

United States Military History



Marine Corps

Marine Corps

10 November 1775

The 2nd Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia passed a resolution stating that "two Battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces with the fleet. This resolution, sponsored by John Adams, established the Continental Marines and marked the birth date of the United States Marine Corps.

The Beginning

The Resolution

"Resolved that two battalions of Marines be raised, and that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed to office, or enlisted into said battalions, but such are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea, when required...that they be enlisted and commissioned for the present war between Great Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by Congress. That they be distinguished by the names of the 1st and 2nd battalions of American Marines."



2nd Continental Congress
1775

Marine Corps

1st Marine Commandant

Serving on land and at sea, the first Marines distinguished themselves in a number of important operations, including their first amphibious raid into the Bahamas in March 1776, under the command of Captain Samuel Nicholas.



Marine Corps

Tun Tavern

Captain Nicholas *set up shop* in Tun Tavern. He appointed Robert Mullan, then the proprietor of the tavern, to the job of chief Marine Recruiter – serving, of course, from his place of business at Tun Tavern.

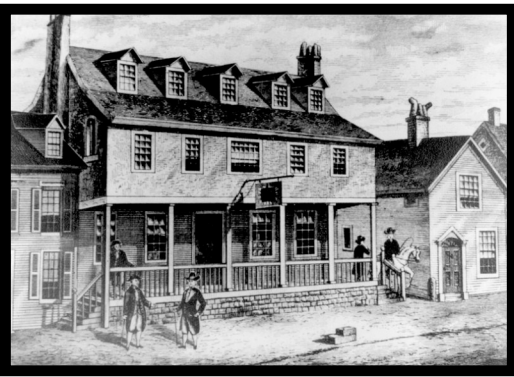


Marine Corps

Tun Tavern

"Birthplace of the Marine Corps"





Tun Tavern

Marine Corps

The Marines took part in many operations against the Barbary pirates between 1801-1815.



Marine Corps

To the Shores of Tripoli

April 25-27, 1805

Lieutenant Presley N. O'Bannon helped capture the fortress at the capital city of Derne, Tripoli.



Marine Corps

To the Shores of Tripoli

April 25-27, 1805



Marine Corps

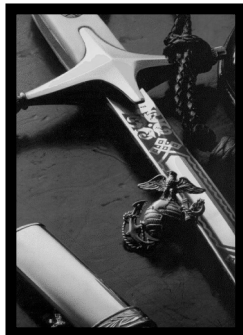
To the Shores of Tripoli

April 25-27, 1805

Mameluke Sword

Prince Hamet presented his personal sword to Lt. O'Bannon after the victory at Derna.

Marine Officers still wear a replica of the Mameluke Sword.



Marine Corps

Mexican-American War
1846-1848

During the Mexican War, Marines seized enemy seaports on both the Gulf and Pacific coasts. A battalion of Marines joined General Winfield Scott's army at Pueblo and made their assault on Chapultepec Palace, a large complex overlooking Mexico City.

The Marines were placed on guard duty at the Mexican Presidential Palace, hence the phrase "The Halls of Montezuma" in the Marine Corps Hymn.

Marine Corps

Mexican-American War
1846-1848



Chapultepec Palace

Marine Corps

Mexican-American War
1846-1848

90% of Marine Officers and Non-commissioned officers were casualties during the battle of Chapultepec.

The Scarlet Stripe (Bloodstripe)

Blood Stripe is worn today on the dress blue trousers to commemorate those casualties.



Marine Corps

Civil War - 1861-1865

Despite their vast service in foreign engagement, the Marine Corps played only a minor role. Their most important task was blockade duty.



Marine Corps

Following the Spanish-American War (1898), the Marines performed with valor in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines.

It saw action in:

- Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902)
- Boxer Rebellion in China (1900)
- Nicaragua (1899, 1909-1910, 1912-1913)
- Panama (1901-1902, 1903-1904)

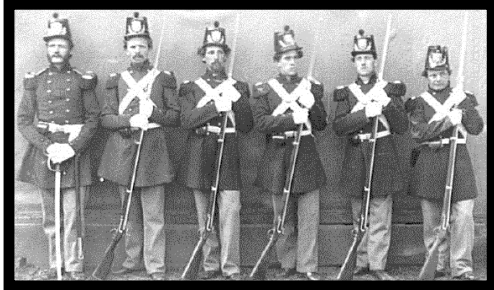
Marine Corps

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It saw action in:

- Dominican Republic (1903-1904, 1916-1924)
- Cuba (1906-1909, 1912, 1917)
- Mexico (1914)
- Haiti (1915-1934)

Marine Corps



Marines in 1864

Marine Corps

World War I

During World War I, battle-tested, veteran Marines served a central role in the U.S. entry into the conflict.

Battle at Belleau Wood

The Marines fought their celebrated battle - it created the Marines' reputation. Rallying under the battle cries of

*"Retreat? Hell, we just got here!"
Captain Lloyd W. Williams*

Marine Corps

World War I

During World War I, battle-tested, veteran Marines served a central role in the U.S. entry into the conflict.

Battle at Belleau Wood

The Marines fought their celebrated battle - it created the Marines' reputation. Rallying under the battle cries of

*"Come on, you sons of bitches, do you want to live forever?"
GySgt Dan Daly*

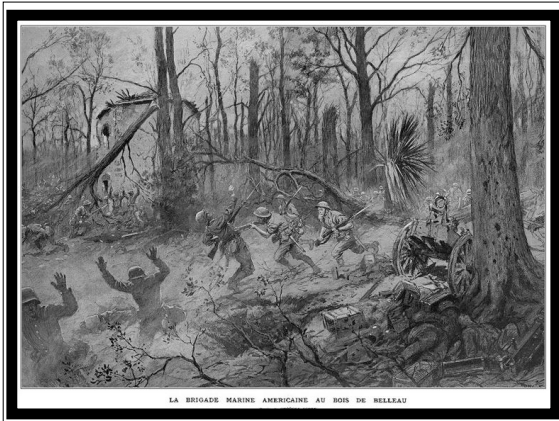
Marine Corps

World War I

Battle at Belleau Wood

The Marines drove German forces from the area. The Marines' fierceness and toughness earned them the respect of the Germans, who rated them of stormtrooper quality.

The Germans nicknamed them *Teufel Hunden* which has the meaning "Devil Dogs".



Marine Corps

Battle
At
Belleau Wood



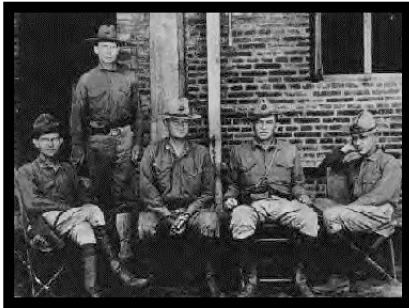
Marine Corps

Battle at Belleau Wood



Marine Corps

Battle at Belleau Wood



Marine Corps

Battle at Belleau Wood



Marine Corps

World War II

During World War II, The Marines played a central role in the Pacific War.

Guadalcanal

First Marine Amphibious Landing of WWII

Marine Corps

Guadalcanal



Marine Corps

World War II

During World War II, The Marines played a central role in the Pacific War.

Tarawa

Japanese claimed "a million men assaulting for a hundred years could not take Tarawa" - It took the Marines just 76 hours.

Landing Vehicles Tracked (LVT): first used in Tarawa and then implemented across the Corps.

Marine Corps

Tarawa



Marine Corps

World War II

During World War II, The Marines played a central role in the Pacific War.

Saipan

On 15 June 1944, U.S. Marines of the 2nd and 4th Divisions began their invasion of Saipan, landing on the southwestern coastline. The Battle of Saipan was one of the bloodiest confrontations in the Pacific theater. On 9 July 1944, twenty-five days after the Americans hit Saipan's beachheads, the island was secured.

Marine Corps

Saipan



Marine Corps

World War II

During World War II, The Marines played a central role in the Pacific War.

Iwo Jima

The battle for Iwo Jima was fought from February 19 to March 26, 1945. More US Marines earned the Medal of Honor on Iwo Jima than in any other battle in US History. Over the 36 day battle there were 25,851 US casualties. One in three were killed or wounded. Of those, 6,825 Americans were killed.

Marine Corps

Iwo Jima



Marine Corps

World War II

During World War II, The Marines played a central role in the Pacific War.

Okinawa

The Battle of Okinawa, fought on the island of Okinawa was the largest amphibious assault during the Pacific campaign of World War II. It was the largest sea-land-air battle in history, running from April through June, 1945. No one on either side expected it to be the last major battle of the war, which it was.

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World War II

During World War II, The Marines played a central role in the Pacific War.

Okinawa

The Americans were planning Operation Downfall, the invasion of the main islands, which never happened due to Japanese surrender in August.

Marine Corps

Iwo Jima



Marine Corps

Korean War 1950-1953

The Marines air and ground forces made an amphibious landing at Inchon. The successful landing resulted in the collapse of North Korea lines and the pursuit of North Korean forces north near the Yalu River.

The People's Republic of China entered the war and the Chinese troops surrounded, surprised and overwhelmed the overextended and outnumbered American forces.

Marine Corps

**Korean War
1950-1953**

Unlike the Eighth Army and the United Nations, which retreated in disarray, leaving Marines alone with no supplies. With 8 Chinese division surrounded the Marines, they regrouped and inflicted heavy casualties during their fighting withdrawal to the coast.

"We're not retreating, we're just attacking in a different direction"

The Marines were the only unit to come back fully intact.

Marine Corps

**Korean War
1950-1953**

Now known as the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, it entered Marine lore as an example of toughness and resolve.

Marine Corps

Inchon



Chosin Reservoir



Marine Corps

Chosin Reservoir



Marine Corps

Vietnam

The landing of the Marines at Da Nang in 1965 marked the beginning of large-scale Marine involvement in Vietnam.

Operation Starlite

This was the first large-scale US ground operation in Vietnam. The target of the operation was the 1st Viet Cong Regiment, reported to be at a strength of about 1,500 men, that had been located in the Van Tuong village complex. Starlite began on August 18, 1965. At the completion of Operation Starlite on August 24, 1965, 613 Viet Cong had been killed at the cost of 17 Marines killed and 203 wounded.

Marine Corps

Vietnam

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Tet Offensive

The Tet offensive was a massive attack by the North Vietnamese on the lunar new year of Tet. They planned to attack while the United States and the South Vietnamese were least expecting it. They planned extensive attacks on the border areas, to draw troops away from their real targets: Saigon, and other important cities and other key areas. They also hoped for a general uprising by the South Vietnamese people against the Southern government.

Marine Corps

Vietnam

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Tet Offensive

The Tet Offensive was militarily a defeat for the Communists; it had weakened them very substantially. However, in public relations it was a Communist victory. The Tet Offensive made the US news media, and the US public, much less enthusiastic about the war than they had been previously. One might reasonably say that in the long run the Tet Offensive was a victory for the Communists, because of the way it reduced the American will to fight.

Marine Corps

Operation Starlite



Marine Corps

Tet Offensive



Marine Corps

Post Vietnam

After Vietnam, the Marines resumed their expeditionary role, participating in:

- The invasion of Grenada (Operation Urgent Fury)
- Invasion of Panama (Operation Just Cause)
- Beirut, Lebanon
- Iran hostage rescue attempt

Marine Corps

The invasion of Grenada (Operation Urgent Fury)

The Invasion of Grenada was an invasion of the island nation of Grenada by the United States and several other nations in response to the illegal execution of Grenadan Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. On October 25, 1983, the United States landed ships on Grenada, defeated Grenadian and Cuban resistance and overthrew the military government of Hudson Austin.

**The
Invasion
Of
Grenada**

(Operation Urgent Fury)



Marine Corps

The invasion of Panama
(Operation Just Cause)

The United States invasion of Panama, codenamed Operation Just Cause, was the invasion of Panama by the United States that deposed general, dictator and *de facto* Panamanian military leader Manuel Noriega in December 1989, during the administration of U.S. President George H. W. Bush.

The invasion of Panama
(Operation Just Cause)



Marine Corps

Beirut, Lebanon

On October 23, 1983, the Marine headquarters building in Beirut, Lebanon was bombed, causing the highest peacetime losses the the Corps in its history:

241 American Servicemen died

220 Marines
18 Navy personnel
3 Army Soldiers



Marine Barracks



Marine Barracks

Marine Corps

Iran Hostage Rescue Attempt

The Iran hostage crisis was a diplomatic crisis between Iran and the United States where 52 U.S. diplomats were held hostage for 444 days from November 4, 1979 to January 20, 1981, after a group of militants took over of the American embassy in support of Iran's revolution.

Marine Corps

Iran Hostage Rescue Attempt

Finally, with the Iranians showing no signs of releasing the hostages, Carter decided to take a risk. On April 11, 1980 he approved a high-risk rescue operation, called "Desert One," that had been in the works for months. Though the odds were against its success, the president was devastated when he had to abort the mission due to three malfunctioning helicopters. When another helicopter crashed into a C-130 transport plane while taking off, eight servicemen were killed and three more were injured.

Iran Hostage Rescue Attempt



8 military men lost their lives during the rescue attempt

Marine Corps

Persian Gulf War

On August 1990, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait set in motion events that would lead to the largest movement of Marine Corps forces since World War II. Operation Desert Shield was the deployment into the Persian Gulf. On January 16, 1991, Operation Desert Storm was launched with the air campaign. The ground attack began in February 24 and lasted 100 hours.

Persian Gulf War



Marine Corps

The War on Terror

This a campaign initiated by the United States government under President George W. Bush and followed by many countries around the world which includes various military, political, legal, religious, and personal actions taken to "curb the spread of terrorism," following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States. The Marine Corps continues to demonstrate their ability to fight the battles anywhere in the world - be it Iraq, Afghanistan or any other nation that supports world terrorism.

The War on Terror



The War on Terror



Marine Corps

Quotations about United States Marines

"The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, how they could fight!"

MGen Frank E. Lowe
USA
26 January 1952

Marine Corps

Quotations about United States Marines

"Marines know how to use their bayonets. Army bayonets may as well be paperweights."

Navy Times
November 1994

Marine Corps

Quotations about United States Marines

"Why in hell can't the Army do it if the Marines can. They are the same kind of men; why can't they be like Marines."

Gen John J. Pershing
USA
12 February 1918

Marine Corps

Quotations about United States Marines

"I have just returned from visiting the Marines at the front, and there is not a finer fighting organization in the world!"

Gen Douglas MacArthur
USA
21 September 1950

Marine Corps

Quotations about United States Marines

"We have two companies of Marines running rampant all over the northern half of this island, and three Army regiments pinned down in the southwestern corner, doing nothing. What the hell is going on."

Gen John W. Vessey, Jr
USA
1983

Marine Corps

Quotations about United States Marines

"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don't have that problem."

Ronald Regan
President of the U.S.
1985

Marine Corps

Quotations about United States Marines

"They told (us) to open up the Embassy, or 'we'll blow you away.' And then they looked up and say the Marines on the roof with these really big guns, and they said in Somali, 'Igaralli ahow.' which means 'Excuse me, I didn't mean it, my mistake.'"

Karen Aguilar
In U.S. Embassy
1991

Marine Corps

Quotations about United States Marines

"Marines I see as two breeds, Rottweilers or Dobermans, because Marines come in two varieties, big and mean, or skinny and mean. They're aggressive on the attack and tenacious on defense. They've got really short hair and they always go for the throat."

RAdm Jay R. Stark
USN
10 November 1995