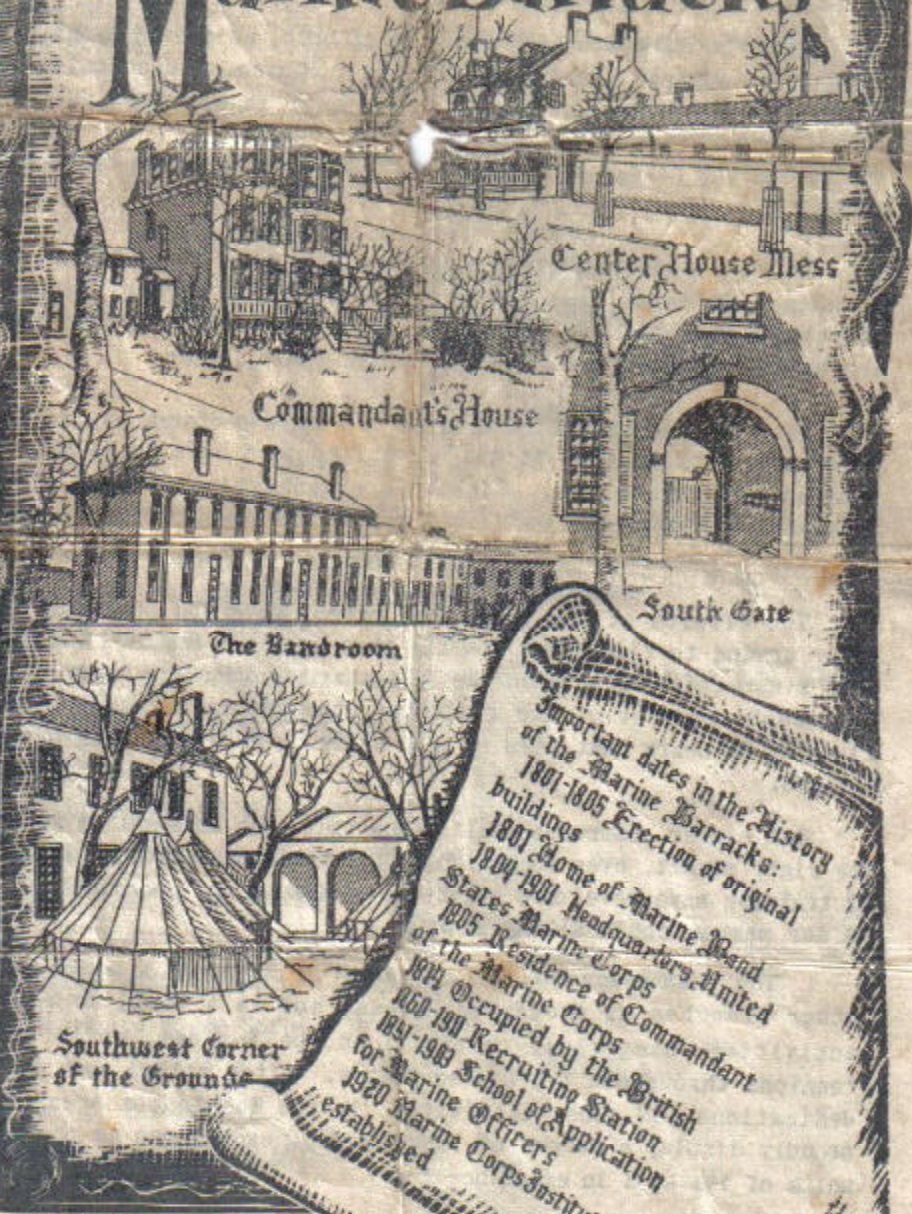


the Marine Barracks



Washington, D. C.

Important dates in the History
of the Marine Barracks:
1801-1805 Erection of original
buildings
1801 Home of Marine Band
1804-1801 Headquarters United
States Marine Corps
1805 Residence of Commandant
of the Marine Corps
1804 Occupied by the British
1860-1891 Recruiting Station
for Marine Officers
1920 Marine Corps Institute
established

MARINE BARRACKS DRILL TEAM

Traditionally, Marines have been portrayed either as dirty, hard-charging, bayonet-wielding infantrymen, or as individuals with spit-shined shoes and wearing the world-famous "dress blues."

Actually, they are a combination of both, as proved by an organization commanded by First Lieutenant Francis X. Quinn. Technically designated the Marine Barracks Drill Team, this unit is not composed of "parade ground Marines," for these are only infantry. Numerous Purple Hearts won during the bitter Korean campaigns are worn by these ceremonial Leather-necks.

To be a member of this team involves more than "dress blues" and parades. It means long hours of drill on the parade ground, constant repetition and practice, days spent learning new, more intricate, formations and maneuvers under the watchful eyes of their leader.

The team, organized in 1948 for a single performance, received such a tremendous ovation that it was maintained as a unit to be used for formal parades and ceremonies. Since its organization several officers have commanded the team and each in his turn has added new and more intricate formations and maneuvers.

The efforts of the Drill Team often leave the observer rather dazed after trying to figure out how the team performs its drill without injury. That's especially true when the team starts performing their manual of arms. With each movement of the rifle the observer is treated to the sight of flashing bayonets that seem to pass within a hair's breadth of the marching Marines.

But closer observation will show that each movement is made at exactly the right moment, even though no verbal command is given. Those long hours of training have developed split-second timing and coordination. A mistake by any member could spell injury.

The team has frequently entered in competition with drill teams of other branches of the Armed Forces, and is a familiar sight at civic activities, historical celebrations, ball-games, movie premieres and reunions throughout the United States. Often called upon to perform for dedications and other festivities in the Washington Area, the team can proudly display a record of long standing excellence as one of the finest units of its kind in existence today.

MARINE BARRACKS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Commanding Officer
Executive Officer

Colonel Robert H. Williams
Lt. Col. Charles D. Barrett, Jr.

SUNSET PARADE

19 August 1951

REVIEWING OFFICER

Colonel Robert H. Williams
Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks
Director, Marine Corps Institute

PARADE COMMANDER

Lt. Col. John B. Sweeney

ORDER OF ACTIVITIES

1. Troops march on the parade ground
2. March on the Colors
3. Marine Band "Sounds Off" - Drum Major E. M. DeMar
4. Drum and Bugle Corps "Globe and Laurel"
 Slow March of the British Royal Marines - Drum Major W. O. Nickell
5. Colors are lowered-- "Retreat"
6. "Manual of Arms"
7. Adjutant publishes the Orders of the Day
8. Officers march center for special orders
9. Presentation of decoration
10. Pass in Review
11. The Drill Team - 1st. Lt. Francis X. Quinn, Commander
12. The Drum and Bugle Corps - Drum Major W. O. Nickell
 "World War I Medley"
13. March off the Colors
14. Troops march off the parade ground

MARINE BARRACKS, WASHINGTON.

Established in 1801, the Marine Barracks, Washington, is the oldest Marine post as well as the official residence of the Commandant of the Marine Corps. The selection of the site for the barracks was a matter of personal interest to President Thomas Jefferson who rode on horseback with Lieutenant Colonel Commandant William Ward Burrows in a search for a suitable location. The present site was approved since "It lay near the Navy Yard and within easy marching distance of the Capitol." Twenty thousand dollars was appropriated by Congress for purchase of the tract of land and construction of the original Barracks and Commandant's House.

As in the present rectangle, the early barracks occupied the east side of the parade ground, the band hall and hospital the south side, and the Commandant's House the north side. Originally, the west side was occupied by the Old Center House Mess, which served as officers' quarters and was flanked to the north and south by low barracks buildings.

Between 1900 and 1907 renovation of the century-old barracks and Center House Mess was completed as it now stands. The Commandant's House retains most of its original construction and appearance and is said to be the oldest public building still in use as such in Washington. From its original construction until 1901 the headquarters of the Corps was located in a section of the barracks. From this post Marines have gone forth to the battles and campaigns on land and sea in which the Corps has participated.

The Marine Barracks has also been the home of the United States Marine Band since 1801. It was here that John Philip Sousa, during the period he was Leader of the Band, wrote many of his famous marches. In addition to the Band, the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps still carries on the stirring music of the Fifers and Drummers of days gone by.

The Marines who presently occupy the Barracks are employed for official ceremonies in Washington and for instructional duties in the Marine Corps Institute. This latter activity was established in 1920 by Major General John A. Lejeune to provide academic and technical correspondence courses for improvement of the educational standards of the men of the Corps.

Thus, throughout its century and a half, the Marine Barracks has provided a military garrison at the seat of government as originally envisaged by President Jefferson. The esprit de corps of many generations of Marines and their Commandants who have been quartered in these barracks and have loyally served their country in peace and war, lives on in the Washington Marines of today. Like their predecessors, they continue to constitute a force-in-readiness in the best tradition of the Marine Corps.