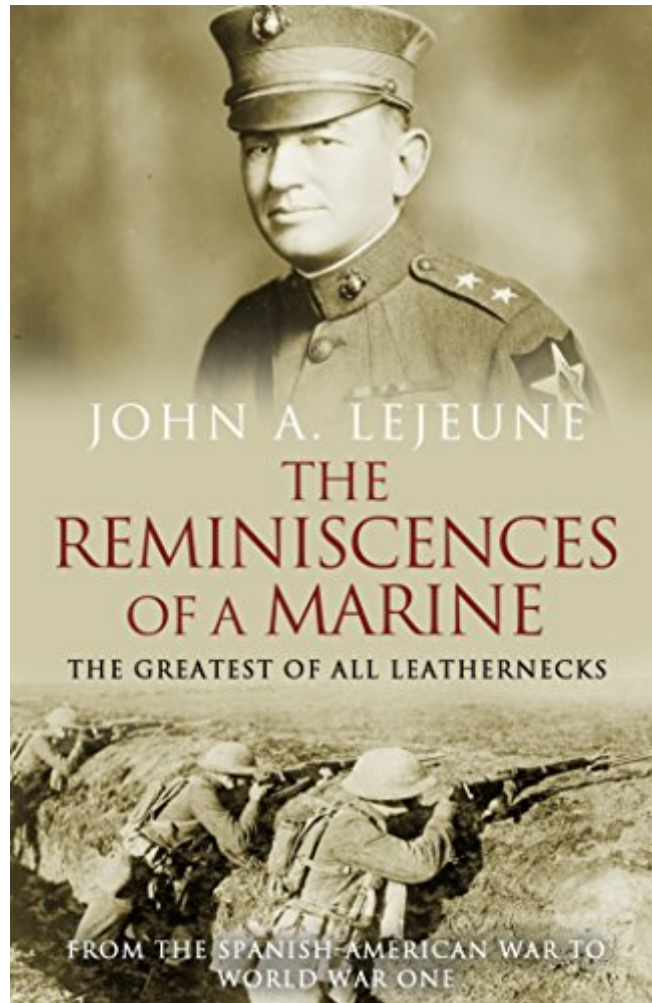




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# **The Reminiscences Of A Marine**



## Synopsis

“Although there have been many men who have left their mark on the United States Marine Corps, few have created such a lasting impression as John Archer Lejeune.” Historical Studies  
The Reminiscences of a Marine is the fascinating account of the life of one of the greatest Marines, John Archer Lejeune: naval cadet, Marine Corps lieutenant, WW1 Division Commander and Commandant of the Marine Corps. His autobiography recalls his childhood in Louisiana as the son of a Confederate Officer, his education at Louisiana State University and his entrance into the Naval Academy. Upon joining the Marine Corps in 1890, Lejeune’s career took him to Europe, Mexico, Cuba and the Philippines. In addition to detailed account of military events, Lejeune provides an insightful record of the lives of the people he encountered, making his book an important source for early twentieth century history. Stationed in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, he assumed command of the Marine Corps of the U.S.S Cincinnati. With the outbreak of war in Europe in 1914 and the U.S. declaration in 1917, Lejeune saw it as his duty to fight for his country and fought tooth and nail, first to be stationed in France and then to increase the numbers of Marines serving on the ground in Europe and to push for the formation of a dedicated Marine division. Reporting to General Pershing, he assumed command of a brigade in the 32nd Division and in July 1918, becoming only the second Marine to obtain such a position in the Army, he was given the command of the 2nd Infantry Division of the American Expeditionary Force, remaining in this post until the cessation of war. As Commander of the 2nd Division, he oversaw the famous victories at the Battle of Blanc Mont Ridge and Meuse-Argonne. His division was commended for its exemplary performance in WWI: it was awarded the Croix des Guerre three times and personally praised by General Pershing. On his return to the States, Lejeune was appointed Commandant of the Marine Corps. His memoir is a compelling insight into the career of one of the greatest U.S. Marines. “There is no doubt that the modern Marine Corps can trace its roots to Major General Lejeune. He was a skilled soldier, a visionary, and a leader of uncommon talent whose decisions, guidance and foresight are still being felt by today’s Marines.” •  
Historical Studies John Archer Lejeune (January 10, 1867 – November 20, 1942) was a United States Marine Corps lieutenant general and the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps. Lejeune had nearly 40 years service in the Marine Corps including commanding the U.S. Army’s 2nd Division during World War I. His book The Reminiscences of a Marine was first published in 1930.

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## Customer Reviews

USMC, WW1, memoir, military-history I was happy to find this book because the name of the author intrigued me. Let's face it, only a US Marine would know why the East Coast training facility is named Camp Lejeune, and I never thought to ask any of the deputies or even my grandson. Yeah, I'm a history geek. It starts out with a bit of family history, then ramps up after college when he joins the Corps, serves in the Spanish American War, and really gets tough during WWI. Besides being a history, it is also clearly a model for an effective leader, and needs to be read by military officers as well as those in private industry. It was originally published in 1930.

As a former Marine, the USMC has its heroes' experiences of valor pounded into them during training (boot camp). John Lejeune was a senior officer who was a brilliant leader of Marines and US Army soldiers in WWI. He did not win a medal of honor for falling on a hand grenade or for taking out a machine gun nest with just a rifle and grenades. Lejeune's greatness was in the way that he recognized how best to train the individual Marine to be an expert rifleman first and to instill

leadership in each and every one. In addition, Lejeune was able to use his experience from the military war college, to understand and use winning tactics in actual combat. He used that tactical experience to win battles and later to come up with the tactics, training, and logistic used by the Marine Corp today. This book finally explains why I am always so proud of the traditions of the USMC.

General Lejeune's concept of father, teacher, mentor is one of the great concepts of leadership and is used by many Marines today, both in the Marine Corps and later in a second career. Many men like Lejeune were and are invaluable and indispensable in leading the Corps to become one of the greatest of military services in the history of mankind....Of course, I have to uncover my bias as I was one of those in WWII who was lucky and privileged to serve as a jarhead---Hope all those Marines serving today will read this book.....Calvin Atwood

In fact, everyone who has a desire to understand the foundations of the military and especially the Marine Corps needs to read this book. Although the book was written over 80 years ago, the lessons that General Lejeune discusses apply to many of today's problems. His descriptions of the manpower and money problems he faced as Commandant in the 1920s are very similar to those faced by the current Commandant. It seems that the old saying, "Dogs and Marines keep off the grass," except in times of war still stand.

An interesting and important chapter in the history of the Corps. Although slightly academic in tone, Lejeune thoroughly covers the events and people that shaped the philosophy and tradition of Marines after the turn of the century. World War One and the Belleau Woods and Ardennes that are sometimes forgotten are given a new perspective through the eyes of one of its greatest officers.

This book provided an intriguing look at the mind of a great American patriot. Lejeune lived during the time of the United States' ascendancy on the world stage. He was there while history was being made, yet he tells his story with humility and insight.

I thought that this book was a great point of view of the war. General Lejeune is a celebrity in the Marine Corps and after reading this book you know why. He was a great leader and one that any leaders can emulate for success. This title should be put on the commandants reading list.

Mint condition hard cover; great value and a good read as well!

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