

THE PROSPECTOR



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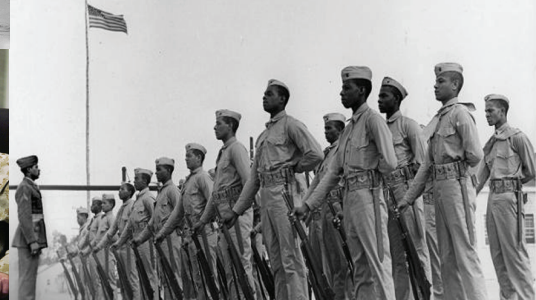
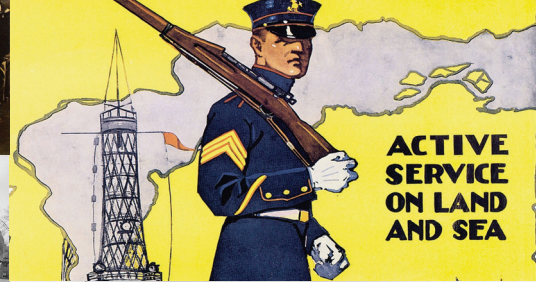
Serving the Corps since 1943
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

November 16, 2022

247 YEARS



BE A U.S. MARINE!
307 Evening Star Building, Washington, D. C.



HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE



1775	1800	1850	1900	1918	1943	1965	1980	2000	2022		
AMERICAN REVOLUTION 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	BALAKRY WAR 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	THE WAR OF 1812 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	SECOND BOMBAY WAR 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	WAR WITH MEXICO 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	AMERICAN CIVIL WAR 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	CHINESE BOXER REBELLION 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	WORLD WAR I 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	WORLD WAR II PACIFIC THEATER 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	KOREAN WAR 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	VIETNAM WAR 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION	WAR ON TERRORISM 1ST MARINE BATTALION 1ST MARINE REGIMENT 1ST MARINE DIVISION

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

NOW HEAR THIS!!!

TODAY IS THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS 247th. BIRTHDAY.

CELEBRATE ACCORDINGLY, CARRY ON!

The Marine Corps Birthday is a celebration of the Marine Corps' history and traditions. It looks at the Corps' past, present, and future. So as we celebrate the 247th birthday of our Corps, we pay tribute to all who have served, and we remember our fallen heroes. We take great pride in our legacy and the fine men and women who carry our colors into the future.

The Corps' long and illustrious history is far too expansive to capture in the twenty pages of our bi-weekly publication. However, this Commemorative Edition of the Prospector memorializes our Corps birthday with a rare and collectible edition of The Prospector that will only be released at tonight's Birthday Ball.

Please enjoy your collectible edition of the Prospector as we explore pivotal stories from each era of our Corps' illustrious history. Immerse yourself and enjoy our compendium of "YOUR" Corps history with original articles capturing stories of the day from the Halls of Montezuma, the hallowed grounds of Belleau Wood, the iconic island battlefields of World War II, the harsh terrain and climate of the Chosin Reservoir, the jungles of Vietnam, assaults during Desert Storm, the first combat operations in Afghanistan, and close combat in Fallujah. Everyone who wears the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor is a member of that storied legacy.

"As we have since 1775, the Marine Corps will stand ready to promote Peace and Stability, and to defeat our Nation's foes."

Happy Birthday Marines and Semper Fidelis!

V/r,
Col Pace

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10 November 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

70 years ago, Army Major General Frank E. Lowe was quoted as saying, “The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, how they could fight.” That testimonial rings as true now as it did then, and will remain so tomorrow. As we celebrate the 247th anniversary of our Corps’ founding, we reflect on nearly two and a half centuries of exceptional prowess, while also taking objective stock of where we are today and how we will prepare for future battlefields. Our birthday provides us a chance to focus on the one thing common to our success in the past, present, and future: the individual Marine. Victories are not won because of technology or equipment, but because of our Marines.

Since 1775, Marines have fought courageously and tenaciously in every conflict our country has faced. Through the Revolution, the Spanish-American War, World Wars in Europe and the Pacific, conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, and operations in the Middle East, Marines consistently earned a reputation as the world’s elite fighting force. We inherit and take pride in this reputation, evolved over time by Marines acquitting themselves with honor and distinction on every battlefield in every clime and place. Battlefields change, and Marines have always adapted to the environment and the changing character of war – but the reason we fight and win is immutable. It’s the individual warfighters, and their love for each other, that makes our Corps as formidable a force today as it has been for the past 247 years. It’s our ethos and our unapologetic resolve to be the most capable and lethal fighting force that sets us apart from the rest.

Current events around the world remind us that peace is not guaranteed. While we are justifiably proud of our past and pay tribute to the remarkable warfighters who came before us, we understand that the stories of yesterday cannot secure our freedom tomorrow. We must be ready to respond when our Nation calls. It falls on Marines who are in uniform today to write the next chapter of our Corps. The solemn responsibility of maintaining our illustrious warfighting legacy rests upon your shoulders. I know that you are up to that task. The battlefields of tomorrow are uncertain. The future characteristics of warfare are uncertain. But one thing is certain – wherever Marines are called, they will fight and win – today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Happy 247th Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis

David H. Berger

General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

Marine Corps Hymn Chanted Hundred Years

AP Newsfeatures

The Marine Corps' hymn is 100 years old and an invitation has been extended to members of the entertainment field and all others who wish to participate in ceremonies for the centennial of the song which will be held during the week of Dec. 7-13.

Mystery shrouds the background of this official marching of the Leathernecks. "From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shore of Tripoli..."

Even the tune's origin remains doubtful. It is believed to have been adopted from an old Spanish folk tune although the melody also occurs in the French opera, "Genevieve de Brabant" by Jacques Offenbach.

"... We fight our country's battles in the air, on land, and sea..."

Many verses have come and gone in the pass of the years. As each new battle or landing or deed requested of the Marines was accomplished, a new verse was written.

"...First to fight for right and freedom..."

The Marines' Hymn was officially adopted in his present three-verse form by Maj. Gen. John A. Lejeune, Commandant, in 1929. On November 21, 1942, the commandant approved a change in the words of the first verse; "In the air, on land, and sea."

Popularly played for many years by nationally known orchestras and over countless radio programs. The Marines' Hymn sparkles with a tilt and lift.

"... and to keep our honor clean..."

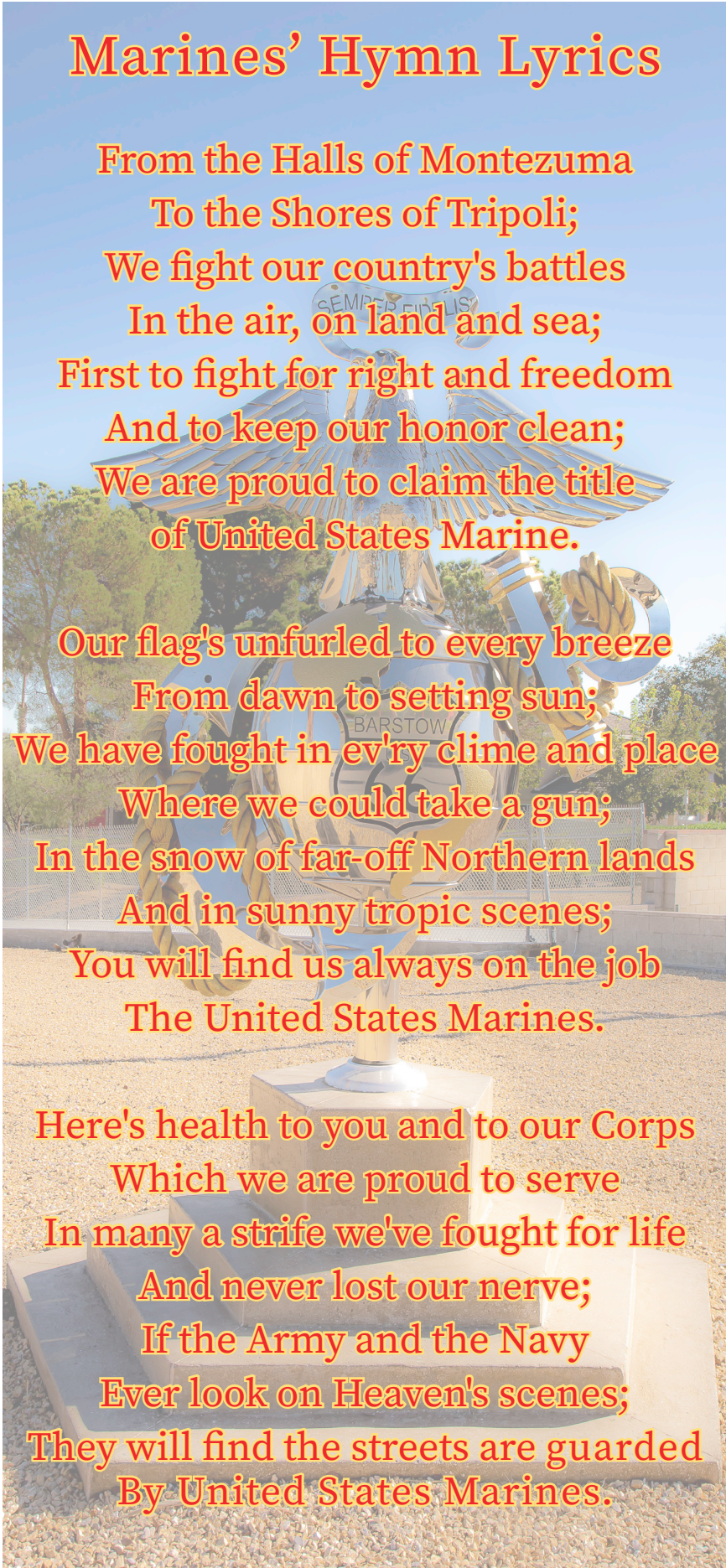
The Centennial observance coincides with the nation-wide drive to build the Citizen Marine Corps -The Leatherneck Reserve force- to full strength. High point of the recruiting drive is planned for January.

"... We are proud to claim the title of United States Marine."

(Marine Hymn. Copyright U.S. Marine Corps, 1919)

(Danville Bee, 1947, p. 4)

Marines' Hymn Lyrics



From the Halls of Montezuma
To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
of United States Marine.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in ev'ry clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far-off Northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines.

HALLS OF MONTEZUMA



ATTACK ON CHAPULTEPEC, SEPT 13th 1847.

MEXICANS ROUTED WITH GREAT LOSS.

“Attack On Chapultepec, Sept. 13th 1847 - Mexicans Routed With Great Loss”

Image provided by Library of Congress

In September of 1847, US military forces led 13,000 soldiers in an attack against 4,000 Mexican Army regulars and some 400 Mexican Army cadets at Chapultepec Castle, just south of Mexico City. The ensuing American victory is immortalized in the first lines of the US Marine Hymn, referred to as "the Halls of Montezuma". The conflict also provided valuable battle experience to several American soldiers who would later play prominent roles in the Civil War, such as Robert E. Lee and George Pickett. The defense of Chapultepec served to create several folk heroes still honored in Mexico today. Included in this group are the controversial St. Patrick's Battalion (el Batallón de San Patricio), a group of American soldiers who chose to aid the Mexican defense and who were executed at the battle. Chapultepec castle is also home to a large memorial for Los Niños Héroes, a group of six Mexican cadets who refused to follow orders to retreat and defended the castle with their lives; the last boy leaping from the battlements wrapped in the Mexican flag, in an effort to prevent its capture by American forces.

Death of Capt. Charles H. Pearson.

5TH BRIGADE—2ND DIVISION.
Brooklyn, Nov. 13, 1847. }

Intelligence having been received of the decease of Captain CHARLES H. PEARSON, of the New York volunteers, (late commandant of the Brooklyn *Light Guard*,) of wounds received in the Battle of Chapultepec, before the city of Mexico,—the officers of this command, and of the 44th Brigade, under the old organization, are requested to meet on THIS (Saturday) EVENING, at 7 o'clock, at the armory in Liberty street, to take measures for procuring the removal of his remains and paying a last tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased.

By order of

H. B. DURYEA, Brig. general.

A. McCUE, aid de camp.

BROOKLYN LIGHT GUARD. }

NOVEMBER 13, 1847. }

The members and honorary members of this corps are informed that their late commandant, Captain CHARLES H. PEARSON, is dead, from wounds received in the storming of Chapultepec, in October last. He died on the 10th of that month—the anniversary of our company organization. He died the death of a true American soldier.

You are requested to meet at the City Armory, Liberty street, THIS (Saturday) EVENING, at 7 o'clock, to take such measures as may be necessary for the prompt removal hither of his honored remains.

By order of

CAPT. JOS. J. DILLON.

SCHEPER, orderly.

MARINE AVIATION



Above: Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine Corps aviator, poses for a photo. Cunningham accepted a commission into the Marine Corps in 1909 and became the first Marine aviator in 1912.

Below: Alfred A. Cunningham, the first Marine aviator, sits in an early model aircraft. Cunningham is considered the grandfather of Marine Corps aviation.

(Photos provided by Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.)



MARINES TO STUDY AVIATION

Assignment of Officers Temporarily Revoked for Duty in Cuba.

Special to The Washington Post

Annapolis, Md., May 24 — The marine corps will take up aviation this summer and Lieuts Alfred A Cunningham and G. L. Smith have been assigned to the squad of naval aviators here for instructions. Both officers, however, have had the assignment temporarily revoked, and have been ordered to duty in Cuba. It is thought that these aviators or others will come to Annapolis later in the summer.

Lieut. J. H. Towers, of the aviation squad, and all of the machines have arrived here. The naval aviators intend to make their flights from the water entirely this season.

(Washington Post, 1912, p. 6)



Alfred A. Cunningham stands in front of an early model aircraft. Cunningham became the Marine Corps' first aviator in 1912. He served in the Marine Corps for 27 years before retiring.

(Photo courtesy of Sondra Prine)

WORLD WAR I

MARINES WIN RIGHT TO WEAR FOURRAGERE

*French Decoration Bestowed Upon
Three Units for Repeated
Gallantry in Action.*

The Fifth and Sixth Regiments and the Sixth Machine Gun Battalion, which were Marine Corps organizations attached to the Second Division in France, are now authorized to wear looped over the left shoulder the French fourragere, according to an order signed by Major Gen. George Barnett received yesterday at the Marine Recruiting Office, 23 East Twenty-fourth Street.

This decoration is awarded by the French Army to organizations receiving more than two citations as a unit for gallant achievement in action. For each citation a *décoration*, usually the *Croix de Guerre*, is pinned to the colors of that organization. Many regiments in the American Expeditionary Forces had their colors decorated by the French Government, and several smaller units in those regiments have received the required number of citations for the fourragere, but before the three Marine organizations were authorized to wear this decoration only one other regiment, the Eighteenth Infantry from the First Division, received this award.

Two other units in the A. E. F., the Lafayette Escadrille and an American ambulance section, were allowed by G. H. Q. order to wear the fourragere, which was awarded for citations received while these organizations were serving with the French before they were transferred to the American Army.

The Marine citations are for gallant conduct in face of the enemy at Belleau Wood and Bouresches, in the Château-Thierry sector, and in the advance south of Soissons on the morning of July 18.

The New York Times
Published: January 25, 1920
Copyright © The New York Times

PUT FIGHTING BLOOD IN YOUR BUSINESS · HERE'S HIS RECORD! DOES HE GET A JOB?
—ARTHUR WOODS, ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR
NEEDS WITH THE U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE
CROSS CO-OPERATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF WAR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Above: "Put fighting blood in your business- Here's his record! Does he get a job?" -by Dan Smith (1918-1920), (Photo provided by Library of Congress)

U.S. Employment Service/American Red Cross poster showing U.S. Marines engaged in battle in France; also shows a badge listing battles in which the Marines fought. Poster is promoting veterans for employment.

Below: "First to Fight." A group of U.S. Marines. US Marine Corps Recruiting Publicity Bureau, 1918 (Photo provided by U.S. National Archives)



Marines Capture Mount Suribachi

Stalemate On Rest Of Iwo

Control of Volcano On South Tip of Isle Protects Rear As Men Gird for Push North

By ELMONT WAITE
U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Guam, Feb. 23. (AP) — American marines reached the summit of Mount Suribachi at the southern tip of Iwo Jima today, and began a renewed drive on the central air field after repulsing two Japanese counterattacks.

The Stars and Stripes were raised over the volcanic Suribach fortress 97 hours after the costly invasion began and marines began cleaning out Japanese still clinging to the crater with flamethrowers.

Little progress was made elsewhere in the most costly fight in which the marines have ever been engaged—a fight that cost 5,372 American casualties, including 644 dead, in the first three days.

Jap Swimmers Wiped Out
Japanese swimmers made a hopeless attempt to attack American forces on the western side of the island from the rear last night. They were mopped up on the beaches this morning.

Carrier aircraft sweeping over the Bonin islands in protective sweeps to eliminate repeated enemy attacks on American shipping assembled off Iwo shot down three Japanese planes.

Surmounting of Suribach was the brightest spot in the entire Iwo campaign.

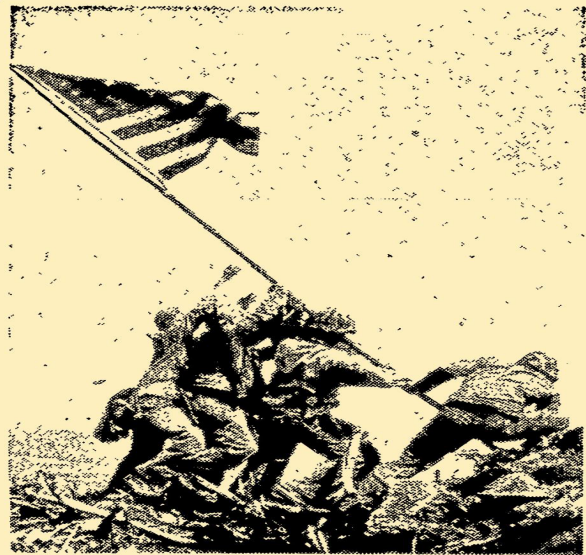
Eliminates Threat to Rear
The leathernecks won command of the 566-foot height from which the Japanese had cast down a deadly mortar and artillery fire on other marines spread out over the south third of the embattled island. Its capture eliminated the threat to the rear of three devildog divisions attempting to drive north where the main strength of the enemy garrison is dug in.

The extinct volcanic cone had been encircled by the fourth marine division under Maj. Gen. Clifton B. Cates. Then for 28 hours the leathernecks clambered up the 45-degree cliffs despite grenades and demolition charges hurled down into their faces by the desperate defenders.

Before that, Mt. Suribachi was hammered steadily for more than a week by naval guns and aerial bombs. The defenders fought on until killed in their dugouts by marines advancing hole by hole and cave by cave with flame throwers, grenades and rifles.



"AS GALLANT AS THE MEN . . . whose picture he took," is the way Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal described AP Photographer Joe Rosenthal (above), who took the picture of "The Spirit of '45." In the accompanying article, Rosenthal tells how he followed a group of marines up Mt. Suribachi on Iwo, where they planted the American flag. Forrestal also praised correspondents for the "extraordinary accuracy and speed" of the Iwo Jima invasion coverage.



"THE SPIRIT OF '45' . . . the widely-published picture of American marines planting the Stars and Stripes atop Mt. Suribachi on Iwo, was taken by AP Photographer Joe Rosenthal. Rep. Joe Hendricks of Florida recently introduced a bill into congress calling for the erection of a national monument to the United States marines, modeled from the celebrated photograph. Said Hendricks: "Never have I seen a more striking photograph."

Left: Iola Register, 1945, cover

Right: Cedar Rapids Gazette, 1945, p. 8

How AP Man Took War's Top Picture

(Editor's Note: The picture of a group of United States marines raising the flag atop Mt. Suribachi on the south end of Iwo island has been acclaimed all over the nation as one of the most dramatic pictures of the war. The photographer who took that picture is Joe Rosenthal, a short, jolly, wiry, mustached fellow who will go anywhere to record a stirring action. Here, for the first time, he tells the background of the Suribachi picture.)

By JOE ROSENTHAL

GUAM, March 7 (AP)—"See that spot of red on the mountainside?" the boys shouted above the noise of our landing craft nearing the shore at the base of Suribachi Yama.

"A group of marines is climbing up to plant our flag there. I heard it from the radioman." He was plenty excited—and so was I.

The fall of this 560-foot fortress in four days of gallant marine fighting was a great thing. A good story and we should have good pictures.

So in I went, back to more of that slogging through the deep volcanic sand, warily sidestepping the numerous Japanese mines. On past the culverts where the Japanese dead lay among the wreckage of their gun positions and up the steep, winding, always-sandy trail.

Marine Pvt. Bob Campbell, a San Francisco buddy of mine, and Sgt. Bill Janausk of Tacoma, Wash., were with me and carried firearms for protection (which is disallowed to correspondents).

There still was an occasional sharp crack of rifle fire close by and the mountainside had a porcupine appearance of bristling all over, what with machine and anti-aircraft guns peering from the dugouts, foxholes and caves. There was little sign of life from these enemy spots, however. Our men were systematically "blowing out" these places and we had to be on our toes to keep clear of our own demolition squads.

As the trail became steeper our panting progress slowed to a few yards at a time. I began to wonder and hope that this was worth the effort, when suddenly over the brow of the topmost ridge we could see men working with the flagpole they had so laboriously brought up about three-quarters of an hour ahead of us.

I came up and stood by a few minutes until they were ready to swing the flag-bearing pole into position.

I crowded back on the inner edge of the volcano's rim, back as far as I could, in order to include all I could in the scene within the angle covered by my camera lens.

I rolled up a couple of large stones and a Japanese sandbag to raise my short height clear of an intervening obstruction. I followed up this shot with another of a group of cheering marines and then I tried to find the four men I heard were the actual instigators of the grand adventure. But they had scattered to their units and I finally gave it up and descended the mountain to get the pictures out and on their way to possible publication.

The way down was quite a bit easier, the path becoming well worn and men were carrying ammunition supplies, food and rations necessary for complete occupation of this stronghold.

Marine history will record Iwo Jima as high in its many gallant actions in the Pacific war.

I have two very vivid memories: The fury of their D-day assault and the thrill of that lofty flag-raising episode.

It is hard now in the quiet atmosphere of this advance base to find words for it. The marines at Iwo Jima were magnificent.

CODE TALKERS



(Front)

NEW MEXICAN MARINE INDIANS: These New Mexican Indians, serving with the veteran First Marine Division, played an important part in maintaining communications during the Peleliu campaign. Front row, left to right: Pfc. James T. Nahkai, of Ship Rock; Pfc. John H. Bowman, of Tohatchi; Pfc. Ira Manuelito, of Tohatchi; Pfc. Jimmy King, of Ship Rock; Pfc. Andrew Calleditto, of Crownpoint; Pfc. Lloyd Betone, of Crownpoint; Cpl. Lloyd Oliver, of Ship Rock. Rear row, left to right: Pfc. Preston Toledo, of Crownpoint; Cpl. John Chee, of Ship Rock; Pfc. Sandy Burr, of Ship Rock; Pfc. Ben Manuelito, of Tohatchi; Pfc. Dan Dahiya, of Gallup; Pfc. Edward Lueppe, of Tohatchi; Pfc. Del Ceyedito, of Crownpoint; and Pfc. Ralph Ceyedito, of Crownpoint. Lueppe, the Ceyedito brothers, and Manuelito, played football and basketball together at the Fort Windgate, N. M. Indian School. King held the Colorado State boxing championship at 118 lbs. in 1940. In the foreground, commending them for their work is Lieutenant Colonel James G. Smith, signal officer for the First Marine Division.

Hdqtrs. No. 101511
DEFENSE DEPT. PHOTO (MARINE CORPS)
Saunders

127-GR-137-101511

(Reverse)

Indians Put "Sign" on Hitler

How American Indians put the Indian sign on Hitler and Hirohito is disclosed in the 1946 Encyclopaedia Britannica Book of the Year. The Britannica report, written by Willard W. Beatty, director of education for the Office of Indian Affairs, U. S. Department of the Interior, reveals the following facts:

Three hundred Navajo Indians acted as code talkers in the front line communications of the Marine Corps, using their native language. It proved to be an unbreakable code.

Lt. Ernest Childers, a Creek, and Lt. Jack Montgomery, a Cherokee, won the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award. Reports to the Indian Office announced that four Indians merited the Distinguished Service Cross, 35 the Distinguished Flying Cross and three, the Soldier's Medal. Fifty-two Indians were awarded the Silver Star; 53 won the Bronze Star; and 72 received the Air Medal. Many additional awards and oak leaf clusters were also credited to Indian G. I.'s.

The Book of the Year points out a full-blooded Pima, Pfc. Ira Hayes, was one of the six flag raisers on the summit of Mt. Suribahi, Iwo Jima. Harvey Natchees, a Ute, was the first U. S. soldier to enter the center of Berlin. LeRoy Himlin, another Ute, was with the first group to make contact with the Russians on the Elbe.

During 1945 there were 27,767 Indians enlisted in the Army, 1,910 in the Navy, 121 in the Coast Guard and 723 in the Marines, according to the Book of the Year.

KOREAN WAR

Red Korean Forces Invade South

Looking Him In The Eye



Above: "Look Him in the Eye", Jack Knox, 1951

Left: Washington Evening Star, December 18, 1950, p. 31

SEOUL, June 25. — (Sunday) — (INS) — Communist North Korea today declared war on the South Korean republic, six hours after 60,000 Korean troops poured into the republic over a 200-mile front.

Four thousand dead were counted within the first few hours of the fighting, a South Korean spokesman said.

Fall of numerous South Korean towns, including the city of Kaesong with its 70,000 population, was also conceded by the spokesman, Clarence Ryee.

Ryee said the government of South Korean President Syngman Rhee is preparing to appeal directly to Gen. MacArthur, allied occupation commander in Japan, for immediate aid.

AID TO BE ASKED

The government will ask for rifle ammunition, which is in critically short supply, and for aircraft for observation purposes.

The South Korean government will stress in its appeal to Gen. MacArthur the situation is desperate.

South Korean sources termed the invasion "full scale civil war" and said it marks a possible turning point of the "cold war" into a "hot" one.

Korea was split into zones of occupation in early 1946 by agreement between Russia and the U. S., with the Russian troops occupying the territory north of the thirty-eighth parallel and American forces the south.

WITHDREW FORCES

Russia withdrew its forces after the North Korean peoples' government had been formed along Communist lines and the American withdrawal from the south came soon after establishment of the South Korean republic.

The South Korean republic has been designated legal government of the country by the UN but all efforts, including a UN commission on the spot, have failed to bring about unification between the two sectors.

Border warfare has marked the troubled country for the past two years, and the full-scale war flared into action at 5 a. m. today with sporadic attacks along the entire 200 miles of the thirty-eighth parallel.

KAESONG FALLS

Kaesong fell at 10 a. m., Ongjin was surrounded at 9:45 a. m. and an important nearby town of Paik Caom has been captured.

Po Chun, a few miles from Kangnung was also captured.

The North Korean declaration of war came at 11 a. m. and the Seoul government was to make formal declaration at 2 p. m.

A report by the South Korean defense ministry in April said North Korean forces include the following: 195,000 completely armed and Russian-trained troops; 195 fully armed airplanes including bombers; 16 steel clad warships; a good supply of bazookas, mortars and some tanks.

The report added the North Korean mortars are 120 millimeter and have a range 2000 yards greater than South Korea's 81 millimeter mortars.

Marines, Outnumbered and Frozen, Fought in Best Tradition of Proud Service

By Tom Lambert
Associated Press War Correspondent

WITH THE UNITED STATES MARINES IN KOREA, Dec. 18.—The long, proud battle history of the United States Marine Corps finds many battlegrounds where its men fought and secured "objectives were secured," as the Corps says.

But the Marine 1st Division in Korea is sore at heart. In spite of magnificent fighting, the division cannot mark "secured" after such battle names as Yudam, Hagaru, Koto and the Changjin reservoir.

The odds were too great. The 1st Marine Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Oliver Prince Smith, landed on the east coast of North Korea in late October after taking a leading role in the liberation of Seoul and having fought at the Pusan perimeter in the south.

Brisk Fighting Flares. Following the new line some Marines were immediately engaged in brisk fighting against the Korean Communist forces on the coast port of Wonsan. These Reds had been passed by South Korean troops rushing up the east coast.

The Marines' western flank was unprotected. There was a gap between them, as part of the United States Army 10th Corps on the east coast, and the United States 8th Army on Korea's west coast.

Late in October, the 7th Marine Regiment, under Col. Homer L. Litsenberger Jr., of Washington, D. C., was ordered to relieve a South Korean unit which had bogged down on its way toward the Changjin reservoir.

The 7th Marines under fire relieved the South Korean November 2 and reported killing a "large number" of Chinese Communist troops.

It was apparent, of course, that there were Chinese in the Korean War—and that they were maneuvering through the gap between the 8th Army and the 10th Corps.

Hits by Chinese Battalions. Early on the morning of November 3 the 7th Marines were hit again by an estimated two battalions of Chinese who had two tanks. The attack was repulsed.

Nevertheless, the 7th Marines were ordered by the Army to continue moving north. Their west flank still was exposed.

The 7th ran into extremely difficult terrain. The main supply road was primitive, but practically the only route north. Sharp-topped hills and mountains flanked the road and provided good cover for the Chinese.

On November 4 the 7th Marines killed an estimated 800 Chinese and destroyed four tanks. The next day they were hit by what they termed an "aggressive and determined" enemy. The Marines encountered "well-defended positions" and "determined resistance."

Marine headquarters was concerned, but one staff officer said: "We felt there was nothing real big in the wind at this time. We thought we were in the last one division (124th of the 40th Chinese Communist army). It was trying to block our route to Changjin reservoir."

Resistance Lessens. Beginning November 7, Chinese resistance to the Marines lessened. One week later the 7th occupied Hagaru on the southern end of Changjin reservoir.

Hagaru was a shambles of bomb-blasted, clapboard houses. Frugal Marines used the boards for firewood and to erect some small huts for themselves.

The 5th Marine Regiment under Lt. Col. Ray Murray, of San Diego, Calif., had been ordered, meanwhile, by the 10th Corps to proceed toward Pujon reservoir east of Changjin.

A South Korean unit had been sent there previously and had reported the road to Pujon ran out. The 5th Marines found the South Korean report was correct. Then the 5th returned south.

On November 10 the 5th Marines started north again, under Army orders to pass through the 7th Marines at Hagaru and move up the east side of Changjin reservoir. By November 22 the 5th was about one-half the way up the east shore line.

1st Marines Get Orders. Meanwhile, the 1st Marine Regiment under Col. Lewis "Chesty" Puller, Saluda, Va., had been ordered out of the Wonsan area and told to move to Hukus, southwest of Changjin. That move envisaged some flank protection for the 5th and 7th Marines.

By this time the Marines, essentially beach assaulters who seldom operate far from sea, were about 70 miles inland and in wild, mountainous country.

The 1st Marine Division staff officers now were "more than concerned" and for several reasons:

There had been civilian reports of a buildup of Chinese Reds on the exposed south and west flanks of the Marine regiments. The 8th Army was not advancing on the west coast. As the Marines moved farther north, their exposed flanks grew longer. The gap between them and the 8th Army grew wider. The 5th and 7th Regiments were extended deeply and supply became a major problem. The 5th, for instance, reached only by a miserable road which in some places was little more than a shelf on a mountain side.

Only Way of Supply. This was the only way of supply for the Marines except by air. It was the only way of withdrawal in the event of attack from the exposed and lengthening western flank.

The weather became harsh and bitter. Temperatures dropped hurriedly. Staff officers' uniforms mounted.

Enemy resistance continued spotty and the Marines moved cautiously. They sent patrols to high ground overlooking the road. Then moved along. Lack of resistance worried the staff officers.

"It was almost as if they were trying to suck us in," one said. On November 24 the Army ordered the 1st Marine Regiment to take Yudam about half way up the west side of Changjin reservoir. The 5th Marines called back, and told to pass through the 7th at Hagaru and move north toward Yudam.

As November 24, the 5th and 7th Marines were at the south end of Changjin reservoir. The 5th at Hagaru and moved north toward that great lake.

Heavy Attacks Begin. On November 25 the Chinese began a series of heavy attacks on the 8th Army front which eventually forced the withdrawal of all United Nations units on that northwest sector. The attacks came through the gap between the 8th Army and the 10th Corps.

On the 8th Army front it was evident at once the Chinese were determined to drive the Americans back.

The extent of the attacks there must have been communicated to the United States 10th Corps in the northeast.

Nevertheless, so far as can be determined here, the Marines were not ordered to halt their northwest movement. Instead, a short-lived push to ease pressure on the 8th Army's right flank was begun.

The Marines moved on during November 25, 26 and 27. On November 28 the 8th and 7th Marines reported they were "heavily engaged." They called for strong air support.

"This was the first tip-off those birds really were there in strength," a staff officer said.

Reds Cut Roads. By this time the 5th Marines were about 10 miles from Yudam and the 7th was strung out between Yudam and Hagaru. The 5th was ordered to cut the two roads between Hagaru and Koto, and the 1st Marines were located.

At noon on November 28 the 5th Marines were ordered to hold at Yudam. Early the next day the 7th Marines were ordered to withdraw and on November 30 the 5th Marines received a similar order.

The 5th began their retreat of agony and death. The 6th divisions of Chinese were attacking their two regiments. The Reds were on the ground behind the front and on both sides of the Marines. The Chinese attacked in waves.

A staff officer, who escaped in a personnel carrier, said he looked up once as a hand grenade exploded near him, driving a steel fragment into the roof of his mouth.

"There was a guy about six feet away," the warrant officer said. "I got him right in the belly with my Springfield rifle. He folded like a wet accordion."

"I Grabbed a Pistol." "Five others jumped the vehicle. Every one in our truck was wounded or dead. I grabbed a pistol, and jerked a Bowie knife out of my boot top. I shot and out and slashed and hacked and shot. I don't know how in hell I ever got out of there."

The enemy was not only the Chinese. It was the weather as well. The temperature dropped far below zero. Rations froze so hard it took one hour to thaw a can of hamburger—and who had an hour?

Weapons froze. So did vehicles. The shoe-pack, weatherproof shoes proved of little protection against sub-zero temperatures. Feet became frost-bitten or frozen. The wind tobogganed down the snow-capped mountains and buffeted the Marines with hard-driven snow. Moisture crystallized in the frigid air. Hands frozen and the skin cracked.

On the east side of the reservoir an Army unit which had relieved the 5th Marines was overwhelmed by the Chinese. Survivors slipped and struggled across the frozen reservoir to join the Leathernecks.

The wounded suffered immeasurably. Whole blood was frozen into solid red blocks and was not usable. Plasma was frozen in the tube between the bottle and the veins of the wounded.

Chinese Freeze, Too. But weather was as hard on the Chinese Marines found them frozen dead with their hands stiff on their rifles. Many Chinese surrendered and many more died.

Numbed by the cold, the Marines fought on. They struggled off the road and fought the Chinese for high ground to protect southbound vehicles and men. Marines died in the snow and the agonizing wind. Some were so numbed by the weather that they paid little heed to the Chinese shooting at them from the heights.

As they fought from Yudam toward Hagaru, the 5th Marines came across a Company of the 7th Marines, which had been surrounded on the main road since the main Chinese attack started.

There was an unconfirmed report at headquarters that every man in Company was killed or wounded. But the survivors still held to their high ground and the

approaches to their position was covered with Chinese dead. The Marines established "warm up" points at Hagaru and Koto. The commanders tried to get all their miserably weary, bone-cold fighting men into heated tents for a few moments of warmth.

At Yudam the Marines buried some of their dead. They brought with them to Koto as many as they could who were killed on the night toward that town.

At Koto they buried them, in ground frozen so hard it turned a bulldozer blade. The ground had to be dynamited to make graves.

At both Hagaru and Koto the Marines built a makeshift airstrip. Marine and Army airmen shuttled great loads of wounded back to safety.

Then the column set forth again, southward. The Chinese, sensing that the Marines were escaping, stepped up their attacks from the flanks.

An Army unit of the Third Division moved north from the Hamhung coastal area toward the southbound Marines and the pitifully few Army troops who escaped. The commanders tried to get all their miserably weary, bone-cold fighting men into heated tents for a few moments of warmth.

Along the road the Third Division unit relieved a Marine battalion. The soldiers took up battalion positions.

The battalion immediately headed north. In a hand grenade and bayonet battle with the Chinese during a blinding snowstorm, the battalion secured some key high ground which enabled the south-bound Marine column to move closer to safety along the single crowded road.

As the Marines on the ground fought and died on the way south, flying leathernecks and Navy carrier pilots struck at the Chinese positions on hills and peaks.

Airmen Strafe Reds. Marine fighters lashed rockets and machine-gun bullets into Red troops within 35 feet of the Marine lines. They flew day and night. During the retreat, Marine airmen alone flew nearly 2,000 sorties (single combat flights). Not all of them made it, for many died. But for every Marine who fell, regimental officers estimated 10 Chinese died.

Although they had retreated they were not defeated. They were tired almost to exhaustion, but they still could laugh and jeer at each other. Their weapons were in their hands.

And so these men of the 1st Marine Division from Yudam and Hagaru take their place in Corps history. They can stand alongside the men whose exploits will never be forgotten at Guadalcanal in World War II, or Chateau Thierry in World War I, or back to the earliest days of Tripoli.

Civilians to Hear Robinson The Rev. Otis G. Robinson will speak on "A Christmas Message" at a dinner meeting of the Civitan Club at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Mayflower Hotel.



"We've been looking for the enemy for several days now, we've finally found them. We're surrounded. That simplifies our problem of getting to these people and killing them."

-Colonel Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller (above), USMC, September 1, 1950 (Provided by U.S. National Archives)

Left: Washington Evening Star, December 18, 1950, p. 31

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VIETNAM WAR

Marines Land at Hue Citadel

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Hue Mayor Says Viet Cong Executed 300



Above: Marines A Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines [A/1/1] return fire from a house window during a search and clear mission in the battle of Hue, February 1968. (official USMC photo by Sergeant Bruce A. Atwell, Marine Corps Archives & Special Collections).

Below: D. R. Howe (Glencoe, MN) treats the wounds of Private First Class D. A. Crum (New Brighton, PA), Company H, 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, during Operation Hue City. (U.S. National Archives and Records Administration)



Amphibious Units In Surprise Move Across River

SAIGON (UPI)— About 500 U.S. Marines under heavy fire surged across Hue's Perfume River in a surprise assault today, spearheading an allied drive to retake the ancient imperial "forbidden city" from Communist hands.

Using a pickup flotilla of patrols, a mine sweeper and one landing craft, Maj. Robert Thompson's Leathernecks smashed through machine gun and rifle fire, hit the north bank of the river and charged the guerrillas who have nestled for 12 days behind the 12-foot-thick walls of Hue's historic citadel.

"It looks like it's going to be a long one," Maj. Thompson of Charlottesville, Va., said hours after the combined American-South Vietnamese assault team launched the siege of the citadel.

Clean Out

"Our objective is to clean out the enemy from the rest of the city," a spokesman for the Marines who already had smashed Communist control in house-to-house fighting in the new town on the south bank.

★ ★ ★

N. Vietnamese Say U.S. Is Facing 'Dien Bien Phu'

(C) 1968 New York Times News Service

HANOI, North Vietnam (Agence France-Presse)— Nhan Dan, the North Vietnamese Communist Party newspaper, warned the United States today that defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 threatened American forces at Khe Sanh.

It was the first time that Dien Bien Phu, the defeat that marked the end of the French war in Indo China, has been specifically mentioned here in connection with the military situation in South Vietnam.

Fall of Outpost Nhan Dan was commenting on the fall of Lang Vei, an outpost west-southwest of Khe Sanh, that was captured by Viet Cong or North Vietnamese forces on Wednesday. The loss of Lang Vei exposed the entire United States defense system at Khe Sanh to the Viet Cong threat, the Hanoi newspaper said.

President Johnson and his military advisers are "afraid" of a Dien Bien Phu, the paper declared. But "if they think Khe Sanh is like Dien Bien Phu, the battle of Lang Vei is really a repetition of the battle of Independence Hill," Nhan Dan added.

Fell in 1951 The slope, known as Doc Lap, or Independence Hill, to the Vietnamese, was called Strong Point Gabriele by the French troops entrenched at Dien Bien Phu. That outpost fell in May, 1954, after a siege of 55 days.

With Independence Hill captured, the French troops had to get ready to raise the white flag," the paper said. "With Lang Vei razed, how can the Americans hold Khe Sanh?"

Hundreds of Vietnamese civilians, surprised by the dramatic dash across the wide river, watched the U.S. Navy steer the Marines to the far shore, UPI correspondent Richard V. Oliver reported.

Suddenly the Communists saw the danger to their rear.

From the north bank they opened fire. The civilians on the south bank scrambled into the ruins of the city once called the "Venice of the Orient." The Marines and their Navy crews surged ahead.

"They ambushed us, I heard about six rockets go off and I knew we were in the middle of it," said Senman Giovanni Ruggiero, 22, of East Northport, N.Y.

"All I saw was a smoke and flash."

Scramble Ashore

Thompson's men scrambled ashore when the boats touched the bank. They rushed from the northwest toward the high brick walls of the citadel. The Communists, busy fighting government Marines inside the two-mile-square former palace of Annamese kings, had looked behind them too late.

The Viet Cong had blown up the main bridge across the river that is as wide as the Missouri last week just to thwart any such Leatherneck action. But the Marines used their World War II island-hopping and Korean War Inchon-landing technique in miniature to hit their enemy where it did not expect it.

Held Fortress

Oliver reported, "The North Vietnamese and local Viet Cong have held their fortress in the old city center since Jan. 31. Except for some expansion by the Marines south of the Perfume River, which divides the city, the lines of battle have become frozen." The Communists held government forces at bay until the assault across the river.

Describing the mood of the

See Marines, page A-4

**We don't
promise you
a rose garden**



**THE MARINES ARE LOOKING
FOR A FEW GOOD MEN.**

U.S. Marines land near Kandahar

Taliban hold weakening, bin Laden's whereabouts still unknown

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Quickening the hunt for Osama bin Laden and top Taliban leaders, U.S. Marines landed Monday outside the southern stronghold of Kandahar and set up a desert airbase. Heavy U.S. bombardment backed up anti-Taliban tribal fighters advancing on the city.

In newly captured Kunduz, wary northern alliance troops were going house-to-house to flush out Taliban stragglers, triggering an occasional firefight. The city, the Taliban's last northern garrison, fell to the alliance a day earlier, after a two-week siege.

At the scene of a bloody prison uprising in Mazar-e-Sharif by captured fighters loyal to bin Laden, heavy new explosions and gunfire rang out for a second day despite official assurances that the insurrection had been quelled. Holdouts barricaded themselves inside a tower and fired rocket-propelled grenades, witnesses said.

The deployment of Marines near Kandahar marks a perilous new phase of a conflict that until now had focused on U.S. airstrikes backing up the opposition northern alliance.

Kandahar has come under fierce bombardment since the U.S.-led military campaign began Oct. 7, and the Taliban have vowed to fight to the death rather than abandon their last citadel. In the last three weeks, the Taliban have lost their grip on three-quarters of Afghanistan, plus the capital, Kabul.

Explosions rocked the area around Kandahar overnight and early Monday, with bright flares illuminating the night sky, a witness in the city said. Tribal leaders said their fighters, backed by U.S. bombardment, had pushed to within five miles of the city.

Pakistani journalist Nasir Malik, who is in Kandahar, said



Resistance is futile

Northern alliance fighters unload weapons from their truck prior fighting with pro-Taliban forces in a fortress near Mazar-e-Sharif, Northern Afghanistan, Monday, Nov. 26, 2001. Several hundred prisoners, mostly foreign fighters fighting on the Taliban side, captured part of the mud-walled fortress where hundreds of their comrades were killed a day earlier, witnesses said. (AP Photo/Darko Bandic)

the center of the city was quiet Monday afternoon, with truckloads of armed Taliban soldiers driving through the streets. He said the Taliban appeared to be in control of the city airport too.

Malik said there was no sign of local Taliban officials in their offices. Most of the top Taliban leadership is believed to be holed up in and around Kandahar, including their supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar. The foreign minister of the northern

alliance said he believed Omar and bin Laden were close together, but did not disclose his reasons for thinking so.

"The forces of the Taliban and the terrorist groups have been contained ... they have nowhere to go," Abdullah, who uses only one name, told a news conference in Kabul.

Ferried in by helicopter, the vanguard of Marines seized a secret desert airstrip within striking distance of Kandahar, their

commander said. He said more than 1,000 of them would be on the ground within 48 hours.

"The Marines have landed and we now own a piece of Afghanistan," Gen. James Mattis, commander of the attack task force, said from aboard the assault ship USS Peleliu. After securing the sand airfield, troops set up landing lights so fixed-wing transport aircraft could land with more troops and supplies, he said.

Above: Tyrone Daily Herald, Nov 26, 2001, Page 1

Right: Brigadier General James Mattis talks with Marines of the 15th and 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit prior to their departing in a 40 plus vehicle convoy from a staging area to take control of the airfield in Kandahar, Afghanistan, December 14, 2001. (Associated Press.)



First wave of allied forces cross southern border

SOUTHERN IRAQ (AP) — The U.S. Marines and Army rolled into Iraq and engaged Saddam Hussein's forces in the desert on Thursday, joining British troops in launching the war's ground assault.

U.S. forces in northern Kuwait signaled their advance with a thundering artillery barrage over the border. Infantrymen on the move, their weeks of waiting at an end, cheered as shells screamed overhead.

Under the shelter of night and supported by heavy bombing, the armored vehicles of the 1st Marine Division rolled into southern Iraq at around 9 p.m. local time (1 p.m. EST). As they moved through the desert, burning oil wells were visible in the distance.



The 20,000 Marines met light resistance from Iraqi "rear guard" units. They opened fire with machine guns on an Iraqi T-55 tank and destroyed it with a Javelin, a portable anti-tank missile.

Troops from the Army's 3rd Infantry Division also crossed into Iraq and came into contact with several Iraqi armored personnel carriers, destroying at least three of them, front

line troops reported by radio.

Artillery barrages continued through the night and into Friday morning, lighting up the sky in northeastern Kuwait across the border from the al-Faw peninsula, where British troops swept in earlier Thursday.

British military officials said they and U.S. forces expected to seize the peninsula port of Umm Qasr from Iraqi troops sometime Friday. That would give the allies access to a port to bring in more supplies for the war against Saddam.

Witnesses a few miles across the border on the Kuwaiti side said they could hear thunderous explosions from the Umm Qasr area.

command access to the Gulf and set the stage for the first major conquest on the way to Baghdad — Basra, Iraq's second largest city, just 20 miles from the Kuwait border.

The move on the area between Basra and the Persian Gulf suggested that the allied strategy on the ground calls for a two-pronged attack — one to clear Iraqi resistance in the southern oil region while the other charges north toward Baghdad.

Australian troops were also in Iraq identifying targets for coalition aircraft and monitoring Iraqi troop movements, an Australian defense force spokesman said.

SEE SIDCT - 7A

(Cumberland Times News, Mar 21, 2003, Page 1)



“...The most brutal battles since Vietnam took place in Iraq, in cities such as Baghdad, Fallujah and Ramadi, and acts of heroism abounded. Emblematic is the story of Marine Sgt. Maj. Bradley A. Kasal. On Nov. 13, 2004, then-1st Sgt. Kasal entered an enemy-occupied building in Fallujah, a death trap our troops had dubbed “Hell House,” to assist fellow Marines who were pinned down by a superior enemy force. Under withering fire, Kasal killed an insurgent immediately; then, while dragging a wounded Marine to safety, he was struck with seven rounds of small-arms fire. Severely wounded, Kasal used the few bandages he had to treat his injured comrade rather than himself.

When the insurgents lobbed a grenade at them, Kasal rolled on top of the wounded Marine, absorbing the impact of the blast and suffering 43 shrapnel wounds. He refused to leave the house until all of the other Marines were safe. A photograph taken of Kasal staggering from the house, pistol in hand, supported by fellow Marines, his uniform soaked in blood, became an iconic image of the Iraq War.”

-James C. Roberts (The Washington Post, 2018)

Photo by: Lucian Read (2003)

75 YEARS OF TOYS FOR TOTS

Marines Hold Toys For Tots

Tucson's marine reserve unit is going to take a turn playing Santa Claus this year.

Lt. Loren E. Burnett, inspector-instructor at the reserve training center, said today that three booths will be set up in the downtown area Dec. 19 to 21 for collection of toys.

Donations will be turned over to the Salvation Army for distribution Christmas eve to needy children who might otherwise have been missed by St. Nick, Lt. Burnett said.

The program has been dubbed "Toys for Tots" and is a nation-wide plan of marine reserve units.

Both new and used toys will be accepted, as long as they are serviceable. It will expedite distribution if contributions are wrapped and tagged with a note explaining age and sex of child for whom the gift will be most appropriate, Lt. Burnett said.

Manned by members of Tucson's E company, 13th infantry battalion, booths will be set up on Stone avenue opposite the Valley National bank building, on Stone avenue in front of Steinfeld's department store and on Congress street at the Tucson Federal Savings & Loan building.

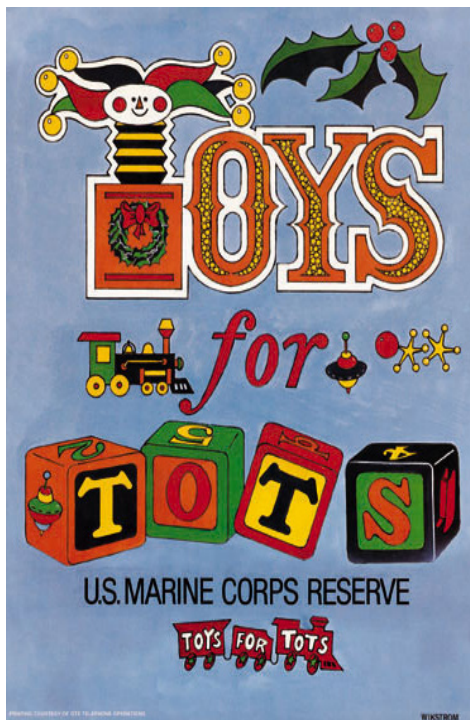
(Tuscan Daily Citizen, 1949, p. 20)



(1948) Toys for Tots original promotional poster, created by Walt Disney.



(1969)



(1990)



(1998)





USMC 247th Birthday Collage Contest: Submit your responses to COMMSTRAT. First to respond with the most correct answers will win a prize from the CO!

1. _____	9. _____
2. _____	10. _____
3. _____	11. _____
4. _____	12. _____
5. _____	13. _____
6. _____	14. _____
7. _____	15. _____
8. _____	16. _____
18	17. _____

