

OUR CORPS

Saved Round

Compiled by R.R. Keene



THE 1ST MARDIV STAFF ON GUADALCANAL—"Whenever a work about the Guadalcanal operation is published, one of the pictures always included is that of Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift, 1st Marine Division commanding general, and his staff officers and commanders who posed for the photograph on 11 August 1942 [73 years ago], just four days after the assault landings on the island," wrote Marine Corps historian Benis M. Frank in 1992. "Besides General Vandegrift, there are 40 Marines and one naval officer in this picture, and each one deserves a page of his own in Marine Corps history."

Among the Marines in the photo, 23 were promoted to general officer and three became Commandants of the Marine Corps: MajGen Vandegrift, 18th CMC, and Colonels Clifton B. Cates, 19th CMC, and Randolph McC. Pate, 21st CMC. MajGen Vandegrift said the photo was taken after VADM Frank J. Fletcher was forced to withdraw his fleet from the area. Adding to the Marines' uneasiness was also the fact that they had been under almost constant enemy air attacks beginning shortly after their landing.

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| 1. Col George R. Rowan | 12. LtCol Frederick C. Biebush | 23. Maj William Chalfant III | 34. Maj Robert B. Luckey |
| 2. Col Pedro A. del Valle | 13. LtCol Edwin A. Pollock | 24. Maj Horace W. Fuller | 35. LtCol Samuel B. Taxis |
| 3. Col William C. James | 14. LtCol Edmund J. Buckley | 25. Maj Forest C. Thompson | 36. LtCol Eugene H. Price |
| 4. MajGen Alexander A. Vandegrift | 15. LtCol Walter W. Barr | 26. Maj Robert G. Ballance | 37. LtCol Merrill B. Twining |
| 5. LtCol Gerald C. Thomas | 16. LtCol Raymond P. Coffman | 27. Maj Henry C. Buse Jr. | 38. LtCol Walker A. Reeves |
| 6. Col Clifton B. Cates | 17. LtCol Francis R. Geraci | 28. Maj James W. Frazer | 39. LtCol John D. Macklin |
| 7. Col Randolph McC. Pate | 18. LtCol William E. Maxwell | 29. Maj Henry H. Crockett | 40. LtCol Hawley C. Waterman |
| 8. CDR Warwick T. Brown, USN | 19. LtCol Edward G. Hagen | 30. LtCol Lenard B. Cresswell | 41. Maj James C. Murray Jr. |
| 9. Col William J. Whaling | 20. LtCol William N. McKelvy Jr. | 31. Maj Robert O. Brown | |
| 10. Col Frank B. Goettge | 21. LtCol Julian N. Frisbie | 32. LtCol John A. Bemis | |
| 11. Col LeRoy P. Hunt Jr. | 22. Maj Milton V. O'Connell | 33. Col Kenneth W. Bennis | |

Four officers—BGen William H. Rupertus, Col Robert C. Kilmartin Jr., LtCol Merritt A. Edson and Col James C. Webb—were not in the picture.

