UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL
TRAINING COMMAND
2189 ELROD AVENUE
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134-5033

HIST 1002
SEP 2014

MARINE CORPS HISTORY 2

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 "First to Fight" without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1001a)

2. Without the aid of references, identify the significance of the term "Devil Dogs" without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1001c)

3. Without the aid of references, identify influential contributors to the history of the Marine Corps from 1900 to 1940 without omission. (OCS-HIST-1002f)

4. Without the aid of references, describe Marine participation in Limited-scale Operations throughout Marine Corps history from 1900 to 1940 without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1002g)

5. Without the aid of references, describe Marine participation in Major Operations throughout Marine Corps history from 1900 to 1940 without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1002h)

6. Without the aid of references, trace the history of Marine Corps Amphibious Doctrine from 1900 to 1940 without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1002i)

7. Without the aid of references, trace the history of Marine Corps Aviation from 1900 to 1940 without omitting key components. (OCS-HIST-1002j)

8. Without the aid of references, describe the origin of the traditional Marine Corps uniform from 1900 to 1940 without omission. (OCS-HIST-1003c)

1. THE BOXER REBELLION

a. At the turn of the 20th century, China was in danger of being chopped up into separate states by the European colonial powers. The proliferation of Western influence into Chinese society and government, particularly by Christian missionaries, began to enrage the native lower class. This ultimately led to the formation of the Righteous Fists of Harmony. Many of its members were from the northern Chinese provinces, which were the focus of Western rail and mining excursions. As a fundamentalist Chinese movement, they practiced martial arts, held secret rituals, and promised their members that they would be immune from foreign bullets. If one of their members was killed by a foreign bullet, his lack of faith and dedication were used as the reason for the failure. The Boxers were also known for practicing rights of 'spiritual possession' which were powerful demonstrations and worked to win Chinese locals to their cause. It was their diehard practice of martial arts that earned them the knick name "Boxers" by the Americans stationed in China.

b. The Boxers were dedicated to the expulsion of all foreigners from China, and originally opposed the ruling Chinese government. However, they eventually came to support the government after the Empress Dowager seized power from the sitting emperor and offered her support to the movement. This change of power gave the Boxers the momentum they needed to expand their movement, and in the spring of 1900 the Boxers began to attack Europeans, especially missionaries, and their Chinese converts. Though they did kill several hundred European missionaries, the Boxers were especially brutal towards their own countrymen, killing several thousand Chinese-Christian

converts. Eventually, the Boxer movement began to focus its energy on the symbolic center of the Western Influence – the international legation in Peking (now called Beijing). Part of the security force at the legation was a detachment of Marines recently arrived from two naval ships anchored in Peking Harbor.

c. By May 1900, Boxers were seen openly on the streets of Peking. After the legations ignored the Empress Dowager's demand for them to leave China, the Boxers and other Chinese regulars laid siege to the city of Peking. The diplomats requested help, and in late May, a foreign security force of approximately 350 enlisted and officers arrived. This force, referred to as the Legation Guard, consisted of British Royal Marines, German and Japanese marines, Russian sailors, Austrian marines, Italian sailors and the American contingent. The American contingent consisted of 48 Marines, 5 sailors, and a Navy surgeon. They came from the ship's guard detachments for the U.S.S Oregon and the U.S.S. Newark that were immediately available, and were under the commanded of Captain John T. Meyers. They carried no baggage so that they could carry extra ammunition. Soon after arriving, they were besieged and isolated for 55 days by a force of around 50,000 Boxers. The U.S. contingent was assigned the mission of defending one wall of the Western compound of the Foreign Legation (directly adjacent to the German contingent), and even though they were momentarily thrown back by overwhelming numbers, they maintained that post until a relief force arrived. The Legation Guard faced small arms and artillery fire from the Chinese forces which fought from behind barricades they had constructed along the perimeter of the legation lines. These barricades became the focus of effort for the Marines as they fought to drive the Boxers away from their lines and out of firing range of the legation. It was during these attacks that the Marines distinguished themselves with their fierce fighting and acts of bravery.

d. A force was dispatched to relieve the security forces in Peking, and the Americans quickly scrambled to send a force, named the China Relief Expedition, which came largely from the Philippines (recently annexed during the Spanish-American War). This expedition initially consisted of Marines from the 1st Marine Regiment posted at Fort Cavite in the Philippines. These Marines would eventually combine with Army and other international forces as they fought their way 115 miles from Tientsin to Peking. When the relief force reached the besieged compound 54 days later they found the Marines still defending the stronghold. One of the Marines from the 1st Regiment that was present when the siege of Peking was lifted was First Lieutenant (1stLt) Smedley Butler, who was wounded as the Marines first moved into the city to relieve the legation. It has been argued that 1stLt Butler might have been awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at Peking, but at the time officers were not eligible to receive the medal. Instead, for his actions and bravery he was promoted to the rank of brevet Captain (Capt) (which was a custom for officers at the time).

e. For actions of heroism during the Boxer Rebellion, 33 Marines would be awarded the Medal of Honor; four of these medals were earned during the Siege of the Peking Legations, including Private (Pvt) Dan Daly who would win his **first** Medal of Honor. Pvt Daly volunteered to defend a key position on one of the legation walls while his officer left to retrieve reinforcements. Pvt Daly held the position for an entire night and single-handedly held off wave after wave of Boxer Rebels attacking his post. For his actions, Pvt Daly was awarded his first Medal of Honor for his bravery. He would go on to become one of the great figures in Marine Corps history.

2. **THE "BANANA WARS"**

a. **Central America and the Caribbean.** For all the attention afforded to China and the Boxer Rebellion, the focus of United States intervention for the first half of the 20th Century remained on the Caribbean and Central America. The United States wanted to ensure its economic security and to solidify its international prestige in the Western Hemisphere. It wanted to prevent any European powers from re-gaining any kind of foothold in the "New World" and to keep its own economic interests in the region safe. The United States justified its actions by revitalizing the Monroe Doctrine. This was the policy set by James Monroe in the early 19th Century that detailed how the United States would view European incursions into Latin America as acts of aggression. President Theodore Roosevelt revived this policy in the early 20th Century and expanded it to justify American involvement in economic and political stabilization operations across Central America and the Caribbean. The Banana Wars refers to a collection of low to medium intensity conflicts that took place between 1900 and the early 1930s in Central America and the Caribbean. Being that these conflicts were largely driven by economic issues, and with one of the chief economic products of the region being bananas, this collection of actions is sarcastically referred to as the "Banana Wars." The impact the Banana Wars had on the Marine Corps as a whole was significant. The Marine Corps demonstrated that it was an amphibious force in readiness that was capable of quickly deploying to any conflict and fighting along a wide spectrum of operations. There were also a number of key lessons learned that came out of operations that would have resounding influence in the future of the Corps.

b. It was during this time that the famous Marine Field Hat, or Campaign Cover, became standard issue. The cover was intended to help Marines deal with the heat and weather in the tropical climate of the Caribbean and Central America. Marine Drill Instructors and rifle/pistol range personnel still wear this cover today.

c. **Panama.** Following the Spanish-American War, Panama was a primary concern for both economic and strategic reasons. The value of the overland route across the Isthmus of Panama drove many of the interactions and policies that the United States had with Colombia, specifically the province of Panama. At the time, Panama was a state under the Colombian Federation. However, there was a strong independent sentiment among the natives within Panama which existed as far back as the middle of the 19th century. There were a number of attempts from within Panama to over throw the local Colombian government, but they had all since failed. After the turn of the century, however, the United States took a different view towards the issue.

(1) The United States, seeking to ensure the economic security of the Isthmus of Panama (particularly the coast-to-coast railroad line), made numerous military incursions into Panama as a result of various rebellions and insurrections. The purpose of these incursions was to protect American lives and property in Panama, as well as the "neutral" economic interests that were there as well. The Marines made landings in Panama over the period from 1850 to 1900, the most significant of which was the Panama Expedition of 1885 which was made to safeguard the Trans Panamanian Rail Road and keep its trains running on time and unopposed.

(a) In 1903, following another rebel uprising towards Colombian government authority, Panama declared its independence from Colombia. The United States quickly recognized Panamanian independence, and supported their fight for independence with the condition that the U.S. would be able to build and take ownership of the Panama Canal.

(b) Marines under the command of Major John A. Lejeune landed and took charge of the situation. They conducted security operations and armed escorts of the trains moving across the isthmus, mostly allowing the rebels and the government forces to maneuver against each other (so long as they didn't interfere with the running trains). With Marines securely garrisoned on both coasts of the Isthmus, the Colombian government eventually capitulated and Panama became its own country with little bloodshed.

(2) The total strength of Marines that were positioned in Panama, at its height, reached brigade size (at one point commanded by the Commandant himself). The Marines were sent out from the "canal zone" and patrolled the entire country, deterring any actions on the part of either Colombia or Nicaragua and ensuring that order was in place throughout the newly formed country. The Marines were eventually reduced back down to battalion size, but remained in Panama guarding the construction and operation of the canal until 1914, while also serving as a quick reaction force for the region.

d. **Cuba**. In 1906 civil war erupted in Cuba between the government and Liberal forces. From the start, both sides maneuvered to attract American intervention under its already established Caribbean policy. The United States, wanting to avoid a pacification campaign on foreign soil, worked to establish peace between the rebels and the Cuban government. The rebels threatened to destroy American and other foreign property to coerce the Americans into supporting their cause, but the United States was hesitant to displace an established constitutional government. However, the looming threat of violence and anarchy moved the United States to send ships and Marines to the island nation as soon as possible to help quell the rebellion.

(1) A Marine brigade was quickly shipped to Cuba and was ordered to disarm the combatants. This process proved to be a peaceful one as the rebels had already agreed not to fight. The Marines held the capital city of Havana secure until an Army expedition arrived to assume control, freeing the Marines to move into the rest of the country. This demonstrated the Marine Corps' ability to rapidly deploy (particularly faster than the Army), and the Corps received high praise in the news media back in the United States as a result.

(2) The Marines' initial mission in Cuba proved to be successful, as elections were held two years after their arrival. Marines would make two more forays into Cuba in subsequent years to help protect American lives and interests from various other rebel insurrections. The Marines in Cuba saw no significant combat and spent most of their time on sentry duty and field training, which ultimately increased their proficiency and presumably deterred the rebels from fighting.

e. **Nicaragua.** While the Marine Corps was conducting relatively peaceful operations in Cuba, the United States called upon it to act in another Central American country, Nicaragua. The intervention in Nicaragua was spurred on by long-standing tensions between the U.S. and the Nicaraguan dictator, who was suspected of supporting anti-

American sentiment and insurrections throughout the region. When a revolt began in early 1910, the United States decided to intervene in order to protect American lives and property from being caught in the middle by two sides altogether bitter towards the United States. This would ultimately be the most protracted of all the Banana War actions, with Marine intervention lasting well past World War I (WWI).

(1) In 1910, rebellion broke out in Nicaragua and the U.S. State Department called for the Marines to intercede in the conflict to protect American interests, but also to foster stability and to promote a democratic government. In May of the same year, Major (Maj) Smedley Butler and the battalion of Marines that had been permanently stationed in Panama went ashore and occupied the city of Bluefields. The presence of the Marine battalion went far to avoid major hostilities in the city and the government army which had surrounded the rebels at Bluefields eventually withdrew. Maj Butler's battalion remained for a time but was pulled out after a conservative government came to power and stability began to return.

(2) The Marines under command of Maj Butler were deployed back to Nicaragua in 1912 when rebellion again swept the country. Maj Butler's battalion returned and, as the fighting intesified across the country, was eventually reinforced by an additional brigade under the command of then Colonel Joseph Pendleton. The liberal rebel forces were able to cut off the capital of Managua and capture other major cities such as Leon and Granada. The newly formed provisional Marine regiment fought ferociously to shatter the rebel's will to fight. The Marines again were asked to conduct security operations and combat patrols, while also clearing railroad lines from armored trains. By October of 1912 the rebellion had essentially evaporated. Most of the Marines were pulled out of Nicaragua by the end of 1912, with a sole company left as a security force in the capital.

(3) The Nicaraguans resented the presence of the Marines and the security company (left behind in 1912 as a international legation guard) became a destabilizing influence, as it became a target of dissidents and liberal rebels. The instability induced by deteriorating relations between the Nicaraguan people and the Marines eventually led to the security company being pulled out of the country in 1925. This left a security vacuum in the capital and opened the already tenuously held government to rebellion.

(a) In the spring of 1926 all out civil war had begun between Liberal rebels and the Conservative government forces. The rebels were supported by the communist Mexican Government and, fearing a spred of communism in Central America, the United States decided to place ever-increasing forces in Nicaragua to bolster the Conservative government's position. In January 1927, the Marines landed in order to guard foreigners in the captial, Managua, and to protect American lives and property. The Marines fought to quell the rebellion and later were extremely effective at peacibly disarming the population, after a peace accord had been reached.

(b) During this period, the Marines pioneered the concept of aviation assets in support of infantry operations. At its height, the Marine Expedition had two squadrons of observatory aircraft in Nicaragua that worked to provide reconnaissance for the ground forces. The Marines also were involved in what could have been the first close air support sortee at the Battle of Ocotal, when a Marine deHavilland DH-4B straffed and dive-bombed a rebel position ahead of a Marine land assault.

(4) The Nicaraguan intervention continued for over five more years with continued skirmishes and battles. In January 1933, the last Marines elements were embarked on ships to return home.

f. **Mexico.** In 1914, while the Marine Corps was riding the success gained in Nicaragua, the relations between the United States and Mexico began to rapidly deteriorate and led to the next intervention the Marines would be involved in relations between the two states had been strained since 1910 as Mexico had been deeply involved in revolutionary war. When the constitutionally elected president was murdered by a group led by General Huerta, U.S. President Wilson refused to recognize the Huerta Government and decided to take open action to limit Huerta's ability to remain in control.

(1) President Wilson ordered the Navy to deploy its warships and Marine Battalions on both coasts of Mexico. When a group of American sailors were assaulted and held captive in a Mexican port city, the President used this action, a clear affront of international honor and justice, as justification to escalate hostilities.

(2) When it was discovered that a German freighter carrying arms and ammunition was bound for the port city of Veracruz, Mexico the American forces seized the opportunity to put troops ashore in order to prevent the weapons from reaching General Huerta's forces. The Navy conducted an amphibious operation to occupy the city by landing a Marine battalion from Colonel (Col) Lejeune's Regiment and two seamen's battalions from the various warships sitting offshore.

(3) The Mexican defenders of the city had anticipated the action and made preparations, which led to fierce street-to-street fighting when the Marines and sailors landed. The Marines quickly went into action by gaining high vantage points and successfully engaging snipers, while the seamen's battalions became bogged down in fighting. After being reinforced by a second Marine battalion from Col LeJeune's Regiment the landing force was able to secure the city in two days. An Army Expeditionary Force soon arrived from Texas, but the Marines left a battalion at Veracruz for the next eight months to train and man the city's border line defenses. The American military presence allowed the Wilson Administration to negotiate with General Huerta and helped to encourage the General to step down from power.

(4) For the Marine Corps, the episode at Veracruz was wildly successful, as the Marines had arrived much more quickly than the Army could muster. The Marines fought ferociously and took light casualties, and even though there were more sailors present ashore during the initial landing the American press gave the impression that it was only the Marines that had landed and fought. This had a significant impact on the opinion of the Marines back in Washington D.C. and with the American public in general.

(5) Maj Smedley Butler commanded the battalion that had landed to reinforce the initial assault. Maj Butler had been recently assigned to this battalion and he was not sure of their behavior under fire. To inspire them, Maj Butler walked down the center of the streets of Veracruz, ignoring bullets that plowed into the dirt at his feet and used a stick to point out snipers to the men in his detachment. His courageous display of fearlessness under fire helped to inspire his Marines, and Maj Butler was thusly awarded his **first** Medal of Honor, which had recently been authorized for officers.

g. **Haiti**

(1) Also in 1914, unrest was brewing in Haiti. The possibility of European intervention brought out the United States Marines. The Marines landed at Cape Haitian and plans were drawn up to restore the country and reestablish the government. A group of rebels and bandits called "Cacos" had been responsible for many of Haiti's problems. Sweeps were conducted of main cities and the bandits were either disarmed or sent to jail.

(2) While in route to attack a Caco fortress, Marines under Maj Butler were betrayed by their guide and ambushed. As relentless attacks continued through the night, the Marines realized they needed more firepower. Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt) Dan Daly slipped out of the Marine's defensive perimeter and through enemy lines to retrieve a machinegun that was lost in a river during the first few minutes of fighting. Daly returned with the machinegun and at daybreak the Marines attacked, chasing the bandits from their fortress and burning it to the ground. GySgt Daly was awarded his second Medal of Honor for his actions in Haiti.

(3) Fort Riviere was the last bandit stronghold in a mountain fortress in the jungle. Maj Butler lead a twenty-four-man detail across an open area toward a drainpipe he knew led into the middle of the Caco stronghold. As the detail reached the drainpipe, they found the opening. Without hesitation, a Marine by the name of Sergeant (Sgt) Ross Tams along with Pvt Gross and Maj Smedley Butler took the lead, and made a dash down the drainpipe, followed closely by the rest of the Marines. Moving quickly through the drainpipe, Sgt Tams shot the sentry guarding the opening. The three Marines emerged from the pipe and attacked seventy bandits with pistols and knives. Soon the rest of the detachment arrived and fierce hand-to-hand combat ensued. When the fighting ended, fifty Cacos lay dead and the Marines captured the fortress. SgtTams, Pvt Gross and Maj Butler all were awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions. This was Maj Butler's second Medal of Honor.

h. **Dominican Republic**

(1) On 5 May 1916, two companies of Marines arrived from Haiti to protect the American legation in Santo Domingo. On 18 June 1916, Colonel J.H. Pendleton arrived from San Diego with the 4th Marine Regiment and took command of all American forces ashore.

(2) Col Pendleton also took full control of the Dominican Republic government. On 29 November 1916, the United States admitted that U.S. Marines were running the Dominican Republic. The U.S. military controlled the country until 12 July 1924, when officers deemed that the Dominican Republic was ready to establish its own constitutional government.

i. **Lessons Learned**

(1) During the collection of interventions that are referred to as the Banana Wars, the Marine Corps repeatedly demonstrated its value as an amphibious force in readiness. And from the multiple kinetic actions the

Marine Corps was wise to collect the many lessons learned. These lessons were eventually compiled into the *Small Wars Manual* in 1940. This publication contained a vast amount of information that was relevant to fighting low-intensity conflicts (guerilla warfare). The publication covered topics ranging from conducting jungle patrols to how to load pack animals. It detailed how to interact with indigenous populations and even went so far as to have a chapter on purchasing draft animals.

(2) The lessons written in the *Small Wars Manual* are time tested and were revisited during the conflict in Vietnam and again when insurgency erupted most recently in Afghanistan and Iraq.

3. **DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE CORPS AVIATION**

a. In January of 1909, Alfred A. Cunningham, a native of Atlanta, Georgia and veteran of the Spanish-American War, received a commission of Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. One of his goals in joining the Marine Corps was to turn his interest in an emerging technology (one that would eventually change the face of the Marine Corps, and warfare in general) into a military career. That technology was the science of aviation.

b. Alfred Cunningham had developed a keen interest in flying early on in life. Following his service in the Spanish-American War, and after growing bored with his work as a realtor in Georgia, Cunningham petitioned to receive a commission in the Marine Corps, because he thought it would give him the best opportunity to practice flying. After serving as part of ship's companies, and following his promotion and subsequent assignment to Marine Barracks Philadelphia, First Lieutenant (1stLt) Cunningham requested, and was granted, assignment to the Navy's new flying school at Annapolis, Maryland. On 22 May 1912, 1stLt Cunningham reported to the Navy Aviation Camp at Annapolis. His first solo flight occurred in August of that same year and later he was designated Marine Aviator Number One (Naval Aviator Number Six).

c. At the time, aviation was looked upon with skepticism. There were proponents within both the United States Army and the Navy, but for the most part service leaders were focused on other capabilities (in the Navy's case, battleships). Cunningham worked very nearly singlehandedly to bring aviation enthusiasm to the Marine Corps.

(1) After completing his initial flight training, he recognized the need for trained mechanics and petitioned Marine Corps Headquarters, resulting in the first Marine enlisted man being assigned to aviation duty. He brokered a deal with the Army to train Marine Aviators in land-based aircraft (at the time, the Navy was exclusively training in sea-planes). Cunningham helped to develop the first techniques for aerial photography and helped to make bombing techniques more accurate prior to WWI. He was the first aviator to be launched from a catapult aboard a ship underway. Cunningham also organized the Marine Corps' first Aeronautic Company, which was deployed to France for WWI, and eventually served as the first commander for the 1st Marine Aviation Squadron.

(2) Some of his most enduring influences resulted from his participation (due to his expertise in aviation) in various naval commissions that were responsible for codifying the early training doctrine for naval aviators and for the foundational methods which governed the employment of naval air power. He also participated in a Navy commission that was responsible for establishing the first Navy and Marine Corps Air Stations around the country.

d. The development of aviation has had profound influence on the shape and character of the Marine Corps. Before the advent of Marine Aviation, the Corps had been predominantly composed of ground troops with little else besides artillery to provide supporting arms in an assault. When the concept of Marine Aviation was finally developed, it enabled the Marine Corps to expand its war fighting capabilities. To this extent, Marine's aviators would fly 14 bombing raids, sustain 4 combat deaths, and shoot down 12 enemy planes during WWI.

4. **THE MARINES ENTER WWI**

a. **The U.S. Enters the War**

(1) What was to become the First World War began in the summer of 1914 with Germany's invasion of Belgium. The rapid German advance swept through Belgium and into France toward Paris. In the Battle of the Marne, the French were able to halt the German onslaught and the war on the Western Front settled into bloody, immobile trench warfare. The United States remained neutral as a result of President Woodrow Wilson's efforts to stay out of the war. He was able to get himself reelected under the slogan "He kept us out of the war." However, five months after being reelected, Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war and on 6 April 1917, the United States finally entered WWI.

(2) American military strength at this time was insignificant in comparison with its European contemporaries. The Marine Corps began WWI with 511 officers and 13,214 enlisted men. By the end of the war, the Corps had grown to 2,462 officers and 72,639 enlisted men, which was enough to field two brigades to fight in Europe.

(3) Through Allied urging, the U.S. quickly sent a token force to bolster morale and show the tired, worn-out Allied armies that help was on the way. Major General (MajGen) John J. "Blackjack" Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), and his small staff were the first to land in Liverpool on 8 June. On 14 June, the first elements of the AEF sailed for France, including the 2,759 Marines of the 5th Marine Regiment.

(4) Patriotism across the country was high at the beginning of WWI. Recruiting posters went up soliciting young Americans to join in the fight. A famous Marine slogan, "First to Fight," made its first appearance on Marine recruiting posters at the beginning of the war. The slogan, "First to Fight," points out that Marines have been in the forefront of every American war since the founding of the Corps.

b. **American Forces in France: The Fourth Marine Brigade**

(1) The 5th Marine Regiment and the 6th Marine Regiment, which arrived in France between October 1917 and February 1918, later joined by the 6th Machine Gun Battalion of Marines. Together they formed the 4th Brigade of Marines. The 4th Marine Brigade and the Army's 3d Infantry Brigade plus an artillery brigade were formed as the 2d United States Division, known as the "Indianhead" Division for its shoulder patch depicting an American Indian chief. Marine Brigadier General (BGen) Charles A. Doyen commanded the Second Division until Army Major General Omar Bundy superseded him. Doyen was the first Marine ever to lead an Army division. The identities of the Marine regiments assigned to the 4th Marine Brigade remain important in today's Marine Corps because their performance earned them several accolades from the French, to include citations for gallantry and the right to wear the Fourragere. The Fourragere is a scarlet and green cord worn on the left shoulder of the service and dress uniforms and is still worn by Marines in the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments today.

(2) The Marines did not go into action until mid-March of 1918 when they were sent into the line near Verdun, a supposedly "quiet" sector. The Germans sought to end the war before the full weight of the American forces arriving in France could be brought to bear. They launched a major offensive on the Western Front. One of the attacks of this offensive hit the French between Soissons and Reims on 27 May. The French were pushed back to the north bank of the Marne River, about 40 miles from Paris. This crisis brought the Americans into the fight.

c. **Belleau Wood, 6 - 26 June 1918**

(1) Early in June of 1918, the 2d U.S. Division was rushed into the line to plug a gap that the Germans had cut in the French lines. The Marine Brigade's assignment was to "Hold the line at all hazards." The German attack was eventually stopped and both sides consolidated their positions. The Germans facing the Marines were dug into defensive positions in a place called Bois de Belleau, or Belleau Wood. As Marines moved to the front, retreating French soldiers encouraged them to "fall back… retreat…" telling them that advancement was impossible. In classic Marine fashion Capt Lloyd Williams reportedly answered, "Retreat hell, we just got here!"

(2) Poor battlefield intelligence and a lack of patrolling led the Marines to believe that the Germans did not occupy Belleau Wood. The Marines took up positions along the Paris-Metz road, the Germans' fortified positions in Belleau Wood, and attacked on 6 June. They ran headlong into a regiment of German infantry with an interlocking network of machinegun nests and artillery support. For 20 days, the Marines fought the Germans before securing the woods. It was some of the fiercest fighting in Corps' history and involved a great deal of hand-to-hand combat. It was not until 0700 on 26 June 1918 that a Marine rifle company reached the north edge of the woods.

(3) GySgt Daly led one of the charges across the wheat fields. To inspire his Marines, he was heard to say, "Come on, you sons of bitches! Do you want to live forever?" By evening, the Marines destroyed the German defensive line and pushed the Germans out of Bouresches. For five days the Marines pushed forward until 12 June when the last German defensive line was broken. The woods, except for a small corner, were controlled by the Marines. On 13 June, the Germans counterattacked, only to be repelled as Marine sharpshooters dropped the German attackers at 400 yards. In massive assaults, the Germans kept coming behind a wall of mustard gas. The Germans met death and failure against the Marines.

(4) During the battle a Marine took a diary from a dead German soldier and while reading it, chanced upon some of the soldier's last written words that stated his unit had found a nickname suitable for the gallant Marines--they called them "*Teufelhunden*" which means "Devil dogs". The German high command classified the Marines as "Shock Troops," a classification reserved only for the finest military organizations.

(5) Casualties were extremely high. In less than three weeks of fighting, the Marine Brigade had taken over 50 percent casualties; 126 officers and 5,057 enlisted men were killed or wounded.

(6) The French were extremely impressed with the U.S. Marines and their tenacious spirit. The French Parliament declared the Fourth of July to be a national holiday in honor of the Americans fighting in France. The French gave the Marines a citation for gallantry at Belleau Wood, the Croix de Guerre, and ordered that the Bois de Belleau be renamed the "Bois de la Brigade de Marine."

d. **Soissons, 18-20 July 1918**

(1) In July of 1918, the Germans again lunged forward; this time with 49 divisions, whose objective was, once again, to take Paris. However, with the entrance of the United States into the war a year prior, the Allies were significantly stronger and repulsed the German attack within 48 hours. General Foch, the French general in command of all Allied forces, launched a counteroffensive aimed at severing the supply lines for the German armies around Chateau-Thierry with the focus of the attack to be around the town of Soissons. The Allied attack began in the pre-dawn hours of 18 July. After 2 days of bitter fighting, the Marines had advanced 6 miles deep into the German lines. After suffering more than 50 percent casualties in the lead battalions, the Marines were pulled out of the lines. They had driven to within a mile of their objective before having to be replaced due to casualties. This attack eventually triggered the general retreat of the German army.

(2) Again, casualties were extremely high with the Marine Brigade losing 2,015 men killed or wounded. The French government awarded the Marines a second Croix de Guerre for their performance at Soissons.

(3) Following the battle, as the 2d U.S. Division was sent to the rear, BGen John A. Lejeune took command of the Marine Brigade. A few days later, Lejeune, now a MajGen, took command of the 2d U.S. Division.

e. **St. Mihiel, 12-15 September 1918**

(1) After a comparatively quiet two months, the 2d U.S. Division was again ordered into the attack. This time, they were to fight as part of the newly formed U.S. First Army under the command of General Pershing. Their attack was to be the precursor of a massive offensive intended to break the back of the German army and end the war. The objective of this preliminary attack was a salient extending from the fortress city of Metz, centered on the town of St. Mihiel.

(2) The Germans realized that this position was going to be hit hard and began pulling back to a stronger defensive line. Shortly after the German withdrawal began, the Americans went over the top. The Marine regiments started the battle in a supporting role but were pushed forward and continued the assault, consolidated their gains and held off German counterattacks. The bulge at St. Mihiel that had existed since 1914 had been wiped out.

(3) The fact that the Germans had already begun their retreat in combination with an extremely heavy preparatory barrage kept casualties relatively light in comparison with the previous battles. 132 Marines were killed and 574 wounded in the fight for St. Mihiel.

f. **Blanc Mont Ridge, 3-6 October 1918**

(1) As the Allied armies were preparing for the great offensive, Generals Pershing and Lejeune had to fight to keep the U.S. forces together as a fighting force instead of spreading the American divisions piecemeal throughout the Allied armies. General Pershing was successful in keeping the American units together as a whole but was required to attach the 2d and 36th U.S. Divisions to the French Fourth Army. General Lejeune then had to struggle to keep his division together. To do this, he told General Gouraud, who commanded the French Fourth Army, that if his division was not broken up it would take Blanc Mont Ridge. This ridge dominated the Arnes River Valley and was the key to the French front in the upcoming offensive. It was also very well fortified.

(2) On the morning of 3 October, the offensive began. By mid-morning, the Marine Brigade had captured the German main line of resistance on Blanc Mont Ridge with the exception of the western slope. The French who had been supporting the Marines' attack, were unable to move up under the intense German fire. The Marines were unable to get into position to attack the western tip of the ridge until the following day. This delay would prove very costly, and 4 October 1918 would become the bloodiest day of the war for the Marines. In that day's fighting 1,100 Marines were killed or wounded and by the end of the day the Germans still held part of the ridge. Early on 5 October the Marines once again assaulted and seized the remaining German positions on Blanc Mont Ridge.

(3) Fighting in the area continued for several days, and the Marines tried to take the town called St. Etienne-a-Arnes but with the extensive casualties that had been absorbed in the fight for the ridge, they had to be pulled out of the line. By 10 October, all Marine units had been relieved.

(4) In a week of fighting, the Marine Brigade had 494 killed and 1,864 wounded. Following the battle of Blanc Mont Ridge, the French awarded the Marines a third Croix de Guerre for gallantry. The third award entitled the Marine Brigade to wear the French *Fourragere*, which is a scarlet and green cord worn on the left shoulder of the service and dress uniforms. Marines of the 5th and 6th Marine Regiments to this date are authorized to wear the French *Fourragere*.

g. **Meuse-Argonne, 1-11 November 1918**

(1) The last battle in which the Marine Brigade saw action in WWI began long before the Marines joined the fight. Early in October, American and French divisions attacked the well-fortified German position in the area between the Argonne Forest and the Meuse River. The Germans had established an intricate defense in a deep network of mutually supporting positions. By 11 October the Allies had suffered 75,000 casualties. The need for reinforcements was extreme.

(2) The 2d U.S. Division, now rested and reconstituted after Blanc Mont Ridge, began its assault early in the morning on 1 November. The Marines attacked, following closely behind the rolling barrage that preceded them. Although the Germans were retreating, they still put up stiff resistance. By mid-afternoon, the Marines had reached their day's objective and after nightfall the Germans pulled out, retreating behind the Meuse River. The Brigade's advance was rapid and decisive. The following day, 2 November, was a day of rest and action was limited to probes and localized patrolling. As the advance continued, the German army became demoralized by continued night attacks. The Americans were now chasing a withdrawing enemy. By 6 November, the Marine Brigade's forward-most elements were along the Meuse River but the retreating Germans had destroyed all bridges and the Marines' crossing was repeatedly delayed. By 10 November, the German withdraw had become an out-and-out retreat and there was very little effort by the Germans to stop the Allied advance. Late in the evening on 10 November, engineers managed to get a bridge in place and the Marines forced a crossing despite heavy casualties. On 11 November 1918, the two Marine battalions and an army battalion that had crossed the river advanced out from the bridgehead and continued the attack until word of the Armistice reached them.

h. **The End of WWI**. The Treaty of Versailles ended the First World War. The 4th Marine Brigade fought in eight actions in the closing months of the War. Five of the actions were great battles and the Marines were victorious in every one of these battles. Every one of the victories except the last played a major role in forcing Germany to sue for peace.

5. **WOMEN MARINES**

a. **The First Woman Marine**

(1) On 12 August 1918, the Secretary of the Navy authorized the Commandant to enlist women in the Marine Corps Reserve to perform Clerical Duties. The next day, on 13 August 1918, Opha Mae Johnson was the first woman to enlist in the Marine Corps. She is remembered as the first woman Marine.

(2) Women in Service

(a) In all, about 300 women served as enlisted Marines during the war. Although their purpose was to release men from their office jobs for combat duties, they received instruction in drill and military ceremonies, worked under the same military regulations, took the same oath as their male counterparts, and wore a skirted version of the green service uniform.

(b) Officially, the program was named Marine Reserve (F). (The "F" denoting female) However, many nicknames came into use, the most popular and widely used being "Marinette". In 1919, the Marine Reserve (F) program became a casualty of post-war downsizing, and was disbanded.

6. **POST WWI**. During and after WWI, the Banana Wars continued in Central America and the Caribbean. Marines were consistently called upon to protect American interests and provide security in such places as Haiti, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. During this same period the concept of close air supports was implemented for the first time and the serious study of amphibious assault was undertaken. This study generated the first Manual for Landing Operations.

a. **Commandant General John A. Lejeune: Establishing a Legacy**

(1) John Archer Lejeune was born on 10 January 1867 in Louisiana. He received a B.A. from Louisiana State University and then attended the U.S. Naval Academy until he graduated in 1888. He did a two-year cruise as a cadet midshipman until 1 July 1890 when he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Thereafter, he saw action in the Spanish-American War aboard the USS Cincinnati.

(2) As a major in 1903, Lejeune was sent to Panama to lead a battalion of Marines who were helping the Panamanians with the revolting Colombians. Gen Lejeune did other foreign tours in Cuba with the Second Provisional Marine Brigade in 1912, in Veracruz, Mexico with the Second Advanced Base Regiment in 1914, and then with the 2d U.S. Division during WWI starting in 1918.

(3) On 1 July 1920, President Wilson appointed MajGen John A. Lejeune the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Lejeune remained in office until he retired in 1929.

(4) His intelligence, manners, and political savvy kept the Marine Corps relatively strong through the turbulence of the 1920s. During this time, Americans blamed the war on militarism, politicians sought popularity through pacifist, isolationist stances, and the Marine Corps fought often unpopular wars in Latin America.

(5) He also established the Marine Corps Institute and enhanced the officer corps through the Company Grade Officer's School and the Field Grade Officer's School.

b. **Formalizing the Corps' Birthday**

(1) One of the Commandant's greatest legacies stems from his decision to formalize the customs surrounding the celebration of the Marine Corps birthday.

(2) On 1 November 1921, he directed that a reminder of the honorable service of the Corps be published by every command, to all Marines throughout the globe, on the birthday of the Corps. In formations or parades, his original message and a message from the current Commandant are read to all hands.

(3) Throughout the world, wherever Marines are gathered, the birthday is further celebrated with a formal social gathering and a cake cutting ceremony. The guest of honor slices the cake with a Mameluke sword, and then two pieces are handed out.

(4) The guest of honor, oldest and youngest Marines present are recognized, and then given the first two slices of cake. The celebration then continues, often with a formal meal and dancing.

c. **Scarlet and Gold**. Commandant Lejeune also decreed that the official colors of the Marine Corps are scarlet and gold. These colors had been associated with Marines for years and Gen Lejeune made it official. Scarlet stands for the blood Marines shed and gold shows the world that Marines are bold.

7. **AMPHIBIOUS DEVELOPMENT**

a. **Lieutenant Colonel Earl H. Ellis**

(1) Earl H. "Pete" Ellis enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1900. He saw service in the Philippines, where he learned Japanese. On 6 December 1901 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. As a Maj, he served on Gen Lejeune's staff in France during WWI. Following the war, he was assigned to an intelligence section at Quantico, Virginia.

(2) At Quantico, he studied numerous merchant and seaplane captain reports of Japanese activities and in 1921 wrote a paper that stunned the world.

(3) Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol) Ellis envisioned that conflict between the United States and Japan would eventually tempt the Japanese to launch a surprise attack and destroy the American Pacific Fleet.

(4) He revolutionized Marine Corps thinking by proposing the Marine Corps would have the task of seizing and holding advanced bases for the Navy. Against Japan, these assaults would have to be made against heavily fortified islands in remote parts of the Pacific.

(5) Such thinking was revolutionary for two reasons. First, military thinkers of the day looked at the horrifying British failure to seize a foothold into Turkey at Gallipoli as an example of how modern technology would forever render senseless an amphibious assault against a defended beachhead. LtCol Ellis dismissed those

thinkers by saying such an assault will succeed with proper advanced planning and application of Naval gunfire. Second, previous Marine thinking was that the Marines would defend bases for the Navy. Ellis again challenged that assumption and the Commandant listened.

(6) In a memorandum dated 11 February 1922, Gen Lejeune wrote that is was vital to have "a mobile Marine Corps force adequate to conduct offensive land operations against hostile Naval bases..." a radical proposition at the time.

(7) Gen Lejeune and others who embraced Ellis' thinking saw that offensive amphibious tactics were developed at Quantico and tested and validated in such places as Cuba, Panama and Hawaii. The Marine Corps spent the better part of the 1930's preparing for such a war as LtCol Ellis predicted.

(8) LtCol Ellis died on 12 May 1923 at the age of 43. 18 years later his prophesies came true, but he never knew.

b. **The Founding of the Fleet Marine Force**. On 7 December 1933, Gen Russell established the Fleet Marine Force (FMF). Its mission was to execute landing operations. To this day, all Marine Corps operations focus on supporting the FMF, now called the Operating Forces**.**

NOTES:

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