

For 169 Years U. S. Marines Have Been Fighting Their Country's Battles on Land and on the Sea

Anniversary Finds Corps in Forefront Of War Against Japs

The United States marine corps celebrates its 169th anniversary this November 10th, without pause and with no fanfare. For the relatively small marine corps this has been a year of herculean tasks, never before equalled in the long and heroic history of the corps. Over thousands of miles of Pacific ocean, Leathernecks have leap-frogged to within bomber-range of Japan itself. Behind them lay the heaviest marine casualties in history—but small when weighed beside one of the greatest military sagas ever written within a period of twelve months. Since November 10th, last, marines have advanced the front on Japan by at least three thousand miles, all the most difficult kind of amphibious operations against an enemy who did not know how to surrender except in death on the point of a marine bayonet.



A weary machine gunner carries his gun on his shoulder and his rifle in his hand, as he trudges along a soggy trail on New Britain Island. Another Marine slogs along behind him, with a can of lubricating oil in each hand, while a Jeep bounces past. Marine units made their first landing on New Britain on Christmas, 1943. It took many bitter weeks to clean out the Japs.

Since the year 1775 when Capt. Robert Mullin recruited the first marines in the Tun Tavern at Philadelphia, Leathernecks have expected as their share the hardest type of fighting. The first two battalions of marines were promised nothing more than six dollars a month, a liberal daily ration of rum, and plenty of action. For the last 169 years Leathernecks have seen action in virtually every corner of the world.

In the War of Independence the new-born marines served creditably on land and sea. Their first recorded action was a raid on New Providence in the Bahamas. A detachment fought with Washington in the Battle of Princeton and in the second Battle of Trenton. Marines were also present for the historic crossing of the Delaware and were part of the force that surprised the Hessian garrison on Christmas Eve, 1776. Among their earlier admirers was John Paul Jones who saw them in action and openly spoke his admiration.

Reorganized in 1798. With the coming of peace, the marines were disbanded, not to be formed again until 1798. It was seven years later that they set out on their first overseas venture—an operation that was later to be recorded in the Marine Corps hymn. This action ("shores of Tripoli") was made notable by Lieutenant O'Bannon who led seven marines and a handful of natives in one of the most daring raids in military history.

Always busy, the year 1812 found marines in action again. They fought in many engagements, from Lake Erie with Commodore Perry to New Orleans with Andrew Jackson. It was remarked even in those days that such a small force—numbering scarcely more than a thousand—could fight so effectively on so many fronts.

The marines were still a very small force when they went into action in 1845 in the War with Mexico. But despite their numbers they took a major role in the attack on the Fortress of Chapultepec, and, joining with a small force under Lieut. Ulisses S. Grant, marched to the gates of Mexico City.

For the next 50 years the marines were relatively idle. They played an occasional part in restoring order in Central America, but they didn't get into action on a serious scale again until the Spanish-American war. In this contest they struck the first blows for American arms; they won the first victories; they electrified the nation with their skill and daring. Rarely has such a small group of fighting men received so many decorations for valor.

At Front in World War I. World War I also demonstrated the high percentage of individual marine heroism. One thousand, six hundred and sixty-eight marines received awards despite the fact the marine corps was still a relatively small organization. The first American to win the Congressional Medal of Honor was a marine—Gunnery Sgt. Charles F. Hoffman who silenced five enemy machine guns in Belleau Wood. Typical of marine spirit was this report: "5:30 a. m.—Four officers and 78 prisoners arrived at brigade headquarters brought in by Marine Private Leonard to whom they surrendered in the Bois de Belleau."

Marines entered World War II on the firing line. "Send us more Japs" wired the beleaguered marines on

Wake Island. On Bataan they fought with equal courage. At Midway they helped stem a major enemy invasion. Then on August 7, 1942 they were again chosen by their country to spearhead an offensive. Guadalcanal was the first offensive blow struck by the Allies against Japan. First Division marines fought ashore carrying with them the hopes and prayers of the entire civilized world.

Leathernecks, recently returned from overseas, often debate the relative fierceness of the battles in which they have engaged the enemy. All admit that Guadalcanal rates with the toughest. For weeks the marines fought on short rations and with the enemy fleet and air force in almost constant attendance. When the marines finally moved out for a rest, they had secured the first foothold on the Japanese perimeter of defense.

Bougainville, Makin, New Georgia followed. Then came Tarawa. Here the marine corps fought its costliest battle. Moving in on the shattered island the morning of November 20, 1943, marines found the preliminary shelling had failed to dislodge the Japanese. The first 24 hours saw the marines clinging to a beachhead 100 yards long and 10 yards deep. Surmounting almost certain catastrophe the marines rallied the second day to drive inland. By the third day they had completely secured the island.

Leap to Marshalls. Moving northward, the marines next invaded the Marshall Islands, meeting with less resistance because they had learned at Tarawa to land on flanking islands before assaulting the enemy's main positions.

Marines in this period also were fighting on New Britain Island, Cape Gloucester standing as their chief campaign. But they soon withdrew from this theater.

Weeks passed before the marines struck again. This time they leaped forward 1,700 miles—from the Marshalls to the Marianas. This, the world realized, was a blow to the Japanese stomach, for Saipan would bring U. S. bombers within range of Japan proper.

The ensuing battle was waged on land, sea and air. The Japanese fleet, drawn out to meet this threat, was turned back by long-range carrier-based bombers. Ashore the Second and Fourth marines, aided by an army division, ran into even harder fighting than they had met at Tarawa. Saipan, a large island with mountains, posed an entirely new kind of tactical problem to marines. But, versatile as ever, they soon had secured their beachhead and were moving across the island. The enemy fought to a suicidal end at Saipan. Even the native population joined in the battle and, when they saw their cause was lost, leaped into the sea.

Tinian and Guam followed soon after. In re-taking Guam the Leathernecks evened the score for the marine garrison which was overwhelmed on that island at the outbreak of war.

This series of successes—Saipan, Tinian, Guam—caused an upset in the Japanese government and led to a bad fright for Tokyo. The Japs were not given much pause to swallow the implications of these victories. The marines struck next at Peleliu in the Palau group. The Japs quickly saw that this was a blow aimed at the Philippines.

Thus the Japanese tide of conquest ebbed. The past year has taught the Jap to dread the marine. In one important operation the fact that marines were involved was withheld as information of value to the enemy. The enemy who learned his lesson from the Leathernecks on Guadalcanal now may agree with Allied observers that the United States marine is "the most superb fighting man in the world."

First Hours Ashore On Peleliu Cost Marines Heavily

By T/Sgt. Benjamin Goldberg
PELELIU, PALAU ISLANDS (Delayed)—The island was covered with a pall of black smoke as the Marines landed.

Each wave of Leathernecks was met with intense enemy fire. Mortar shells knocked out amphibian tractors. From the rocks flanking the beach came machine gun fire. From the groves came rifle fire.

The Jap was everywhere. In caves, in pillboxes, in foxholes, under brush, concealed in palm trees, wrapped in fronds. And he took a heavy toll.

One marine reeled to the beach, arms dripping blood. As he was about to drop into a foxhole, he was slain by a Jap sniper.

A corporal led his machine-gun squad into action. In 20 paces, he lost six men.

An officer lay in a shallow foxhole speaking over the radio telephone. A mortar shell plopped nearby. The officer was killed instantly. A corporal beside him was chipped by shrapnel.

In the first four hours, the Leathernecks advanced only 150 yards. One unit found a cave with three openings. Twenty feet away was a marine, lying on his side. He had been wounded at the front line and was returning, alone, for treatment when a Jap shot at him from inside the cave. A sergeant raced to aid him while the other men of the unit covered him with rifle fire. The sergeant crept to the mouth of the cave, emptied his clip. A second later he was dead from a bullet between his eyes. A lieutenant inched forward. He, too, was shot dead.

Flame-throwers flush Japs. One Jap was flushed out of the cave by flame-throwers. He was shot. A second one charged out. He, too, was killed. Grenades were thrown into the hideaway and chased out a third enemy soldier. He was killed. There was one who refused to budge. Twenty pounds of explosive in one cave mouth and the flame-thrower in the other two accounted for him.

At dusk, the Japs counter-attacked. One of their tanks and some infantry broke through, almost—but not quite—to the beach itself. Two of our amphib came up to meet the assault. They were knocked out. A third came up and put the Jap tank out of action. Two Japs leaped out and were filled with bullets before they reached the ground. The Japs lost 50 men and withdrew.

All night the marines stayed in their foxholes, while mortar shells fell about them. From the rear came sniper fire. These snipers criss-crossed our positions with rifle and light machine-gun fire.

The landing craft opens up, and fully equipped Leathernecks dash onto the beach at Bougainville in the northern Solomons. This scene was repeated thousands of times as the marines attack island after island, driving the Japs from the south Pacific. The third marine division, members of which are pictured here, bore the brunt of the savage fighting in the Bougainville invasion. They fought five engagements in the first month ashore, enduring all the misery of the rainy season.

Hedda Hopper: Looking at HOLLYWOOD

THIS is the year of child stars, with talented kids in greater demand than they have ever been, with the possible exception of Shirley Temple.

Central Casting boasts 1,500 small thespians whose mothers hang around the telephone night and day, waiting to snatch off their prodigies' curl papers and rush them to the casting directors. Every ambitious mother in the business thinks she has a Peggy Ann Garner, a Roddy McDowall, a Margaret O'Brien, an Elizabeth Taylor, a Jackie Jenkins, or a Ted Donaldson in her home.



Peggy Ann Garner

Movie moguls are capitalizing on stories with child characters. Jim Ryan of 20th Century-Fox told me: "The problem isn't to find kids with talent and looks; our difficulty is to select the ideal one child for the part out of the mob of applicants." Small stars usually disappear when they reach the awkward age. Occasionally they come back in their teens as ingenues, as did Shirley Temple, Anita Louise, and Jane Withers. But the first awkward-age star of magnitude to hit the screen is 20th Century's Peggy Ann Garner, now playing Francie in Betty Smith's current hit, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn."

Acting Plum This is the most important role ever entrusted to any young player. It fell to Peggy Ann after her distinguished performance as the child Nora in "The Keys of the Kingdom"—also the child in "Jane Eyre."

This 12-year-old, who works 71 out of the 73 days required by the picture for shooting, gets two days' rest before going into "Nob Hill," where she plays Katy, a little Irish immigrant child, an emotional and important role.

She's not a pretty child in the conventional sense; she has beautiful bone structure and a face full of character that takes on beauty when the role demands.

On Masculine Side Another child star who promises to weather the grim years that threw Jackie Coogan, Freddie Bartholomew, Dickie Moore, and Peter Lawford out of pictures for a time is Roddy McDowall. His performance in "The Keys of the Kingdom," young McDowall plays Francis Chisholm as a boy—a role as appealing as Hiu in "How Green Was My Valley," which shot him to stardom overnight. He is now in Kanab, Utah, making "Thunderhead," another Mary O'Hara story and a sequel to "My Friend Flicka." The tale has majestic outdoor settings, gives Roddy the sort of things he loves best, working with animals.

Born That Way Another small fry who promises to have such a record is Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's seven-year-old Margaret O'Brien. This philosophical pixie is no run-of-the-mill beauty, either. Small Margaret's face has quality and spirit rather than baby beauty. She comes of a dancing family—both her mother and aunt are talented performers.

In "Sunday Dinner for a Soldier" is Connie Marshall, a mini-marvel who, like Margaret O'Brien and Peggy Ann Garner, became known as a model and magazine cover child before clicking with movie cameras. She's lined up against Bobby Driscoll and Billy Cummings, two scene stealers who won their spurs in "The Sullivans." This is Connie's first picture, but she's a child to keep your eyes on.

Still They Come I spotted George Noakes for a winner in "Going My Way." So did 20th. I guess, because they grabbed him for the part of Andrew in "The Keys of the Kingdom." He's an English type whose soft-checked charm hides an athlete's physique. There's Ted Donaldson, from "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," and Skipper Homcier, who plays nasty Nazi kids superbly. Elizabeth Taylor, who has a steadily mounting following and will be co-starred with Rooney in "National Velvet." Oh, and there's Jackie Jenkins of "The Human Comedy," who wrapped himself about our hearts in a brief two hours. The list is as long as your arm and crammed with talent.

Looking a Way Ahead Warners have bought 15 acres on top of Hollywood Hills for a television studio, which they figure it will take five years to build and equip. . . . At Republic, on "A Song for Miss Julie," set, are Roger Clark, who's directly descended from Capt. William Clark of famed Lewis and Clark expedition, which opened up the northwest country, and Margaret Early, who claims Confederate Gen. Jubal Early as a great-granduncle. She plays opposite Roger.

Star Dust STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

By VIRGINIA VALE

SOMEWHAT to the surprise of a lot of people, including Lana Turner herself, becoming a mother seems to have made her more glamorous than ever. Her letters from soldiers, sailors and marines never have been so numerous as in recent months. Now, when they write words of greeting and admiration to Lana, postscripts are added, sending love to Cheryl Christina. They ask for Lana's photograph and a snapshot of the baby. They've crowned Lana their "Pin-up Queen," and christened "Cherry" their "Pin-up Princess." When Lana reported back to M-G-M for "Marriage Is a Private Affair," she felt uncertain about getting back into the groove; now she says she feels as if she belongs once more.

A forthcoming Paramount picture is "National Barn Dance," a film based on the famous 19-year-old radio program of the same name. It stars the entire National Barn Dance troupe, which includes Pat Buttram, Joe Kelly, Lulabelle and



PAT BUTTRAM

Scotty, the Dinning Sisters, the Hoosier Hot Shots, Arkie, and has for romantic leads, Jean Heather and Charles Quigley, with Robert Benchley, Mable Paige and Charles Dingle in top supporting roles.

For the first time in the 10 years it's been on the air, C. B. De Mille's Radio Theater will present an adaptation of a best-seller which has not yet been made into a film. Bob Hope will star in a dramatization of his book, "I Never Left Home," on Monday evening, November 13, over CBS.

Americans can hear statesmen like Sumner Welles and Britain's Lord Vansittart discuss the question of how hard a peace the Allies can enforce in the March of Times' latest film, "What to Do with Germany"—a most timely and important film.

Jack Benny and Rudy Vallee have joined the all-star aggregation signed to surround Fred Allen in his new film comedy, "It's in the Bag." Benny and Vallee will play themselves in the United Artists film. Allen will appear as the owner of a flea circus!

It's quite a week when three really good pictures are released. Practically simultaneously Paramount gave us "To Have and Have Not" and "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," and 20th Century-Fox came through with "Laura." "To Have and Have Not" has Humphrey Bogart playing a Hemingway hero and reminding us of his role in "Casablanca"; it also has Lauren Bacall, a newcomer worth keeping your eye on. "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" is a lot of fun. And "Laura" is an excellent murder mystery, with Gene Tierney slightly miscast in the lead.

Alan Young's growing superstitions about the fate that links him with "Duffy's Tavern." He was brought to big-time radio through a fluke—a radio set was tuned for "Duffy's" but got him instead. When his show proved to be a whopping success, he got the spot on the Blue network formerly occupied by "Duffy's Tavern." Now his new office is the former haunt of the "Duffy's Tavern" cast.

The most unusual contract recently signed in radio was that making Dean Murphy the new master of ceremonies of M-G-M's "Screen Test." It forbids Murphy to impersonate any political celebrity on the program during the present campaign. Metro bigwigs feel that Murphy (President Roosevelt's favorite impersonator of F. D. R.) might make listeners believe political figures were actually on the show.

ODDS AND ENDS—Sunny Tufts tried to buy a 1906 auto which he drives in "Miss Susie Stages," but the owner wouldn't sell—he gets \$25 a day for renting it to film studios. . . . Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy have made arrangements to do camp shows on Christmas day. . . . Columbia is completing preparations on "Our Wandering Daughters," a film treating of America's juvenile delinquency problem. . . . Patric Knowles, appearing in "Kitty" with Paulette Goddard, journeyed to Hollywood in 1936 to play Errol Flynn's brother in "Robin Hood." . . . The Alan Ladd has named their baby Alana—"beloved one."

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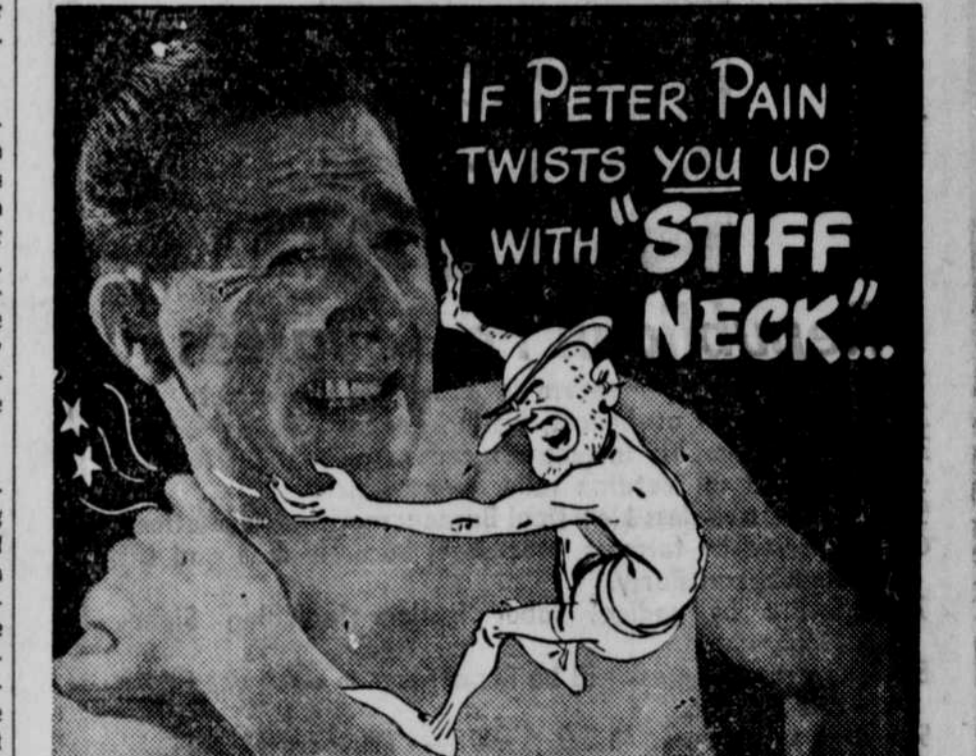
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