

Military History of Brigadier General Holland M. Smith, U. S. Marine Corps

General Holland M. Smith was born on 20 April, 1882, in Seale, Russell County, Alabama. He was appointed a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps on 29 March, 1905; promoted first lieutenant 13 May, 1908; captain 12 June, 1916; major (temporary) 22 May, 1917; major (permanent) 4 June, 1920; lieutenant-colonel 9 July, 1930; colonel 29 May, 1934; and brigadier general 14 August, 1939.

General Smith has served at many of the shore stations of the Marine Corps and Navy in the United States, and aboard several ships of the Navy. He also served in the Philippines from May, 1906, to September, 1908, and again from August, 1912, to April, 1914; in Panama from December, 1909, to April, 1910; in Santo Domingo from June, 1916, to May, 1917; in France with the American Expeditionary Force from June, 1917, to March, 1919; and in Haiti from March, 1924, to August, 1925.

For his services in France General Smith was awarded the Croix de Guerre, with Palm and a Meritorious Service Citation by the Commander-in-Chief, American Expeditionary Force, for his courage and remarkable ability during the operations of the Fourth Marine Brigade in Belleau Wood and vicinity during June, 1918.

In March, 1937, General Smith was ordered to Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps, Washington, D. C., for duty as Director, Division of Operations and Training. He served in that capacity until April, 1939, when he was appointed Assistant to the Commandant, in which capacity he is serving at the present time.

General Smith is a graduate of the Marine Corps Field Officers' School (Senior Course) and the Naval War College.

He holds the following decorations and medals:

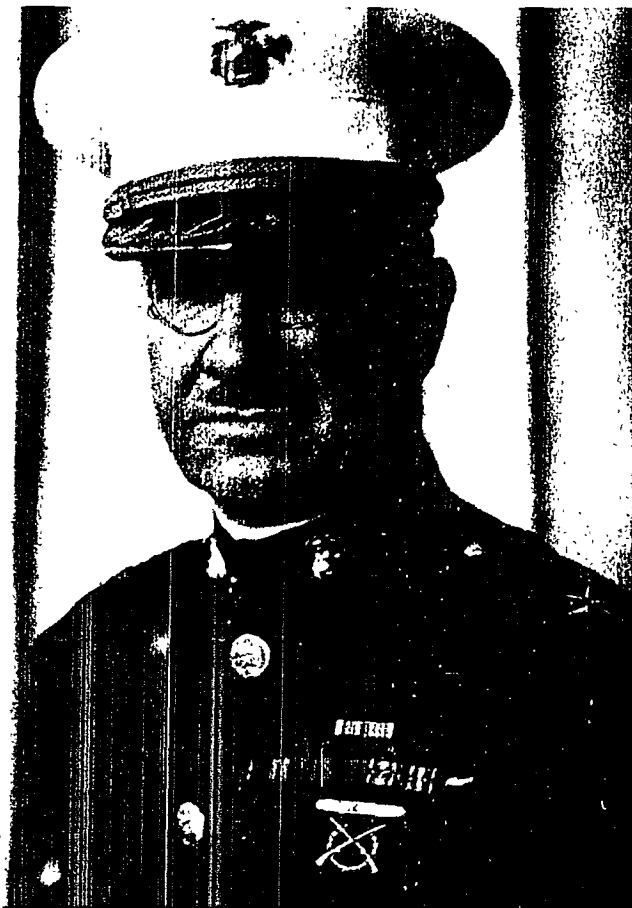
Meritorious Service Citation by CinC, A.E.F.,
Order of the Purple Heart,
Croix de Guerre, with Palm,
Victory Medal,
Expeditionary medal for service in Panama, Santo Domingo and Haiti,
Dominican Campaign Medal,
Mexican Service Medal.

BOOK REVIEW

BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR, The Influence of Air Power on International Relations, by George Fielding Eliot. Reynal & Hitchcock, Inc., \$1.75.

The author of "The Ramparts We Watch" has again come through with a clear and interesting document, well worth the hour or two required to read, and particularly so at this time.

"Bombs Bursting in Air" is divided in two parts, the first dealing with Air Power in Europe, and the second with America's Interest in Air Power. The author wisely covers the Principles of War briefly, which will be helpful to the lay reader and which will certainly do the professional no harm. Early in the book the author points out a fact which is of considerable interest, namely: the airplane is



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only the third revolutionary military invention, or discovery, in the history of civilized mankind, the first being Discipline and the second being Gunpowder. Such being the case, the conduct of the present war will be of considerable interest, as the possibilities of the airplane in warfare are not known.

Major Eliot treats Air Power in Europe in a simple and clear manner, covering the Qualities of Air Power, Elements of Air Superiority, Geographical Factors, etc. The airplane has become an instrument of blackmail in the opinion of the author and was certainly used as such by Germany prior to the outbreak of the present war. We wonder if Major Eliot had his tongue in his cheek when he pointed out the lack of enthusiasm about declaring war today by the statesmen as opposed to the days when there was no airplane and the wars were fought by the soldiers and sailors. Maybe the airplane is more of an instrument of peace than of war.

Major Eliot wondered if Germany would be willing to gamble her air force in an attack on England. Should London be destroyed, Germany would win the war beyond a doubt, in his opinion, but should the German air force fail

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LANDING BOATS

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personnel in an emergency mobilization must be thought of, but outboard motors are a familiar problem to most young men of this age. This boat could not carry heavy arms such as artillery to the beach, but as stated before, it is not intended that it be used for any purpose except that of placing the first subwaves of infantry on the beach in a hurry.

The use of some boat of this kind might revise some of our estimates of what constitutes a possible approach to a landing beach, or what constitutes a practicable beach. If a boat of this type can be hurdled over a ramp, why can it not also be hurdled over a boat boom? If it draws only a few inches of water, why cannot experienced personnel take it safely over a reef which presents a formidable obstacle to ship's boats or those of several feet of draft? The principle of tactical integrity would not necessarily be violated, as headquarters units could be carried in these boats. It would be interesting to see what a coral shore would do to the bottom of a boat like this, but few officers would contemplate a landing on an all-coral beach with any type of boat, due to the difficulty of movement on foot after landing.

This article is not intended as an argument in favor of this particular design of boat, but it is the fervent hope of the author that it might be a stimulus to other officers with greater knowledge and more experience to devise a boat utilizing some of the principles set forth here. Grateful acknowledgment is here made to those officers who have graciously applied their knowledge and experience to the criticism of this article and whose help has made possible its completion.

BOOK REVIEW

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to accomplish such a mission, Germany would lose. Maybe the Germans are hesitating to take the chance in the present war, as the number of planes and the continuity of attack necessary to destroy London, the plane bases, and the naval bases, would require a great many more planes than Germany is believed to have. The employment of aviation in the present war will be interesting to observe. Will Germany, France, or England be willing to make the great gamble?

In the second part the author will make the timid American feel much better as he points out the almost impossibility of attack on the United States. He admits that it could be done under certain circumstances, but the probabilities are small and with the proper military and naval preparedness by this country, can make the possibility almost nil. The author clearly indicates the outlying bases necessary to our proper defense, with the types and numbers of planes. As has been pointed out by others, Major Eliot points out that numbers of planes are not the deciding factor, but that quality is probably the more important factor. We must keep abreast of development, if not ahead.

It is believed that "Bombs Bursting in Air" will be of interest to all, naval, military, and civilian, particularly since the great European powers will be testing this new weapon in the immediate future. R. McC. PATE.

RESERVE RIFLE TEAM

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and 1 team coach and in which there were 112 teams entered, was won by the U. S. Marine Corps. This was an "Any Rifle" match and the Marines used Magnum rifles equipped with telescopic sights, with which they set a new world's record with a possible score of 800 with 123 shots in the "V" ring. In this match the reserve team won the Critchfield Trophy for the second consecutive time which is awarded to the team making the high score using service rifles as issued; each member of the team was awarded a silver medal.

The culminating event of the National Matches was the National Team Match in which 127 teams representing every state and possession of the United States, including the Armed Services, competed. Course fired consisted of ten shots at the following ranges: 200s, 200r, 300r, 600s and 20 shots at 1,000 yards. Teams were composed of 10 firing members, 2 alternates, 1 team captain and 1 team coach. Match won by the U. S. Infantry for the second consecutive year. In this match the No. 1 reserve team took 6th place among the 127 teams entered, being beaten only by 4 regular service teams and one National Guard team. The reserve team won the Rattlesnake Trophy for the second consecutive year for high team in its class.

The system used in training the reserve team is exactly the same as that employed in marksmanship training throughout the Marine Corps Reserve as well as the regular service. This proves conclusively that, given a short period of intensive training, the reserve will be capable of upholding the finest traditions of the Corps.

THE WAKEFIELD MATCHES

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

The 241st Coast Artillery Match (Rifle Ind.)—Course: 10 shots at 1000 yds. Won by Sgt. T. E. Barrier, USMC—score 50-6Vs.

The Wood Match (Rifle Ind.)—Course: 10 shots, 200 and 300 yds., RF. Won by Pfc. A. L. Wolters, USMC—score 99.

The Curry Match (Rifle Ind.)—Course: 10 shots, 600 yds. Won by Sgt. V. F. Brown, USMC—score 50-9Vs.

The Military Order of the World War Match (Rifle Ind.)—Course 10 shots 600 and 1000 yds. Won by Pfc. P. K. Bird, USMC—score 100-15Vs.

The Cummings Match (Rifle Ind.)—Course 10 shots at 600 yds., time limit 10 minutes. Won by Capt. M. A. Fawcett, USMC—score 50-10Vs.

Individual Pistol or Revolver Match—Course: 20 shots, 50 yds. Won by 2nd Lt. P. C. Metzger, USMC—score 186.

The Jaswell Match (Pistol Ind.)—Course: 10 shots 50 yds., TF; 10 shots 25 yds., TF; 10 shots 25 yds., RF. Won by Sgt. R. E. Schneeman, USMC—289.

The Artillery Pistol Match (4-man team)—Course: Same as for Jaswell Match. Won by Marine Corps Team—score 1131.

(Marines won all rifle and pistol matches fired on 2 August.)