

The Marines' Hymn





SONG OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE SEA

For nearly a hundred years the Marines' Hymn has been sung around the world. It has followed the Sea Soldiers to Mexico, Cuba, Haiti, China, France, Hawaii, the Philippines, or wherever they have performed their various missions for the United States. Around camp fires in Mexico, in rest billets behind the fighting front in France, beneath the palms of the tropics or aboard troop transports bound for adventures abroad, the words of their song have inspired untold legions of U.S. Marines to a high resolve and a renewed faith in their pledge of loyalty to the Flag. Tradition points to the origin of their hymn in 1847, during the Mexican War, when an unknown poet of the Corps set the original lyrics to the music of an old French opera. Out of the storied past have come changes and alterations of these lyrics, but there has been no change in the spirit of the Marines. Pride in their faithful performance of every duty since 1775 has prompted the Sea Soldiers to sing: "We are proud to claim the title of United States Marines."

