

to the last man by a roving band of desert marauders. Had radio and parachute troops been available then, the highly interesting and entertaining story of Mr. P. C. Wren's would never have been written.

Considering the foregoing, let us see just how practical sky infantry may be in the Marine Corps. From the discussion of landing troops in hostile territory, their use in that capacity does not appear to be warranted by Marines any more than by other military organizations, but we must admit that 1940 may see a revision of this view. In addition, to the discussed shortcomings another factor must be considered as being singular to the Marine Corps. For the greatest effect, parachute troops must be used in mass. To land them in less force than a regiment would not serve the purpose of severing a line of communication for enough time to really weaken an enemy position. Our Corps is not large, and even in time of war would not be of such a size as to justify a regiment used for that sole purpose. Nor would it be likely that we would have sufficient planes for that use alone. Sound tactics (if you believe that parachute troops are based on sound tactics) dictate a use in force. Parachute troops would be out of proportion in a picture of the wartime Marine Corps.

However, the use as colonial troops may find application if the Marine Corps takes up service again in Latin American countries. We may expect to see a new marine, a "Jumping Leatherneck."

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- (3) "Foreign News," *Time* magazine, 11 December, 1939.
- (4) "Air Infantry," Lieutenant Colonel Bassenge, G.S.C., German Army.
- (5) Newspaper account, *Washington Times-Herald*, 7 February, 1940.
- (6) Newspaper account, *Washington Times-Herald*, 8 February, 1940.

ARMY DAY

27 March, 1940.

My dear General Marshall:

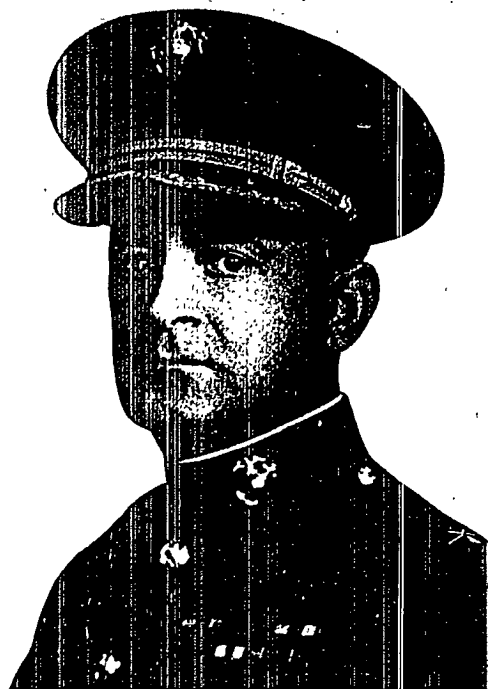
The celebration of Army Day again recalls the cooperation and cordial relations which have always existed between the U. S. Marine Corps and the U. S. Army.

On behalf of the entire Marine Corps it is with pleasure that I extend to the officers and men of the Army our greetings and best wishes on the occasion of another Army Day.

With highest regards and personal good wishes, I am,
Most sincerely,

T. HOLCOMB,
Major General Commandant.

General George C. Marshall, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.



Brigadier General A. A. Vandegrift, U.S.M.C.

BRIGADIER GENERAL ALEXANDER A. VANDEGRIFT

The President having approved the promotion of Colonel Alexander A. Vandegrift, U. S. Marine Corps, to the rank of Brigadier General, he was promoted to that rank on April 1, 1940.

General Vandegrift is a native of Virginia, having been born at Charlottesville on March 13, 1887. He entered the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant January 22, 1909, and was promoted successively through the various grades to that of Brigadier General. He is now serving as Assistant to the Major General Commandant of the Marine Corps, having assumed that position on March 1, 1940.

General Vandegrift has seen service in Mexico; Haiti; Panama; Cuba; Nicaragua, and China. He participated in the assault on Coyotepe, Nicaragua, in 1912, the occupation of Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914, and in operations against hostile Cacos in Haiti in 1915.

General Vandegrift served with the Gendarmerie d'Haiti from 1916 to 1918, and again from 1919 to 1923. He was awarded the Haitien Distinguished Service Medal, and was twice awarded the Medaille Militaire of Haiti by the President of that Republic.

In addition to the medals previously mentioned, he holds the Nicaraguan Campaign Medal, Mexican Campaign Medal, Haitien Campaign Medal, Yangtse Service Medal and the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal.