



MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTENNIAL

WORLD WAR II • MOBILIZED RESERVE 1940 - 1947

The Pacific island-hopping campaign of World War II required a surge of Reserve Marines into the Regular forces. Newly-developed amphibious warfare doctrine required massive assaults on fortified Japanese positions. To meet these significant manpower requirements, the Marine Corps expanded to a record 485,000 personnel. Reserve Marines constituted more than 70 percent of the fighting force.

To support critical wartime requirements, more than 19,000 women joined the Marine Corps Reserve to "Free a Marine to Fight." These pioneering women filled more than 200 occupations, such as truck drivers, electricians, mechanics, cryptographers, painters, parachute riggers, paymasters and aerial photographers.

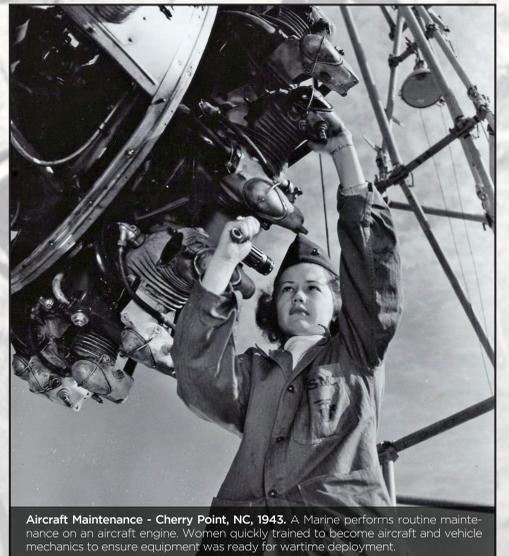
Reserve Marines endured extreme tropical conditions, scarce supplies, and the "fight-to-the-death" tactics of their Japanese adversaries. As the Pacific Campaign progressed, the Marines seized control of crucial strategic targets like the Solomon, Marshall, Mariana, Iwo Jima and Okinawa Islands.



Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal. Originally created as the Fleet Marine Reserve Medal in 1925, it recognizes the service of Reserve Marines and is the oldest of the Reserve Good Conduct Medals.



2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, Iwo Jima, Japan, c. March 1945. Marine Tank Infantry teams fought fierce battles as they advanced through Japanese defenses. Over 70 percent of the Marines serving during World War II were in the Reserve.



Aircraft Maintenance - Cherry Point, NC, 1943. A Marine performs routine maintenance on an aircraft engine. Women quickly trained to become aircraft and vehicle mechanics to ensure equipment was ready for wartime deployment.



New Arrivals for Reserve Platoon Leaders Course - Quantico, VA, Dec 1940. These civilians would soon earn their commissions and lead Marines in combat through World War II.



Aircraft Systems Instruction - Quantico, VA, Dec 1940. Reserve Platoon Leaders Course students receive instruction on an F3F-2 Fighter.



4th Marine Division, Iwo Jima, Japan, c. March 1945. Marines from 4th Marine Division maneuvering across the sulfurous beaches of Iwo Jima during the initial assault of the island. - Painting by Col. D.J. Neary, USMCR (Ret.)

Background photo: 2nd Lt. James T. Dockery, USMCR - Iwo Jima, Japan, March 1945. Dockery served as an Intelligence Officer with the 4th Marine Division during World War II.

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