

the Londonderry Barracks formed a pipe band in the 2d Infantry Reserve Battalion in Boston. This band lasted until the Korean War. The 1950s saw a band form at Camp Lejeune, N.C., and during the 1990s a number of former and retired Marines and friends of Marines in the New York City area organized the Leatherneck Pipes and Drums. Since then more pipers have caught on to the idea of a pipe and drum corps.

Pipes joined ranks in many battles on American soil, including the French and Indian War, Lord Dunmore's War of 1774, the American Revolution and the Civil War. The Alamo claimed a piper as well. Scotland-born John McGregor served as a second sergeant and played his bagpipes opposite Davey Crockett's fiddle before his death in battle on March 6, 1836.

The pipes have seen modern combat as well. Sergeant F. H. "Timmy" Killeen and Capt Joe F. Cason both played during battle in World War II—Killeen at Peleliu and Guadalcanal and Capt Cason on Iwo Jima. Sgt Killeen also played when the First Marine Division moved into Seoul, Korea, during the Korean War. Bagpipes continued their warring tradition in Vietnam and Desert Storm.

The Scottish influence in the Corps is such that the Marines have their own tartan, the USMC Leatherneck. In June 1988, the Scottish Tartans Society, headquartered at the Cockenzie Centre, Cockenzie, East Lothian, Scotland, accredited this tartan after initial production for the Marine Corps Historical Foundation and its Museum Shop. Bob Hall, a retired Marine staff sergeant and Massachusetts legislator, was the tartan's biggest promoter and designer of the plaid.

With such historical and fashionable

ties to Scotland's ancient warfare, the Marine Corps seems to be bound "aye" to its Scottish roots.

Colonel R. Barry Cronin, Commanding Officer, Headquarters and Service Bn, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va., and president of the Marine Pipers Net-

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work, commented on the great similarity between the emphasis on traditions in the Corps and the importance of bagpipes on military tradition.

Col Cronin said, "Bagpipes are not new to the Corps. Of the American military forces, perhaps the Marine Corps is the most tradition bound of them all. We have an immensely rich heritage, and our traditions, to include everything from manner of speech to ceremonies and parades, are time-honored.

"In truth, many of those very traditions have been handed over to us by our elder cousins, the British military. Bagpipes are an indispensable part of many of their own military customs and traditions, such as mess nights, parades, weddings, funerals and so on. The fact of the matter is that pipes are in constant demand wherever Marines are serving.

"It has nothing at all to do with ethnicity. The pipe is a martial instrument that stirs the blood and inspires the men and women. In fact, what instrument could possibly be better suited for such a

tradition-bound culture of warriors like the U.S. Marine Corps than the great war pipes?"

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas C. Gillespie, Information Technology officer for II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, said, "Since beginning to play [six years ago], I have been amazed at the enthusiasm that greets my playing from Marines of all ranks. Perhaps it is the bagpipes' reputation as the 'War Pipes' that stirs Marines, but I think it has more to do with the music and the unique sound of the pipes. It is a known fact, attested to by any of the Highland Regiments even today, that the sound of the pipes has a decided influence on men under the stress of combat, emboldening them and stirring them to action. This is really a music that strikes a chord amongst Marines."

Stodghill echoes the goals of many Marine pipers for the Marine Pipers Network.

"Eventually, I would like to see a secondary MOS [military occupational specialty] for pipers. What I definitely do not want to see is pipers becoming a part of a separate MOS or a ceremonial unit. Marines are war fighters, and Marine pipers belong in their current MOSs, serving everywhere during peace and war times. The primary function of every Marine is to be a basic rifleman. I would also like to see the Marine Corps adopt the USMC Leatherneck tartan as the official tartan for Marine pipers so that on ceremonial occasions the kilt can be worn."

Col Cronin added, "I do think the Marine Corps could easily promote bagpiping in the Corps by Marines without a great deal of effort or energy right now. Presently, piping in the Corps by Marines is haphazard at best. Free-lance and basically amateur Marine pipers of various skill levels wearing a hodgepodge of uniform items and playing whatever tunes they know are pressed into service by commanders eager to incorporate pipes into their respective ceremonies.

"While this certainly does get the job done nicely in typical Marine Corps 'make it happen' fashion, is that really the best way to do business? Why not recognize a standard uniform for Marine Corps pipers? What about standard tunes? What about awarding an additional MOS designator to identify qualified Marine Corps pipers? How about unit funding for unique uniform requirements?"

MSgt Dennis L. Bailey, ordnance division chief for a Marine fighter/attack squadron in USS *Harry S. Truman* (CV-75), puts his desires another way.

"I would like pipers to be recognized



Capt Hasseltine, then the battalion adjutant for 3d Bn, 8th Marines, played the pipes in Northern Macedonia when Co I, 3/8 prepared to fly into Kosovo during Operation Joint Guardian in 1999.