

The United States Marine Corps

By Major General Commandant Ben H. Fuller, U. S. Marine Corps

The following paper is reprinted, by kind permission of the Editor of THE UNITED STATES NAVAL INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS because we consider it an excellent review of the reasons for and accomplishments of THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, from which those who are new in our ranks may learn what we mean by traditions, *esprit d'corps*. (Ed.)

MARINES of Phoenicia, Egypt, Greece, Carthage, and Rome all performed the same character of mission as that of the modern American marines—serving as soldiers on board the fighting naval ships and as expeditions prepared to carry on land operations in support of the fleets. Roman marines of Caesar landed in England and enlisted ancient Britons to serve under their colors. The Royal British marines were organized in 1664. British-American colonial marines of Spottswood and Gooch served under Vernon at Cartagena City and in Cuba in 1741. Lawrence Washington, brother of George Washington, was one of them.

Lexington came on April 19, 1775, and the "shot heard around the world" was fired after Major Pitcairn of the Royal British marines had cried out, "Disperse you rebels."

The word "marines" first appeared in recorded United States history in May, 1775. Continental Congress first used the word on October 5, 1775. With thousands of American Marines serving on continental and state warships and on privateers, Congress by the resolution of November 10, 1775, created an organization, a corps, of Marines. Marines can claim an earlier birthday but have selected November 10 as their natal day.

National economy wiped out the Army and Navy with its corps of Marines at the close of the revolution. From 1794 to 1798 Marines were authorized as part of the complement of every naval vessel ordered to be built by Congress. Then, on July 11, 1798, Congress and President John Adams created the modern organization of sea soldiers known as the United States Marine Corps. The first headquarters was at Philadelphia and moved to Washington in 1800, where it has been ever since.

The Marine Corps is an element or unit of the naval service and normally subject to the laws and regulations established for the government of the Navy, but Marine Corps Headquarters is not an intimate part of the Navy Department in the same sense as is the Bureau of Navigation, or the other bureaus of the Navy Department. The Marine Corps is a military organization (composed of soldiers trained to the ways of the sea) adapted to naval conditions. The Corps is always available for immediate use at the direction of the Secretary of the Navy acting for the President.

The Marine Corps is a military and administrative organization, complete in itself, but dependent upon the Navy for certain services such as medical, surgical, dental, legal, etc. The Corps has its own staff and line officers.

The commanding officer of the Marine Corps is the Major General Commandant. There have been fifteen commandants of the Corps. The Navy Regulations provide that the commandant shall be stationed at the headquarters of the Marine Corps, Washington, D. C., and shall be responsible to the Secretary of the Navy for the general efficiency and discipline of the Corps. The Major General Commandant has under his immediate jurisdiction and control his three staff officers—the adjutant and inspector, the quartermaster, and the paymaster—who correspond closely to the bureau chiefs of the Army and Navy. There is also a general officer carrying the title of assistant to the commandant, who aids the Major General Commandant in coordinating all the business transacted at headquarters. At present Brigadier General John T. Myers is filling that office. With the exceptions noted above, the Marine Corps is an organization of the naval service, complete in itself and functioning as such. History shows, and experience has taught, that the Marine Corps in its present status and under the present jurisdiction performs efficiently for the nation.

From July 11, 1798, the date that President John Adams signed the Act of Congress that brought the present Marine Corps into existence, there has been a commandant and an adjutant, quartermaster, and paymaster to assist him. Starting with the first commandant, William Ward Burrows, in 1798, the military command and administrative control of the Corps was vested in the commandant. From the naval appropriations bill of 1798 to that of 1930, appropriations for the Marine Corps

have been made separately and not included in that for the Navy Department.

One of the principal reasons for the efficiency of the Marine Corps is that it has, in the Major General Commandant (who is appointed by the President for a four-year term), a single head and that he not only is charged with the duty of building up its efficiency, and of conducting its affairs economically, but also is regarded by all officers and enlisted men as their natural protector and friend. In this regard it is well to remember that unity of administrative control is as essential to success as is unity of command, that both are in accord with the principle of simplicity, and that, conversely, a division of authority spells confusion, demoralization, and disaster. Another feature that conduces to efficiency is the fact that Congress has not divided the Marine Corps into subordinate units as regiments, etc. There is only one statutory organization—the corps—and that lends itself to mobility.

The Navy Regulations carefully prescribe the duties and functions of the Major General Commandant. Among other things these regulations provide that under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy he shall issue such orders for the movement of officers and troops, and such orders and instructions for their guidance as may from time to time be necessary; he shall make such distributions of officers and men, for duty at the several shore stations, as shall appear to him to be most advantageous for the interests of the naval service, and shall from time to time, when required by the Secretary of the Navy, furnish detachments for vessels of the Navy; he shall exercise a general supervision over all expenditures and supplies needed for the maintenance or connected with the management of the Corps. It shall be his duty to see that all estimates of appropriations required for the support and employment of the Corps are based upon proper considerations; he shall exercise general supervision and control over the recruiting service of the Corps, and over the necessary expenses thereof, including the establishment of recruiting officers, and shall, from time to time, according to the necessities of the service, detail officers and men therefor; and he shall report annually to the Secretary of the Navy the condition and wants of the Corps, together with the necessary estimates, in duplicate, of appropriations required for its support. All important correspondence concerning the Marine Corps passes through the Major General Commandant. He is a member of the General Board of the Navy.

Navy chaplains and medical and dental officers of the Navy are detailed to serve with the Marines.

Legal matters of the Marine Corps are handled by the Judge Advocate General of the Navy. Marine officers, however, are detailed to serve in the office of the Judge Advocate General. With reference to the discipline of the Corps, Navy Regulations provide that the records of all general courts-martial and courts of inquiry involving the personnel of the Marine Corps shall, before final action, be referred to the Major General Commandant for comment as to disciplinary features.

The aids-de-camp to the Major General Commandant assist the Major General Commandant in the manner indicated by their title. They are stationed in his office and take care of appointment for, and reception of, visitors to the Major General Commandant. They are in charge of the Marine Band and of the Navy Building Marine Guard.

The administrative work of Marine Corps Headquarters is distributed among: the office of the assistant to the Major General Commandant; the department of the adjutant and inspector; the department of the paymaster; and the department of the quartermaster.

While obviously the Major General Commandant has command of his three staff officers, nevertheless, the Navy Regulations provide that he shall have immediate command of the officers composing the staff of the Corps, who shall perform their duties under his direction.

While the Marine Corps is a semi-independent organization and not a bureau or office of the Navy Department, nevertheless it is not independent in the same sense that the Army and Navy are of each other.

The Revised Statutes provide that

the Marine Corps shall at all times be subject to the laws and regulations established for the government of the Navy, except when detached for service with the Army by orders

(Continued on page 46)

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Lieutenant Williams of the Marines and what was left of his command. Some went stark, raving mad at the realization of their rescue. Others broke down completely and wept with hysterical abandon.

Tenderly the soldiers bore their tragic burdens to the boats. The rivers had abated, and by nightfall the tattered remnant of the Marine expedition was in Langang.

This is the story of the lost battalion of Samar, and from it has risen a traditional tribute to the honor of these men. It is a singular courtesy extended to their indomitable courage. Officers and men alike render the salute by rising in their presence. "Stand, gentlemen, he served in Samar," are the words of homage. And this is the breed of man that fashioned the glorious traditions of our Corps, and the gallant type of Marines whose deeds of valor established the service "Which we are proud to serve."

The United States Marine Corps

(Continued from page 9)

of the President; and when so detached they shall be subject to the rules and articles of war prescribed for the government of the Army.

While serving with the Army as provided in this law just quoted, the Marine Corps is as much a part of the Army as is the Army itself. Instances of service with the Army are: at the Battle of Princeton in the Revolution; the Battle of Bladensburg and Battle of New Orleans in the Second War with Great Britain; in the Florida Indian wars of 1836 and 1837, when the Commandant of Marines himself commanded the "Fighting Brigade" of the Army of the South; at the capture of Vera Cruz, Chapultepec, and Mexico City in the Mexican War; at the first Battle of Bull Run in the Civil War; in the Army of Cuban Pacification, 1906-1909; in Mexico in 1914; and in the American Expeditionary Forces in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany.

The Act of July 11, 1798, which authorized the present Marine Corps, specified the duties of the Corps and with but slight change in phraseology these duties are outlined today in the Revised Statutes. The law in effect today provides that

Marines may be detached for service on board the armed vessels of the United States, and the President may detach and appoint for service on said vessels such of the officers of said corps as he may deem necessary. . . . the Marine Corps shall be liable to do duty in the forts and garrisons of the United States on the seacoast or any other duty on shore, as the President, at his discretion, may direct.

Both the original Act of 1798 and the present law provide that the

Corps may be formed into as many companies or detachments as the President of the United States shall direct, with a proper distribution of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers and musicians to each company or detachment.

From these provisions of law it will be observed that the Marine Corps comes directly under the Secretary of the Navy acting for the President.

Under the above provisions of law the Secretary of the Navy prescribes the duties to be performed by the Marines. These are set forth in Navy Regulations, general orders, and outlines of the General Board approved by the Secretary.

The mission of the Corps has two distinct phases—war and peace. The Marines have participated in every real war in which their country has been engaged—the Revolution (1775-1783), French Naval War (1798-1801), war with Algiers (1815), war with West Indian Pirates (1818-1830), war with Florida Indians (1835-1842), Mexican War (1846-1848), Civil War (1861-1865), war with Spain (1898), Chinese Boxer War (1900), Philippine Insurrection (1899-1904), and World War (1917-1918).

Headquarters and Marine Corps schools are continuously carrying out plans to have the Corps fully prepared for any future major war, in which the general function of the corps would be, as an adjunct of the Navy, to provide and maintain forces for land operations in support of the fleet for the initial seizure and defense of advanced bases and for such limited auxiliary land operations as are essential to the prosecution of the naval campaign.

While the wars already mentioned and numerous minor wars in the South Seas, East Indies, West Indies, China, Japan, Korea, Formosa, Cuba, Porto Rico, Santo Domingo, Haiti, Africa, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, and Samoa, have afforded the Marine Corps unequalled opportunities to prove its superiority as a combat organization, it is during peace time that the Marines have been wonderfully productive—paying dividends to their country and to humanity.

Butting into the other fellow's quarrel is always a dangerous and thankless job, but the Marines have been acting as a mailfisted peacemaker ever since they took over the job in 1775.

Preserving the peace and required often to turn the other cheek; succoring little bits of civilization that have dotted the undeveloped spaces of the world; garrisoning the outposts of our democratic empire; relieving the suffering caused by earthquakes, fires, and other catastrophes, at home and in foreign parts; participating in the opening of the doors of the exclusive Asiatic states—Japan, China, Siam, and Korea—to Western influence; rendering aid in the prevention of illegal slave trade; functioning as an international police force in every clime; training national guards, as in Haiti, Santo Domingo, Nicaragua, and Samoa; making maps; on the spot upon the acquisition of new territory by the United States—Louisiana, Florida, Alaska, California, Samoa, Midway, Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Philippines, Porto Rico, Virgin Islands; road makers; bridge builders; always available to assist municipal police at home and abroad; guards of honor at national and international expositions; attaches in Latin-America; guards for assassins of presidents; guards at peace and armament

conferences (Washington in 1922 and London in 1930); personal guards for our Presidents; guards at Presidents' camps; occupying forces for those near-by states over which the United States has elected itself guardian; participating in exploring expeditions—as the Darien and those of Admiral Byrd to the poles; protecting seal fisheries—as in Alaskan waters; protecting cable employees—as on Midway Island; maintaining quarantine camps; protecting diplomatic missions as Abyssinia in 1904; relieving famine sufferers in China; administration of foreign states; guarding the United States mails; carrying mail, express, freight and passengers by airplanes in China, Nicaragua, and Santo Domingo; fighters of pirates as in Haiti, Tripoli, Marquesas Islands, Barataria, West Indies, Porto Rico, Cuba, Santo Domingo, Sumatra, China, and Formosa; makers of real citizens of America—all these and more. The American Marines are real missionaries who have spread the gospel of democratic ideals throughout the world.

The Marines have had considerable service on duty with international police parties—in Japan in the sixties; China from 1842 to 1860; Hawaiian Islands in 1874; Alexandria, Egypt, in 1882; during the Chinese-Japanese War in 1894 when a large international force landed at Tientsin; Nicaragua in 1894; Samoa in 1899; Chinese Boxer War in 1900; Haiti in 1914, and finally the World War in 1917-18. In 1919, a battalion of Marines serving in France was selected to serve as part of the international force organized for the purpose of conducting the plebiscite in Schleswig-Holstein, but owing to the non-participation of the United States the Marines were not used for this purpose.

And today, what are the Marines doing? When they aren't fighting, they're working. That's the answer. Economy being the god of the day, the Marines do not wait for orders, but immediately make the required weight. This, however, does not weaken their efforts, or serve as an excuse for a cessation of accomplishments, for no period of Marine Corps history is more fruitful of constructive results than the present.

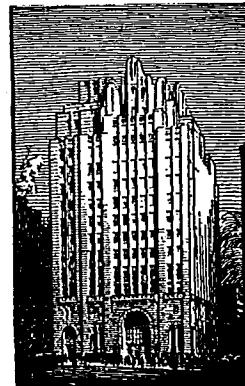
The Marines are serving as what might be called a colonial army, in China (Peiping, Tientsin, and Shanghai), Philippines, Guam, Hawaiian Islands, Panama, Haiti, Virgin Islands, Nicaragua, and Cuba. One general officer is the personal representative of the President and high commissioner in Haiti. One officer is an attache at Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

At home, in our overseas possessions and dependencies, and in foreign countries the Marines are ready to assist the municipal police in the prevention of crime, maintenance of order at fires, and the putting down of riots, etc. Twice they have been called upon to guard the mails (1921 and 1926), and, though this required tact and a high degree of intelligence, the duty was performed to the complete satisfaction of the President and Postmaster General.

The Third Brigade went to China in 1927-1929 and completed its mission admirably without firing a shot, while the Second Brigade in Nicaragua (1927-1930) had to battle bandits and many Marines gallantly gave up their lives that the brigade's mission might be fulfilled.

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They are serving on thirty-six battleships, cruisers, and airplane carriers of the Navy that are distributed all over the globe, and this duty requires an instant readiness to land for any purpose from rescuing an American citizen from an irate mob ashore to fighting a fire at the request of the local authorities. They are serving in the United States at practically every place that there is a naval activity.

There is the closest kind of liaison and cooperation between Marine Corps Headquarters, Chief of Naval Operations, the bureaus, and other offices of the Navy Department. There is no friction and the Marine Corps machine functions in high gear without any serious jolts or jars. The Marine Corps is working for the general upbuilding and welfare of the entire naval establishment.

Police Department, Port au Prince, Haiti

(Continued from page 8)

First Sergeant Joseph L. Coleman, also a first lieutenant, has the assignment of boarding officer, which entails the meeting of all boats and securing from the passengers thereon information of value to police and headquarters records.

The outside traffic control is taken care of by Sergeants John J. Bukowy and Frank J. Murphy, both second lieutenants, who patrol the streets on motorcycles and take care of traffic on all special occasions.

Sergeants Louis H. Whitehouse, John E. Cruse and Joseph Konopka, all second lieutenants, handle the desk duty in the capacity of officers of the day.

Summary of Duties

The following is a summary of the duties pertaining to the police department:

(a) Intelligence, political, criminal, ordinary police and traffic.

(b) Fingerprint bureau, classification and file of fingerprints of criminals. Fingerprint cards of enlisted men are also classified by this bureau.

(c) Apprehension of law violators from the smallest to the largest crimes under Haitian law: the preparation of these offenders for the courts, including testimony of witnesses.

(d) Registration and issuance of certificates of immatriculation, certificates of good conduct and certificates of travel.

(e) Registration of motor vehicles and issue of license plates; registration of vehicle operators. Registration of animal- and man-propelled vehicles; registration of dogs and issue of licenses for same.

(f) Control of the importation and sale of arms and ammunition and issuance of licenses for same in the commune of Port au Prince.

(g) Surveillance of the political activities in Port au Prince.

(h) Render assistance at all fires.

(i) Regulate and control traffic.

(j) Patrol the city and keep it free of vagabonds and beggars, prowlers, etc.

During the year 1930 the police of Port au Prince effected six thousand three hundred six arrests on 39 different violations of Haitian law. Ninety-three per cent of those arrested were convicted by native judges and either fined or imprisoned.

City Divided

The city is, for police purposes, divided into what are known as quartiers, or sections. Each of these quartiers has a resident detective who is familiar with the people living in his quarter. The information gained from these detectives, or chef des quartiers, as they are also known, has proven an invaluable aid to the authorities. Traveling in civilian clothes, these men are able to penetrate where the sight of a uniform would cause immediate flight. During the daylight hours the traffic squad take care of the city patrols, while at night a specially trained squad consisting of two sergeants and 30 privates are assigned different sections of the city for patrol purposes. Frequent officer inspections are made during the day and night affording the city excellent protection at all times.

There is little doubt but that duty at the police station in Port au Prince is arduous for both officers and men. The splendid spirit of co-operation obtained from the native enlisted members of the Garde while performing police functions reflects great credit on themselves and those in command. Prosecuting attorneys in the lower courts are non-commissioned officers of the Garde d'Haiti and their excellent, painstaking work is responsible for the high percentage of convictions obtained in the local courts.

Great Progress Made

Port au Prince is as changed today from 15 years ago as the airplane of that age differs from the flying machine of today. When revolutions, wholesale assassinations and open disrespect for law and order made the landing of American Marines necessary in 1915, this city was a veritable volcano. There was no respect for life, limb or property and peaceful citizens were swept into oblivion under the attacks of lawless, frantic, power-crazed "brothers" whose sole desire was to gain an end that meant personal monetary and political gain, the greed for political power and its attributes. With power went the treasury and one finger in the national cash register was worth two hands on the payroll. So great was this general aspiration for domination that lives meant nothing and more blood would have been shed had not the intervention of foreign troops brought it to an end.

The United States Marines had had considerable experience in quelling other peoples' disturbances and perhaps the only thing new in Haiti was the fact that Haiti was new to them. True to their tradition the Marine Corps undertook not only to pacify a seething nation but also to take the necessary steps to make that pacification permanent. With the treaty between the governments of the United States and Haiti came the formation of the Garde d'Haiti, originally known as the Gendarmerie d'Haiti, and, since its conception, this organization has been officered by members of the United States Marine Corps.

Every effort is being made to achieve the provisions of the treaty—to turn over an efficient organized force capable of insuring peace and stability of legal government after its expiration. The Marine Corps was assigned a tremendous task of which the police department of Port au Prince is a part, and the work of United States Marines has made