THE Leatherneck
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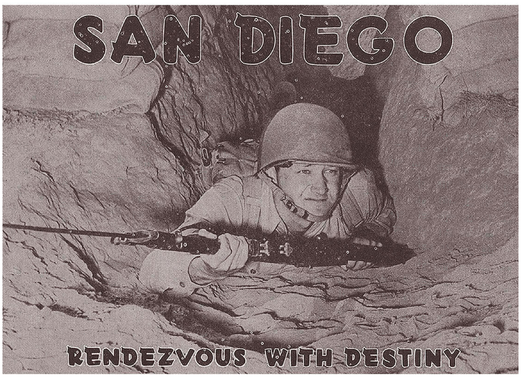

BY JACK PEPPER

MARINES obey orders. After Pearl Harbor the orders were to expand. Take the Marines of the San Diego area to illustrate the heart-warming efficiency with which the Corps has carried out these expansion orders in 12 months.

During these 12 months thousands of youths from the western reaches of the nation have gathered at San Diego for their rendezvous with destiny, dedicating themselves to the job of becoming good Marines.

During these 12 months the Corps' installations have spread all along the beautiful coast of California's "Deep South" and far back into the storied ranchlands. A big race-track and thousands of acres of grass-land have been added to the Marines' properties. Every post, base and unit in the area has been doubled, then tripled and then jumped up many more notches to take care of the steady stream of boots being turned out by the San Diego Recruit Depot.

The first frantic weeks after Pearl Harbor, the Recruit Depot, in some ways, had the look of a self-governed insane asylum. Young men of the West (and we mean all of the country west of the Mississippi) were angered by the Japanese attack. They wanted quick action. They joined the Marine Corps.

Accommodations at the Recruit Depot were swamped—for a while. But within a few weeks the Depot had a system, organized under the guidance of Colonel John Groff, working smoothly. New buildings and tent cities sprang up overnight in the boondocks near the bay. Raw civilians began learning the Marine Corps' ABC's and recruits were turned out in thousand-lots. The recruit training, formerly nine weeks in length, was clipped to seven weeks by working the men longer hours. Gradually, new pre-fabricated barracks took the places of the tents. Men who showed the most leadership in Boot Camp were made drill instructors. And the Base's huge parade ground was filled with platoons from the hours just before daylight until well after sunset. Some of the country's best manpower volunteered in the Corps right after Pearl Harbor. Most of them showed real potentialities in their seven-week "short course."

From Boot Camp they were sent to camps or schools for specialized training. Their training had only begun in Boot Camp.

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WITH a real need for specialists in the expanding Corps, the schools already established were enlarged and many more were added.

Among these is the Signal School, with its two sections of radio and field telephone schools turning out men every six weeks. The men are assigned to combat units at Camp Elliott or Camp Pendleton.

Students of the school usually are taken immediately after they graduate from Boot Camp. Holding courses in the new signal school buildings for the first few weeks of the school, the men are then sent out into the boondocks near the Base where they spend the days practicing with field equipment.

Veteran sergeants, many of whom have had actual combat experience in the present war, are attending a six weeks' course at First Sergeants' School. Upon graduation they are assigned to companies, where they serve with a combination of experience and knowledge of the latest type administration.

Motor Transport School, with its two sections of mechanics' course and drivers' course, absorbs many of the men from Boot Camp. The men who take the mechanics' course spend three months learning functions of motors ranging from those of motorcycles to the ones that push the large prime movers. Principal subject taught in the drivers' course is the art of driving at night without lights and driving in a convoy.

Toughest and most rigid school on the Base is the famous Sea School where men from Recruit Depot are turned into sea going Leathernecks in one month.

Far from the movie "Shores of Tripoli" version, the school starts at 0600 with the students running at a fast pace around the half-mile long parade ground. Then follows a full day of study and drill in the subjects necessary for the men to know when they man the batteries aboard ship.

However, the Base can only absorb a limited amount of the new men, and the majority are sent to Camp Elliott for further training, either in the field or in administrative courses. Present commander of the Base is Brig. Gen. James L. Underhill.

To further the long-range school plan at Elliott, the camp, during the last of September, was changed from an administrative standpoint, and designated as the "Fleet Marine Force Training Center" and put under the command of Brigadier General Matthew H. Kingman who formerly commanded the Marine Corps Base.

A twofold administrative task is the prime reason for the change of the camp, which was formerly commanded by the ranking officer of the unit sta-

theaters, post offices and athletic and recreation.

MOST desired course at Camp Elliott is the Officer Candidates' School in an area known as Green's Farm. Set up similar to the headquarters of a Marine unit in the field, the camp, for one month, is the home of the pick of non-coms in the San Diego area. Upon graduation they wear brass insignias with the inscription "OC,"

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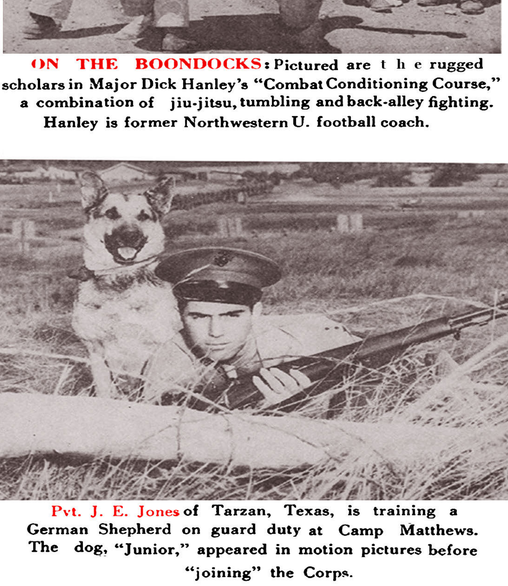
while waiting for their commissions as second lieutenants in the line, to come from Washington.

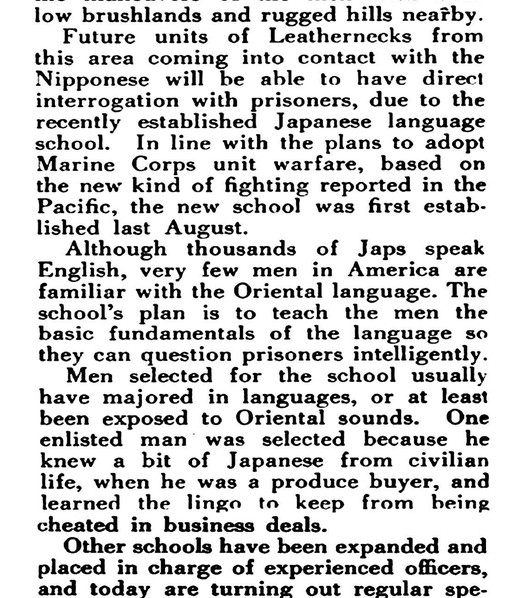
For 30 days the men go through training reminiscent of Boot Camp. Reveille is at 0530 with drill and classes filling the eight-hour days. There is little or no recreation and liberty is only from 1200 Saturday to 1800 Sunday.

Included in the curriculum are demolition work, machine gun and mortar practice, map reading, hand grenade use, tank demonstrations, field sanitation and assembly and dis-assembly of rifles.

The final week is devoted to putting into practice by demonstration in field



ON THE BOONDOCKS: Pictured are the rugged scholars in Major Dick Hanley's "Combat Conditioning Course," a combination of jiu-jitsu, tumbling and back-alley fighting. Hanley is former Northwestern U. football coach.



Pvt. J. E. Jones of Tarzan, Texas, is training a German Shepherd on guard duty at Camp Matthews. The dog, "Junior," appeared in motion pictures before "joining" the Corps.

exercises what was learned in class.

The future officers are taught only to think along lines of offensive warfare. and do not learn any type of retreating action. The terrain is well suited for the maneuvers of the men with both low brushlands and rugged hills nearby.

Future units of Leathernecks from this area coming into contact with the Nipponese will be able to have direct interrogation with prisoners, due to the recently established Japanese language school. In line with the plans to adopt Marine Corps unit warfare, based on the new kind of fighting reported in the Pacific, the new school was first established last August.

Although thousands of Japs speak English, very few men in America are familiar with the Oriental language. The school's plan is to teach the men the basic fundamentals of the language so they can question prisoners intelligently.

Men selected for the school usually have majored in languages, or at least been exposed to Oriental sounds. One enlisted man was selected because he knew a bit of Japanese from civilian life, when he was a produce buyer, and learned the lingo to keep from being cheated in business deals.

Other schools have been expanded and placed in charge of experienced officers, and today are turning out regular specialists who accompany combat units leaving for duty overseas.

Along with the expansion of the schools has been the wide scale construction of all types of buildings in the posts in the San Diego area. Although the Japanese would like to know the location of the various buildings, suffice it to say that all units are constantly in a state of construction.

Last January, $1,500,000 was ordered spent on the construction of buildings at Camp Elliott alone. Today the results of that expenditure can be seen in the

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AT THE BASE: At left, instructors at the Marine Base's Telephone School are setting up an emergency telephone system for a demonstration. This school's course is an intensive one. Good communications set up by Telephone School graduates have been very important in the Solomons Islands campaign.

new theaters, post exchanges, recreation halls and two new swimming pools that accommodate more than 400 men each.

Significant factor in the construction in the camps is the forward type of planning connected with the athletic improvements. Both at Camp Elliott and at the Base Recruit Depot swimming pool, where platoons are classified and the men sent through basic courses in swimming, every individual Marine is taught how to handle himself in the water.

After mastering the fundamentals of swimming, the men are sent to Camp C. J. Miller, probably the only camp of its type in the world. Here, for two weeks, the men go through the most concentrated and varied athletic and conditioning program the Corps has ever known.

Formerly belonging to the Bing Crosby Enterprises, the camp is located at the famous Del Mar Race Track, 18 miles north of San Diego and directly on the coast. It will be used by the Corps for the duration.

Originated by Major General Joseph Fegan, the program there is the final conditioning of the men who got their first taste of water at Camp Elliott and the Marine Corps Base.

A survey revealed that more than sixty per cent of the civilians coming to San Diego to become Leathernecks have never seen an ocean, and an ocean to someone who has lived in the middle west all his life is not something to trifle with. They have a fear of the size and noise of the ocean, officials found, and the present program resulted. Today more than 1,000 Marines are taking the program every week.

Where formerly famous race track horses were fed and quartered, now live the United States Marines. The stables were cleaned, sanitation facilities installed and athletic and recreation places built over the entire area.

The strenuous program, besides swimming and aquatic maneuvers in the nearby ocean, also includes football, basketball, wrestling, boxing and horseback riding.

YES, the old time Horse Marines have been revived at the camp. Eight horses were purchased by the Corps, and for thirty minutes each day Leathernecks do their part to revive the famous unit of the Corps.

The camp is named after Colonel C. J. Miller, who served in the Corps 30 years before his death in 1938, and who was active in organizing athletic events

Brig. General James T. Underhill, C.O. of the Marine Corps Base.

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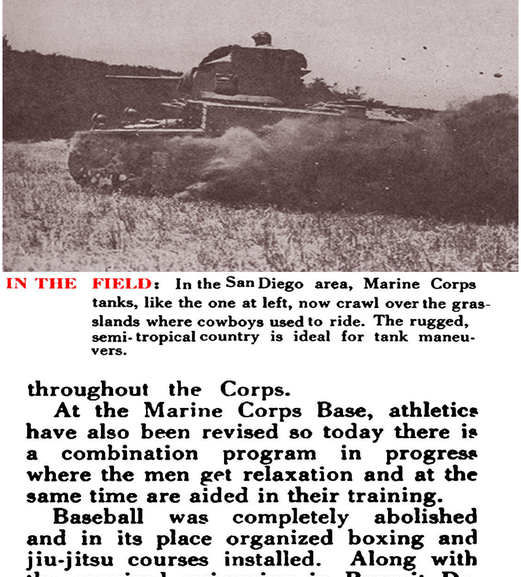

IN THE FIELD: In the San Diego area, Marine Corps tanks, like the one at left, now crawl over the grasslands where cowboys used to ride. The rugged, semi-tropical country is ideal for tank maneuvers.

throughout the Corps.

At the Marine Corps Base, athletics have also been revised so today there is a combination program in progress where the men get relaxation and at the same time are aided in their training.

Baseball was completely abolished and in its place organized boxing and jiu-jitsu courses installed. Along with the required swimming in Recruit Depot, is required jiu-jitsu courses taught by experienced enlisted men. Even the officers in charge of the enlisted personnel of the Depot are requested to take the program. It's one of the few times and places where an enlisted man can throw a major over his shoulder and remain free long enough to tell about it.

Jiu-jitsu was given added impetus at Camp Elliott when Major Richard Hanley, former football coach at Northwestern, visited the camp with his specially trained crew of enlisted men, and demonstrated before high ranking officers his new system of counter jiu-jitsu. A combination of jiu-jitsu and rough-house tactics, it is based more on the things learned by every American youth when caught by a bunch of bullies.

THE reputation of Marines as crack rifle shots is being retained through the facilities at Camp Calvin B. Matthews, known for many years as the San Diego Marine Corps Rifle Range. Despite the large amount of recruits the officer and enlisted coaches at the range are turning out crack platoons every three weeks.

Rifle records, both with the '03 and the M-1, are constantly being broken. Under the watchful eye of the range coaches, all experts in their own right, platoons spend two weeks snapping in and getting the feel of their rifles, and one week actually firing the range.

Latest change in the course was the adoption of the Reising gun which replaced the pistol for the enlisted men. The old pistol ranges were torn up and turned into .22 rifle courses, and new Reising gun ranges built. At the same time each range was equipped with a loud speaker for the range officers to direct the firing and speed up actual time of firing the course.

When war broke out the camp was fully equipped to take care of a few Marine platoons every week. After war was declared, large scale construction plans were drawn, and building started immediately.

As at the Base, tents were gradually replaced by pre-fabricated barracks. When new ranges were built over the area, huts were built near them, thus eliminating the need for long marches to and from the ranges.

A new guard house and visitors' building was constructed alongside of a large combination library, post exchange and recreation hall. New mess halls, all of a permanent nature, were built practically overnight, and the former wooden maintenance shops of the camp were converted into steel and stucco structures.

A complete dispensary was built, so that recruits who were formerly sent back to the Base for minor ailments now are being treated at the range.

From the artillery standpoint, the San Diego area has one of the best situated

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"READY ON FIRING LINE": New type of public address system is demonstrated by Captain James E. Snow, range officer at the Marine Corps Rifle Range at Camp Matthews. This "mechanical voice" is of great value, especially on record day when, by whispering into the speaker, a person's voice is clearly audible above the roar of rifle fire. Captain Snow is one of the Corps' most noted riflemen; has won many a title on range.

artillery ranges in the country at Camp Dunlap, named after the late Brig. Gen. Robert Henry Dunlap, who was killed by a landslide in France in 1931 while trying to rescue a woman from the avalanche. General Dunlap organized the first regiment of Marine artillery.

In November the Twelfth Marine Artillery Regiment started on large scale maneuvers in the nearby Chocolate Mountains. After spending eight months in the camp, the regiment has been going through an intensive training program that included individual battery maneuvers and class room work.

The 50,000 acres of desolate country surrounding the camp supports little life or vegetation, and Marines can fire away at their hearts' content only killing a lone scorpion or two.

Called a "gunners' paradise," the camp is situated near Niland, California, 165 miles from San Diego. Largest building is the mess hall that will seat 1,000 Leathernecks. There are smaller mess halls that are also used as class rooms. There are two post exchanges, a special water treatment plant, outdoor theater and a large scale cold-storage plant.

Air conditioning is one of the camp's most important features, as summer temperatures scale up to 123 degrees in the shade and drop to 110 at night.

Chief landmark of the preparation of the Leathernecks in Southern California to meet Jap aggression is the new Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, largest military training establishment in the United States today.

Covering 150,000 acres of the former 232,000-acre Rancho San Margarita y las Flores, the new camp extends along the Pacific Ocean and back up into the hills on a 22-mile front between Oceanside and San Clemente. The nearest southern part is 35 miles from San Diego.

Today the camp is an estimated one-fifth complete with workmen laboring three shifts a day. From all parts of California the men building the camp have come to try and find lodging in Oceanside, the nearest town, and build the camp for secondary training of the Leathernecks.

Ghosts of the former Spanish caballeros are recalled as one travels through the cliffs on the newly built concrete highway into the main part of the camp.

First building to be seen is the 144-year-old ranch house, a few hundred yards below the frame building, where Major General Joseph C. Fegan and his staff administer the affairs of the training center. The building was built by the Pico brothers, original owners who were given the land by Governor Alvarado in 1841 for "valiant services rendered."

Today, directed by Gen. Fegan and his Chief of Staff, Col. J. W. Knighton, Camp Pendleton is proof of the Marines' ability to streamline their Corps to meet the force of the Axis Powers.

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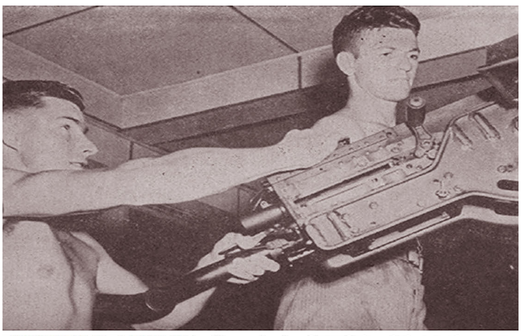

GUNNERY LESSON: Recruits in Sea School learn how to man warships' guns, in picture at left. Marine Gunners have been standouts in the Pacific Sea Battles. At Sea School, boys get six-week intensive course.

Marines enjoy a "picnic" at Camp Elliott. It's cafeteria style so cooks can join in fun.

THE camp was officially opened on 25 September when President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited this area during his tour of military camps. The President spent the entire afternoon driving around a small area of the camp, and watched Mrs. Joseph Pendleton raise the American flag in the dedication ceremonies.

Named after the late Major General Joseph H. Pendleton, the camp is a tribute to the man who is known as the "father of the San Diego Marine Corps Base" as it was the general that selected the site for the Base.

General Pendleton died 4 February, 1942. He had been in retirement since 1924, after serving the Corps for 45 years. He was 81 years old.

It is utterly impossible to get an entire conception of the camp, except from the air. It is so large and varied in terrain features that few of the Marine personnel already stationed at the camp have seen the entire area.

Every type of infantry and artillery maneuver can be carried out on a large scale within the camp itself, and vegetation varies to the point where the men will get a taste of swamps and lowlands one day and be waging mock warfare in the hills the next.

Covering the 150,000 acres are 245 miles of highway, not including the medium type dirt roads that zigzag through the many small canyons. There are five large canyons on the camp site.

The beach offers a chance for the Marines to practice landing maneuvers of all kinds. The shore line varies from flat beaches, where the men get their first taste of the Higgins boats and establishing beach heads, to sheer cliffs that can only be scaled by starting from the boats themselves.

In addition, for further aquatic maneuvers there are five lakes in the camp area that are hidden among the hills and offer excellent proving grounds for men to practice war on unfamiliar territory.

Laid out according to prescribed naval plans for Marine Corps camps, at the same time the new camp has the latest type improvements gleaned from experience in World War II. These are both of an efficiency and amusement nature.

Although it is eight miles into Oceanside, there is a regular schedule for Marine Corps busses which are furnished the men free of charge. However, the men are not liberty hounds and can be found more often wandering over the hills at dusk, or attending their own theater presentations. The lakes are constantly filled with the men taking a swim after the close of the day's maneuvers.

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Oceanside itself provides for amusements for the Leathernecks who are seeking an evening of relaxation after the hard day's training. Although there are various night clubs the town only supports two theaters which are jammed every evening. During the day, swimming in the ocean is the chief relaxation for the Leathernecks who have day-liberty.

From the standpoint of military efficiency, the camp is unparalleled in its construction. Taking into consideration the possibility of air raids and the dropping of incendiary bombs by the enemy, the buildings have all been placed at least fifty yards apart. All parking places for the Marine vehicles are large enough to allow the same space.

The buildings themselves are not the frame type but sturdily built with the latest type incendiary bomb proof ceilings. At the same time more of the old historic buildings have been torn down. When President Roosevelt visited the camp he jokingly suggested a court martial for any person destroying the old Ranch House building which will be made into an officers' club.

Although much of the camp area can be patrolled by jeeps, some of the terrain is so rugged that 20 horses have been secured for patrolling of the outlying districts, with Marines taking over a job similar to the Canadian Mounties. Former stable hands of the ranch have been retained to care for the horses.

Complete secondary training in a well rounded period is the keynote of the camp, with large scale maneuvers the general theme. Facilities will eventually be so complete a recruit can start his training there, go through advanced training, including the specialized schools, and emerge a completely trained Leatherneck. This will eliminate the former necessity of transporting the men from one place to another for their specialized training.

Initial stages of construction were hampered by shortage of houses for the men building the camp. This condition was solved by building a trailer camp for the men in the area, and constructing regular military-type barracks for the single workmen. These barracks will be used by the Leathernecks after the building is complete.

ONE of the newest, and the camp that has received much publicity and recognition since its opening last May, is Camp Gillespie, located in the hills of San Diego.

The home of the west coast paratroopers, the camp has two large towers for training carefully selected men the new art of dropping from the air on the enemy.

Renouncing for many weeks the pleasures of everyday life, the flying Leathernecks progress through a rugged schedule.

First step in their training is a knowledge of the art of handling their bodies, so when they fall from an airplane 500 feet above the ground, they will land in one piece.

At the same time they are learning

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how to fold chutes, how to protect themselves after landing and tactics of the individual in combat.

Final steps come when they first use the "controlled" tower, and later the "free" tower, dropping 250 feet to the ground after their parachutes have been automatically released from the top of the tower.

After graduating from these towers, ten qualified jumps from the free tower being necessary, the sky jumpers then make six jumps from airplanes under close supervision of officers of the school. If they pass this last test they are graduated from the school.

Present commander of the school is Lieutenant Colonel C. E. Shepard, Jr.

One of the smaller camps near Camp Elliott is Samp Kearny where training similar to that at Elliott is carried on. Built on the site of old Camp Kearny, the army training center during World War I, the camp was rebuilt and now affords facilities for Leathernecks training for the present war.

Near Camp Kearny is Camp Linda Vista, the smallest Marine Camp in the San Diego area. Here, also, the men go through their secondary training. Majority of the troops stationed here are in some type of service battalion.

Over all of the acitivity of the land troops of this area fly the latest type planes furnished the Marine Corps. Base for these fast striking ships is North Island, home of the Marines who both fly the planes and keep them in repair. Fortified to the nth degree, it is the station for the Second Marine Air Wing. Air Base Group Two, and a Wing Service. In addition Marines guard the island at all points. Brigadier General Francis P. Mulcahy commands the Second Marine Air Wing (administrative command).

In a recent tour of the posts of his command, Major General William P. Upshur, Commanding the Marine Corps Department of the Pacific, inspected the units in the San Diego area. Commenting on the progress he saw during the tour, General Upshur predicted even greater training programs that would marshal the force of the United States against her enemies.

Brigadier General Matthew H. Kingman, Camp Elliott C.O.

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PARACHUTE SCHOOL: This potential Paramarine is suspended in what the boys call the "torture device." When he pulls the cord he falls 15 feet. Scene is at Camp Gillespie, where Marine learn to be paratroopers.

DISARMAMENT: Here are members of a Marine aviation ground crew at San Diego's North Island practicing hand-to-hand combat tricks. Would-be user of a knife is being disarmed, and it isn't a rubber knife the lads are using.

a San Diego recruit is learning how to obtain a proper sight adjustment on his rifle. The coach (at left) is Pvt. C. M. Duke of Brigham City, Utah, and the recruit is Pvt. Roy Hardy.

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