

THE LEATHERNECK

Editor in Chief
 COL. JAMES C. BRECKINRIDGE
 Publisher and Editor
 LIEUT. DONALD E. KEYHUE
 Business Manager
 SERGT. FRED A. PARQUETTE
 Circulation Manager
 CPL. WILLIAM W. WELSH

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Address all communications to Lieut. Donald E. Keyhoe, Marine Corps Institute, Washington, D. C.

"The Leatherneck" has a National Paid-in-Advance Subscription list which includes every Post and Station in the Marine Corps, every capital ship in the Navy, and many Libraries, Reading Rooms, Colleges, Lodges and Clubs in the United States, as well as thousands of Service Men and their relatives throughout the country.

YOUR "LEATHERNECK" AND WHAT IT COSTS

At first thought it may seem that the publication of a paper the size of THE LEATHERNECK ought not to be of great expense. For this reason, our appeal for wider circulation often falls on deaf ears and we are therefore printing a few facts regarding our financial condition and our regular expenses, which will enlighten those who regard it an easy matter to meet the obligations of such a small paper.

The present cost of printing THE LEATHERNECK, regardless of cuts or special type set-ups, is \$440 a month. Wrappers, postage, and miscellaneous office items usually amount to \$25 a month. In addition to this, we pay our representatives for their news items and pay a commission on all subscriptions secured by them. This amount varies, the amount paid for news alone usually being \$20 a month. Whenever we have special picture cuts made there is an additional expense, the smallest cuts costing about \$2. Excluding this last item, THE LEATHERNECK is printed at a minimum cost of \$500 a month, and it is often a great deal more.

Most of this amount must be paid by subscriptions. Our advertising helps to some extent but THE LEATHERNECK cannot exist without the full support of the Corps. We are hoping to increase it in the future, but to do this we must have one-half the Marine Corps as our subscribers. This is not impossible of attainment, and we believe if the men of the Corps realize the possibilities of THE LEATHERNECK they will get behind us and endeavor to make the posts 100 per cent in circulation.

Up to the middle of December THE LEATHERNECK was in debt, and it was feared at one time we might have to suspend publication. In a final effort to awaken the Corps to the plight of its only general newspaper we succeeded in obtaining enough subscriptions to put us on our feet again, and to give us a surplus which we immediately proceeded to use in the most advisable way. One

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Sail Ho!

"GOBS" NOT SAILORS, SAYS "SEABAG"

Navy men are not "sailors," according to *The Seabag of the U. S. S. Oklahoma*, which says: "We hear men refer to themselves as sailors. By the shades of John Paul Jones, that is intolerable! The navy man is a bluejacket, a man-o'-warsman, or even a "Gob," but not a sailor. A sailor is a common seaman, as distinguished from able-bodied seamen in the merchant service. Where a sailor leaves off, a bluejacket or man-o'-warsman begins. What does a sailor know about machinery, electricity, gunnery, communications, regulations or the many other things a man-o'-warsman must know? Nothing! A man-o'-warsman is not only a highly trained specialist but is also a first-class fighting man, clean-cut, mentally alert, loyal to his country, and resourceful."

"FIGHTING TOP" APPROVES HAWAIIAN CRUISE

The Fighting Top of the U. S. S. Wyoming speaks with approval of the contemplated fleet cruise to the Hawaiian Islands for next winter's maneuvers.

"Those who have been to the Islands before," says *The Fighting Top*, "will be glad to visit again the most beautiful bit of tropics they have ever seen. Those who are still strangers to the land of the Hula-Hula (according to popular songs, but hard to find in Hawaii) have something in store."

The Fighting Top has made no idle remark. Hawaii is indeed a most beautiful place, and the Marines who are fortunate enough to go on next year's expedition will undoubtedly join the ranks of enthusiastic admirers.

"ESPRIT DE CORPS"

The following editorial on "Esprit de Corps" appeared in a recent issue of the *Oklahoma Sea Bag*, and it was deemed of such high quality that it is reprinted herewith intact:

"Esprit de Corps"

BY E. W. H.

You all know what the phrase means; but, just what does it mean to the personnel of the *Oklahoma*?

During the past few years it has gradually become the custom to do as little as possible, or to do just enough to get by. Apparently no interest is taken by the individual in anything except his personal desires. I do not think that is the meaning of the phrase.

In an establishment like the Navy, the officers and men have mutual obligations toward one another. Each are, to some extent, tied by the existence of this relationship, and each accepts the limitations for the sake of the advantages which accrue. Each of us must possess certain principles and perform certain acts.

If we all do our work in a haphazard manner, the result is well known; but if each of us does his best, no matter how

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Headquarters Talks

This is the first of a series of talks which I hope to have with the Marine Corps through the columns of THE LEATHERNECK.

"An order making a knowledge of either French or Spanish obligatory for all officers below the rank of Lieutenant Colonel is being drafted and will be issued to the Corps in a short time. Officers already enrolled in a course in the Marine Corps Institute will be allowed a reasonable time in which to complete such course before taking up a language. Time for completing a language course will be about four years. A sound knowledge of at least one of these languages is not only an accomplishment but a necessity for officers of the Marine Corps.

"During my recent inspection in the West Indies I did not see a Marine Corps post that was not equipped with as good a study room as the local conditions permitted, and there was always present an officer or competent non-commissioned officer who was glad to advise the students, and to assist them in their studies after the regular working hours.

"My talks will not all be devoted to the subject of education, but this is of such ever-increasing importance that I feel it cannot be over-emphasized in the Marine Corps. The standards of the entire world are being raised. Every walk of life calls for trained men; those who do not measure up to this condition are automatically passed over by others who have prepared themselves to work with their heads as well as with their hands. As Washington is the seat of government the increasing pressure for higher educational standards is more in evidence here than anywhere else, and it is very much in evidence. High as the Marine Corps standard already is it must nevertheless be improved, because we must keep abreast of the times. The Corps as a unit is like every individual man in it. It must prepare for the future.

"Discussion of this matter has not been limited to Headquarters. As it affects the whole Corps the opinion of Commanding Officers, Educational Officers and many others has been obtained by personal correspondence as well as by conversation. Every First Sergeant in the Marine Corps has been asked to give his opinion and the number of students taking courses in the Institute who have given their views on the subject is too great to keep track of.

"The conclusion reached after all this effort is that it would be a great mistake to place our general educational system on any but a purely voluntary foundation. The Corps is almost solidly for this principle. This applies to our standard of general education and not to the professional education of either officers or men. Knowledge of either French or Spanish is a professional necessity for the officers, as are the courses taught at the Navy War College, the Army War College, the Marine Corps Schools, and

other service schools throughout the country, all of which Marine Officers are required to attend. The professional education of the enlisted men is taken care of in the other ways, by routine procedure. That it is effective has been proven on land and sea for well over a century.

"As we have now definitely decided to adhere to the voluntary principle in our educational work it follows that we must actually apply that principle. Headquarters of the Marine Corps lives up to its part by refraining from issuing orders restricting the initiative of others. The method to be pursued in every case is left to the discretion of the local commander. The reaction of every method is known by the number of lesson papers received at the Institute, and by the number of graduates at any place. As the success of the Marine Corps Institute is measured by the number of its graduates, and as graduation is the goal of every serious student, I hope the Corps as a whole will respond to the spirit of the voluntary principle of our educational system, and offer every practicable and suitable opportunity to the students to complete their courses so they may be awarded their diplomas, which are the visible evidence of proficiency."

JOHN A. LEJEUNE.

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thousand dollars was set as a reserve sum and every other cent was turned back into THE LEATHERNECK so that it might be improved and therefore become more interesting to the Corps, and as a result might gain more subscribers. This reserve sum will not last, and we shall be forced to use it in the very near future unless the entire Corps responds to our efforts and places us free from financial worries. We want to make this a large, snappy paper and we can do it with 50 per cent of the Corps on our mailing lists. Surely it is worth the trial. Give us your subscription for one year and watch the results. THE LEATHERNECK will respond to your every expectation.

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insignificant he believes his best to be, how much more satisfied will we be!

Is it each one's ambition to be the best man, in the best division, of the best ship in the fleet? That is what the above phrase means. If such were the case, how much more time we all would have to do with what we pleased! Let us all do our best and do it cheerfully for the good of our Navy.

Suppose we start a competition today and see how it works out. Let us all make our part of the ship the best part of the ship; our division, the best division; our race boat, the best race boat; our selves, the best navymen. If we are discontented on any account, all the more reason why we should try another way to remove the causes of this discontent.

Let's go—and show the world what "Esprit de Corps" means to the men of the Oklahoma.

SIDE LIGHTS ON MARE ISLAND

The post baseball team has begun its official training season at Mare Island, the first game being scheduled for the 22nd of March.

Interest in tennis has been revived because of the arrival of a number of tennis "sharks" from Peking. The courts are crowded every day with men from the Barracks.

There are now at this post two "knights of the squared circle," one of whom, Cpl. Theodore Schneider, is heavyweight champion of the West Coast, having twenty-three knockouts to his credit. Schneider will defend his title against Martin O'Shay in the near future.

Last week the horses which have been used by the mounted patrol were sold at auction, and the patrol, which has been in existence since the days of Admiral Farragut, was relegated to the land of the past.

Reports have been received from the new post which was established at Yerba Buena Island which indicate that this small detachment is quite content with its new home. This small guard is commanded by Capt. Max Cox. In a letter to Mare Island, Sgt. Thomson, who is with Capt. Cox, states that the naval personnel at Yerba Buena is courtesy personified, and that the post has all modern conveniences. The duties of these Marines consists in maintaining three guard posts which were formerly handled by the bluejackets.

W. B. BEACH.

NON-COMM. QUOTA FILLED

According to a recent announcement by the Major General Commandant, the non-commissioned officer strength of the Marine Corps has been filled and no promotions to non-commissioned officers grade, therefore, will be made other than to privates first-class, without specific authority from Headquarters.

We welcome suggestions for the improvement of the paper.

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Don't forget to renew your subscription.

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This is YOUR paper. Help us make it better.

SAN DIEGO MARINES HAVE WONDERFUL HOME

Southern California, and all that name conjures up before one! Wonderful climate of warm, sunlit days and cool nights. Land of sunsets, turquoise skies, blue hazy mountains towering like castle walls; bluer water of the ever-tranquill Pacific. Rich in memories of the fearless Conquistadores of old Spain. The Angelus bell from old Franciscan Missions, ancient as the hills themselves, silent now, but once vibrant with the "Pater Noster" of Junipero Serra and his half-savage converts. Old Mexico's quaint, picturesque village, Tijuana, with her wide-hatted caballeros and beautiful señoritas; strumming of guitars, the soft cadences of Spanish music; abundance of the forbidden Nectar, Nemesis of Volstead. * * * The famous North Island, where MacReady and others have broken so many flight records. And the best located, most beautifully constructed Marine barracks in existence—at SAN DIEGO.

The Barracks faces due South, and fronts the Pacific. Constructed after the Spanish Mission style of architecture, with beautiful arches, it contains one of the longest Arcades in the world. There are five large buildings of the two-story design, and in each one is a complete set of offices, two large barracks-rooms, one below and one top-side, tiled bathrooms, with nickel-plated plumbing fixtures, and a large Mess Hall, with a sitting capacity of about 500 men. The ceiling of the topside barracks-room is constructed after the old architectural style, so that the huge supporting beams are visible.

Our Library is one of the best-stocked on the Western Coast. In the same building we have an excellent canteen, a bowling alley with four alleys, and a poolroom with four tables. The best feature pictures are exhibited twice weekly.

For the athletes we have a cement tennis court, a cement basketball court and a fine level baseball diamond. Our Track Team is just getting organized, and we promise some surprising records a bit later. The Marine basketball team won a series of five games played against the Naval Training Station of North Island, which brought us the Championship. Honesty compels us to admit that the Training Station nosed us out of the baseball championship, though we lost but two out of the eight games. The Leathernecks are always on hand to root for the old team, and trucks are provided to carry the men to and from the games, which are always played on the "Y" diamond in town.

But, speaking of diamonds—With the unerring judgment of connoisseurs, the Marines have selected a most charming young lady, Miss Dennison (daughter of Q. M. Sgt. Dennison), to represent the Marine Base and (sailors, take notice!) also the Naval Operating Base, in a Prize Contest now taking place at the Civic Auditorium in Balboa Park. We hope we can win for her the big diamond ring given as the prize. (Ye scribe wishes we could have secured ours that way, for they cost money. We know whereof we speak.)

VAN WALT.

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