

## REVERIE

When the fire logs are kindled  
And the wine is flowing red,  
And we chat with gay abandon  
Of the things we did and said,  
I shall lead the reminiscence  
With my tales of joy and woe,  
And describe the situation  
As it was in Quantico.

I will tell how we reported  
Green as grass and rather dumb,  
How the non-coms rode us ragged  
'Till our weary souls were numb.  
I will stress the slow transition  
From recruit to soldier's plane  
And will dwell upon the glory  
Of the corps without a stain.

I'll declaim of troop inspection  
And the thrill of dress parade,  
Of the complicated standards  
Whereby officers are made.  
Of our plane hops and our journeys  
Here and there and 'round about,  
Of the warfare in the bushes  
When we put the foe to rout.

I will eulogize commanders  
And their oh-so-patient ways,  
And the non-commissioned moguls  
Who made interesting the days.  
I will mention hand grenading,  
Bayonet and skirmish gore,  
(And the fact that Sergeant Buckley  
Doesn't love me anymore!)

And when the coals are ashes  
And my reverie is done,  
That is when I'll miss the barracks  
And the uniform and gun.  
But 'twill be a strong incentive  
Through the winter and the spring  
To return to Leathernecking  
And the pleasure it will bring.

L. F. RIEFSTAHL.

Northwestern University, Platoon Leaders' Class-1937.

## THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. LEJEUNE, U.S.M.C. RETIRED  
*Address delivered to the Virginia Military Institute,  
Lexington, Virginia, April, 1935*

■ In connection with the opportunity offered to some of this year's V. M. I. graduating class, to enter the Marine Corps as Second Lieutenants, and also in connection with the fact that it is expected that a similar opportunity will be offered to the graduating class next year, I conceive it to be my duty to tell you something about the Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps is small by comparison with the Army or the Navy, and was not very well known to the general public until June, 1918, when it became known to all people who read the newspapers at that time, by its large casualty lists and the fact that the 4th Brigade of Marines fought without ceasing in the Battle of Belleau Woods until the battlefield was in its possession. That Brigade of Marines formed a part of the Second Division of the American Expeditionary Forces and the official records show that the Second Division had a greater number of casualties and captured more prisoners and more cannon than did any other American Division in the World War.

Many Americans, however, do not even now clearly understand just what Marines are. When Marines are seen in their natty looking uniforms strolling about the

streets, the passerby is apt to comment on how well set up and how well dressed these soldiers are, or, if by chance it be dark or the passerby be blind, but hears their conversation, he would hear the vernacular of the sea, and would be convinced that they were sailor men. To Marines, a kitchen is "a galley," right or left is "starboard or port," front or back is "forward or aft," keep quiet is "pipe down," midnight or noon is "eight bells," etc.

What then is a Marine?

Rudyard Kipling defined the English Marine as "a soldier and sailor too." I prefer the following alternative:

"A U. S. Marine is a soldier who frequently serves at sea, or a Navy man who often serves on shore." Actually he is a sea-going soldier.

To trace the origin of these seafaring soldiers is a fascinating study. It involves turning back the pages of history until the records of the earliest known naval battles are reached. There one finds that soldiers fought on board the war galleys of ancient Greece, Carthage and Rome. We also find them crowded about the decks of the Fleets of the Middle Ages. For instance, the ill-fated "Invincible Armada" of Spain carried many regiments on its line of battleships, which were intended to be landed on the shores of England, should the victory at sea be gained.

The English Fleet followed the same practice in its overseas campaigns. Discontent, however, prevailed and friction, too, was rife between the sailors and the Army Regiments; so much so that in 1665, during the reign of King Charles, the Second, of England, an order in Council was promulgated which directed the recruitment and organization by the Admiralty of the Regiment of the Duke of York, the Lord High Admiral of England, for service with the Fleet. Regiments such as this were afterwards called "Royal Marines," and were the ancestors, figuratively speaking, of the present day "Marines" of the British Navy and the "Marines" of the American Navy.

When the American colonies organized for war, in order to gain their independence from the "Mother Country," it was but natural that they should follow her example with regard to its military and naval establishment. We, therefore, read that on November 10, 1775, the Continental Congress provided by the enactment of a law for the recruiting and organization of two Battalions of Marines.

November 10th is, therefore, celebrated annually by U. S. Marines in every clime as the birthday of their Corps, and on that day, more often than on any other, may be heard the lusty voices of Marines singing their famous hymn of which the last couplet is:

"If the Army and the Navy ever look on  
Heaven's scenes,  
They will find the streets are guarded  
by United States Marines."

The Corps was re-established in 1798, and from that year to this there has been no break in its history.

To write that history in the brief compass of this paper would be impossible. It will suffice to mention a few examples of its activities and to add that its history is inextricably interwoven with that of the Navy and, to a great extent, with that of the Army as in the World War.

Detachments of Marines have always formed parts of the crews of the larger vessels of the U. S. Navy, and Marines, too, have shed their blood on the decks of "Old Ironsides," and, with their brothers of the Navy, have played valiant parts in every sea battle fought under "the stars and stripes."

In addition, they have landed either alone or side by side with sailors in foreign ports all over the world to afford protection to American citizens when their lives were endangered by riotous mobs, or when the local authorities have been overthrown, and anarchy, violence and rapine have temporarily prevailed.

Similarly, they have played the parts of "good Samaritans" in giving aid to stricken people in great catastrophes.

A recent notable instance of this kind was the splendid work of the Marines at Managua, Nicaragua, when that city was destroyed by an earthquake. They protected public and private property from pillagers, they extricated the injured from the ruins and gave them hospital treatment, they fed the hungry, they erected camps to give shelter to the homeless, they brought order out of chaos, and they buried the dead.

Marines are not ruthless militarists, but rather are they the protectors of the weak and the friends of the helpless.

On occasion, however, they have been known to fight, and, as promptness and thoroughness are their watchwords, the opposing forces have acquired a wholesome respect for the military prowess of the Marines. These

occasions have not been infrequent, and have, by no means, been confined to the periods when the United States was officially engaged in war.

For instance, more than a century and a quarter ago, during the naval campaign against the Corsairs of the Barbary Coast, North Africa, Lieutenant O'Bannon led a little band of Marines across the Libyan desert, captured the Fort at Berne, in Tripoli, and hoisted over it the American flag, where, for the first time in history, the stars and stripes fluttered to the breeze over a fortress in the old world. This exploit, together with the participation by a Battalion of Marines in General Scott's successful campaign against the City of Mexico in 1847-1848, is responsible for the first couplet of the Marines' Hymn, which is:

"From the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli,  
We've fought our country's battles on the land and on the sea."

It is the use, however, of the Marine Corps as an instrument to carry out some of the foreign policies of the United States which has aroused the greatest interest among our people. It is in this field of endeavor that the Marine Corps has been not only under the fire of the armed forces which opposed it in campaign, but it has, also, been under the fire, figuratively speaking, of various individuals and groups at home.

The more important of the recent episodes just referred to occurred on the Isthmus of Panama, at Vera Cruz, Mexico, and in China, Cuba, Santo Domingo, Haiti, and Nicaragua. Of these episodes, only those which occurred in Haiti and Nicaragua have been selected for the brief discussion permitted in the limits of this address.

*Haiti* has been a familiar scene to many Marines since the landing of a force of Marines and Sailors at Port-au-Prince in July, 1915, at a time when anarchy prevailed there and a mob was dragging the mutilated body of its President in triumph about the streets.

In a few weeks, a Brigade of Marines had occupied the entire country and had established order there.

In accordance with the provisions of a Treaty with Haiti, ratified by the U. S. Senate, and legislation subsequently enacted by our Congress, a native gendarmerie was organized and trained by Marines, and it is now functioning efficiently, as the sole military and police force of Haiti; during the occupation of Haiti by Marines, medical officers of the U. S. Navy wrought a beneficent sanitary revolution among the people; civil engineers of the Navy built a fine system of roads and initiated and carried to completion many other important public works; and U. S. civilian financial advisers completely rehabilitated the finances of a once distracted and nearly bankrupt government. All of this and much more was done for the benefit of the people of Haiti under the supervision of a Marine, the U. S. High Commissioner.

When the representatives of the Marine Corps and of the Navy were withdrawn from Haiti, they left behind them a splendid memorial in the form of good works, unselfish service and improved conditions of which all good Americans should be proud. Let us hope that this memorial will prove to be even more enduring than the customary memorials of bronze or stone.

*Nicaragua* is an old friend of the Marines. Because of its inter-oceanic canal possibilities, it has been an object of major interest to the United States for nearly a century, and prior even to the U. S. Civil War, Marines had landed there on several occasions.

In 1912, during a three-cornered Civil War, a force of Sailors and Marines disembarked at Corinto and opened up and occupied the railway line from that place to the cities of Managua and Grenada. Upon peace between the factions being restored, all of the landing force was withdrawn except one company of Marines which remained at Managua as a legation guard about twelve years. So great was its stabilizing influence that peace prevailed during that entire period and Nicaragua steadily progressed towards a state of prosperity. No sooner were these Marines withdrawn, however, than disorder resumed its sway.

By 1926, a full-fledged revolution was precipitated which in 1927 threatened to wreck the country. A considerable force of Marines was again landed at Corinto and again were the railway line and the cities thereon occupied by Uncle Sam's Marines. The Liberal and Conservative Armies, however, confronted each other in the terrain east of the lake country and a battle was expected to take place.

At this phase of the situation, the U. S. special commissioner arrived and a *modus vivendi* was arranged. It involved the surrender of the arms of both Nicaraguan armies to the Marines, the disbandment of these armies, the organization by the Marines of a native constabulary force, the continuance in office of the existing government until after the regular election to be held about one and a half years later, under the supervision of U. S. Marines, and the maintenance of order in the country by the Marines until the native constabulary should be ready to relieve them of the duty.

President Diaz and General Moncada, the Liberal Commander, patriotically agreed to these terms and the arms of all groups were surrendered except those of Sandino's band, which withdrew to the mountain fastnesses to the North.

In July, 1927, a dramatic battle took place in the town of Ocotal, when Sandino with several hundred men attacked the small detachment of Marines which was stationed there. His repulse was turned into a rout by the timely arrival of a Marine squadron of fighting airplanes from Managua.

In December, Sandino resumed guerilla warfare on a

more extensive scale. Additional Marines were rushed to Nicaragua from the United States, and an intensive campaign, under humane and skillful leadership, cleared the disaffected area of his bands.

In November, 1928, an honest election, without disorder and without interference, was held under the supervision of Marines. General Moncada was elected and peacefully inaugurated. The Marines then turned over their duties to the native constabulary and their gradual withdrawal was instituted and completed.

Turning our attention now from the history of the Marine Corps to its present status, we can, for the sake of convenience, roughly, subdivide the normal duties of Marines as follows:

(a) Service on board the battleships, aircraft carriers and cruisers of our country's Navy where they man part of the ship's battery.

(b) Service as garrisons for the Navy Yards and at all of the other shore stations, pertaining to the Navy or Marine Corps, at home and abroad, now including Shanghai and Peiping, China.

(c) Duty as a military expeditionary force, forming a unit of the Fleet. The Marine Corps Expeditionary Force includes an air force, Artillery, Infantry, Signal Corps, etc.

(d) Service as a part of the Army if ordered by the President as in the World War.

Service as an Expeditionary Force is now the most important duty of Marines, as that force would accompany the Fleet on transports in time of war with the mission of seizing and fortifying shore bases of operations, and performing other essential duties on shore, in connection with the operations of the Fleet.

In conclusion, I am glad to state here that the U. S. Marine Corps has had a glorious history. Marines have endured much hardship, faced dangers of every kind, both at sea and on shore, suffered many casualties in war, or when the remainder of the country was enjoying a state of profound peace, and yet they have been merciful and humane.

They, therefore, richly deserve their motto, "Semper Fidelis," or in plain English, "Always faithful."

## THE EARLY YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL C. H. METCALF, U.S.M.C.

■ The Continental Marines as well as the Old Navy passed out of existence shortly after the Revolutionary War. The War Department was established and in 1789 placed in charge of the naval forces which, however, did not actually come into existence until several years later. There were, however, a few vessels in the Revenue Cutter Service, which attempted to perform, though quite ineffectively, some of the functions of a navy. A few of the vessels of that service carried as part of their crews a group of men armed similar to and performing the functions of Marines, and were as a rule called Marines. There is record of at least one Marine officer serving in the Revenue Cutter Service prior to the year 1798, when the Navy Department and the Marine Corps were formally established. The struggling

new republic having soon discovered that its rights were seriously being infringed upon, many of our leading statesmen began to be of the opinion that the best interests of the United States demanded a naval force of at least sufficient strength to protect our own shores and to offer some resistance against pirates.

The need of a navy was further brought home to Congress by the capture of two American ships off the coast of Portugal by Algerine cruisers who took them back to Algiers and imprisoned their crews. Nothing was done, however, until matters became more serious in 1793, when eleven vessels were similarly captured and their crews made prisoners. Congress then determined to begin the construction of a navy. It authorized the building of six frigates and provided for a crude naval establishment. Six captains of the Navy who had served in the Revolution were appointed and each was assigned to supervise the construction of a ship. The act of Con-