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USMC Uniforms & Equipment 1941-1945



Synopsis

Bruno Alberti and Laurent Pradier have been collecting and writing about U S Marine Corps gear for more than a decade and, in that time, have contributed complete series of articles on the topic in the French Militaria Magazine. That sequence of articles is complete and the time has now come for a revised and expanded version of the results of their work as a single bound volume. The US Marine Corps has always enjoyed a special status among the American Armed Forces, as well as boasting distinctive uniforms and emblems. This new book presents the large variety of dress uniforms for both officers and enlisted men, as well as combat uniforms and specialty camouflage garments. Hundreds of items of clothing, equipment and insignia are illustrated by reenactment photos of the famous 'leathernecks' in the form of large format color plates. Many period photos found in official American archives are also reproduced and help place the reenactment shots in the correct historical context. This new volume maintains the usual exceptional quality standards of Histoire & Collections: carefully-researched historical background, hundreds of concisely captioned color photographs of authentic artifacts and reenactment photographs taken in studio conditions to allow the reader to see the uniforms and equipment in the greatest clarity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an update from my previous review. I was a Marine from 1962 until 1966, and we were still using some of the equipment shown in the book. I carried the M-1 Garand during ITR at Camp Geiger and fired the BAR, rifle grenades, 3.5 rocket-launcher, flame thrower and all that "neat stuff" for familiarization. We ate C-Rations in the field. There are problems with this book, however, so

take what you read and see in it with a grain of salt. Right away, on the map that shows the Pacific Theater, the invasion date for Iwo Jima is incorrect. It says February 1944, a year EARLIER than the actual invasion. It does not mention the second A-Bomb dropped on Japan, 3 days after the first. The models who display the uniforms clearly are not or were not Marines; it isn't their fault that in many cases the clothes are an improper fit, but they don't seem to have made an attempt to "square away" just a little more. In one case, especially, the model has made a complete botch of the blanket roll on the "Field Marching Pack." The seam of the folded roll doesn't even show (it should be on the top of the roll, facing the rear) and the side blanket roll straps are on incorrectly. A "marine" in dress greens doesn't have the belt passing properly through the belt buckle. Many of the dress uniforms have un-shined brass, rank insignia and Corps emblems are improperly displayed and the covers of the "barracks covers" are sloppily mounted. As far as the "utility" uniforms go, some of them have unbelievably long "Irish pennants" (loose threads, which were "verboten" in my time), and "pennants" also appear on field equipment. We called ties "field scarves" with a single dimple under the knot, and wore tie clips to hold our ties in place.

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