



COLONEL COMMANDANT
WILLIAM W. BURROWS



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

10 NOVEMBER, 1939



MAJ. GEN. COMMANDANT
THOMAS T. HOLCOMB

From: The Major General Commandant.
TO: The Marine Corps.

Subject: Annual Message.

1. From Major Burrows' single battalion in 1798, to our present strength, the spirit of the Marines has always been that of devotion to flag and country. Our added responsibilities throughout the years have brought increased strength in numbers and in capabilities.

2. The present condition of world affairs and the added duties in connection with our neutrality have entailed a further increase in strength; further increase in responsibilities. We must look forward, take stock, and make sure we are ready for any tasks assigned.

3. On the threshold of a new year, I want to express my confidence that the members of the Corps will worthily carry on the traditions of the past. To the new men who are joining our ranks for the first time, my greetings. To you, we entrust your just share of the responsibility of these traditions, and I know you will live up to them.