

THE LEATHERNECK

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IF IT PROVES SUCCESSFUL

The Editors of THE LEATHERNECK feel that the time to increase the size of the paper is close at hand. Their appeal for cooperation has met with response from many quarters, and stations hitherto unheard from are beginning to clamor for attention.

This attitude on the part of our readers is most encouraging, and it is sincerely hoped that their ardor will not cool. It is hoped, too, that many Marine detachments still to be heard from will soon sense the necessity of lending a hand.

It is our intention to add four pages to THE LEATHERNECK early in June. This will be in the nature of an experiment. If it proves successful we will start planning for another increase.

If it proves successful. How easy it would be to wipe out that little "if" were every Marine with us, if every Leatherneck, from the rawest recruit to the most seasoned veteran would only yank off his coat, roll up his sleeves, and pitch in!

Have you a paid-up subscription to this paper? Pay day is only a few days behind you. Haven't you a dollar or two left from that crap game? Did that liberty you are just recovering from take all your jack? If so, send in your name and address anyway, and pay us when you draw pour "dust" again. Of course you can read the other fellow's paper, but that isn't helping THE LEATHERNECK.

Is there a Leatherneck representative at your post? You don't have to be a college graduate in order to tell us what's going on. Just sit down and try to snow the Editor under. He used to be an enlisted man himself so you needn't worry about stepping on his corns.

No matter who you are, do your bit. Others are helping, rank and file, and they have our warmest thanks. But if you haven't done anything yet, get busy. You will have your thanks later on when the best military outfit in the world has the best service publication in the world.

SAIL HO!

HEADQUARTERS TALKS

THE SHAPING OF A POLICY

By THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT
U. S. Marine Corps

It is interesting to notice how an unexpected and relatively unimportant event will sometimes influence an official decision. Before deciding on any matter of Corps policy, it is thoroughly discussed at Headquarters, every sidelight cast upon it, and outside opinions obtained. The monthly conferences held in this office are usually attended by the Assistant to the Commandant, the Adjutant and Inspector, the Paymaster, the Quartermaster, the Officer in Charge of Recruiting, the Personnel Officer, the Director of Operations and Training, and the Chief of the Educational Section, all of whom are stationed in Washington and are readily available. In addition there are ordered, at stated intervals, and from a distance, the Commanding Officers from Parris Island, Quantico, Philadelphia, and the Officer in Charge of the Quartermaster Supply Depot at Philadelphia.

From the foregoing it would seem that the ideas of the Marine Corps were already well represented, but I will give three illustrations to show how some unexpected opinion or event really shaped a policy.

On December 15, 1923, Gy-Sgt. Carleton E. Whitney was ordered from Washington to Quantico on duty connected with the Marine Corps Institute. On his return he stated that from his observation he believed the time allowed all company officers to complete the Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing Course should be extended so as to place them on a parity with officers on staff detail. This matter was taken up officially and approved. The result was a letter dated February 15, 1924, which modified Marine Corps Orders No. 1, Series 1923.

When the language course for officers was under consideration, 1st Lieut. Eli Savage wrote a personal letter to the Director of the Marine Corps Institute, in which he stated that he thought that any officer already enrolled in a course of his own choosing should be allowed time in which to complete it before taking up the study of a language. This was also taken up officially and approved. The result was that this provision is incorporated in the language order about to be issued.

The question of determining a policy for Marine Corps general education was considered for a long time. The opinions of many officers and enlisted men were obtained. Both the Army and the Navy had educational systems operating under broad and already established policies. There were some who advocated compulsory education, and some who would confine education to technical or professional subjects. While the majority opinion favored voluntary education, it was by no means unanimous. Col. James McE. Huey called a meeting of all the officers stationed at San Diego, where the question was thoroughly discussed, and it was there unanimously recommended that the educational policy of the Marine Corps be

QUESTION BOX

ERRATUM

Editor, THE LEATHERNECK:

Page 4 of the issue of April 26 contains a statement under *Question Box* which reads: "On the world war ribbon the silver stars should be worn between the bronze stars."

Lest this error tend to produce any further lack of uniformity than already exists, I quote Par. 368, page 56, Uniform Regulations, U. S. M. C., 1922:

"On the Victory ribbon with either the bronze stars or Maltese cross, silver stars shall be placed to the right."

Very truly yours,

LOUIS E. FAGAN,
Captain, U. S. M. C.

THE USE OF VISUAL SIGNALS

The use of flags as a means of telling the other fellow what to do strikes the average recruit as somewhat of a waste of time, yet when he has been made to learn his code and can receive and send with some understanding he begins to get interested and realizes that the telephone and telegraph are only two very simple and easy ways of communication, that are very much limited in their use. The following extract from a Navy Department Bulletin will assist many in the realization of the value of Visual Signaling:

"A study of the battle of Jutland gives some idea of the employment of Visual Signals that may be expected in battle.

"From 6:02 p. m. to 9:17 p. m. Admiral Jellico sent thirty signals to his battleship squadron of which seven were sent by flags alone, sixteen were sent by flags and radio, one by flags and searchlight, four by searchlight and two by radio.

"About nine signals per hour were sent, with an average of seven minutes between signals. General signals to the whole force were sent by both flags and radio and signals to individual squadrons by searchlight. Four light cruisers were used for repeating flag signals. Battle orders were sent by both flag and radio."

purely voluntary and conducted with a wide range of subjects. The result was paragraphs 4 and 6 of the letter of March 25, 1924, Subject: Marine Corps Institute.

This column in THE LEATHERNECK is published with my approval. It offers an opportunity for the different offices at Headquarters to explain their workings to the Marine Corps, and to unofficially present their side of the questions that are constantly arising. THE LEATHERNECK is at liberty to receive inquiries relative to any questions that are of interest to its readers, and, when it is proper to do so, to answer the same through its columns.

(Signed) JOHN A. LEJEUNE.

BOSTON MARINES HAVE BUSY WEEK

The Boston Marines played a great part in the Patriots' Day celebration held on April 19. During the morning a company participated in the parade from the City Hall to North Square, where exercises in connection with Paul Revere's ride and the Battle of Lexington and Concord were held. In the afternoon all available Marines took part in the exercises held by the Sons of the American Revolution on board the famous old frigate *Constitution* in the Navy Yard. Governor Cox, of Massachusetts, was present for this occasion and was received with full honors.

Four squads of Marines from this post, under command of Marine Gunner C. A. Pennington, participated in the opening day exercises at Braves' Field on April 23. Detachments from the Army and the Navy also took part. All men in uniform were admitted to the game free of charge and practically all the Marines who were not on duty attended.

Our baseball team chalked up another victory on April 26, when they trimmed the Hingham Marines to the tune of 10 to 5. Zink started on the mound for Boston, but was taken out in the fifth inning after Hingham had scored five runs. Long pitched the rest of the game and did not yield a single hit. Falk's work with the stick was one of the features of the game.

All members of the team join in thanking Captain Noble and the Marines under his command for the cordial hospitality accorded them during their visit to Hingham.

M. M. KIESLER.

GENERAL BARNETT'S WIFE CHEERS INVALID

Mrs. George Barnett, wife of Major General Barnett, former Commandant of the Marine Corps, has purchased a radio set for one of her neighbors, a young Virginia mountaineer, who, for thirteen years, has lain, a hopeless paralytic, in his lowly cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Touched by his plight, she purchased a receiving set capable of tuning in on every station in the country, and personally supervised its erection.

From all parts of the Ridge, simple folk of the hills come to listen to the great world outside of their purple mountain tops. So the little cabin has suddenly become peopled with life.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NEWS

April showers did not dampen the ardor of the members of the Marcus W. Beck, Jr., Detachment of the Marine Corps League, who braved a heavy rain-storm on the evening of April 17 to attend the monthly meeting held in Room 526, Post Office Building, Atlanta, Ga. The meeting was full of pep and all hands promised to be on deck May 1, when the next get-together comes off.

The resignation of E. H. Galway was reluctantly accepted at this meeting, and C. R. Baumgras was installed in his place as Detachment Adjutant.

The Detachment signed up the following new members at this meeting:

Matt Benson, L. O. Cale, J. C. Davis, J. R. Moser, Jr., I. F. Nunn, J. A. Pfeffer, S. R. Washington.

The Detachment has a snappy little paper called the *Atlanta Leaguer*, and the issue of April 28 carries a paragraph or two about THE LEATHERNECK which should interest Marine Corps Leaguers.

"Every organization has its special medium to carry notes and news of each meeting, and things of interest to members in general, and THE LEATHERNECK has been indorsed as the official paper of the Marine Corps League by the National Officers. THE LEATHERNECK is published weekly at Washington, D. C., and carries not only League news, but also many other interesting features, things that are as interesting to the ex-Marine as they are to his brother Marine still in the service. Colonel James C. Breckinridge, U. S. M. C., is Editor-in-Chief, and he has a wonderful array of talent assisting him in making up the paper.

"In the April 19th issue of THE LEATHERNECK our own Detachment is mentioned in a lengthy article, and in the issue of April 26th, more space has been given us. By special arrangements you can secure a six-months subscription for \$1.00. Seventy-five cents will go to THE LEATHERNECK and the remainder into our League treasury. The regular subscription rate is \$2.00 yearly.

"Marines, ex-Marines, and their relatives all over the world are reading this excellent publication, and no Marine Corps Leaguer can afford to be without it. By subscribing to THE LEATHERNECK you will be able to see what your old Buddies are doing, and read about many things that cannot fail to interest every man who has ever worn the Globe, Anchor and Eagle."

The McLemore Marines Detachment of the Marine Corps League, Houston, Tex., is, to a certain extent, the out-growth of the old Marine Corps Club of the same city, an organization that was formed in 1919, died a natural death a few months later, was revived in 1920, and passed out again. The rocks and shoals upon which the club foundered have been charted by some of its members, whose experiences will help materially in piloting the new detachment through any rough waters it may encounter.

(Continued on page 6)

AVIATION MARINES AT GREAT LAKES

Marines who want to learn how to fly will be interested in the school for aviation mechanics at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station where about 100 Marines are trained yearly in some branch of aviation. A course lasts from three to nine months, according to its nature, and the training is most practicable and up-to-date.

The following courses are given: Machinist's Mate's, 36 weeks; Carpenter's, 32 weeks; Rigger's, 18 weeks; Metalsmith's, 21 weeks; Radio Operator's, 20 weeks; Instrument Repairer's, 15 weeks. Every effort is made to insure practicality, each student being given a kit of tools, and plenty of work to do.

The health and amusement of the Marine have not been forgotten. Athletics is popular and rivalry between the various schools in baseball, football and basketball is very keen. Regular boxing matches are held three times a month and moving pictures shown three times weekly.

Quarters are very comfortable and Chicago is only thirty-five miles distant. Graduates of the school are in great demand, and when eventually transferred to active flying stations soon rise to responsible positions. They develop into real flyers, and upon discharge are equipped to step into the great outside with something under their hat beside their hair.

GUANTANAMO NEWS

The West Indies Division Rifle and Pistol Competition is in full swing. Captain Peck, formerly of this command, arrived on the 10th of April with the Haitian Marines, including First Lieutenant Presnell, Second Lieutenant Conradt, Marine Gunner Andrews and twenty-one men. Captain Leinhard arrived on the 12th with twenty-five Dominican Marines and a motorcycle.

The Virgin Island detail came in about a week later on the *Beaufort*. Our own detail is not made up at the present writing but Gy-Sgts. Meek and Black, Sgt. Gage and Pvt. Harrison seem to be the favorites here. The Haitian Marines hold the odds this year and are made up of several typical Kentucky and Virginian mountain youngsters who, you might say, were born with a gun in their hands to say nothing of the old timers who consider medal-winning part of the day's work.

The Scouting Fleet is anchored in our front yard and not only adds materially to the scenery, but gives the whole place an atmosphere of bustling activity. We are greeted in the morning with the blasts of many whistles, the hum of machinery and the roar of hydroplane propellers. Through the day we listen to the distant popping of the rifles on the rifle range, the booming of the ship's guns, and the sound of a thousand and one other activities of the Fleet.

At night we look out across the water and see a long line of gleaming lights, white ones mostly, interspersed with red and green. Search lights flash their beams across the sky, while "blinkers" by the dozen carry on an enlightening but noiseless chatter. More than one poor fellow looks longingly out across the bay at night before retiring to his bunk to dream of "little old New York."