UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL
TRAINING COMMAND
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QUANTICO, VA 22134-5003

HIST 1001
SEP 2014

MARINE CORPS HISTORY 1

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Without the aid of references, describe common terms, sayings, and quotations used in the Marine Corps without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1001)

2. Without the aid of references, identify significant events in Marine Corps history without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1002)

3. Without the aid of references, identify the historical significance of Marine Corps uniform items without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1003)

ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Without the aid of references, identify the significance of the term "Leathernecks" without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1001b)

2. Without the aid of references, identify the significance of the term "Esprit de Corps" without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1001d)

3. Without the aid of references, identify the significance of the term "Semper Fidelis" without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1001f)

4. Without the aid of references, trace the origins of the United States Marine Corps without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1002a)

5. Without the aid of references, identify influential contributors to the history of the Marine Corps from 1775 to 1899 without omission. (OCS-HIST-1002b)

6. Without the aid of references, describe Marine participation in Limited-scale operations throughout Marine Corps history from 1775 to 1899 without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1002c)

7. Without the aid of references, describe Marine participation in Major operations throughout Marine Corps history from 1775 to 1899 without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1002d)

8. Without the aid of references, trace the history of Marine Corps Amphibious Doctrine from 1775 to 1899 without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1002e)

9. Without the aid of references, describe the origin of traditional Marine Corps uniforms from 1775 to 1899 without omission. (OCS-HIST-1003a)

10. Without the aid of references, identify the origin of ceremonial Marine Corps weapons without omission. (OCS-HIST-1003b)

1. EARLY COLONIAL MARINES/BIRTH OF THE MARINE CORPS

a. The Early Wars

(1) In the late 17th century, the British had the strongest and most powerful Navy in the world. By 1664, they founded a Marine Corps to serve aboard ships to act as infantrymen and do the captain's bidding. Prior to the revolution, American colonists served in the ranks as Marines aboard these British ships and therefore, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) traces its lineage to the British Royal Marines who were founded in 1664.

(2) In 1740, King George II ordered the formation of 10 British Marine Regiments. Four of the regiments came from British colonies on U.S. soil, initially falling under the command of Colonel (Col) Alexander Spotswood

who died shortly after assuming command. Succession of command was Col William Gooch who finally raised 3,000 "volunteers" consisting of looters, thieves, and homeless. Known as Gooch's Marines, these 3,000 "volunteers" served aboard ships, conducted amphibious raids, and fought against Pirates in Britain's war with Spain during the Cartagena Campaign.

(3) When the war was over, of the 3,000 men who left Virginia, only 300 went ashore. Many Marines had died of diseases aboard ship or deserted when a ship pulled into a liberty port. This left the most dedicated personnel to carry on and instruct other Marines.

b. **Early Colonial Marines**

(1) Americans also fought as Marines on British ships during the French and Indian War. The role of Marines was refined during this period. Marines would repel boarders from the riggings, serve on landing parties as infantry, and ensure good order and discipline while the ship was underway.

(2) As British Marines, the colonists traveled the world to include conducting raids in Canada, Cuba, and the Philippines.

c. **Birth of the Marine Corps**

(1) When the Revolutionary War began, a debate ensued regarding the need for a Navy. One reason the colonies went to war with England was over the issue of taxation without representation. In order to fund a Navy, the newly formed "federal" government would need to raise money. Many colonies were opposed to such matters, but as the war progressed, a need for a Navy to stop British supply lines increased. Therefore, in October of 1775, the Second Continental Congress formed a Navy. Eight merchant ships in the Philadelphia Harbor were converted and outfitted with guns and officially became ships of the United States (U.S.).

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

10 November 1775

Resolved: that two Battalions of Marines be raised consisting of one Colonel, two Lieutenant Colonels, two Majors, & Officers as usual in other regiments, that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken that no person be appointed to officer or inlisted [sic] into said Battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea, when required. That they be inlisted [sic] and commissioned for and during the present war between Great Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress. That they be distinguished by the names of the first & second battalions of American Marines, and that they be considered a part of the number, which the Continental Army before Boston is ordered to consist of.

(2) With the newly formed Navy, Congress now discussed the need for a Marine Corps. The British still had the strongest Navy and as previously discussed had a Marine Corps. In turn, Congress determined that the small American Navy too needed a Marine Corps. On 10 November 1775, Congress passed that two battalions of Marines be raised and to this date Marines around the globe meet on 10 November to celebrate the birth of the Corps.

d. **First Commandant**. With the formation of the Corps, the Second Continental Congress commissioned Samuel Nicholas, a Philadelphia merchant, as a Captain (Capt). As the senior Marine, Nicholas was ordered to raise the required number of Marines to form the two battalions. Although never officially called "commandant", Nicholas is considered the first traditional Commandant of the Marine Corps.

e. **Birthplace of the Marine Corps**

(1) Nicholas went throughout Philadelphia recruiting for his two battalions. It was difficult, however, to find individuals with a maritime background that wanted to serve. There was one particular venue, however, where 100 Rhode Island maritime men were recruited. This would be at the Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. Tun Tavern is now recognized as the birthplace of the Marine Corps and was later established as the recruiting Headquarters of the newly formed Marine Corps.

(2) The owner of Tun Tavern, and a close personal friend of Samuel Nicholas, was Robert Mullan. Mullan was so successful in his recruiting exploits at Tun Tavern; he was commissioned a captain in the Marine Corps and is now known as the first recruiter in the history of our Corps.

f. **Leatherneck**. The Marines long-standing nickname "Leatherneck," goes back to the leather collar, or neckpiece, which was worn from 1775 to 1875, was intended to ensure the Marines kept their heads erect, and to protect their necks from sword slashes. The high collar on the blue dress uniforms commemorates it today.

g. **Quatrefoil**. The quatrefoil (cross-shaped braid atop officer frame-type "barracks" covers) has been worn ever since 1859. The design, of French origin, is a distinguishing part of the Marine Officer's uniform. Popular belief is that in the mid-1800s, crossed pieces of rope were sewn to the top of officer's covers so that sharpshooters in the ship's riggings could readily identify them.

h. **Esprit de Corps**. Esprit de corps, one of the factors which constitute morale, is the loyalty to, pride in and enthusiasm for the unit shown by its members. Whereas morale refers to the individual Marine's attitude, esprit de corps is the unit spirit. It is the common spirit reflected by all members of a unit, providing group solidarity. It implies devotion and loyalty to the unit and all for which it stands, and a deep regard for the unit's history, traditions and honor. Esprit de corps is the unit's personality; it expresses the unit's will to fight and win in spite of seemingly insurmountable odds. Esprit de corps depends on the satisfaction the members get from belonging to a unit, their attitudes toward other members of the unit and confidence in their leaders. True esprit de corps is based on the great military virtues; unselfishness, self-discipline, duty, honor, patriotism and courage. Idleness, the curse of military life, kills esprit. Some indictors of esprit de corps follow:

(1) Expressions from the Marines that show enthusiasm for and pride in their unit.

(2) A good reputation among other units.

(3) A strong competitive spirit.

(4) Willing participation by the members in unit activities.

(5) Pride in the history and traditions of the unit.

2. DIFFERENT TYPES OF MARINES DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

a. The Marines who served for the Continental Congress during the Revolution were Continental Regular Marines.

b. Each state also organized and deployed its own Navy and Corps of Marines; these were known as “Marines of the State Navies.”

c. The Continental Congress gave license to civilian ship owners to legally plunder British merchant shipping. These quasi-legal pirates were called “Privateers,” and they often carried their own version of Marines aboard their vessels.

3. FIRST AMPHIBIOUS LANDING

a. The attack on New Providence, Bahamas was led by Capt Samuel Nicholas and was the first amphibious raid in the history of the Marine Corps. It was done to support General Washington's new army.

b. General (Gen) Washington did not have the minimum amounts of ammunition needed to mount an attack on Trenton against the British. Eight vessels under the command of Commodore Esek Hopkins set out with a battalion of Marines, commanded by Capt Nicholas, for the British colony. The forts located at New Providence were known to have a large quantity of badly needed gunpowder.

c. Landing on 3 March 1776 the Marines made the first amphibious assault, taking the British defenders completely by surprise. The British withdrew from Fort Montague and the Marines captured the fort without firing a shot. Unfortunately, the British had moved the majority of the gunpowder to their main fort at Nassau. The Marines spent the night at Fort Montague; confident the next morning would bring a great victory.

d. During the night the British governor evacuated most of Fort Nassau's gunpowder by ship to avoid capture by the Marines. The morning of the fourth, Nicholas demanded and received from the governor of New Providence, the surrender of the fort. The fortress yielded only twenty-four barrels of gunpowder, which was a disappointment

to the victorious Marines. However, the Marines stripped the island of cannon and ordnance supplies before departing.

e. The expedition to New Providence was not over for the Marines. On their way home Commodore Hopkins's squadron fell under attack with a British frigate.

f. In the ensuing battle, Marine sharpshooters fired their weapons from the ships riggings and masts, killing many British sailors.

g. The British frigate broke off the engagement and headed for home. Seven Marines died in the action, becoming the first of many Marines who would die in the fight for independence.

4. **THE BEGINNING OF A TRADITION OF FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE ARMY**

a. In December 1776, a battalion of 300 Marines under recently promoted Major (Maj) Nicholas joined Gen Washington's army prior to the Battle of Trenton. Although the Marines remained on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River as a reserve force and never fought in the battle, this was the first instance in which regular Marines served with the Army. While serving with the Army, the Marines were employed as infantrymen and artillerymen.

b. Throughout the rest of the war, Marines fought on land at such battles as Princeton, fought with the Continental Navy in numerous sea battles and also made raids into Canada and Scotland.

c. The American Revolution ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. At this point, the Continental Marines and Navy ceased to exist. However, the new Congress found the rich new nation could not provide for her own sovereignty without some defense against those nations out to exploit American weaknesses. In order for America to continue the lucrative trade by its lifeblood, the sea, the Congress would have to provide at least some effective force to assert her newly-won independence. That force became the U.S. Navy, and along with that Navy, the USMC.

5. **THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS**

a. **An Act Reestablishing and Organizing the Marine Corps**

(1) A few short years after the signing of the Treaty of Paris, British, French and North African warships began seizing American cargo and crews on the high seas.

(2) To legally organize an arm with which to protect American interests at sea, President John Adams signed an act establishing and organizing the USMC on 11 July 1798. Within 24 hours of signing this bill into law, the Secretary of the Navy appointed William Ward Burrows "Major Commandant" of the Marine Corps and commissioned him with the rank of Maj.

(3) This act, establishing a permanent Corps of Marines, was the first to discriminate between races when recruiting. During the earlier days of the Continental Marines, until 1783, several African-Americans served in the Continental Marines, and in several of the state's navies. By 1784, the original Marines were disbanded. In 1797 Marines were enlisted for three new frigates commissioned by Congress. The Secretary of War at that time developed a set of rules for recruiting crews (including Marines) for these ships. Congress continued these restrictions when, on 11 July, 1798, they re-established a separate Marine Corps. The highly selective nature of the Marine Corps is evident in the fact that the Navy, established by the same Act of Congress, frequently enlisted African-Americans, so much so that one Secretary of the Navy finally put a quota on the percentage of non-white crews for Navy ships. No further minority enlistments were to be officially allowed in the Marine Corps until 1942, when the United States found itself with another urgent need for manpower to meet a national threat.

b. **The First Official Commandant of the United States Marine Corps**

(1) Maj William Ward Burrows was the first Commandant to be appointed with the title "Commandant" and is therefore considered to be the first official Commandant of the United States Marine Corps.

(2) He served in the Revolutionary War with the state troops of South Carolina. On 1 May 1800, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol).

(3) Burrows fought to keep the Marine Corps in existence during peacetime, but Congress was insistent on reducing naval establishments in the early 1800s.

(4) Before that could happen, the Barbary Wars broke out and the Navy again needed her Marines.

(5) Commandant Burrows resigned on 6 March 1804 because of health reasons and died one year later on 6 March 1805. He was originally buried in Washington, D.C., but his remains were later moved to the Arlington National Cemetery.

c. **Rank of Sergeant Major**

(1) In 1798 Congress established the rank of Sergeant Major (SgtMaj). The first SgtMaj in the Marine Corps was SgtMaj Archibald Sommers.

(2) The SgtMaj's original duties were to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Commandant wherever his headquarters happened to be.

d. **The Founding of "The Oldest Post in the Corps"**

(1) President Thomas Jefferson ordered the newly promoted LtCol Burrows to move the Marine Headquarters to Washington, D.C.

(2) The President and Commandant rode horse-back together in the area between the Capitol and the Washington Navy Yard looking for a suitable site for the new Headquarters.

(3) They chose a location for a permanent home for the Marines at the intersection of Eighth and 'I' streets. The barracks and Commandant's home were completed in 1806.

(4) Today, the Commandant and band reside in the same quarters, which are known as the "Oldest Post in the Corps."

(5) While the Marines waited for the barracks to be completed, they amused themselves with drill and learned musical instruments.

(6) Their informal band, which was funded in part by the Commandant and his officers, was established in 1798 and was so popular among the social set in the city that President Jefferson invited them to the White House, where he commissioned them as "The President's Own."

6. **THE WAR AGAINST THE BARBARY PIRATES**

a. For centuries, the inhabitants of present-day North Africa (The Barbary Coast) had made their living by raiding seaside settlements and extorting tributes from maritime countries that plied the Mediterranean Sea.

b. Most European countries accepted this arrangement as a cost of doing business, and paid the tributes. The Federal Government of the new American nation did not have the deep pockets that their European counterparts did. Thus, they balked at paying what they considered exorbitant tributes to maintain free trade.

c. In 1801 the ruler of Tripoli declared war on the United States because of our refusal to pay extortion money for the protection of the U.S. ships sailing in the Mediterranean Sea. The U.S. re-created a Navy, and once again, the Marines were aboard.

d. The new Frigate Philadelphia, during blockade duty in Tripoli Harbor, was unlucky (or ill-captained) and ran aground in the harbor, and was captured by the Bashaw of Tripoli, one Yusuf Karamanli. Her crew of approximately 409 officers and men was captured and held for ransom.

e. A force of sailors and Marines, under the command of Navy Lieutenant Steven Decatur, snuck aboard the Philadelphia and, under the very guns of the fort in Tripoli Harbor, burned her to the waterline, to deny her use to the Tripolitanians.

f. No less a personage than Lord Horatio Nelson himself praised this action as the "most bold and daring act of the age."

g. This still left the captured crew as a pawn for the Bashaw to use to extort tribute from the U.S.

h. **Attack on Derna, Tripoli**

(1) In 1805, with the blockade of Tripoli Harbor dragging on, President Jefferson authorized a former envoy to Tunis named William Eaton to attempt an overland attack from Egypt to try to pressure the Bashaw into releasing the hostages.

(2) He was accompanied by a Marine Guard of seven men under the command of Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon. They supported the Bashaw's brother, Prince Hamet, who Yusuf had forcibly deposed, in his bid to regain his throne, and gain the release of the Philadelphia hostages.

(3) The Marines, with 400 of a mixture of European and Arabic mercenaries, and a few of Prince Hamet's men, crossed 600 miles of Libyan Desert to attack the city.

(4) Along the way, though vastly outnumbered, the Marines would stand by Eaton and Hamet during numerous small "mutinies" staged by the mercenaries to try to extort more money from Eaton.

(5) Eaton's first stage in the expedition was to attack and seize Derna, a seaport between him and Tripoli. This would give him a base to rest and re-supply with goods from the U.S. Navy.

(6) During the attack, the Marines would fight hand to hand in the city, while the navy bombarded the city from the harbor.

(7) When the city surrendered, the Marines would raise the "Stars and Stripes" over the captured fortress, the first time the American flag was raised in the Old World.

(8) Meanwhile, unbeknownst to them, diplomatic maneuvering (and a reduced amount of tribute) had secured the release of the Philadelphia hostages, so Eaton and the Marines were evacuated from Derna to Navy ships, and the overland expedition came to an end no closer to Tripoli.

(9) Despite never having been returned to his throne, as a token of gratitude, Prince Hamet presented his own Mameluke sword to Lieutenant (Lt) O'Bannon. A replica of that sword was adopted for use and carried by all Marine officers. The Mameluke Sword is the oldest weapon still in use today by any of the U.S. Armed Forces.

(10) Lt Presley O'Bannon's attack on Derna was commemorated by the phrase "To the Shores of Tripoli," inscribed on the Marine Corps' Battle Colors.

(11) With the defeat of Tripoli, America would see very few years of peace before again having to defend her shores. As always, the USMC would rise to the defense of our country.

7. **THE WAR OF 1812**

a. **Battles at Sea and on Lakes**

(1) The Marines' participation in the War of 1812 was both on land and aboard vessels sailing the high seas and lakes. In four major sea battles, Marines helped win three, and earned a reputation for deadly marksmanship.

(2) In September 1813, Marines and woodsmen fought with Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's fleet that defeated the British in the bloody Battle of Lake Erie. This battle ended British and Indian attacks on the frontier, and opened the Northwest for American expansion.

(3) Marines also fought on land, most notably at Bladensburg, Maryland, and at New Orleans.

b. **The Battle of Bladensburg**

(1) In August of 1814, at Bladensburg, Maryland about 13 miles from our nation's capital, 103 Marines and 400 sailors made a vain attempt to block a force of 4,000 disciplined British troops from advancing on Washington. The Marines stopped three headlong charges before both their Commanders (a Navy Commodore and a Marine Capt) were wounded and captured.

(2) They were finally outflanked and driven back. The Commanding Officer of the British reported, "They have given us our only real fight."

c. **Andrew Jackson at New Orleans**

(1) Nine thousand British troops sailed from Jamaica and landed near New Orleans. An occupation force of Navy and Marines skirmished with the British in the bayous, killing 300 British and buying nine days for Major Gen Andrew Jackson to organize a defense of the city. For almost 2 weeks, beginning on 28 December 1814, the British shelled and assaulted the American position.

(2) On 8 January 1815, an over-confident British commander led two regiments in a frontal assault across a flat plain into Jackson's lines. 2,100 British were shot down in 25 minutes. The next day the British left American

shores, badly beaten. Major General (MajGen) Jackson commended the Marines for their conduct and heroism, as did Congress, by passing an official resolution commending the “high sense of valor and good conduct” of the Marines.

8. **THE 5TH COMMANDANT**

a. **Archibald Henderson**

(1) Archibald Henderson was born in Virginia on 21 January 1783. He was commissioned a Lieutenant of Marines in 1806. He served on the USS Constitution during the War of 1812 where he received multiple awards for bravery. From 16 September 1818 to 2 March 1819, Henderson was the acting Commandant because the third commandant died in office. The fourth commandant was court-martialed for “conduct unbecoming” placing Henderson back in the position in on 18 October 1820. President Monroe appointed LtCol Archibald Henderson the fifth Commandant of the Marine Corps on 2 January 1821. Commandant Henderson remained in office until he died on 6 January 1859 giving him almost 39 years as commandant of the Marine Corps. Due to the length of his service as Commandant, Marines today refer to him as "The Grand Old Man of the Corps."

(2) During his 39 years, he turned the Marine Corps into a professional organization along the same lines as European military organizations.

(3) He did so by introducing higher standards throughout the Corps in personal appearance, training, and discipline.

(4) He instituted professional schools and a fair promotion system for officers and staff noncommissioned officers (SNCO).

(5) In 1830, he successfully fought President Andrew Jackson and others who sought to absorb the Corps into the Army. As a result, in 1834, Congress passed an Act that stated that the Marine Corps would remain a part of the Department of the Navy.

(6) From 1836 to 1837, the commandant fought the Indians in Florida and Georgia. He marched 400 Marines down to the Florida-Georgia border where they fought against the Creek Nation.

(7) An often repeated legend in the Marine Corps states that on 23 May 1836, there was nailed to the door of the Marine Corps Headquarters the notice: "Have gone to Florida to fight the Indians, will be back when the war is over."

(8) Because of his actions there, Henderson was promoted to Brevet Brigadier General.

(9) The commandant also led the Marine Corps during several years of warfare against Mexico; first for control of California, then for control of Texas.

(10) General Henderson died on the couch in the oldest post in the Marine Corps on 6 January 1859 and is buried in the Congressional Cemetery.

9. **MARINE CORPS INVOLVEMENT IN THE MEXICAN WAR**

a. Archibald Henderson was still Commandant in 1846 when the U.S. found itself at war with Mexico, over territorial disputes in the southwest.

b. Throughout the war, Marines served with naval squadrons in the Gulf of Mexico and along the coast of California. In the first year of the war they fought the Mexicans in California.

c. In the second year of the war, President Polk desperately needed forces for an invasion of Mexico from the East Coast.

d. Archibald Henderson offered up experienced Marine regiments to join forces with the Army and land at Vera Cruz en route to the capitol, Mexico City.

e. The landing at Vera Cruz on 9 March 1847 was the first American large-scale amphibious landing, and was conducted by a 12,000 man Army, Navy and Marine Corps landing force.

f. The Marines formed part of the force that fought its way across the width of the Mexican peninsula, finally reaching the outskirts of the Mexican Capitol.

g. The fortress of Chapultepec, a Mexican military academy, guarded one of the main causeways across a swamp that afforded access to the city proper.

h. The Mexicans had heavily reinforced this fortress, knowing that it was their last line of resistance before Mexico City.

i. The Marines participated in the bloody assault on this fortress. They were selected to assault the fortress from its most difficult approach, acting mainly as a diversion for militia troops.

j. As the assault began they were met with a hail of cannon and small arms fire. It was mainly through the brave leadership and determination of the officers and noncommissioned officers (NCO) leading the assault that this battle was finally won.

k. The red scarlet trouser stripe first appeared on uniform trousers in 1798, and reappeared in 1840 and 1859, partly as a result of the military fashions of the day. The popular story, which cannot be supported by fact, is that, during the battle, 90 percent of the Marine officers and NCOs were casualties.

l. 13 of the 23 Marine officers participating in this battle were decorated for bravery. Thus, the scarlet stripe, or "blood stripe", worn today on the blue dress trousers, is to commemorate the bloodshed by officers and noncommissioned officers at the Battle of Chapultepec.

m. The Marines were among the first U.S. troops to enter Mexico City. When the royal palace fell to invading Marines the "Stars and Stripes" were raised over the Mexican National Palace, also known as the "The Halls of Montezuma". When Gen Winfield Scott finally marched into the National Palace he found the streets guarded by U.S. Marines.

n. According to the best information available, it also provided the Marine Corps with the opening words to the Marines' Hymn. The first verse of the Marines' Hymn was written shortly after the occupation of Mexico City, however, history failed to note the identity of the author.

o. Prior to the war with Mexico, the Marine Corps colors bore the inscription, "To the Shores of Tripoli." With the capture of Mexico City and the National Palace, known as the "Halls of Montezuma", the inscription was changed to read, "From Tripoli to the Halls of Montezuma". To this day the Marine actions in the wars with Tripoli and Mexico are commemorated in the opening lines of the Marines' Hymn, "From the Halls of Montezuma, to the Shores of Tripoli."

10. **THE MARINES' HYMN.** Following the Civil War, the Marine Band began to play The Marines' Hymn at traditional White House concerts. It is the oldest official song of the U.S. Armed Forces. Though no one is certain, many believed Marines fighting in the Mexican War wrote the words.

11. **THE CIVIL WAR YEARS**

a. **Prelude to War: Harper's Ferry**

(1) Prior to the Civil War, in 1859, Marines under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee, U.S.A., stormed the United States arsenal at Harper's Ferry to put down an attempted slave revolt led by abolitionist, John Brown.

(2) At the beginning of the war, 40 percent of Marine officers resigned their commissions to fight for the South. This was not true of the enlisted men since the majority were from the northeastern part of the U.S.

b. **Civil War Battles**

(1) In the autumn of 1861, the Marine Corps created a special amphibious battalion. Although the unit never forced a defended beachhead, it saw many small, local actions in the successful naval blockade of the Confederacy.

(2) For the first time in U.S. history, an amphibious organization of Marines was created in advance of a campaign specifically to serve with the fleet and assault the enemy from the sea. This was the seed of the modern Marine Corps.

(3) Aside from Harper's Ferry and the Blockade of the South, the Marine Corps fought at the major battles of First Manassas and Fort Fisher, on the approaches to Wilmington, N.C. The Marines performed similar actions on the Western Rivers, such as during the sieges of New Orleans and Vicksburg.

c. **Corporal John Mackie, USMC - Dewry's Bluff, 15 May 1862**

(1) During the battle of Dewry's Bluff below Richmond on the James River in Virginia, a Confederate battery firing on the USS Galena struck the ships after battery and killed or wounded the entire Navy gun crew. Corporal (Cpl) John Mackie, USMC and 11 other Marines from the ship's company, braved Confederate fire on the exposed deck to extinguish fires and return the gun to action.

(2) Days earlier, Congress authorized the striking of a new medal to encourage the struggling Union forces. They named the medal "The Medal of Honor," and decreed it would be awarded "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty."

(3) President Abraham Lincoln himself presented The Medal of Honor to Cpl Mackie. He is the first Marine in history to receive this medal. By the time the war ended, 17 more Marines had earned the Medal of Honor.

d. **The Marine Noncommissioned Officer's Sword**

(1) In 1875, Marine NCOs were authorized to carry the 1850 version of the Army Infantry Foot Officer's sword which both Army and Marine officers used during the Civil War.

(2) Non-commissioned officers of the Marine Corps are the only NCOs in any branch of the regular U.S. Armed Forces who still have the privilege of carrying swords, which is the second oldest weapon still in use today.

(3) Due to rapid developments in war fighting following the Civil War, the sword was relegated to use only for ceremonial purposes. Occasions in which the sword is used are: the Marine Corps birthday ball, military funerals, changes of command, retirements, weddings, and formal drill.

e. **Adoption of a Marine Corps Emblem**

(1) Commandant Jacob Zeilin wanted to adopt an official Marine Corps symbol that depicted his Marines as both American and maritime. The original design he chose in 1868 consisted of three distinct parts: an eagle, a globe and an anchor, each with its own symbology.

(2) The eagle represents the nation. The globe represents worldwide service. The anchor represents sea traditions, and emphasizes the close ties between the Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy. Note that the globe of the U.S. Marine depicts the Western Hemisphere.

(3) This symbol was borrowed from the emblem of the Royal Marines, whose globe represents the Eastern Hemisphere.

(4) The emblem was modified in 1950 with the anchor being fouled (the addition of the rope).

(5) Over the years, the USMC has helped create a Marine Corps for other countries such as China, Korea, and Vietnam. Because of this, those countries have adopted an emblem similar to ours.

f. **Semper Fidelis**

(1) Before 1883, there had been three Marine Corps mottoes. The first came during the War of 1812 and was "Fortitudine" meaning "With Fortitude."

(2) The second motto, "By Sea and by Land," was a translation of the Royal Marine's motto "Per Mare, Per Terram."

(3) The third, "To the Shores of Tripoli," was in honor of Lt O'Bannon and his Marines in the war in Tripoli. This motto lasted until 1848.

(4) Today's motto is in the scroll clenched in the eagle's beak on the Marine Corps emblem. It has the words "Semper Fidelis" written on it. The words, in Latin, mean "Always Faithful" and had become the motto when adopted by the eighth Commandant, Commandant Charles McCawley in about 1883. The fact that there has never been a mutiny or even an attempt at one proves that all Marines live by this motto.

12. **SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR**

a. **USS Maine**. During this period relations with Spain deteriorated. Our government was angered by the poor treatment of Cuban citizens by their Spanish governor. The decisive factor that finally led to war involved an incident with the battleship USS MAINE.

(1) On the night of 15 February 1898, the battleship, USS MAINE, was anchored in Havana Harbor, when an explosion below the decks sent her to the bottom.

(2) Spurred on by sensationalist press coverage, a call to arms echoed throughout America: "Remember the Maine, to Hell with Spain!" By 19 April 1898, President McKinley and the U.S. had declared war.

(3) One of the first moves in the war was to have the Navy blockade the Spanish Caribbean fleet in Santiago Harbor, Cuba to prevent the Spanish from reinforcing or re-supplying their land forces. Admiral Sampson, the head of the American fleet guarding the East Coast of the U.S., wished to occupy Guantanamo Bay as a coaling station for his fleet. He asked Colonel-Commandant Heywood for a force of Marines.

(4) With a total Marine Corps strength of 3,500 men and officers, Heywood quickly formed a separate battalion by stripping Marines from stations and barracks along the East Coast of the U.S., and from new recruits hastily enlisted after the outbreak of "war fever." By the time the battalion had formed in Brooklyn Navy Yard, there were 71 Marines left on the entire East Coast for guard duty. Nevertheless, the Commandant was able to dispatch 623 enlisted and 23 officers almost immediately. He gave command to LtCol Robert Huntington, a Civil War veteran, and the Marine battalion sailed from Brooklyn to Key West, Florida. In the tropical climate of Key West, the Marines acclimated and began preparations for an amphibious landing on Cuba.

b. **Manila Bay**. While the Marines in Florida carried out their preparations for battle, halfway around the world in the Philippines, another Spanish colony, Admiral Dewey prepared a surprise for the Spanish Fleet in Manila Harbor. Taking the Spanish Fleet by surprise, Dewey completely destroyed it and landed his ships' Marines to occupy Fort Cavite in the Philippines. By taking the fort and routing out the Spanish defenders, the Marines established a secure base of operations for Dewey's Pacific Fleet. Admiral Dewey later testified before the House Naval Affairs Committee, "if he had had five thousand Marines embarked with his squadron at Manila Bay, he could have taken Manila on 1 May and the Philippine Insurrection might have been avoided."

c. **Guantanamo Bay, Cuba**

(1) Meanwhile, back in Cuba, the Marines landed at Guantanamo Bay on 10 June. Their landing was made with naval gunfire coverage, and was unopposed. This was fortunate, but short-lived, and by the end of the first day ashore, Spanish and Cubans loyal to the Spanish began sniping at the Marines. On the early evening of 11 June, two Marines were killed by hostile fire.

(2) Attacks by Spanish forces based nearby at Cuzco Wells, continued, despite naval gunfire support. Though the naval gunboats shelled the Spanish camp, the attacks continued. Since this was the base of the attacks, and he only water supply within many miles, LtCol Huntington asked for and received permission from Commander McCalla to take the wells.

(3) Two companies of Marines (about 160 men) and about 50 Cuban insurrectos undertook the attack on Cuzco Wells, supported by the naval dispatch carrier, Dolphin. The force was also accompanied by a war correspondent from a New York newspaper, Stephen Crane.

(4) Stephen Crane was a respected author, and his stories of the actions of Sergeant (Sgt) John H. Quick made Sgt Quick an instant celebrity. During maneuver towards a Spanish blockhouse, the Dolphin's gunfire started to drift towards one of the Marine Companies.

(5) Sergeant Quick was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravely exposing his body to enemy fire in order to signal the ships to shift their fire. Crane said that, in the several minutes that Sgt Quick was fully exposed to a storm of small-arms and light artillery fire, his face only once betrayed any emotion. When his signal flag snagged on a cactus, a look of annoyance flashed across his face. The wells were taken and the base at Guantanamo was secured.

(6) By the end of the war in August 1898, the Marine Corps' huge success and the emergence of the U.S. as a world-wide power with a multi-ocean Navy, encourages Congress to double our end-strength. At the turn of the century, America would face a dilemma on the far side of the world.

(7) By this time, Marines had worked for the State Department on so many interventions that they sometimes jokingly called themselves the State Department's Army.

NOTES:

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