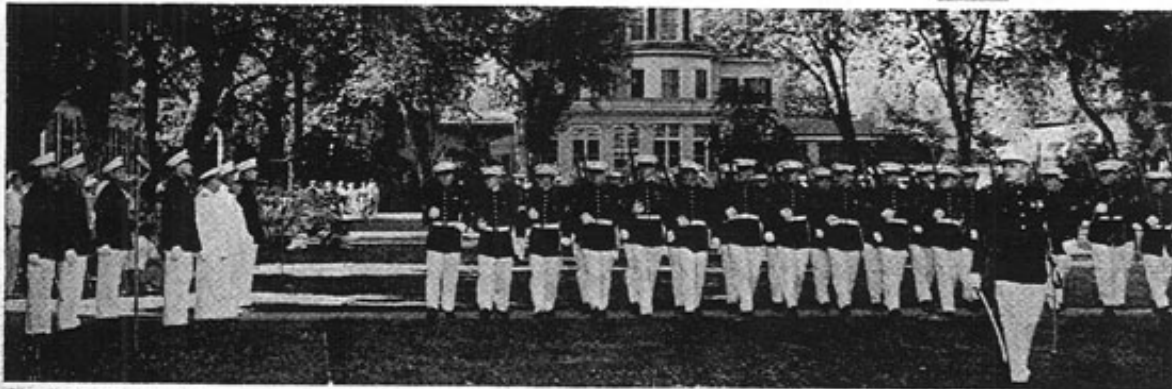


POSTS OF THE CORPS

MARINE BARRACKS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

The Showcase of the Corps for more than 150 years, the Washington Barracks stands as the true story-book type Marine Post



Highlight of the week—the Friday afternoon Sunset Parade. Visiting firemen and VIPs make a point to be on hand for the colorful ceremony. General L. C. Shepherd reviews the parade whenever possible

ANY LETTER ADDRESSED to Headquarters Marine Corps during the first quarter-century of the Corps' existence would undoubtedly have puzzled a burn-sidéd postmaster, and after considerable deliberation it would have been returned to the sender. There was no headquarters garrison; the Marines were homeless.

It is unlikely that the Marines viewed this oversight with any disdain since they had been busily engaged over the difficult 25-year period of the Nation's early struggle. They had started their battle career at New Providence Is-

by MSgt. Edward Barnum
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Photos by
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land, fought with George Washington at Trenton, fired from the yardarms of John Paul Jones' ships, served on Old Ironsides and the Constellation in the undeclared war with France, and crossed the sands with Decatur to Tripoli.

But in 1800, the word was passed that a \$20,000 appropriation had been approved by President John Adams for the establishment of the first permanent Marine Corps garrison. The site was to be Washington, D. C.

The task of selecting a location for the new Marine post was given to Thomas Jefferson. The Corps' second Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel William Ward Burrows, aided Jefferson in making the final recommendation. The chosen tract of land, between the Naval Gun Factory and the Capitol, cost the Government \$6247.18—an exorbitant sum at the time. The remain-

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The Measured Post, an honor awarded to the sharpest sentry of the guard, is proudly stepped off by Pfc James Coe, of Philadelphia, Pa.

MARINE BARRACKS (cont.)



der of the appropriation was to be used for the construction of barracks and a home for the Commandant.

The Commandant's house, the capital's oldest official building in use today, was not completed until two years after the compound was finished. Col. Burrows supervised the work on the house and Marines supplemented regular work crews. Bricks for the structure were molded by hand from clay dug in a nearby pit.

Per square foot, Marine Barracks, Eighth & Eye streets, S.E., Washington, D.C., is undoubtedly the smallest most unique Marine installation in the United States. A fast walk around the two and one half acre quadrangle can be completed in ten minutes.

The original compound consisted of a two-story range of brick buildings and sheds, opposite the Commandant's quarters. The Center House, flanked on both sides by low one-story buildings, occupied one side. The Post's barracks, headquarters office buildings, a stable, carriage shed, storeroom and washroom lined the other side across the mall.

The troops of the Old Corps enjoyed the luxury of a swimming pool on the grounds, but due to the expansion of the buildings during the reconstruction period, the pool disappeared. To remind the Marines that they were primarily sea-going, the hull of an old

ship was placed within the enclosure. That too has long since disappeared.

When the President and Commandant selected the Eighth and Eye site they had considered the guard duty the Marines pulled at the Naval Gun Factory, just down the street. They also wanted the garrison within walking distance of the Capitol. Today if you look down heavily congested Eighth street, past assorted pawn shops and gin mills, you can see the main gate of the Naval Gun Factory. A mile or so of dwellings and office buildings block the view of the Capitol.

Just 12 years after the inception of the post, the Corps' first home achieved its initial mark in American history. The War of 1812 found the Detachment serving with the militia in the defense of the city. The fight was a lost cause and General C. A. Ross occupied Washington with his Redcoat Army. The heavy brick buildings and the ten-foot brick wall around the Eighth and Eye compound made the place a veritable fortress. The general chose it for his headquarters. The British stabled their mounts in the Commandant's basement and reserved the upper stories for their own quarters.

During the occupation the British are believed to have unearthed the Corps' money coffer containing \$25,000. The funds had been appropriated by Congress to sustain the Marines through 1814.

One popular version of the story, told whenever history of the post is mentioned, credits two Marines with the burial of the money. When the word reached Eighth and Eye that the British broke through Washington's defense perimeter, the two sergeants who had been detailed to guard the money, cached it and left to join the fight. Perhaps for security reasons they neglected to make a map. Both men were killed the same day and the location of the

buried chest remained a mystery. Later speculation hinted that the money was buried under the Center House Mess and when this building was torn down during the 1900s, workmen were briefed on the treasure. No reports of the missing money were made to the foreman.

The treasure hunt has long since been abandoned and today the quarters of Major General W. P. T. Hill, Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps, occupy the location of the Old Center House Mess.

Headquarters Marine Corps continued to occupy the Eighth and Eye site until 1901 when it moved into downtown Washington. An appropriation of \$300,000 was made for the renovation of the original barracks and a slow reconstruction period began. The plans for the rebuilding of the post followed the original layout and today the his-



Colonel James P. Berkeley,
Barracks Commanding Officer

toric Eighth and Eye Barracks retain their early design and appearance.

A bird's-eye view of the post today finds the Commandant's quarters in the same location. Large three-story buildings, referred to as "General's Row," have replaced the low buildings which had flanked the Center House. As in the original rectangle, the barracks and offices occupy the east side of the parade ground; the band hall and guard house line the south side.

Stately trees border the parade ground and hundreds of sparrows make the compound their home. Ground rules



Stately trees embellish the mall before "General's Row," traditional residence of the Commandant's

Staff. The spacious, modern brick buildings were erected on the site of the Old Center House Mess

at Eighth and Eye are strict and the turf on the parade ground is kept in perfect order. During the winter and spring seasons when the ground is soft and wet, parades and formations are held in a local armory to prevent hard heels from digging divots in the green.

Visitors to Washington find Eighth and Eye exemplary of the Marine Corps as the public imagines it. When the entire barracks turns out for the Friday afternoon Sunset Parade the result is an inspiring, colorful ceremony. Visiting dignitaries, both local and foreign, are fortunate when they are honored by a review at Eighth and Eye.

Of the three separate units maintained on the post, the United States Marine Band is the oldest resident. The first elements of the "President's Own" moved in during the year 1801, and the Band Barracks still occupies the same corner of the post. Today, this building contains the band's administrative offices, practice rooms, music library and instrument repair shops. The unusual hours and duties of the bandmen make it advisable for them to live ashore on special quarters and subsistence allowances.

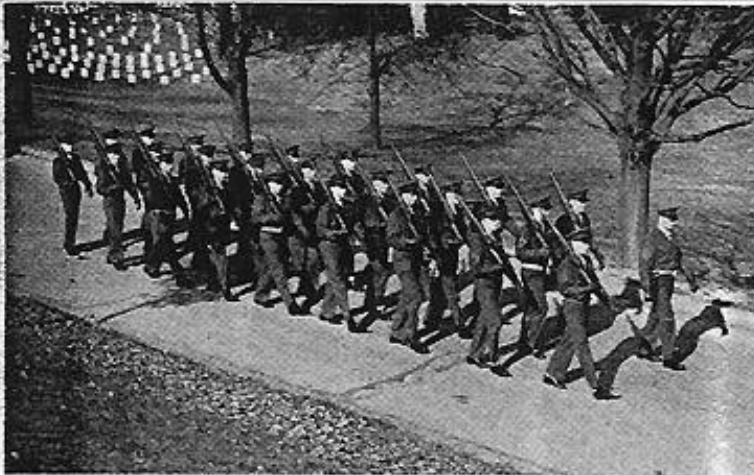
Here at Eighth and Eye John Philip Sousa, for many years the leader of this unit, composed many of his military marches. Lieutenant Colonel William F. Santelmann, the present leader, began the study of music at the age of six, under the tutorship of his father, then the Marine Band leader. The younger Santelmann entered the organization in 1923 and became second leader in 1935. In 1940, Taylor Branson, to whom his father had handed the baton, retired; Santelmann then assumed leadership.

The Marine Corps Institute, headquarters for the Corps' remote control courses, is the second separate unit



The Commandant and Mrs. Shepherd enjoy a few moments of leisure in the library of their historic 150-year-old residence at Eighth & Eye

TURN PAGE



Ceremonial troops are called upon regularly to provide funeral details for deceased Naval personnel interred at Arlington National Cemetery



Like most oldtimers, these key personnel at Marine Barracks, Eighth and Eye, like to swig a cup of joe before they turn to in the morning



Time out for a cool one after work. Sgt. Maj. Mike Knott holds a bit of palaver in the Washington Barracks' beer garden and snack shop

MARINE BARRACKS (cont.)



quartered on the post. Until a year ago, the entire school system was located there but space limitations forced the unit to move the school section to the Naval Gun Factory. Unlike the band, the MCI troops live at Eighth and Eye. The Women Marines who are attached to the Institute are quartered at Henderson Hall, across the Potomac, in Arlington, Va., and commute daily by bus.

The third and undoubtedly the most active unit on the post is the Barracks Detachment. Within their ranks you will find some of the sharpest, best dressed and most outstanding parade ground soldiers in the Marine Corps. Included in the Barracks Detachment are the Marine Corps Color Guard, the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps and the Marine Corps Drill Team. These troops are considered the Special Duty Platoon. They are required to perform their regular duties in addition to their specialties, and when a ceremonial occasion in Washington requires the participation of Marine Corps personnel, they represent the Corps—at its finest.

If a ceremony requires more men than the Detachment can provide, Marines from the Institute are called upon for assistance. Because of the high standards set by the Detachment people in their training and dress, the Institute must, in addition to their regular paper work, keep up with the spit and polish techniques of the regular troops.

Standards are high for Marines reporting into Eighth and Eye. The height requirement is a minimum of five feet 10 inches; importance is placed on a good physical appearance; it must not be necessary for the man to wear glasses while in ranks. In addition to the strict physical requirements, an applicant for duty must also be psychologically adaptable to the rigorous routine carried out at the Washington Barracks. At the present time, men assigned duty at this post are ordered to Headquarters Marine Corps where they are screened by an officer prior to final assignment.

A man reporting into this outfit experiences a procedure unlike anything in the Marine Corps today. He finds a storybook type Marine post

where everything is done according to "The Book." When the new arrival reports in to the Detachment First Sergeant, the first detail is a uniform check. Additional dress uniforms are issued, including white duck trousers which are worn during the summer months. A correct fit is ensured by the Post Tailor; uniforms are not "cut down," but correctly tailored to fit the individual man. Shoes worn by the troops, including all officers in the Barracks Detachment, are given special consideration. Double soles and heels with metal inserts are suggested. The remodeling of footgear is not an order but it is encouraged. The traditional Marine spit-shine achieves the ultimate and sides of the heels of the shoes worn at Eighth and Eye glisten brighter than shoe toes at many posts.

After the uniform requirements are squared away, the man learns that he will be standing the usual guard company routine; port and starboard watches are the order of the day and every other week end liberty prevails. This duty is additional to his training with the parade ground troops.

Tradition and history of the post is instilled in every new man. He finds that every movement on the post has a meaning. Some posts have different regulations; Post Number Eight is the "measured post." When the weather permits, the Officer of the Day instructs the guard to mount the post

at the gate during the hours of 1200 to 1300 and 1630 to 1730. Since this is considered an honorary post, the sharpest man on watch gets the nod. Armed with a rifle and fixed bayonet he steps the measured 10 paces and comes to a halt. A fixed count is made and he comes to the order. Another fixed count and he does an about face, shoulders the rifle and makes his return trip. In the age old manner of sentries the Marine comes to port arms for every automobile and pedestrian passing through the formidable iron gate. He presents arms for every officer.

In addition to funeral details for Marines and Naval personnel, the men at Eighth and Eye also participate in parades, act as honor guards for visiting VIPs, and appear at official functions. When civic organizations request the Marine Color Guard, they usually receive an affirmative answer.

One of the honors awarded the official Color Guard is its presence at the monthly Naturalization Ceremony which takes place in the District of Columbia. The only colors present are those of the Corps' Color Guard.

Marines at the Washington Barracks draw the assignment as security guards for the President of the United States when he spends time at the presidential retreat, Camp David, approximately 80 miles from the Capitol. In view of (continued on page 73)



A Music of the Guard sounds the ship's bell, the traditional Naval timepiece. The bell is from the USS Smedley Butler



A visit to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. is a must at least once during a tour of duty at the Washington Barracks, 8th & I

MARINE BARRACKS

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this duty and other official assignments, all men at the Barracks are subjected to a security review by the State Department and Secret Service. At an inopportune time a hurry-up order came over the wire from the White House. "The President plans to spend the week end at Camp David. He will leave late tonight. Your troops will be there when he arrives."

Week end liberty goes at 1630 Friday night and when the word arrived, many of the troops were already in town. The quick-thinking OD immediately closed the gate and cancelled all further liberty parties. All hands available were mustered but the guard was found lacking in number for the mission to Camp David. Several surprised Marines who walked into the gate early that night found themselves changing clothes and standing by for the trip to Camp David.

The office of the Commanding Officer, Marine Barracks, Eighth and Eye, contains many historical objects related to the post. Behind the Commanding Officer's desk, in the place of honor, hangs a large framed roster—listing every officer or enlisted man who has commanded the post. If a muster were held with that roster it would read like a Who's-Who in the Marines. Major John A. Lejeune headed the compound in 1905-06; Major Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., commanded the post in 1934. The latest name on the roster is Colonel James P. Berkeley.

The skipper is no stranger to the post. He served there as an enlisted man and was commissioned at Eighth and Eye in 1930. His father, Major General Berkeley, USMC, (Ret.) served there after the Spanish American War.

Col. Berkeley relates an incident which occurred when his father and another young lieutenant reported in to the post. Customarily, then and now, the officers were expected to call on the Commandant, present their cards and make "the visit." Upon arrival at the Commandant's home, Major General Charles Heywood invited them in, offered them chairs, and asked to be excused. In a few minutes, the General returned carrying a growler of beer which he had purchased across the street in the local saloon.

Mementos line the walls of Col. Berkeley's office. Historical photographs and fifty-year-old newspaper clippings recount the past; a solid

brass chow bucket inscribed "Made in 1873," serves as a log holder for the fireplace. The battle flag of the Marine Corps, with its 33 streamers, is kept here. The original deed for the tract of land purchased in 1801 from Lord Cecil Calvert, Baron of Baltimore's estate, hangs in the office, along with an old-style discharge certificate.

Many invaluable trophies and historical objects were lost and destroyed during the Reconstruction period, including a log containing the carved-out name of Aaron Burr, cut to pass the time while he was confined at Center House awaiting his trial for treason.

Marines stationed at Eighth and Eye have few complaints when they sit down to chow. The preparation of food is rated tops by the men. Breakfast is served directly from the galley stoves and the noon and evening meals are tabled in family style.

Liberty in the Nation's Capitol is



Generations of Marines have polished this bronze tablet on the gate at 8th & I Sts., S.E., Washington, D. C. To date it has shown only minor signs of wear from frequent scrubbing

an undebatable subject. During World War II when women far outnumbered the males, Marines traveled hundreds of miles just for a week end in Washington. For the men of the Eighth and Eye detachment a ten minute cab ride will take them to the heart of the District. The ratio has changed considerably since the war years but the female population still holds a high percentage. Marines at Eighth and Eye find the Capital gals both plentiful and dateable.

But liberty in the Nation's Capital is expensive—particularly after dark. Daytime sightseeing visits to art galleries and the Smithsonian Institute, and a jaunt to the zoo are free, but after sundown when the bright lights

beckon, the time has come to check the wallet and consider the tabs. Prices in the ordinary local pubs are reasonable but the better spots have little regard for budgets when they type up their menus.

When the long green begins to shrink, the men spend their off duty hours in a well equipped recreation area. A combination soda fountain and beer hall serve their intended purpose and a snack bar offers sandwiches and soup for chow hounds. An attractive slop-chute, located directly beneath the Band Barracks, is panelled in knotty pine and decorated with cartoons. The lounge is a favorite spot for the troops even when the long liberty green isn't short.

Other recreation facilities include two bowling alleys, several pool tables and a library.


The office of Sergeant Major is handled with dispatch by Michael C. Knott—27 years in the Corps. Sgt. Maj. Knott is in contact with every unit at Eighth and Eye and can put his finger on any man in the outfit in a matter of minutes.

The 47-year-old sergeant has completed his normal two-year tour of duty at the Post but, by request will continue to serve out his 30. The reason: the command wants to give him the traditional Eighth and Eye retirement parade.

On arrival at the Washington Barracks a new man may ponder the close association with the high ranking officers who reside on the post. Residents on "General's Row" include Lieutenant General Gerald C. Thomas, Assistant Commandant; Lieutenant General William O. Brice, Assistant Commandant for Air; Major General William P. T. Hill, Quartermaster General and Colonel James P. Berkeley, Commanding Officer of the post.

The Marine Barracks has a 100 percent GI reputation. The command realizes that the duty is exacting and more than an occasional rumble from the troops can be expected. Sgt. Maj. Knott believes that the parade ground soldier of today differs only slightly from the men who were trooping and stomping on the compound more than a quarter of a century ago—same gripes, same blisters.

But the tradition set by the Corps' first garrison remains. If by chance, the two sergeants who buried the Marines' coffer during the War of 1812 came out of celestial retirement and looked in on the compound at Eighth and Eye they would probably come to the proud conclusion that, "It hasn't changed a bit. Same duty, same sharp appearance, same parade ground soldiering." **END**



Practice makes perfect—a crack
Eighth and Eye drill team steps
out in dungarees and field shoes
for their daily session of drill