

enemy forces which are camouflaged, sheltered, or motionless. . . Intelligent coordination is therefore necessary between the infantryman on the ground and the pilot in the air, but that is not the case in Algeria because the ground and air units are not trained together.

"The most desirable type of aircraft is one having a long fuel autonomy—four hours if possible—so that the same aircraft can conduct the engagement through, and it should also be heavily armed, including a cannon firing explosive shells, and have good radio links with the low-echelon ground units. The only existing French aircraft having these characteristics is the Navy's *Corsaire*."—*Cavagnes in Revue Militaire Générale*

## OUT OF OUR PAST

HEADQUARTERS U.S. MARINE CORPS  
Washington

July 30, 1917

My dear Major Snyder:—

Your letter has just been received. I think the weekend is about the maximum period that an officer can get leave for the purpose of getting married. No requests for a greater length of time can be granted until the young officers have completed their course of instruction at Quantico. Please try and impress on them the fact that the country is at war and that not even matrimony should be allowed to interfere with the training of the officers to fit them for the proper performance of their duties.

There is not the slightest chance of Captain Torrey or Barrett being detached from your staff until the course of instruction of the student officers has been completed. I regard this work, upon which you are engaged, as the most important now confronting the Marine Corps, and nothing detrimental to it will be allowed to interfere.

I am glad to hear that you have gotten settled down, and that everything is running along smoothly.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,  
John A. Lejeune

This letter was among mementos belonging to the late Col Harold C. Snyder which were handed down to his grand-niece, Mrs. Joe Basolo of Muskogee, Okla., who has donated them to the Marine Corps Museum. At the time of Gen Lejeune's letter, Major Snyder was CO, Training School, at Quantico. He served with the Marines in France during WWI, and died in 1933 after having been retired from active service for several years.

MCA—10

## The Ten Commandments of Marshal Foch

• Keep your eyes and ears ready and your mouth in the safety notch, for it is your duty to see and hear clearly; but as a rule you should be heard mainly in the sentry challenge or the charging cheer.

• Obey orders first, and, if still alive, kick afterwards if you have been wronged.

• Keep your arms and equipment clean and in good order; treat your motor or other machine as though it belonged to you and was the only one. Do not waste ammunition, gas, food, time, nor opportunity.

• Never try to fire an empty gun, nor at an empty trench, but when you shoot, shoot to kill, and forget not that at close quarters a bayonet beats a bullet.

• Tell the truth squarely, and take your punishment. A good soldier won't lie, he doesn't sulk, and is not a squealer.

• Be merciful to the women of your foe and shame them not, for you are a man; pity and shield the children in your captured territory, for you were once a helpless child.

• Your enemy is the enemy of humanity until he is killed or captured; then he is your brother or fellow soldier, beaten or ashamed, whom you should not further humiliate.

• Keep your head clear and cool, body clean and comfortable, and feet in good condition, for you think with your head, fight with your body, and march with your feet.

• Be of good cheer and high courage; shirk neither work nor danger; suffer in silence, and cheer the comrades at your side with a smile.

• Dread defeat, but not wounds; fear dishonor, but not death, and die game; and whatever the task, remember the motto of the division, "It Shall Be Done."

## Ensure Responsibility

Navy Regs and the MarCorMan are specific and unmistakeable when they say that responsibility cannot be delegated. Nevertheless, almost every order published states that such and such an officer is responsible for such and such duties. Who do they think they're kidding? Such a statement is meaningless. A commander can assign duties to the officers and men under his command, but cannot delegate to them his responsibility.

Ensure is another very popular word in directives. Orders direct individuals to ensure that a job is done. They even go so far as to direct that one individual

ensure that another individual do something. One of the very first things an officer or NCO learns is that he can't make anyone do anything. His only recourse is to make them sorry they didn't do what he told them to.

Some OD's orders are written in such a way that if a sentry on post drops dead, the OD is guilty of disobedience of orders. He failed to ensure that the sentry did his job properly. An OD or anyone else in the military can supervise, but they cannot ensure. Don't tell them to.

Col W. F. Prickett

## HANDLING PW'S

**SEARCH:** Right after capture, search prisoners. Remove weapons and documents. Mark for identification with prisoner, and turn over to escort to take to interrogator. Let prisoner keep helmet, money, gas mask, messkit, identification, badges and decorations, and personal keepsakes if they don't have intelligence value. Search nonwalking wounded and take them to nearest aid station. Use other PW's for litter men.

**SEGREGATE:** Separate PW's into 3 groups—officers, NCOs, privates. Prevents leaders making others security minded and minimizes organized escapes. Segregate enemy deserters, civilians, women. Maintain segregation.

**SILENCE:** Forbid prisoners talking to each other. Don't furnish comfort items to prisoners. Interrogators get better response if they are first to furnish such items. However, don't deny necessary water, food, clothing, medical aid.

**SPEEDY EVACUATION:** After search, hustle PW's to rear for interrogation. Some have information useful to us now.

**SAFEGUARD:** Prisoners are valuable. Lives were risked in their capture. Be sure they get to interrogation center, and quickly.

*Combat Leaders Field Notebook*  
Published by Stackpole Co., 1960, \$2.00  
Bookshop Code #AU-11 (\$1.70)

Marine Corps Gazette • August 1960