CHAPTER III

THE GREAT WAR: QUANTICO IS BORN

At the turn of the century there was much controversy about the 5,400-man Marine Corps, its functions, and its relationship with both the U.S. Navy and the Army. Movements were afoot to give the Corps to the Army and to remove Marines from naval ships, countered by pressures to retain the Corps as an integral part of the fleet.

Shortly after the Spanish-American War, the Secretary of the Navy convened The General Board of the Navy to consider the Corps' status, along with many other questions dealing with composition of the fleet and the naval defense of the United States. The board was initially chaired by Admiral George Dewey, a staunch supporter of the Marine Corps based on experiences in the War with Spain.

With the precedents of Guantanamo Bay, the Philippines, and China concerning the use of Marines, the board's deliberations lasted several years and produced an agreement that the Marine Corps did in fact have a role in the seizure and defense of bases in support of the fleet. As Admiral Dewey said, "Marines would be best adapted and most available for immediate and sudden call for use in defending any advanced base." [1]

An "Advanced Base Force" was created to meet the new requirements. At first a battalion-size organization split between the east coast and the Philippines, the unit went through a variety of changes of size, composition, and location.

In 1910 the equipment and supplies for the Advanced Base Force were stored at Philadelphia and at Olongapo in the Philippines and the Corps was officially given custody of the material. At the same time, the Commandant was directed by the Secretary of the Navy to ". . . take the necessary steps to instruct the officers and men under your command in the use of this material." [2]

On 18 April 1910, the Commandant submitted a proposal to the Secretary of the Navy for an Advanced Base School to be set up at New London, Connecticut, for training Marine officers in the attack and defense of advanced naval bases. The curriculum included practical field work as well as classroom time. Among the subjects taught were field fortifications, obstacle construction, demolitions, mines, map reading, artillery, coastal defense, communications, and naval ordnance. A year later the school was moved to Philadelphia which became the home of the East Coast part of the Advanced Base Force.[3]

By 1913 the concept of a Marine Corps Advanced Base Force matured with a peacetime strength of one 1,250-man defense regiment to be stationed at Philadelphia and another of similar size at Mare Island, California. Wartime strength called for at least 5,000 Marines, with 3,500 of these to be in the east.[4]

After a time of accumulating equipment, supplies, and training manuals, and forming special signal, engineer, and artillery units to support the infantry, the newly organized 1st Advanced Base Brigade sailed from Philadelphia on 3 January 1914, under command of Colonel George Barnett, for the first full-scale field exercises in the Caribbean. This joint Marine-Navy exercise was designed to test materials, organization, and techniques.[5]

Although generally a success, the exercise pointed out many problem areas in coordination and logistics, the resolution of which was to prove of great benefit to the Marine Corps in years ahead.

Despite their embryo status, elements of the Advanced Base Force proved their worth in Marine Corps operations in Veracruz, Mexico, in April 1914, in Haiti in 1915, and in Santo Domingo in 1916. Further training and testing of this new force was interrupted by events in Europe which were rapidly approaching a climax.

The assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, on 28 June 1914, brought to a head growing nationalism, political intrigue, and a long series of diplomatic crises in Europe. Austria-Hungary de-

clared war on Serbia one month later. Russia, which supported Serbia, mobilized on 30 July and Germany, which had treaty obligations to Austria, declared war on Russia on 1 August 1914 and France on 3 August.

Germany invaded Belgium on 4 August and Great Britain entered the war the same day. Within a month and six days after the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the major powers of Europe were at war with one another.

The first two years of war ended in a stalemate. Germany and the other Central Powers were successful on land while Britain was winning on the sea with an effective blockade of the Central Powers. German retaliation for the blockade prompted much anti-German feeling in the United States, especially after Germany sank the British passenger ship *Lusitania* in May 1915, with the loss of hundreds of passengers including many Americans.

Successful Allied propaganda, German submarine warfare, and U.S. economic interests influenced American public opinion—toward the side of Great Britain and her Allies. While President Wilson tried unsuccessfully to bring the opposing sides to the peace table, America began in late 1915 and throughout 1916 to prepare for its possible role in Europe's war.[6]

As part of this preparation for war, but also as part of the Advanced Base Force concept, a Marine Corps Recruit Depot was opened at Parris Island, South Carolina, in October 1915, taking over recruit training from Norfolk, Virginia. San Diego, California, became a west coast Marine base in January 1916, and facilities at Mare Island, California, were expanded.[7]

The 11th Marine Regiment presents its colors at a parade held on 20 June 1918 for legislators and members of the Allied Mission visiting Quantico. (USMC Photo 518476).

In mid-1916 the strength of the Corps was about 11,000 officers and men. The National Defense Act of 29 August 1916, authorized an increase to almost 15,600 Marines, with provisions for expanding the Corps to 18,100 in an emergency.[8]

The Marine Corps planned to use the additional men to fill out the Advanced Base Force to a wartime strength of 5,000 men, to provide 7,000 Marines for duty with the Army, and to beef up other Marine detachments.[9]

The plan was to stretch expansion over one year from the National Defense Act. Recruiting proceeded at a leisurely pace and by the end of 1916 the Corps had added no officers and less than 1,000 enlisted Marines.[10]

Where to put these new Marines and the others to come was a problem. San Diego and Mare Island had adequate facilities for the West Coast, but the war was going on in Europe and attention was drawn in that direction. It soon became apparent that the Marine Corps needed a suitable location on the East Coast to organize, train, and exercise its forces.

Until the expansion, the Corps had trained its men at Navy bases, but the Naval Appropriation Bill of August 1916 tacked on to the National Defense Act allowed the Navy to increase enlisted strength to 150,000 men, and the Corps was being pushed out of its usual training sites as shore bases expanded in anticipation of the Navy's wartime needs.

Even without the Navy's expansion, the Corps probably could not have sheltered and trained its new personnel with facilities then in use. Growth of the Corps in 1916 and 1917—plus later increases—would rapidly have outrun all existing facilities.

Aside from the expected requirements of war in Europe and the resultant expansion of the Corps, many senior Marine officers believed that the Corps needed an East Coast base just for the Advanced Base Force. The force, a brigade of infantry plus artillery and service units, needed more space for quartering, training, and storage than the Philadelphia Navy Yard had. An area with suitable tactical terrain for artillery and infantry maneuvers and that could be reached by water and rail was needed. This requirement had been discussed by the Navy's General Board years earlier, but no decision was made.[11]

With these two important considerations—the needs of the Advanced Base Force and anticipated war requirements compounded by Navy takeover of traditional Marine training areas—the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General George Barnett, began searching for an East Coast base emphasizing that he ". . . did not want a base within the limits of an active navy yard as the industrial and other Navy requirements paramount there would probably crowd out the Marine Corps activities." [12]

Before the search got underway, however, President Wilson in March 1917 used the emergency powers in the National Defense Act of August 1916 to further increase the Corps to 18,100 men.

Events then moved quickly and before a site could be found for a base, the United States declared war on Germany, 6 April 1917. On that day, the Corps had 13,700 Marines, several thousand short of the strength authorized almost a year earlier. These men were distributed among 25 posts within the United States, over 2,200 were serving on board 32 Navy ships around the world, while almost 5,000 were in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and at eight other foreign duty stations.[13]

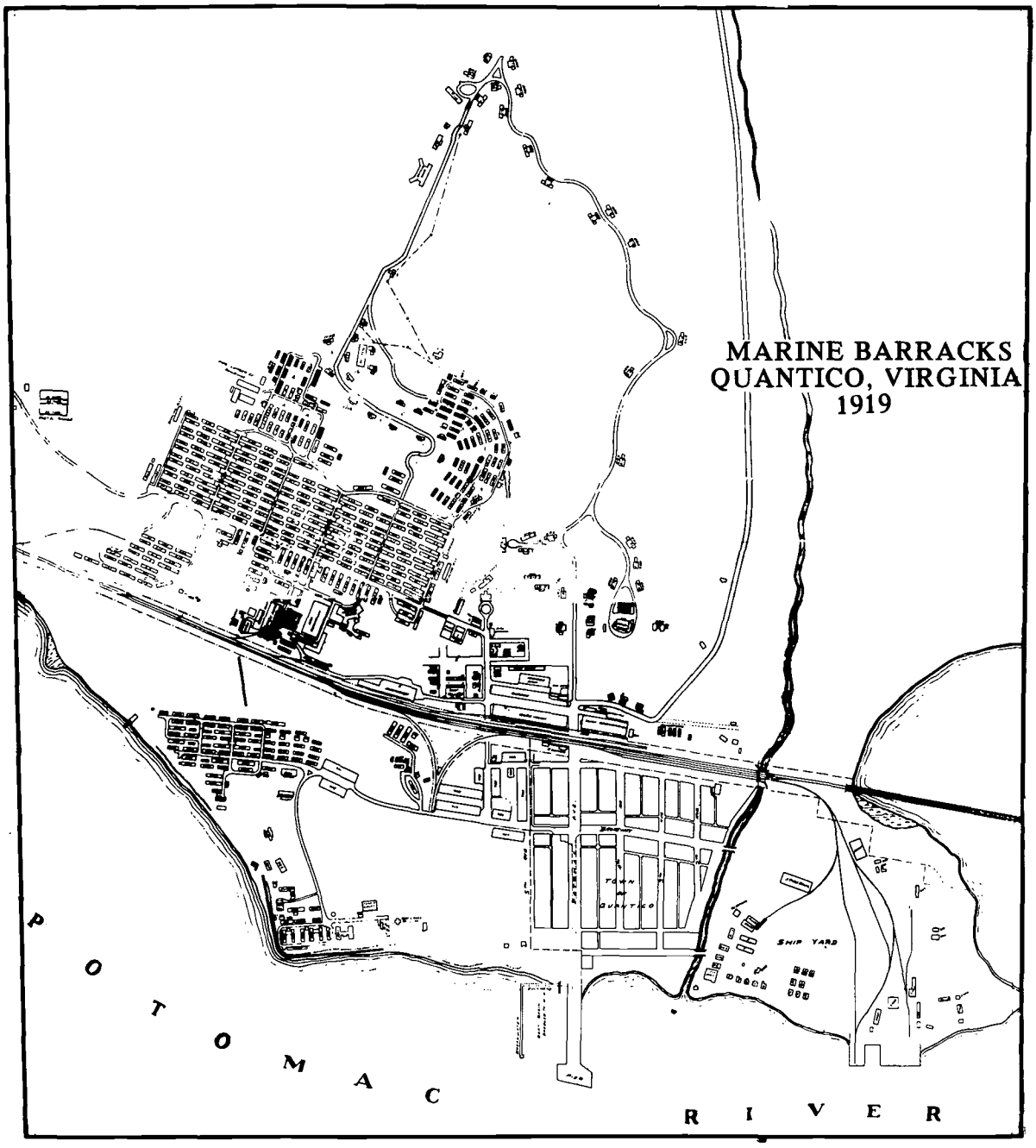
With the coming of war, the Marine Corps lost no time in its quest for an East Coast base.

On the same day that war was declared, the Major-General Commandant appointed a board ". . . for the purpose of recommending a site in this [Washington] vicinity for a temporary training camp and maneuver field for the Marine Corps," and told the board ". . . this site should be of sufficient size to accommodate approximately 7,500 men, with the necessary maneuver field and target ranges." Colonel Charles A. Doyen, Lieutenant Colonel George Van Orden, and Captain Seth Williams made up the board.[14]

The board made several tours in the vicinity of Washington, D.C., and after checking some proposed sites, picked one for a camp of 7,000 men, and another close by for a maneuver area. The locations were inspected by other Marines and after brief deliberations were ruled unacceptable.

On 16 April 1917, the Commandant sent the board back into the field and they went the next day to Quantico, Virginia, and inspected a proposed camp there. The land they looked at belonged to the Quantico Company which was not having much success getting rid of it. Despite the company's efforts at selling lots and laying out streets in the town of Quantico, the shipbuilding program and the tourist business, the Quantico Company was in financial trouble. It owned more real estate than it could properly dispose of.[15]

A few days after inspection of the Quantico site, Brigadier General John A. Lejeune, Assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, wrote


MARINE BARRACKS
QUANTICO, VIRGINIA
1919
POTOMAC RIVER
SHIP YARD

to his friend Brigadier General Littleton W. T. Waller on 21 April 1917, saying:

> I think we have about made arrangements here for a very fine place for a temporary training ground on the Potomac at Quantico. It has very good water facilities and also some public utilities which we can use. However, no final decision has yet been reached. There will be ample ground at this place for both military and infantry combat firing. Winthrop, Maryland, which is nearby can be used for known distance firing.[16]

On 23 April 1917, the board told the Commandant ". . . it is believed that the site at Quantico fulfills all requirements of a concentration and training camp for the Marine Corps, and has all the requirements for a permanent post, except that it is not on deep water." [17]

The recommendation was accepted and after some negotiations with the Quantico Company, the U.S. Government leased about 5,300 acres of land around the town of Quantico. The site had room for 7,000 men with maneuver areas and space for infantry and artillery target ranges.

When the war broke out, temporary recruit depots were opened at the Navy Yards in Philadelphia and Norfolk to handle new enlistees. Philadelphia had a capacity of 2,500 recruits at one time while Norfolk could handle only 500. These facilities were used until the new recruit depots at Parris Island, South Carolina, and the one at Mare Island, California, could accommodate the new Marines. Both bases were feverishly building and expanding to take care of the temporary increases in the Corps' size.

Recruit training in April 1917 was eight weeks long at Parris Island. At Mare Island, recruits got 12 weeks of training until a month after the war started when training was cut to nine weeks and then to eight. Eight weeks remained the standard for the rest of the war.

The Corps planned to take graduates of the recruit depots plus incoming officers and send them all to the new base at Quantico for realistic advanced training that would prepare them for combat in France. With a site located and a mission in mind, the next step was to set up a camp.

On 2 May 1917, the Commandant appointed another board ". . . for the purpose of selecting a site for temporary buildings at the Marine Corps Camp of Instruction, Quantico, Va." This board was made up of Brigadier General Lejeune, Lieutenant Colonel Robert H. Dunlap, Major Seth Williams, a Navy civil engineer, and a Navy medical officer, W. L. Mann.[19]

The visitors were not impressed by what they saw.

> An inspection between south and north-bound trains showed a few sleepy houses along a dusty street which ended at a small wharf. The hills beyond were covered with pine and a tangle of underbush. Two hundred laborers were cutting a road through the forest (now Barnett Avenue). To the left of the settlement was a swampy pond, and a rutted wagon trail led to a cornfield. The entire area was roughly segmented by three creeks that meandered down from the hills and fanned out into the marshes bordering the Potomac. The outlook was not pretty—a primitive corduroy road, connecting with the outside world (half an hour from Quantico to Triangle was fast time), red clay, quagmires, and five thousand acres in the camp.[20]

Despite appearances of the area, the board picked sites for initial encampments and returned to Washington, D.C.

On the 14 May 1917, the 9th Company of the Artillery Battalion from the Marine Barracks, Annapolis, Maryland, consisting of 91 enlisted men, 4 officers, and 2 hospital corpsmen under command of Major Chandler Campbell, arrived at Quantico by boat and began to set up a training camp for Marines.[21] Hard on the heels of the first group, the remainder of the light artillery battalion arrived.

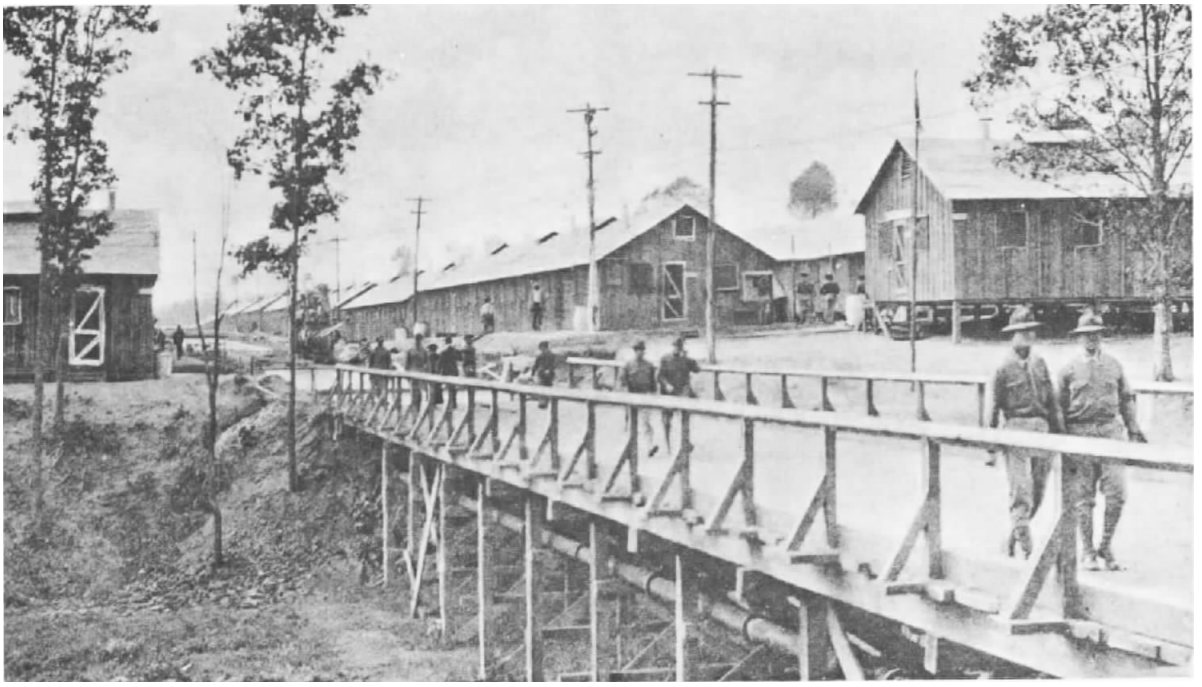
Major Campbell was appointed the first commanding officer (temporary) of "Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va.," by the Commandant on 14 May 1917. Two days later, the Secretary of War asked his Navy counterpart to provide a regiment of Marines organized as infantry to accompany the Army's expeditionary force to France.

On 18 May—four days after the base opened—the first Marines began pouring in for training. Initial plans were that Quantico would house about 3,500 men, with a headquarters, hospital, kitchen, messhall, bath house, barracks, storehouses, and utilities. To start with, though, everyone was housed in tents.

Almost before the Marines at Quantico could get started, Congress authorized another increase in the Corps' strength to 31,300 on 22 May 1917.

A few days later, 29 May, the Secretary of the Navy directed the Commandant to ". . . organize a force of Marines to be known as the Fifth Regiment of Marines for service with the Army as part of the first expedition to proceed to France in the near future." [22] A base detachment of about 1,000 men was to be sent later as replacements.

This decision followed much discussion within the Naval Service regarding employment of Ma-



Bridge at the main entrance to Quantico on Barnett Avenue. Old maps label the runoff River Styx. The long line of barracks was replaced by brick "letter" barracks in the 1930s. An underground storm sewer now runs through the filled-in runoff. (Leatherneck Magazine Photo).

rines. The Chief of Naval Operations wanted Marines to serve only with the Navy during the war, but the Commandant held fast to the idea that Marines should fight alongside the Army, thus ensuring a greater role for the Corps and enhancing its expansion.[23]

The 5th Regiment had recently returned from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, as part of the Advanced Base Force and disbanded in late 1916. Upon receipt of the Secretary's order, elements of the former 5th were hastily recalled from Santo Domingo and Haiti, and the 5th Regiment was formed again 7 June 1917 under Colonel Charles A. Doyen. Two companies were made up from troops at Norfolk, Virginia. One company was organized at Pensacola, Florida, and another at Quantico out of troops who had just arrived and barely unpacked. These four companies completed the 1st Battalion under Major Julius S. Turrill who had taken command of Quantico from Campbell on 25 May. The companies from Norfolk and Pensacola met at Quantico and after brief but intense training, Major Turrill took his battalion to Philadelphia to join the rest of the 5th leaving command of Quantico with Colonel Albertus W. Catlin.

Two more battalions were formed at Philadelphia out of Marines who had belonged to the old 5th Regiment of the Advanced Base Force.

On 14 June 1917 the initial contingent of the 5th sailed for France on board the transports *Henderson, De Kalb,* and *Hancock,* arriving on 27 June. A second increment left on the 17th. By 2 July the entire regiment was in Europe.[24]

Thus, just 10 weeks after the declaration of war which found the Corps spread around the world, the 5th Regiment of 70 officers and 2,700

5th Marine Regiment boards the USS Henderson *from the pier at Potomac Avenue in Quantico. The departure of Marines for service in France during World War I and for expeditionary duty in the Caribbean was a frequent event. (Quantico Photo 012–1280–3–75, courtesy of LtCol C. T. Lamb, USMC (Ret.)).*

enlisted Marines—about one-sixth of the enlisted strength of the Corps—left for war and formed one-fifth of the first increment of American troops sent to Europe.[25]

As Marines from recruit depots poured into Quantico, the Corps was also building up its officer strength.

After war was declared the Corps drew its officers from numerous sources. Naval Academy graduates, former Marine officers, former Navy officers, Marine warrant officers and noncommissioned officers, reserve officers, National Naval Volunteers, graduates of civilian military colleges, civilians with prior military experience, and other civilians who passed nationwide competitive examinations were put into Marine officer uniforms.

Officers from civilian life were first sent to Mare Island, California; San Diego, California; Parris Island, South Carolina; or to the Marine Corps Rifle Range at Winthrop, Maryland, for indoctrination pending completion of facilities at Quantico.[26]

In keeping with tradition, the Corps drew large numbers of its officers from enlisted ranks. Shortly after war began, commanders throughout the Corps were allotted a quota of officer candidates based on unit strength, and were required to convene boards of at least three officers to examine potential officers among enlisted Marines. Board reports were sent to Headquarters Marine Corps where another board reviewed the applications and selected the best qualified.

The first group of 345 new officers drawn from civilian life, Marine enlisted ranks, and other sources, arrived at Quantico in July 1917 to begin training as troop leaders. The new lieutenants were formed into four companies and underwent a three-month course at the "officers camp of instruction," graduating in October 1917. This school was only temporary and was not formalized until months later.[27]

This first officers training school at Quantico can trace its beginning to 1891 when Marine Corps General Order No. 1 established the School of Application at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., as the first formal resident school for Marine officers. The school opened 1 July 1891 with seven officers who had recently graduated from the Naval Academy. After 12 years the school moved to Marine Barracks in Annapolis, Maryland, and was renamed the Marine Officers' School in 1909. In 1910 it moved to the Naval Disciplinary Barracks, Norfolk, Virginia.[28]

Under the 1916 expansion of the Corps, 23 new officers commissioned from the ranks went

Moving day at the Marine Camp, Quantico, during World War I. (USMC Photo 517945).

to the Marine Officers' School for a short time in September 1916 before going to a combat unit. More small groups followed, but many new officers were rushed off to join units leaving for France without any formal schooling. Without students, the school all but closed, and it was decided to move the instructional effort to Quantico where individual replacements and new units were being formed for the war. Quantico was where all new officers were going and that should be the place where they received their training.

The Officers' Training School at Norfolk went out of business in July 1917 and became the nucleus of the Officers' Camp of Instruction at Quantico where weapons, tactics, and troop leading were taught new lieutenants before they jointed units en route to France.

As the 5th Regiment left for France and new Marine officers assembled at Quantico, the formation and training of the 5th Regiment Base Detachment had begun at Quantico under Lieutenant Colonel Hiram I. Bearss. The 1,200-man detachment, organized into a machinegun company and four rifle companies, lived in tents amidst a cornfield which is now a parade field, and left for Philadelphia at the end of July on the way to France.[29]

Also in July the Secretary of the Navy had offered another regiment of Marines to the Secretary of War and the Army quickly accepted. On 26 July orders came down to Quantico to form the 6th Regiment of Marines under Colonel

Catlin as the next major contingent of Marines to go to France and fight alongside the Army.

The 6th, which had more time to get organized than its predecessor, was brought to strength by volunteer recruits and a large proportion of young college men who had enlisted in droves shortly after war was declared. Experienced Marines were drawn from all posts of the Corps. Battalion and company officers were all regular officers while junior officers were in most cases recently commissioned.

A machinegun battalion was formed at Quantico on 17 August consisting of a headquarters and two companies armed with 16 Lewis guns each. Initially named the 1st Machine Gun Battalion, the unit trained intensely under British machinegun instructors fresh from France. Two additional companies were added later.

The Marines who arrived at Quantico during the summer of 1917 to form these new organizations had few favorable observations. According to one early arrival: "The mode of transportation in those days was mostly ox-cart, horse and wagon, and some saddle horses. Many times I have seen those ox-carts and wagons bogged down in the mud of what is now Broadway (the main street in Quantico town). The mud on the street was almost knee-deep on rainy days." [30] From those 1917 Marines, Quantico quickly earned the title of "Slippery Mud Virginia."

Another observed that:

> In the area of the Marines' reservation there was not a single brick or stone building except the old hotel, a relic dating back almost to the Civil War. There were a few temporary wooden shacks, but not many, one of them the old Quartermaster's Depot on a spur of the railroad. Only a few fathoms of concrete had been laid on Barnett Avenue destined to be Quantico's Main Street. Contractors were working feverishly to extend this roadway. Everywhere else was mud, a slippery, red, gumbo-like variety, into which the foot sank ankle-deep after a rain.
>
> In the village, outside the military reservation, were two brick buildings, occupied by the bank and drug store. There were also two wooden shacks, tenanted respectively by the town barbershop and by a restaurant presided over by Pete-the-Greek, a worthy destined to serve ham and eggs to hungry Marines for a score of years.
>
> Up and down the unpaved road between the railroad station and the wharf toiled a miscellaneous assortment of vehicles consisting largely of ox-carts loaded with hay. Rumor had it that after a hard rain, these hay-wagons would frequently sink into holes in the street until only the horns of the oxen and the heads of the drivers were visible. Roads connecting Quantico with the rest of the United States were practically nonexistent. A trip to Washington in wet weather was an adventure ranking with Admiral Byrd's dog-sled journey to the South Pole.
>
> From Post Headquarters where I reported, I trudged what seemed like miles through sticky gumbo to the Officers' Training Camp, as it was then known, far beyond the spot where the paving on Barnett Avenue ended. The School was backed against the R. F. and P. tracks, flanked by a couple of ravines.[31]

Summer of 1917 was considered to be one of the hottest ever recorded. One resident recalled that a Carter's Little Liver Pills thermometer nailed to a company barracks often registered 110 degrees in the shade. With the heat, the mud disappeared temporarily and dense clouds of red dust took its place.

Others who arrived in the summer of 1917 observed that "... there was a town ... just a few wooden houses and a store and that was all ... We spent the first night sleeping in an open-air dance pavilion on the edge of town." Crude wooden barracks were built on land speckled with tree stumps and corn stubble. Barracks as well

Jeffery Quad cargo trucks at Quantico in 1918. During the fall rains, the unpaved streets became a quagmire of mud that required the use of chains on the solid rubber-tired wheels. (USMC Photo 518095).

as tent camps were built on the edge of Quantico town.

As the Marines came, the town of Quantico found itself in a unique situation—the Potomac was on one side and Marines were everywhere else. The only road into town ran through Marine Corps property and there were many serious meetings between town and Marine officials to settle a myriad of delicate situations.

Another Marine remembered Quantico as being "hot as a pistol or muddier than a pigsty." Another pointed out that "... we didn't have any laundry at first so we built a ramp over the Potomac River, stood in the river, washing out our clothes on the ramp."

"There wasn't any water," another remarked. "We borrowed from farmers' wells until they ran out, then asked the railroad if we could tap their water tower. They said no. We tapped it." [32]

Sanitation was a problem from the start. Within three weeks from the opening of the base there were 1,000 Marines on board with no provisions for garbage disposal and no sewer system. Various types of field incinerators were tried, as was burying in large pits. The incinerators didn't work properly and the pits filled faster than 15 laborers working full time could dig new ones. Another project was to load waste on lighters and dump it several miles down the Potomac, but this did not work out. Finally, a huge hillside incinerator was built which managed to keep abreast of the problem.[33]

In the early days all water was hauled by carts from two wells near the railroad bridge over Little Creek.

Mosquitoes were another big problem and much time was spent by medical personnel combating this menace. Troops slept under netting whenever available, and hundreds of Marines worked hard filling in swamps and spraying wet areas to destroy mosquito breeding grounds. Meningitis, pneumonia, influenza, measles, mumps, and chicken pox added to the health and sanitation problems.

On 17 August 1917, the post hospital with a 100-patient capacity moved from tents to a new woodframe building. By that time enough wooden barracks had been built to house all troops except the 5th Regiment Base Detachment, and most of the tents came down. Some of the buildings had been ferried across the Potomac on Navy barges from the old Marine Barracks at Stump Neck, Maryland.

Brigadier General John A. Lejeune took command at Quantico in late September 1917, and recalled:

> Although a sufficient number of barracks buildings to house the personnel were completed, a large amount of construction work still remained to be done, including concrete roads and streets. A great gymnasium building, containing a large assembly hall and other desirable facilities such as the post library, was in process of construction also . . . the lack of housing facilities for married officers at Quantico was a serious handicap, as it was necessary for all but a few who obtained rooms at the small hotel there to seek shelter for their families in

Tent drill on the grounds in front of the old hospital on Picnic Point, now the site of Ellis Hall. (Leatherneck Magazine).

Fredericksburg, Alexandria or Washington, and to commute to Quantico."[34]

General Lejeune himself commuted daily from Washington, D.C.

The hotel to which Lejeune referred was built in the 1880s on "Rising Hill" overlooking the town of Quantico. It played an important role in Quantico's efforts to become an excursion center before the Marines arrived, and served as officers' quarters from 1917 on. Officers who lived there said it had "eight more bathrooms than the Emporium in Kansas City."

The Quantico Hotel became Marine Corps property in 1918 and was renamed "Waller Hall" in memory of Major Littleton W. T. Waller who had become one of the Corps' heroes because of his exploits on the island of Samar in the Philippines during 1901.

When the Marines took over, the building became a bachelor officers' quarters. Waller Hall served as officers' quarters and an officers' club until 20 October 1968, when it had to be closed because of structural failure. As the building was being torn down, it was discovered that it had been built over one of the Evansport Confederate gun positions.[35]

Only days before Lejeune took command at Quantico, the 1st Battalion of the 6th Regiment —which had been training at Quantico since the end of July—left for Philadelphia and boarded the *Henderson* there on 16 September 1917 for France. Two other battalions of the 6th remained at Quantico for a short time.

Along with getting the units ready for the war in France, General Lejeune had another serious problem to contend with.

On 13 September 1917, exactly one month after the new hospital opened, it received the first cases of the then-dangerous influenza on what later was named "Black Friday."

Within twenty-four hours of General Lejeune's assumption of command, 130 Marines had been admitted to the hospital with influenza and 233 were admitted the next day. Over 1,600 Marines were down with the disease by the end of September; barracks were converted to hospital wards and the small staff of medical personnel worked around the clock. The epidemic lasted through mid-December 1917. More than 4,000 cases had been treated with 140 deaths.[36]

But influenza did not halt the organization and training of Marines.

Stemming from a decision in June 1917 to increase the Philadelphia-based Advanced Base Force to 8,000 Marines organized into two infantry regiments with supporting units and artillery, the 8th and 9th Regiments were formed at Quantico in the fall of 1917. At that time the United States expected the European war would last longer than it did, and officials feared that

Waller Hall, the former Quantico Hotel, served as quarters for bachelor officers beginning in 1917. (Quantico Photo 012-0244-1-77).

the German Fleet would reach the high seas and threaten the Caribbean. If so, an advanced naval base would be needed in the Caribbean to defend the Panama Canal and other important possessions. Marines would be required to defend this base, plus serve as a general backup force in case of an unexpected emergency.[37]

The 8th Regiment was formed 9 October 1917, and Colonel Laurence H. Moses took command on 3 November. With 40 officers and 1,200 enlisted Marines, he moved the regiment to Texas to protect the critical oil industry from expected German sabotage. The regiment remained in Galveston throughout the war, training and performing arduous guard duty.[38]

The formation of the 8th was followed closely by the departure of the 3rd Battalion of the 6th Regiment, which left Philadelphia on 30 October on board the *Von Steuben* for France.

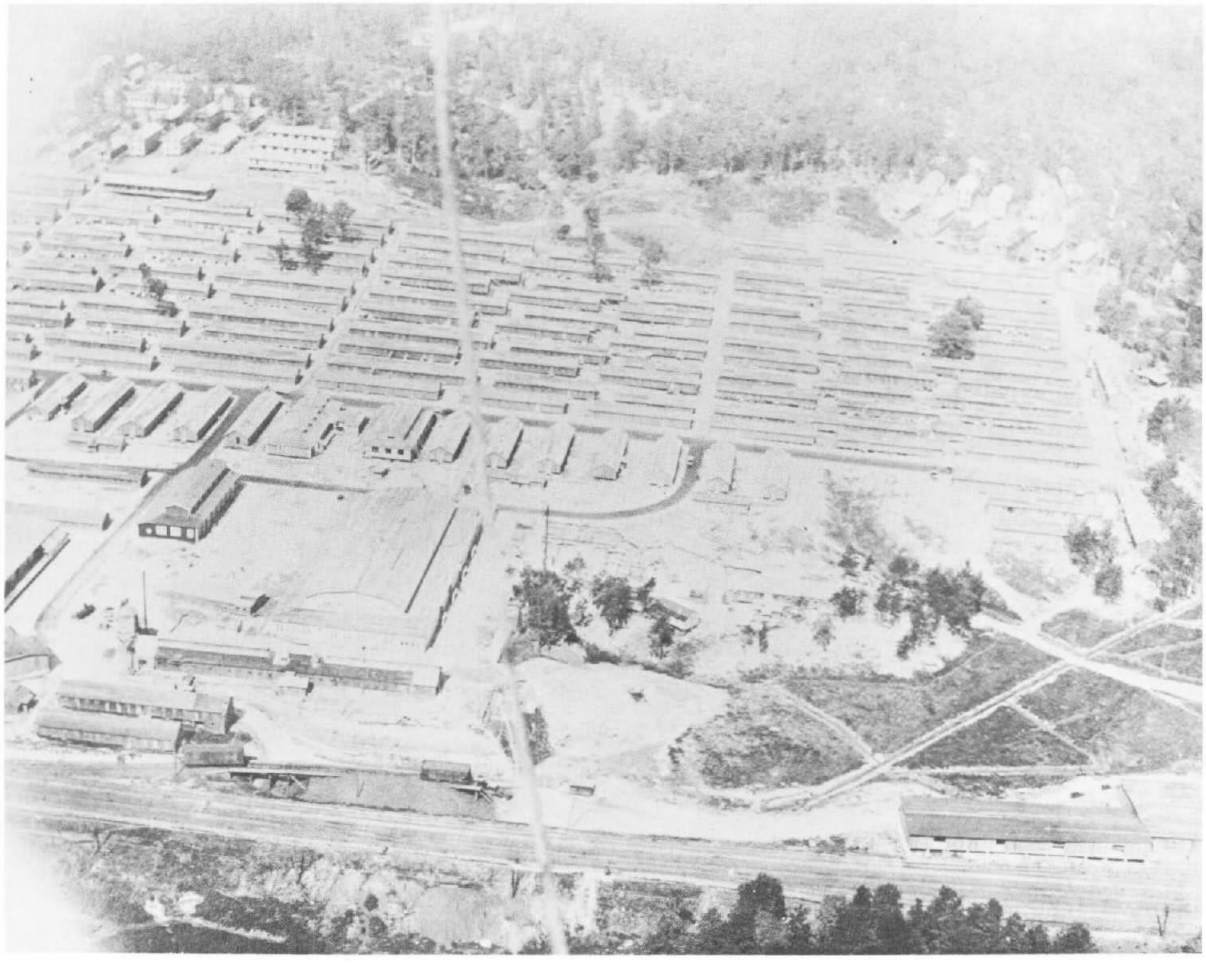
The regimental commander of the 6th, Colonel Catlin, had sailed for France on 16 October aboard the *De Kalb* with his staff, machinegun, and supply companies.

The 9th Regiment was formed 20 November 1917, and began a long period of organization and training. It eventually was sent to the Caribbean—mostly to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but also to other Caribbean islands. It never saw service in France.

The Advanced Base Force Headquarters remained at Philadelphia with some supporting units.

With the departure of the 8th and the establishment of the 9th Regiment, winter came to Quantico and Marines in training there were faced with another set of extremes.

A resident at the time recalled:



The oldest known aerial view of Quantico Marine Camp about 1919, with the old gymnasium the large building in the left foreground. (USMC Photo 530212).

> When winter came the cold proved as intense as the heat had been six months before. The thermometer took a nose-dive. Gossips reported that a minimum of 17 degrees below zero was reached. The ice on the Potomac reminded all and sundry of Russia's White Sea in the winter. Sixteen-inch shells from the Naval Proving Ground at Indian Head, Maryland, failed to penetrate and skipped along the surface of the ice fields for miles to the great alarm of a few hardy souls who occasionally went skating. Bobby Nelson, then a first lieutenant, and Aide to the Post Commander, bushkowed a yoke of oxen and dragged a couple of these monster shells ashore. They were mounted on concrete bases and stood before the old Officers' Club on the bluff overlooking the Potomac. . . .[39]

During that especially cold winter of 1917–1918, General Lejeune described the feeling he experienced as his Marines completed their training and embarked for France:

> . . . it was a heartbreaking winter for those of us who were left behind. Unit after unit entrained and departed for the mysterious land where battles raged . . . always at six o'clock in the morning the detachments left. What bleak, cold, wintry mornings they were. Once the thermometer registered 14 degrees below zero. All of those left behind stood along the railway tracks and shouted three lusty cheers for their departing comrades, while the bands played until instruments froze. As we turned away to resume our daily tasks, how heavy-hearted we were![40]

One of the last units to leave in 1917 was the 1st Machine Gun Battalion initially formed during August. The battalion left Quantico in early December and on the 8th boarded the *De Kalb* at Newport News, Virginia, for France. Upon arrival it was redesignated the 6th Machine Gun Battalion.

By the end of 1917, scores of 50-man barracks had been completed, with separate messhalls, kitchens, and lavatories for each barrack. A cold storage plant with a capacity of 15 tons of ice daily and 15,000 cubic feet of cold storage, and a laundry for government linen were under construction. The buildings were of simple construction but were screened and double-floored.[41]

Meanwhile, the Quantico Company which leased the land to the Marine Corps still wasn't doing well financially and made an offer on 8 December 1917 to sell the Corps, ". . . all of the property now covered by your lease at Quantico," and another piece of real estate, for $500,000. The offer contained a threat that the company might ". . . be forced to make some other disposition of its property to take care of its financial obligations" if the U.S. Government did not see fit to purchase it.[42]

The Corps leaped at the opportunity, and on 2 January 1918 the Commandant appointed a board to make a recommendation as to the land required at Quantico for the quartering, instructing, target practice, and maneuvering of one brigade. The board's report was to be an estimate of the land required for a Marine Corps base considering both the requirements for a wartime staging base and a permanent East Coast location for the Advanced Base Force.

The board, consisting of Brigadier General Lejeune, Lieutenant Colonel Dunlap, and Major Henry L. Roosevelt, made its report on 25 January 1918.

Congress accepted the board recommendation and enacted legislation approved by President Wilson on 1 July 1918. The legislation authorized the President to acquire the land as a permanent Marine Corps post and the sum of $475,000 was appropriated. The parcel of land included all that occupied by Marines in training plus a 1,200-acre piece west of U.S. Highway 1. President Wilson's proclamation making Quantico a permanent base was not issued until 4 November 1918. On 11 December 1918, almost a month after the war was over, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels authorized the Marine Corps to take official possession of the land.

Although the Quantico Company had originally offered the land for sale at $500,000, and during the course of negotiations the price even went to $575,000, the land was finally sold for $475,000.[43]

As 1918 dawned at Quantico the hospital which had suffered through the influenza epidemic had expanded to hold 400 patients and had seven dispensaries scattered around the base with a combined staff of 50 officers, 25 female nurses, and 500 corpsmen.[44]

The final unit of the 6th Regiment, the 2d Battalion, left Quantico in early January and embarked at Philadelphia on 19 January on the *Henderson*, arriving in France on the 5th of February.

Once all of the 6th Regiment and 6th Machine Gun Battalion had arrived in France, it combined with the 5th Regiment to form the 4th Marine Brigade—the largest tactical unit of Marines ever assembled up to that time. Together with the 3d Army Brigade, the Marines formed the U.S. 2d Division.[45]

The 4th Brigade, consisting of an average of 258 officers and 8,200 enlisted Marines, suffered about 12,000 casualties in France during the war.[46]

No sooner had the last unit of the 4th Brigade left Quantico than General Pershing in France called for three replacement battalions. Quantico was asked to organize and train these battalions, which were upped in number to five in short order. All were sent overseas during the first three months of 1918. When the 4th Brigade became actively engaged in June 1918, it suffered more than normal battle casualties and two replacement battalions were sent from Quantico nearly every month during the rest of the war.[47]

The Corps' first two artillery regiments, the 10th and 11th Regiments, were formed at Quantico during January 1918.

The War Department had approved a Navy project to send heavy artillery to join the American Expeditionary Force. The units were to be equipped with 14-inch railway guns and 7-inch converted naval guns on caterpillar mounts.

The Marine Corps was given the task of coming up with the 7-inch gun regiment, while the Navy was to man the railway guns. The Marine unit was to be part of extensive operations planned for 1919—which never came about.

The 10th Regiment, formed 14 January 1918, absorbed a battalion of 3-inch guns which had been part of the Advanced Base Force, and a battery of 4.7-inch artillery, both already in training at Quantico in hopes of being expanded into an artillery regiment. The 10th continued to train with 3-inch artillery despite a Department of War prohibition against 3-inch field artillery being sent to France, and waited until July 1918 before it received any 7-inch guns. Even then it received only two and got no more before war's end. It never saw service in France.[48]

The 11th Regiment, formed four days after the 10th, was organized into six heavy artillery batteries as part of the Advanced Base Force headquartered in Philadelphia. The regiment's beginning can be traced back to 16 November 1917, when four infantry companies had been sent from Philadelphia to Quantico to train as artillerymen in anticipation of receiving 8-inch howitzers. In April 1918 two of the 11th batteries were taken away to form an antiaircraft battalion, and a third went to the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean as a coast defense unit shortly afterward. It wasn't until June 1918 that the 11th received its first 8-inch howitzer and then no more until August. In September the regiment was disbanded and its remaining batteries formed a separate artillery battalion equipped with 3-inch guns. Its regimental designation was given to an infantry regiment. The artillery unit remained at Quantico until after the war and never saw active service.[49]

During the spring of 1918 nine Marine Detachments of Battleship Force One were removed from their ships and sent to Quantico to provide room for seamen in training. These Marines, many of whom were trained as battleship gun crews, were absorbed into Quantico's artillery units.

The second year of the war also saw the beginning of more formalized training at Quantico

Artillerymen of the 92d Company, 10th Marines, with a 75mm gun being pulled by a Quad truck. (USMC Photo 518083).

for units that were formed for duty in France, and for individual Marines who were still pouring in from recruit depots and the officer selection program.

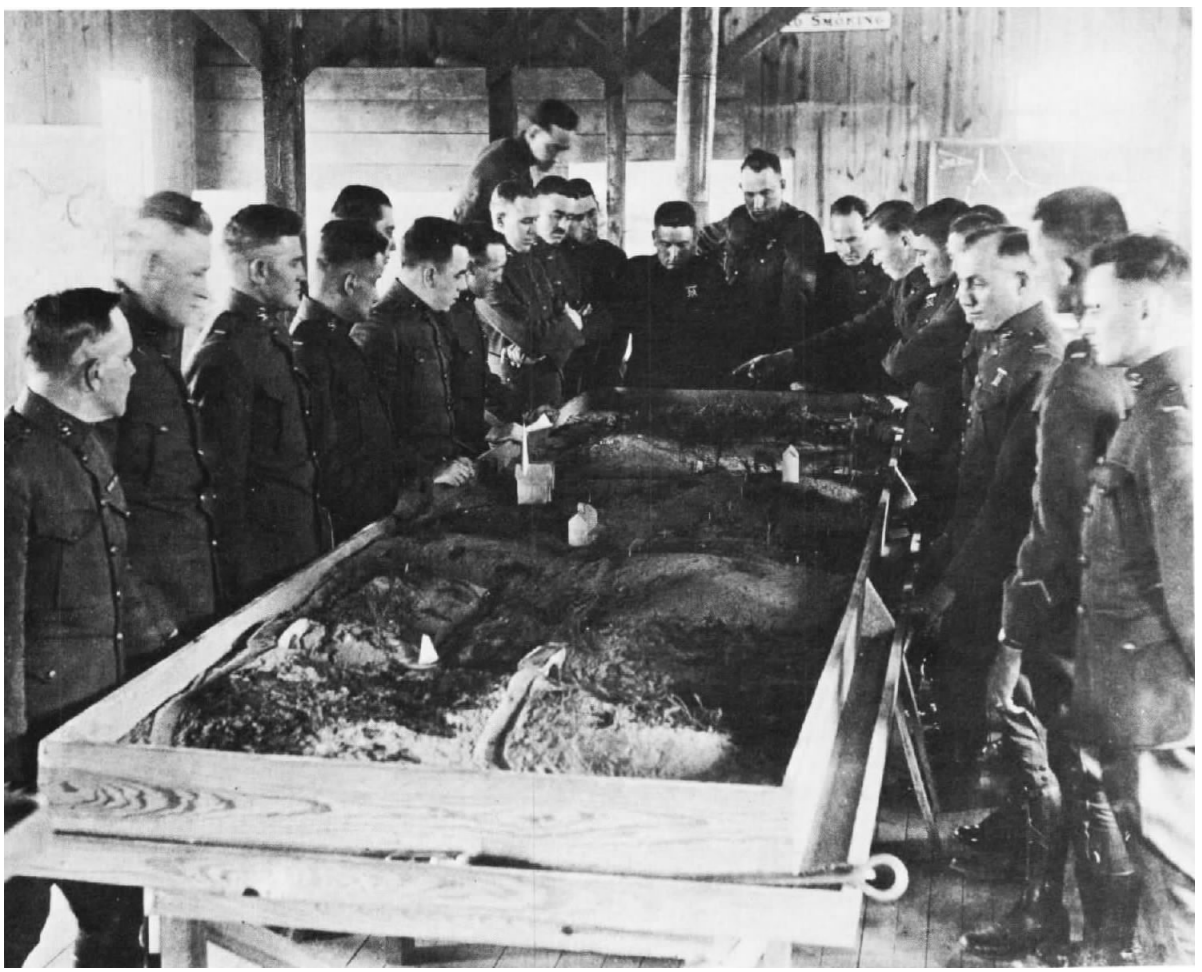
The "officers' camp of instruction" which had begun informally in mid-1917 became the "officers training camp" and officially convened in April 1918 with a class of 600 officer candidates, divided into companies with a major in command as chief instructor, and with experienced captains and lieutenants to assist.[50]

Instruction was given in infantry drill, interior guard, bayonet, bombing (hand grenades), infantry tactics, military engineering, topography, administration, military law, gas warfare, sea duty, and marksmanship.

Of this first class, 164 of the new lieutenants had come from enlisted ranks of the 4th Brigade in France. The training was intensive, rugged, and competitive. Relatively few of the students failed the course, attesting to the thoroughness of the training as well as the efficiency of the selection process.

Most members of this first class graduated in July 1918. Three hundred completed the course on 15 July and the rest on 15 August. The second class of 570 convened 20 August 1918 and graduated on 16 December.

The course had been extended three weeks to allow for a second although less crippling influenza outbreak. The third and final class of the training camp graduated in July 1919 after the war, and the graduates were appointed second lieutenants (provisional), Class 4 Marine Corps Reserve, and assigned to inactive duty.



Topography was one of the subjects studied by second lieutenants in the Officers' Training Camp in 1918. The training camp was a forerunner of the modern officer education programs. (USMC Photo 530214).

A month after the officers training camp was organized as a formal school, Quantico formed the "Overseas Depot" on 19 May 1918, with the dual purpose of training individual Marines as replacements and of forming and training entire units to serve with the American Expeditionary Force.[51]

Prior to organizing the depot, the 5th and 6th Regiments, the 6th Machine Gun Battalion, the Base Detachment for the 5th Regiment, and two replacement battalions had been formed and sent to France. It must have been apparent that a better system was needed, especially with increased demands for individual Marines and entire combat-ready units, and the depot was born.

Aside from the usual administrative staff, the depot had specialist schools for technical training of infantry, including machinegun training, and for coordination of supporting arms; it had a tactical department for instruction in tactics learned in France; it had schools for training first sergeants, mess sergeants, cooks, clerks, and armorers; and it had an officers' school, bayonet, bombing, gas, automatic rifle, and scout-sniper courses, and a mines and sappers school.

Most of the depot's instructors were veterans of the fighting in France, and on the staff were two French and four Canadian officers fresh from the battlefield.

As Marines completed training and instruction in any of the depot's specialty schools, they were formed into platoons—the principal training units—fleshed out with recruits fresh from eight weeks of training at Parris Island or Mare Island. About 85 percent of the troops arriving at the depot were directly from the recruit depots.

Depot-trained platoon leaders and noncommissioned officers formed nuclei of qualified personnel in the platoons who could continue the training of newly arrived recruits. Officers came from the officers' schools in the depot after completing the officers' training camp nearby. Where noncommissioned officers were not school graduates, they were experienced in combat skills either through service in France or other Marine Corps duty.

When four platoons were completed they formed a company with the company headquarters made up of other depot graduates. When enough companies were ready, battalions were organized and instruction continued by battalion officers under depot supervision.

Two entire regiments were formed by the depot through this technique. In the case of regiments, the system for smaller units continued except supervision of the organization ceased and depot facilities were merely made available to the regimental commander.

About 90 percent of depot training for organized units was in the field rather than the classroom.

The depot organized and trained the 3d, 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Separate Battalions; the 2d and 3d Machine Gun Battalions; the 5th Brigade Machine Gun Battalion; the 2d and 3d Separate Machine Gun Battalions; and the 11th and 13th Regiments—for a total of about 16,000 officer and enlisted Marines, over one-fourth of whom were also graduates of the depot's specialized schools.

Aside from depot schools, another 69 officers and 2,084 enlisted Marines graduated from the Marine Corps School of Machine Gun Instruction at Utica, New York, before being integrated into the depot's unit organization.

Medical personnel at Quantico gave the Marines instruction in field sanitation, use of gas masks, first aid, and personal hygiene—important subjects for the environment the Marines would encounter in France.

All doctors and hospital corpsmen who could be spared from instructor duties or from treating

Marines learn how to assemble and disassemble the Lewis machinegun while blindfolded. (USMC Photo 531475).

the sick and injured trained in the field with Marines. Most of the corpsmen who served in France with the 4th Marine Brigade were trained at Quantico. All together about 750 corpsmen were trained at Quantico and sent to France.

On 24 May 1918, Brigadier General Lejeune left Quantico for France, and was replaced in command by Colonel Smedley D. Butler.

Aviation, too, had its beginning at Quantico during 1918. Balloon training for Marines had begun in Philadelphia shortly after the formation of the Marine Aeronautic Company there in early 1917. A year later, on 28 June 1918, a balloon company was activated at Quantico as part of the newly formed heavy artillery force.[53]

This unit, commanded by Captain Arthur H. Page—the first Naval Academy graduate to enter Marine aviation—consisted of captive balloons and seaplanes. At first the unit had two kite balloons and two Caquot (free) balloons, and later during November received three R–6 seaplanes and one N–9 seaplane. The unit provided observation and spotting for elements of the 10th Regiment, the artillery organization formed early in 1918.

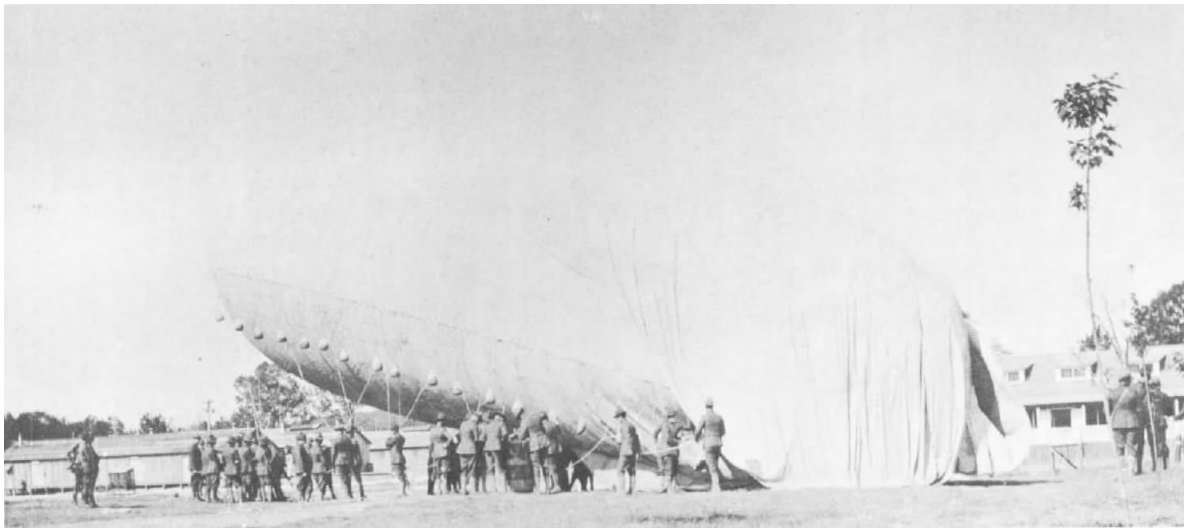
The Balloon Company operated in an area just south of Quantico town on the river while the seaplanes worked out of the mouth of Chopawamsic Creek. A temporary hangar consisting of little more than a roof and posts was built north of the present Marine Corps Air Station. The company trained with Quantico's artillery organizations throughout the war, but never left Quantico. Its kite balloons, however, did have the distinction of making the first air flight from the new Marine base.

On 1 July 1919 the Balloon Company was deactivated. Its equipment and personnel were absorbed into Squadron C, Northern Bombing Group recently returned from France and stationed at a temporary Marine Flying Field that later became the Marine Corps Air Station. The Balloon Company's hangar was eventually disassembled and shipped to California for use by other similar organizations.

The 13th Regiment (infantry) was organized at Quantico on 2 May 1918. Anticipating a long war in Europe, the President had directed in April that an additional brigade of Marines be formed as part of the American Expeditionary Force and authorized the necessary replacements.[54] The new brigade, the 5th, was to consist of the 13th Regiment, the 11th Regiment (which was to be infantry instead of artillery), and the 5th Brigade Machine Gun Battalion.

Quick on the heels of authorizing the new brigade, on 1 July 1918 Congress granted an increase in the Corps' strength to 78,800 officers and men.

This large expansion did not come as a surprise to those at Quantico. General Lejeune recalled:



In 1918 a Balloon Company was formed at Quantico and practiced inflating an observation balloon, the first official aviation unit and aircraft based at Quantico. (USMC Photo 530224).

> The officers at Quantico were strenuous advocates of an additional expansion of the Marine Corps by fifty or seventy-five thousand men, and the proper proportion of officers, so that at least a Marine Division complete in all its parts, could be sent overseas. . . It was in this way only that the artillery, signal corps, engineer and medical units could participate in the active operations of the war. This was our constant topic of discussion, and when any of us visited Headquarters, the question was agitated there. There seemed to be some opposition to such a large expansion on the ground that the Corps could not maintain its efficiency under such conditions. The advocates of the plan maintained vigorously that the failure of the Corps to utilize all of its strength, both actual and potential, in the great emergency then confronting the world would impair its efficiency to a far greater extent than would a temporary expansion to the limit of its capacity. Finally, the Quantico enthusiasm had its effect and estimates for seventy-five thousand men were submitted to Congress, and appropriation therefore was made in the naval bill which became law on July 1, 1918. This bill also provided funds for five or six thousand reserves, so that the total authorized strength of the Corps for the remaining period of the war amounted to about 80,000 men and 4,000 officers.[55]

It was not until August 1918, however, that the second phase expansion recruits were available to form new units. It was only then possible to form the 5th Brigade.

Organization of the 13th Regiment was completed in August and the unit left bit-by-bit for France. Colonel Butler, who had passed command of Quantico to Brigadier General Charles A. Doyen on 30 June, commanded the 13th and left with his staff on 15 September from Hoboken, New Jersey.

On 5 September, Quantico was tasked with forming the brigade headquarters for the 5th with Brigadier General Eli K. Cole as brigade commander. Cole and his staff left Hoboken with Butler's group, on the *Von Steuben*, arriving in France on 25 September.[56]

The 11th Marine Regiment completed transition from artillery to infantry by mid-September and its headquarters plus the 1st Battalion sailed from Philadelphia on the *De Kalb* on 29 September. The 2d and 3d Battalions left Brooklyn on the *Von Steuben* and *Agamemnon* on 16 October.

The 5th Machine Gun Battalion formed for the new brigade was organized during September and October 1918, and reached France only eight days before the Armistice.

On 11 November 1918 an Armistice was declared in Europe and the fighting came to a halt. Quantico had sent almost 30,000 Marines to join the American Expeditionary Force and another 1,600 for naval duty ashore. A few weeks after the Armistice, the Corps reached an all-time high strength of 75,100 Marines.[57]

Although the war in Europe was over, there were still several thousand Marines in training at Quantico and the Corps still had an important mission in the Caribbean.

On 26 November 1918, eight days after the Armistice, the 14th and 15th Regiments were formed at Quantico out of more than 2,000 Marines still training. Two weeks later on 11 December 1918, the Secretary of the Navy authorized the Marine Corps to take formal possession of Quantico as a permanent Marine Corps base.

The 15th Regiment under command of Colonel James C. Breckinridge left Quantico in mid-February 1919 and embarked at Norfolk for the Dominican Republic where it served for three-and-a-half years maintaining the peace. The 14th Regiment under Colonel Richard M. Cutts remained at Quantico awaiting a call that never came and finally disbanded on 19 June 1919. In July 1919 Congress had provided sufficient funds to maintain the Corps only at an average strength of 27,400 Marines.

Demobilization of Marines had begun nine days after the Armistice. Separate units and individual Marines returned to Quantico, Philadelphia, and Hampton Roads, Virginia, where they were mustered out. Major units remained in France for some months after the conclusion of hostilities.

On 8 August 1919 the famed 4th Marine Brigade, as part of the 2d Division under Major General Lejeune, paraded in New York City. The brigade was commanded by Brigadier General Wendell C. Neville. After the New York parade, duty and proceeded to Washington where it was reviewed by President Wilson. The next day the brigade completed its trip to Quantico and demobilization began. By the middle of August the 5th Brigade had returned to Hampton Roads, Virginia, where it was mustered out.

Almost all temporary wartime Marine Corps organizations except those in the Caribbean and one battalion in Europe had been demobilized by the end of August. The demobilization of the wartime Marine Corps was one of the largest efforts that ever confronted the Corps, and Quantico played the major role.

In Europe the 15th Separate Battalion had been organized during August 1919 for service in connection with the Schleswig-Holstein plebiscite

when citizens of that region were to choose between Germany and Denmark.

The battalion of 26 officers and 700 enlisted Marines, made of troops from the 4th and 5th Brigades, rendered honors to General Pershing on 1 September 1919 upon his departure from Europe. On 9 September the battalion took part in a ceremony commemorating the entrance of the United States into the war and in December these last Marines returned home. On the 30th of that month, the battalion was back at Quantico and was disbanded.

In October 1919 Major General Lejeune returned to Quantico to take over command again, with Colonel Butler as chief of staff.

In front of the white building that once was the headquarters and administration building for Marine Corps Base, Quantico, later the Marine Corps Museum, and now the home of the Marine Corps Association, stands a weather-beaten statue of a lone, battle-weary Marine—"Iron Mike"—dedicated to the memory of the officers and men of the United States Marine Corps who gave their lives in World War I.

The model for the statue was Carl J. Millard who, while recuperating in Paris from wounds received at Belleau Wood as a private in the 75th Company, 6th Regiment, was assigned temporarily to military police duty. While in Paris he met American sculptor Charles R. Peyre. Peyre had gone to France to do a statue of an American soldier as a memorial to the U.S. Army for service in France. He completed a work of art depicting an American fighting man accurate to the last detail—including the Marine Corps emblem on Millard's helmet.

The Army refused to accept the statue because of the emblem, and "A Crusade for the Right," as the statue was officially titled, was purchased by the Marine Corps through donations from those who had served in France. The statue came to Quantico at the end of the war where it received the nickname, "Iron Mike" from Quantico Marines.

A plaque in front of the statue is dedicated to the 6th Regiment; south and north side plaques are dedicated to the 5th Regiment and the 6th Machine Gun Battalion. The tablets were presented by the American Legion on 10 November 1921, the Marine Corps' 146th Birthday—which ushered in a new era of importance for Quantico Marine Base.

Iron Mike" stands in memory of those thousands of Marines who passed through Quantico during World War I, especially those who served in France. (Quantico Photo 012-3466-1-75).

CHAPTER IV

BETWEEN WARS

The year 1919 was a busy one at Quantico. The 15th Regiment, formed out of Marines training at Quantico at war's end, left in mid-February and landed in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 8 March to protect American interests. Along with the 15th went the 1st Air Squadron, marking the first instance of a Marine air-ground task force being deployed.[1]

Like other Latin American republics, the Dominican Republic had experienced much unrest during the years after the Spanish-American War. President Jimenez took over in 1914 and the country was peaceful for a time, but rivalry between Jimenez and his Defense Minister, Arias, prompted Jimenez's resignation in 1916. The United States—who believed Arias to be the chief obstacle to a stable government—landed Marines in Santo Domingo and elsewhere in May 1916. The Dominican government refused to accept U.S. reforms, and a U.S.-sponsored military government was established at the end of November 1916. Marines were frequently called on in subsequent years to suppress revolts and maintain martial law. The 15th Regiment was one of the organizations that took part. It wasn't until late 1922 that a stable civilian government was established in the Dominican Republic, and Marines finally left in September 1924. Peace was maintained by a Marine-trained constabulary.[2]

With the return of Marine aviation units from France and the closing of the Marine Flying Field at Miami, Florida, a piece of land was leased south of Chopawamsic Creek along the Potomac for an operating field for aviation units. The aviators at first wanted their field further north of Quantico, but Headquarters Marine Corps insisted it be near the Marine Barracks.[3]

Aviation Squadron C arrived 13 June 1919, fresh from France where it had been part of the Northern Bombing Group's Day Wing. The squadron included Marines drawn from Miami, the aviation units in the Azores, and other organizations from the European theater. The aviators immediately set to work creating two flying fields, a 2,000-foot strip on a piece of land sticking out into the Potomac east of the railroad tracks and running northeast-southwest, called Field No. 1, and Field No. 2 of 2,500 feet running north and south on the west side of the tracks.[4]

On 10 July 1919, the *Submarine Chaser 542* was given by the Navy to Quantico, and, under command of Marine Captain Charles M. Jones, it operated on the Potomac between Quantico and Washington, D.C., carrying military passengers, official mail, and flying Marine Corps colors. Later in the month, two companies of Marines from Quantico assisted civil authorities and other military units in maintaining order in Washington, D.C., following race riots.[5]

During September a second unit of the Northern Bombing Group, Squadron A, arrived at Quantico and, with the aviators already on the scene, began building an air facility in earnest. Barracks were built of prefabricated buildings shipped up from the recently closed field at Miami, and work on three landplane hangars and two seaplane hangars started. An operations building, a quartermaster storehouse, shops, offices, and a recreation building were planned for Field No. 1, between the railroad tracks and the Potomac.

The new airfield was physically separate from the Marine Barracks, connected only with a railroad trestle across Chopawamsic Creek. For vehicles it was necessary to go in a round-about way via dirt roads out to Highway 1, then north for several miles, and finally a few miles back into the Marine Barracks area.[6]

Quantico Marines rendered honors to King Albert of Belgium, the Prince of Wales, and other European heads of state during their postwar visits to Washington, D.C., in October 1919.

With the end of World War I, the war to end all wars, the traditional postwar disillusionment

with the military set in and the world disarmed in anticipation of a long peace. The military services were cut back and forced to make do with what they had on limited budgets. There was then plenty of time to reflect and study the lessons of the Great War and to incorporate its destructive inventions into future plans. There was also time to test new ideas and concepts.

Marines in France had done such a good job and had earned so much public and military recognition that many within the Corps advocated that a corps of elite infantry be built and believed that in this direction lay the future. Others insisted that the Corps' basic mission of seizing and defending advanced naval bases—a role established before the war—was the right path to follow.[7]

Within this latter group was an awareness that a corps of infantry with nothing else going for it would duplicate the roles and functions of the Army, a predicament that could take away the Corps' identity and perhaps force its integration with the Army.[8]

Major General Lejeune had his own ideas on the future of the Corps. Lejeune, affectionately called "Old Indian" by his troops, "Hell on Wheels" by his Aide-de-Camp, and whose motto was, "Keep going all the time and always forward," was an ideal choice for command of Quantico. He had had a unique series of duty assignments up to this time. Before the war he was Assistant to the Commandant in Washington, then at Quantico as commander of the embryo base that formed and trained thousands of Marines for war, and next in the war itself as commander of the Army-Marine 2d Infantry Division.[9]

Lejeune attributed the carnage of the frustrating trench warfare in France to "intellectual bankruptcy" on the part of Allied military leaders. He believed that the armed forces had been remiss in their formal education by not producing farsighted military leaders who could have anticipated the requirements of a new war and planned to operate effectively with new weapons and technology.[10]

He had also seen first hand that 20th century wars were to be far more complex than before, with the introduction of new weapons and instruments, machineguns, artillery, electronics, aviation, advances in artillery and naval ordnance. To Lejeune these innovations meant that Marine officers had to receive more intensive and formal training than ever before. Lejeune decided that the Corps would pioneer new military thinking and concepts and his base at Quantico would be the seat of learning for the Corps.[11]

Lejeune's thinking, however, was not limited to professional military schools. He was also concerned with the continuing education of enlisted Marines and with the general postwar morale and esprit. He recalled:

> After the discharge of the men belonging to the 4th and 5th Brigade in August 1919, the inevitable postwar reaction had set in and it was our task to restore the morale of the officers and men on duty at Quantico. With this end in view, military formations, reviews, inspections and drills were re-instituted . . . a reorganization of all post activities was effected, and many economies were introduced.[12]

Just one month after Lejeune assumed command at Quantico, he formed three vocational schools; Automotive Mechanics, Music, and Typewriting and Shorthand. Lejeune explained:

> Anyone familiar with the training of Marines will admit that as a steady diet, more than two hours of purely military training a day will make an enlisted man muscle bound and cause him to grow stale, except in time of war under the attendant excitement and enthusiasm. . . . Heretofore an enlistment in the regular service of the United States has been considered a waste of time unless a man intended to make it his life work and it certainly was, as far as preparing him for any duty in civil life. . . . Men who had professions or trades when they entered the Corps necessarily ceased to advance during the period of their enlistment, and a man who does not continually advance goes backward; no man can stand still.[13]

The work day for Quantico Marines under Lejeune was divided into three periods. From reveille until the noon meal the men underwent military instruction and training. From then until the evening meal they took part in vocational instruction or recreation of some sort. The policy simply stated was, "Play or go to school every afternoon."

The vocational schools were referred to by Lejeune as a "university" and equated to West Point or Annapolis. Catalogues of the courses were to be circulated throughout the civilian world. Lejeune proposed that top graduates of the schools be sent to civilian universities for graduate training at government expense, and he envisioned the combination of military-vocational training as a perfect background for commissioned officers in the Corps. Plans were that heads of labor and industry would visit the schools and help with post-service employment. Groups of students were also to visit industries related to their schooling.[14]

This ambitious program, Lejeune believed, would enable the Corps to close its recruiting of-

A study hour class at the Marine Corps Institute, 1920. (USMC Photo 520630).

fices and merely pick the best prospects from long waiting lists. Officers were not excluded from the vocational schools. In fact, Lejeune encouraged officers to participate, believing that contact with enlisted men in a classroom environment was an important leadership lesson. Military training for officers also ceased before the noon meal, allowing all but the instructors to either attend vocational training in the afternoon or participate in recreation.

But for the officers, Major General Lejeune had other plans prompted by his dissatisfaction with officers' training and by the impact of World War I. When Lejeune took over Quantico after the war, the wartime Officers Training Camp still existed. Its buildings, equipment and a few instructors remained after demobilization. With augmentation from other organizations at Quantico, Lejeune opened the Marine Corps Officers Training School in the fall of 1919 in a frame building on Barnett Avenue.

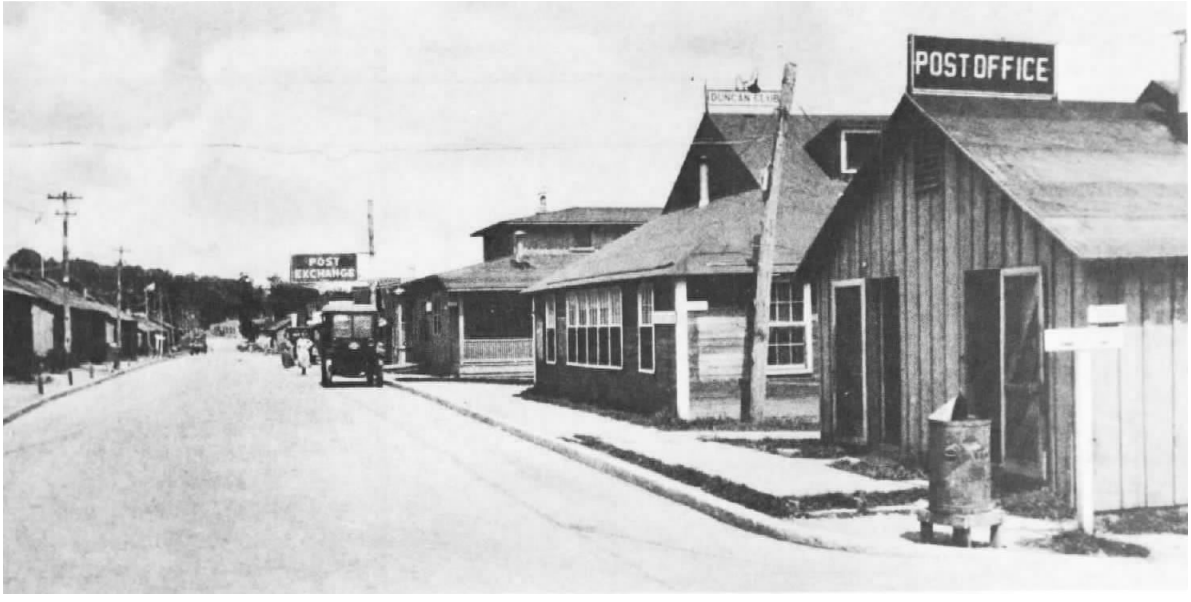
Some of the subjects which had been taught during the war were retained while others were added to keep pace with war experiences and new technology. Tactics, topography, and marksmanship were expanded to include more field training, and the "lessons learned" and far-reaching changes from the war were reviewed, studied, and incorporated. The first postwar class of 29 officers began a 22-week course in late 1919.

A few months later another school, the Marine Officers Infantry School, was opened on the 12 January 1920 and the Officers Training School student body increased to 66, but dwindled to 31 students by graduation due to resignations, transfers, and expeditionary duty.

Seventeen officers were enrolled in the first class of the Infantry School. The faculty consisted of officers with much combat experience and had the job of developing a comprehensive course of instruction from scratch.

In a speech on 12 April 1920, Quantico's Chief of Staff, Colonel Butler, described the professional and vocational school system as ". . . a revolution. It is something new. The old officers of the Marine Corps would turn over in their graves if they knew what we were doing because in the old days, they did nothing but soldier. We want to make this post and the whole Marine Corps a great university." [15]

Running two schools, however, proved unsatisfactory due to duplication of effort, and in the following summer these two schools, the Officers Training School and the Infantry School were



Barnett Avenue looking north. Duncan Club was the SNCO Club. The Post Exchange burned in 1938. (Leatherneck Magazine).

combined as the Marine Officers Training School under Colonel John C. Beaumont. Beaumont soon worked up a plan for a course for field grade officers (major and above, modeled after the Army's Command and General Staff School) and one for company grade officers (captain and below). The schools were to cover tactics, topography, law, administration, and engineering, among other subjects. A third course called the Basic School designed to indoctrinate new Marine lieutenants in the duties of infantry leaders was also planned.

The first Field Officers Course convened on 1 October for a 9-month session. The Company Officers Course did not start until July 1921 because of the lengthy proceedings of a selection board considering temporary officers for permanent rank. This first course lasted until June 1922. The Basic School convened in mid-1922.

With the establishment of these three schools for officers at three levels in their careers, the foundation for the institution later to become the Marine Corps Education Center was laid. The title, "Marine Corps Schools," first appeared in correspondence and reports by Lejeune in 1921. It seems that this name in the early days referred to both the vocational and professional schools at Quantico and was retained even after the vocational schools became correspondence courses and moved away.

On 1 April 1920 the vocational schools were redesignated the Vocational Schools Detachment, and then on 1 July 1920 were combined under one staff and called the "Marine Corps Institute," with the job of serving Marines desiring to continue their education while in the Corps.[16] This new title was apparently first used in a press release by Secretary of the Navy Daniels, who was thoroughly impressed with the schools' formation and purpose.[17]

Vocational training had become so popular that when a battalion of Marines shipped out

In 1924, 3,000 Quantico Marines marched to Sharpsburg, Md., for field exercises which culminated with the staging of the battle of Antietam. Long treks to Civil War battlefields and the reenactments of historical battles kept the Marine Corps in the public eye during the lean years of the 1920s and 1930s. (Quantico Photo 012–1150–7–75).

on board the *Henderson* for expeditionary duty, it contained 650 students who asked to continue their classes even while on board ship and serving in the Caribbean. As a result, the vocational school initiated correspondence training, and the Marine Corps Institute became the oldest correspondence school in the Armed Forces.[18]

Major General Lejeune became the Commandant of the Marine Corps on 1 July 1920, and was succeeded in command at Quantico by Brigadier General Butler. Butler had pinned on his star only a few weeks earlier, 4 June. While Lejeune moved to a higher position in the Corps where he could bring more influence to play in implementing his ideas on education and the future role of the Marine Corps, Butler, a staunch supporter of Lejeune's philosophies, led Quantico into one of its most colorful eras, keeping Marines busy with drills, long hikes, maneuvers, and sham battles, and placing the Marine Corps in the public eye whenever possible.

Butler realized the importance of military education for the core of professional officers and of vocational training for young enlisted men wanting to learn a civilian skill. He continued Lejeune's concepts and knew that education was a strong drawing point for inducing enlistments.

In addition, Butler understood the importance of top quality sporting events and of favorable publicity in attracting men to the Corps. He apparently realized that good Marine Corps publicity would do much to counteract waning interest in the military, and he started vigorous programs to these ends. Education, colorful demonstrations, and first class athletic teams were Butler's tools for attracting recruits and keeping the public aware that there was still a Marine Corps.

In the summer of 1921, Butler instituted the first in a long series of well-publicized and well-attended public maneuvers at famous Civil War battlefields around Quantico. Under his personal command during June and July 1921, a reinforced Marine brigade complete with heavy equipment, 155mm guns pulled by 10-ton tractors, and elements of Quantico's air force reenacted the Battle of the Wilderness at the battle site west of Fredericksburg, Virginia.[19]

The brigade included the 5th Regiment, which had been disbanded at Quantico in August 1919 but formed again in July 1920, and the 6th Regiment, disbanded with the 5th and reformed in December 1920.

Any public event in northern Virginia related to the Civil War was guaranteed to draw a big crowd, and this first large-scale maneuver was no exception. Thousands of spectators watched the Marines go through their paces, and President Warren G. Harding was present in a canvas "White House"—at the Corps' request.

Lieutenants Lawson Sanderson (left) and Walter Brown helped institute varsity football and baseball in the Marine Corps, first on the West Coast and then at Quantico in 1919. (USMC Photo 531433).

On the sports scene, Butler was the driving force that put Marines in the public spotlight through the "Quantico Marines" football team. Marine Corps football was born at the Mare Island Training Station in 1916 under Colonel Lincoln Karmany, post commander and an ardent football enthusiast. His first call for players netted a group of former college stars from Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Montana, Utah, Nebraska, and Florida. Under the quarterbacking of Lieutenant Walter "Boots" Brown, the team quickly won the West Coast championship, untied and undefeated, trouncing such football powers as University of California, U.S.C., Oregon, St. Mary's College, and the Olympic Club of San Francisco. The Marines won the Service Championship and played in the Tournament of Roses classic on New Year's Day 1918, in Pasadena, California.

Football at Quantico began in 1919. Players for the Quantico team came from throughout the Corps; many were former collegians.

For the 1920 football season, Lieutenants Brown and Sanderson, both with aviation units at Quantico, rebuilt the team and embarked the "Quantico Marines" on a football venture that was to last half a century and garner widespread publicity and recognition not only for Quantico but for the Corps as well.

Walter Brown, the impetus behind Quantico's team, the quarterback and foremost star, was killed in an aircraft crash in June 1921, while returning from bombing exercises in Chesapeake Bay. Quantico's airfield was shortly afterwards named Brown Field in honor of the young football star and aviator.

After Brown's death, the team was reorganized and the Corps combed posts and detachments worldwide in search of football talent. Frank Goettge showed up at Quantico from Haiti for the 1921 season and became one of the most prominent athletes in Marine Corps history, leading the football team to national prominence.[20]

Under Butler's dynamic leadership, enthusiasm for football reached incredible heights typified by the game with the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor on the anniversary of the Corps' birthday in 1923. Thousands of Marines and friends of the Corps chartered special trains to take them to the game, and many Marines pledged their slight pay for long periods in order to meet the cost of the trip.[21]

During the team's first four seasons at Quantico it played 42 games, winning 38, losing two and tying two. It met Army and Navy teams and a myriad of civilian colleges and athletic clubs, drawing up to 60,000 spectators for some games. The team, which came to rank with West Point and Annapolis—but with more color and better publicity—even drew Cabinet-level spectators when it played near Washington, D.C. No matter where the team went, it was invariably accompanied by General Butler, the post band, and thousands of Quantico Marines to cheer their players on.

Butler's boundless enthusiasm for the football team and for putting Quantico "first," spilled over into an ambitious project without peer—the building of the Quantico football stadium. The stadium, according to Butler, was to be "the world's largest stadium."

General Alexander A. Vandegrift, a young officer at Quantico in 1921, recalled:

> . . . we had to excavate a large quantity of earth with old-fashioned steam shovels. Together with about 150 men from my battalion we worked some 80 days on the stadium. A fitness report of mine detailed our accomplishment: we moved 19,307 cubic yards of earth, 200 excavations for concrete pillars were dug, 197 pillars were poured, 30 rails were laid, 381 concrete slabs were placed, and concrete footings were poured for all stone walls. Grass seed was planted over the sanded field, and the field was leveled from side to base wall. . . .[22]

No appropriations were available for building the stadium, but this did not deter Butler and his Marines. Plans called for spending only about $5,000 for the whole project, and this was to be for cement only. Marines provided all the labor. Iron was salvaged from World War I bases that had closed, and sand and gravel was obtained free from local contractors. The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad was talked into contributing used rails for the steel required.[23]

Butler Stadium, a self-help project of the first order, was literally carved out of forest, rock, and earth by Butler's Marines. (Don C. Micheau Collection. Personal Papers Section, Marine Corps Historical Center).

A civilian employee serving at Quantico at the time recalled that with the aid of only a few trucks, picks and shovels, and much determination, Marines cut trees, pulled stumps, and removed huge rocks. A stream ran right through the proposed site, and Butler solved this problem by a six-foot concrete pipe that carried the water out of the playing field.[24]

There was no rank connected with working on the stadium project. Butler and his officers pitched in and worked alongside Marine privates. Numerous "Butler legends" exist about this effort. One tells how Butler noticed a Marine bandsman watching the other Marines work without doing any himself. When queried, the bandsman answered that he was a musician and didn't want to hurt his hands. From that point on, the entire band played continuously whenever as much as one Marine was working.

The Secretary of the Navy at the time criticized the effort as a bunch of ". . . damned foolishness." Other critics noted the tremendous expense of Marine labor when Marines should, they said, be doing other things. Other critics pointed out that little thought had apparently been given to where all the people would come from to fill such a huge stadium, or how they would get there considering the limited transportation of the day.[25]

Nevertheless, Butler started a stadium. Work was interrupted many times for long periods as the demands of expeditionary duty and training exercises took Marines away. The stadium was not completed until after World War II, although it was used for a variety of sporting events before that time.

But all at Quantico was not football, building stadiums, and fighting Civil War battles during the early years of the 1920s.

During October 1920 the title of Quantico's commander was changed from Commanding Officer to Commanding General as an indication of Quantico's importance as well as to be consistent with the ranks of its commanders since early World War I.

By mid-1920 the aviation complement totaled 13 officers and 157 enlisted Marines, flying a variety of aircraft ranging from the De Havilland DH-4 and Curtiss JN-4, JN-6, and N-9 to observation balloons.[26] The self-help efforts at the flying field had resulted in the completion of two steel hangers, 14 temporary barracks, a recreation hall, and a variety of storehouses by the end of 1920.

In April 1921 Major Thomas C. Turner led a pair of Quantico's DH-4 De Havillands on the longest flight ever undertaken up until that time. The marathon trip was made from Washington, D.C., to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and return, without navigation devices or even surface ships to help point the way.

After two months of intensive bombing practice, five Quantico aircraft took part in the bombing of a former German battleship and an old U.S. battleship during July 1921, off Virginia as part of Army General Billy Mitchell's project to prove the value of bombing by aircraft. It was during the return trip from one of the practice runs that Lieutenant Brown of the Quantico football team lost his life as he apparently became disoriented in the fog and crashed in the Potomac just off the landing field.

Quantico received five Martin torpedo planes from the Navy in September 1921, and used them in training support of ground forces. Other aircraft of Quantico's growing air force took part in a variety of training exercises and cross-country trips intended to develop the full potential of this new weapon of war, and to increase the proficiency of Marine aviators.

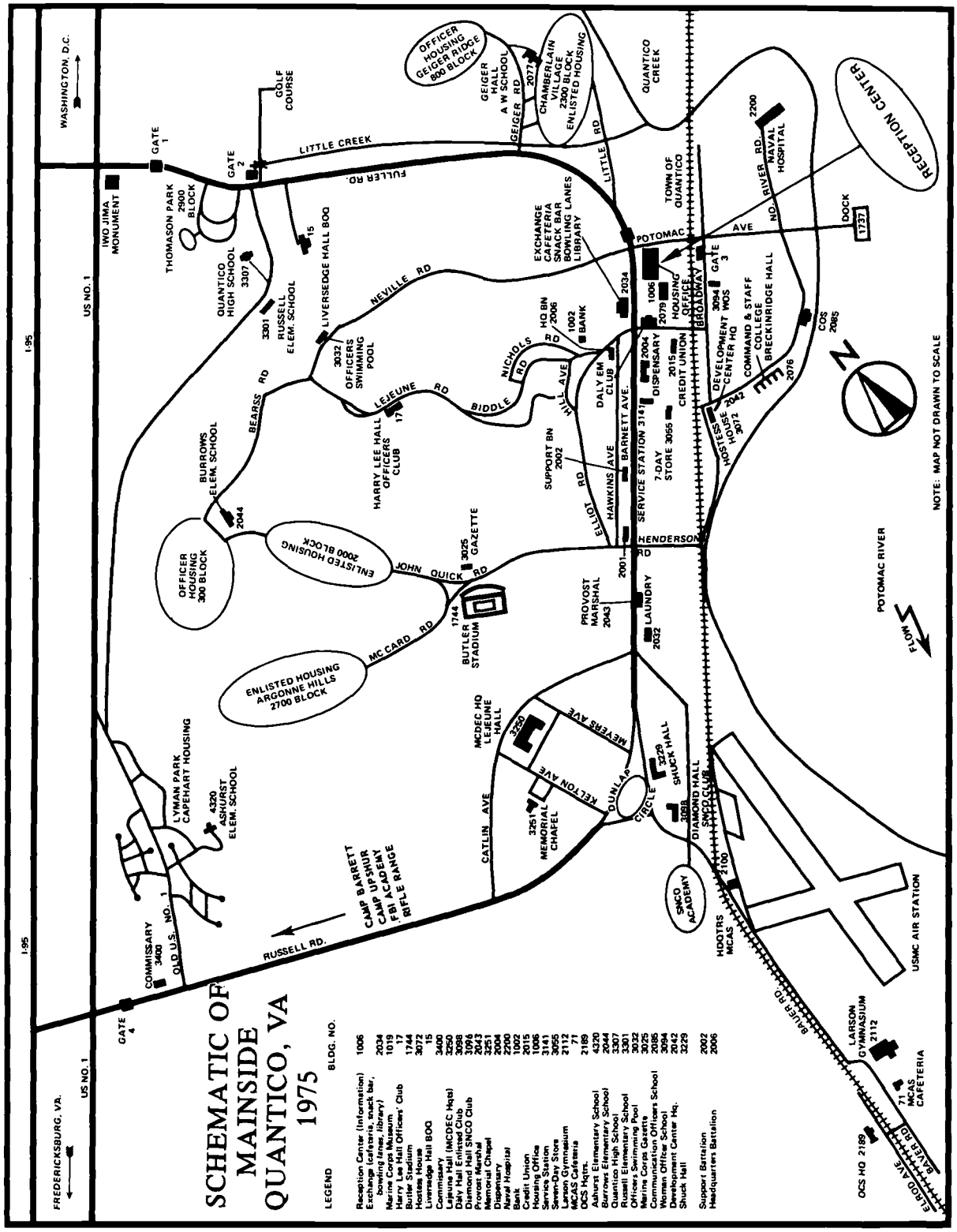
During August 1921 a border dispute between Panama and Costa Rica flared up and a battalion of the 5th Regiment was dispatched to the area but stayed on board ship for four days before returning home.[27]

The Advanced Base Force, headquartered in Philadelphia since before World War I, was moved to Quantico in October 1920 because of its greater facilities and better training areas, and since that was where all the troops had ended up after the war.[28] One of the reasons for this move was probably to help justify Quantico's existence and to aid Marine Corps pleas for money from Congress to rehabilitate the base. The 1st Regiment was the basic combat unit of the Advanced Base Force.

A year later in 1921, a young Marine officer by the name of Earl Hancock Ellis made a name for himself throughout the Marine Corps—and history.

As a result of the Spanish-American War the United States emerged as a world power. In those days of short-range ships, the need for far-flung bases to support the fleet and the new world position of America was apparent. The Marine Corps' mission of seizing and defending advanced naval bases emerged from the Spanish-American War and the deliberations of the Navy's pre-war General Board.

The Versailles Treaty that ended World War I gave Japan control over many former German


SCHEMATIC OF MAINSIDE QUANTICO, VA 1975
LEGEND
BLDG. NO.
Reception Center (Information) 1006
Exchange (cafeteria, snack bar, barber shop, laundry) 2034
Marine Corps Museum 1019
Harry Lee Hall Officers' Club 17
Butler Stadium 1744
Hostess House 3072
Liversedge Hall BOQ 15
Commissary 3400
Lejeune Hall (MCDEC Hqs) 3250
Daly Hall Enlisted Club 3098
Dunlap Hall SNCO Club 3016
Provost Marshal 2043
Memorial Chapel 3251
Dispensary 2004
Naval Hospital 2200
Bank 1002
Credit Union 2015
Housing Office 1006
Service Station 3141
Seven-Day Store 3055
Larson Gymnasium 2112
MCAS Cafeteria 71
OCS Hqtrs. 2189
Ashurst Elementary School 4320
Burrows Elementary School 2044
Quantico High School 3307
Russell Elementary School 3301
Officers Swimming Pool 3032
Marine Corps Museum 1019
Communication Officers School 2085
Woman Officer School 3094
Development Center Hq. 2042
Shuck Hall 3229
Support Battalion 2002
Headquarters Battalion 2006
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FREDERICKSBURG, VA.
I-95
US NO. 1
GATE 1
GATE 2
GATE 3
GATE 4
IWO JIMA MONUMENT
THOMASON PARK 2900 BLOCK
QUANTICO HIGH SCHOOL 3307
RUSSELL ELEM. SCHOOL 3301
LIVERSEDGE HALL BOQ 15
GOLF COURSE
LITTLE CREEK
FULLER RD.
OFFICER HOUSING GEIGER RIDGE 800 BLOCK
GEIGER HALL A W SCHOOL 2077
CHAMBERLAIN VILLAGE 2300 BLOCK ENLISTED HOUSING
QUANTICO CREEK
TOWN OF QUANTICO
NAVAL HOSPITAL 2200
RECEPTION CENTER
DOCK 1737
POTOMAC AVE
NO. RIVER RD.
LITTLE RD
NEVILLE RD
EXCHANGE CAFETERIA SNACK BAR BOWLING LANES LIBRARY 2034
HO BN 2006
BANK 1002
NICHOLS RD
HILL AVE
DALY EM CLUB
OFFICERS SWIMMING POOL 3032
LEJEUNE RD
BIDDLE RD
BEARSS RD
BURROWS ELEM. SCHOOL 2044
HARRY LEE HALL OFFICERS CLUB 17
SUPPORT BN 2002
ELLIOT RD
HAWKINS AVE
BARNETT AVE.
SERVICE STATION 3141
7-DAY STORE 3055
CREDIT UNION 2015
DISPENSARY 2004
HOUSING OFFICE 1006
BROADWAY
DEVELOPMENT CENTER HQ 3094
WOS GATE 3
COMMAND & STAFF COLLEGE
BRECKINRIDGE HALL 2076
COS 2085
HOSTESS HOUSE 3072
2042
OFFICER HOUSING 300 BLOCK
ENLISTED HOUSING 2000 BLOCK
JOHN QUICK RD
GAZETTE 3025
BUTLER STADIUM 1744
MC CARD RD
ENLISTED HOUSING ARGONNE HILLS 2700 BLOCK
PROVOST MARSHAL 2043
LAUNDRY 2032
HENDERSON RD
2001
POTOMAC RIVER
FLOW
NOTE: MAP NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
LYMAN PARK CAPEHART HOUSING
ASHURST ELEM. SCHOOL 4320
COMMISSARY 3400
OLD U.S. NO. 1
RUSSELL RD.
CAMP BARRETT
CAMP UPSHUR
FBI ACADEMY
RIFLE RANGE
CATLIN AVE
MCDEC HQ LEJEUNE HALL 3250
MEYERS AVE
KELTON AVE
DUNLAP CIRCLE
MEMORIAL CHAPEL 3251
SHUCK HALL 3229
DIAMOND HALL 3098
SNCO CLUB
SNCO ACADEMY
HDQTRS MCAS 2100
BAUER RD.
USMC AIR STATION
LARSON GYMNASIUM 2112
71 MCAS CAFETERIA
OCS HQ 2189
ELDER AVE
BAKER RD

islands in the Pacific and radically changed the balance of power in the Far East. Following the treaty, Japan possessed a ring of island outposts supported by a growing modern fleet—an outgrowth of the naval conferences following World War I—that posed serious obstacles to any other would-be Pacific power.

The Washington Conference of 1921 confirmed Japan's status in the Pacific and ensured her domination of the northeastern coast of Asia with a screen of islands preventing easy penetration.

Major Ellis was considered by many to be a brilliant staff officer with a unique ability to predict the future. Since 1913 he had been predicting through lectures at the Naval War College that someday the United States and Japan would war against each other. With the developments following World War I, he was more convinced than ever of the accuracy of this prophecy. He related the Japanese position in the Pacific to U.S. naval strategy, and urged that the military begin preparing for this inevitable conflict. Ellis developed Operation Plan 712-H which was a step-by-step military plan for moving across the Pacific against Japan by amphibiously assaulting key Pacific islands. The plan, "Advanced Base Operations in Micronesia," was approved by Headquarters Marine Corps in July 1921.

With the Commandant's backing, Ellis' prophesies became official Corps doctrine for fighting the inevitable war in the Pacific. The advanced base concept and the seizure of enemy-held islands was a basic part of the plan, and the importance of being able to successfully wage amphibious warfare became apparent to Marine Corps planners.

Ellis died in the Pacific during late 1922 while on a leave of absence to gather first-hand information about the islands he predicted the United States would someday battle over. At the time of his death, he was in the Palau Islands—where Marines would fight just over 20 years later as part of an island-hopping campaign that came incredibly close to the plan Ellis had proposed.[29]

Ellis' proposals became part of the Navy's Orange Plan in 1926. This was the basic plan for executing a war against the Japanese and was the first real directive from higher headquarters assigning the Marine Corps a mission of offensive amphibious warfare.[30]

General Lejeune, who approved Ellis' Pacific war plan and the Corps' amphibious role, realized that new skills, new equipment, and new concepts of warfare were required. He gave the impetus to begin work in this direction, and chose Quantico as the focal point for amphibious development. Lejeune remained Commandant until March 1929. Throughout this long term he made amphibious development his goal and supported the effort with his sizable influence.

In Lejeune's mind, amphibious warfare was a professional challenge. Many military thinkers were convinced an amphibious assault could not succeed against determined opposition as evidenced by the British disaster at Gallipoli in World War I. But Lejeune had a vision and Gallipoli was one of the prime lessons of the war that was to be studied, restudied, and studied again at Quantico. He was appalled by the failure at Gallipoli, but set the experienced officers at Quantico on the road to finding a solution.

Another strong advocate of amphibious operations was Colonel Robert H. Dunlap, commander of the Advanced Base Force at Quantico in 1921. Dunlap, like Ellis, was considered by many to be a visionary and progressive thinker. Dunlap agreed completely with Ellis' predictions and recommended role for the Marine Corps. Like many Quantico officers, Dunlap made an extensive study of Gallipoli, identifying the mistakes made and offering solutions. His findings were published and used extensively in Quantico's schools, and his well-supported conclusions earned many supporters for offensive amphibious warfare.[31]

At Quantico in 1921 three hangars were completed at the airfield, along with numerous machine shops, offices, garages, and supply buildings. The 1st Separate Field Artillery Battalion which had been the 10th Regiment (artillery) until April 1919, was formed again on 1 January 1921, and a portion of its batteries were shipped off to the Caribbean to support the peace-keeping operations there.[32]

General Smedley Butler purchased the bulldog, "Jiggs," in 1921 to become the official Quantico mascot. The idea apparently came to him as a result of the German's World War I nickname for Marines, "Devil Dogs," earned by Marines for their tenacious fighting at Belleau Wood in France.[33] Jiggs became known worldwide and appeared at all sporting events where Marines played, and everywhere else where his presence might draw public attention and enhance the morale and esprit of Marines. Butler himself signed Jiggs' enlistment papers and appointed him a sergeant major.

Later in 1921 the U.S. Post Office Department appealed to President Warren G. Harding for help in combating the growing number of mail