



THE MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT, T. HOLCOMB



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON

10 November, 1938

FROM: The Major General Commandant.
TO: The Officers and Men of the Marine Corps.
SUBJECT: Anniversary Message.

1. On this, the 163rd anniversary of the founding of the Marine Corps, we may well pause to consider the history of our Corps, draw inspiration from the record of past events, missions accomplished, and ambitions achieved. Let us dedicate ourselves to emulate the examples of those gone before us, resolve to be worthy of those traditions we have long cherished and look forward to building solidly on the foundations now established.

2. With assurance, born of long experience, we will look to the future, consider our problems, scattered though we be, and have faith to accomplish the tasks encountered.

3. My greetings to you on this day

T HOLCOMB.



Left to right: Major General Commandant T. Holcomb; Major General J. C. Breckinridge; Brigadier General F. L. Bradman; Brigadier General R. P. Williams; Brigadier General J. T. Buttrick and Brigadier General R. S. Keyser.

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

9 November 1938

From: Secretary of the Navy.

To: Major General Commandant,
United States Marine Corps.

Subject: One Hundred Sixty-third Anniversary of the
United States Marine Corps.

1. It affords me great pleasure on the one hundred and sixty-third anniversary of the Marine Corps to extend to the entire Corps, through the Major General Commandant, my heartfelt congratulations on the commendable record that has been yours through the years and to wish you continued success in your valuable contribution to the defense of our country.

/s/ CLAUDE A. SWANSON.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

8 November 1938

My dear General Holcomb:

I congratulate the officers and men of the United States

Marine Corps on the one hundred and sixty-third anniversary of the organization. As an integral part of the Naval Service, we take pride in your untarnished record that dates from the birth of our nation.

Many of our citizens know something of your brilliant World War achievements; others are acquainted with your part in the heroic history of all the wars of our country; but few realize that the success of the Marine Corps in action is, in the main, a result of the rigorous peace time training that those in authority have insisted upon through the years. This efficient preparation attained by officers and men of superior military character make for instant action in emergency and success in the field.

The Marine Corps is deserving of the trust of our people because you have never failed the country in the defense of its policies and ideals. I am confident that the essential military quality symbolized by your proud motto, "Semper Fidelis," will give inspiration for the future as it has so faithfully guided you in the past.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ WILLIAM D. LEAHY,

Major General Commandant,
United States Marine Corps.

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
Washington, D. C.

Major General Thomas Holcomb,
Commandant, United States Marine Corps,
Washington, D. C.

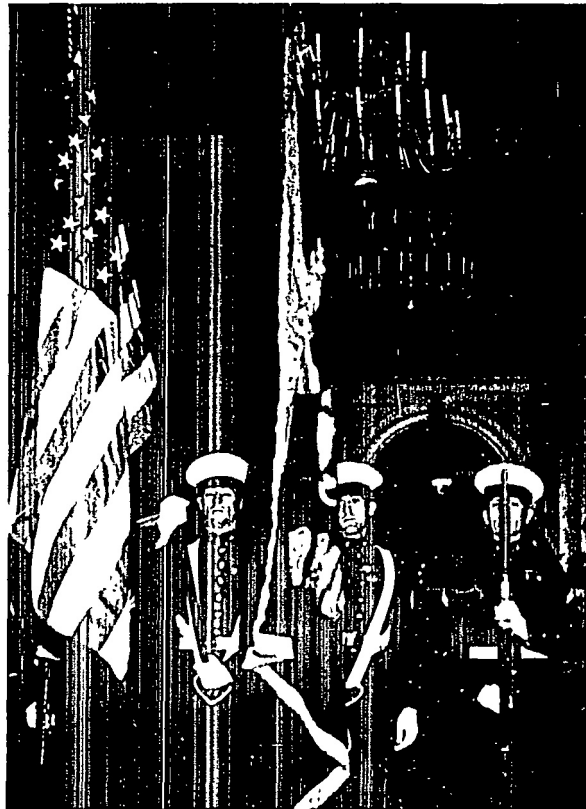
Dear General Holcomb:

As the anniversary of the 163rd birthday of the United States Marine Corps approaches, it is my sincere pleasure again to extend to your Corps the greetings and felicitations of all personnel of the Army of the United States.

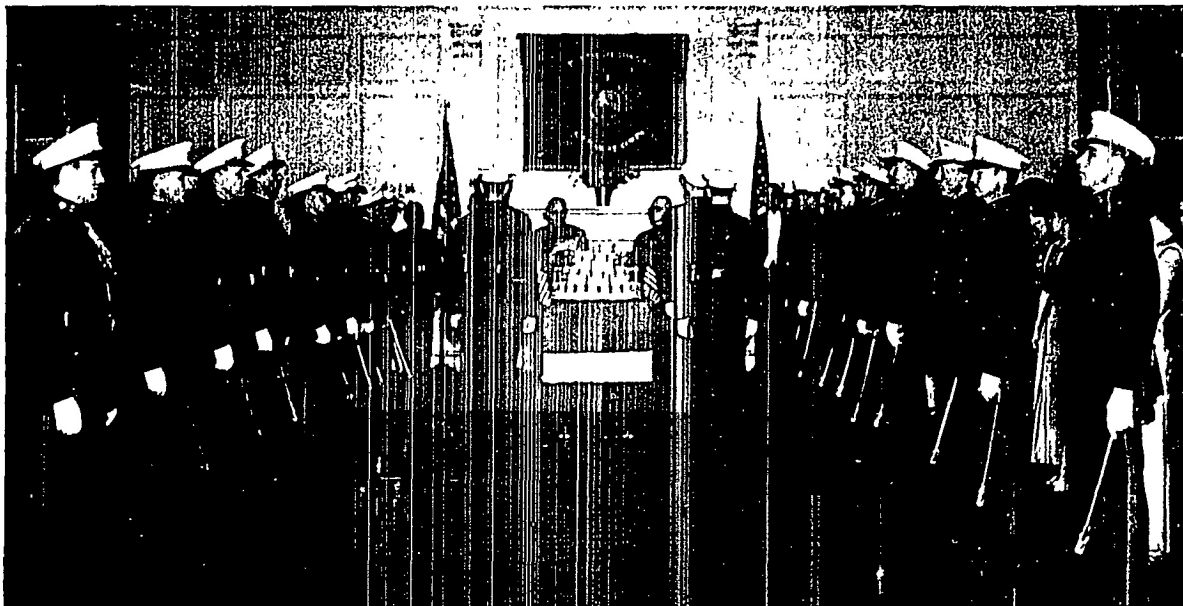
On the November 10th of twenty years ago American soldiers of the sea and soldiers of the land were battling side by side on the banks of the Meuse River, as they had fought side by side throughout our participation in the world's greatest war. From intimate battlefield contact arose within the Army's ranks full appreciation of the courage of individuals, devotion to duty, and loyalty to country which has so highly imbued the United States Marine Corps throughout its long and inspiring history.

On the occasion of the birthday of your Corps we express our profound admiration for the United States Marines.

Cordially yours,
/s/ MALIN CRAIG,
Chief of Staff.



PRESENTATION OF COLORS, BIRTHDAY PARTY



THE BIRTHDAY CAKE WAS WHEELED IN