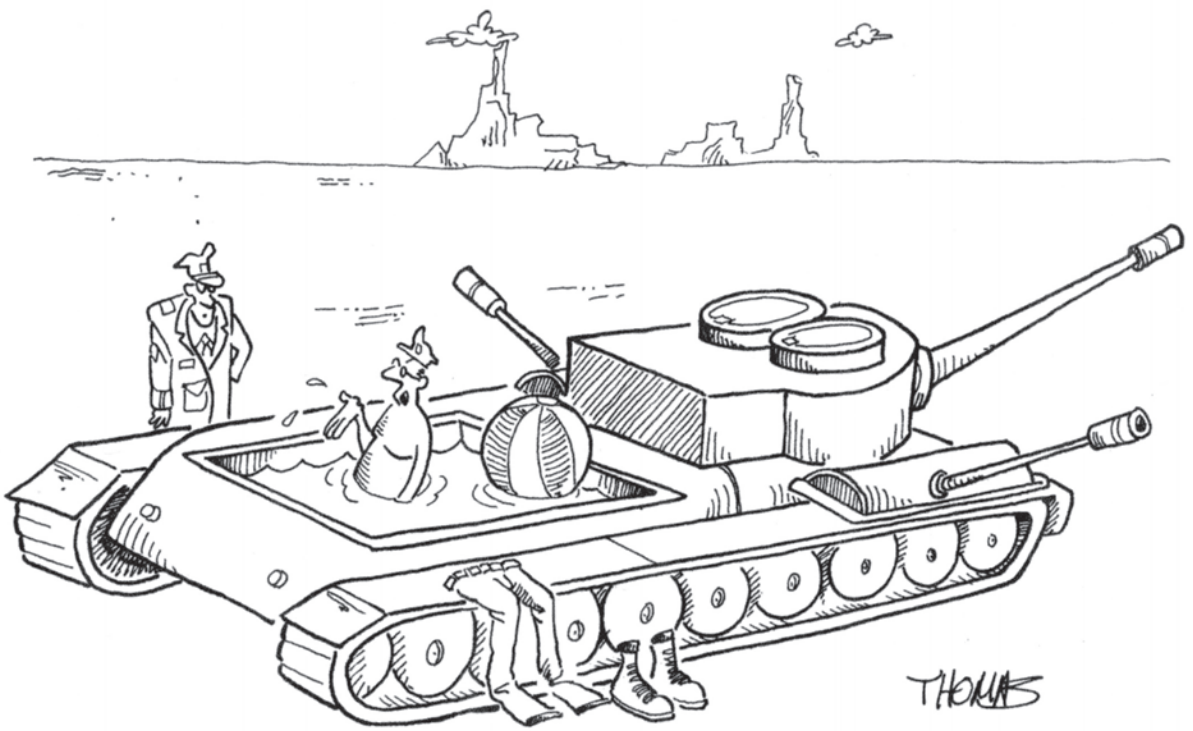
"I'd love to post this food picture on Facebook to find out what it really is."

"Circulation issues? Doc, sleeves are up again!"



"Haven't you ever heard of a luxury model?"

"Say, 'at ease.' "

"Now, try opening at least one eye."

"No time for breaks, Marine!"

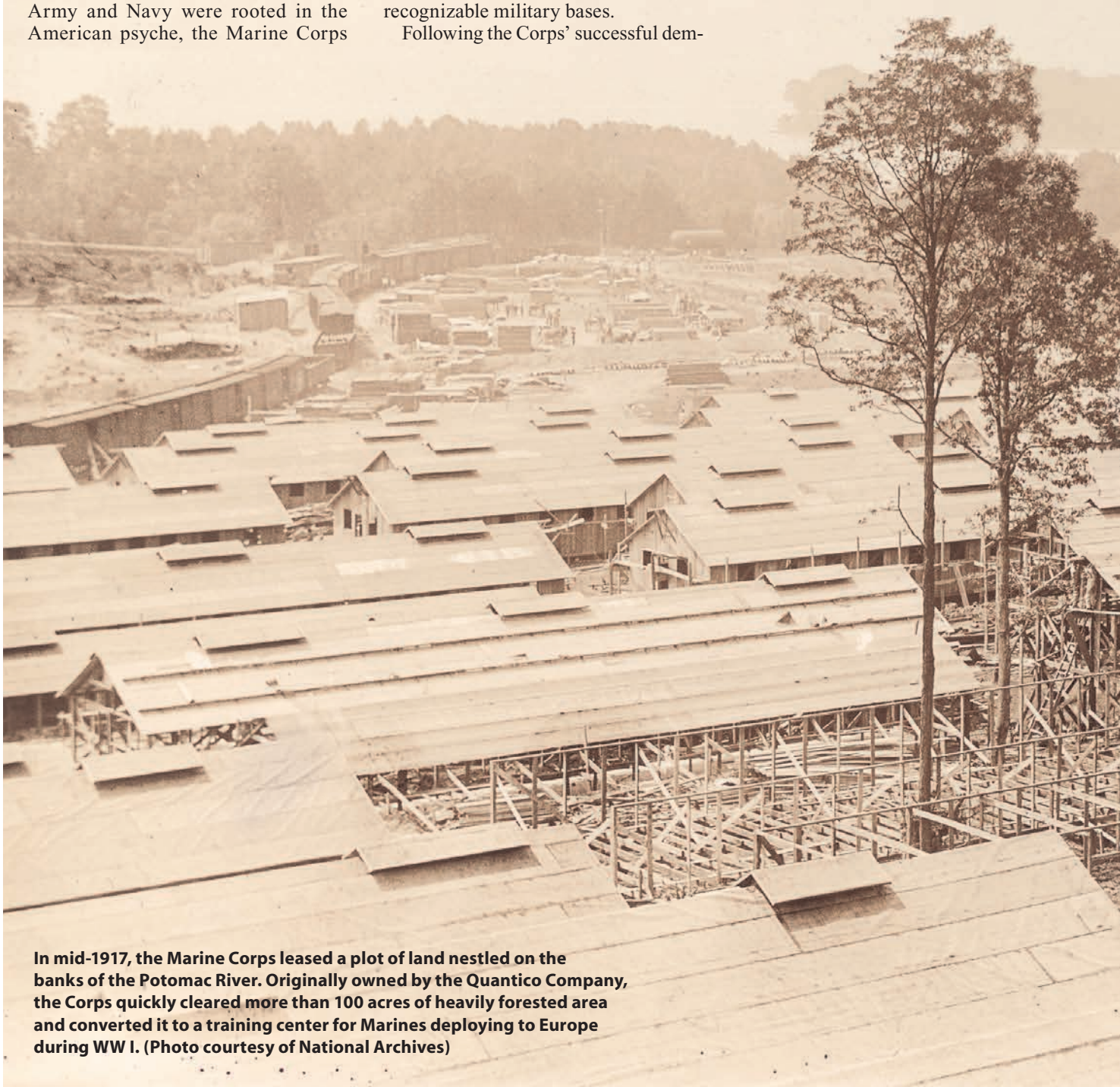
"Put your arm down, fool!"

A Legacy of Our Past
THE BIRTH OF QUANTICO

By Jennifer Collins and Bradley Davis

At the turn of the century, a series of budget and manning crises crippled the American military apparatus, and while the roles of the Army and Navy were rooted in the American psyche, the Marine Corps remained the country's most understaffed and least known military institution. It was amid this uncertainty that a solution began to take shape, one that would not only be a turning point in the Corps' fighting capabilities but would also result in the creation of one of the world's most recognizable military bases.

Following the Corps' successful demonstration of its expeditionary capabilities during the Spanish-American War, the Secretary of the Navy convened a board to resolve a variety of disputes over America's naval defenses. It was under the purview of this board that the Advanced Base Force concept was created.



In mid-1917, the Marine Corps leased a plot of land nestled on the banks of the Potomac River. Originally owned by the Quantico Company, the Corps quickly cleared more than 100 acres of heavily forested area and converted it to a training center for Marines deploying to Europe during WW I. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)

Originally designed to keep the Marine Corps adaptable across global waterways, it wouldn't be until January 1914 that the concept matured to the point that field exercises were possible.

Elements of the Advanced Base Force demonstrated amphibious strength in Veracruz, Haiti, and Santo Domingo from 1914-16.

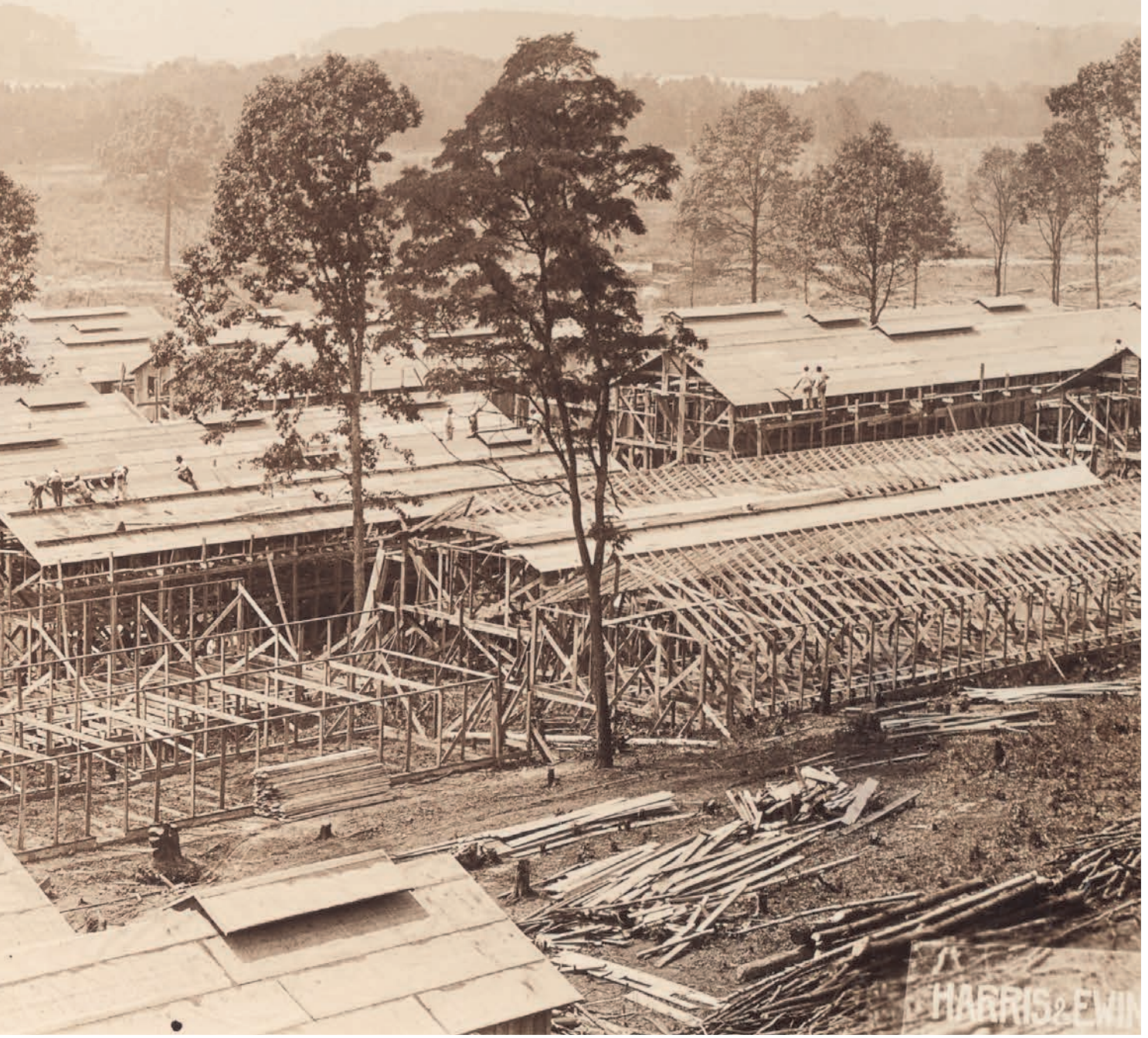
The Marine Corps was not the only institution developing and demonstrating an emboldened military prowess.

On the European continent, Germany and the other Central Powers were engaged in a war that would shape the world.

Months of U-boat attacks and unrestricted submarine warfare on Allied ships barely affected the neutral United States. That changed in May 1915, when a German U-boat sank *Lusitania*, a British passenger ship, killing hundreds on board and turning the tide of American public opinion. Though the United States still resisted declaring war on the Central Powers, American service branches immediately began preparing for the impending conflict.

Fulfilling both the Advanced Base Force concept and the inevitable march toward war, Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island opened in South Carolina in October 1915 with a second Marine base in San Diego, Calif., opening in January 1916. The expansion of Marine Corps recruiting capabilities coincided with an increase in Corps strength, which in mid-1916 stood at approximately 11,000. In August, President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Defense Act of 1916, authorizing an increase in Corps strength to nearly 16,000 with an emergency quota of roughly 18,000, effectively ensuring that both recruit depots would be filled to maximum capacity.

The explosive expansion of authorized strength, however, didn't shock Corps leadership. The Corps' problem, however,



Below: Contrary to today's host of activities, early Quantico lacked many of the amenities of a Marine Corps base.

COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

was one of space—even with the expansion of bases at Parris Island and San Diego, it needed a larger, post-boot camp installation to teach the Advanced Base Force concept. The new Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General Barnett, was also aware of this need as he advocated for the establishment of a new Marine Corps base on the Atlantic in his fiscal year reports for both 1915 and 1916.

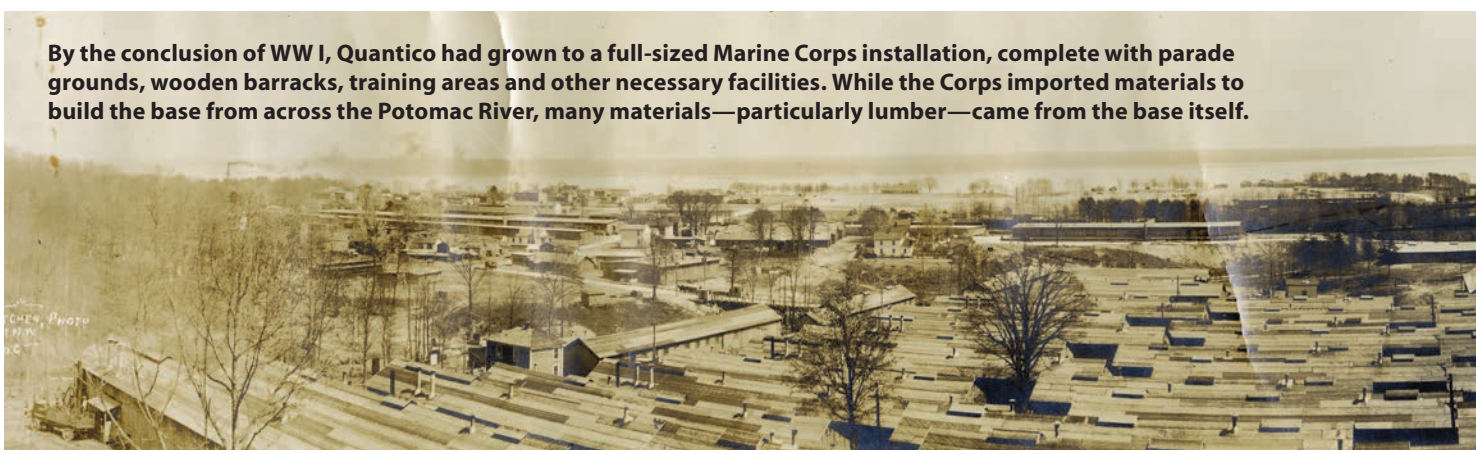
The logical plea, however, went unheeded until the onset of war, when suddenly the previously overlooked request became a priority. Compounding the problem of a necessary base was President Wilson's declaration of emergency, authorizing the increase of Corps strength to roughly 18,000. On April 6, 1917, four days after the President's request to Congress, both houses voted to declare war on Germany with the Marine Corps having neither a base nor the maximum strength necessary to wage a war across the globe.

Knowing the advancing war effort would soon consume current service capacity, MajGen Barnett wasted no time in searching for land. He appointed a board composed of Col Charles A. Doyen, Lieutenant Colonel George Van Orden and Captain Seth Williams and tasked them with "recommending a site in [the Washington] vicinity for a temporary training camp and maneuver field for the Marine Corps." His requirements for the site included accommodations, space to maneuver and a rifle range for roughly 7,500 men. While the board's original choice—a camp in the local vicinity with a nearby location for maneuver and target ranges—was voted down, their second option, Quantico, Va. fared much better.

Originally a plot of land given to the Brent family by King George II, Quantico was one of the earliest tobacco farms in the New World before it transitioned to a fishing and mining town. The Quantico Company, tasked with urbanizing and expanding business in Quantico, had fallen on hard times. Despite the company's best efforts to increase shipbuilding and tourism in the region, the town remained relatively unsettled, ungroomed and underutilized.

On April 23—approximately a week after the initial inspection—the three-man

By the conclusion of WW I, Quantico had grown to a full-sized Marine Corps installation, complete with parade grounds, wooden barracks, training areas and other necessary facilities. While the Corps imported materials to build the base from across the Potomac River, many materials—particularly lumber—came from the base itself.



Much like their modern counterparts, Marines stationed at Quantico in 1917 participated in a variety of training, including hand-to-hand combat.

COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

board reported to MajGen Barnett that Quantico not only "fulfilled all requirements of a ... training camp for the Marine Corps" but it also met "all the requirements for a permanent post, except that it [was] not on deep water." After a series of brief negotiations, the federal government leased approximately 5,300 acres—enough room for 7,000 men to train, maneuver and sleep—and the future of the once-quiet town was forever changed.

It was the next board, however, that was the most important. Composed of Navy and Marine Corps officers—including Brigadier General John A. Lejeune—the board was charged with laying a rough outline for the installation. While initially unimpressed, the board created a comprehensive, sprawling plan to utilize all available acreage in order to build a base worthy of the greatest expeditionary force the world had ever seen.

Despite the length of time it took to secure a Marine Corps base on the East Coast, the staffing, clearing and building of the new installation seemingly happened overnight. Arriving from Marine Barracks Annapolis on May 14, 1917, a company of Marines descended upon the new territory and turned the Commandant's vision into reality. In a December 1917 issue of *The Quantico Leatherneck*, First Lieutenant Charles Phelps Cushing remarked that, in six short weeks, "the construction contractors had cleared upward of a hundred acres of forest, and a small city of one-story wooden barracks was open to receive a regiment of Marines [who arrived] to begin training for service

COURTESY OF MARINE CORPS HISTORY DIVISION

overseas." What once was a sprawling forest with barely enough cleared space to hold a formation had become a massive complex of wooden barracks with wells, sewage systems and telephone lines. It was a far cry from more modernized bases elsewhere, but it was significant improvement over the original structure.

Four short days after the opening of the base, the first group of Marines arrived for training. Having declared war on the Central Powers just over a month prior, these Marines, along with new arrivals and far-flung elements of the Advanced Base Force, would merge to form the Corps' Fifth Regiment, a cohort of Marines trained to serve alongside the Army as part of the first expeditionary force deployed to the Western Front.

While hindsight paints a patriotic image of Marines serving their country, the reality of Quantico in 1917 is far less rosy. The 6th Regiment, composed primarily of college-age men who enlisted after the declaration of war and officers, both seasoned professionals and newly commissioned, found the base to be particularly inhospitable. Wagons and ox-carts were the primary method of transportation, and while horses provided some measure of stability during the winter and spring, Quantico's roads quickly became swamps when it rained. As time went on, however, Quantico continued to grow and modern innovations helped the base become more urbanized. The government allotted a significant portion of funding to the paving of roads and parade decks across Marine Barracks Quantico, and the trainees grew increasingly excited as wooden barracks sprouted up on the outskirts of the installation and replaced the less-than-hospitable tent camps. In June 1917, Gunnery Sergeant Frank F. Zissa wrote to his wife that, "Over one hundred [of the barracks] are under construction with nearly half that number nearly finished."

Nestled deep within the leased territory, the original town remained and problems soon arose between the civilian inhabitants and their Marine tenants. Following a series of civilian disputes, the Marine Corps was forced to acknowledge and negotiate a number of problems that had arisen, including the maneuverability of the primary road in and out of town and basic access to water. Though a variety of other problems would surface throughout the war, the Marine Corps quickly settled into its new home, and the townsfolk of Quantico prospered alongside their Marine neighbors.

While the base was nowhere near com-

LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

plete, the swift and decisive efforts of both the Corps and its contractors had turned a once-unruly forest into a functional training bulwark for Marines preparing to deploy. By the time that BGen John A. Lejeune took command of Quantico in September 1917, the base was well on its way to stability. BGen Lejeune remarked that while "a sufficient number of barracks buildings to house personnel were completed, a large amount of construction work still remained to be done." Family housing, for example, was not available unless the Marine was willing to commute from Fredericksburg, 20 miles south, and while the government had allocated funding for paved roads, they had yet to be completed. All of these problems, however, were negligible compared to a specter that had been growing since the Corps' initial arrival in Quantico over a year before.

From the base's earliest days, Quantico had a sanitation problem. Within a few weeks of opening, more than 1,000 Marines flooded the base for training, with hundreds of additional contractors, citizens, and visitors streaming in weekly. In these early weeks, the Corps initiated a series of test solutions to limit the waste problem—including incinerators and rubbish pits—but no action undertaken could keep up with the sheer amount of debris. Compounding the rise of trash in Quantico was an uncontrollable mosquito population. In an effort to prevent the spread of diseases, including pneumonia, measles and meningitis, Marines filled in swampy areas and sprayed mosquito breeding grounds across the base. Again, however, a lack of organized structure impeded progress—an unfortunate combination of highly saturated ground, significant rainfall and underdeveloped land resulted in such a widespread concentration of mosquito breeding grounds that it was nearly impossible to locate and spray them all.

To combat the rise and spread of mosquito-borne diseases, the Quantico hospital moved into a wood frame building, effectively abandoning the tent city that had once composed the post's primary medical facility. BGen Lejeune, however, would soon have another problem on his hands, one that couldn't be solved by simply enforcing sanitary protocol and emphasizing pro-active base construction.

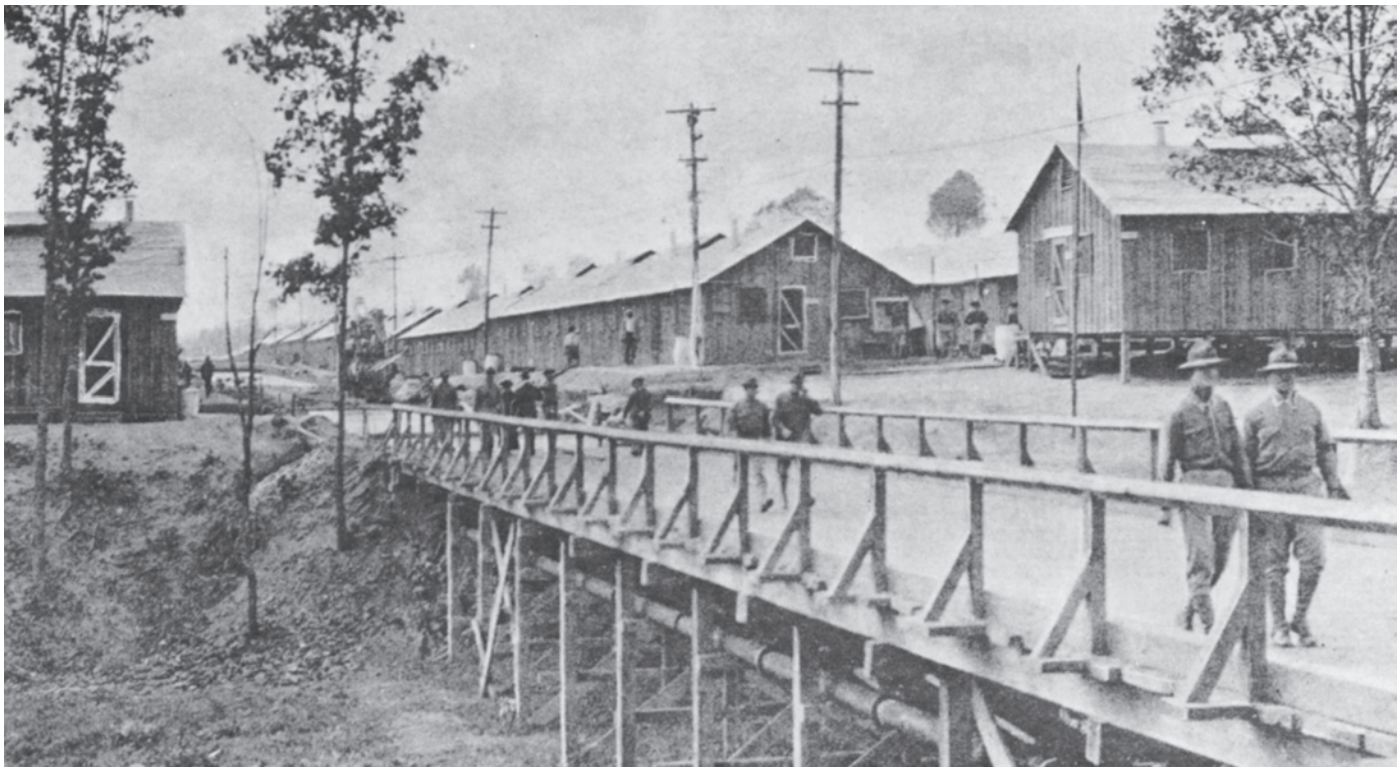
While World War I may have spurred the Marine Corps into action, industrializing the Corps and increasing both strength and base operations, it also served as a catalyst for a unique strain of influenza. What began in 1917 would eventually be called the Spanish Flu, and the virus evolved as it spread in both the European

Left: To improve training for Marines throughout the installation, the federal government allocated money to pave key road networks and other assets across the base. Unfortunately, this roadwork did not begin until late 1917.

Below: Despite the challenges inherent in its sudden increase in both land and the Marines on the new base, Marine Corps leaders were diligent in ensuring Marines deploying to Europe were trained appropriately. As such, regular inspections were business as usual at Quantico.

COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Below: Barnett Avenue was the primary route in and out of Quantico. Because the Marine Corps used land surrounding the civilian town, the control and use of this route quickly became a point of contention between civilians and their Marine neighbors.



LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

trenches and across key American sea routes. Within 24 hours of BGen Lejeune's assuming command, the newly christened hospital admitted more than 100 individuals infected with the volatile strain. The next day those numbers doubled.

By the end of the month, more than 1,500 Marines had contracted influenza, resulting in the evacuation and transition of newly constructed barracks into temporary hospital wards. The staff of the hospital was especially taxed as the small number working in the now overrun infirmary were forced to work long hours, sometimes around the clock, to combat an illness that seemed to consume the base. By the time that the first wave of the flu swept across Quantico, more than 4,000 cases were confirmed, and roughly 140 of those infected succumbed to the illness.

Disease failed to stop the aggressive initiative of the Corps, and by the end of 1917, Quantico morphed increasingly into a modern and innovative military installation. As the base grew, expanding to include new sanitation measures, laundry and training facilities, kitchens, mess halls and additional barracks, it became obvious that the Corps would soon outgrow its space.

The Quantico Company, however, offered a solution. For the low sum of $500,000, the company would sell the Marine Corps all territory covered under its present lease in addition to another parcel of local real estate, turning the land into a permanent Marine Corps base. The federal government agreed, and after a short period of negotiations, the Quantico Company sold the land for a fraction of the cost.

COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Remnants of specialized training courses—such as trench digging and maintenance—pocket the base's wooded areas today.

In addition to solidifying its future, Marine Corps Base Quantico also proved its role as the premiere base for formalized training during the second year of America's involvement in the Great War. As units prepared for deployment to the European continent, a variety of schools and courses—including officers camps and the Overseas Depot, which trained Marines to serve as replacements to those fighting alongside the American Expeditionary Force—were established to organize the relentless flow of new Marines. The Overseas Depot in particular is credited with churning out 12 battalions, two regiments, and approximately 16,000 Marines, a quarter of whom graduated

The 11th Marine Regiment presents the colors at a parade for visiting officials held at Quantico, June 20, 1918. (Photo courtesy of National Archives)

from specialized schools also based at Quantico.

After four long years of war, Germany collapsed beneath the weight of the Allied forces' industrial and physical prowess. On Nov. 11, the guns went silent on the Western Front after a war of attrition filled with unimagined destruction, and a fragile peace finally settled across the fighting nations. By the time that the warring nations signed the armistice, nearly 30,000 Marines had deployed from Quantico to join the fighting in Europe.

While their actions along the Western Front, specifically in Belleau Wood, would become became part of their legend, the enduring legacy of the Marine Corps' time in WW I is rooted in Quantico. This key installation would not have existed had it not been for the war. The Marine ingenuity and dedication to being the "first-to-fight" resulted in the rapid growth of Quantico in an environment that fluctuated from frigid, marsh-like conditions to oppressively hot temperatures with occasional dust storms. More importantly, however, were the Marines who took acres of underdeveloped forest and turned them into forward-thinking pillars of success.

Marine Corps Base Quantico, finally a permanent base, carries on the legacy of both the Marines who prepared the Corps to fight across the globe and the sacrifices of those Marines who died defending our nation and its allies. Much as it did in 1918, Quantico today is the epicenter of Marine Corps professional development. Both enlisted men and officers come to the "Crossroads of the Marine Corps" in order to advance both themselves and their careers, developing the long-lasting academic innovations necessary to propel the Corps into the future. Even now, after so many years, elements of Quantico's early days, including the pier, the old hospital and the practice trenches, litter the base, masked by resurgent greenery reminding us of a time when the Corps still had battles to fight to gain the respect they have today, a time when the dreams and ambitions of a handful of officers changed the balance of American military posture for decades to come.

There is no greater symbol for the tenacity, ingenuity and dependability of the Marine Corps than Quantico, Va. Born from the needs of World War I, Quantico is a solid and unshakable testament that, in the words of 1stLt Cushing, "is distinctively [Marine]—with the stamp of the Soldiers of the Sea upon it."

Whether driving through the base gates or walking through Q-Town, Marines and visitors can feel the sweep of history upon a place so heavily defined by the Corps' ethos. Everywhere one looks, however, lies the legacy of those first few. The declaration of their voices, the courage of their dreams and their willing sacrifices gave the Marine Corps what few will ever have or even fewer will ever understand—a foothold for the future shaped by the courage of the past.

Author's bio: Jennifer Collins is a teacher in Lancaster, Calif. She has a master's degree in military history from Norwich University.

Author's bio: Bradley Davis is the assistant editor of the Marine Corps Gazette. *He has a master's degree in military history from Norwich University.*

The New Guy

By Michael P. Walsh

The Washington, D.C., Vietnam Veterans Memorial is inscribed with 58,272 names—each a story of lost opportunity and heartache; ultimate sacrifices that, with time, are known by and intimate to fewer. The New Guy is one of those small stories, perhaps now, 48 years later, important to only me—that doesn't mean it shouldn't be told.

Long Island's morning fog was dense and chilly as I turned onto the drive at Pinelawn National Cemetery. Driving forward, I familiarized myself with the numbering of the stones. Donning my overcoat as I got out of the car, I crossed the roadway to walk another 50 feet over wet grass to The New Guy's permanent address: plot 31313A in section "N."

A stunted, winter-bare tree stood watch over his grave—it looked like it shaded him nicely in the summertime. The headstone, identical to the thousands surrounding it, is engraved with bits of personal information: born 12 days after I was, on July 14, 1947, he died March 7, 1968. Below those dates are chiseled the word "Vietnam;" farther down are the two letters "PH" confirming the Purple Heart was awarded posthumously. Exactly 40 years later, March 7, 2008, I was here for a long overdue visit. Although today I know his name, for most of the intervening years, I didn't. In my recollections, he has always been, simply, The New Guy.

In Those Dangerous Days ...

New guys were easy to spot. Naturally, there was the rookie's nervousness, but that clean helmet cover was the giveaway. A seasoned Marine's helmet might have a heavy rubber band encircling it, holding bug repellant and a well-used plastic spoon, but always printed on the fabric covering his steel "pot" was a message. Sometimes a clever or rude manipulation of a biblical phrase; other times, it was a less-nuanced "Screw You" challenge to the enemy. The brazen tempted fate with a crude calendar counting down their remaining days in country. Attesting to the helmet's use as protection, basin and stool, the messages were written on camouflage covers stained by rain, soil and sweat. In 1968, those young Marines with helmet covers awaiting a personal signature were known to the rest of us as "New Guys."

I was a Marine forward observer scout. My helmet cover sported a faded green shamrock, surrounded by the words "All Irish F.O.'s." Early March found Louis, my radio operator, and me attached to "Alpha" Company, one of two line companies of First Battalion, Third Marines, providing security up a backwater of the Cua Viet River.

The look on his face said that today was his introduction to the terrors of the fight. Still, he never wavered. Suppressing the fear we all knew, he spoke the last words of his life: "What do you want me to do?"

It was a reprieve to patrol from a fixed location, allowing us to fortify positions, improve makeshift hutches and learn the lay of the land before, not during, ambushes. The few incoming sniper rounds were erratic—minor nuisances that were quickly suppressed—and the weather improved daily. Most importantly, we were alive. There wasn't much not to like.

Suddenly, on March 7, 1968, our Vietnamese-speaking S-2 scout reported enemy combatants moving through Phu Tai, a neighboring village, after nightfall. Since it was our job to keep bad actors out of the neighborhood, Alpha Co was ordered on top of amtracs in the predawn dark for a rough ride, over dry rice paddies to give this little village the once over. Maybe we'd find trouble, maybe not. Personally, I was thinking not.

With the bellowing of our amtracs' dual turbocharged exhausts announcing our pending arrival, all North Vietnamese Army (NVA) regulars working the area would surely be long gone before we showed up. For all intents and purposes, it looked like it would be an early morning cakewalk. Map and compass were close, radio communications checked; I was alert, not anxious. Turned out I should have been.

In the glow of a false dawn, we were rolling-up on Phu Tai's western edge when suddenly a rocket propelled grenade flew

COURTESY OF MICHAEL P. WALSH

Left to right: Cpl Michael Walsh, Cpl James P. "Pat" Daly and PFC Roger McLain display the shamrocks they added to their helmet covers in Vietnam, 1968. Lt George Norris is to the rear and between Cpl Walsh and Cpl Daly. He was killed in action while serving as a company commander.

Amtracs were used to transport the Marines of Alpha Co, 1/3 to the village Phu Tai on March 7, 1968. (Photo courtesy of 1st AMTRAC Battalion Collection, Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections)

out of the tree line, blowing a hole in our lead amtrac. With it came a stupefying volume of incoming automatic weapons fire. Screams of the wounded and shouts for corpsman were coming from all quarters as Louis and I leapt off our amtrac and scrambled to a nearby trench. So much for nobody being home. Dawn had arrived at Phu Tai with a promise of some serious mayhem.

A vestige of the French and Viet Minh conflict of an earlier time, our trench was typical of those surrounding villages near the Demilitarized Zone. Just to the north of it, outside the village, was an abandoned, French-era church. It didn't show on my map, but there it was—two-stories tall and roofless, it was one of the few solid masonry structures in those parts. My view of it was blocked by a clump of bushes rimming our trench's back edge, directly behind where Louis and I made our stand.

Looking over the forward edge of the trench, I located where Marines were digging in. Our near-instant heavy casualties and the sustained volume of incoming fire indicated a large, entrenched force—a motivated enemy that might mount a counterattack. The simultaneous firing of several batteries was initiated to provide a protective curtain of shrapnel while we got a handle on things.

Despite everyone's best efforts, the day went badly fast. To my right, just beyond Louis, a Marine I had bummed a cigarette from a few minutes earlier was dead. To my left, in sequence, was another dead Marine, our wounded platoon commander and, scattered beyond them, a dozen, perhaps 15, Marines. Some dead, some wounded; those still capable struggled to keep our recently-issued M-16's functioning.

In the midst of all this, I received a priority radio message advising me an NVA sniper had been spotted on the second floor of the church. The reason for the high number of casualties in my immediate area was now obvious: from his perch, the shooter could target men well below the trench's rear lip. It was inevitable that Louis and I were going to find ourselves on that deadly score card if we didn't put him out of business. Hoping to be quick enough to avert additional causalities, another artillery mission was worked up.

It was just then that I met The New Guy—part of a Marine company sent to reinforce our precarious position. As he dropped into the trench behind me, I turned to see by his clean helmet cover; the look on his face said that today was his introduction to the terrors of the fight. Still, he never wavered. Suppressing the fear we all knew, he spoke the last words of his life: "What do you want me to do?" In the intervening years, neither our dire circumstances nor his response to them have been forgotten.

Quickly I pointed out the sniper's position and explained the need to keep him down while artillery was brought on target; I don't remember the precise number, but I can't imagine that more than 15 words were exchanged. Turning toward the church without hesitation, he took a firing position at the base of the bushes. With my back now covered, I gave the final "fire for effect" that would eliminate that menace in the loft.

Moments later, six 105 mm artillery rounds landed in the church's upper story, abruptly and decisively ending the shooter's reign. Unfortunately, The New Guy missed our small victory. Seconds before his demise, the sniper fired his last round. It was on target, and it was fatal. The New Guy was dead.

Although aware that he had protected me, providing time to complete the task

Marines wind their way to the Cua Viet River through the rice paddies on their way back to their command post for rest and supplies in May 1968.

PFC THURSTON BECHTEL, USMC

at hand, reflection was not an option as that March 7, 1968, engagement at Phu Tai still had plenty of promised mayhem to be played out. A brutal assault, with Marines engaging in close-quarters fighting, routed the NVA forces. Afterward, in the late afternoon's fading light, we searched for our wounded and killed. I don't recall there being any prisoners.

As darkness enveloped the field, "Puff," the Gatling-armed C-130 flying transport, came on station, providing covering fire as needed and dropping huge illumination flares, lighting-up the dry rice paddy for the night's remaining work.

With our men accounted for, the Marines withdrew from the village and linked up to form a perimeter where, from freshly dug fighting holes, weary eyes and lethal intent were focused into the evening's menacing shadows. Inbound helicopter flights soon began landing with the necessities: munitions, food, water and, oh yes, more New Guys. Following triage protocol, our corpsmen backloaded the outgoing flights with our 94 wounded. It wasn't until the next morning, March 8, 1968, that The New Guy and his 12 companions, each now cocooned in a body bag, were finally relieved of duty. Marines gently loaded them into Hueys for their trip back across the Cua Viet to the first stop on their rotation stateside: the morgue at Dong Ha.

Curiously, though few things have had such a profound and lasting imprint on my life, many years passed before I dared replay those long-ago violent days. When

But I do. I care. So, Esau, I'm writing your final story, hoping it will find its way to those who remember that 20-year-old kid from Brooklyn and wonder how it was for you at the end.

I did, prominent and persistent was the question: "Who was The New Guy?" With research, I found the answer.

Three days after the battle of Phu Tai, the Department of Defense issued its weekly count of Vietnam casualties. The following day, March 12, 1968, *The New York Times* published the names of those who claimed New York as home. Last on their list of 22 was a young Marine from Brooklyn: Esau Whitehead Jr.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial website describes Esau at the time of his death as a 20-year-old African-American corporal from New York City. On "The Wall," his name is found on Panel 43E, Line 49. The record states vaguely that he died from "ground, small arms fire, Quang Tri province." Because of the chaos of battle, it is most likely I am the only person who knows the exact details. Wanting to share those particulars, a letter was written describing Esau's last moments; however, when unable to locate survivors, I rewrote it as the story of The New Guy, hoping someday it would land where it belongs. Of course, after all this time, there may be no family left or, it's also possible that no one cares.

But I do. I care. So, Esau, I'm writing your final story, hoping it will find its way to those who remember that 20-year-old kid from Brooklyn and wonder how it was for you at the end.

Cpl Esau Whitehead Jr., you died living up to the Marine Corps motto—Semper Fidelis—while protecting a fellow Marine you knew for less than five minutes.

Thank you again, Esau. Your family should know.

Author's bio: After a three-year tour with the Marine Corps, Michael Walsh entered the civilian work force, ultimately spending near 30 years in California's solar energy industry. Currently he lives with his wife, Patricia, in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood. He has written articles on good solar design concepts and, more recently, he completed writing "Zhimon," the story of his one-season, 3,500-mile, solo canoe trip following Canada's historic fur trade route.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ALL WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
(OFFICIAL MARINE CORPS PHOTO BY SGT. RANDALL A. CLINTON)

An Artist, A Writer and the Men They

A Tribute to Medal of

COURTESY OF JANE WATERHOUSE AND AMY WATERHOUSE LOTANO

Above: MOH portraits are from the top left: Sgt John Henry Quick, Cpl Lee H. Phillips, Capt William P. Upshur, and Pvt Hector A. Cafferata. From the bottom left: Sgt Matej Kocak, Sgt Herbert J. Thomas, Cpl Hershel W. Williams, and Maj Albertus W. Catlin. (Photo by Mary D. Karcher)

Left: The Medal of Honor portraits fill the wall behind Col Charles Waterhouse at his museum in Toms River, N.J. Waterhouse partnered portraits with his dynamic paintings of the MOH recipients in battle.

Honor:
Honor Recipients

By Mary D. Karcher

Honor. To a Marine, honor is a noble attribute earned, not assumed. In the triumvirate defining Marine Corps values, honor, courage, commitment, honor is foremost, representing all who have sacrificed for their nation, their family and their fellow Marines. Esteemed artist Colonel Charles Waterhouse marveled at Marines: those hardy Americans who fought in World War I that he read about in "Fixed Bayonets" as a young boy; those he stood shoulder-to-shoulder with as a private first class on a Higgins boat headed for Iwo Jima that fateful day in February 1945; and those from every era of American history whom he brought to life on his canvas.

And it was all about honor.

Whether in uniform or wielding a paintbrush, Charles Waterhouse entered the scenes where Marines walked, fought and often died. He honored them by portraying their selfless actions so that others would remember and value their sacrifices. Waterhouse fittingly ended his career as a Marine Corps artist by creating paintings that portray the heroic Marines and Navy corpsmen who earned the Medal of Honor (MOH), and it is this story his daughter Jane Waterhouse so poignantly tells in "Time and Chance: The Medal of Honor Paintings by Colonel Charles Waterhouse."

Jane Waterhouse, creating a picture with words as exquisitely as her father did with paint, tells of the courageous actions of nine Marine Medal of Honor recipients, one Navy corpsman and one other heroic American Marine whose actions could—and

likely should—have earned him a Medal of Honor.

In the first part of the book, she deftly weaves the story of Col Waterhouse's life and his commitment to Marines among the stories of select heroes from the Civil War to Afghanistan. The second part is the artist's gift to Marines: the paintings.

These layouts, designed by the artist, include two paintings for each recipient: one that portrayed the scene of the Marine or Navy corpsman performing the action that earned him the MOH, and a second, smaller portrait of just the Marine's face, ensuring that each visage is clearly seen, without the grime of battle or the shadow of a helmet; the better to be remembered as someone's son, brother, father or friend. Each layout includes the Medal of Honor citation, which describes the acts of bravery that merited the award.

COURTESY OF JANE WATERHOUSE AND AMY WATERHOUSE LOTANO

Though a successful civilian artist, the Marine Corps and Waterhouse were never far apart. He served three tours as a civilian combat artist in Vietnam and returned to active duty as the Marine Corps' Artist in Residence from 1971 to 1991.

"Time and Chance," the result of Jane Waterhouse's bedside promise to her father, is not the book Col Waterhouse had planned for the Medal of Honor paintings. The author says as much with a touching apology to her father in the book's prologue.

Jane grew up alongside those Marines on her father's canvas, even working with him as he wrote books about two of his favorite subjects: Marines and art. Still, writing a book to tell the story of Medal of Honor paintings seemed a daunting task, especially without him by her side.

"He wanted this series to be his final legacy to the Marines, and he saw this book as a lasting testament in honor of these brave men and a gift to their families," she writes.

As the title highlights and Jane often mentions throughout the book, time and chance played an important role in her father's life. Yet it seems when time caught up with him at age 89, chance favored his daughter and gifted her the time her father no longer had.

In Waterhouse fashion, Jane carried on her father's mission, but not without adding a daughter's perspective. For that we can be thankful, because although Marines have seen Col Waterhouse's paintings in magazines and books, as well as hanging in places where Marines gather like Marine Corps offices, the Home of the Commandants, chow halls, base libraries, the Pentagon and aboard ships, few know of the artist's absolute devotion to the Marine Corps.

Jane Waterhouse remedies that without dimming the spotlight on her father's fervent desire to honor the Marines and corpsmen who received the Medal of Honor. In fact, she adds details about how these heroes ended up in their situations, the limited equipment they had, the loss of fellow Marines and the perseverance and courage they exemplified to continue despite all odds. And for those who had the privilege to know the kind artist and experience his humble nature, it would be a safe bet to say that Col Charles Waterhouse would be pleased with "Time and Chance" because it tells about the indomitable spirit of Marines.

One such Marine happens to be an artist with a lifelong devotion to his fellow leathernecks, especially the Medal of Honor recipients who filled his final years.

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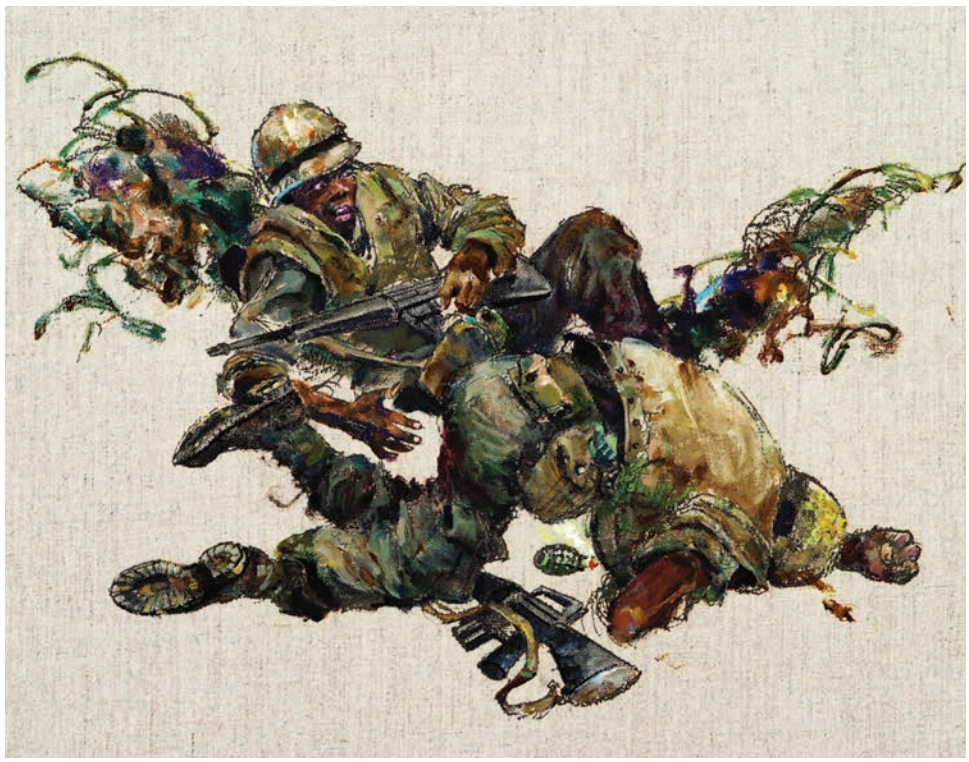
PFC James Anderson Jr. sacrificed himself to shield his fellow Marines from an enemy grenade near Cam Lo, Vietnam, on Feb. 28, 1967, becoming the first African-American Marine to receive the Medal of Honor. Waterhouse's portrait of Anderson (above) gives us the view of his face, which is not visible in the MOH portrayal (right).



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COURTESY OF JANE WATERHOUSE AND AMY WATERHOUSE LOTANO

This page layout created by Col Waterhouse, representative of the MOH series presented in the second part of "Time and Chance," combines the portrait, battle painting and Medal of Honor citation for Pvt Hector A. Cafferata Jr., whose relentless resistance against a fanatical enemy in sub-zero temperatures held Company F's defensive line during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, Korea. Cafferata passed away on April 12, 2016, at age 86.

Jane writes: "He painted all day at his easel, getting up frequently in the middle of the night to work on an unfinished canvas. He spent countless hours reading and researching on the computer. During meals he drew sketches on paper napkins. He swore at his own frailties, and on a daily basis, he bargained with God."

He lived among those heroic men every second of each day for the final seven years of his life. Even in his last 11 days, when he could no longer take the five steps to his canvas, he still was mentally constructing canvases of Marines. "Time and Chance" shows the heart and dedication of Marines who charged into danger and the artist who brought us to their side, shining a light on the magnitude of their sacrifice.

Though Rejected, A Good Idea Endures

The idea of drawing Medal of Honor recipients initially began in 1946, when 22-year-old Charles Waterhouse went to a job interview at Kings Comics. Hoping to become a cartoonist after his tour in the Marine Corps, he presented a cartoon strip to an editor that portrayed Medal of Honor recipient Staff Sergeant William Bordelon's singular attack on pillboxes on Tarawa. Told that Americans were weary of war and advised to return after attending art school, Waterhouse nonetheless saved his idea to portray Medal of Honor heroes and returned to it 60 years later, this time with a lifetime of art experience under his belt.

Some of the Medal of Honor paintings were created individually while Waterhouse served as the artist-in-residence of the Marine Corps (1971-1991) or for magazine covers after he retired from the Corps. The idea to create a Medal of Honor series was initiated by Ed Sere, then-curator of the Colonel Charles Waterhouse Museum in Toms River, N.J., recalling those original cartoon boards. Waterhouse thought it was a great idea, and while Sere wondered which ones Waterhouse might paint so he could begin researching, Waterhouse was eager to do them all. Sere recalls Waterhouse said, "'No, I'm going from A to Z and do as much as I can do,' and that was his mantra. He would cry out to anybody, 'Yes, I'm painting and I hope to get 'em all done before I die.' "

However, according to Jane, there was one event which assured the series would be undertaken. Her parents attended a Marine Corps event where they shared a table with Medal of Honor Marine Private Hector A. Cafferata Jr. When Waterhouse told Cafferata that he'd like to create a painting of him in action during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, he never forgot Cafferata's response: "It would be a wasted effort. No one's interested in that stuff anymore. Most people don't even know what the Korean War was. That's all been forgotten."

Not if Charles Waterhouse had anything to do with it. With a quick sketch on the back of the dinner menu, Waterhouse engaged Cafferata, who corrected the angle of his arm in the drawing. Soon the two men were discussing frigid temperatures, gear and Cafferata's actions on Fox Hill, the artist cleverly adding details to the image that was taking shape in his mind. Thus began the first painting to be created specifically for the series.

Cafferata's story, "The Battle of Fox Hill," is the first that Jane Waterhouse recounts in her book, recalling details in vivid imagery. In a cinematic style employed throughout the stories, she

In Waterhouse's most recent MOH painting, he chose to paint Cpl Dakota Meyer's fifth foray into an ambush area in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in 2009 when Meyer rescued missing Marines and Afghan soldiers.

COURTESY OF THE MARINE CORPS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

brings the reader uncomfortably close to that frigid night in Korea: "... and it was damn spooky up there, with the moonlight sliding into crevasses, turning a sliver of ice into glinting gunmetal, and the fog of your breath into levitating ghosts."

"Distinguish Themselves By Their Gallantry"

The Medal of Honor is awarded only when strict criteria are met. While each service has specific regulations, in general the act must establish the recipient's gallantry beyond the call of duty, risking his life, and it must be corroborated by at least two eyewitnesses who provide incontestable evidence. The accomplishments of these men, despite the insurmountable obstacles and often excruciating conditions, reveal their selflessness, quick-thinking and tenacity.

Waterhouse insisted that each painting must be distinctive, even if the scene may be similar to others: landing on a beach, fighting on a snow-covered mountain or falling on a grenade (which occurred in at least 71 of the paintings, according to Jane Waterhouse). As the recipients cover such a broad period of time (dating from the Civil War), Col Waterhouse had to do extensive research to portray so many variables accurately: the weaponry, battlefield environment, uniform, weather, enemy, time of day, vehicles and, most importantly, the exact action of the MOH recipients that caused them to "distinguish themselves by their gallantry" as defined by the 1861 Senate bill that created the Department of the Navy MOH medal.

COURTESY OF THE COLONEL CHARLES H. WATERHOUSE ESTATE, ART COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

Cpl John Mackie, the first Marine MOH recipient, rallied his fellow Marines to defend *USS Galena* during the Union's attack on Fort Darling near Richmond, Va., during the Civil War.

President Abraham Lincoln authorized the first Medal of Honor during the Civil War and Corporal John Mackie became the first Marine MOH recipient. Describing the only time when Marines fought their Marine brothers, Jane Waterhouse tells the story of Cpl Mackie aboard the ironclad USS *Galena* en route to Richmond during the Battle of Drewry's Bluff in 1862. Like many MOH recipients, when others perished, Mackie stepped forward, rousing fellow Marines to fight for four hours until they ran out of ammunition. Col Waterhouse captured Mackie's initiative on canvas firing a long-gun from a gun port of the battle-scarred ship. After the battle, President Lincoln boarded the ship, marveling that any of them managed to survive.

If Mackie was the earliest MOH recipient chronologically, the most recent MOH recipient that Col Waterhouse painted was Sergeant Dakota Meyer, who earned his medal in Ganjgal, Afghanistan, in September 2009. Meyer took decisive action to rescue trapped American and Afghan Army soldiers despite the refusal of superiors to send artillery and air support. Meyer would return to the battle site five times despite overwhelming enemy fire.

"Time and Chance" shows how Waterhouse's painting evolved from early cartoons to his final MOH paintings. Col Waterhouse's experience as the Artist in Residence of the Marine Corps challenged him to create large canvases filled with historical details. Here, he is painting "The Storming of Quallah Battoo," which depicts Marines and Sailors attacking Malay pirates in a jumble of swords, muskets, and blunderbusses in a Sumatran village in 1832. It is busy, violent, noisy, yet precise in detail. (Photo courtesy of Jane Waterhouse and Amy Waterhouse Lotano)

"If what Meyer did was insubordination, blame it on the Marines. Because "No Marine Left Behind" isn't just some boot camp mantra, it's a deeply held principle for which leathernecks throughout history have been willing to die. The two men got into a gun truck and drove it down the steeply terraced terrain directly into the kill zone, with [Staff Sergeant Juan] Rodriguez-Chavez at the wheel and [then-Corporal] Meyer in the highly exposed gunner's position, manning the M203 40 mm grenade launcher," writes Jane Waterhouse. She adds, "They might as well have painted a target on their heads and piped out a recording of 'The Star-Spangled Banner.' "

The accompanying painting, which Waterhouse completed in just three weeks in support of a Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation effort, was unveiled at the Library of Congress with Sgt Meyer in attendance. The painting depicts Meyer barely shielded by a boulder, downed Marines at his feet, as he lifts another Marine to carry him out of the battle zone. Muzzle-flashes burst from a building and nearby rocks, predicting no safe egress from his position. Meyer later remarked, "It was a six hour battle, but Col Waterhouse chose the exact right moment to paint."

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Sgt Dan Daly

The Value of a Story

"Time and Chance" takes readers to many of the places Marines have left their boot prints: China, Haiti, France, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan. Though they served in different times, these young American men traveled far from home, likely griped about the food, fought beside their buddies and met their foes in a united front. The Medal of Honor recipients may not consider themselves any better than the next guy, but they do share some instinctive quality to act at critical moments without hesitation. Knowing their stories, told through words or paintings, should be required for all Americans.

Some of the stories in this book recount legends in the Corps, such as Sgt Dan Daly, one of two men who, while serving as a Marine, twice received the Medal of Honor, one during the Boxer Rebellion in China, the other in the Banana Wars in Haiti; Sgt Mitchell Paige, who defended Henderson Field in Guadalcanal from the Japanese; and Sgt John Basilone, who earned his medal the night before Paige did, defending the very same airstrip. Others, whose words may not be quoted on the walls of museums or memorials, earned recognition for turning moments of certain defeat into hope for their fellow Marines: Captain Carl Sitter, in Hagaru-ri, Korea, who despite multiple wounds, brilliantly led his Marines, some "untrained in infantry tactics" according to his citation; Hospital Apprentice First Class Robert E. Bush in Okinawa, who continued to hold a plasma bottle with one hand while wielding a gun in the other, defending his patient against Japanese attackers; and PFC Raymond Clausen Jr., who carried 11 wounded Marines and one dead body across a minefield to a helicopter while dodging fire in Vietnam.

One of the most haunting stories in the book is that of Captain

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On Jan. 31, 1970, PFC Raymond M. Clausen Jr. navigated a minefield six times to extract Marines to a waiting helicopter in Vietnam. Of the 20 Marines, 11 were wounded and one was dead. As he carried a wounded Marine, an exploding mine caused the death of a Navy corpsman and the wounding of three other men, but Clausen persisted until all were on the aircraft.

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Capt Donald Cook, a POW in Vietnam, spent nearly three years in a bamboo cage, all the while conducting himself with the utmost honor. He "steadfastly frustrated attempts by the Viet Cong to break his indomitable spirit," according to his MOH citation. Jane Waterhouse suggests her father's painting "channeled the power of Cook's personality."

Donald Cook, a prisoner of war for three years in Vietnam. Bright, highly trained and resourceful, his selflessness and stoicism was an inspiration to fellow prisoners. Waterhouse spares no details about the torturous treatment suffered at the hands of the Viet Cong, as well as the unending maladies of the jungle environment. During nearly three years of captivity, Cook never relented to his captors; he never gave them more than his name, rank, birth date and serial number. He inspired fellow prisoners to will themselves to survive. He is the first Marine to have earned a Medal of Honor for his actions as a POW.

Jane Waterhouse adds a tender touch to the power of Cook's story, supported by Col Waterhouse's visually arresting painting of Cook in a bamboo cage. She shares the toll of his capture on his family and the emotional impact Cook had on his fellow POWs and even his captors. She concludes that though his body was never brought home, his headstone rests in Arlington National Cemetery, "But his spirit—that uncompromising, indomitable spirit that the Viet Cong could never capture—remains in the highlands of Vietnam where, somewhere on the wind, a strong tenor voice still sings 'The Marines' Hymn.' "

Waterhouse includes in her book one Marine who was a special inspiration to her father, but did not receive the Medal of Honor: Col John W. Ripley.

Under imminent attack from a North Vietnamese army force estimated to be at reinforced divisional strength, Col Ripley, an American advisor to a battalion of Vietnamese Marines, devised a plan to destroy a critical bridge at Dong Ha to impede their entry into South Vietnam. The plan required one man: Ripley. For three hours, under enemy fire, Ripley hung from the bridge, traveling hand over hand, loaded down with TNT, to place charges under the bridge. He had to make six trips back to shore to resupply. His singular effort stopped the North Vietnamese army during the Easter Offensive.

"Inspired by what Ripley did in Dong Ha, Colonel Waterhouse created one of his most memorable paintings, "Ripley at the Bridge." It hung next to his bed during the last four years of his life, a silent witness to his own final battle," writes Jane Waterhouse.

Legacy of a Painter: Brushstrokes and History

Despite his indomitable spirit and his reputation for creating detailed, accurate historical paintings at a rapid pace, Col Waterhouse would not finish the MOH series. Given his age when he began the series and the number of the Marines and Navy corpsmen who earned the MOH, this is not surprising. Perhaps, as Jane writes, he may have believed that anything short of complete success meant failure, but he did complete "over 220 canvases—including several masterworks; nearly 120 portraits; and had made a start on every Marine and Navy corpsman Medal of Honor recipient from the Banana Wars through the war in Iraq."

Charles Waterhouse lovingly and ambitiously created paintings of the Marine and Navy corpsmen Medal of Honor recipients as a "final gift" to his beloved Marine Corps. His family has generously donated the Waterhouse collection, including the MOH paintings, to the permanent art collection at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va.

The museum's art curator, Joan Thomas, explained that in early America, art was created to show how America saw itself and to portray the story of its creation. Likewise, Col Waterhouse's MOH paintings "tell a story of these individuals and their courage and what they did at that particular moment in time." Thomas believes he wanted to tell the visual story because of "his absolute love and commitment to the Marine Corps." The body of his work tells the story of the Marine Corps and, as Col Waterhouse would say, "a few good men."

At the museum, Waterhouse's Medal of Honor paintings will

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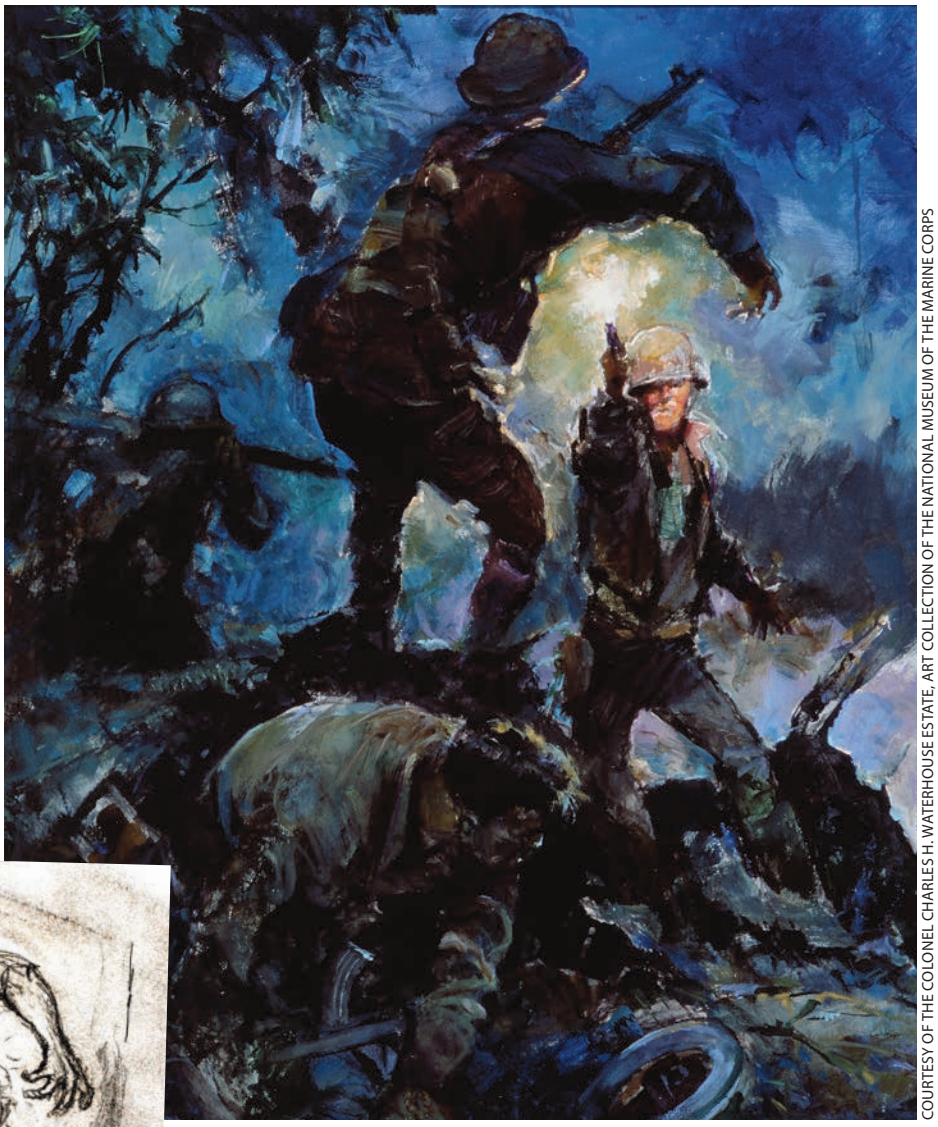

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These three pieces of art give us a glimpse of Col Waterhouse's process in creating the MOH series. The painting (right) depicts SSgt John J. McGinty III during one of the repeated attacks on his platoon in Vietnam as he is killing enemy soldiers at point-blank range with his pistol. Research, such as MOH recipients' actions, time of day, weapons and gear, and a photograph of their face for the small portrait (above) was critical to the artist. The sketch (below) sets up the perspective, proportion, and the focus of the image to best portray the action.

COURTESY OF JANE WATERHOUSE AND AMY WATERHOUSE LOTANO

appear in various exhibits. According to the museum's deputy director Charles Grow, they may be part of exhibits that recognize the anniversary of a battle, or perhaps they will appear in the Hall of Valor, which will open in 2020. They also could be used in books, magazines, videos, textbooks, documentaries and even virtually on the website. "Art not only speaks to the Marine," Grow explained, "but it also speaks to the American public that has never worn a uniform, let alone be a Marine, and that's important, too."

"That's all been forgotten." The powerful stories Col Waterhouse and his daughter Jane have gathered in "Time and Chance" are a strong refusal to accept Hector Cafferata's words. If America is the sum of its heroes, and if men's actions to preserve our nation's tenets can inspire action in others, then this book is a powerful gem. It engenders remembrance. It kindles appreciation. By doing so, it inspires America to regard those who are serving today with a fresh understanding of what honor, courage and commitment means, and to be grateful.

Editor's note: "Time and Chance" is scheduled for future publication. Leatherneck *will post information about the publication date when it is announced. The Marine Shop at www.marineshop.net offers numerous Waterhouse prints for sale. Proceeds go to support the Marine Corps Association & Foundation programs and the Waterhouse Scholarship at the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation.*

Author's bio: Mary Karcher is a former Leatherneck *staff writer and editor of various segments of the magazine. She currently works as a freelance writer. She is grateful to the Waterhouse family, Joan Thomas and Charlie Grow for support of this article. And to Col Waterhouse, whose voice from an earlier interview provided inspiration, smiles and a few tears.*

We—the Marines

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

CMC to Marines: "We Have to Modernize"

General Robert B. Neller, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, visited Marine Corps Support Facility New Orleans on Feb. 16 to discuss his recently published Message to the Force entitled "Seize the Initiative."

The message summarizes Gen Neller's thoughts on what Marines accomplished in 2016 and provides guidance on his expectations for 2017 and beyond. Specifically, it lists six resolutions for Marines to follow: improve readiness; modernize the force; become smarter; take better care of themselves; "protect what they have earned;" and have more fun.

During his visit to MCSF New Orleans, Gen Neller discussed his intentions to modernize the force, its tactics and equipment.

"Most of our current vehicles, equipment and gear are worn. We are operating artillery and tanks that are older than most of you here today," Gen Neller said. "We have to modernize. It is not going to happen overnight, but we will come up with ways to do it."

Modernizing the force is necessary, Gen Neller explained, to more effectively address future threats. He explained how he believes future wars will be fought and his intentions to modernize the Corps not only as a lethal fighting force on the battlefield, but also in cyberspace.

"We have created a system of fighting that revolves around the access and use of a network. We have to figure out how to be more resilient and how to protect this network, and be able to attack the enemy's network," stated Gen Neller. "There is going to be an ever-increasing demand for people who can do this. I think, eventually, there will be a specific MOS [military occupational specialty] for people who can do that type of work."

His greatest point of emphasis was the role individual Marines play in improving the Corps' overall readiness.

"If I call you tonight at midnight and said I need you to pack all your gear and be ready to deploy tomorrow morning, would you be ready or not?" he asked the Marines. "I challenge you all to be ready, right now."

The Commandant also told the Marines they should strive to become smarter individuals, to take better care of their bodies and to "protect what they have earned" in order to be ready for the fight.

"We need to drink less, read more and PT smarter," he said. "We need to police our ranks better and hold ourselves and our fellow Marines accountable. We must do a better job of looking out for each other."

Gen Neller quoted conversations with Marines who received non-judicial punishments and stated that alcohol emerged as a common denominator in many disciplinary incidents. He also talked about his intentions and plans for Marine Forces Reserve.

"In my mind there is only one Marine Corps," he said. "If you study the history of our Corps, every time we went to war, it was as the Marine Corps." He added that the only reason reserve Marines don't deploy as often as he wants them to is because of a current lack of funds. He also addressed his plans for total force expansion and the Department of Defense's intent to increase the Corps' end strength.

Prior to fielding questions from the group, Gen Neller closed with a final encouraging message for all Marines. "You are United States Marines," he said. "You have done something that less than once percent of the American population had the courage to attempt. Be proud of that."

Sgt Ian Ferro, USCMR

CPL MELISSA MARTENS, USMCR

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen Robert B. Neller, discusses his "Seize in the Initiative" message with Marines at MCSF New Orleans, Feb. 17. Gen Neller's "Message to the Force" provides specific guidance on ways Marines can improve readiness in 2017.

Cherry Point Marine Recognized For Work as Community Volunteer

Superheroes come in all sizes and all kinds of disguises—Sergeant Alicia Hojara is living proof of that. For her dedication to giving back to the local community around Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., she was recognized as the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce Service Person of the Quarter at a luncheon in Emerald Isle, N.C., Feb. 10.

In mid-December 2016, Hojara was surrounded by a theater full of children and their families, their expressions changing from anticipation to hope and laughter in the flickering glow of the big screen. The movie, a new animated feature with comical animal characters and lots of hopeful vocals, seemed to be just what some of those families needed at the moment: an escape from real-world worries.

Hojara can usually be found at the front of a classroom of young Marines navigating their way through the intricate details of aviation ordnance handling at the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT), Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. But from time to time, Hojara slips away to take on another mission, volunteering her time with organizations like the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and Snowball Express to help families who have lost an active-duty loved.

"I work at the Good Grief Camps and seminars for children," Hojara said of the

LCPL CODY LEMONS, USMC

Sgt Alicia Hojara, center, an instructor at the CNATT, MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., was recognized as the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce Service Person of the Quarter, Feb. 10. MSgt Christopher McGuire, left, and LtCol Garrett Randel, right, nominated her for the award for her dedication to both the local community and to the children of fallen servicemembers.

TAPS program that pairs young survivors with military mentors. "It's the child's connection to the military because a lot of times when they lose that family member who's in the military, they get separated from the military lifestyle. They don't live on base anymore and a lot of them go back home, so it's just kind of that connection to the military for those kids. We are mentors for the weekend, and we take them on campouts and do different things in different cities. … The rewarding feeling I get from giving back to these families, seeing that child's face light up and seeing the bond that's created between the military mentor and that child is completely worth it to me," she added.

At the awards luncheon, Hojara expressed her belief that others should get out and volunteer.

"Find something that you love. People are always looking for volunteers in the local community," she said.

As Hojara sat with the children in the movie theater, it was apparent she wasn't in it for the awards or the prestige. Later, she would don her familiar green and khaki uniform and prepare young Marines for the challenges that lie ahead. Unlike some superheroes, this Marine shows her strength whether she is wearing her "cape" or not.

LCpl Cody Lemons, USMC

Amtrackers Test Prototypes, Push Vehicles to Their Limits

Unbeknownst to many across the Corps, and even some in their own field, a small contingent of Marines go to work every day putting future amphibious vehicles through their paces to improve the readi-

E.A. PACHECO, MCSC

Marines from MCSC's AVTB run operational checks on an AAV survivability upgrade at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 3. Amtrackers assigned to AVTB serve as test directors and executors for future amphibious vehicle platforms being developed for the Corps.

LCPL DYLAN OVERBAY, USMC

JAY LENO'S GARAGE—Comedian Jay Leno, former host of "The Tonight Show" and current host of the CNBC show "Jay Leno's Garage," talks to LtCol Eric Ashenbrenner, Commanding Officer, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 164, during a visit to Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 3. Leno filmed a segment for his show while accompanying VMM-164 on a mission that included flight maneuvers and tailgunnery training in an MV-22B Osprey. After filming, he was named an honorary member of the squadron, visited and talked with Marines and assisted in a meritorious promotion ceremony.

ness and capability of the Corps.

These Marine amtrackers—a nickname for amphibious vehicle operators and maintainers—belong to the Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch (AVTB), located at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., as part of Marine Corps Systems Command (MCSC), the acquisition command of the Marine Corps. Their mission: to drive, splash, pull and push prototype amphibious vehicles to their limits.

"AVTB is a different part of the Marine Corps than the fleet—it's one of those things you don't hear about when you're in the operating forces," said Captain William Lambuth, the AVTB operations officer.

Most of the nearly 30 Marines at AVTB are amphibious vehicle operators and maintainers. They work side by side with more than 60 civilian engineers, contractors and vendors to test future Marine Corps amphibious vehicle platforms on land and in water. AVTB primarily supports the program manager for Advanced Amphibious Assault (PM AAA), the Marine Corps office that manages acquisition of the Amphibious Assault Vehicle, AAV Survivability Upgrade and the future Amphibious Combat Vehicle.

"Our engineers work with PM AAA engineers to develop a detailed test plan, commonly referred to as a DTP, that includes a list of test items they want to conduct," Lambuth said. "The Marines' job, as test directors and executors, is to figure out how to take that dream test and make it reality."

While Lambuth's main focus is safety and ensuring all AVTB testing stays on schedule, the Marine operators serve as drivers and crew members for test iterations that can be both dangerous and exhausting.

A typical AVTB test crew includes only three Marines—a crew chief, driver and rear crewman. To simulate a full combat load, including ammunition, food and other equipment, Marines use weighted seats called "water dummies" to push the vehicle to the maximum weight it may need to carry in combat.

Weight is key to characterizing a vehicle before operational testing can occur, Lambuth said. One part of characterization is determining its reserve buoyancy, which is the percentage of the vehicle that remains above the water's surface versus below the surface. Another characterization is the vehicle's center of gravity, which AVTB engineers find by hanging the vehicle from a crane. This test helps determine whether a vehicle will tip or flip over in certain positions.

Once the vehicle's reserve buoyancy and center of gravity are determined, the Marines can begin testing its maximum speed in the water and ability to go through a surf zone and do long-distance tows.

"We basically launch a vehicle off the back of an amphibious ship at different speeds to see how well it performs," Lambuth said. "One of the riskiest tests I've ever done was taking our current test vehicle at gross vehicle weight and splashing it off the back of a ship at the ship's maximum speed. There are a lot of factors you can't affect and that increases risk substantially."

Another test, called a Reliability Growth Test, evaluates how long a vehicle can run without an operational mission failure. The RGT typically means about a 13-hour workday for the Marines, and the test can run four to five days non-stop.

"The tempo goes up and down, and we don't have the manpower here that we would over in the fleet, so there's a lot more work to be done and a lot more responsibility for each individual," said Sergeant James Welsch, an AAV operator at AVTB. "But I can say personally that I feel like I've learned a lot more over here than I would have over in the fleet. I know a lot more about the vehicle now."

AVTB was established in the 1940s and has served as the test bed for all Marine Corps amphibious vehicles since that time. Currently, the Marines at AVTB are testing the AAV survivability upgrade and preparing to test the recently delivered Amphibious Combat Vehicle—responsibilities they take seriously.

"[At AVTB], it's all about the safety and development [of the vehicle]—what capabilities it's going to provide; what's going to make the vehicle better," said Staff Sergeant Travis Thomas, an AAV maintainer at AVTB. "Everything is done by the book and double and triple checked to make sure we get the best information."

The data AVTB provides helps the Corps decide what platforms will make it to Marines in the fleet.

MONIQUE RANDOLPH, MCSC

SSgt Travis Thomas, an AAV mechanic with AVTB, is one of about 30 Marines who works with civilian engineers and contractors at MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif., to test future amphibious vehicle platforms on land and in the water.

AVTB's test directors and executors are seasoned Marines—typically sergeants and above who have served at least one operational assignment as an amtracker. The assignment is a unique opportunity to experience another side of amphibious vehicles.

"In the fleet, you never really understand why [the Marine Corps] is pushing some new gear, tool or equipment on you. Being here has opened my eyes to the fact that everything we get has been thoroughly tested and researched," said Thomas, adding he has appreciated the opportunity to work alongside civilians who have dedicated their lives to ensuring a better product for the warfighter.

Working at AVTB provides the big picture that drives home the responsibility these Marines have to the amtracker community, said Sgt Jose R. Chavez, a crew chief at AVTB.

"We're testing new vehicles that future Marines will use," Chavez said. "Being the first ones to go on ship or come off ship in the new vehicles—that's a big deal."

Monique Randolph, MCSC

Crazy Caption Contest

Winner

SGT REECE LODDER, USMC

"Sir, I'm just here to deliver pizza! Sir!"

Submitted by
Dr. Tom Mahoney
Santa Barbara, Calif.

This Month's Photo

LCPL HARLEY ROBINSON, USMC

Dream up your own Crazy Caption. *Leatherneck* will pay $25 or give a one-year MCA membership for the craziest one received. It's easy. Think up a caption for the photo at the right and either mail or e-mail it to us. Send your submission to *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or e-mail it, referencing the number at the bottom right, to leatherneck@mca-marines.org. The winning entry will be published in two months.

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5-17

Advancements in Weaponry, Tactics Resulted in Changes to Marine Covers

Part II
By CWO-4 Randy Gaddo
USMC (Ret)

Editor's Note: In last month's Leatherneck*, "Early Marine Covers Followed the Fashion of the Day," was the first installment of a two-part history of Marine Corps covers. In Part II, we tell the rest of the story from 1912 to present day.*

Veteran and active-duty Marines may remember, possibly from personal experience, occasions when unfortunate new recruits in boot camp or candidates in OCS were caught outside without their covers on.

Ordered to walk around with their hands on their heads or forced to recite pejorative rhymes to accentuate the lesson that Marines in uniform always wear covers outdoors, drill instructors made examples of these unfortunate souls.

That lesson, and the example it set for fellow recruits or candidates, stuck with every Marine who marched across the parade deck on graduation day, all of them covered in identical headwear.

Marine Corps covers are as much a part of leatherneck heritage as the weapons they fire, the uniforms they wear, the equipment they carry and the vehicles they ride or fly in.

As the beginning of the 20th century dawned, Marines still wore headgear that was intended to intimidate the enemy. Because weapons of the 19th century called for closer proximity to the enemy, covers were designed to make Marines look larger and when combined with the rest of the uniform, projected the image of a highly professional fighting force.

"During most of the 19th century, Marines were still using the dress uniform as its primary combat uniform for psychological effects," explained retired Gunnery Sergeant Tom Williams, Director of Operations, United States Marine Corps Historical Company. A founder of the company, Williams has nearly 50 years of experience researching, studying and even creating replicas of Marine Corps uniforms and equipment. It may be difficult for a modern-day Marine to imagine going into combat with dress blues on, but that is essentially what early Marines did. Worn alongside the tall, bell-crown covers or the iconic campaign cover, Marines in their dress blues projected the image of a well-equipped and disciplined force trained to achieve victory on any battlefield.

"Until World War II, there was not a dedicated combat uniform," Williams pointed out. "The service uniform, which replaced the undress blue uniform, was the combat uniform, so there was no purpose-driven utility cover for the field and combat."

As Marines prepared to deploy to the European continent during WW I, major changes came about, resulting in Marines beginning to wear covers more similar to modern-day headgear.

COURTESY OF USMC HISTORICAL COMPANY

A WW I Marine in France wore the newly issued British pattern Brodie helmet with an eagle, globe and anchor he had "borrowed" from his campaign cover.

"Going into France during WW I changed the whole dynamics of headgear for the Marine Corps," said Williams. "For the first time on the modern battlefield, a helmet would be worn as an alternative to the bell crown or campaign cover ... neither of them was practical headgear for field service, so we set them aside and ... issued helmets."

Modern weaponry dictated a new kind of protection for the head—protection from shrapnel. Until then, soldiers of most nations went into battle wearing cloth, felt or leather headgear that offered no protection against modern ordnance.

Designed in the early stages of WW I in response to lethal head wounds that were caused by shrapnel, the French were the first to wear the bowl-shaped "skullcaps" covered by cloth. Frenchman August-Louis Adrian later designed the model 1915 steel helmet that soon replaced the skullcap, and the "Adrian" helmet became the model for others to follow.

One major improvement was the "Brodie" helmet, a steel combat helmet designed by Englishman John Brodie. Patented in 1915, it went by many names—"shrapnel helmet," "Tommy helmet," "tin hat"—but Americans adopted it as the "Doughboy" helmet, paying homage to the collective term applied to U.S. troops sent to France during WW I.

The Doughboy-style helmet was used by troops from Britain, France, Australia, Germany and others, but the American version was the M1917, a copy of the 1916 British Mk 1 steel helmet. This helmet design resembled the medieval infantry's "kettle" hat, which had a wide brim and pointed, sloping top to protect from overhead blows, such as those from cavalry swords.

Early versions of the Doughboy helmets were made from thick steel formed in a single pressing process, but later models used a steel-magnesium mix that reportedly made the helmets highly resistant to shrapnel and even .45-caliber pistol bullets fired from a distance of 10 feet.

Helmets led to another major transition cover for Marines, known initially as the overseas cover because it was used primarily by Marines in Europe during WW I; later it was called the garrison cover when it came into use by Marines back home. Modern Marines wear the descendant of those early models and

COURTESY OF USMC HISTORICAL COMPANY

A modern-day Marine wears the 1912 dress blue uniform which includes the distinctive bell crown cover. It was used in various forms from 1904 to 1926.

COURTESY OF USMC HISTORICAL COMPANY

This Marine is wearing a WW II-era winter service uniform with garrison cover, which Marines initially referred to as the overseas hat, because of its use in Europe during WW II.

know it officially as the garrison cover, but more familiarly as the "piss-cutter."

"The garrison cover had two derivatives," Williams explained, noting that in the early 1800s, European military forces wore soft covers for off-duty and fatigue uses. "They would take scraps from old uniforms and make an almost cone-shaped hat that could fold down and look vaguely like the modern garrison cover."

Williams said U.S. forces actually started using them in the 1830s, but they disappeared when they went to the more conventional undress fatigue cap before re-emerging during WW I. "We started receiving variations of French and British garrison covers when we arrived in France at the beginning of WW I and, in the 1920s, Americans finally adopted their own variations," Williams noted.

Why is it called the "piss-cutter"? There are many theories, some too unsavory to repeat. A variety of colloquial origins liken the pointed cover to male body parts; others refer to female anatomy. Many interpret the term to mean something that is sharp and particularly impressive, while others say it refers to the pointed bow of a ship at flank-speed cutting through the foamy sea.

Whatever interpretation there is for the cover, the utility of it was the key to its

It may be difficult for a modern-day Marine to imagine going into combat with dress blues on, but that is essentially what early Marines did. ... Marines in their dress blues projected the image of a well-equipped and disciplined force trained to achieve victory on any battlefield.

COURTESY OF USMC HISTORICAL COMPANY

Sgt Edward Clark, 43d Co, 5th Marines, in France during WW I, wears the 1912 campaign cover known as the Montana Peak. The cover later would be resurrected as the iconic "Smokey Bear" worn by drill instructors since the 1950s.

One of the most revered, recognizable and iconic covers ... is the campaign cover. Known more commonly by today's Marines as the "Smokey Bear" or DI cover.

use in WW I. It could easily fold up and be tucked in a pocket or under the belt when the helmet was worn, then pulled out and worn when circumstances called for it. Other than that, and the symbolic purpose of covering the top of the head, many Marines failed to see the purpose of the garrison cover.

In contrast, one of the most revered, recognizable and iconic covers that past and present Marines have worn in one style or another is the campaign cover. Known more commonly by today's Marines as the "Smokey Bear" or DI cover, the campaign cover was patterned after an Army design and was tested for use by Marines in Guantanamo, Cuba, in 1898 at the end of the Spanish-American War. Ironically, it was not used in that war.

"The Marine Corps had ordered 1,500 campaign covers from the Army for the battalion in Cuba, but they didn't arrive until after the war had ended," said Williams. "However, Marines who later went into the Philippines and who fought at the Boxer Rebellion in China did wear this first pattern of campaign covers."

The Marine Corps continued evaluation of the campaign cover and eventually fielded its own version in 1912. They were patterned after covers being worn by Army cavalry units in the western deserts. The mouse-brown cover had a wide brim that encircled the head, protecting the face and neck from the sun, and it had a high crown, originally split like a fedora. In 1912, it was modernized to be symmetrically pinched at the four corners, a style known as the "Montana Peak." One theory explaining the 1912 innovation was that this pattern came from the Mexican cowboys' sombrero, which was designed to help shed off rain.

Williams explained that the drill instructor cover that today's Marines revere is nothing more than the modern rendition of the 1926-style Marine campaign cover, with the modern cover being darker brown in color with a stiffer brim, featuring five rows of stitching around the edge.

"The campaign cover was actually issued to all Marines as part of their standard uniform until 1942, when it was discontinued, and the service frame cover and the garrison cover became the dominant headgear," Williams explains.

In the late 1950s the campaign cover became a standard cover for drill instructors while range instructors came to use a variation of the pith helmet.

"Marines may not realize that formally trained drill instructors didn't exist until after the Korean War era," said Williams. He elaborated that during WW II and Korea, battalions would detail an NCO to accompany a training battalion of recruits to one of the recruit training depots in order to train the battalion. Upon completion, the NCO would remain with the battalion, going into combat with them.

"They trained their own recruits and there was no special headgear for them because all Marines wore the campaign cover," Williams explained. It wouldn't be until the late '50s that the idea of having a structured school for drill instructors was instituted, where the trained drill instructors would stay at the recruit depots and train several platoons during their tour. It was then that the Marine Corps adopted the campaign cover exclusively for drill instructors.

Another distinctive and useful cover that became iconic during the 1920s and '30s was the pith helmet, adopted for use in hot, tropical regions. This helmet originally had come on the scene in the late 1800s. Based on European designs, it was made of pressed cork covered with white cloth and adorned with a screw-in ventilator that could be replaced with a brass spike in full-dress.

The major difference between early

COURTESY OF USMC HISTORICAL COMPANY

Left to right: 1917 helmet, 1926 updated campaign cover, 1929 blue dress hat, fur winter hat adopted by the 4th Marines in China in the 1930s, 1947 pattern service frame with white cover and Vietnam-era M1 helmet with Mitchell pattern camo.

COURTESY OF USMC HISTORICAL COMPANY

Marines in France during WW I wore a variety of headgear including the British Brodie helmet and a French pattern overseas cover commonly nicknamed the piss-cutter. The Marine second from back on the right has field-modified his campaign cover by cutting off the brim.

COURTESY OF USMC HISTORICAL COMPANY

Marines assigned to ship duty in France during 1941 wore the service frame cover with white cover adopted in 1937. It would be the forerunner of the modern frame cover.

pith helmets and those of the 20th century was the material used to make them—pressed fiber that resembled cardboard replaced cork, Williams said, "[And] when compared side-by-side there was no comparison in shape whatsoever." Pith helmets during the WW II era were issued in both a khaki and light green color.

The other big change after WW I was the transition to the service frame cover, which occurred between 1926-29. Frame covers are reminiscent of the much earlier bell crown designs, and feature a metal bracket elevating a stiffened hoop that supports the various colored covers.

"Service frame covers were first issued with only a dark blue cover to go with the dress uniform," said Williams, noting that the earlier designs didn't have changeable covers. "A white cover could be slipped over the blue one. In 1937, the frame was changed to enable them to change covers to blue, white, khaki or green using the same frame."

Initially, only officers had the metal extension piece that all Marines use today on their frame covers. Enlisted frame covers had a wire going around the inside with a basket-weave extension off the frame to stiffen the shape of the cover.

"That was part of our dress blue issue in 1950 when I graduated 67 years ago at Parris Island," recalled Jack Paxton, who retired as a Marine captain. "I well remember how we used to try and emulate the old China Hands and try to make our frames bow in the middle—and they wouldn't, because the frames were not wire like the old cap frames were."

Paxton recalls going on leave to his hometown of Greenville, Pa., wearing his dress blue trousers, khaki flannel shirt (with shaved creases to make them sharper), field scarf and blue frame cover—a bit out of regulation but, "friends in my hometown didn't know that," he said. "Let me tell you, the uniform just described was some kind of sharp, especially during the period when we carried swagger sticks."

Until WW II, Marines didn't have a field utility cover. This changed when the venerable herringbone twill (HBT) uniform came into service circa 1941, initially as a coverall for the service uniform and eventually, by necessity, as a stand-alone combat uniform. A utility cover to go with that uniform, based on the Army mechanic's cap, was developed in 1944, but instead of one center front panel there were three, with the center panel featuring a stenciled eagle, globe and anchor emblem.

Early versions of the cap were nicknamed "Raider" because they were initially worn by Marine raiders. "These can be considered the great-grandfathers of the utility covers we have today," Williams said. "By the late 1950s, we started starching them to keep that sharp edge, and by 1954 we started stitching the front three panels and getting the octagonal shape by using a starching frame. This continued until the 1980s, when the covers were stitched all the way around so they would hold their shape without starch."

When the olive green "sateen" uniform was introduced in the 1950s as the Marine utility uniform, a similarly colored utility cover was included. Even after camouflaged utilities were introduced during the Vietnam era, Marines still wore plain green utility covers until the 1980s.

The uniform regulations issued in 1983 set the general trends for the uniforms in use today with a few exceptions. "Nothing has changed significantly with covers since then," said Williams.

The Mark I helmet was used from WW II until 1985. While earlier helmets had simple fixed liners, such as the Kelly liner in the WW I helmet, the Mark I was the

COURTESY OF CAPT JACK T. PAXTON, USMC (RET)

A 1929 blue dress hat worn by Capt Jack T. Paxton, USMC (Ret), at his boot camp graduation in 1950.

COURTESY OF USMC HISTORICAL COMPANY

The M1 helmet was used in Korea but was first introduced in 1941 and would continue to see service until it was replaced with the Kevlar helmet.

only helmet to have a functional removable liner system. The chin strap was attached to the liner, and an outer shell was clipped to the liner. "It was not uncommon in garrison to see Marines separate the liner from the outer steel shell and use the liner as a sun helmet," Williams explained. For many years, Marine recruits were issued silver painted "chrome dome" liners for wear through their boot camp experience.

Kevlar, a high-strength synthetic fiber, was developed in the mid-1960s and revolutionized production of military protective gear, including helmets. It was introduced to the military in the mid-1980s and is now in its fifth or sixth generation.

"When the newly designed Kevlar helmets came out in 1985, there was sort of a stigma on them because many thought they were based on German design, but the design actually goes back 2,000 years," explained Williams. "It is a practical design that provides protection over the ears and back of the neck but still provides good vision and hearing. It was probably one of the best designed helmets in history. There are similarities to helmets worn by ancient Greek and Roman legion soldiers."

Other subtle changes in covers after 1983 include the introduction of anodized brass for buttons and emblems on covers and highly polished Corfam for the bills of covers, as well as for use on the rest of the uniform. This negated the need for time-honored traditions of spit-shining shoes, boots and bills of frame covers and polishing brass. Some "Old Corps" Marines, including Williams, believe something is lost with the departure of these functions.

"For every gain there is a loss," Williams lamented. "Today the average Marine is not as fastidious about taking care of his or her uniform as when we had to polish brass, polish shoes and the bills of service frames and starch utility covers. There are intangible benefits from taking care of uniforms that served purposes other than mundane polishing. There was significant bonding occurring when Marines sat down to help each other with these tasks and it showed that the Marine was willing to go that extra mile."

Regardless of how much time and effort is expended by today's Marines in the care and upkeep of their uniforms, the cover remains an iconic feature of the Marine Corps uniform. If the dress blues or camouflage utilities don't immediately identity the wearer as a U.S. Marine, the cover surely will.

Editor's note: In February 2011, Leatherneck *published an article about the history of covers worn by female Marines. MCA&F members can access the archives at www.mca-marines.org/leatherneck.*

Author's bio: CWO-4 Randy Gaddo, USMC (Ret), was a combat correspondent as an enlisted Marine and later a public affairs officer. He now operates his own writing-based business, RGCommunications, and is a freelance photojournalist.

Below: Marines during the Korean War wore the utility cover first adopted in 1944. These covers are the "grandfathers" of today's eight-sided utility covers.

MSGT FRED G. BRAITSCH JR., USMC

Kevlar, a high-strength synthetic fiber, was developed in the mid-1960s and revolutionized production of military protective gear, including helmets. It was introduced to the military in the mid-1980s and is now in its fifth or sixth generation.

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Passing the Word

Compiled by Sara W. Bock

From Boots to Suits: Marines Transition to the Corporate World

Transitioning from active-duty service can be a difficult and stressful time for Marines. Many return to their hometowns, while others find work in the area of their final duty station.

Planning for life after the military is one of the key elements of a smooth transition. For Staff Sergeant Junior Hamilton, USMC (Ret), this meant swapping out his uniform for business attire.

"I decided to join the corporate sector because I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to get a degree … to use my mind to make money that is comparable to what I made as a Marine," said Hamilton.

Hamilton enlisted in 1997 and retired in 2017. During his time in the Marine Corps, he earned a bachelor's degree in human resources and business management.

During his transition to civilian life, Hamilton came across the Hiring Our Heroes Corporate Fellowship Program, a 12-week internship program where members are paired with and work with local companies in the corporate sector four days each week. The fifth day is set aside for one-on-one feedback and coaching.

"We are a unique intern-to-hire program because we focus on the servicemember's career objectives," said Sara McNamera, the program's director. "This program is highly valuable because it is focused on the individual and their end goals."

To enter the program, servicemembers complete an interview with the program manager and then meet with potential employers to interview for a position with various corporations. This allows both the employer and employee to find the perfect match for the internship.

"My job is to find opportunities in the business community to match what the servicemember's end goal is in the corporate sector," said McNamara. "They get real on-the-job training and experience of corporate culture."

Hamilton interviewed and was accepted for a position at 7-Eleven as a field consultant. In this position, Hamilton was assigned about eight stores. His job involved overseeing operations and ensuring that each business ran smoothly.

"I chose 7-Eleven because of the research that I did; the company is really like a family," said Hamilton. "I also saw that I could bring something meaningful to the organization."

According to Hamilton, the leadership skills he learned as a Marine are highly sought-after skills in the business world.

"It doesn't matter if you were an infantryman or an administrative specialist; the corporate sector will hire you based on the leadership skills and traits you have acquired from our small unit leadership experience," he said.

Over the 12-week internship, Hamilton gained on-the-job training as well as valuable skills to help in his transition.

"My end goal is to be a human resource manager," said Hamilton. "I currently have a position as a human resource spe-

COURTESY OF MCAS MIRAMAR

SSgt Junior Hamilton, USMC (Ret), left, participated in the 12-week Hiring Our Heroes Corporate Fellowship Program and now works for 7-Eleven as a field consultant. He is pictured here with members of the 7-Eleven team at their corporate office in San Diego, Calif., Feb. 24.

cialist, but I have a five-year goal within the company—advance to become an HR manager."

Hamilton has a bit of advice for active-duty servicemembers: "Every experience that you have in the Marine Corps, every certification that you can get, every training that you are able to do—do it. Having those experiences will help you immensely in the civilian world."

To learn more about the Hiring our Heroes Corporate Fellowship Program, visit www.uschamberfoundation.org/corporate-fellowship-program-0.

LCpl Liah Kitchen, USMC

"Mini Marines" Spend the Day With Air Station Volunteers

A group of 45 Marines stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., volunteered their time on March 11 to help make the day special for the children of their fellow Marines. The family event, known as "Mini Marines," is held quarterly and is organized by Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) South Carolina.

"I am utterly impressed by all the Marines that are out here to volunteer for the families … it is really awesome to see," said Lieutenant Colonel Michael P. Brennan, the commanding officer of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122. "It shows that these Marines realize they are part of an organization that is bigger than them. It makes me proud to be a Marine," he added.

During the event, the children were split into different platoons and given colored bandanas to identify their group. Each platoon, led by two Marine volunteers, cycled through different activity stations.

"I love doing this event," said Paula Dyson, the volunteer coordinator program director. "It is absolutely true—'Born into, sworn into, married into—we are one big Marine Corps family.' We are here today because of the Marine volunteers; without them, events like this wouldn't be possible."

The Marine volunteers, who worked with eight mentors from the Lifestyle Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills (L.I.N.K.S.) program, manned the activity stations and led platoons. The platoon leaders started the day by leading stretches and warm-ups, followed by activities like a toy rifle range, team building challenges, Marine Corps Martial Arts lessons, a modified Combat Fitness Test and a display by Marines with Expeditionary Firefighting Rescue.

"This event is so important because it builds camaraderie amongst the Marines, their families and really broadens the horizon for these children," said Sergeant Jasmine Smith, the training noncommissioned officer with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31. "They get to see what their parent does at work and see what it means to be a Marine."

LCPL ASHLEY PHILLIPS, USMC

Above: Marine volunteers guide children through a modified CFT during the Mini Marines event at MCAS Beaufort, S.C., March 11. The MCCS-sponsored event allows children to gain an understanding of what their Marine parents do at work.

Below: A Marine paints a child's face during Mini Marines at MCAS Beaufort, S.C., March 11. Using bandanas to signify their "unit," children were divided into platoons and were led by active-duty Marine volunteers through a variety of activity stations.

LCPL ASHLEY PHILLIPS, USMC

At the end of the event, the platoon leaders presented each Mini Marine with their own set of dog tags and released them to their parents, who greeted the children with homemade banners. The Marines received letters of appreciation for their volunteer efforts.

"Volunteering is an essential part of developing as a leader," said Smith. "But for me it is also an essential part of being a Marine; giving back to an institution that has given me everything. These kids are a part of the Marine Corps family; therefore they are my family too. Volunteering is something I have to do."

LCpl Ashley Phillips, USMC

Captured on Corregidor

By P.L. Thompson

Editor's note: On May 6, 1942, American forces on Corregidor, including 4th Marine Regiment surrendered to Japanese forces.

The Western Union messenger checked the address once more before pulling to a stop in front of the house on Nebraska Avenue. Moments later, he handed a telegram to Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Garden, of Norfolk, Neb. In silence they read the stark message, so dreaded in wartime.

Just a few days before Wendell Garden's parents received the telegram, Garden walked to the entrance of Malinta Tunnel on Corregidor. A 20-year-old Marine corporal with two years of service in the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines, Garden was following the orders he had been given to destroy his weapon and surrender to the Japanese.

"The first Japanese soldier I saw came over to me and took my wrist watch and ring. I tried to tell him the ring wouldn't come off, so he was going to use his bayonet to cut it off. Well, I managed to get the thing off in a hurry," said Garden.

"They took everything but my dog tags. In fact, I still have them. They [the combat troops] didn't mistreat anyone, not like later in the prison camps. They might shoot you if you did something wrong, but they didn't beat me," Garden continued.

Kept on the island of Corregidor for nearly three weeks, Garden's captors provided him with no food.

"The only thing we got to eat was what we could scrounge from the island's food dumps, and that wasn't much. Sometimes the working parties might find some canned goods, but never enough for everyone," Garden recalled.

From Corregidor, Garden and his fellow prisoners began a long, nightmarish odyssey that would end in death for thousands and long, hard years in Japanese POW camps for those, like Garden, who would ultimately survive.

"We were taken to Bilabid Prison in Manila. We spent some time there and then were taken to a train station. I remember it was a long march and very hot. When we got there, they packed us into small railroad freight cars, a hundred men to each car. There was no room to sit. If you passed out, you wouldn't even fall down ... we were packed that tightly," said Garden.

The tropical heat, combined with the crowded conditions, soon turned the freight cars' interiors into an oven. Because of the lack of air, some men aboard the train went mad; others suffocated.

When the train arrived at its destination, the men were again marched, this time to a prison camp named Cabanatuan.

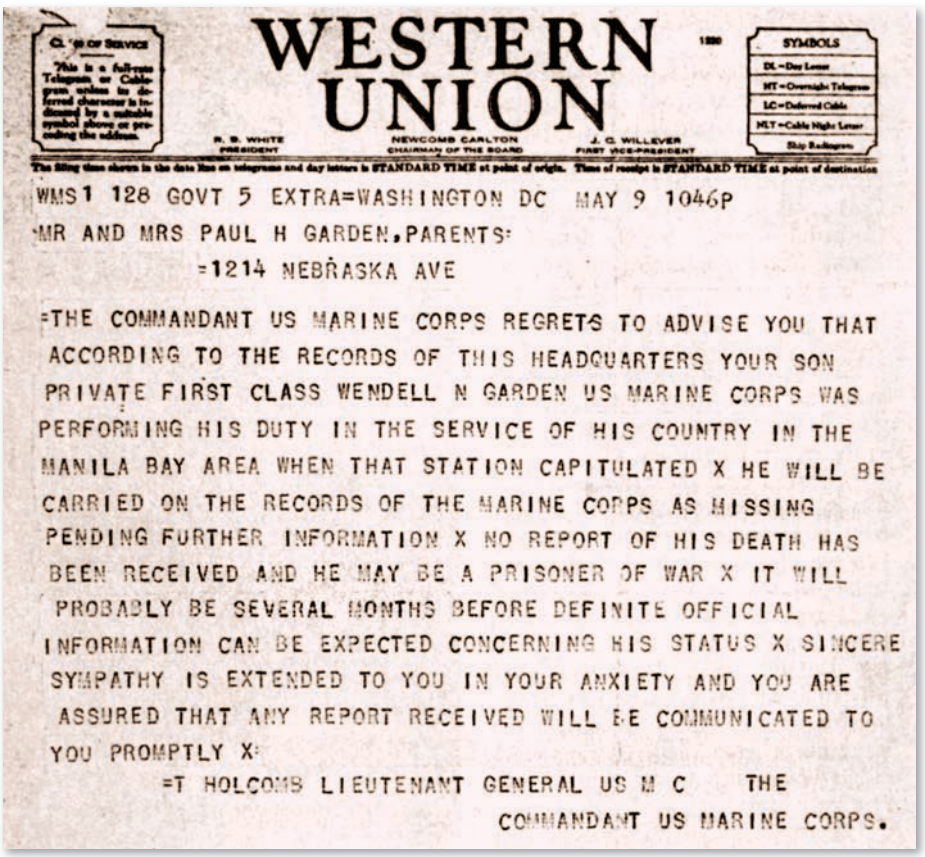
"There wasn't much there; huts made of bamboo that had grass roofs and were open at the sides.

"Our officers had their own huts, but they were no different. They tried to set up a command structure, but again there wasn't much they could do. The Japanese wouldn't let them. They would even detail men to take charge of the food when it came in, what there was of it," explained Garden.

The prisoners were fed rice, barley and

LEATHERNECK FILE PHOTO

When Japanese guards failed to show up at his prison camp the day WW II ended, Wendell Garden slipped into the prison administration building and "liberated" his identification photograph. At the time of his release, Garden had lost 100 pounds and was suffering from malaria.



WESTERN UNION

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NT = Overnight Telegram
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter

R. B. WHITE, PRESIDENT — NEWCOMB CARLTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD — J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

WMS 1 128 GOVT 5 EXTRA=WASHINGTON DC MAY 9 1046P
MR AND MRS PAUL H GARDEN, PARENTS:
=1214 NEBRASKA AVE

=THE COMMANDANT US MARINE CORPS REGRETS TO ADVISE YOU THAT ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS OF THIS HEADQUARTERS YOUR SON PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WENDELL N GARDEN US MARINE CORPS WAS PERFORMING HIS DUTY IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY IN THE MANILA BAY AREA WHEN THAT STATION CAPITULATED X HE WILL BE CARRIED ON THE RECORDS OF THE MARINE CORPS AS MISSING PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION X NO REPORT OF HIS DEATH HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND HE MAY BE A PRISONER OF WAR X IT WILL PROBABLY BE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE DEFINITE OFFICIAL INFORMATION CAN BE EXPECTED CONCERNING HIS STATUS X SINCERE SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO YOU IN YOUR ANXIETY AND YOU ARE ASSURED THAT ANY REPORT RECEIVED WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO YOU PROMPTLY X:

=T HOLCOMB LIEUTENANT GENERAL US M C THE COMMANDANT US MARINE CORPS.

whatever happened to be in season, but it was never enough.

"I remember they used to give us just the tops off the vegetables. The Japanese guard would get the vegetables and we would get the tops.

"Once in a while the guards would shoot a carabao and bring it back for us. The problem was, with thousands of prisoners, the one carabao was just never enough. We were always hungry," Garden said.

The Japanese would take men from Cabanatuan Prison for working details in other parts of Luzon. Very often, being picked—or not picked—for a working party could mean the difference between life and death. Garden was sent on one detail that almost cost him his life.

Transported to Clark Air Base to help repair the war damage, Garden found the conditions there worse than at Cabanatuan.

"Clark was about the worst detail you could have. It was real coolie work. We had one barracks for ourselves, a regular army barracks, and the Japanese came up with a unique way of guarding us," Garden recalled.

Keeping prisoners from escaping was rather a simple matter for the Japanese. If one prisoner escaped, 10 others were chosen at random and executed.

"I don't remember exactly how many, but there were one or two who did escape. The Japanese came down the line, just like an officer going to inspect your rifle. They would stop in front of you and if they touched you, that meant you were to be shot.

"One of them stopped in front of me and I thought, 'God—here it goes,' but he went on to the next guy, right next to me, and took him. There was no rhyme or reason to the selection. I guess it's God's will that I'm still here; there could be no other reason," said Garden, his voice choking. "That happened twice that I personally know of."

Garden remained at Clark for several months and then was taken back to Cabanatuan. At the time, he was suffering from both malaria and jaundice as were many of the prisoners. They received no medical attention. In the camp at Cabanatuan, sick prisoners died at an appalling rate.

Within several weeks, Garden was taken from Cabanatuan to Manila and put aboard a ship, bound for Japan. This time he was lucky. While most of the prisoners were held in the crowded, sweltering hold of the ship, Garden was detailed to help prepare what food was to be given to the prisoners of war.

"We were attacked several times by American submarines, or at least the convoy we were in was. There were six or eight ships, I don't remember. We also had Japanese destroyers along with us and they drove the subs off. We were glad of that," Garden sighed.

COURTESY OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

In May 1942, after nearly a month of continuous bombardment and an assault by the Japanese, U.S. forces in the Philippines surrendered. Garden and his fellow Marines remained on Corregidor for three weeks after the surrender.

The ship Garden was aboard stopped at Formosa and the prisoners were given fresh fruit. To men used to so little, the appearance of anything out of the ordinary was an overwhelming joy. With so little to eat, food had become an obsession with the prisoners.

"It's so very hard to explain, now, how deeply you can appreciate something like even an old banana. Just anything, you know?" Garden reflected.

As with other men who underwent the same type of experience, Garden's memory of time and place is sometimes limited. As a prisoner, time means very little when you're trying to stay alive, day by day.

"I think we landed in Osaka, Japan, in December of 1942. I know there was an air raid going on when we arrived and it was terribly cold. We had nothing but what was left of our original uniforms, and not much remained of those.

"After the raid, we got on a train and went to Niigata, north of Tokyo. I was there for the rest of the war," Garden said.

On March 20, 1943, Garden's parents received a letter from Headquarters Marine Corps. It said, in part, "A partial list of American prisoners of war has been received from the International Red Cross, containing the name of your son, Corporal Wendell N. Garden, U.S. Marine Corps, confirming the fact that he is alive and a prisoner of war. The report fails to state the place of internment."

This was the first news the Gardens had heard about their son in nearly a year. But they knew, at least at the time of the report, that he was alive.

The prisoner of war camp at Niigata was in an old lumber yard. It had been used as a prison for some time and Chinese prisoners from Formosa were being used there as slave labor.

"The buildings and facilities were a lot better than at Clark or Cabanatuan, but our diet got worse. There was never enough to eat and everyone was always hungry. I should explain. Because of the way things were then, the Japanese didn't have much to eat either," said Garden.

The treatment of the prisoners at Niigata was bad from the start and it got worse as American aircraft brought the war to Japan on a regular basis. After a bombing, the prisoners were often beaten.

"Every time the planes bombed, the Japanese would come and collect us. Things really got bad. The work was bad, and it never ended. They worked you until you dropped. If you couldn't work, you didn't eat ... ."

The prisoners worked in a plant that

manufactured huge diesel engines for ships. Garden's job was to chisel the excess metal from the engine castings with an air hammer.

"For prisoners to be forced to work in that type of place was clearly against the rules of the Geneva Convention," Garden said. "It was a prime target for air raids and we were hit several times."

The POW camp at Niigata was not marked as a prisoner of war compound either, and it too was hit several times during air raids.

Garden's days, like those of the other prisoners, drifted by, one by one, marked only by the constant backbreaking labor and starvation diet. There was only the occasional terror of a sadistic guard to break the monotony.

"We had one guard who was really bad when he got drunk. He would come around the barracks and hold a loaded pistol to your head and threaten, 'I could shoot you!' I would look at him and say, 'Yes, I suppose you could,' " recalled Garden.

The prisoners at Niigata received little or no news about the war. They had been encouraged from the start to learn Japanese because, their captors reasoned, Japan was winning and everyone would need to speak the language after the war.

As the U.S. bombings increased and food became even scarcer, it became clear to the prisoners that things were not going well for the Japanese war effort.

"Toward the end, even the guards who had been sadistic became a little more friendly. They wanted us to put in a good word for them when it was over."

One morning, the prisoners noticed something strange. The military guards were gone.

"Later in the day some of the civilian guards came by and told us the war was over. It was hard to believe. We could even go to town if we wanted! We had no money, but we were free to do as we pleased," Garden recalled.

The next day the prisoners heard the roar of fighter aircraft, almost at ground level, coming across the camp.

"They were Marine Corps fighters, and they were dropping cartons of cigarettes. One of those pilots came in so low that his propeller brushed the trees when he pulled up over the camp. The pilots had signed their names on the cartons.

"The day after that, larger planes came over and dropped a number of 255-gallon drums, welded together, full of food. Someone had figured the load wrong because the parachutes broke, and the drums came down like bombs.

"We also had a problem with the food. A couple of the prisoners overate and died as a result. We had been starved for so long that we just couldn't eat that much at one time," Garden said.

Within a few days, the Japanese civilian guards told the former prisoners they were to go to Tokyo by train. When they arrived, they were met by members of the U.S. military.

When Garden set foot in Tokyo, he weighed 126 pounds. He had lost 100 pounds as a POW.

Back in Norfolk, Neb., Garden's parents finally received word that their son was definitely alive and would be returning home. Wendell Garden sent the cable himself.

"We had a bit of an adjustment period after we were released. We left Japan by ship and went to Guam, where they put us in the hospital for a while. I was doing well, except I still had malaria.

"When we arrived in the States, I checked in at the hospital in Oakland, Calif., and then headed for home. I bought a new set of greens to go home in, and after I'd been there for a month I couldn't wear them any more—I had gained so much weight back," Garden laughed.

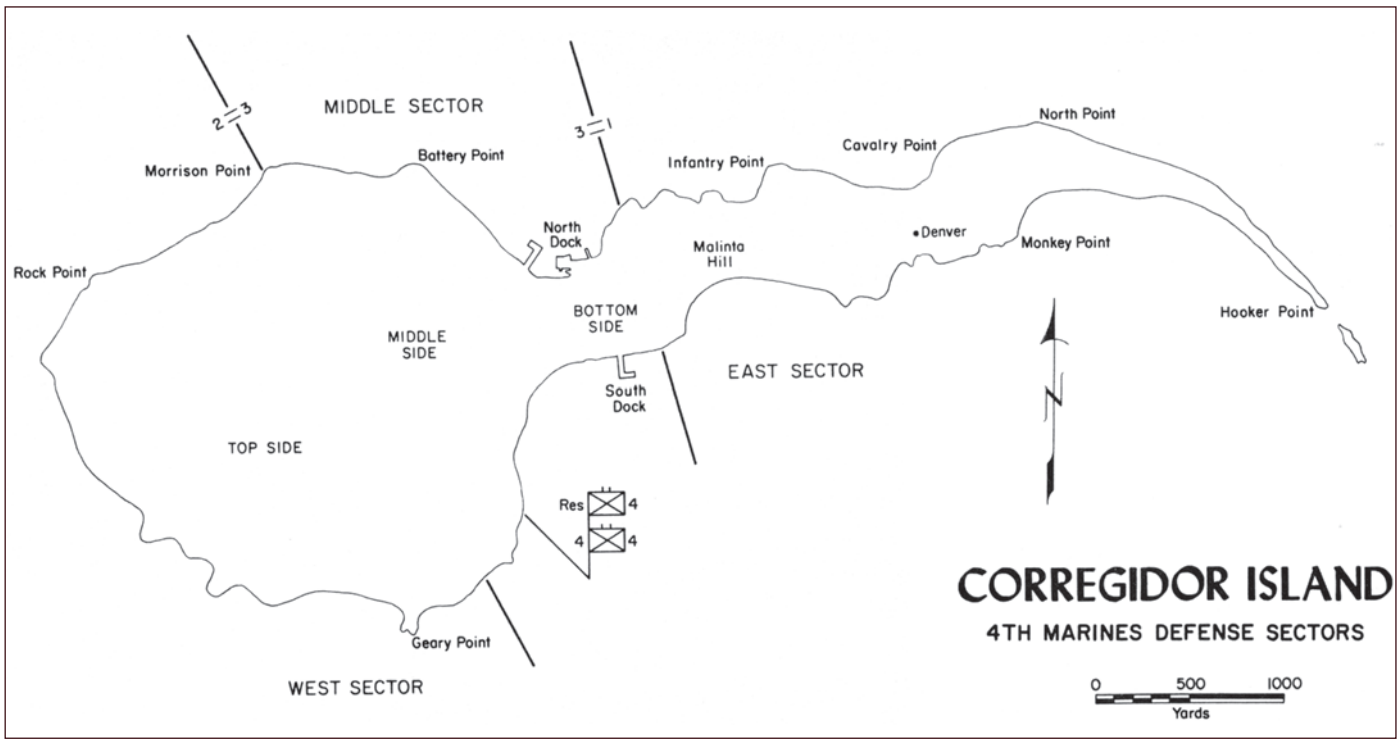
Wendell Garden settled in his hometown and became a successful businessman. He counts himself luckier than many of the other former POWs he still sees occasionally.

"I believe it was really mental attitude that got me through those years. I also believe that my Marine Corps training had a lot to do with it," Garden states.

"There were many prisoners I knew who just gave up—just turned everything off and sat down and died. Most Marines

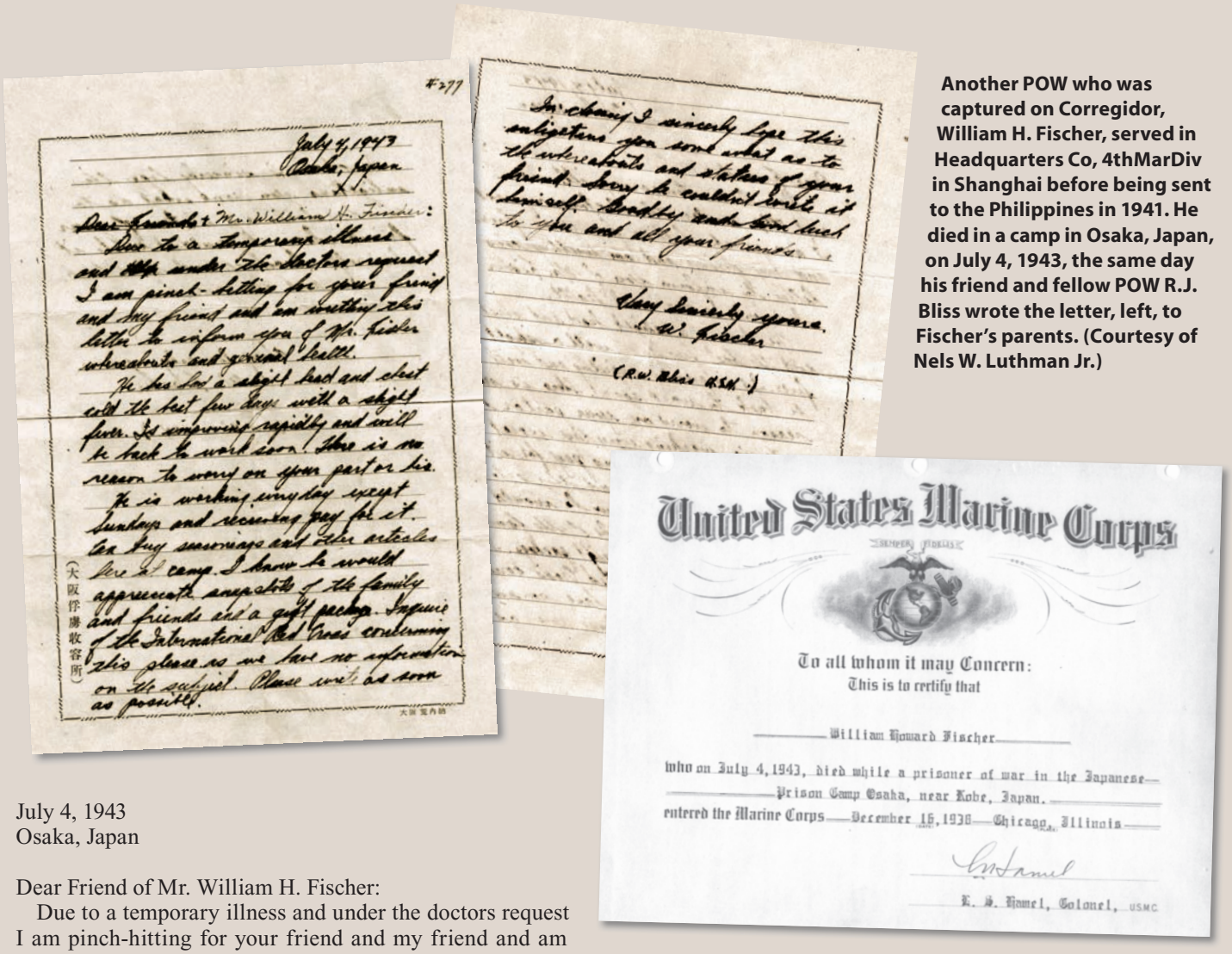
COURTESY OF WENDALL GARDEN

Wendell Garden went on to become a successful businessman in his hometown of Norfolk, Neb. He died in 2000 at the age of 78.



USMC

A Letter Home From a POW



Another POW who was captured on Corregidor, William H. Fischer, served in Headquarters Co, 4thMarDiv in Shanghai before being sent to the Philippines in 1941. He died in a camp in Osaka, Japan, on July 4, 1943, the same day his friend and fellow POW R.J. Bliss wrote the letter, left, to Fischer's parents. (Courtesy of Nels W. Luthman Jr.)

July 4, 1943
Osaka, Japan

Dear Friend of Mr. William H. Fischer:

Due to a temporary illness and under the doctors request I am pinch-hitting for your friend and my friend and am writing this letter to inform you of Mr. Fischer's whereabouts and general health.

He has had a slight head and chest cold the last few days with a slight fever. Is improving rapidly and will be back to work soon! There is no reason to worry on your part or his.

He is working every day except Sundays and receiving pay for it. Can buy seasonings and other articles here at camp. I know he would appreciate snapshots of the family and friends and a gift package. Inquire of the International Red Cross concerning this please as we have no information on the subject. Please write as soon as possible.

In closing I sincerely hope this enlightens you somewhat as to the whereabouts and status of your friend. Sorry he couldn't write it himself. Goodbye and good luck to you and all your friends.

Very sincerely yours,
W. Fischer
(R.W. Bliss U.S.N.)

refused to do that. They fought every inch of the way.

"I knew I was going to make it—at least give it a good try—when they didn't shoot me as I came down from Topside on Corregidor. I just set my mind on surviving."

Like many of the men who survived those long years in POW camps, Wendell Garden doesn't talk much about the experience. He has done his best to put it all behind him, but memories of the pain, hunger and suffering are still with him.

It's a long way back to the days of Corregidor and the POW camps for Wendell Garden, but his association and ties with the Marine Corps did not end when he left the Corps. His son, Harold, later joined the Corps and was commissioned a Marine lieutenant.

Author's bio: P.L. Thompson was one of the last active-duty Marines to do a tour with Leatherneck. *He made four trips to Vietnam for the magazine to cover stories, and spent almost a month in Hue City during the Tet Offensive. During his next assignment, he returned to Vietnam with the Marine Corps Combat Motion Picture team. He retired from the Marine Corps as the NCOIC of public affairs, MCB Quantico, Va., and joined the* Leatherneck *staff again. Two years later, he moved to the Voice of America, the government's international broadcast facility in Washington, D.C., as a writer/producer/director. He retired from VOA after 21 years.*

Eve 1956, BLT 3/3 aboard USS *Telfair* (APA-210), USS *Oak Hill* (LSD-7) and USS *Algol* (AKA-54) arrived at then British Naval Base Trincomalee, Ceylon and departed Jan. 5, 1957.

During the time in Trincomalee, Marines and Sailors took day trips to island attractions while the ships resupplied.

Trincomalee was only one of the several ports visited which included Brunei Bay, British North Borneo en route to the Gulf of Aden; Karachi, Pakistan; Bombay, (Mumbai) India; Singapore and Hong Kong during the return to Japan. We arrived at Yokosuka on Feb. 4, 1957; it was an interesting 88-day cruise during a dangerous international crisis.

CMSgt John F. Forgette, USAF (Ret)
USMC, 1951-57
Fairhaven Village, Wash.

Camp Montierchaume Identified

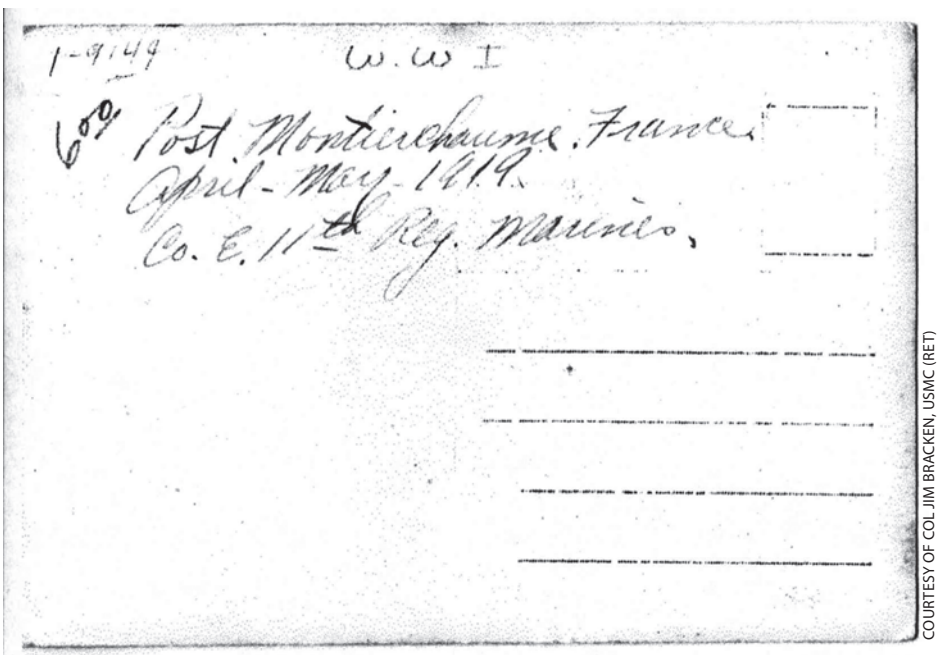
On page 64 of the February issue of *Leatherneck* there was a picture of a World War I camp in France asking if it may be Camp Montierchaume.

Please notice my postcard from my collection of USMC-related cards. On the reverse of the card, Camp Montierchaume is identified and the note is dated April-May 1919. It identified the unit as Company E, 11th Regiment Marines.

Col Jim Bracken, USMC (Ret)
Alexandria, Va.

COURTESY OF COL JIM BRACKEN, USMC (RET)

Col Bracken confirms this photo as Camp Montierchaume in France during WW I.



COURTESY OF COL JIM BRACKEN, USMC (RET)

Protocol Question

The other day in the local paper I saw a photo of President Donald J. Trump welcoming Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the White House. Standing sentry duty at the doors were two Army sentries. Just like the Marine Corps' Band is "The President's Own" I was always under the impression that Marines stood sentry duty for the President at the White House. Am I wrong?

GySgt Lewis "Lew" Souder III
USMC (Ret)
Sebastian, Fla.

• *Gunny Souder, we contacted the public affairs office at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., who told us the soldiers are color bearers, not sentries.—Editor*

Sgt Gonzalez and the Medal of Honor at Hue City

I always enjoy and look forward to receiving and reading *Leatherneck* magazine each month.

I was excited to see the article in the March edition titled "Hue City: The Tet Offensive" by P.L. Thompson.

It was great reading until I realized an important piece of the story was missing.

I was disappointed that the author failed to mention or recognize that Sergeant Alfredo Gonzalez, Alpha Co, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, posthumously received the only Medal of Honor awarded during the initial battle for Hue City.

Can you please somehow correct this important omission detailing the history of the battle by doing an article on Sgt Gonzales? Or include his MOH citation in next month's magazine referencing the March article? Or mention the destroyer USS *Gonzalez* named for this hero and commissioned in October 1996 in Bath, Maine?

Does the author consider that this was not part of the battle? Maybe I am misunderstanding the time line? Please correct me if needed.

In addition to the Medal Of Honor, Sgt Gonzalez's mother received the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor.

Finally, I served as a rifleman in 3d Plt, Co B, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1stMarDiv in Vietnam 1969-70 and have met members of A/1/1 that served with Sgt Gonzalez and spoke of his bravery at our reunions. In fact, Alfredo's mother Mrs. Gonzalez has come to many of our 1/1 reunions as a guest of the battalion.

The most recent reunion was held in August 2015 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps for the dedication of a 1/1 memorial to our 567 fallen brothers and Mrs. Gonzalez placed the dedication wreath.

John Sullivan
West Roxbury, Mass.

• *Sgt Gonzalez received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions Feb. 4, 1968, near Thua Thien, Vietnam.* Leatherneck *writer P.L. Thompson has written an article about Sgt Gonzalez that will be published next year on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Hue City.—Editor*

I have just finished reading your March issue and the splendid article on the Battle of Hue City. I was the company gunny of G/2/5 during that battle. I believe the photo on the bottom of page 30 is my old CO, Captain Chuck Meadows with "Golf" Co.

I attended a G/2/5 reunion last September held in the city of Cincinnati and I want to take this occasion to thank the wonderful folks of that great city. One of the events at the reunion was a trip to the ball field to watch the Reds play the Cubs. Just before the first pitch, about 40 of us Hue City vets were invited onto the

field just behind third base. The announcer announced who we were and the crowd roared and an ovation must have lasted more than five minutes.

Several players from both teams ran out of the dugouts, high-fived some of us and one even swapped his team cap for one guy's reunion cap. It was a really wonderful experience. Thank you, Cincinnati.

SgtMaj Lou Heidel, USMC (Ret)
Somers, Mont.

Curious About the M14 Rifle

As a Marine veteran who had an avid interest in firearms of all kinds, especially those weapons the Marine Corps issued during my time in the Corps, an item in the February issue was of much curiosity.

The article "Sergeant Robert Leroy Frey, USMC: WW II Wake Island Defender and POW Survivor," stated that around 1940 Sgt Frey "qualified expert with both the Springfield M14 rifle and the .45-cal. pistol."

Searches in both my memory and numerous firearm books failed to turn up any such Springfield M14. Is this an error? I have always thought that the M14 was developed and issued more around mid to late 1950.

Interest in the weapons that had been developed due to our nation's military needs, have brought about some of the greatest firearms in the world, one of which I carried and fired, the M1 Garand which I enjoy recreationally. I know many other servicemen and women also enjoy recreational shooting, often using personally owned copies of those military weapons they carried and used during their military service.

That being said, the story of a great Marine was read and enjoyed and I wish Sgt Frey many more years of a life in the country he fought so hard and well for.

Hopefully *Leatherneck* will clear up my curiosity about the Springfield M14.

Thomas Atkinson Sr.
USMC, 1953-56
Honesdale, Pa.

• *Good catch—you are correct. The M14 was introduced in the late 1950s.—Editor*

Two Brothers Remembered

I have enjoyed reading *Leatherneck* for many years. Although I was never in the military, my father served with the Marine Corps in World War II; thus, my interest in your publication. I showed the Sound Off letter from the January issue, that was written by Joseph B. Tedder, to my father. Dad grew up in Sterling, Ohio, with John H. Hubacher who is referred to in the letter.

COURTESY OF DICK GLESSNER

Brothers Raymond and John Hubacher's names are listed on the back side of their parents' headstone.

We would like to know if you could pass along to Mr. Tedder that John and his brother, Raymond E., who was killed with the explosion of USS *Serpens* (AK-97) at Guadalcanal in January 1945, are remembered at our local cemetery in Sterling,

where their names are listed on the back side of the tombstone of their parents, John and Delia. We would greatly appreciate it.

Dick Glessner
Sterling, Ohio

• We will make sure that Mr. Tedder knows that John Hubacher's hometown remembers the sacrifices both he and his brother made.—Editor

Reader Remembers UCMJ Author

In the February issue of *Leatherneck*, on page 14, there is an article titled "Remember the Oath: Accomplishing the UCMJ's Article 137 Mission in the Midst of the Military Justice Act," by Sergeant Stephen M. Cook and Captain Tyrone N. Collier, which explains the UCMJ very well. I expected to see the name of the author of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, but it didn't appear, so here is his name—Colonel F. Brooke Nihart, USMC (Ret), who wrote articles for *Leatherneck*.

Col Nihart was the Deputy Director of the U.S. Marine Corps National Museum in Washington, D.C., under Brigadier General Edwin Simmons, USMC (Ret), who also wrote articles for *Leatherneck*. I was the exhibit curator and received material from Col Nihart for 20 years during which he never mentioned he had written the Oath. I only found out about it when I read his obituary in the *Washington Post* years later.

Everyone in the Corps knows the new National Museum of the Marine Corps is in Triangle, Va., but most Marines I've spoken to recently didn't know there was an earlier version of the museum in Washington, D.C.

We were offered Building #58 in the Washington Navy Yard, which had been the barracks for the troops of "8th and I." It took some major remodeling to make it appear like a national museum, but we did finally open in the 1960s. It featured a "Time Tunnel" effect and the display I mounted came from our holdings of material from 1775 to the time we opened. I think most of what I've written here is unknown history to some Marines.

MSgt Carl M. "Bud" DeVere Sr.
USMC (Ret)
Longmont, Colo.

For Marines, Parris Island Holds the Fountain of Youth

This 82-year-old "Old Breed" Marine believes he has possibly found his own fountain of youth by going back to Parris Island, S.C., on three different occasions to witness his family members graduate.

Each time I come away from the ceremony with goose bumps and great pride along with feeling as a 17-year-old again.

God bless Parris Island and our Marine Corps for making this old-timer feel young again. I cherish my so called fountain of youth every time I'm there for ceremonies.

Cpl John Messia Jr., USMCR (Ret)
Brockton, Mass.

Have a question or feel like sounding off? Address your letter to: Sound Off, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, or send an e-mail to: leatherneck@mca-marines.org. Due to the heavy volume, we cannot answer every letter received. Do not send original photographs, as we cannot guarantee their return. All letters must be signed, and e-mails must contain complete names and postal mailing addresses. Anonymous letters will not be published.—Editor

In Memoriam

Compiled by Nancy S. Lichtman

David D. Ash, 91, of Clovis, N.M. He was a Marine who served during WW II. He saw action on Iwo Jima. His awards include two Purple Hearts.

Capt Harlin E. Bell, 91, of Moneta, Va. He was a Marine who served in the Pacific. After the war, he worked as a crop duster, flying small airplanes. During the Korean War, he served with the Air Force. He later had a 33-year career as a pilot with United Air Lines. He was a member of the VFW, the American Legion and the NRA.

Dr. John C. "Jack" Bell Sr., 84, of Sun Prairie, Wis. After his 1950 graduation from high school, he served three years in the Marine Corps, including a tour in Korea.

Capt Matthew L. Blakely, 97, of Atlantic Beach, Fla. He was with the 4thMarDiv on Iwo Jima, where he was awarded the Silver Star.

According to his citation, on March 15, 1945, he "braved intense hostile mortar, rocket and grenade fire to search for caves in this pocket of resistance. By his cool and heroic actions, he succeeded in capturing two prisoners from whom he obtained vital information concerning the identification of the brigade headquarters and the nature of the stubborn defense system used by the Japanese … ."

After WW II, he served in China.

Joseph H. "Joe" Byrne, 88, of Ocala, Fla. He was a Marine Corps veteran of WW II and the Korean War. He later had a career as a Massachusetts State Trooper and was the owner of a gift shop in Maine.

Bobby G. Church, 65, in Carbondale, Ill. He was a Marine who retired after 30 years of service, including a tour in Vietnam.

Maj Duane Crawford, 81, of Unionville, Mo. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and served for 13 years before he accepted a commission. He served another 13 years as an officer. During the Vietnam War he was the CO of "Mike" Co, 3d Bn, 26th Marines. His awards include the Bronze Star, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V," Purple Heart and Combat Action Ribbon.

Cpl Ronald S. Cunliffe-Owen, 69, in Lompoc, Calif. He was a machine gunner with K/3/26 on Hill 861 in Vietnam.

Joseph L. Cunningham, 85, of New Castle, Pa. He was a Marine who served from 1949-52. He was the commandant of MCL New Castle Det. 788 and was active with Toys for Tots.

MGySgt John M. "Jack" Egan Jr., in Fredericksburg, Va. He was assigned to HMX-1 and also served two tours in Vietnam during his 32 years of service.

Avis N. (Meers) Filippi, 92, of Hibbing, Minn. She was the valedictorian of her high school class and served in the Marine Corps during WW II.

Larry H. Foley, 69, of Louisville, Ky. He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War. He was active with the VFW and the American Legion.

Harold J. Foster, 95, in Wellington, Ohio. During WW II he saw action on Guadalcanal and Bougainville and was wounded on Iwo Jima.

Robert W. Franks-Mess, 24, of Lake Mills, Wis. He enlisted in the Marine Corps after his 2010 graduation from high school.

Margaret "Peggy" H. (Schneider) Gerety, 94, in Albuquerque, N.M. She was a Marine who served during WW II. She met her husband while they were both assigned to Camp Pendleton in 1944.

LtCol James A. Getchell, 82, in Helena, Mont. He had a 22-year career as a Marine infantry officer and was a member of the Marine Corps Rifle and Pistol team. He was the CO and marksmanship instructor at Wpns Training Bn and CO of Bangor Ammunition Depot. He was a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, participating in Operations Wyoming, Colorado, Prairie, Mississippi and Tuscaloosa. He commanded "Hotel" Co, 2dBn, 5th Marines, 1stMarDiv.

Charles H. Gleason, 92, of Charlottesville, Va. He enlisted in the Marine Corps as soon as he turned 18. He was a gunner on a dive bomber in the Pacific during WW II. After the war, he went to college and medical school and practiced pediatric medicine for 28 years.

William O. Gosnell, 94, of Campobello, S.C. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942. He was with the 4th Marine Raider Bn in the South Pacific and later was assigned to the 4thMarDiv. He saw action on Guam, the Marianas, the Ryuku Islands and Okinawa. He was wounded on Guam and was sent to New Zealand to convalesce.

After the war, he served his community in various capacities. He was the mayor and a member of the town council.

Mark A. Jasper, 64, of Davenport, Iowa. He was a Marine who served in Vietnam. He later transferred to the U.S. Navy Reserve.

William E. "Bill" LaCost, 91, in Beaumont, Texas. He was a Marine who served during WW II. After the war he earned a master's degree in chemistry.

Max L. Lutrell, 93, of Alpha, Ill. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1942 and served in the South Pacific during WW II. He later had a 27-year career as an Illinois State Police officer.

M.S. "Lamb" Mackechnie, 91, of Grady, N.M. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1944 and saw action on Okinawa.

Cpl Richard W. "Dick" Nummer, 90, of Chesterfield, Mich. He was with the 5thMarDiv during the Battle of Iwo Jima. He also served in Japan after WW II ended. He was a member of the MCL, the DAV and VFW Post 6782. In 1995 he returned to Iwo Jima for a Reunion of Honor event.

Albert Pagoaga, 91, of Boise, Idaho. He was a BARman who saw action on Iwo Jima, where he was wounded and lost his leg. He returned to the island in 2015 with other veterans of the battle.

LCpl Elliott "Buzz" J. Peterson, 66, in Snoqualime, Wash. He was a Marine who served in Vietnam with the 5th Marines. He later worked as a commercial fisherman and an auto mechanic.

James H. Powers, 93, in Needham, Mass. He was a Marine Corps veteran of WW II, serving with the 8th Defense Bn in Hawaii, the Gilbert Islands, and during the invasion of Okinawa. As a member of the battalion's reunion association, he designed and administered a program for the retrieval of historical documents, photographs and artifacts from the battalion's veterans for placement in the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

In his hometown of Needham, the town's meeting auditorium was named Powers Hall to honor his years of service as a member of the municipal legislative body.

Arnold A. Pruden, 87, in Woodbridge, Va. He had a 30-year career as a photographer in the Marine Corps, including serving as a combat photographer in the Vietnam War. He helped develop the Corps' first mobile TV unit.

SgtMaj Albert L. Ross Jr., 85, of Bartlett, Tenn. He was a Marine who served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He was the 3dMarDiv sergeant major from 1981-1982.

Bernard F. Saccoach Jr., 78, of Holbrook, Mass. He was a boot camp honor graduate who went on to become a champion boxer in the Marine Corps. He later served in the Massachusetts Air

National Guard, retiring after 25 years of military service.

Hedwig "Hedy" R. (Mantek) Smith, 92, of Fairfield, Calif. She enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1950. While she was on recruiting duty in Los Angeles, she met and married a fellow Marine. After they were married, she was discharged from the Marine Corps. She had a career as a Marine wife, moving to a new duty station almost every year until her husband's 1971 retirement.

Roy C. Sunderland, 92, of Curwensville, Pa. He was a Marine who fought in the Pacific in WW II. He saw action on New Georgia and Guam. After the war, he worked for the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. in Akron, Ohio for 41 years.

LtCol Speros D. Thomaidis, 86, of Dumfries, Va. The son of Greek immigrants, he was the valedictorian of his high school class and he earned a degree from Cornell University. During his 24-year career in the Marine Corps, he was a platoon leader in the Korean War and a battalion commander during the Vietnam War. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V."

Richard A. Tilghman, 96, in Bryn Mawr, Pa. After his 1943 graduation from Princeton University he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during the Battle of Iwo Jima, where he was a rifle platoon leader and later commanding officer for Company F, 2d Bn, 27th Marines, 5thMarDiv.

According to his award citation, "When his platoon was split and pinned down by intense enemy fire from all directions … [1stLt Tilghman] moved back 50 yards in the face of heavy fire to obtain tank support. Leading the tanks into position to move against enemy forces on his left flank, he crossed a 150-yard gap at the risk of his life to direct his right flank squad. Although heavy casualties had decimated the front line units and caused them to become disorganized, he courageously held the lines intact until relief arrived."

After the war, he worked in business for several years before embarking on a career in politics. He was a state legislator for more than three decades, where he was an advocate for veterans' rights.

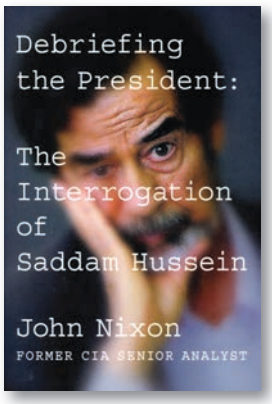
Sgt James B. "Butch" Vallandingham, 72, in Greenfield, Ind. He was a Marine who served in the Vietnam War. His awards include the Purple Heart.

1stLt Robert A. Wickwire, 95, of Davenport, Iowa. He was a Marine who served in WW II. He later had a 30-year career with the FBI.

Books Reviewed

DEBRIEFING THE PRESIDENT: The Interrogation of Saddam Hussein. By John Nixon. Published by Blue Rider Press. 256 pages. $22.50 MCA Member. $25 Regular Price.

There are key moments throughout history that define generations—the Great Wars, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, for example. In the modern era, however, nothing binds the American psyche together closer than the events of Sept. 11, 2001, when a series of terrorist attacks rocked the country and put American forces on a collision course with religious fundamentalism in the Middle East. While the wars in this region have been and will continue to be written about for decades to come, one moment consistently escapes history, seemingly hiding from the world like its key player.



"Debriefing the President: The Interrogation of Saddam Hussein" seeks to remedy a failure on modern Middle Eastern history by coloring in the lines of one of the world's most brutally oppressive dictators.

Written by John Nixon, a former CIA senior analyst and an expert on Saddam Hussein, this semi-autobiographical memoir recounts the author's time interviewing the former Iraqi president. Reconciling the Saddam that he studied with the Saddam who spoke, Nixon details the numerous paradoxes and failures of policy and intelligence that occurred during the early months of American operations in the region. "Debriefing the President," however, goes far beyond the scale of the debrief—a classification passed down from Langley's upper tier in an effort to bypass the ambiguity of "interrogation"—and more closely mirrors the political dialogues commonly associated with modern political commentaries.

The appeal in this account, however, is obvious. As the first person to meet with Saddam Hussein following his capture in December 2003, Nixon has a unique perspective on one of the most important events in modern history. What follows, however, is something of a disappointment. Rather than focusing primarily on the events, revelations and history of the debrief, Nixon overlays his time with the world's most infamous war criminal with a series of political opinions, personal anecdotes and political characterizations.

While some of these are humorous and fascinating—the analyst's reaction to the "body doubles" theory and the revelation of his infamous writing career come to mind—many of them distract from the overall narrative, muddling the focus of the book with unnecessary political dialogue.

In a somewhat ironic turn of events, Nixon leaves no bridge unburned, systematically characterizing key foreign policy failures from the Clinton, Bush and Obama administrations. Many readers and critics will likely point to this disconnect as a politicization of the Central Intelligence Agency, drawing parallels between the politics of the Bush administration and the Trump administration. To do so, however, would be to miss the author's key point.

Rather than characterize Saddam Hussein as a political outlier with little in common, Nixon instead presents the unorthodox argument that Saddam shared a series of key aspects with American leadership during the Bush administration. Elaborating on the similarities between the two leaders, such as their lack of traditional military experience, their adherence to political ideology and their tendency to trust instinct over intellect, Nixon constructs the outline of a confused and emotionally distraught Saddam who believed that the United States would seek him out as an ally in the fight against Islamic extremism. Unfortunately, rather than diving into this concept in greater detail, Nixon summarizes the complaint as a nationalism-against-religion argument before segueing the conversation into more commentary.

Politicization aside, "Debriefing the President" is a spectacular addition to the Corps' ever-growing Middle Eastern library.

Focusing on a pivotal moment in Iraqi history, Nixon weaves a tale that only someone contemporary to the situation could tell. Playing off his own title, Nixon details an elaborate and analytical narrative between President Bush and President Hussein, reconciling similarities with glaring cultural differences in order to discern who exactly Saddam Hussein was. Simultaneously, he discusses the overarching similarities between Middle Eastern and American politics, as well as the leaders who define them, to answer a question often whispered but never plainly stated—would the Middle East be more stable if we had left Saddam in power?

"Debriefing the President: The Interrogation of Saddam Hussein" is an enthusiastic and refreshing approach to discerning the underlying psyche of Saddam—a president, murderer, humanitarian, father, and leader—as he was throughout his life and his draconian regime.

Bradley Davis

Author's bio: Bradley Davis is the assistant editor of Marine Corps Gazette. *He has a master's degree in military history from Norwich University.*

DEFEATING JIHAD: The Winnable War. By Dr. Sebastian Gorka. Published by Regnery Publishing. 256 pages. $25.20 MCA Member. $27.99 Regular Price.

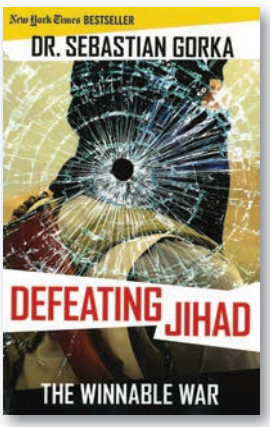
Defeating Jihad is an important work that details how our country, and the world, might defeat the global jihadis. The author clearly frames the challenge; he believes that the war that has claimed more than 7,000 American lives, costing upward of $2 trillion, and topping the charts as the longest war in our long and illustrious history can still be won.

Dr. Sebastian Gorka, a recognized authority on national security strategy and counterterrorism, recently held the Major General Matthew C. Horner Distinguished Chair of Military Theory at the Marine Corps University. He often lectures at U.S. Operations Command and the FBI's Counterterrorism Division, and is a contributor on Fox News.

Gorka believes that we must first drop the perception that our enemies are "terrorist" or "violent extremist." He suggests we call them what they call themselves: The Islamic State. According to Gorka, we are facing a global jihadi movement driven by an uncompromising totalitarian religious ideology whose methods and goals correspond with the earliest warlike teachings of Islam. In the ancient sayings of Sun Tzu, if you wish to win, know yourself, and of course, know thy enemy. It is important to note that, in our past history, we have defeated both fascism and communism, both of which

had goals somewhat similar to those of the Islamic State and were also totalitarian in nature.

At the beginning stages of the Cold War, President Harry Truman sought to better understand the Soviet Union and turned to George Kennan for some answers. In what is called the "Long Telegram," Kennan pointed out the USSR was a totalitarian state with global domination as its ultimate goal. ISIS, like communism, is a modern version of a global movement that, by its very nature, will never settle for coexistence or compromise. Simply put, it's them or us!



In chapter two of his treatise, Gorka presents the story of jihad, its foundation, and its development since the time of Mohammed. He believes that most Americans, even after 9/11, are commonly ignorant about our sworn enemy. Islam recognizes Jesus as a great prophet, but denies his divinity. Since its early days, Islam has used the concept of jihad, or holy war, on non-believers. Jihad holds seven principle aims: to build a worldwide empire, to suppress false apostates (including non-conforming Muslims), to promote revolution, to purify their religion, to counter western influence, to employ guerrilla warfare, and as needed, to directly target civilian populations. All seven components are clearly seen today in both ISIS and al-Qaida's methods and practices.

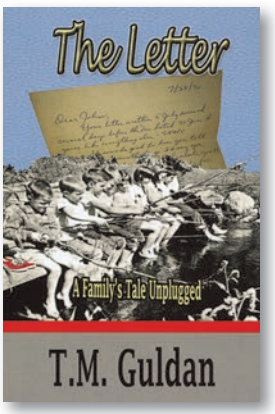
Gorka notes, Islam is not a "religion" in the normal sense of the term. It's a system encompassing all segments of life: its politics, its economics, its law, its health, its psychology and sociology. To the Islamic State all people must become a "slave of Allah," and importantly, not possess freedom of choice.

The 1984 fatwa (religious ruling), the Defense of Muslim Lands, proclaimed that Muslims had been humiliated at the hands of colonial powers, and Islam would suffer defeat if it did not wage jihad. The way of salvation, it decreed, was to re-establish a new caliphate.

By Sept. 11, 2001, jihad had truly gone global. The movement quickly progressed. Accordingly, Bin Laden and al-Qaida broke with the Saudi king after he invited the U.S. to help defend Saudi Arabia against a perceived threat by Saddam Hussein. In the summer of 2014, Adu Bakr al Baghdadi, declared a new Islamic caliphate with the intention of bringing the world under Koran and Sharia Law, while awaiting the prophesied Day of Judgment.

Gorka notes that we need to educate ourselves and our families on our sworn enemy and broaden the circle of knowledge of our like-minded friends and neighbors. Start, he suggests, by learning about Islam; for instance, learn the difference between Sunni and Shia Islam. He recommends we read and absorb the true meanings and intent of the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution and then contemplate our belief in the freedom of the individual. We will then come to realize that our beliefs are totally incompatible with the totalitarian-minded goals of the currently emerging radical State of Islam.

Gorka's completes his comprehensive, well-conceived thesis by delineating his all-encompassing strategy to successfully defeat the global jihadi movement. Included in the text is a helpful list of important reading sources and the full text of George Kennan's still-relevant "Long Telegram." He notes several important domestic measures to be taken, as well as the actions we must employ on the international stage.



"Defeating Jihad," is a highly readable primer, outlining just why this totalitarian brand of Islam is a true danger to freedom-minded people everywhere. Gorka clearly states al-Qaida and the Islamic State represent an existential threat to our Republic but he also asserts, "If these or similar measures are taken soon after the next president takes office, we will be able to win the war against global jihadism."

Bob Loring

Author's bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran "Red Bob" Loring as a frequent Leatherneck *reviewer, who has had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine.*

THE LETTER: A Family's Tale Unplugged. By T.M. Guldan. Published by Shared Pen LLC. 462 pages. $18.90 MCA Member. $20.99 Regular Price.

In 2003 Terri Guldan and her sister Margie had the thankless job of going through their father's office after he passed away.

Among the many piles of correspondences and papers, they came across a letter written in the early 1970s.

It was a letter their father had written to their brother, Johnny. Still sealed, it had been returned to the Guldan family unopened. Johnny, a Marine lance corporal, had been killed in Vietnam before he received his father's letter.

Terri was the 10th of 13 children born into the family of John and Eileen Guldan. At the time of her brother Johnny's death, Terri was only 11 years old, and her memories of this period were, at best, sketchy. Her book, "The Letter," details the story of her childhood growing up in a large Catholic family and the traumatic loss of Johnny, the family's oldest son, who was killed on Aug. 3, 1970.

Johnny was a dutiful son, and growing up, he performed his household and family farm chores efficiently and with enthusiasm. His only issue revolved around pleasing his father. He sought, but never seemed to gain, his father's approval. Johnny's adoring mother and younger sister often interceded on Johnny's behalf when confronted with various father-son conflicts.

Although Johnny left for college in 1969, he soon returned home and to everyone's dismay, he announced he had joined the Marines. It is important to remember that by 1970 the country was clearly divided about the far eastern war. The anti-war movement took off after the Tet Offensive, the My Lai incident and the contentious 1967 presidential election.

After boot camp in San Diego and a visit home, the young Marine joined "Mike" Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines southwest of Da Nang, Vietnam. His company occupied and patrolled the area surrounding Hill 55 in what was known as "Arizona Territory." He became an ardent letter writer and wrote daily to his girlfriend, Denise, and also to friends and members of his family. He was careful not to worry most members of the Guldan tribe, but was more candid with others. Denise and one of his sisters received letters describing his situation and personal fears.

By early July 1970, Lance Corporal Johnny Guldan was feeling the building pressure of combat. The war had begun to numb him. To his older sister, he wrote: "Another friend of mine died today, he was a sergeant … . I must be losing my feelings or something. I didn't even flinch when I lifted him into the chopper, my emotions must be dying, maybe I will never cry again."

Johnny was a mine explosive expert and it was in this capacity, on Aug. 3, 1970, that he and another Marine were

killed while attempting to defuse a mine located near Hill 55.

The shockwave created by Johnny's death reverberated throughout the family and the local suburban community. Johnny was gone and the Guldan family would never be the same again.

Terri, understandably had trouble processing her feelings. At Johnny's funeral she recalls her first truly heartbreaking reaction: "The Taps carried a reality that chased me like the Roman chariots charging the Israelites through the dry sea bed. It was like the gunshots startled me awake to hear that clear sad horn melody resonating from the lips of a nearby Marine. God must have known it was time for the waters of the Red Sea of reality to come crashing upon me. I cried. The tears came and I could not stop them."

At age 56, Terri finished her heartfelt work on her book. She had touched Johnny's name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, she had stood on the spot where his life ended, she had spoken with each of her surviving siblings and other family members and friends, and she had read the countless letters her brother had written from the war zone. There was only one last step to take in her long journey home and resolution.

Her final need for closure was at hand. In a touching description, Terri writes about dreaming and speaking to her long lost brother. She writes, "Yet, until this dream, I hadn't realized that this was my own journey in healing."

Reading Terri's tender words to her lost brother takes the reader, deep into the complex psychodynamics of her family, and how their tragic loss had forever changed them all. I found that I was empathizing with their bereavement on a personal level. Each time I opened Terri's book, I was faced with a bookmark bearing Johnny's boot camp snapshot. The Marine's image would simply jump out to me. Soon I was completely captivated with the Gulden family's tragic misfortune, heartbreak, and grief.

Terri closes her book with this endearing statement: "Follow the letter God writes upon your heart. This is my journey and I thank you for sharing it with me." Well done, Terri, and thank you for sharing your families moving story with us all.

Bob Loring

Author's bio: Readers will recognize Marine veteran "Red Bob" Loring as a frequent Leatherneck *reviewer, who has had more than 100 book reviews published in the magazine.*

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Reader Assistance

Edited by Sara W. Bock

Reunions

• **1stMarDiv Assn. (all eras, 70th Annual Reunion)**, July 31-Aug. 6, Norfolk, Va. Contact June Cormier, P.O. Box 9000 Box #902, Oceanside, CA 92051, (760) 763-3267, june.oldbreed@fmda.us.

• **3dMarDiv Assn.**, Aug. 1-8, Savannah, Ga. Contact Don Gee, P.O. Box 254, Chalfont, PA 18914, (215) 822-9094, gygee@aol.com, www.caltrap.com.

• **USMC Combat Correspondents Assn.**, Aug. 21-24, San Diego. Contact Jack Paxton, (352) 748-4698, usmccca@cfl.rr.com, www.usmccca.org.

• **West Coast Drill Instructor Assn. (SgtMaj Leland D. "Crow" Crawford Chapter)**, Sept. 14-17, San Diego. Contact Gregg Stoner, (619) 884-9047, greggstoner22@aol.com, or CWO-3 Chip Dykes, USMC (Ret), (760) 908-2322, www.westcoastdi.org.

• **1st MAW Assn. (RVN)**, Sept. 14-16, San Diego. Contact Al Frater, (201) 906-1197, teanal@optonline.net.

• **USMC Hawk Assn.**, June 20-23, Harrisburg, Pa. Contact Stan Buliszyn, 1 Cherry Drive Ln., Ocala, FL 34472, (352) 509-2043, sb353@usmchawk association.com.

• **Seagoing Marines Assn.**, Aug. 22-27, Arlington, Va. Contact Bob Sollom, (540) 840-9310, sol136@msn.com.

• **Khe Sanh Veterans Inc.**, Aug. 27-Sept. 3, Cleveland, Ohio. Contact President Tom Eichler, (773) 625-2101, teic1448@aol.com, www.khesanh.org.

• **"Forgotten Heroes," Eastern Recruiting Region Recruiters**, Aug. 17-19, Parris Island, S.C. Contact Larry Risvold, (803) 760-4575, larryrisvold@att.net.

• **Men of Chosin**, June 18-20, Reno, Nev. Contact Stan Galewick, (530) 221-1496.

• **FLC, FLSG A/B (RVN)**, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, Monterey, Calif. Contact Frank Miller, familler56@yahoo.com, or Vern Snodderly, vasnodderly@comcast.com.

• **USMC Postal 0160/0161**, Oct. 1-6, Albuquerque, N.M. Contact Harold Wilson, (740) 385-6204, handk.lucerne 06@gmail.com.

• **1/3 (all eras)**, Aug. 1-6, Savannah, Ga. Contact Don Bumgarner, (562) 897-2437, dbumc13usmc@verizon.net.

• **"Stormy's" 3/3 (1960-62)**, Sept. 18-22, Gettysburg, Pa. Contact Burrell Landes, 2610 West Long Circle, Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 734-1458, bhanon@comcast.net.

• **3/4**, Aug. 16-20, Naperville, Ill. Contact Travis Fryzowicz, (732) 251-5518, maddogandgrace@verizon.net.

• **2d Force Recon Co (1970s-1980s)**, May 18-20, Topsail, N.C. Contact Phil Smith, 1830 Walhalla Hwy, Pickens, SC 29671, (540) 498-0733, jarhed73@yahoo.com, or Scott Nyman, (910) 650-8235, snyman@ecc.rr.com.

• **Support Co, 3d Engineer Bn (RVN, 1967-68)**, Sept. 12-14, Rehoboth Beach, Del. Contact A.J. Folk, 215 Sweetwater Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073, (610) 589-1362, ajfpa@comcast.net.

• **Battery Adjust, 3/11 (all eras)**, Sept. 20-24, Las Vegas. Contact Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dwmiller48@gmail.com.

• **A/1/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, May 17-21, San Antonio. Contact Gary Hunt, (210) 248-9102, ghunt12@satx.rr.com.

• **B/1/5 and C/1/5 (RVN, 1966-67)** are planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **D/1/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, Sept. 21-23, Arlington, Va. Contact Zack Forester, (505) 514-8499, ztfiii@hotmail.com, www.deltacompanyvietnammarines.com.

• **G/2/7 (RVN)**, Aug. 3-6, Cape Girardeau, Mo. Contact Jim Stroman, (573) 545-3901 or (949) 510-7888.

• **H/2/7 (RVN, 1965-70)**, June 22-25, Kenner, La. Contact Dr. David McCann, (504) 909-9972, nopdret@gmail.com.

• **H/2/26**, Sept. 10-16, Branson, Mo. Contact Bill Hancock, 2748 Moeller Dr., Hamilton, OH 45014, (513) 738-5446, hancockw@roadrunner.com.

• **M/4/12 and 3d 155 mm Howitzer Battery, 3dMarDiv**, Sept. 10-15, Detroit. Contact Alex Jablonowski, (248) 505-2183, 3rd155s.m4.12@gmail.com.

• **1st Provisional Marine Brigade ("The Fire Brigade," Korea, 1950)** is planning a 65th anniversary reunion. Contact Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC (Ret), Military Historical Tours, 13198 Centerpointe Way, #202, Woodbridge, VA 22193, (703) 590-1295, jwiedhahn@aol.com, www.miltours.com.

• **Marine Corps Security Forces, Naval Weapons Station Earle**, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Colts Neck, N.J. Contact Dusty Wright, (618) 553-2205, dwright.schaefferoil@gmail.com.

• **Marines Stationed in Holy Loch, Scotland**, May 17-21, Dunoon, Scotland. Contact Doug Ebert, (307) 349-3468, lochsailor9@charter.net, or Gerry Haight, (817) 602-0825.

• **Parris Island Brig Guards (1976-79)**, Summer 2017, Beaufort, S.C. Contact Ken Haney, 26420 Highway 49, Chase City, VA 23924, kenhaney79@gmail.com.

• **TBS, Class 4-67**, Sept. 21-24, Washington, D.C. Contact Ken Pouch, (860) 881-6819, kpouch5@gmail.com.

• **TBS, Co K, 9-68**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jim Stiger, (206) 999-1029, jimstiger@earthlink.net.

• **TBS, Co F, 6-79**, is planning a reunion. Contact LtCol Tom Conners, USMC (Ret), (919) 303-2697, (919) 418-5757, tconners3@yahoo.com.

• **TBS, Co G, 7-80**, July 8-10, Quantico, Va. Contact Pete Flerlage, (703) 498-2294, petercent7@aol.com.

• **"Kilo" Co (Plts 277, 278, 279 and 280), Parris Island, 1961**, is planning a reunion. Contact MSgt Martin D. Smith, USMC (Ret), 10 Lee Ct., Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-3653, martann843@gmail.com.

• **Plt 98, Parris Island, 1948**, is planning a reunion. Contact SSgt Jim Proulx, USMC (Ret), (904) 343-4850, bertojotol@gmail.com.

• **Plt 171, Parris Island, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact J.P. Kuchar, 33 Sheridan Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840, (732) 549-6468, jpkuchar@mac.com.

• **Plt 244, Parris Island, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact former Sgt J.D. Croom III, (704) 965-8521, jcroom47@aol.com.

• **Plt 245, San Diego, 1965**, is planning a reunion. Contact David S. Alvarez, (209) 735-2601, srt8o06@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 266, Parris Island, 1962**, is planning a reunion. Contact Donald A. Welch, 129 Hawthorne Pl., Ithaca, NY 14850, (607) 256-0554, don814u@hotmail.com.

• **Plt 340, Parris Island, 1963**, is planning a reunion. Contact Garrett W. Silvia, (508) 992-7392, gwsil@comcast.net.

• **Plt 431, Parris Island, 1945**, is planning a reunion. Contact 1stSgt George P. Cavros, USMC (Ret), (262) 782-7813, gcavros88@gmail.com.

• **Plt 1040, San Diego, 1968**, is planning a reunion. Contact Stephen Norpel, 206 N. 7th St., Bellevue, IA 52031, (563) 451-8417, snorpel@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 1059, San Diego, 1967**, is planning a reunion. Contact Dave Jamieson, (805) 896-7404, daveyo_jamieson@msn.com.

• **Plt 2023, San Diego, 1983**, is planning a reunion. Contact Jeffrey R. Johnson, 3751 Merced Dr., Unit 4D, Riverside, CA 92503, jrj430@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 2030, Parris Island, 1965-66**,

is planning a reunion. Contact John E. Lyford, (518) 654-6073, reniejohn@roadrunner.com.

• **Plt 2077, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact SgtMaj Raymond Edwards, USMC (Ret), 100 Stephens St., Boyce, LA 71409, sgtmajedretired@gmail.com.

• **Plt 2086, San Diego, 1966**, is planning a reunion. Contact Bill Kennedy, (707) 527-8319, wm.kennedy98@yahoo.com.

• **Plt 4035, Parris Island, 2000**, is planning a reunion. Contact Tammy (Manyik) Epperson, (571) 451-7263, tammy.epperson@gmail.com.

• **Marine Air Control Squadrons (all squadrons)**, June 22-25, Quantico, Va. Contact Frank Walter, 3465 W. Loon Lake Rd., Angola, IN 46703, fwalter@frontier.com.

• **HMM-165/VMM-165 (all hands/all eras)**, June 8-11, Washington, D.C. Contact Al Dickerson, (317) 462-0733, www.hmm165whiteknights.com.

• **HMM-265**, May 22-26, San Francisco. Contact George Cumpston, (704) 351-0193, george36691@aol.com, or Tim Bastyr, (770) 304-2290, tmb2sdl@numail.org.

• **HMR/HMM/HMH-361 (all eras)**, Sept. 7-10, Arlington, Va. Contact John Ruffini, (850) 291-6438, ruffinich53@gmail.com.

• **VMFA-531 Gray Ghosts**, June 15-17, Quantico, Va. Contact Roman Makuch, (347) 886-0962, or Ray Holmes, (732) 267-0518.

• **VMM/HMM-364 (all ranks/eras)**, Sept. 19-22, North Kansas City, Mo. Contact GySgt Joe Barlow Jr., USMC (Ret), (816) 813-1662, pf6468@hotmail.com, or MSgt Dave Magee, USMC (Ret), dave@hmm-364.org.

Ships and Others

• **USS *Bremerton* (CA-130/SSN-698)**, Sept. 24-29, Portland, Ore. Contact N. Polanowski, 5996 County Rd. 16, Belfast, NY 14711, (585) 365-2316, rpolanowski@stny.rr.com.

• **USS *Canberra* (CA-70/CAG-2)**, Oct. 11-15, Harrisburg, Pa. Contact Ken Minick, P.O. Box 130, Belpre, OH 45714, (740) 423-8976, usscanberra@gmail.com.

• **USS *Duluth* (LPD-6)**, Sept. 6-10, Duluth, Minn. Contact John Adams, (484)766-3715, john.adams@ussduluth.org, www.ussduluth.org.

• **USS *Hornet* (CV-8/CV/CVA/CVS-12)**, Sept. 13-17, Kansas City, Mo. Contact Sandy Burket, P.O. Box 108, Roaring Spring, PA 16673, (814) 224-5063, hornetcva@aol.com, www.usshornetassn.com.

• **USS *Inchon* (LPH/MCS-12)**, Oct. 15-19, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact David F. Fix, P.O. Box 6361, Nalcrest, FL 33856, (717) 203-4152, ussinchon@gmail.com.

• **USS *John R. Craig* (DD-885)**, Sept. 6-10, Norfolk, Va. Contact Jerry Chwalek, 9307 Louisiana St., Livonia, MI 48150, (734) 525-1469, jermail@ameritech.net, www.ussjohnrcraig.com.

• **USS *Providence* (CL-82/CLG-6)**, Sept. 17-21, Buffalo, N.Y. Contact Jim Chryst, (717) 284-6996, jchryst@embarqmail.com.

• **USS *Ranger* (CVA/CV-61)**, Sept. 20-23, Warwick, R.I. Contact George Meoli, (203) 453-4279, uss.ranger@yahoo.com.

• **USS *Saratoga* Assn. (CV-60)**, Sept. 27-30, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Contact Ed McCready, 447 Land'Or Dr., Ruther Glen, VA 22546, (804) 589-1170, emc0853@yahoo.com.

Mail Call

• Sue Poynter, suzannepoynter@comcast.net, to hear from anyone who knew or served with her husband, **Pat POYNTER**, in **7th Marines, 1stMarDiv**. He participated in **Operation Frequent Wind** in Vietnam.

• Norman Kello, 327 Merrimac Trail, Apt. B3, Williamsburg, VA 23185, (757) 585-7497, kellonorm@yahoo.com, to hear from members of **Plt 219, Parris Island, 1962**.

• Col Danny Price, USMC (Ret), (703) 597-2529, to hear from anyone who served with **Cpl Dean L. DOTSON** when he was injured during or before **Operation Pegasus, April 1, 1968**, in **Quang Tri Province, RVN**, while serving as a cook with **H&S Co, 2/1, 1stMarDiv**.

• Nels W. Luthman Jr., 834 New Jersey Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753, (732) 270-1528, nels_834@msn.com, to hear from anyone who has any information regarding **Sgt William Howard FISCHER**, who served in **Shanghai, China, from July 26, 1940 to Nov. 26, 1941**, participated in action at **Corregidor, Philippines from Dec. 8, 1941 to May 5, 1942**, and was a prisoner of war from May 6, 1942 to July 4, 1943, when he **died at Camp Osaka near Kobe, Japan**.

• Ralph "Gil" Gilbertsen, 516 Main Ave. N, Apt. 201, Bagley, MN 56621, (218) 694-2603, (651) 503-9762, to hear from or about **Dennis R. CLARK** from Texas, who was a member of **Plt 185, Parris Island, 1960**.

• Dean Uitermark, deanuitermark1@gmail.com, and Noah Uitermark, noahut@gmail.com, to hear from or about **Robert "Bob" STRICKLAND** from Ohio, who served in the Marine Corps in **the early 1960s** and got a tattoo of a devil on his upper arm in **Oceanside, Calif**.

Wanted

Readers should be cautious about sending money without confirming authenticity and availability of products offered:

• Melanie Yaden, myaden@aol.com, wants a **platoon photo and recruit graduation book** for **Plt 396, Parris Island, 1944**.

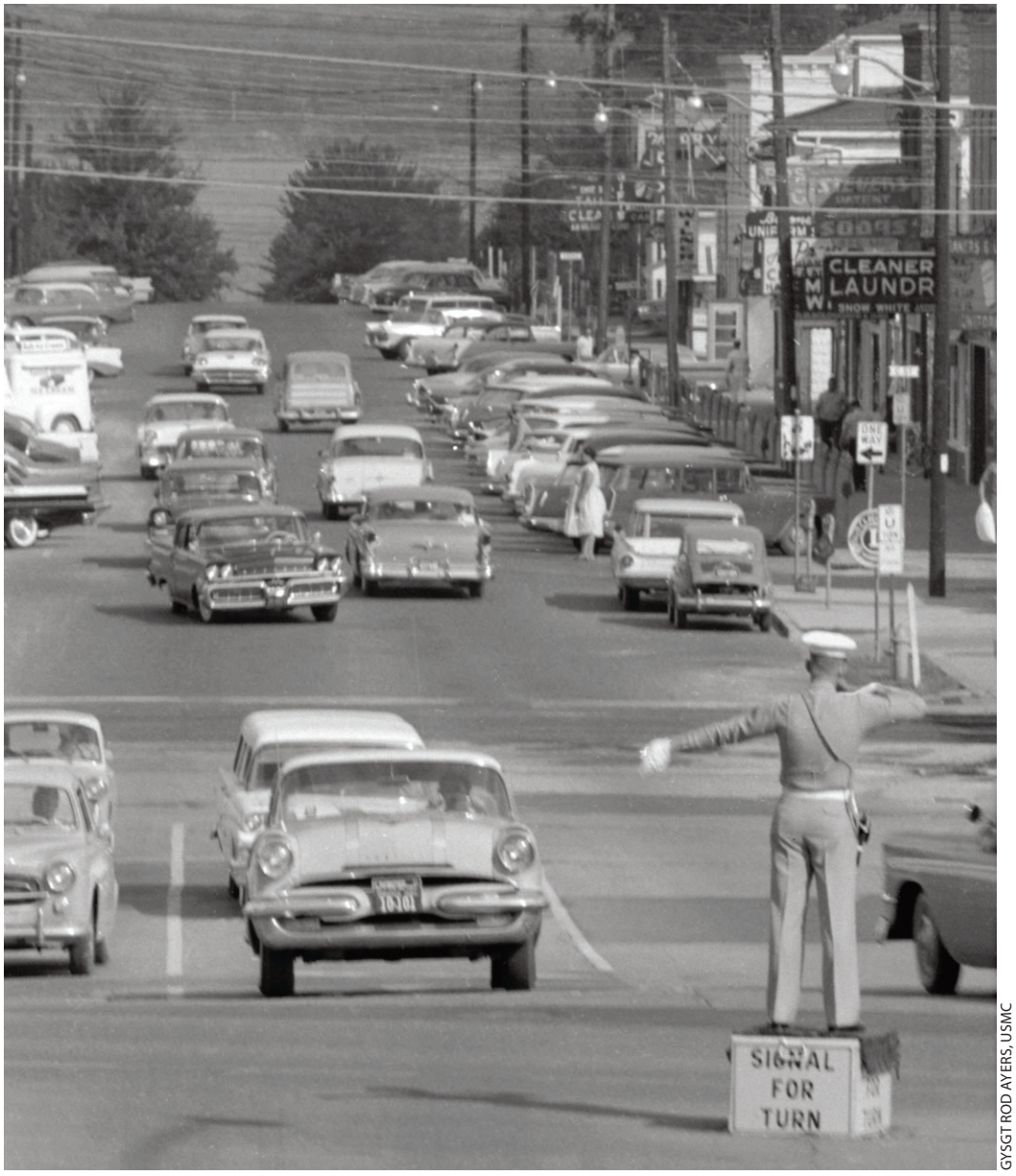
Sales, Trades and Giveaways

• John Cudd, cuddj@morrisbb.net, has a 16x20 group photo from the **Display Determination Exercise in Aviano, Italy, September/October 1979**, in which troops were on and around an **F-4 Phantom, tail number AR 383**, in front of a Quonset-type hangar. He would like to give it away free of charge.

Entries for "Reader Assistance," which include "Reunions," "Mail Call," "Wanted" and "Sales, Trades and Giveaways," are free and printed on a space-available basis. *Leatherneck* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission. Allow two to three months for publication. Send your e-mail to s.bock@mca-marines.org, or write to Reader Assistance Editor, *Leatherneck* Magazine, P.O. Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134.

Saved Round

By Nancy S. Lichtman



GYSGT ROD AYERS, USMC

THE TOWN OF QUANTICO—The cars look different now, but little else has changed on Potomac Avenue since this photo was taken by a *Leatherneck* photographer in 1960.

The town, which can trace its beginnings to the 1600s when English colonists settled the area, has gone by several names including Carborough, Evansport and Potomac, but Quantico, a Native-American word for "by the large stream," was the name that stuck in 1872.

In the early 1900s, the Quantico Company began promoting the small fishing village as a tourist destination, and a shipyard was built in the area known today as Hospital Point. But Quantico's destiny changed 100 years ago when the Marine Corps purchased the land surrounding the town to establish a base to train Marines who were preparing to fight the Germans in World War I.

With nowhere to grow—according to the 2010 Census, the population of the town is 480—Quantico has retained the atmosphere that once was prevalent in small towns across the nation. The businesses in the commercial area mostly consist of barber shops, dry cleaners and restaurants, and they cater to their Marine clientele. For Marines who have served at Marine Corps Base Quantico, a return trip to "Q-town" is a little bit like coming home.