



USMC Photo 142472

Marines flush out remaining Japanese hidden in Iwo's numerous caves. These Marines have just

thrown a grenade and are standing by with rifles and BARs at the ready.

morning hours. The alert Marines repulsed all attempts.

captured for posterity by the lens of civilian photographer Joe Rosenthal. The joy and the pride of the moment, however, were soon forgotten as the Marines pressed on with the war.⁵⁴

On Friday, 23 February, the 25th Marines, less the 2d Battalion, was relieved by the 24th Marines and placed in division reserve. There had been no let up in the mauling received by the 25th Marines, which by then had lost all three battalion commanders who had made the initial landing. The shift into reserve, however, was not tantamount to rest and relaxation; the regiment was kept busy mopping up pockets of resistance. The Marines did find the time to give their weapons a much needed cleaning.

The regiment stayed in reserve until 26 February, D plus 7. During the intervening 3 days the 24th Marines, with the 25th Marines' 2d Battalion still attached, fought a determined enemy force.⁵⁵ The enemy hit the Marines with everything they had from masterfully defended stretch Charlie-Dog Ridge. This ridge runs along the southeast edge of Airfield 2, curving at the far end to form a natural amphitheater and became so known.

Ferocious encounters marked the balance of the day on 23 February, and the 2d Battalion, now attached to the 24th Marines, received its share. The day's action was topped off at 1830 by a lively enemy counterattack against the battalion position. The battalion's fire and an assist from the supporting artillery combined to beat off the attack.

Now out of reserve, the 25th Marines attacked at 0830 on D plus 7, moving out with all three battalions abreast. In the 7 days of fighting already gone by, the Marines had captured 40 percent of the island at a cost of 8,000 casualties. Until now the Japanese had withdrawn from one defense position to another in accordance with General Kuribayashi's defense strategem. Now, however, with the Marines hitting the central island defenses, the enemy stood and died. This central area, known collectively as the "Meat Grinder," consisted of Hill 382, the second highest elevation on the island; the Amphitheater; Turkey Knob, a hill bristling with defenses, in ap-

The bright spot of the day, 23 February, was the raising of the American flag over Suribachi by the 28th Marines. Damp eyes and cheering, emotion-choked voices greeted this dramatic accomplishment. It was a proud moment for all Americans on the island. A second, and more famous, flag raising took place 3 hours later, the exact moment being

pearance not unlike a miniature Suribachi; and the village of Minami. The 25th Marines attacked into the Meat Grinder, its specific target being Turkey Knob. As the Marines moved into the range of the Turkey Knob defenders, machine gun fire and mortar shells challenged the oncoming attackers. Four tanks were called up to pour direct fire onto the hill, but their presence attracted still heavier mortar fire. At about 1400, a platoon from Company C attempted an envelopment of Turkey Knob, but its every step was impeded by accurate fire. It finally became necessary to order the withdrawal of this platoon. This was accomplished under the cover of a smoke screen. The 3d Battalion had greater success during the day. On the extreme right of the regimental line, it cleared the remaining enemy from the East Boat Basin which was located on the east coast, just north of the landing beaches. The battalion also seized the cliff line that overlooks the basin.

The night that followed was but an extension of the daylong nightmare. Japanese rockets sailed overhead, striking the rear areas, while to the front of the Marine lines small enemy groups probed, attempting to infiltrate. The formidable defenses of the "Meat Grinder" were integrated and mutually supporting; their interlocking fire was penetrable only by aggressive perseverance and then only at great cost.⁵⁶ The description of these defenses is somewhat reminiscent of the Russian defenses in the "Valley of Death" so aptly described by Alfred Lord Tennyson in his "Charge of the Light Brigade."

On 27 February, the regiment, once again with all of its battalions abreast, headed into the Meat Grinder. The attack got off to a halting start as the regiment was forced to move 150 yards across open terrain. The 2d and 3d Battalions moved eastward, making gains of, 200-300 yards. The 1st Battalion, on the regiment's extreme left, was bogged down by fire coming from Hill 382. Hill 382 was the responsibility of the 23d Marines and the 1st Battalion was dependent on success there before attacking Turkey Knob. The day's battle was hard-fought but without significant gains. The attack halted at 1600, at which time, the 3d Battalion was ordered into reserve and given the responsibility of defending the East Boat Basin against an enemy landing from the sea, still considered within the realm of possibility. During the night, the Japanese kept up a steady mortar barrage.⁵⁷

At 0815, the last day of February, the 3d Battalion moved north along the coast, while the 1st and 2d Battalions attacked Turkey Knob. The 1st Battalion,

with one company from the 3d Battalion, 24th Marines, began an envelopment of the target from the north. Company B headed toward the low ground southwest of the Knob to attack eastward around the Amphitheater, forming a pincers with the balance of the 1st Battalion.

Moving from the north, the 1st Battalion less Company B, entered a wooded area and advanced about 50 yards when a devastating mortar and artillery barrage hit the force. Heavy machine gun fire then opened up on the advancing Marines both from the front and the left flank. The casualties mounted, but the battalion kept firing in support of Company B.

Company B was having its own problems as the Japanese attacked with hand grenades from the high ground and swept the company with machine gun fire. With both attacks stalled, there was no choice for the Marines but to fall back to their starting positions.

The 2d Battalion gained only 75 yards, and this only after some innovative action on the part of Lieutenant Colonel Taul. When the battalion became bogged down by enemy fire, the battalion commander ordered that a 75mm pack howitzer be broken down, carried up from the rear, reassembled, and put into action. The spirits of the Marines received a boost, when after the howitzer fired 40 rounds, they were able to move forward.

The 3d Battalion, pacing itself on the beleaguered 2d Battalion, had to hold after advancing 100 yards. All battalions of the 25th Marines had battered and rammed the enemy during the day-long attack, but at day's end Turkey Knob was still in enemy hands. During the night the enemy kept raining mortar and artillery rounds onto the Marine positions. At one point during the night, a massing of enemy troops, a suspected prelude to a counterattack, was dispersed by naval gunfire and artillery.

March opened with the 25th Marines again attacking Turkey Knob with results as before. The Marine attackers hit, and hit again; they probed, punched, and in all too many cases, perished. The reduction of Turkey Knob was another job, and the Marines were relentless as they went about their work. The only significant gain for the day, about 100 yards, was made by the 2d Battalion. The night of 1-2 March was relatively quiet.

On 2 March, in an attempt to surprise the enemy, Colonel Lanigan led his regiment toward Turkey Knob without the usual artillery preparation fires. At 0630 elements of the 1st Battalion attacked the



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Marines strike a warlike pose amongst wrecked Japanese planes along the side of the airstrip on Iwo

Jima. During the battle, the wreckage provided cover and concealment for the advancing Marines.

high ground north of Turkey Knob while the balance of the battalion, with elements of the 3d Battalion, 23d Marines, attempted envelopments from both the northwest and the south. About 20 minutes after the attack began, the enemy caught on to the maneuver and opened up with machine guns. Marine mortars and artillery then responded. By 1430 the two enveloping forces were only 65 yards apart when a heavy enemy barrage fell on Company B causing many casualties. With the number of dead and wounded, Company B was no longer an effective unit and was withdrawn.⁵⁸

The 2d and 3d Battalions spent most of the day mopping up in their respective areas. Later in the day, both battalions moved to the high ground 300 yards directly to their front. The only bright note of the day in the 4th Marine Division sector was the capture of Hill 382 by the 24th Marines.

At 0500 the 23d Marines relieved the 25th Marines in the line. The 1st Battalion, 23d Marines passed through the 25th Marines' 1st Battalion and took over its position. The 2d and 3d Battalions, 25th Marines stayed in the lines and were attached to

the 23d. The battle continued through Saturday and on into Sunday. On Sunday, D plus 13, the constant pressure paid off. The Amphitheater and Turkey Knob finally were hammered into silence and bypassed. The 4th Division Marines had broken through the island's main defense. General Kuribayashi's days were coming to an end. Also on 4 March, the costly battle for Iwo paid its first dividend, a disabled B-29 landed safely on the island.

Resistance remained stubborn as the 4th Marine Division continued its dogged offense. The 2d and 3d Battalions of the 25th Marines still were attached to the 23d Marines and held the division right. The enemy had been driven from the high ground and, having lost their observation posts, the accuracy of their artillery and mortars suffered accordingly. Enemy snipers remained active and continued to take their grim toll. After 14 days of fighting the men of the 25th were exhausted, and their casualties continued to mount.

The following day, 5 March, was a day of rest, rehabilitation, and reorganization. The 2d and 3d Battalions reverted to their parent regiment. The 1st

Battalion, 25th Marines moved back into the line, relieving the 1st Battalion, 23d Marines, and found itself in the same positions that it had left on 2 March. A provisional battalion was formed, composed of Company L and the 4th Division Reconnaissance Company. Major Edward L. Asbill was given command of the new battalion. While both the day and the night were relatively quiet, the division still suffered more than 400 casualties.

General Schmidt ordered the VAC to attack in echelon on 6 March, D plus 15. The attack was preceded by preparation fire both from naval guns and 12 battalions of Marine artillery. First the western half of the front was plastered for 30 minutes, then the eastern half for a like period. In that one hour over 22,500 rounds were fired. At the end of the hour the Marine divisions moved forward, every foot of ground fiercely contested by the Japanese defenders. Only the 1st Battalion took part in the day's attack. The 2d and 3d Battalions were in reserve and were utilized in necessary mopping up activities. At the end of the day, two acute problems existed: sheer fatigue within the ranks of the VAC and a serious shortage of experienced leaders. During the day a new and worrisome Japanese tactic was discovered; five enemy bodies were found fully dressed in Marine utilities.⁵⁹

Darkness brought no respite for the men of the 1st Battalion. Approximately 50 enemy soldiers soon infiltrated the 1st Battalion's line, some actually jumping or crawling right into Marine foxholes. In the

Men of the 2d Battalion, 25th Marines display trophies won on Iwo Jima.

USMC Photo 142372



hand-to-hand encounters that ensued 13 Marines were killed. Practically the entire Japanese force was wiped out.

At 0800 on D plus 16, the division swung to the east to drive the enemy into Tachiiwa Point. The 25th Marines on the division right held a blocking position. The regiment set up a strong defensive position, machine guns were set up to cover likely avenues of approach, and 37mm guns and 60mm mortars were zeroed in. The 25th Marines' Provisional Battalion started mopping up around Turkey Knob and in the Amphitheater. During the day and night, the 25th Marines stayed in its position and waited.

On 8 March, General Schmidt's order to the VAC was to capture the remainder of the island. The 23d and 24th Marines encountered stiff resistance as they surged forward in their push onto Tachiiwa Point. The 25th Marines spent the day strengthening its defensive positions. The night brought on more cold weather. As the night progressed enemy activity increased and violent mortar, artillery, and rocket fires hit the lines of the 4th Marine Division. At 2300, the leader of the encircled *Naval Land Force*, Captain Samaji Inoue, led his men in their last charge. The enemy hit the Marine's lines with a ferocity honed by tradition. The night-long battle cost the Marines 90 dead and 257 wounded, the majority of these casualties from the 23d and 24th Regiments. The attacking force destroyed by the Marines.⁶⁰

On 9 and 10 March there was no let up of the Marine attack. Marine forces moved forward 300 yards on 9 March. On 10 March, the 25th Marines replaced the 24th in the line. The 1st and 3d Battalions drove to the southeast toward the high ground, while the 2d Battalion drove northeast, a linkup between the 2d and 3d Battalions being made around noon. The day's action had completely encircled the remaining enemy defenders in the Amphitheater and on Turkey Knob. Organized resistance was waning. The end was near.

On the morning of 11 March the 25th Marines swept to the southeast on its way to the coast. The battle continued until 14 March when the 2d Battalion, seriously depleted in numbers, was relieved by the 2d Battalion, 24th Marines.

Continuously pressuring the enemy as it moved toward the sea, the 25th Marines eliminated one enemy pocket after another, one cave at a time, during the next 2 days. At 1030 on 16 March Colonel Lanigan declared all organized resistance to be at an end in his zone.⁶¹ Colonel Walter I. Jordan's 24th

Marines moved in and relieved the 25th on the same day. The regiment pulled back and boarded transports, its job on the island finished.

The loss of Iwo Jima was considered by the Japanese high command to have, nevertheless, been a strategic victory, in that the high cost in American lives to take one small island would alert the American nation to the perilous consequences of an invasion of the Home Islands. The American people got the message.

On 19 March the 25th Marines departed for Maui. The regiment had been spawned for battle less than 2 years before, and now, four battles later, it left the war with unhealed wounds but with undaunted spirit.

The regiment spent the remainder of the war on Maui. Lieutenant Colonel William F. Parks succeeded Colonel Lanigan as commanding officer on 15 May 1945 when he, in turn, was relieved some three months later on 4 September 1945 by Colonel William W. Davis. By this time, following the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Emperor Hirohito had surrendered unconditionally. The abrupt end to the hostilities signalled a new and uncertain direction for the entire world.

In October the men of the 25th Marines bid their last aloha to Mt. Haleakala and to the people of Maui as they sailed for California. At Camp Pendleton, on 10 November 1945, its job finished, the regiment was deactivated. In the 2½ years since its birth, the 25th Marines had traveled "to hell and back."

In Reserve and Proudly

On 1 July 1962, 16½ years after its colors had been folded following its service in World War II, the 4th Marine Division was reactivated as a Reserve division.⁶² On the same date, all battalions of the 23d, 24th, 25th and 14th Marines were also reactivated as units in the 4th Division. This reactivation was the result of a recommendation to the Congress by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. The proud 4th was back in business. The reservist members of organized units could now identify, not only with the division, but with their own regiment as well, each having an admirable combat record.

The first battalion commanders of the 1st, 2d, and 3d Battalions of the 25th Marines were, respectively, Lieutenant Colonels Ernest J. Graustein, Joseph J. Fater, and Robert F. DeMeter. The history of these battalions from 1 July 1962 until the reactivation of

the Headquarters Company on 1 February 1966, covers many activities peculiar to Reserve organizations and more that are traditional duties for both regular and reserves. These activities included "Toys for Tots" collections, civic action programs, speaking before civic groups, ceremonies, parades, and funeral details. Most importantly, the history covers the training of these Marine reservists.

The training periods (drills) were usually scheduled for one weekend a month and a 2-week annual training period (ATD) each summer. The task facing the battalion and company commanders was a traditional one for Reserve commanders—make them ready. Weekend drill at nearby training areas vividly showed how effective the training had been. The final examination each year was the performance of each unit during the ATD period, usually held at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for these east coast Marines, but sometimes at the Landing Force Training Unit located at Little Creek, Virginia.

The reactivated battalions of the 25th Marines inherited an unfaltering tradition from their World War II predecessors, and there exists a continuous challenge to match that previous performance.

Reserve Year 1966

On 1 February 1966, the 1st Communications Company, Force Troops, FMF, USMCR, Worcester, Massachusetts, was redesignated Headquarters Company, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, FMF, USMCR.

Headquarters Company and the 1st Battalion, 25th Marines joined regulars from the 1st Battalion, 2d Marines to be the maneuver element for a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) during the 1966 ATD at Camp Lejeune. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Donoghue, commanding officer of the 2d Staff Group, Boston, Massachusetts, was the commanding officer of the MEU. The operation, code named Fortnight, posed a political problem in that the country of Onslow (Camp Lejeune training area) had been invaded by aggressor forces from the neighboring country of Atlantis. Onslow requested assistance from the United States to expel the invader. The U.S. response was the activation of the 34th MEU to make a combined amphibious/heliborne attack against the Atlantis positions.

On D-day, one-half of the force simulated an amphibious landing while Company A, 25th Marines was landed by helicopter. The attack of the amphibious force, the vertical envelopment, and the

eventual linkup of the two forces being successful, it was only a matter of time until the battle was won. The capture of Combat Town and the winning of the confidence of the native chief were highlights of the operation.

The same year, 1966, the 2d Battalion also attended ATD at Camp Lejeune during the last 2 weeks of August. The high point of the 2d Battalion summer training period was the 3-day problem that emphasized counter guerrilla tactics. The 3d Battalion traveled to the Landing Force Training Unit (LFTU), Little Creek, Virginia. During this training period, Company L won the award as the best company. It was Company L all the way in 1966, as it also won the award for the best squad in the squad competition. Sergeant John W. Newlon received a Letter of Commendation for his superior performance while at LFTU.

Other happenings of note found the Marine reservists busy on many fronts. Colonel Irving Schechter, Commanding Officer, 1st Staff Group (Ground), as the commanding officer of a MEU, led 2,000 Marines including the 1st and 2d Battalions in Operation Blacknite at West Point, New York. The 2-day training exercise included Marine units from four states. Colonel Schechter, no stranger to the 4th Marine Division, won the Navy Cross while serving with the division on Tinian during World War II. Two 1st Battalion officers were honored for heroism in their gallant attempts to save other Marines from drowning in a river located at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, California. The recipients of the New York State Medals of Valor were Captains John J. Gannon and Richard L. Straehl. Captain Straehl's award was made posthumously.

Marching to the tune of a different drummer, Company D of Manchester, New Hampshire, with a

Reservists from the 1st Battalion, 25th Marines pour out of helicopters during the assault phase of Reserve

rich history of community involvement, hosted an appearance of the famed U.S. Army Fife and Drum Corps from Fort Myer, Virginia. On 19 March, the tune was "McNamara's Band," as Company C Marines joined the banshees, leprechauns, and other Irishmen in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Throughout the regiment, appropriate recognition was given to the 50th anniversary of the Marine Corps Reserve. The creation of mobilization packets for each Marine in the regiment was a cogent reminder of the regiment's continuing mission.

Reserve Year 1967

As of 31 January 1967, the regimental headquarters of the 25th Marines was activated at Worcester, Massachusetts. The members of the regimental staff, for the most part, came from the deactivated 2d Staff Group (Ground), Boston, Massachusetts. Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Donoghue, commanding officer of the 2d Staff Group, was assigned as executive officer of the regiment, but functioned as the commanding officer. Later in the year, Lieutenant Colonel Donoghue was promoted to colonel.

At summer ATD, Colonel Donoghue led a regimental landing team (RLT) in a brigade landing exercise (ResMEBLEx-67). The problem involved both an amphibious and a helicopter landing of assault troops. Casualties during this period were greater than anticipated since 50 Marines of Company G suffered food poisoning while on board the USS *Monrovia* (APA 131).

Headquarters Company made a clean sweep in collecting items for the Marine Civic Action Program in Vietnam by turning in 215 pounds of soap. Company H had a serious discipline problem, resulting in

Landing Exercise at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina in 1969.

USMC Photo 7-189-69RC



the demotion of its English bulldog mascot, "Chesty," at a mock court-martial. "Chesty" was admonished both for unauthorized absence and for appearing in public without his dogtags. On a more serious note, the same company donated 131 pints of blood during the year. The year also saw the retirement of Sergeant Major Marco M. DeLuca, of Company E, who was afforded an appropriate ceremony. At Christmas time, the Marines of Company K collected for "Toys for Tots" with bouncing spirits: included in the impressive collection were 16,000 rubber balls.

On 1 September Colonel Ernest J. Graustein relieved Colonel Donoghue.

Reserve Year 1968

All elements of the regiment performed ATD at Camp Lejeune in 1968. During the ResMEBLEx-68, Colonel Graustein commanded an RLT which included Headquarters Company, and the 1st and 2d Battalions, 25th Marines; the 3d Battalion, 14th Marines a logistic support group, and a provisional Marine air group (ProvMAG). The Marines were landed to assist the country of Wolsno in reestablishing the local government. The attack on Combat Town by elements of the RLT was extremely costly, with Company D, alone, suffering 80 percent casualties. The 3d Battalion 2-week training period was culminated with a 3-day battalion field exercise.

During the year, the 1st Battalion changed its unofficial designation from "Boston's Own" to "New England's Own," in recognition of the member units located beyond the confines of Boston and Massachusetts. Mess nights were becoming popular annual affairs throughout the regiment. At the regimental mess night held at Westover Air Force Base in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts, the roast beef was found fit for human consumption. The wine toasts and good fellowship ruled the evening.

The regimental headquarters hosted an open house at the training center in Worcester, Massachusetts, commemorating the service of Worcester-born First Lieutenant John V. Power, posthumous winner of the Medal of Honor. Lieutenant Power was killed at Namur while serving with the 24th Marines, 4th Marine Division. Brigadier General Arthur B. Hanson, a former member of the same regiment, was guest speaker. At another ceremony, the 3d Battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Icke, presented the Navy Cross to

Corporal Timothy Russell. The award was made for Corporal Russell's heroic actions in Vietnam. It was a happy occasion for Gunnery Sergeants Herbert Carlson and Michael Marino, both of the 2d Battalion, when they were promoted to first sergeants on 22 March.

A two-day counter guerrilla exercise was held at West Point during the 2d Battalion's October drill weekend. Members of Headquarters and Service, F, G, and H Companies pursued the aggressors (from Company E) by truck, on foot, and by helicopter. Jet fighters flying overhead on 73 simulated missions added great realism to the exercise. The 2d Battalion was the maneuver element of a MEU. The MEU was commanded by Colonel John A. Iannone, Commanding Officer, 1st Staff Group.

In keeping with the times, all units of the regiment received training in tactics for civil disturbances during the year. The entire training program for these tactics involved 33 hours of lecture, training, and application. It was with great sadness that the 2d Battalion learned of the death in Vietnam of Staff Sergeant Alan S. Geld, former member of the battalion. Equally sad, just before Christmas, Lance Corporal George J. Heldt, II, another member of the 2d Battalion, was killed in a tragic auto accident.

Again this year, the 25th Marines performed admirably during the "Toys for Tots" campaign. The 1st Battalion reported the biggest collection of toys ever. The dedication of the 2d Battalion Marines was evident in their collection of over 75,000 toys. Not to be outdone, the 3d Battalion donated toys to over 3,800 children.

Reserve Year 1969

During the summer ATD at Camp Lejeune, the entire regiment was together for the first time since World War II. ResMEDLEx-69 was the largest air-ground exercise ever held by the Marine Corps Reserve. The Marine Expeditionary Brigade mission was to assist a friendly government with a counterinsurgency effort. Both helicopter and amphibious landings were featured during the exercise. The RLT maneuver element was under the command of Colonel Graustein. The regimental scout sniper platoon did not participate in the exercise, but instead performed its ATD at Camp Bullis in San Antonio, Texas.

Having music wherever they went, both the 1st and 2d Battalions were continually pleased with the



USMC Photo 7-222-69R

The first waves of I Company, 3d Battalion, 25th Marines, hit Onslow Beach during ResMEBLEx-69.

reception given to their respective drum and bugle corps by appreciative audiences. Members of these units contributed much of their personal time for parades and ceremonies.

Captains Joseph F. Ashe and Thomas H. Honan, both of Company C, were promoted to major during the year. Another Company C promotion saw Gunnery Sergeant Joseph C. Knapik advanced to warrant officer. Long-time member of Company B, Gunnery Sergeant Frank V. Treybal, Jr., retired after 20 years. Another retiree was the 2d Battalion's chaplain, Commander Philip P. Shannon. Company D let it be known, loud and clear, that its members' rifle qualification record for the year was 100 percent. The Marines of Company C were justifiably proud when it was awarded the General Clifton B. Cates Trophy for having been selected as the best rifle company in the 4th Marine Division. Company F, always a fine performer, was awarded the Josephthal Trophy for being the most outstanding unit of the New York naval militia.

The 1st Battalion had an extremely successful field exercise at the Leominster State Park in Leominster, Massachusetts. All of the companies of the battalion, as well as elements of the 4th Marine Aircraft Wing from South Weymouth, Massachusetts, took part in the exercise. The tactical air and helicopter support given by the wing element was outstanding. On two occasions during the year the 2d Battalion Marines had weekend problems at West Point. The first was a 2-day air-ground exercise, while the second consisted

of counter guerrilla warfare and sessions on tank/infantry tactics.

The 3d Battalion rifle team, always noted for its skill and competitive spirit, won 1st place in both the 4th District Rifle Competition and in the National Rifle Gallery Matches. Honors for the individual winner also went to the 3d Battalion, as Gunnery Sergeant James A. Vargo walked off with the high score.

The 1st Battalion headquarters saw many changes during 1969. Lieutenant Colonel Ralph R. Bagley relieved Lieutenant Colonel Howard N. Feist, Jr., and in addition, the battalion had four different personnel officers (S-1), three intelligence officers (S-2), three operations officers (S-3), three logistics officers (S-4), two motor transport officers, three supply officers, two communications officers, and even two different medical officers.

Continuing during the year to contribute to the high morale of the 2d Battalion was the battalion's bimonthly newspaper, *The Diary*. The editor, Sergeant Arthur A. Beltrone, Jr., and associate editors, Sergeants William O. Kiefer and Ralph K. Riemensperger, put in long hours to make the publications a success.

At the regimental mess night, again at Westover Air Force Base, the regimental executive officer, Lieutenant Colonel Paul W. Glover, Jr., was promoted to colonel. Honored guests at the affair were Colonels Roy J. Sously, Jr., USAF, and Robert O. Carlock, the 1st Marine Corps District Director.

Reserve Year 1970

On 16 May 1970, Colonel Nicholas A. Canzona relieved Colonel Graustein as commanding officer of the regiment. Colonel Canzona, a reservist on continuous active duty, was the ninth commanding officer of the regiment. Now, for the first time since 1945, the 25th Marines had a full-time commanding officer. Colonel Canzona was widely known throughout the Marine Corps as a military historian and coauthor with Lynn Montross of volumes 1, 2, and 3 of *U.S. Marine Operations in Korea*. The outgoing commanding officer, Colonel Graustein, was awarded the Legion of Merit for his "extraordinary professional competence, resoucefulness, and leadership ability." The presentation was made by Major General Leo J. Dulacki, commanding general, 4th Marine Division.

During the first week of ATD in 1970, Headquarters company and the regimental staff took part in the 4th Division exercise *Beagle Danger*. The second week was spent on increasing amphibious landing skills at LFTU, Coronado, California. The 2d Battalion traveled to Little Creek, Virginia for its annual 2-week training period. A battalion-size amphibious landing was made during the second week. The 1st and 3d Battalions both went to Camp Lejeune for their ATD. The emphasis of the training at Camp Lejeune was on small unit field problems.

The regiment was active on many fronts during the year. The 2d Battalion was mobilized by order of the President to assist in a postal emergency 24-26 March. Marines of Companies K, L, and M, 3d Battalion, were placed on a standby status in May because of local civil disturbances. Happily, the problems subsided so that it did not become necessary to activate the Marines. The 1st Battalion had a problem also, but it was not concerned with mobilization. The entire battalion was suffering from a shortage of experienced staff noncommissioned officers.

It was a big jump in rank in 1970 for Gunnery Sergeant Richard L. Barrett, James P. Doherty, and Frank W. Schlee who were all promoted to warrant officer. Keen-eyed Gunnery Sergeant Bernice L. Hartman proudly brought the Marine Corps Reserve National Rifle Championship home to the 3d Battalion. A patriotic chore was handled by Staff Sergeants D.H. Hudson and R. R. Pierce in lecturing on the American Flag to an audience of 250.

The year 1970 was also the 25th anniversary of the Iwo Jima landing. Fittingly, on 19 February Com-



USMC Photo 12270

Major General Leo J. Dulacki, Commanding General, 4th Marine Division, presents the Legion of Merit to Colonel Ernest J. Graustein, USMCR, for superior performance as the commanding officer of the 25th Marines.

pany C held memorial exercises. Company D gave appropriate recognition to the anniversary by having as guest of honor at its birthday ball Mr. Rene A. Gagnon. Former Marine Gagnon was one of the surviving men who raised the flag on Iwo Jima.

Reserve Year 1971

Under the watchful eye of Colonel Canzona, 2,000 Marine reservists, including 800 men of the 25th Marines, hit Onslow Beach at 0930, 27 July 1971. The 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ralph R. Bagley, acted as the maneuver element of a Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU) in exercise Hickory Woods. Observing the operation was Dr. Theodore C. Marrs, deputy assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs, and Major General Leo J. Dulacki.

Marines of Company E got a chance to use their amphibious skills in assisting in flood relief operations in Chester, Pennsylvania. Company D Marines found a way to get greater enjoyment out of a high

school football game by hosting 45 youngsters from St. Peters Orphanage. Amazing quantities of soft drink and hot dogs were consumed by the enthusiastic group. Also during the year great emphasis was placed on recruiting. The 2d Battalion alone contacted over 10,000 former Marines.

Reserve Year 1972

The entire regiment participated in operation High Boot during the 1972 ATD. The battalion commanders for the exercise were, respectively, Lieutenant Colonel George S. Ames, James L. Fowler, and Anthony J. Dowd, Jr. RLT-25 was the maneuver element of the 82d Marine Amphibious Brigade (MAB), commanded by Brigadier General Richard Mulberry, Jr. The operation spurred a "highly commendatory" message from the commanding general, 4th Marine Division.

The year also found the 25th Marines involved in countless individual and collective projects in the role of good citizens. Company C Marines volunteered their services as big brother. These same Marines hosted a party for retired children at the Belchertown State Hospital. The huge portions of ice cream and other treats furnished by the Marines were greatly appreciated by the youngsters. At Christmas time the Marines delivered over 1,000 toys to the

Beach-bound reservists from the 25th Marines move down nets into a "Mike Boat" ready to land them on Onslow Beach during their 1971 annual training exercise.

USMC Photo A343325



hospital. Again this year all battalions put great stress on the importance of recruiting.

Reserve Year 1973

Operation Deep Freeze-73 brought home to the Marines their responsibilities as a part of an international force under NATO. In October, Companies B and C, 25th Marines joined 5,000 NATO troops, a force that also included 3,000 regular Marines, in an amphibious and helicopterborne assault on the Aegean Coast of Turkey. Other participants included British Royal Marine Commandos, and troops from Italy, Greece, and Turkey.

Perhaps the "coolest" Marines in 1973 were those regulars and reserves who, as members of the 22d MAU, participated in operation Alpine Warrior at Camp Drum, New York, during a 2-week winter exercise. The operation, designed for cold weather environmental training, also involved active patrolling and a helicopter assault by Marines of Companies H and F of the 25th Marines. Regular Marines were from the 2d Marines, 2d Marine Division at Camp Lejeune. Special items of winter clothing were issued to all Marines to aid them in weathering the severe cold. At times the thermometer dropped as low as 30 degrees below zero. The most painful "wounds" occurred during the period the Marines were receiving skiing lessons.

Approximately 165 degrees difference in temperature and 3,000 miles separated the sites of Alpine Warrior and Alkali Canyon, the latter operation taking place in the Mojave Desert during the 1973 summer ATD period. Units of the 25th Marines as part of a force of 4,000 reserves and 5,000 regulars, united as the 8th MAB to defeat the aggressor forces of the mythical country of Yermo. This was the first desert exercise of such scale to be held by the Marine Corps in 40 years. While the aggressor was an imagined enemy, the scorching 135-degree temperature, the sabotaging effect of the sand on all equipment, and the uncomfortable variety of poisonous snakes and other desert life, were all very real. A common statement made by observers was, "I couldn't tell the reserves from the regulars." The joining together of regulars and reserves into an effective fighting force was envisioned by the total force concept. This concept is now policy and, in essence, states that the National Guard and Reserve forces will be used as the initial and primary augmentation of the active forces. The concept in-

Appendix B

CHRONOLOGY

- 1 May 1943 Activated as the 25th Marines at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- 20 August 1943 Departed from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- 24 August 1943 Arrived at Camp Pendleton, California.
- 11 September 1943 Assigned to 4th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, at Camp Pendleton.
- 13 January 1944 Sailed from San Diego, California, enroute to Kwajalein Atoll.
- 31 January 1944 Arrived and disembarked at Kwajalein Atoll.
- 31 January-7 February 1944 Participated in the Kwajalein Campaign.
- 7-28 February 1944 On garrison duty, Kwajalein Atoll
- 28 February 1944 Embarked on board USS *Leonard Wood*, *Middleton*, and *Heywood* for return to Maui, Hawaiian Islands.
- 8-10 March 1944 Arrived and disembarked at Maui, Hawaiian Islands.
- 12-13 May 1944 Embarked on board USS *Leonard Wood*, *Pierce*, *James O'Hara*, and other ships at Maui, Hawaiian Islands.
- 29 May 1944 Sailed from Pearl Harbor for Saipan.
- 8 June 1944 1st Battalion disembarked at Eniwetok and reembarked on board LST-267.
- 15 June 1944 Arrived and disembarked at Saipan.
- 15 June-9 July 1944 Participated in the Saipan Campaign.
- 23 July 1944 Embarked on landing craft and sailed for Tinian.
- 24 July-1 August 1944 Participated in the Tinian campaign.
- 5 August 1944 Embarked on board USS *Cape Johnson* and USAT *Anabelle Lykes*.
- 7 August 1944 Sailed from Tinian for Hawaii.
- 18-22 August 1944 Arrived and disembarked at Maui, Hawaiian Islands.
- 23 August 1944-15 January 1945 Stationed at Camp Maui, Hawaiian Islands.
- 16 January 1945 Embarked on board USS *Hinsdale*, *Napa*, *Pickens*, and *Sanborn* at Maui, Hawaiian Islands.
- 27 January 1945 Sailed from Hawaiian Islands.
- 19 February-16 March 1945 Participated in the Iwo Jima Campaign.
- 17 March 1945 Embarked on board the USS *Grimes* and *Lander*.
- 20 March 1945 Sailed from Iwo Jima.
- 5 April 1945 Arrived and disembarked at Maui, Hawaiian Islands.
- 9-12 October 1945 Units of the regiment embarked aboard *Admiralty Islands* (CVE-99) and *Kasashan Bay* (CVE-76) at Maui for San Diego, California.
- 15-18 October 1945 Proceeded to Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California.

- 10 November 1945-1 July 1962 Regimental headquarters disbanded and Reserve elements from Boston; Garden City, New York; and Cleveland redesignated as the three battalions of the 25th Marines.
- 1 February 1966 Headquarters Company, 25th Marines, redesignated from 1st Communication Company, Force Troops, FMF, USMCR, Worcester, Massachusetts.
- 16-29 July 1967 Annual Training Duty held at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Ten officers and 129 enlisted men took part in a brigade landing exercise, ResMEBLEx-67.
- 28 July-10 August 1968 Thirteen officers and 117 enlisted men participated in ResMEBLEx-68 as part of Annual Training Duty at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- 5-10 July 1969 The regiment participated during Annual Training Duty in ResMEBLEx-69, the largest air-ground exercise ever held by the Marine Corps Reserve.
- 11-26 July 1970 Annual training held at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- 25-27 September 1970 Air-ground exercise (Minuteman-70) held at training areas of Fort Devens, Massachusetts and West Point, New York.
- 24 July-8 August 1971 Annual Training Duty held at Camp Lejeune.
- 23 July-5 August 1972 Annual training exercise held at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- 7-27 July 1973 Training held in Amphibious tactics at Camp Pendleton and Coronado, California.
- 27 July-11 August 1974 Annual training exercise, Pistol Packer, held at Camp Lejeune.
- 26 July-10 August 1975 Regimental training exercise, Phoenix Light, held at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- 20 March-4 April 1976 Participated in exercise Palm Tree-3 at Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, California.

Appendix C

HONORS

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION STREAMER WITH ONE BRONZE STAR

(Saipan and Tinian, 15 June-1 August 1944)

(Iwo Jima, 19-28 February 1945)

ASIATIC— PACIFIC CAMPAIGN STREAMER WITH FOUR BRONZE STARS

(Occupation of Kwajalein and Majuro Atolls, 29 January - 8 February 1944)

(Capture and Occupation of Saipan, 15 June-24 July 1944)

(Capture and Occupation of Tinian, 24 July-1 August 1944)

(Iwo Jima Operation, 15 February-16 March 1945)

WORLD WAR II VICTORY STREAMER

(7 December 1941 - 31 December 1947)

Appendix D

MEDALS OF HONOR

The President of the United States in the name of the Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

SERGEANT ROSS FRANKLIN GRAY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following
CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Platoon Sergeant attached to Company A, First Battalion, Twenty-fifth Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 21 February 1945. Shrewdly gaging the tactical situation when his platoon was held up by a sudden barrage of hostile grenades while advancing toward the high ground northeast of Airfield No. 1, Sergeant Gray pro-



USMC Photo 310612

Sergeant Ross Franklin Gray, Medal of Honor Recipient. Sergeant Gray was killed in action, 27 February 1945.

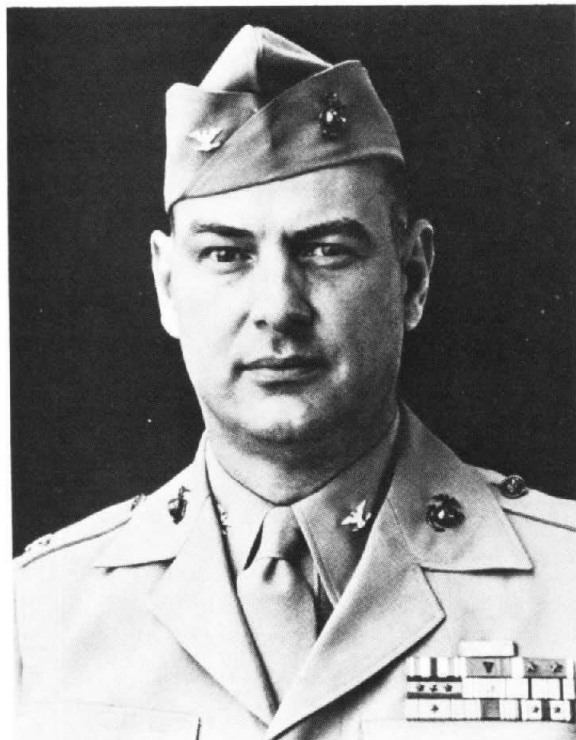
mptly organized the withdrawal of his men from enemy grenade range, quickly moved forward alone to reconnoiter and discovered a heavily mined area extending along the front of a strong network of emplacements joined by covered trenches. Although assailed by furious gunfire, he cleared a path leading through the minefield to one of the fortifications, then returned to the platoon position and, informing his leader of the serious situation, volunteered to initiate an attack under cover of three fellow Marines. Alone and unarmed but carrying a huge satchel charge, he crept up on the Japanese emplacement, boldly hurled the short-fused explosive and sealed the entrance. Instantly taken under machinegun fire from a second entrance to the same position, he unhesitatingly braved the increasingly vicious fusillades to crawl back for another charge, returned to his objective and blasted the second opening, thereby demolishing the position. Repeatedly covering the ground between the savagely defended enemy fortifications and his platoon area, he systematically approached, attached and withdrew under blaketing fire to destroy a total of six Japanese positions, more than 25 troops and a quantity of vital ordnance gear and ammunition. Stouthearted and indomitable, Sergeant Gray had singlehandedly overcome a strong enemy garrison and had completely disarmed a large minefield before finally rejoining his unit. By his great personal valor, daring tactics and tenacious perseverance in the face of extreme peril, he had contributed materially to the fulfillment of his company mission. His gallant conduct throughout enhanced and sustained the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The President of the United States in the name of Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

COLONEL JUSTICE MARION CHAMBERS
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following
CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of the Third Assault Battalion Landing Team, Twenty-fifth Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, from 19 to 22 February 1945. Under a furious barrage of enemy machine-gun and small-arms fire from the commanding cliffs on the right, Colonel Chambers, then Lieutenant Colonel, landed immediately after the initial assault waves of his Battalion on D-Day to find the momentum of the assault threatened by heavy casualties from withering Japanese artillery, mortar, rocket, machine-gun and rifle fire. Exposed to relentless hostile fire, he coolly reorganized his battleweary men, inspiring them to heroic efforts by his own valor and leading them in an attack on the critical, impregnable high ground from which the enemy was pouring an increasing volume of fire directly onto troops ashore as well as amphibious craft in succeeding waves. Constantly in the front lines encouraging his men to push forward against the enemy's savage resistance, Colonel Chambers led the 8-hour battle to carry the flanking ridge top and reduce the enemy's fields of aimed fire, thus protecting the vital foothold gained. In constant defiance of hostile fire while reconnoitering the entire



USMC Photo A47729
*Colonel Justice Marion Chambers, Medal of Honor
Recipient.*

Regimental Combat Team zone of action, he maintained contact with adjacent units and forwarded vital information to the Regimental Commander. His zealous fighting spirit undiminished despite terrific casualties and the loss of most of his key officers, he again reorganized his troops for renewed attack against the enemy's main line of resistance and was directing the fire of the rocket platoon when he fell critically wounded. Evacuated under heavy Japanese fire, Colonel Chambers, by forceful leadership, courage and fortitude in the face of staggering odds, was directly instrumental in insuring the success of subsequent operations of the Fifth Amphibious Corps on Iwo Jima, thereby sustaining and enhancing the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The device reproduced on the back cover is the oldest military insignia in continuous use in the United States. It first appeared, as shown here, on Marine Corps buttons adopted in 1804. With the stars changed to five points, this device had continued on Marine Corps buttons to the present day.

