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The Garde d'Haiti

IT is very gratifying to note that with the recent publicity given the American Occupation in Haiti, no adverse criticism has been directed against the United States Marines and our Constabulary Detachment serving with the Garde d'Haiti. For a long period of years, our Marines have been serving in Haiti, and they have safeguarded the interests of that country in a highly commendable manner.

During recent years, the burden of this work has fallen on the Garde d'Haiti, which is officered to a large degree by American Marines. The Garde d'Haiti performs all police and military functions in an area of 10,200 square miles, among a native population of approximately 2,200,000. It covers a mountainous border of 175 miles and a rugged coast line of 1000 miles. This it does with an average of 1 Garde to each 3.4 square miles, and with an average of 1 Garde to each 7,033 inhabitants.

The Garde d'Haiti is also charged with maintenance and operation of all aids to navigation, control of traffic, including registration and licensing of all motor vehicles; construction, maintenance and operation of many miles of wire communications, and trails and small types of barracks; is in charge of all organized fire departments; the payment of civil officials; the administration of civil prisons; and numerous other details.

Too much credit cannot be given our Marines who act as district and sub-district commanders in the isolated hill sections. It is upon them that the burden of the work must fall. That their work has been successful is proven by the high state of efficiency which the Garde d'Haiti has attained; the high morale and esprit de corps of the native officers and Garde themselves, and the continued maintenance of law and order in a country once shattered by endless revolutions.

Back of the Garde d'Haiti and our officers and men of the Constabulary Detachment, the Marines of the First Brigade have stood by with an ever watchful eye, always ready to step in and cooperate with the native organization.

Their presence in Haiti is responsible for all of the success that has been accomplished, and the moral force exerted has been invaluable.

Moral of the Alamo

HISTORY is replete with instances of courage and determination against overwhelming odds. They are remembered and sung to posterity by each succeeding generation. Folk songs, ballads and poetry have insured their reverence and immortality. They come to us, these stories of glorious sacrifice, down through the dim ages, with fresher incidents adding to the vast accumulation. One curious fact is notable, however, and that is that nearly all such examples involve physical defeat but moral victory. Each country cherishes the memory of such glorious triumphs.

The Battle of Brandywine is remembered by England, but they forget Bunker Hill, where the Americans suffered actual military defeat but won a moral victory of greater significance; the Little Big Horn, where General Custer and his entire command perished. The Charge of The Light Brigade, where the blunder of some officer sent wave after wave of English Cavalry to shatter itself against the Russian field guns. The Four Hundred Spartans who perished so gallantly. They were overwhelmed and defeated, but their names are remembered while those of their conquerors have been covered by

the dust of passing centuries. So, too, did the invincible Swiss Guard, mercenary troops with nothing but the intangible banner of honor to stimulate the deed, die to the last man rather than yield.

In the history of our own country, young as it is, we have many such tales to tell; but somehow there is always one that seems to stand out beyond the others. Each March marks the anniversary and refreshes our memory, for it was on March 6, 1836, that the last defender of The Alamo died for the cause of Freedom.

Those who comprised the garrison of The Alamo were fully aware of the futility of defense. Most of them could very likely have escaped to safety. But when Captain Travis drew a line on the floor and told those who wished to escape to stand fast and those who elected to fight to the end, to step over the line, only one man remained, and Colonel Bowie, helplessly wounded, demanded to be carried across the line.

The siege was begun on February 23, and continued until the morning of March 6, 1836, when Santa Anna and his horde breached the wall. Twice were they beaten back with great loss. In the third attack they gained through the courtyard and swarmed over the walls. The Texans met them hand to hand, asking no quarter, seeking no escape. One by one the defenders fell, dead or wounded, and the wounded fought until they were killed. At last the sheer number of Mexicans overwhelmed the garrison. When the tumult of battle died away, Santa Anna had won an empty victory, and the Texans had achieved undying glory.

The defenders of The Alamo have left us a sacred heritage, written indelibly in their own blood. They have left us a precept and moral that may be applied to all walks of life. It is not "Did you win?" that counts so much, after all. It is "How did you fight?" that tells the story. Determination to be unconquered is the foundation of success. It was Davy Crockett, who perished at The Alamo, who left us the motto that is the keynote of all who accomplish great things: "Be sure you're right—then go ahead!"

"Doc" Clifford

IN the March copy of "The Leatherneck" we published a farewell tribute to Doc Clifford. As stated in our article, we do not feel like saying "Good-bye" to Doc, but it was our desire, upon the occasion of the official discontinuance of his office with the Army and Navy Y. M. C. A., to express, in some way, our appreciation of his long and faithful service with Marines. For many years Doc has occupied a unique position in the Marine Corps, and most of us had regarded him as a permanent fixture. He is known throughout the Marine Corps, and the value of his excellent work in increasing our morale and esprit de corps cannot be equaled. No one will ever be able to fill his place. He understands Marines, and there isn't an officer or enlisted man in the whole Corps who would not feel perfectly free in telling his troubles to Doc.

Doc recently paid us a visit enroute to Florida, and has promised to keep his column going in The Leatherneck for several months, with material which he now has on hand. We have offered to hold space for his column indefinitely. He has spent the better part of his life with Marines, and we know that he will always have something interesting to tell us.

We do not want to lose Doc. What are we going to do about it? How can we keep him? These questions are being discussed at many of our posts, and we sincerely hope that some way will be found to keep Doc with us.

Contributions of News Items

IN a recent copy of "The Leatherneck" we made a plea to our readers to send us news items. As we told you, at that time, "The Leatherneck" is your magazine. It does not represent any particular group of Marines. It is the representative of the entire Marine Corps. It is the result of the concentrated effort of many Marines serving in all parts of the world.

Too often one has the idea that unless he possesses unusual literary talent, it is useless for him to write an article or a column of news items. This is not true with "The Leatherneck." It requires no special talent to write an account of news items or athletic and social events at your post. We have our agents at practically every post and station, but the contribution of news items is not limited to our agents. Anyone is free to write to us direct at any time. You will be given full credit for the article. Pictures always increase the value of an article, and add interest to it. This is especially true of athletic events. To Marines, who read "The Leatherneck," a good picture often tells a complete story within itself.