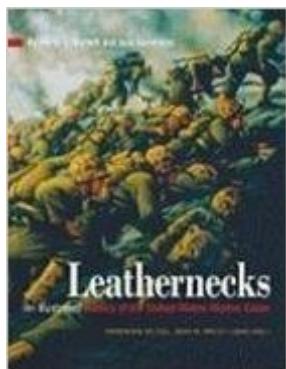


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Leathernecks: An Illustrated History Of The United States Marine Corps



Synopsis

This book combines a lively, well-researched narrative with a generous selection of illustrations, many in color, and numerous maps to provide a topically and chronologically balanced history of the U.S. Marine Corps from its inception to the present day. The combination of a wealth of art, a substantial text, and a balanced perspective make the work unique in the literature of the Corps. Many of its illustrations have never before been published or have appeared only in black and white. The history of the Marine Corps is one of the greatest military success stories of all time. The book's details how and why a force that throughout the first century of its existence seldom exceeded the strength of an infantry regiment eventually attained a strength greater than that of many armies and developed what is arguably the world's most potent military mystique. Because the history of any institution is the product of the actions of the individuals who comprise it, we have included cameos of some of the individuals who made exceptional contributions to the Corps' rich heritage.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you google "Books - Marine Corps", they provide "about 286,000 listings in 0.19 seconds." So does the world need yet one more book describing Marines heroics since 1775? The answer is a resounding YES !! if the book is as good as this one. When one walks around the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington, D.C. he or she is treated to a history of the Marine Corps when reading the inscribed battles... the French & Indian Wars...the Boxer Rebellion...Belleau Wood...Guadalcanal...Fallujah. Authors Merrill Bartlett and Jack Sweetman have collaborated to give us the same tour around the Memorial, but with all 233 years of Marine lore added as background to those storied battles. The

difference between this book and the many others is both the depth of detail and its readability. Finding the balance between an academic treatise and an ooh-rah flag-waver, the authors present not only the Corps battle history, but the equally important story of the men who built it. Traditions are not created overnight, but are earned over generations; a fact of which the authors remind the reader with 280+ old photos, maps, and illustrations, many published for the first time. While the casual reader likely knows of the Marine Corps 10 November 1775 founding, it's Bartlett and Sweetman's "Leathernecks" that provides the background information that the 10 Nov. act of Congress chartering the Marines "...that two battalions of Marines be raised..." was in response to a petition by the residents of Passamaquoddy, Nova Scotia who wanted to join the newly independent United States - and these same Marines were to be used to capture the British Naval base at Halifax.

Merrill Bartlett and Jack Sweetman have put together a wonderful coffee-table book on the History of the United States Marine Corps from its inception in 1775 through January 2008. The authors break the history of the Marine Corps into significant eras, with each chapter covering the strategic context of international relations at the time; major operations or campaigns of the era; Medal of Honor winners; who served as Commandant and that individual's significant contributions to the Marine corps; and also any major public law changes in that era. Each chapter is supported with full color artwork, ranging from reproductions of famous paintings, to photographs of Marines in action. Most chapters include 1-2 charts to help depict the tactical layout for significant battles. The United States did not create the concept of marines, but drew upon centuries of experience to first formulate the Continental Marines. The first chapter of the book chronicles the history of how infantrymen were used aboard ships in ancient times. Bartlett and Sweetman describe the employment of marines during the Battle of Salamis in 480 BC, the first naval campaign in recorded history. The authors then follow the progression of foreign marine employment through the early 18th century. Bartlett and Sweetman begin the Continental Marine history with the sortie of Captain Gilbert Saltonstall and his 30 Marines aboard the USS Trumbull. Drawing from personal correspondence and diaries, the authors recreate the first-person account of the Marines first combat in the American War of Independence. Off to a great start, Bartlett and Sweetman follow each of the Marine campaigns of the Revolution.

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