Major General John T. Walker entered the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant on May 23, 1917, following his graduation from the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College, College Station, Texas. One month later he sailed for France, where, as a member of the Fifth Marine Regiment he participated in the defense of the Montgmont Sector in March, 1918. He returned to the United States in April, 1918, to become instructor in the Bayonet School at Quantico, Virginia.

In 1920 General Walker joined the Second Brigade Marines in the Dominican Republic, remaining there until 1922, when he was named aide to the commandant of the Norfolk Navy Yard.

After completing the company officers' course at Quantico in 1925, General Walker served aboard the U.S.S. West Virginia for three years. He served five years as an instructor at the Marine Barracks, Philadelphia, and then was sent to foreign duty again, this time to Haiti. In September, 1934, he was ordered to duty with the Division of Reserve in Washington, D.C., where he remained until July, 1937, when General Walker completed the senior officers' course at Quantico in May, 1938, remaining there as an instructor until 1940.

In June of 1940 General Walker began his first assignment at the Marine Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. He was ordered to the Depot as Chief of Planning Section.

General Walker, after a short tour of duty as a Naval observer to Cairo, Egypt, joined the Second Marine Division in 1942, first as operations officer and later as commanding officer of the twenty-second Marines. He led the regiment in the capture of Eniwetok in February, 1944.

In March 1944, he was named Chief of Staff to the First Provisional Marine Brigade, participating with that organization in the recapture of Guam during the summer of that year.

After a duty assignment at Headquarters, Washington, D.C., General Walker was detached to the Second Division, with which unit he participated in the occupation of Japan.

In February, 1946, he was named Division Commander.

Later in the spring of 1946 General Walker was appointed Deputy Commander of Camp Pendleton, California, where in September he assumed duties as Commanding General of the Third Marine Brigade, a command he held until July, 1947, when he was assigned as Assistant Division Commander of the First Marine Division.

General Walker was ordered to duty as Commanding General, Troop Training Unit, Amphibious Training Command, Pacific Fleet at Coronado, California in February, 1948.

He assumed his present duties as Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruit Depot on September 8, 1952.

General Walker, who was born September 15, 1893, in Azle, Texas, was honored with a Doctor of Laws Degree from Texas A. & M. College in 1948 "in recognition of distinguished service to his country, his profession and his fellowmen."

BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM J. WHALING

United States Marine Corps
Deputy Commander

Brigadier General William J. Whaling was born in St. Cloud, Minnesota, on February 26, 1894, and attended the Marine Corps in 1918 and received a field commission in 1918 while serving with the Sixth Marine Regiment in France.

During the years of peace, 1918 to 1941, General Whaling served aboard the U.S.S. Tacoma and the U.S.S. Maryland; saw foreign duty in China, Nicaragua and Haiti; and performed duty at United States stations of Mare Island, California; Parris Island, South Carolina; Portsmouth, New Hampshire; Brooklyn, New York; Washington, D.C.; Quantico, Virginia; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

When the Japanese launched their attack on Pearl Harbor, General Whaling was serving with the Marine Detachment there. After the attack he was ordered back to the United States and assigned to the Fifth Marine Regiment of the Fifth Marine Division. With the Fifth Regiment General Whaling took part in the Guadalcanal campaign and later in the Cape Gloucester fighting with the First Marine Regiment.

General Whaling was promoted to his present rank on July 1, 1949, while serving as Chief of Staff of Marine Barracks, Camp Lejeune, N.C. On the same day he was named Assistant Division Commander of the Second Marine Division.

In May, 1951, General Whaling became Assistant Commander of the First Marine Division in Korea. He returned to the United States in March, 1952, and was named Commanding General of the Recruit Depot the following month. He held the Commanding General's post until September.

General Whaling holds as decorations and medals the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Gold Star in lieu of a second Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart, the Haitian Order of Honor and Merit, the Haitian Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation with two stars, Victory Medal with Asin, Meuse-Argonne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and Defensive Sector Clasps, Army of Occupation of Germany Medal, China and Haiti Expeditionary Medals with one Bronze Star, Yangtze Service Medal, Second Nicaraguan Campaign Medal, American Defense Service Medal with Base Clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, Chinese Order of the Cloud and Banner, American Campaign Medal, Victory Medal and the China Service Medal.

COLONEL RICHARD P. ROSS, JR.

United States Marine Corps
Chief of Staff

Colonel Richard P. Ross, Jr., took over as Chief of Staff for the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot in October, 1952. He came to the Depot from Yokosuka, Japan, where he had served as Commanding officer, Marine Barracks, from 1950 to 1952.

Colonel Ross was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps on June 2, 1927, upon graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy.

Prior to World War II, he served at Hampton Roads, Va., Quantico, Va.; in Nicaragua; on the U.S. Legation Guard, Peking, China; aboard the U.S.S. Colorado, as an instructor in naval ordnance and gunnery at the Naval Academy, and a number of tours in the Fleet Marine Force.

In May, 1941, he was assigned as commanding officer of the Marine detachment aboard the U.S.S. Oklahoma. After the Oklahoma was sunk by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor, Colonel Ross and his detachment joined the Marine Barracks ashore where he was promoted to Major effective January, 1942. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in September, 1942.


In June, 1944, he was ordered to duty with the First Marine Division and was assigned as executive officer of the First Marine Regiment. His regiment fought at Peleliu, and Okinawa. Colonel Ross was promoted to Colonel in September, 1945.

Following the Japanese surrender, he was assigned to command the Seventh Marine Regiment which was ordered to North China to assist the Nationalist Chinese forces there in accepting the surrender of the Japanese.

He returned to the United States in 1946 for tours of duty at Quantico, Va., and Washington, D.C. He attended the Command and Staff School at the Virginia base and was a member of the Joint War Plans Committee in Washington. He also attended the National War College, graduating in 1948, at which time he was transferred to Headquarters, Marine Corps, to head the strategic plans section.

In June, 1950, Colonel Ross sailed for Japan where he took command of the Marine Barracks, Yokosuka. He was stationed there until his transfer to the Depot in 1952.

Colonel Ross holds the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster and Combat V, the Bronze Star with Gold Star and Combat V, and the Chinese Order of the Cloud and Banner, Fifth Grade.
HISTORY
OF THE SAN DIEGO DEPOT

The establishment of a Marine Corps Base at San Diego was initiated by the late Major General Joseph H. Pendleton, USMC, in July 1914, shortly after his return from expeditionary duty on the West Coast of Mexico where he was in command of the Fourth Regiment of Marines during the quartered with that nation.

General Pendleton recognized in the harbor and environs at San Diego a strategic point where Marines could be trained for expeditionary duty, and where they could be ready to go ashore with all their expeditionary stores and equipment and be taken quickly to areas in the Pacific where their services might be needed.

He worked unceasingly with this idea and interested the then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, the late Major General George Barnett, then Commandant of the Marine Corps as well as the late Mr. William Kerneez, then representing the Eleventh California District in the House of Representatives.

Their efforts won the friendship and finally after many influential officials from Washington visited the Panama-Pacific Exposition and viewed the proposed site, the purchase went before Congress and the site was acquired.

The practical construction was not completed until 1924. Much of the land was reclaimed from San Diego Bay, including that portion comprising Lindbergh Field and the adjacent shore area now utilized by the Navy as a sea-plane base. The first troops moved into the partially completed barracks from a camp in Balboa Park in December 1921.

The Base became the home port of the famous Fourth Regiment upon its return from Santa Domingo in the latter part of 1924. In connection with the earthquake disaster at Santa Barbara, on 1 July 1925, the Second Battalion, Fourth Regiment, consisting of 314 officers and men proceeded to that city to render assistance to the devastated population. In October 1926, six hundred thirty-five personnel of the 4th Regiment were organized as the Western Mail Guard under Brigadier General Smokey D. Butler and detached for the purpose of guarding the U.S. Mail. In January 1937, the Fourth Regiment proceeded to Shanghai, China to protect lives and property during the civil war then progressing northward. Other troops organized at the San Diego base provided security at Tieron, China. Just prior to the opening of hostilities of World War II in the Pacific, the 4th Regiment was withdrawn from Shanghai and concentrated with Army and marine units in the Philippines. The 4th Regiment together with naval landing forces formed a Naval Brigade which made glorious history in the defense of Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor.

A newly organized 4th Regiment was made a part of the 3rd Amphibious Corps in the latter part of 1945 to perpetuate the deeds of San Diego's own. It received the Presidential Unit Citation in the capture of Okinawa in Guam, later became a part of the Sixth Division, and was again cited in the fiercely contested capture of Okinawa. The 4th Regiment was honored by special orders to be present at the surrender of Hirohito's forces in Tokyo Bay. Following the surrender, it proceeded with the Sixth Division to restore order in Northern China.

The San Diego Depot continues to main young men pouring into the Corps. During this training, comprising a ten weeks schedule, the men are carefully indoctrinated in the manner of performance of duty of a Marine. They receive thorough training in marksmanship and familiarity with basic weapons. A few are chosen for the Sea School, communications, service units, band and paymasters school. The remainder, upon completion of training at the Depot are transferred to shore stations, to aviation, to organized units for duty overseas, or to specialist schools for more advanced training. The Depot also offers facilities in general education, courses of study leading to procurement of high school diplomas and all of the correspondence courses of the Marine Corps Institute and United Service Forces Institute in vocational and professional training. This include university extension courses.

During World War II the Marine Corps Depot served as a Training Center. Supply Depot and Embarkation Point for thousands of Marines who comprised the Nipponese in the Pacific. The fine expansion of Marine activities in the San Diego area took place in the establishment of Camp Elliot, which is recognized as an advanced training center and base for the Fleet Marine Forces Pacific Fleet. Later these activities expanded to Camp Pendleton, embracing a large area in the northern part of the County as well as a portion of Orange County.

The Marine Corps Depot, however, continued to serve as the Center for basic training of Western recruits. At the Rifle Range, Camp Calvin B. Matthews, a part of the Base, these men received fundamental training in marksmanship. Later at Camp Elliot and at Camp Pendleton they received training in combat firing and fighting.

An important adjunct to the Depot was the establishment of the Putnam Training School at Camp Gillespie, on the Mesa near San Ysidro. The Sea School continued to train graduated recruits for service aboard ships of the Fleet, emphasis being placed on accurate gunnery. The Base also had schools for radio and telephone communications, motor transport, clerical and legal. After completing training at the Base, these Marines were transferred to organized units of infantry, artillery, air service and sea detachments. All received advanced training in amphibious warfare, that complex art of coordinated underwater, sea surface, ground and air attack with its difficult logistics which drove the Japanese from the islands and waters of the vast Pacific. During the years between the ill-advised Nipponese attack on Pearl Harbor and the abrupt signing of unconditional surrender at Tokyo Bay, there were approximately 223,364 Marines who passed through the portals of the gates at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, and who will forever proudly reminisce with other Marines over the pitfalls and rugged routes encountered there.

At present, the Depot continues to perform its mission stated above with the organization as shown. An important function of the Depot has been the separation of thousands of reservists to civilian life and the redistribution of the regulars to shore stations on return from overseas. This has been accomplished with maximum delay by the Separation Battalion.
At the Recruit Depot begins the training that creates the phrase, "Once a Marine, always a Marine." It is here, as the Corps proudly claims, they select good men and mold them into better men.

A primary mission of the U.S. Marine Corps is to provide the Fleet Marine Force, a fighting air-ground team, for service with the U.S. Fleet. Other missions include provision of ship's detachments and security units, development of tactics, technique and equipment for amphibious operations and for expansion to meet the needs of war.

To the recruit facing his initial 10 weeks of training, the most important man is his drill instructor—a specially selected non-commissioned officer, chosen for exceptional leadership ability and military experience. It is through the DI, he begins his transformation into a Marine.

The Marine recruit training cycle is chronologically divided into five stages: processing, initial training at the Depot, rifle range at Camp Matthews, mess duty and final training at the main base.

Marines find that the three weeks spent at the rifle range at Camp Matthews, 13 miles north of San Diego, is the most enjoyable portion of the training. Here they receive intensive instruction with the rifle and other infantry weapons. The Corps places special emphasis on marksmanship with small arms.

After periods of "snapping in" and "dry runs," the recruits fire for qualification with the M-1—a rifle they have cleaned, oiled, stripped and assembled until they "know it like the back of your hand." They also fire the automatic rifle, carbine and pistol and watch demonstrations of such other weapons as the flame thrower, the rifle grenade, rocket launcher or bazooka, the 60mm and 80mm mortar and the light and heavy machine guns.

The modern Marine Corps is a team which operates on land, at sea, and in the air. It utilizes the modern developments of training and equipment. But it retains the "esprit de corps" that was tradition over a century before Gen. Pendleton envisioned the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

Each year, thousands of new Leathernecks enter the Marine Corps. These men received their first training at one of two places. Those in the eastern part of United States go to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina. Those who come from the Middle West and West are sent to the Recruit Depot at San Diego, California.
DRILL INSTRUCTION

Marines are always striving for perfection, an asset attained only after many hours and days of instruction in drill and drill, itself. Drill instruction is a daily part of the Marine life and is practiced from the time the recruit boards the Depot until his release from the Corps. Drill develops the esprit de corps, the mark of a Marine.
Just as civilian education is dependent on classroom work, so is the Marine "know-how." Classroom lectures and studies are necessary to give the recruit the basics in military education. Classes in various subjects will continue throughout his Marine career.
FIRST AID INSTRUCTIONS
"MY RIFLE"

This is my rifle. There are many like it, but this one is mine. My rifle is my best friend. It is my life. I must master it as I must master my life. My rifle, without me is useless. Without my rifle, I am useless. I must fire my rifle true. I must shoot straighter than my enemy who is trying to kill me. I must shoot him before he shoots me. I will.... My rifle and myself know that what counts in war is not the rounds we fire, the noise of our burst, nor the smoke we make. We know that it is the hits that count.

We will hit.... My rifle is human, even as I, because it is my life. Thus, I will love it as a brother. I will learn its weaknesses, its strength, its parts, its accessories, its sights, and its barrel. I will ever guard it against the ravages of weather and damage. I will keep my rifle clean and ready, even as I am clean and ready. We will become part of each other. We will.... before God I swear this creed. My rifle and myself are the defenders of my country. We are the masters of our enemy. We are the savours of my life. So be it, until there is no enemy, but peace!
BARRACKS LIFE
SNAPPING IN

Each recruit realizes that expert marksmanship is obtainable only after endless effort for perfect firing positions, and for that reason much time is devoted to snapping in procedures. The positions at first seem awkward, but become routine in the end.
Prior to record firing of the M1 rifle, each recruit must get the feel of the weapon, hence preliminary firing. During this period the recruit discovers what the weapon will and will not do. He learns to adjust it for best shooting in bad weather and under adverse conditions.
RECORD FIRING

One of the highlights in the "boon" life is record firing with the M1 rifle. On that day he's probably the most nervous fellow in the world; he will probably shed a few tears and breathe a few prayers; he's out to try for record, but he's happy to qualify.
AUTOMATIC RIFLES
The chaplains at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot have a rare opportunity for a vital, spiritual ministry. Most of the young men who arrive are in the formative stage, and the chaplains have a chance to aid them, encouraging them to maintain and strengthen their religious interests.

The work is fourfold: lead in worship, give religious instructions, conduct character guidance lectures and counsel service personnel on their personal problems.

Soon after the arrival of the recruit at the Depot, he is given an opportunity to contact the chaplain of his own faith who will acquaint him with the chaplain's role in the command and will explain the religious programs which will be available to him during recruit training.

Regular divine services are conducted by the chaplains of all faiths, thus giving each man an opportunity to worship in accordance with his religious background and present inclinations. Attendance is entirely voluntary. Classes of religious instruction are held regularly for those who desire to prepare themselves for Baptism, Confirmation or church membership.

Character guidance lectures are given by the chaplains as an integral part of recruit training. These are designed to foster the growth of moral responsibility, spiritual values and strong self-discipline within the recruit.

In time of distress or personal emergency, the chaplains stand ready to give advice and counsel, and the recruit is encouraged to take his personal problems to a chaplain of his faith at any time. The chaplains also maintain close contact with the Navy Relief Society and the American Red Cross in obtaining financial and other assistance for those in need.
VISITOR'S DAY
Boot camp is almost over. The recruit is almost a full-fledged Marine. As the inspecting officer steps forward to look him over, the recruit has a glow on his face, knowing that he is following in the paths pioneered by strong men through one hundred and seventy-eight years of guarding their nation.
SHIPPING OUT

These 10 weeks have passed slowly for some, speedily for others. But all have learned a great deal. The important thing is that they have learned to be Marines. Now with orders, these Marines are "shipped out" to some other Marine Corps base for more training or duty. A 10-day leave awaits, either now or at the end of new schooling. They have now launched their Marine Corps career.
LT. COL. R. M. WISMER
Commanding Officer

MAJ. J. C. CRAWLEY
Executive Officer

CAPT. R. H. FRANCIS
S-3 Officer

CWO H. F. JAMES
Adjutant

THIRD BATTALION

LT. H. H. CUMMINGS
Chaplain, USN [CHC]

T/SGT. E. J. PICKERING
Operations NCO

M/SGT. C. DURHAM
Battalion Sgt. Major

M/SGT. R. L. TYNER
Field Sgt. Major

M/SGT. R. A. VERKENNIS
Chief Instructor

SPECIAL SUBJECTS INSTRUCTORS:


PLATOON 308

Joseph Allen  
Richard O. Bamish  
Bernard J. Bellili  
Julian Berber  
Richard L. Bitter

Richard M. Blanks  
Arnold S. Bowling  
Charles H. Brandon  
Norman E. Brock  
Charles E. Campbell
PLATOON 309

George Arciniega
Loy W. Ashcroft
John F. Basso
Ralph B. Brown
Dale H. Brekke

Carl W. Carlson
Robert A. Cavanaugh
Antonio M. Chentaca
Rubin Clark Jr.
James T. Coughlin
PLATOON 310

Joe D. Acosta
Jeffrey R. Aitken
James E. Amber
Glynn E. Anderson
Glenn R. Andrus

Gilbert F. Ashburn
Donald R. Barber
Jimmie J. Barrios
Walter W. Belde Jr.
Billy R. Blocker