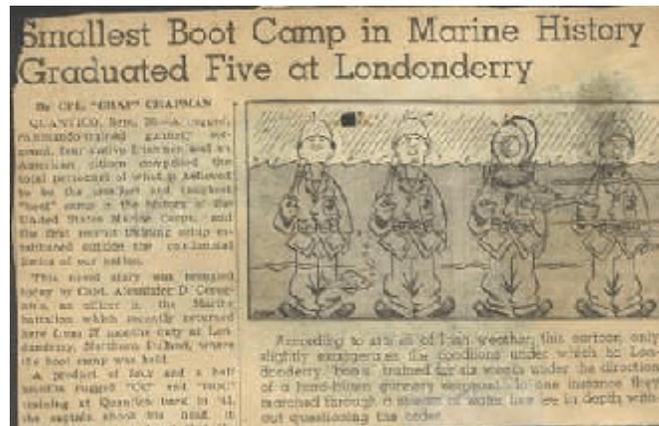


## USMC History in the Making

Following his service at the Barracks, Bud Hansen was ordered to the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Provisional Battalion in Londonderry, Northern Ireland in 1942, shortly after the outbreak of WWII. The Battalion had participated in the North African landings, and was assigned to the defense of Londonderry while awaiting assignment to the Pacific. During their short stay in Londonderry, the Battalion was destined to participate in two “firsts” in USMC history.

The first unique event was the recruitment and enlistment of six Irishmen, as well as the establishment of not only the smallest, but the first “boot camp” held outside the United States. The boot camp DI’s were NCO’s with prior service as DI’s, and a then-current article says that the intensity of the training made Parris Island seem like “child’s play.”



The next event was the establishment of the first bagpipe band in the history of the Corps. Trained by an Irish Regiment pipe band, the Marines became very proficient in their piping, winning an award in an Irish Military competition. Pictured here is Bud Hansen drumming while leading the pipers:



At that time, unit patches were worn by all Marine units, and a question arose as to identification of those in the Londonderry Battalion The following patch was adopted:



Following its return to the US at Quantico while awaiting relocation to the Pacific Theater of Operations, the pipe band gave a number of concerts, which were highly acclaimed as being “sensational!”

