

Holiday Greetings

FROM THE

Major General Commandant

IN the past century and a half and more the Holiday Season has found Marines in many foreign lands and often on active service. The first Christmas at Tun Tavern in 1775 seems to us now a pretty long time ago. Things have changed a great deal since that Christmas before the Declaration of Independence. It was only a few weeks earlier that Captain Samuel Nicholas had been authorized, by the Continental Congress, to recruit the first two battalions. So we can assume that the traditional Christmas spirit and the *esprit de corps* of the new organization was very high at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia on December 25, 1775.

Doubtless there were toasts to the future of the thirteen colonies and the new Corps of Marines. Little could those first Marines have visualized what the future held. Much progress has been made since then and methods of warfare have undergone many changes during the intervening years. Two things, however, are pretty much the same. The Christmas spirit and our *esprit de corps*. And so as the Holidays approach again it is gratifying to me to be able, through THE LEATHERNECK, to wish all Marines a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



T. HOLCOMB.