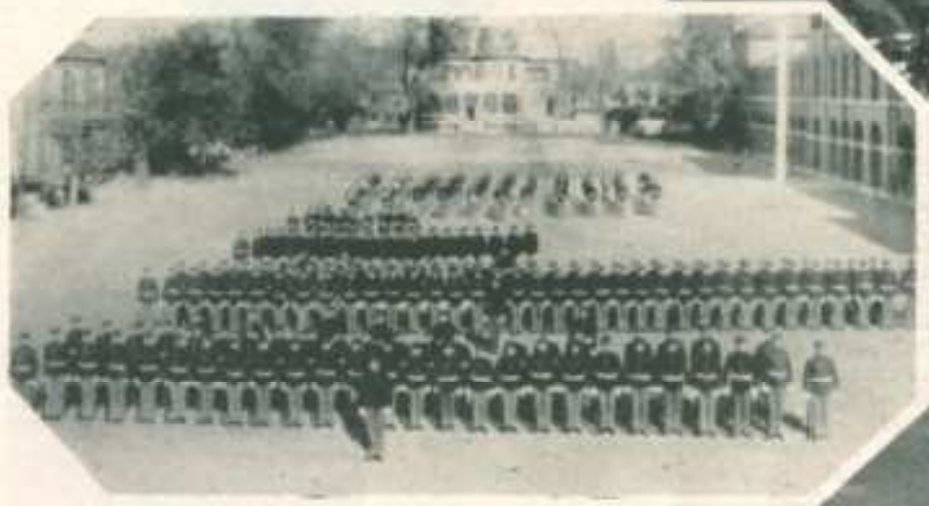


In 1905, the famous Center House was located midway on the parade grounds



Col John Harris, sixth CMC, was in office during the bitter Civil War years

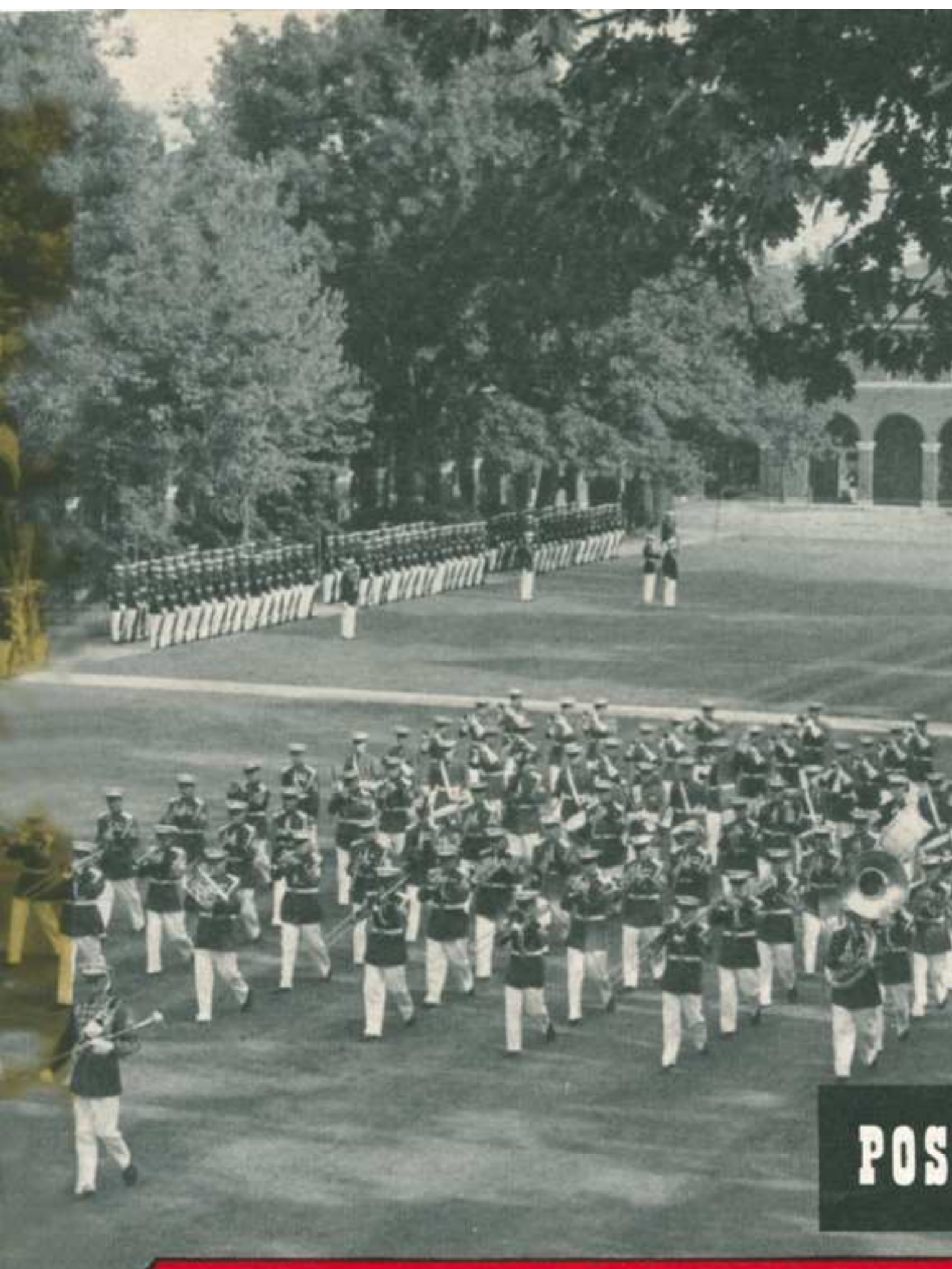
by ASSgt Thurlow D. Ellis

Official USMC Photos

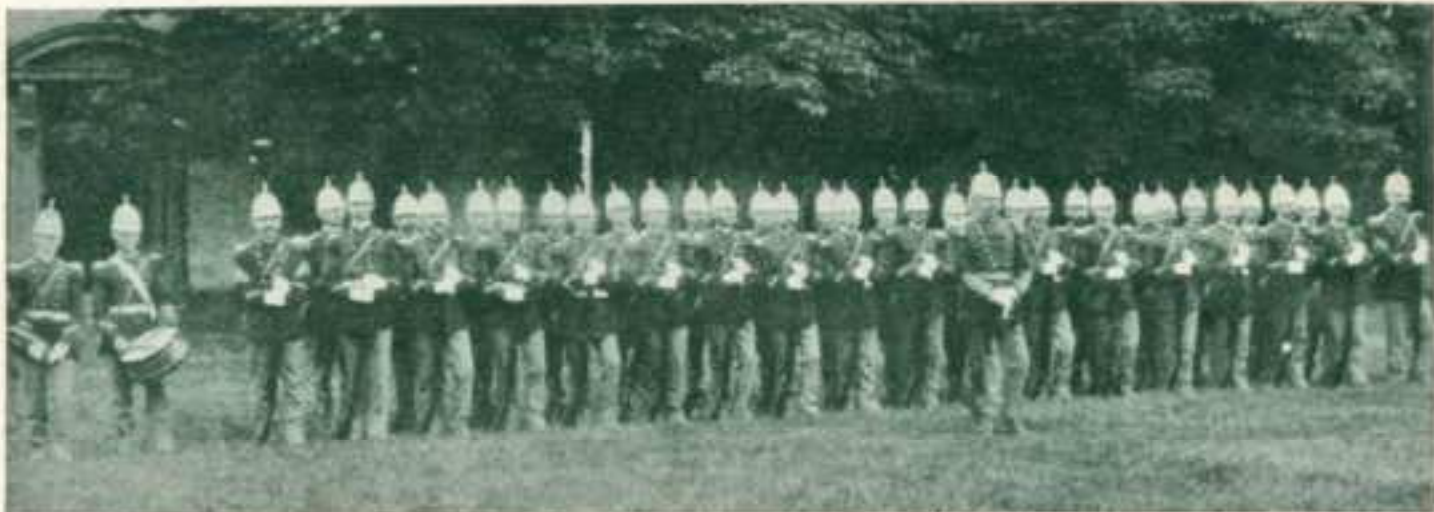
The Marine Barracks at Eighth and Eye Streets, in Washington, D. C., has the distinction of being the smallest post in the Marine Corps, but the largest in strength

WHEN THE Marine Corps was dickering for "Square 927," on March 31, 1801, little did the men of the Corps, or even Lieutenant Colonel Commandant, William Ward Burrows, realize that history and tradition would be coupled with legends and old sea stories about the historic Washington, D. C. landmark which would house the future Commandants.

Headquarters Marine Corps, located on a small plot of ground between "G" and "I" streets on the north and south, and Eighth and Ninth streets on the east and west, measures 615 feet



POS



Uniform changes can be noted from this old photo of Captain George C. Reid and the Headquarters

detachment, Marine Barracks, during the years of 1897-1898. The Center House is in the background

EIGHTH & EYE (cont.)

Today, after numerous renovations and alterations, the post, oldest in the Marine Corps, is somewhat changed from the post of 1801. New and larger quarters which would accommodate the rapidly growing Corps were erected in place of the original barracks. This new and larger quarters block was to house a mess hall, auditorium, officer quarters and a gymnasium. A new brick wall was also constructed which replaced the old stone wall. Swinging iron grillwork gates were installed.



During the World War I era, a Marine often began his career by walking the Measured Post

Only the "sharpest" Marines at 8th & Eye are selected to walk this traditionally honored post

Standing alone at the north end of the barracks quadrangle is the home of the Commandant which, when first constructed, was made of clay bricks described as a "very soft salmon." Since these bricks were not particularly strong, the walls of the home were three feet thick.

When the British staged their hit-and-run raid on Washington in August 1814, the Capitol, the White House and many other major buildings of the government were put to the torch, but the Commandant's home was left intact. Legends say that the British, who were using the home themselves during the fracas, planned to use it after they won the war—which they lost; other sources relate that the British thought so highly of the spirit and bold determination with which the Colonial Marines fought, that they left the home

so that the Marines would always have something for which to remember the British.

In any case, the home was not destroyed. It is now the oldest building in Washington, D. C., which is still being used for its intended purpose—housing the Commandant and his family.

Captain Samuel Nicholas was the first commissioned officer in the Marine Corps, and justly enough, he was also the first Commandant. Appointed by the Second Continental Congress on November 28, 1775—just 18 days after Congress authorized the forming of two battalions of Marines which constituted the Marine Corps of November 10, 1775—he served as Commandant until August, 1783.

Following Capt Nicholas was Major William Ward Burrows, who was ap-





Students and instructors posed for this Class of 1894, School of Application, photo at 8th & Eye

John J. Jacobs, Dean, MCI, keeps the studies and education on a par with civilian schools

pointed on July 12, 1798, to lead the Corps of Marines. Burrows served in that capacity until March 6, 1804, when he resigned the post for reasons of health.

Although Burrows was responsible for the appropriation of funds to build the Marine Barracks, and later the Commandant's home, neither he nor Nicholas ever resided in the fashionable mansion. All 19 Commandants following Nicholas and Burrows have lived in the home.

Franklin Wharton was the next Commandant to fill the vacancy left by Burrows. He held the post from March 7, 1804, to September 1, 1818, until the time of his death. He was heading the Marine Corps when another legend connected with the barracks and the war took root. It was during the period when the British were driving through Washington, that two Marine paymasters were dispatched to guard a payroll amounting to about \$2500. During the fighting the two paymasters decided to get into the action, so they buried the chest containing the money, and went off to war. However, in the battle, both were killed, so the location of the "treasure chest" was never learned, for neither man had made any type of map or chart or had disclosed the location of the chest prior to his death.

Through the years, rumor has raised the amount of the buried treasure from the original \$2500 to about \$50,000, but the actual amount, if there really was a treasure, is unknown, and the records of that period do not indicate any such incident actually occurring.

Wharton was succeeded by Anthony Gale, who received his appointment on March 3, 1819, but was removed from office on October 8, 1820. He served the shortest tenure of office of any of the 21 Commandants.

In contrast to Gale's period of office, probably one of the most colorful Commandants to step out of Marine Corps history, was Archibald Henderson, who was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Gale. Henderson, the fifth Commandant, served in office from October



MCI, located at the Naval Weapons Plant, is a major function of Marine Barracks

17, 1820, to January 6, 1859.

A bit of legend concerning Commandant Henderson reveals that after he had lived in the Commandant's home for 39 years, he felt the home belonged to him, so, in his will, he left his heirs the house. Needless to say, the Corps remained the owner.

Another story about Henderson, or a combination of Henderson and the home, is that when a woman visitor to the mansion awoke on her first evening she saw a ghost of a man dressed in uniform and seated before the fireplace. According to the story, he arose from his chair, bowed graciously to the startled lady, then took his leave. The woman believed that the ghost was that of Henderson.

Today, the Marine Barracks at Eighth and Eye streets has the distinction of being the smallest post in the Corps, but the largest in strength. The quadrangle which serves as the parade grounds for the Evening and Sunset Parades covers only two and one-half acres.

and Eye barracks, and about two blocks distant, is the Naval Weapons Plant, formerly known as the Naval Gun Factory, easily accessible to the men stationed at the barracks.

All officers and staff NCOs reporting to the present-day Marine Barracks are greeted and briefed by Colonel J. M. Platt, Commanding Officer. With the use of charts and graphs, he gives a 20-minute presentation about the duties, mission, strength and capabilities of the post.

The mission of the barracks is unique in that it is the only post in the Marine Corps where two weekly parades are scheduled, where a command furnishes a special guard detail, and the only place that quarters the United States Marine Band and the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps.

Visitors to the Eighth and Eye barracks for an Evening or Sunset parade—evening parades commence at 1800 while sunset parades begin at 2100—will view, for about one hour, one of the most colorful and precise events they will ever have the pleasure of

EIGHTH & EYE (cont.)

witnessing.

The parade is led by the Marine Corps Band—dressed in their red coats and white trousers—playing and marching through three selections. Then the troops, composing two companies, one from the Ceremonial Guard Company, and one from the Marine Corps Institute, take to the field. Once aligned, dressed in blue coats and white or blue trousers, they fix bayonets, and the flag bearers March on the Colors.

When the Colors reach the reviewing stand, spectators are informed about the 36 battle streamers carried on "The" Marine Corps Colors, and of the Palm, gilt, bronze, gold and silver stars which represent more than 150 additional awards.

After the Colors have been returned to their parade site, the Drum and Bugle Corps takes to the parade ground and plays and marches to the "Slow March."

Lowering of the National Color follows, then the Manual of Arms is executed and the Adjutant publishes the orders of the day.

Once again the Drum and Bugle Corps is heard as they play and march through more selections.

At this point, the Drill Team from the Ceremonial Guard Company is ordered onto the field by First Lieutenant Arthur L. Steward, Jr., Platoon Commander, who takes his leave of the unit and immediately marches off the field. He views his troops as they march through their intricate steps without oral command. The drill team performs many facing movements and the manual of arms. They then exchange their weapons by tossing them through the air to their drill mates.

The largest single unit of men, 227 strong, comprises the Ceremonial Guard Company, which is composed of three Ceremonial Platoons, one drill team, a Headquarters Security and Guard section and a Special Security Guard. Marines of the Ceremonial Guard Co. are responsible for guarding the President of the United States, when he visits Camp David, approximately 80 miles from the Capital.

Another small unit within the guard company is the Body Burying detail, whose responsibility requires the performance of proper military funerals for Marines, Naval officers and Government heads.

In addition to the Main Gate guard at Eighth and Eye, the Guard Company is responsible for the security of the Main Gate at the Naval Weapons Plant. Until recently, they guarded all the olant gates, but with the exception



Members of the Silent Drill Platoon perform for spectators during Sunset Parades at Eighth and Eye. The drill unit is world-famous

of the main gate which consists of three posts, all other gates have been relinquished to civilian guards.

Developing the Ceremonial Drill Team required about 175 hours of practice by each man, but it has paid off handsomely for the drillers, for they made a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland in 1958, to participate in the "Tattoo" held there.

Second major function at the Barracks is the Marine Corps Institute which is located in building 213, Naval Weapons Plant. The Institute was previously quartered at Eighth and Eye, but because of space limitations, they were forced to move to their present offices.

Until 1920, when the Marine Corps Institute (MCI) was activated, at Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va., voluntary study was a means of improving the morale and raising the general educational level of Marine Corps personnel, so shortly after World War I, the plans for the Institute were begun; the end result was MCI.

Originally, instruction was carried out by the classroom study method only, and even though there was some initial opposition to "education," increasing participation indicated that the Marines wanted the Institute, and by April of 1921, 668 students were enrolled in courses.

Success of this initial effort led the planners to believe that it would be possible to bring general education to all Marines. The correspondence method of study and instruction was the logical means of providing these opportunities to students who were subject to routine military orders, taking them from Quantico, and depositing them in the far corners of the world. With this future planning and reasoning, the Institute was moved to Marine Bar-

racks, Washington, where it has remained as a correspondence school. Its staff was expanded, and academic as well as vocational correspondence courses were made available to all Marines.

Enrollment never exceeded 6000 students until World War II, when the Marine Corps was authorized to raise its strength by many thousands of young men and women. Most of these new Marines had to interrupt their schooling, but they were anxious to keep abreast of their education while in the service. The result—many more enrollments in MCI.

Between 1941 and 1945, the courses offered by the Institute were broadened, and the academic standards were parallel to accredited resident schools. During this period the enrollment rose to 63,000.

However, this figure also dwindled rapidly when the war ended and many Marines returned to their homes and schools. The Institute was left with only 16,000 enrollments by 1948. Today, the Marine Corps has less than half the men it had during World War II, but the current enrollment for MCI stands at 32,500 students. During the first three quarters of fiscal year 1959, 57,000 students were being serviced by the Institute.

In mid-1957, MCI offered 89 courses to students; today, the Institute is offering 320 courses in various military occupational specialty fields, plus the promotion test fields.

In addition to the MOS courses offered by MCI, on July 1, of this year the Institute assumed the additional functions of preparing, distributing and grading promotion examinations.

By September, 1959, the transitional phase had been completed with the exception of the administrative field

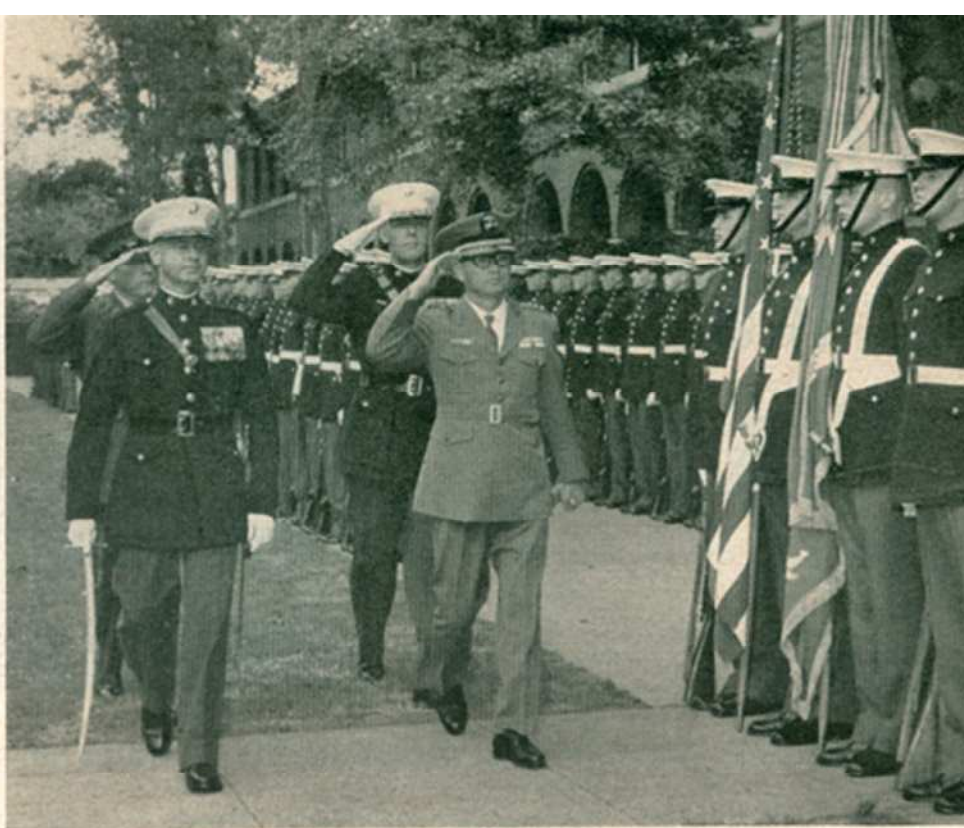
still at Quantico. There are eight units at MCI which are responsible for the research and preparation of the promotion tests, and it is anticipated that this section will be complete sometime this month.

Also assumed by MCI this year were the extension courses previously offered by Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va., and, instead of men receiving the courses automatically, each course in the promotion field will be enrolled for separately, and each course will contain a final test. The difference here is that Marine Corps Schools did not require a final test on each subject covered in the Extension Course.

The third major unit at the Barracks is the United States Marine Band, often called "The President's Own." Whenever and wherever the band has been commanded to perform, it has received applause and praise. One such occasion occurred on June 8, 1939, when the bandsmen were called upon to play in the huge plaza of Washington's Union Station. The ceremony was the arrival of the King and Queen of England, and the bandsmen had practiced and perfected the British Anthem, which they would play for the royal visitors.

When President Roosevelt, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth appeared in the entrance, the bandleader's baton came down sharply, and the trumpets and drums sounded four ruffles and flourishes. Then the full ensemble broke into the majestic strains of the British and American National Anthems. When the music had died away, there was not a sound heard from the spellbound spectators who jammed the plaza.

Three thousand miles away, the British Broadcasting Company, in a shortwave broadcast that night, commented, "We don't know by what magic the leader obtained the results he did, but never was the British Anthem played in so stirring and inspiring a manner as it was today by the United



Personnel of the Ceremonial Guard Company and the Marine Corps Institute Company must be prepared to fall out on a moment's notice

States Marine Band upon the arrival of their Majesties in the Capital of the United States of America."

On a cold November morning in 1775, busy Philadelphia citizens were attracted by a cadence of rolling drums and whistling fifes. It is said that while the spectators lined the curb, they shouted a demand to know who those men were. Hardly turning, the leader replied proudly: "Marines, man, that's who these lads are. And if you're as good as they you'll join with them."

At the end of the Revolutionary War, everything military ceased, and the Marine "Band" was not heard from again until 1798, when Congress decided that the country could no longer get along without the Marine Corps organization, and on July 11, 1798, President John Adams approved a bill which brought into existence the new Marine Corps, and with them, a new Marine Corps Band. It was made up of a "drum major, a fife major and thirty-two drums and fifes."

Some of these "musics," as they were called were sent to recruiting duty; while some served aboard American men-of-war during the French Naval War from 1798 to 1801, still others were retained in the national capital, which was at that time located in

Philadelphia. The band was moved to Washington in 1800.

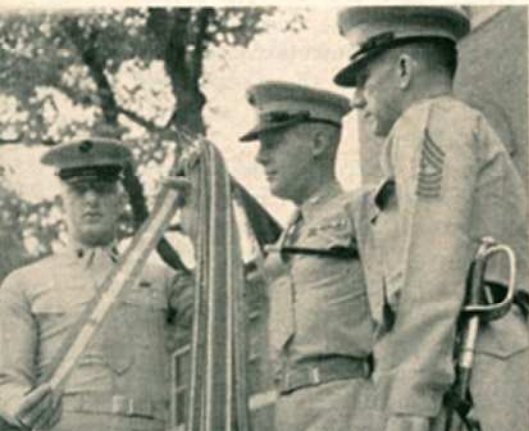
In 1801, on New Year's Day, the band made its White House debut for the President, and established a custom that has continued recently. President Jefferson was first entertained by the Marine Band at his inauguration in Washington, and every president after him has called upon the band to play for White House functions.

Bandsmen played at the White House for Lafayette on several occasions during 1824, and also the following year when the great Frenchman journeyed to Mount Vernon and Yorktown. Later the band played at the Marine Barracks in Washington in front of the residence of the Commandant, Archibald Henderson, when he held a reception for Lafayette.

Probably the most famous leader of the Marine Corps Bands was John Philip Sousa, who conducted the band from October 1, 1880, to July 30, 1892, and it was during this period of time that he wrote many of his celebrated marches.

Lieutenant Colonel Albert F. Schoepfer is the present band director. He is assisted by Captain Dale Harpham and Captain James B. King, Jr.

Today, the band carries 113 musicians and three officers on its rolls, including MSgt Edmond M. DeMar, Drum Major. Another present-day feature is that the band has added an accordionist, the first one in the history of the band. A far cry from the small



Color Sergeant, ASSgt G. Tait, Col Platt and SgtMaj J. Zim,



Upon arrival in the United States, Russian Premier N. Khrushchev inspected a platoon of Marines from the Ceremonial Guard Company

EIGHTH & EYE

[continued from page 21]

drummers and fifers who marched that blistery Winter day down the streets of Philadelphia.

Another musical unit billeted at the Marine Barracks is the Drum and Bugle Corps. Warrant Officer Chris G. Stergiou has the distinction of being the first and only officer in the Marine Corps who carries the MOS for the billet, Bandmaster of the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps. AGySgt Eugene Belschner, Drum Major, and WO Stergiou have more time with the Drum and Bugle Corps than any other man in the outfit. Belschner first joined the unit in August, 1947, and stayed with it until January, 1952; he returned

in September, 1956.

In April, 1957, the men of the Drum and Bugle Corps received their red coats. Drum and Bugle Corps members do not wear chevrons on the red coats, but they do on their blue coats. They wear the red coats if they are in attendance at a function with other Marines, but they wear the blue coat if there are no other Marine units present.

A Drum and Bugle Corps with fifes was organized in 1934, but progress and recognition was slow for the next 12 years. In 1946, the nucleus of the Drum and Bugle Corps augmented the Marine Corps Band with 12 musics, and in 1947, they started performing independently of the band. In 1948, the unit commenced fancy drill and became recognized as a separate unit.

In 1950, the Drum and Bugle Corps received new "GD" bugles, and were able to operate with the baritone, base baritone, soprano and B flat bugles. In

1956, they received six French horns.

Unique in its drill and entertaining the Drum and Bugle Corps maintain that its members can play in any situation, including rain. The heads on the drums are plastic, and rain will not affect the sounds produced.

The present-day Drum and Bugle Corps operates with 48 men and one officer. There are 10 drummers, 2 soprano buglers, six base buglers, six baritone buglers and six French horn buglers.

In addition to their regular duties of maintaining a Marine Barracks at Eighth and Eye, the men must be prepared for ceremonial commitments—and this can account for many additional hours of duty at a moment's notice.

Marine Barracks ceremonies have increased greatly over the past three years. In 1957 there were 427 occasions where the men were called out, but in 1959 there were 516.

When man-hours, or Marine-hours as Col Platt refers to them, are accounted for, the time consumed by personnel has increased over 62 percent for the first half of 1959, as compared with the first half of 1958. According to Col Platt, "The men never have more than 24 hours notice, so they must always be on their toes." Each man will spend about two hours preparing his shoes, uniform, and weapon for the various ceremonies and parades, but in addition to that, he will also spend about three hours per week parading.

If LtCol Commandant Burrow could return today to the post he was instrumental in founding, he undoubtedly could say with pride, "Well done Marines . . . you earned it . . . you built it . . . and you have preserved and protected it . . ." **EN**