

The Editor's Report

Letters of Instruction

HHEADQUARTERS, Marine Corps, desires that the attention of all men who might be affected be called to two recent Letters of Instruction which alter conditions of certain discharges. One, Letter No. 869, states in substance that enlisted men, who for one reason or another are fit only for limited duty, will not be discharged by Headquarters, USMC, but instead will be sent before a naval board of survey, through which the discharge will be handled. Such men should apply for the survey through their commanding officers. Reason that Headquarters doesn't want to issue the discharge in such cases is that this might prejudice the discharged man's chances for service-connected disability compensation after the war.

The other letter, No. 922, involves men who enlisted as Class V (b), the specialist group which includes men overage or with physical defects which were waived so they could join the Corps to do special jobs. The new policy, broadly stated, is that such Class V (b) men, under 38, who are serving in the United States, and whose physical condition does not permit combat duty, will be discharged for convenience of the Government upon application to Headquarters through commanding officers.

Many of the men affected by Letter No. 922 are those who left their civilian professions and businesses to do a specific job in the Corps. Many of these specific jobs have been completed, or, through the rotation policy, men are being brought back from overseas who can carry them out. Hence, the need for the Class V (b) specialists is declining.

Texts of the two Letters of Instruction follow:

LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 869.

1. Many requests for discharge have been received at Headquarters, US Marine Corps, from enlisted men who have become disabled for general service and placed on a limited duty status.

2. A request for special order discharge from any enlisted man in the above category will not be considered by Headquarters, US Marine Corps, as it might jeopardize any benefits to which he might be entitled as the result of his physical disability. Therefore, any enlisted man serving in a limited duty status where there is no indication that he will be found physically qualified for full duty within a period of six months or more, who desires discharge, may submit a request to his com-

manding officer. The commanding officer will have him admitted to the sick list and then brought before a board of medical survey for report and recommendation. It is not necessary that such cases be admitted to naval hospitals incident to submission of the Report of Medical Survey unless there exists a need for hospitalization.

3. At the present time this policy does not include men on limited duty as the result of filariasis or malaria inasmuch as they may become physically qualified for unlimited duty within six months.

/s/ A. A. VANDEGRIFT

LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 922.

1. The need for the services of many Class V (b) Reservists is passing as they are being gradually replaced by the return to the United States from combat duty of men no longer qualified for overseas duty and men returned to the United States under the present policy of the rotation of troops. The Marine Corps will therefore release from time to time certain Class V (b) Reservists who are serving within the continental limits of the United States.

2. Class V (b) Reservists who enlisted for a specific job which has been completed and due to their age or physical defects are not available for assignment to combat duty will be discharged for the convenience of the Government. Class V (b) Reservists who enlisted for recruiting duty, when replaced by enlisted men of the Regular Marine Corps, will also be discharged for the convenience of the Government.

3. The above policy is being promulgated to the service as many of these Reservists came into the service early in the present war, leaving their businesses and professions in order to do their patriotic duty with the armed forces.

4. It is not the intention of this Headquarters to delegate this authority to commanding officers, as final decision in each case will depend on the exigencies of the service. However, applications for discharge may be submitted and commanding officers will include in their forwarding endorsements a statement as to the present need of the services of the men concerned.

5. Applications for discharge under the above policy that do not receive favorable consideration will be filed on the individual's enlisted record at this Headquarters and he will be informed accordingly.

/s/ A. A. VANDEGRIFT

BACK OF THE BOOK

GRAVELL

Since the start of the American offensive in the Pacific the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard have been working together in amphibious operations. The cooperation between these two branches of the naval service also is carried on in the publishing field. PhoM2/c Reford R. Gravell is a Coast Guard photographer assigned to **THE LEATHERNECK**—Pacific Edition. He covered the Fourth Marine Division enroute to and in action on Iwo Jima and you'll see his photos in **THE LEATHERNECK** from time to time. A native of Winfield, Kansas, Gravell has been in the Coast Guard since 1942 and before transferring to the Pacific was on convoy duty in the Atlantic.



WALTON

Another Coast Guardsman assigned to **LEATHERNECK**—Pacific is SP3/c Bryce M. Walton whose story "D Day on Iwo Jima" appears on page 32 of this issue. A graduate of Los Angeles City College, Walton was a free lance magazine and radio writer before he entered the service in 1942. He worked in a Coast Guard warehouse before being transferred to public relations in San Francisco. Walton is a native of Missouri, is married and his wife conducts a radio program for servicemen. You'll be seeing more of his stories in future issues of this magazine.



GOODWIN

Second Lieutenant Harold L. Goodwin, whose story "Saigon Strike," describing the first Marine carrier-based aircraft in action, appears on page 22 of this issue, concentrated on radio work before his Marine Corps enlistment in 1942. He studied radio writing and production and then taught these subjects at Springfield, Mass., night schools, later becoming program director for Station WNBC at Hartford, Conn., and finally joining Transradio Press Service. He is the author of two books and several published short stories and articles; a qualified Marine aerial gunner; has made several parachute jumps; wrote a brochure entitled "The Marine Jungle Book," and now is public relations officer with the Third Marine Air Wing.



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