

MEMORABLE CORPS QUOTATIONS

The appearance of Marines on foreign soil has always in the past indicated the beginning of extremely dangerous military adventures.

Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star), Moscow,
16 March 1965

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I had always enjoyed the title of Commander-in-Chief until I was informed that the only forces that cannot be transferred from Washington without my express permission are the members of the Marine Corps Band. Those are the only forces I have. I want it announced that we propose to hold the White House against all odds at least for some time to come . . .

President John F. Kennedy, 12 July 1962

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Tell that to the Marines . . . the sailors won't believe it.

Sir Walter Scott, *Redgauntlet*, Vol II, Chap 7.

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Paper-work will ruin any military force.

LtGen Lewis B. Puller, USMC, 1962

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They were the old breed of Marines, regarding the service as home and war as an occupation.

Col John W. Thomason, Jr., remarking
of the 4th Marine Brigade, 1917

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Retreat Hell! We just got here!

Officially attributed to Colonel
Frederic M. Wise, USMC, 2d Bn, 5th
Marines. On being told French troops
were retreating at Belleau Woods, France,
and being advised to do likewise, Col
Wise erupted with this expletive.

The raising of that flag on Suribachi means a Marine Corps for the next 500 years.

James Forrestal, 23 February 1945

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I have only two men out of my company and twenty out of some other company. We need support, but it is almost suicide to try and get it here as we are swept by machine gun fire and a constant barrage is on us. I have no one on my left and only a few on my right. I will hold.

2dLt Clifton B. Cates, USMC, 19 July 1918

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Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN
16 March 1945

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I have just returned from visiting the Marines at the front, and there is not a finer fighting organization in the world.

General Douglas MacArthur on the
outskirts of Seoul, 21 September 1950

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Why in Hell can't the Army do it if the Marines can; they are all the same kind of men . . . why can't they be like Marines?

General John J. Pershing, Commander-
in-Chief, AEF, 12 February 1918

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. . . we are intensely proud of their noble record and are glad to have had the whole world see how irresistible they are in their might when a cause which America holds dear is at stake. The whole nation has reason to be proud of its Marines.

President Woodrow Wilson, 14 August 1919



Come on, you sons of bitches . . . do you want to live forever?

Gunnery Sergeant Daniel Daly, at Belleau Wood, 6 June 1918

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The Marines have landed and have the situation well in hand.

Perpetuated by correspondent Richard H. Davis following Marine landing at Panama, 1885

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We're not accustomed to occupying defensive positions. Its destructive to morale.

Lieutenant General H. M. Smith, USMC, at Iwo Jima, 1945

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Any officer can get by on his sergeants. To be a sergeant you have to know your stuff. I'd rather be an outstanding sergeant than just another officer.

Gunnery Sergeant Daniel Daly, USMC

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I should deem a man-of-war incomplete without a body of Marines . . . imbued with that spirit that has so long characterized the 'Old Corps'. A ship without Marines is like a garment without buttons.

Admiral David D. Porter, USN, 1852

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The Marine Corps is the Navy's police force and as long as I am President that is what it will remain. They have a propoganda machine that is almost equal to Stalin's.

President Harry S. Truman, 29 August 1950

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Goddamn it, you'll never get the Purple Heart hiding in a foxhole! Follow Me!

Captain Henry P. Crowe, USMC, on Guadalcanal, 1943



And when he gets to heaven, To St. Peter he will tell: 'Another Marine reporting, Sir . . . I've served my time in Hell.'

Epitaph on the grave of PFC William Cameron, H/2/1, Guadalcanal, 1942, based on verses dating back to 1917

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The Marines are always in the advance, and how well they perform their part, I leave you to judge. To Captain Tilton and his Marines belongs the honor of first landing and last leaving the shore, in leading the advance on the march, in entering the forts, and in acting as skirmishers.

Commander L. A. Kimberly, USN, commenting on the landing in Korea, 1871

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Once a Marine, always a Marine

MSgt Paul Woysner, a 40-year Marine

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I am convinced there is no smarter, handier or more adaptable body of troops in the world than U. S. Marines . . . Always spick and span, ready at an instant's notice for duty, the nation owes them a great debt.

Winston Churchill, 1917

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If you can't carry it, eat it, or shoot it, don't bring it.
Source unknown for this Marine truism

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*Til' the last landing's made
And we stand unafraid*

*On a shore that no mortal has seen;
Til' the last bugle call
Sounds taps for us all
It's Semper Fidelis . . .
Marine!*

Unknown