



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

February 28, 1947

Marine Corps
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Honorable James Forrestal
Secretary of The Navy
Washington, D. C.

SO 3 4 59

Dear Jim:

The educational public service project, designated THE FREEDOM TRAIN, which is to travel under my sponsorship and approval, with President Truman's endorsement, into every state of the Union and several cities of each state, is preparing now to get under way some time in the spring. As you may know from the public prints, this train is to bring to the people of the United States more than one hundred and fifty of the most sacred original documents of our history. The purpose is to combat alien ideologies and reawaken in the American people the reverence we know them to have for the American way of life.

The documents will be in the custody of the Attorney General throughout the duration of the project although the costs of the tour and a concurrent educational campaign are to be provided for by a patriotic group of representative citizens who have, to that purpose, organized a private corporation known as The American Heritage Foundation. These costs will be apart from the expenses incident to Government supervision and protection.

THE FREEDOM TRAIN will need an armed guard to protect its precious and irreplaceable cargo. I am sure you will agree with me that the Marine Corps of the United States Navy is highly qualified for this job and this letter is to request you to direct that this outfit be given the assignment. Some of the phases of this proposed cooperation between the Marine Corps and THE FREEDOM TRAIN have already been discussed informally and tentatively on lower levels, both as a Marine recruiting aid and as a means of providing efficient protection and a brilliant military escort for these invaluable documents.

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As soon as this request has your approval I shall direct William A. Coblenz, of my staff, to work out the details with Brigadier General William E. Riley, Director of Recruiting, United States Marine Corps, or whoever you may signify.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. Coblenz
Attorney General

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