

A Brief History of Las Pulgas

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11th Marine Regiment
March 10, 1999

Las Pulgas, aboard Camp Pendleton, CA has seen many people and many units pass through its hills. From its early days as part of a vast ranch, through its use as Tent Camp 1 in World War Two and Korea, through Vietnam, and up to its present-day use, Las Pulgas has served many functions. The history of Las Pulgas inextricably ties the land to the history of the Marine Corps since WWII. The legacy continues today.

Since 1971, Las Pulgas has served as the home of the 11th Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton. The artillery arm of the 1st Marine Division, 11th Marines settled in Pulgas following its redeployment from Vietnam. Present 11th Marines units in Las Pulgas include Headquarters Battery, the 1st Battalion, 11th Marines (1/11) and the 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines (2/11). Co-located in Las Pulgas is 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group (FSSG).

The present-day buildings, motor pools and gun park might make one believe Las Pulgas has always housed the artillery, but history tells a different tale. Over two hundred years before 11th Marines carved a home amongst the rugged, grass-swept hills, we hear of others who were here and of how Las Pulgas got its name.

In 1769, Father Juan Crespi with the Portola Serra expedition camped in present Las Pulgas Canyon. Admiring the wildflowers which grew on the hills, he named the place *La Canada de los Rosales* (Rose Canyon). A surveying party camping in the same spot years later had a much different impression. Rather than the roses, it was the fleas, or *Las Pulgas*, that caught their attention. The surveyors moved on but the name stuck.¹

The first Spanish settlers in the area were Catholic missionaries, who first converted Native Americans to Christianity and then put them to work in irrigating fields and herding cattle. Vast tracks of land came under church control. All up and down the California coast, the missions, as they were known, prospered and grew.

There were many, however, who envied the power of the missions. These citizens protested to the only one who could change to status quo, the governor. Opposition to church

¹Information on the naming of Las Pulgas from 1997 Camp Pendleton Directory and Guide (Hart Publishers, San Diego, 1996). p. 50 and *Marines of the Margarita* by Robert M. Witty and Neil Morgan (Frye and Smith, San Diego, 1970), p. 23.

control of arable lands took power from the missions in the 1820s, and in 1833 the governor "emancipated" the Native Americans.

The shift in land policy meant opportunity for aspiring citizens. Land from the San Luis Rey mission which controlled Las Pulgas became available. In 1841, brothers Pio and Andres Pico received from the governor Las Pulgas and the surrounding 90,000 acres of land to graze their cattle. An additional land grant in 1844 brought their holdings to 133,000 acres and the Picos adopted for their land the name *Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores*.

Only a year passed before the Mexican-American War brought the first soldiers to the future Marine Corps base. Andres, a general in the Mexican army, chose his own ranch as headquarters to garrison his troops. The soldiers of Pico's army, known as *Los Galgos* (Greyhounds), went on to fight against United States troops in the Battle of San Pasqual in December 1846. A leader and hero for the U.S. forces in that battle was Lt Archibald Gillespie. Nowadays, a street in Las Pulgas is named for Gillespie, whose exploits with artillery at San Pasqual made him famous. Thus, fate had it that Gillespie fought against soldiers who were billeted on or near the same Las Pulgas which honors his name today.²

The Mexican-American war ended in United States victory. Peace brought steady cattle herding and farming back to Las Pulgas, which was not to see a military presence again until 1942. In the ensuing years, ownership of the ranch changed hands several times, but the place continued essentially unchanged until the outbreak of WWII.

With the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the U.S. suddenly had great interest in securing a West Coast training and staging site for vast numbers of forces to flow into the Pacific. In 1942, the U.S. government purchased 125,000 acres of land of the former *Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores* and christened the base Camp Joseph H. Pendleton. In the early days, the base used only numbered areas (11 Area, 17 Area), of which there were three Tent Camps, aptly named 1, 2 and 3. Las Pulgas was dubbed Tent Camp 1.

The reason for Camp Pendleton's existence was simple: Train Marines to fight and defeat the Japanese in the Pacific. In the plan, the tent camps were designed as primary training areas.

²Information on the Rancho and Picos from *Marines of the Margarita*, p. 24-33.

Fresh from boot camps, young Marines would come to Camp Pendleton to further hone their battle skills. Billeted in permanent structures in places like the 11, 14 and 17 Areas, the trainees would spend time learning field skills in the tent camps and other outlying areas.

Thousands of Marines spent time in the tent camps. For most, the training and life in the tent camps were very memorable experiences. Sergeant Major Mike Mervosh, USMC (Ret.) was an early trainee, who recalled his time in Tent Camp 1.

Hailing from Pittsburgh, PA, Mervosh completed recruit training on the east coast (present-day Camp Lejeune). Following boot camp, Private First Class Mervosh shipped west to join the 1st Battalion, 24th Marines of the newly-formed 4th Marine Division. Arriving in early Spring 1943, Mervosh's battalion was billeted in the 14 Area. But the wooden barracks in the 14 Area served less as real housing than a place to keep their few belongings. Most of their time was spent in the field; time in the field meant Tent Camp 1.

Large enough to hold a battalion at a time, Tent Camp 1 was set up for instruction in advanced infantry techniques and tactics. The tent camp served as the battalion's field headquarters, so to speak. Many classes were taught in and around the tent camp, which also was the starting and ending point of many field exercises. But training went on all over Camp Pendleton. Scattered throughout the hills and canyons were specialized areas for grenades, mortars, anti-tank rockets, 40 mm guns, artillery, beach assaults, "raider" and infiltration techniques and engineer training. A map of the base from November 1944³ shows the many, overlapping areas used by the Marines in their training. It was a busy time and Camp Pendleton a busy place.

According to Mervosh, it was a tough existence for an infantryman. Weekends were spent in the 14 Area, but come Monday morning, it was to Tent Camp 1 and to the field. With few trucks and fewer passable roads, 1/24 marched everywhere. Once at Tent Camp 1, the battalion would stay there for the whole week, marching back to Area 14 on Friday afternoon or evening.

Tent Camp 1 consisted of rows of tents lined up and marked off by companies. The only structure was an outdoor head which had four or five cold water showers. There was no running drinking water, so each company had its own blister bag for its 200-plus Marines. There was also no chow hall. Mervosh and his fellow Marines subsisted on K or C Rations, with the occasional

³See attached photo.

hot chow trucked in and served in a field mess. As Mervosh noted, "You grew to appreciate the little things."⁴

Each squad had its own tent, which housed about twenty Marines. Inside the tents were pot-bellied stoves which supplied heat for coffee and warmth during the cold winter nights.⁵ Although southern California is more often known for sunshine and warmth, Las Pulgas made a deep impression on some Marines for other reasons. As noted in the book Marines of the Margarita, the tent camps were well-known to all Marines.

The most notorious of these was Las Pulgas, deep in Las Pulgas canyon, of which there seem to be few fond memories. Units of the 4th Division complained of trying to stay warm at night: 'No matter how many blankets a person used, it was always cold. No doubt about it, when the sun went down, California was the coldest place this side of the North Pole.' The 3rd Division's 21st Marines declared that it was the 'an unhappy place. Little water, so cold that heavy underwear and flannel shirts were an essential uniform.'⁶

Despite the field conditions, the tents had to be kept clean and up to Marine Corps standards. Each morning barracks and rifle inspections were held by the platoon commander or platoon sergeant, followed by formations to pass the word for the day. Training was continuous.

As SgtMaj Mervosh recalled, Tent Camp 1 was, "all business."⁷ A machine-gunner, Mervosh and his team conducted live fire machine-gun shoots, practicing elevating and traversing, Final Protective Lines and employing teams in pairs. The hills of Las Pulgas provided ranges, though other open areas were necessary to learn about grazing fire.

But there was much more to learn at Tent Camp 1. There were mortars to practice on, compass courses to navigate and night maneuvers to perfect. The instructors were the platoon sergeants and platoon commanders, who drilled their Marines until they knew every infantry weapon from the .45 caliber pistol to the .30 caliber machine-gun.

Additionally, there was hand-to-hand combat to learn, knife and bayonet fighting, range cards to master, patrolling, defensive and offensive tactics to practice. Mervosh remembered amphibious landings at the beach and grueling marches through the hills. Use of field phones and

⁴ SgtMaj Mike Mervosh, USMC (Ret.), telephone interview, January 20, 1999.

⁵ See attached photo.

⁶ Marines of the Margarita, p. 78.

⁷ Mervosh interview, Jan. 20, 1999.

the PRC-6 radio and techniques for adjusting artillery into Las Pulgas' hills livened up the training, and the instruction was non-stop.

"We were never in a classroom," Mervosh said, "and there were few books." The young Marines learned from instructors who had fought in WWI, the Banana Wars and in China. Their instructors taught them well. "Training in Las Pulgas was so intense, we felt so ready, we couldn't learn any more," Mervosh said. "We had to fight."⁸

Earlier, the 9th Marine Regiment of the 3rd Marine Division had been the first unit to train at Camp Pendleton. Ninth Marines had departed January 24, 1943 to join the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions already fighting overseas. After several months in Tent Camp 1, the 4th Marine Division was trained and ready to fight.

In January 1944, the 23rd, 24th and 25th Regiments of the 4th Marine Division boarded ships in San Diego. There had been many shipboard drills before -- load up, three or four days on ship, conduct an amphibious landing and attack -- that always concluded with the Marines back at Tent Camp 1. PFC Mervosh and his machine-gun team figured this as another such drill. After almost a week aboard ship, though, they knew something was different. One day the faces of the officers grew even more serious. They were headed for the Pacific, destination the Marshall Islands. As the 4th Marine Division sailed for the Far East, Tent Camp 1 filled with the next batch of new trainees.

All told, Camp Pendleton saw elements of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions pass through on their way to the Pacific Theater.⁹ The training received by many Marines in Las Pulgas and Tent Camp 1 prepared them as best as possible for the hell they would encounter against the Japanese. Although a significant number did not make it back, there are many individuals who would swear that it was many of the things learned in Tent Camp 1 that kept them alive during the toughest tests of their lives.

In the wake of victory in the Pacific, Camp Pendleton, the Marine Corps and the nation as a whole underwent a huge transformation. Gone was the need for such a huge military arm, and the focus for the next few years was on the drawdown and discharge of military personnel rather

⁸Mervosh interview, Jan. 20, 1999.

⁹Although the 6th Marine Division was formed on Guadalcanal in September 1944, many of its members trained at Camp Pendleton.

than training huge numbers of men for combat. Despite its drop in size, however the Marine Corps continued to prepare for the next fight.

The next time we pick up the story of Las Pulgas is 1949, when Tent Camp 1 saw the arrival of the 6th Marine Regiment. A member of Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Marines was Gunnery Sergeant Paul Santiago, USMC (Ret.). GySgt Santiago, then a sergeant, remembered moving into Tent Camp 1, which had been little used since WWII had ended.

By this time, Tent Camp 1 consisted of Quonset huts and some more permanent or semi-permanent structures. Battalion Landing Team 6 (BLT 6) [the regiment was really little more than a reinforced battalion] moved into the area in the late Spring of 1949. Their stay was only two months long, but Santiago recalled that it was a memorable two months.

Las Pulgas still offered excellent training for Marines, and BLT 6 took advantage of the area. Sgt Santiago, a radioman with a naval gunfire spotting team, remarked about the steep hills and backbreaking conditioning hikes. The absence of war only meant fewer units around to impede training; squad, platoon and company-sized units roamed freely, practicing infantry attacks and defenses.

But Santiago also recalled that fewer neighboring units also meant freedom in other ways. In his off-time, Sgt Santiago would roam the hills with his buddies, investigating the wildlife that flourished in unspoiled Las Pulgas. There were also very few restrictions on the use of personally-owned firearms on base ranges. Santiago and his weekend teammates took advantage of this and the fact that several owned rifles and pistols. While old stumps and logs were their favorite targets, what the experience gave Santiago and his friends was a real sense of freedom and solitude. This made a lasting impression on Santiago, a young Marine born and raised in Brooklyn, NY.

Going out on liberty was also something that made for many memories. One event Santiago recalled was an encounter with a mountain lion one night in Las Pulgas Canyon. For a Marine at Tent Camp 1, there were two ways to head to town for liberty: by the "liberty bus", which ran infrequently, involved several transfers, and took a long route by Mainside; or by a hearty walk down current Las Pulgas road (then still only a jeep trail) to Highway 101 (now gone). The walk to Highway 101 was the preferred route for the Marines, despite the fact that the

only authorized liberty attire were woolen "greens", a uniform known more for its sharp appearance than its comfort.

As they walked down the canyon trail after a late night out, Santiago and friends heard a wild shrieking coming from the hill next to the trail. It was a mountain lion, one of the group assured them. Someone had the idea of throwing rocks to scare the beast away, but the plan backfired. The unholy shrieks only became louder. It was time to run, as far as Santiago was concerned, and his buddies all agreed. Off they went, sprinting down the trail in their greens. Future trips down the trail to and from liberty were a bit less leisurely than before, Santiago confessed.

BLT 6 departed Tent Camp 1 in the summer, and made a forced march to Tent Camp 2 (San Onofre). The heat was stifling and the dust choking, but room had to be made for BLT 7, which moved into Las Pulgas soon thereafter.

At the onset of the Korean War in 1950, the Marine Corps paid for its severe drawdown five years earlier. Again there was a need for massive troop buildup in the Far East and Camp Pendleton found itself once more at the center of activity. The 1st Marine Division scrambled to assemble units, sending a hastily-formed brigade to reinforce Pusan in July. The remainder of the division immediately turned to training for deployment. Seventh Marines, the last unit assembled in the division, departed for Inchon on September 1.

In 1951, Las Pulgas saw the arrival of the 1st Infantry Training Regiment. Tent Camp 1 transformed again into an infantry training area. This time, the North Koreans were the enemy upon which all focused and Las Pulgas switched into high gear.

Along with 1st Infantry Training Regiment (ITR), other units came to occupy Tent Camp 1 and its environs in the next few years. In 1952, 3rd Tank Battalion occupied an area down near Las Flores. Fourth Marines, activated in 1952, had two battalions move through Tent Camp 1 -- 2/4 in August and 3/4 in January 1953.

The focus of ITR was to give Marines fresh from boot camp advanced instruction in infantry tactics and techniques.¹⁰ Mr. Jerry Amen and Captain William Meadors, USMC (Ret.) were two young PFCs who went through 1st ITR in 1953, and 1953-54, respectively.

¹⁰ Marines of the Margarita, p. 162.

Amen, originally from Bellefourche, SD, came to ITR after boot camp in San Diego and six days of leave. Joining "B" Company, 1st Battalion, 1st ITR, Amen endured for the next four weeks non-stop training to prepare him and his comrades for what they would encounter in Korea.

Taught by veterans who had already seen action against the communist foes, the course of instruction, as in WWII, ran the gamut. There were live fire exercises with all types of weapons, hand-to-hand combat drills, twenty-mile hikes without water, infiltration courses, pop-up target practice and patrols through mock-up Korean villages. The Marines wore short boots ("Boondockers") and leggings, and endured the infamous weather of Las Pulgas. "It was excellent training," Amen recalled, and after a stint of cold weather training at Pickel Meadows in the mountains (twenty miles north of Bridgeport, CA), the Marines were ready.¹¹

Around the time Mr. Amen and Capt Meadors went through ITR, Tent Camp 1 was undergoing a transformation. Construction was completed in 1953 of several new buildings in Las Pulgas. Capt Meadors recalled returning from Korea in 1955 to find new buildings for 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines to occupy.

Among the new structures were one-story barracks and a new chapel. The barracks, two open squad bays which shared a centralized head were a far-cry from the previous tents. "The camp was good," Meadors recalled, "the barracks were clean and easy to maintain."¹² As for the chapel, "It was of wood construction, painted white."¹³ To this day, most of the flat-topped barracks described are still used; the chapel likewise remains relatively unchanged.

As mentioned before, the 7th Marine Regiment occupied Las Pulgas -- the name Tent Camp 1 faded after buildings replaced the long-used tents -- upon its return from Korea in 1955. The regiment remained in Las Pulgas until 1965 when the next big crisis, Vietnam, forced another massive build-up of Marines. This time, Southeast Asia was the location and the North Vietnamese the enemy.

¹¹Mr. Jerry Amen, telephone interview, January 20, 1999.

¹²Letter from Captain William D. Meadors, USMC (Ret.), dated January 17, 1999.

¹³Meadors letter, Jan. 17, 1999.

Regimental Landing Team 7, with 7th Marines as the Ground Combat Element deployed to Vietnam in 1965, landing at Chu Lai on August 16. The departure of 7th Marines from Las Pulgas once again freed the area to become a training ground for advanced infantry instruction.

Marines who passed through Camp Pendleton on their way to Vietnam received refresher training in Staging Battalion. The course of instruction ran four weeks long. At Las Pulgas and other areas on base, Marines got a chance to fire all types of weapons and practice skills such as patrolling before they headed to a combat environment. Along with weapons training and field techniques, the Staging Battalion course taught Marines about dangers in Vietnam, such as booby traps, and physically prepared the Marines for the hilly Vietnamese landscape. A mock-up of a Vietnamese village was constructed in Las Pulgas, one of three at Camp Pendleton. At the end of four weeks, officers and men alike boarded air transports for the trip to Okinawa and then Vietnam.

By November of 1965, most of the 1st Marine Division was in Vietnam, and its headquarters moved to Okinawa. By April of 1966, 1st Marine Division headquarters joined RLT 7 in Chu Lai. More men were needed in Vietnam, however, and Staging Battalion became the prime source for providing those men.

Among the units that moved through Staging Battalion at Camp Pendleton were the 26th, 27th and 28th Regiments of the 5th Marine Division, which was activated in February 1966. The same order activated the 4th Marine Division, although it remained in the U.S., manned by reserve personnel.¹⁴

A great many Marines underwent training at Staging Battalion. As late as 1970, Camp Pendleton still processed huge numbers of personnel for Vietnam duty. Noted in the book Marines of the Margarita is the fact that, "[t]hrough the fall and winter of 1969 and the spring of 1970, Camp Pendleton was still sending close to 80,000 Marines a year through deployment training."¹⁵

¹⁴Information on the activation of the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions came from Marines of the Margarita, p. 193 and The U.S. Marine Corps Story by J. Robert Moskin (New York, 1992), p. 647. These two books seem to differ on information about the 5th Marine Division. Marines of the Margarita says 26th Marines was part of 5th MarDiv, but became subordinate of Force Troops, Pacific. Marine Corps Story says when it elements of the 5th MarDiv arrived in Vietnam, they, "included the 26th, 27th and 28th Marines with the 13th Marines as artillery." I went with the latter book's interpretation.

¹⁵Marines of the Margarita, p.

Implementation in the early 1970s of President Nixon's "Vietnamization" program in the war zone meant that United States military units would "hand over the fight" to their South Vietnamese counterparts. For the 1st Marine Division, this policy meant redeployment back to the United States and to its home at Camp Pendleton. Again the Marine Corps would begin a drawdown and shuffle units around at Camp Pendleton.

In March of 1971, 11th Marines returned to Camp Pendleton and moved into Camp Las Pulgas. The area was not large enough for all the personnel and equipment of all the battalions, but the basic infrastructure -- including barracks, chow halls and a chapel -- was in place and ready for use. Though one battalion would reside in Las Flores on Camp Pendleton, and another in 29 Palms, most of 11th Marines would stay in Las Pulgas. The regiment had found a home.

The year 1999 and the approach of a new millennium still finds 11th Marines in Las Pulgas. Another war, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, took the 1st Marine Division and 11th Marines to Southwest Asia, but the regiment reoccupied Las Pulgas when the division returned in 1991. It seems that 11th Marines may be here to stay.

While no major enemy or single crisis threatens to engulf the United States in major conflict right now, it means, historically, that it is also a time when the country most needs its Marine Corps ready to fight. Time and again, as we have seen just in this brief history of Las Pulgas, the Marine Corps has had to respond at times when the country was least prepared to engage in war. For 11th Marines and other Marine Corps units, it means never ending training and constant vigilance.

The approach of the new millennium also brings with it the sobering reality that a great deal needs to be done to keep Las Pulgas up-to-date to support its busy inhabitants. Many of the buildings are approaching fifty years of service and the end of their lifespans. Barracks and office spaces are worn-out, training facilities are in need of refurbishment; even the chapel needs a new coat of paint and some repairs. While ground is being broken on the replacements -- 2/11 just moved into a brand-new barracks this past month, and another is under construction -- there is still much to do. Slowly, but surely the Marine Corps and Las Pulgas are edging toward the 21st Century.

Throughout its history as a Marine Corps facility and before, Las Pulgas has seen a great deal of change. Whether it was for Native Americans, Spanish missionaries, ranchers, or U.S. Marines, Las Pulgas has served as home to many people. It has also had many names-- *La Canada de los Rosales*, *Las Pulgas* and *Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores*, Tent Camp 1, 1st ITR, Staging Battalion and again Las Pulgas as headquarters of the 11th Marine Regiment. The area has a long and proud history that has, in turn, made it an integral part of the history of both the United States and the Marine Corps. For years to come, many Marines will think back on the time they spent in Camp Las Pulgas and remember with pride their time of service. For anyone who has spent time in the place, the chilly mornings, hot days and rugged hills of Las Pulgas will be etched in their memory for years to come.

List of Units Which Have Occupied Las Pulgas

WWII

Tent Camp 1
4th Marine Division (24th Marines)

Inter-war Years

BLT 6
BLT 7

Korea

1st Infantry Training Regiment
3rd Tank Battalion (Las Pulgas/Las Flores)
4th Marines (Both 2/4 and 3/4)

Post-Korea

7th Marines

Vietnam

Staging Battalion

Post-Vietnam

11th Marines

There were many units that I believe spent time in Las Pulgas, though I have no absolute knowledge of them. I know that 24th Marines, BLT 6 and 7, 1st ITR, 4th Marines, 7th Marines and 11th Marines were here for sure. Some that I believe were here are: other parts of 4th MarDiv in WWII (23rd and 25th Marines); in Vietnam, 5th MarDiv and possibly some of 4th MarDiv in Vietnam. 3rd Tank Battalion in Korea-era also appears to have spent some time in the area, though it's unclear as to whether they were exactly in Las Pulgas or Las Flores.

Affiliation: B/1/7 at Las Pulgas 1956-58

1stSgt Earl Dunlap, USMC (Ret.)

Tel: 619.278.0374

Affiliation: "Opened" Tent Camp 1 in 1943 (later with L/3/25 in Pacific. including Iwo Jima)

Other Contacts

Mr. Dennis E. Semrau

6815 Settler Avenue

Wind Lake, WI 53185-1911

Email: desemrau@exexpc.com

Affiliation: Trained at Tent Camp 1 in 1st ITR in 1951. Sent a number of excellent photos. (later in H/3/1 as 60mm mortarman)

Ms. Faye Jonasson

Base Historian

Camp Pendleton

Room 108, Bldg 1160

Tel: 760.7255758

Mr. Bob Aquilina and Mr. Charles Smith

Historical Branch, HQMC

Marine Corps Historical Center

Bldg 58, Washington Navy Yard

901 M Street, SE

Washington, D.C. 20374-5040

Tel: 202.433.3864

DSN: 288.3864

-Were POCs for Las Pulgas street naming

Col J.M. Terry, USMC (Ret.)

Tel: 407.898.4765

Affiliation: WWII, Korea, Vietnam veteran; possible leads on Las Pulgas; recommended by Mr. Jerry Amen

Mr. Mitch Templeton

Base Historian

29 Palms

DSN: 957.7396(x237)

1stSgt George Galvan

Tel: 805.466.6317

-Possible POC for Las Pulgas information

Sgt Knoll

List of Photographs and Credits

1. Northern half of map: Training Command, Combat Training Areas and Ranges, 1 November, 1944. (Courtesy of Historical Section, MCB Camp Pendleton.)
2. Southern half of map: Training Command, Combat Training Areas and Ranges, 1 November, 1944. (Courtesy of Historical Section, MCB Camp Pendleton.)
3. Two Marines, Tent Camp 1, 1943. Standing: PFC Griffen; kneeling: PFC Robert De Nunzio. (Courtesy of SgtMaj Mike Mervosh, USMC (Ret.))
4. Part of 2nd Machine Gun Squad, Tent Camp 1, 1943. Left to right: PFC Alex Santilli, PFC Donald Marston, PFC Pruitt, PFC Glen Buzzard, PFC Cuisimano; behind machine-gun: PFC Silvio Paulini. (Courtesy SgtMaj Mervosh.)
5. Sign for Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Marines, Tent Camp 1, 1949. (Courtesy of GySgt Paul Santiago, USMC (Ret.))
6. Cpl Santiago and PFC Joaquin Isaac, 1949. (Courtesy GySgt Santiago.)
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10. Company street, "C" Co., 7th Infantry Training Battalion, 1st ITR, July 1951. (Courtesy of Mr. Dennis E. Semrau.)
11. "C" Co. tents, 1951. (Courtesy D. Semrau.)
12. Site of former "C" Co. street, 1996. (Courtesy D. Semrau.)
13. "A" and "B" Co. tents, 1951. (Courtesy D. Semrau.)
14. "F" Co. tents, 1951. (Courtesy D. Semrau.)
15. View down toward Las Pulgas Road from 7th ITB, 1st ITR location, 1996. (Courtesy D. Semrau.)
16. PFC Dennis E. Semrau, standing in front of his squad's tent, 1951. (Courtesy, D. Semrau.)
17. 3/4 Battalion Motor Pool and Sgt Ron Smith in front of Jeep, Camp Las Pulgas, 1953. (Courtesy of Mr. Ron Smith.)



1. Northern half of map: Training Command, Combat Training Areas and Ranges, 1 November, 1944.



TENT CAMP #1

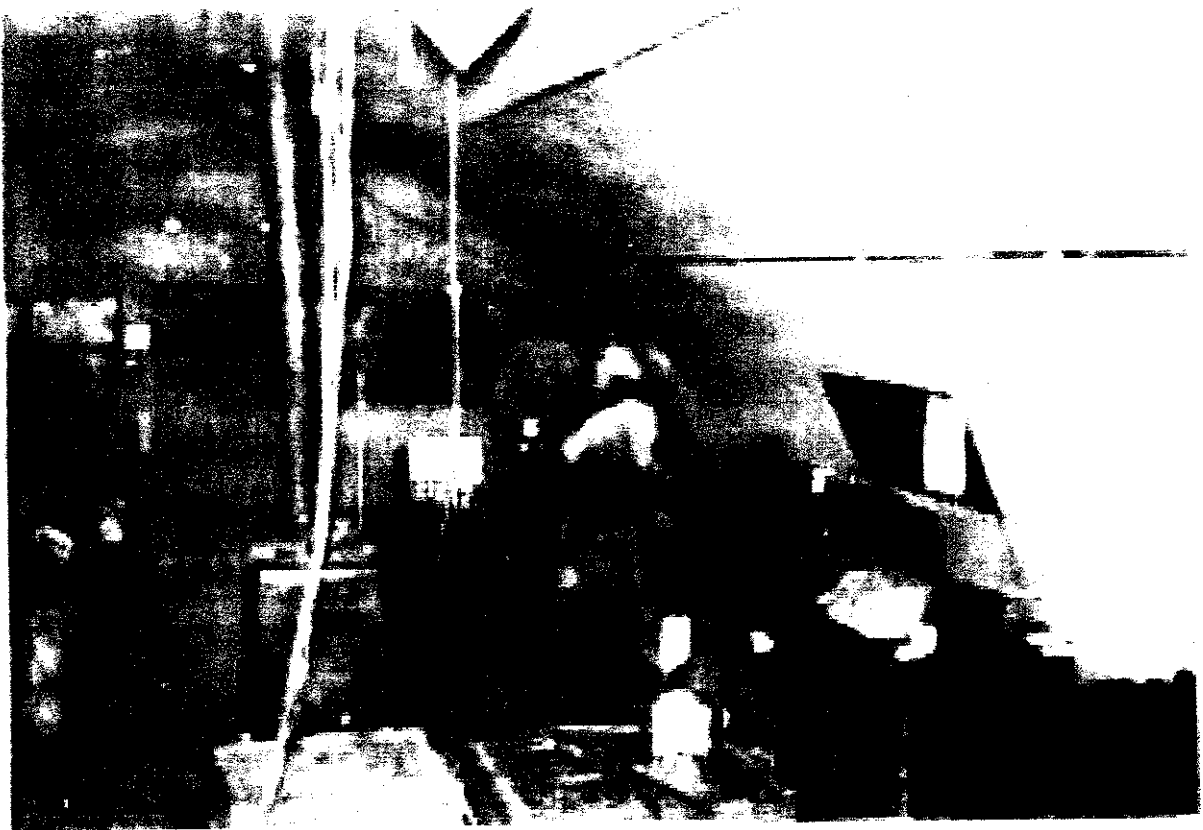
3. Two Marines, Tent Camp 1. Standing: PFC Griffen; kneeling: PFC Robert De Nunzio, 1943.



5. Sign for Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Marines, Tent Camp 1, 1949.



7. - H&S Co. huts; probably Communications Section.



9. Communications hut. Probably Wire section where switchboard was set up. Note cables running to top of hut.



11. (Above) "C" Co. tents, 1951.

12. (Below) View of same site where "C" Co. street stood, 1996.





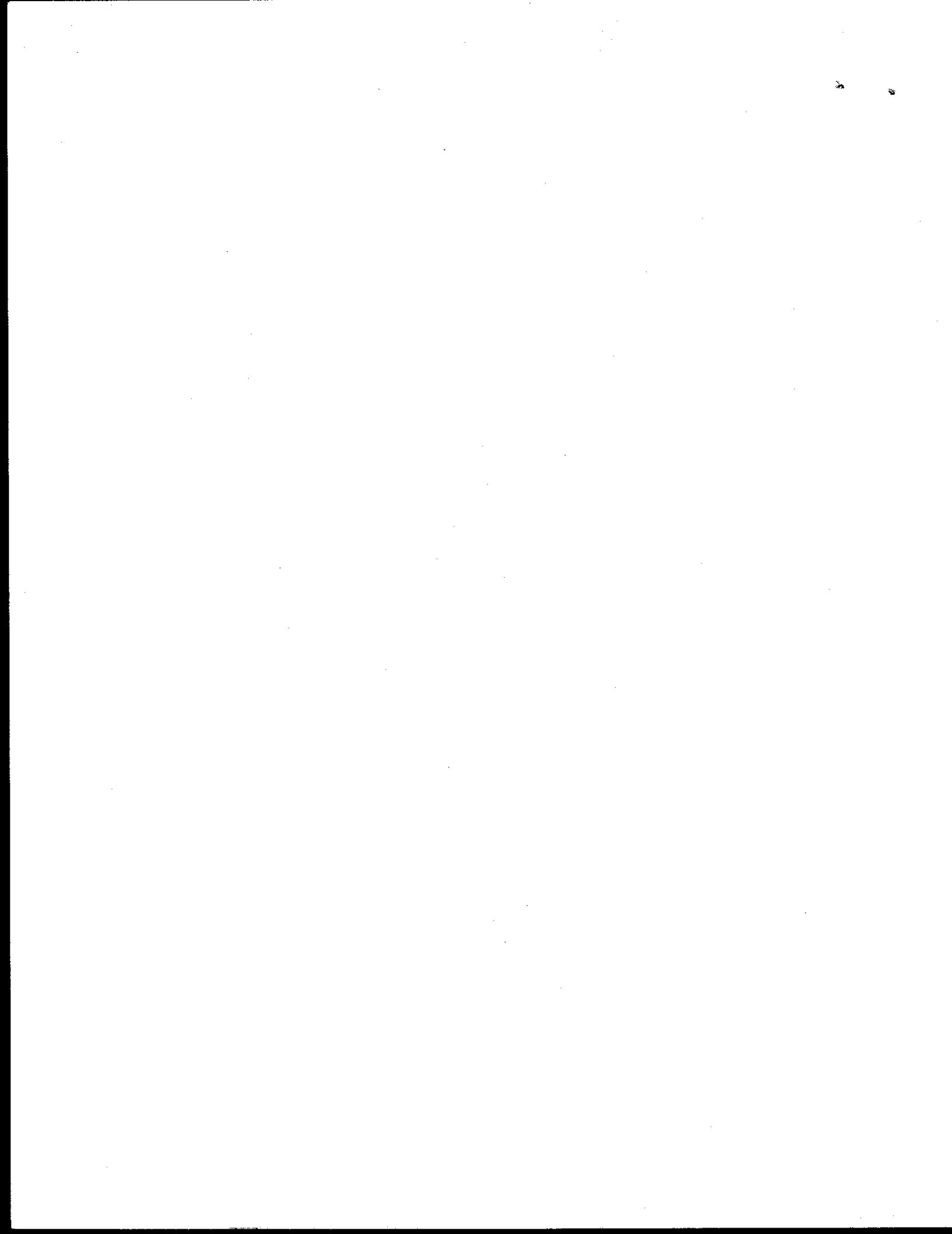
15. View down toward Las Pulgas Road from 7th ITB, 1st ITR location. Buildings are present-day fire station, 1996.



16. PFC Dennis E. Semrau, standing in front of his squad's tent, 1951.



19. Inside of a tent, circa Korean War. Note pot-bellied stove and low-cut boots known as "Boondockers".





BATTALION Motor Pool

3/4
CAMP LAS Pulgas
1953

17. 3/4 Battalion Motor Pool and Sgt Ron Smith in front of Jeep, Camp Las Pulgas, 1953.



EM LIVING
QUARTERS

3/4
CAMP LAS Pulgas
1953

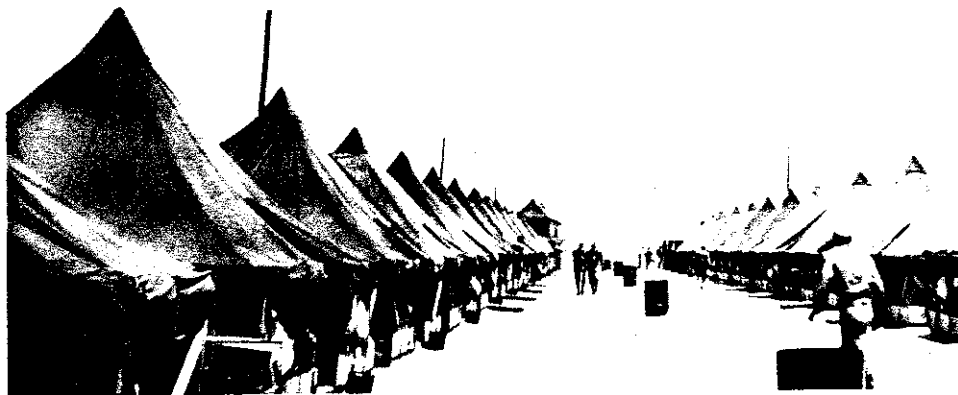
18. 3/4 Enlisted Marine living quarters and Sgt Ron Smith , 1953.



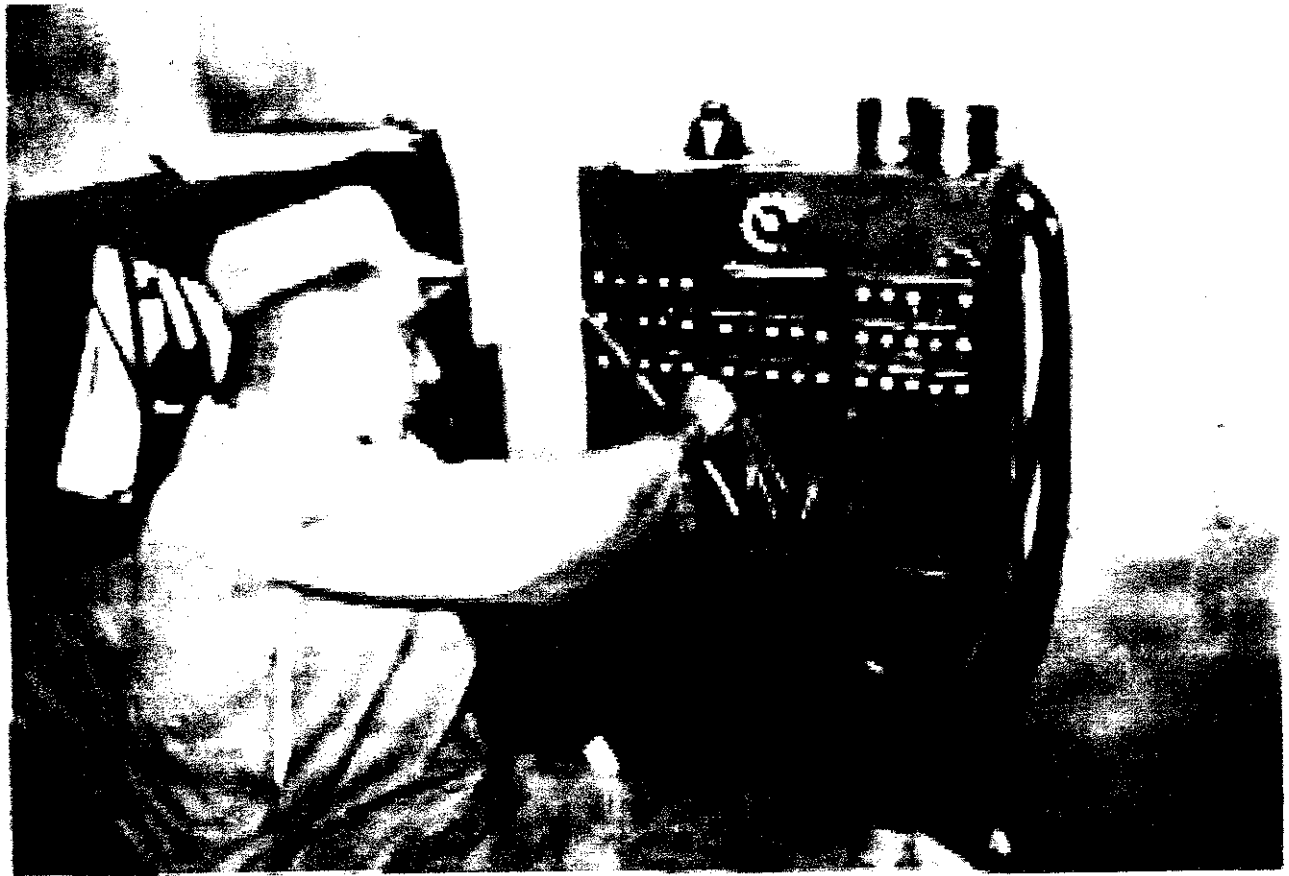
13. "A" and "B" Co. tents, 1951.



14. Tents of "F" Co., which had just formed, 1951.



10. View west down company street, "C" Co., 7th Infantry Training Battalion, 1st ITR. Note 9 Sikorsky HRS-1 helicopters in sky, probably from HMR-161, July 1951.



8. - 6th Marines switchboard. All units were connected by EE-8 field telephones. There were no base telephones as I recall.

Cpl. Paul Santiago (left) and PFC Joaquin M. Isaac - we both were in Naval Gunfire Section, Comm. Plt. H&S Co. 6th Marines. The reason I have an M1 is that I still had a Specification 745 (Rifleman). That meant I had to carry that plus any necessary radio equipment.

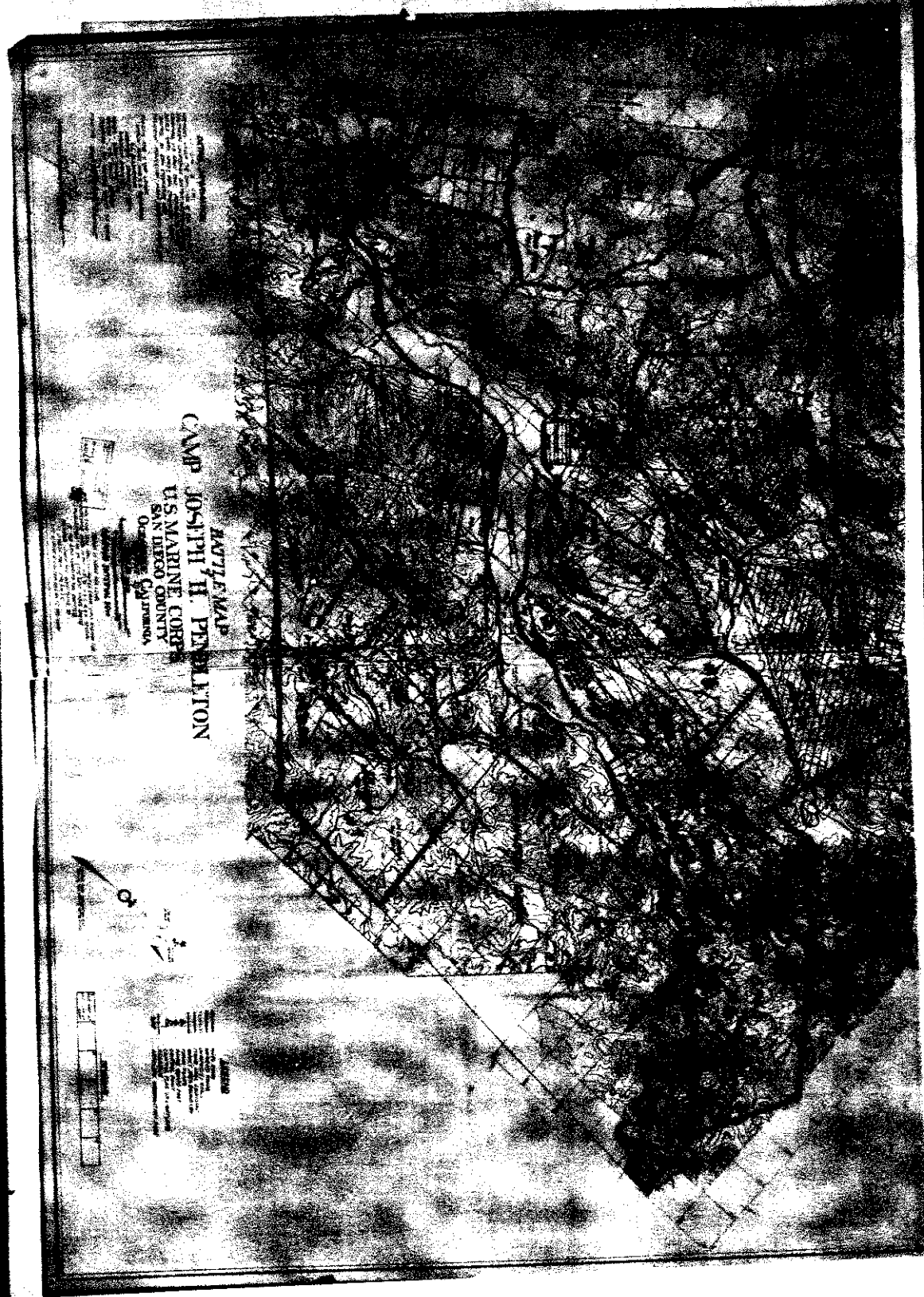


6. Cpl Santiago and PFC Joaquin Isaac, 6th Marines 1949.

This is part of my 2nd Machine Gun Squad



4. Part of 2nd Machine Gun Squad, Tent Camp 1. Left to right: PFC Alex Santilli, PFC Donald Marston, PFC Pruitt, PFC Glen Buzzard, PFC Cuisimano; behind machine-gun: PFC Silvio Paulini, 1943.



2. Southern half of map: Training Command, Combat Training Areas and Ranges, 1 November, 1944.

18. 3/4 Enlisted Marine living quarters and Sgt Ron Smith , 1953. (Courtesy R. Smith.)

19. Inside of a tent, circa Korean War. (Courtesy Hist. Sect., MCB Camp Pendleton.)

20. View of Tent Camp 1, circa 1953-54. (Courtesy Hist. Sect., MCB Camp Pendleton.)

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