

• Pass In Review

August ————— 1988





Col. Donald J. Myers tries to not get egg on his face during the egg toss at the annual Barracks Field Meet

The annual Barracks Field Meet, which was held at Anacostia, was once again a success.

The competition was tough in all of the events, especially the tug-of-war. The egg toss was another very heated event with skilled throwers and catchers forcing

the distances to be expanded, but when the dust settled, MCI Co. went home with the Barracks trophy. (See story on pg. 14.)



Pass In Review
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On The Cover

Only a photographer with nerves of steel would get close enough to record this ferocious looking "Devil Dog" on film in 1949. Although not all mascots are this vicious, they all do share some unique history, including "8th & I's" own Chesty.



U.S.M.C photo

Contents

- 6 Col. Myers retires after 35 years in the Corps**
 He joined the Corps in 1953. Now, as he retires, he looks back over three-and-a-half decades of being a Marine.
- 10 Devil Dog Change of Command**
 An "old salty dog" has taken over for medically retired Lucas, but soon there will be a new dog filling the mascot shoes.
- 14 MCI slips past "B" Co. at the Barracks field meet**
 The competition was close at this year's battalion picnic and field meet, but in the end MCI Co. came out on top.
- 4 C.O.'s View**
- 5 Opinion -- Are you free?/Barracks Talk**
- 16 News Briefs**
- 18 Chaplain's Column**
- 19 Ask Da' Gunny**

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C.O.'s View

Over 34 years ago, a young lad left home for the first time to visit far off places. In those intervening years he saw all of the States, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean.

He acquired a family, several degrees, and untold experiences both in war and peace. Many, many dreams had been fulfilled and a few unfulfilled. All in all it had been a good life. Many more adventures would follow, but that is another story.

Innocence had been lost, but not replaced with cynicism. Life is too precious for that! An awareness and understanding of what was truly important came from disappointments -- being true to one's self.

Assignments great and small came and passed as the years followed each other. With those years came knowledge and experiences to be shared and used.

The observation of physical courage became common place in war, and the lack of moral courage too frequent in peace. Why should one be so much more difficult than the other? Perhaps the philosophers can answer. The answers escape him.

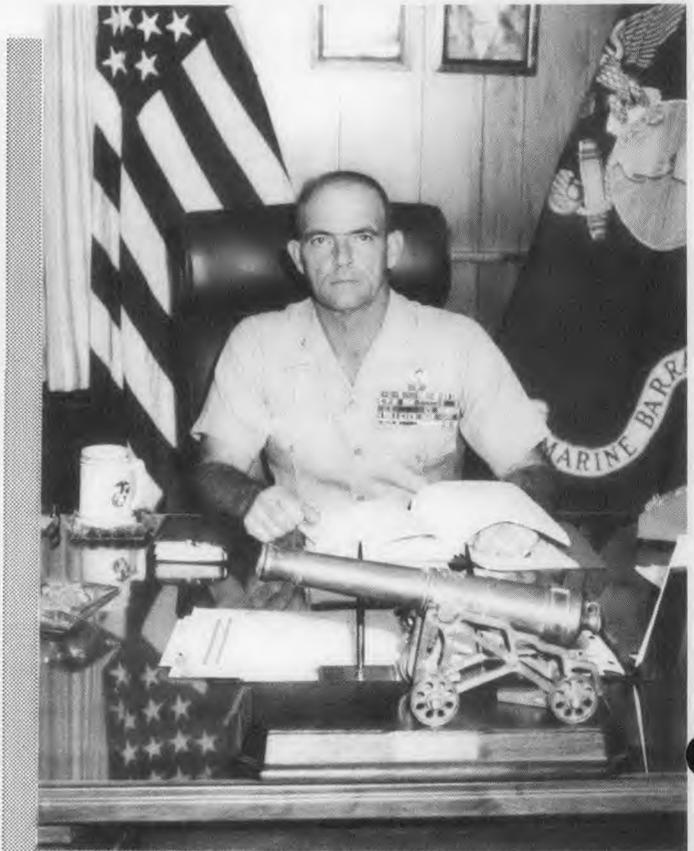
Teacher, student, commander, staff officer, tactician, mentor, friend, husband and father were all roles exercised through the years. Some will follow him to the grave while others will be left where he found them -- in the Corps.

The years have been good and passed all too quickly. It seems like only yesterday that it all started and yet it is coming to a close. Retirement comes to all who are fortunate enough to last.

Did he make a difference? He thinks so and that is what counts. He is reminded of the poem "The Man in the Glass" by Dale Wimbrow, especially the last verse.

"You may fool the world down the
pathway of life
And get pats on your back as you
pass,
But your final reward will be
heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the man in the
glass."

As he hangs up his uniform for the last time, this Marine can honestly say that he gave as much as he received. There are no regrets.



**Col. D.J. Myers
Commanding Officer**

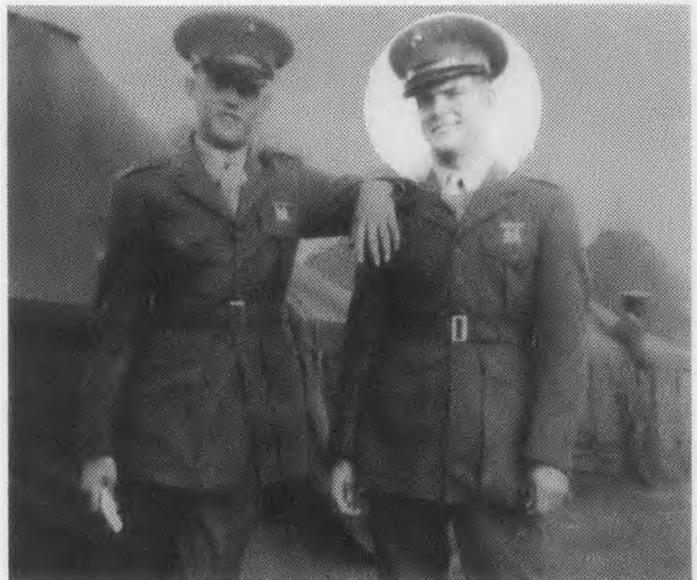


photo courtesy of Grace Myers
PFC Myers after boot camp in 1953.

Are you free?

A person who does not exercise their freedom is not free. But more than enslaving themselves, when a person does not exercise their freedom they cheapen the price that was paid to gain and maintain that freedom.

One of the most distinguishing aspects of the American political system is that each adult citizen, regardless of race, sex, religion or any other characteristic, has the right to vote.

Voting is probably the most powerful right that an American citizen has. Thousands of people can exercise their right to peacefully assemble on "The Mall", and they can exercise their freedom of speech by chanting "anti-everything" slogans all day long; but nobody has to listen to them. But when a single citizen steps into a voting booth, draws the curtain and pulls that lever every American has to

listen to that one voice, no matter how small and alone it may seem. Of course having the right to vote and exercising it are two different things altogether.

The person who exercises their right to vote and help choose their nation's leaders is free. They have an opinion and they express it through their ballot. By taking advantage of their right to vote they ensure that the millions of men and women who died for that right, died for a real and worthy cause.

The person who fails to vote however, fails as a citizen. By not voting they relinquish their most powerful right -- their right to help shape our government. But what is worse, they degrade the memory of those millions who believed in our country's principles and political system, and sacrificed their lives to defend it.

This November don't just settle for being another American -- be a free American and exercise your right to vote. It's a liberty that costs too much to throw away.

Cpl. J.D. Moore

Editor

Barracks Talk

What do you like
about being
stationed at
"8th & I"?



LCpl. Karl Hall, "A" Co.
"Everything we need is right here in the barracks. You don't have to leave the building except for liberty."



LCpl. Steve Danjou, H & S Guard
"There's a lot to see in Washington, like all of the monuments. It's a good place for liberty."

From "P.I." to "8th & I"

"You may not have had much control in shaping your current circumstances, but you have the power to change your circumstances and thereby shape your future."

From The Power of Ethical Management by Blanchard and Peale.

When Col. Donald J. Myers included this quotation in one of his recent command information bulletins he wasn't just passing on some musty old quote. For most of his adult life he has lived according to those words, shaping his destiny instead of falling to the winds of fate.

After 35 years of wearing the eagle, globe and anchor he is hanging up his uniform. He will retire and turn the "Oldest Post of the Corps" over to Col. Peter Pace in a ceremony Aug. 25.

Myers was 17 when he quit high school and left his home in Northeast Baltimore to join the Marine Corps. He left Parris Island as his platoon's honorman in Nov. 1953 and went on to the Infantry Training Regiment for training as an infantryman.

That same young Marine that quit high school later recognized the importance of education and began a regimen of self-improvement. His desire for higher learning



PFC Myers (right) and a buddy after boot camp in 1953. photos courtesy of Grace Myers

eventually led him to the halls of the U.S. Naval Academy. This pattern of continuous education has continued through the years, and he currently holds a Masters Degree in Counselor Education from the University of Virginia. He now feels much stronger about education than he did when he was 17.

"I think education is

essential," Myers said. "Not just for its own sake, but so that it broadens you and it requires you to look into additional areas so you continue to learn, especially about people."

With three years experience as an NCO and four years of the Naval Academy behind him, Myers was commissioned an officer of Marines, and

"I know the kind of Marines I went into combat with, and they did very well. But I think the Marines we have now, with the proper leadership, would do even better."

today's Marines are just as good as the men he led in combat against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

"As far as [Marines] being good and aggressive, and 'Will they fight?' -- that's a question people have always asked," Myers said.

"Well, they asked before we went into WWII, 'Will they fight?' and we did," he added. "They asked in Korea, and we did. They asked in Vietnam, and we did. I know the kind of Marines I went into combat with, and they did very well. But I think the Marines we

married Grace Marie Salino, in 1961.

After going through The Basic School, he stayed at Quantico to train officer candidates.

Then he was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, 1st Bn., 6th Marines as a platoon commander. He served in command of a rifle platoon, 106mm recoilless rifle platoon and an 81mm mortar platoon. He also served as the executive officer and commanding officer for two of the battalion's companies.

In 1964 America was getting more involved in Indochina and Myers found himself in Vietnam as an advisor for a South Vietnamese infantry battalion.

He returned to The Basic School in 1966, and with his experience from Vietnam he taught tactics, preparing young officers with the skills they would need in the next few years.

In 1968 he returned to Vietnam where he served as a company commander in 2nd Bn., 3rd Marines and as the battalion operations officer.

Myers is confident that



Midshipman Myers, class of '61.



Sgt. Myers at the Naval Academy Prep School in 1956.

have now, with the proper leadership, would do even better."

After completing his second tour in Vietnam in 1969, Myers was assigned to Marine Barracks "8th & I". He served here as the operations officer and a parade commander. He also attended the University of Virginia and

received his master's degree while stationed here.

During subsequent tours he served as an aide to the director of the Defense Supply Agency, and as part of the faculty of the Command and Staff College at Quantico. While assigned to the college he earned a postgraduate degree in education from the

"As for the Marine Corps today, compared to 35 years ago, I'd say, for one, it's better equipped. I think it's better educated and I think it's more professional."

University of Virginia.

After attending the Naval War College in 1978, he was assigned to the Joint Staff in Korea. Among his duties there, he was tasked with writing and directing a movie on the Korean armed forces.

In 1980 he returned to the 2nd Marine Division as the division plans officer. He later served as the executive officer of the 6th Marine Regiment and then as the commanding officer of 1st Bn., 2nd Marines. His battalion was the first to deploy to Okinawa from the East Coast on the new Unit Deployment Program in 1981 and 82.

In May 1982, nearly 30 years after he left Parris Island, he returned to take command of the Recruit Training Regiment.

Myers said that he has seen many changes over the years, including some he instituted concerning recruit training, but the individual Marine has stayed the same ready and aggressive fighter he has always been.

"As for the Marine Corps

today, compared to 35 years ago, I'd say, for one it's better equipped. I think it's better educated, and I think it's more professional," he said. "Now that doesn't mean that it wasn't equipped, and it wasn't professional, and it wasn't educated 35 years ago,

because it was. But it's much better today than it was in those days," he added.

Following his tour at P.I., he served at Headquarters Marine Corps, and then was transferred back to "8th & I" in June 1985.

During his tenure here he

"I've never had a bad assignment. I've had some assignments I enjoyed more than others, but I've never had a bad assignment. For the most part, it's been one-hell-of-a-lot-of-fun being a Marine"



Parade commander, Maj. Myers at "8th & I" in 1973.

has overseen improvements to the mess hall, renovation of the Barracks and the Commandant's House and many other projects.

But even after serving all over the globe, and seeing the Corps change and evolve Myers still can't call one particular duty station his favorite.

"I've never had a bad assignment," he continued. "I've had some assignments I enjoyed more than others, but I've never had a bad assignment. For the most part, it's been one-hell-of-a-lot-of-fun being a Marine."

"I've had people ask me what was the most challenging and rewarding assignment I've ever had, and I like to think I haven't had it yet because I know there's going to be some additional super-adventures," he concluded.

story by

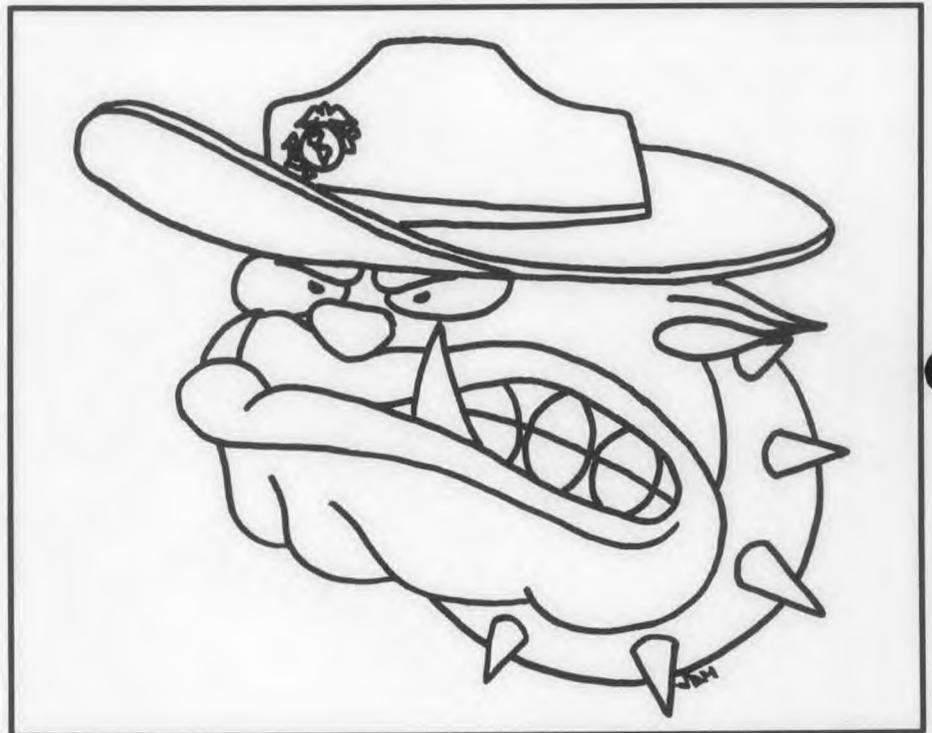
Cpl. J.D. Moore

Top Dog

He's the star, the hit of the show. Movies, television interviews, magazine articles, photo sessions -- he's done it all. Coming out under the spotlight the crowd always goes wild. They love him. His publicity photo is always in demand, and autographed copies are collectors items. He regularly hobnobs with world leaders, celebrities and political figures. He is probably the best known lance corporal (meritorious) in the Marine Corps.

But, May 15, the star of the show started having medical problems he just couldn't overcome. On that night he made it through his

"[Bo's] the one that set the standard for the mascots here. The other dogs walked out there -- Bo swaggers. When the leash gets pulled on the parade deck, his butt goes down."



performance -- but just barely. He couldn't make it through another show. A replacement had to be found.

Chesty VIII, the official mascot for Marine Barracks "8th & I" and star of the Barracks Evening Parade ceremony began to develop a serious limp.

"He started to limp a lot earlier this year," according to LCpl. Richard S. Blithe, one of the two ceremonial dog handlers here. "We walked onto the parade deck and I didn't know there was a

problem. He puts up a fight when he doesn't want to move, so I thought he was just being stubborn. When I heard people in the stands say 'carry him,' I knew I had a bigger problem."

As one of the most popular elements of the parade, Chesty and his handler normally appear under the spotlight before thousands of spectators each week as they march down Centerwalk.

Chesty is trained to "sit" as he and his handler appear from out of the

"Bo walks the handlers out there. He still knows the system. The only trick is that he won't do anything without his uniform on -- then he's ready to perform."

darkness and take center stage. After the night of May 15, though, the decision was made to medically retire Chesty VIII.

The limp problem is something common to bulldogs according to Capt. Andrew Haeuptle, the Motor Transport Officer at the Barracks and the caretaker for the red brindle and white colored pedigree English bulldog.

"It's called hip dysplasia," Haeuptle said. "Right now he has a torn ligament to contend with, too. He's going to need surgery."

According to his official service record book, kept on file in the Barracks administration section with those of the other Barracks Marines, Chesty has been on the job for over two years.

"He reported aboard in February of 1986," Haeuptle said. "One of the Barracks officers had an interest in showing dogs and had a contact with a breeder. Basically, the owner of the kennel was interested in donating a new bulldog."

Before enlisting in the



An aggressive Cpl. Chesty served as mascot in 1962.

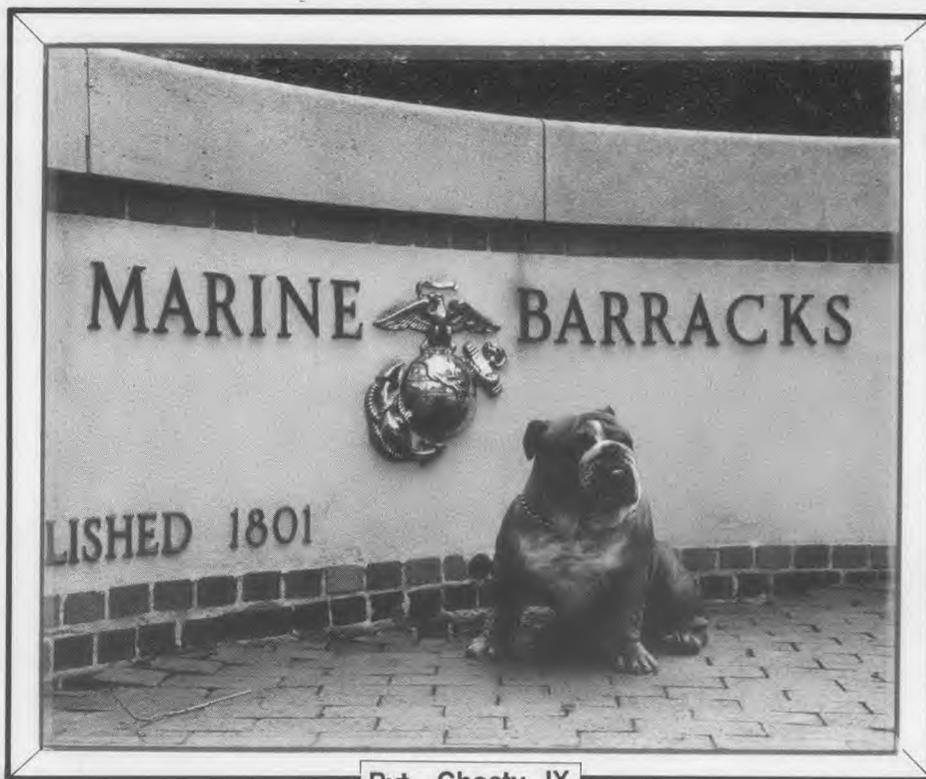
U.S.M.C. photo

Marine Corps at the age of three, Chesty VIII was a show dog from a kennel in the Maryland suburbs. Marines of the Barracks refer to him as "Luke" or "Lucas" because of his original show name, "Lucas D. Bowag's."

"He misses coming to the

Barracks everyday," Haeuptle said of Chesty's adjustment to retirement. "He misses all the attention the Marines gave him."

With Chesty VIII "sick in quarters", the Barracks faced the immediate problem of finding a new mascot.



Pvt. Chesty IX

photo by Capt. M.D. Visconage

Fortunately, the same kennel that had donated Lucas was willing to help again. There was only one problem -- the new mascot hadn't been trained, and the earliest he could be ready to perform would be late August.

Sgt. Chesty VII, complete with hash mark and Good Conduct Medal, was recalled from retirement to take Luke's place until the new dog could be ready.

It was literally a "salty old Marine dog" who came to the rescue for the Barracks. Sgt. Chesty VII, complete with hash mark and Good Conduct Medal, was recalled from retirement to take Luke's place until the new dog could be ready.

Chesty VII (or "Bo" as he's known) had been the Barracks' mascot from July 1981 to February 1986 according to MGySgt. Gene G. Grafenstein, Operations Chief here and Bo's owner.

"The Barracks C.O. came in one day and asked if I could bring Bo back in," Grafenstein said. "Bo perked up quite a bit when he started doing the parades again."

"He's the one that originated the standard for the mascots here," said Capt. Glenn G. Gearhard, Assistant Operations Officer for the Barracks. "The other dogs

walked out there -- Bo swaggers. When the leash gets pulled on the parade deck, his butt goes down."

Even the handlers think Bo is an expert.

"Bo walks the handlers out there," said Blithe. "He still knows the system. The only trick is that he won't do anything without his uniform on -- then he's ready to perform."

By the end of the summer Chesty IX, alias "Theo", should be making his debut according to his caretaker, Cpl. Abe R. Archuleta of H & S Co.

"Right now we're just getting his paperwork done," said Archuleta. "He's supposed to go to obedience school before he starts doing the parades."

"Lucas and Bo are older and Theo is just a puppy, really," said Blithe of the 1-year-old bulldog. "He should be easier to train."

For Theo it's an understudy's dream come true. A chance to take the star's role. And in this case the expression "every dog has his day" couldn't be more true. The tradition of the official mascot for Marine Barracks "8th & I" will be carried on by Chesty IX when he appears in the parades and ceremonies of the Barracks later this summer.

"They love that dog," Blithe said of the over 4,000 guests who come to see each Friday performance. "Some of them would rather see the dog than anything else in the parade."

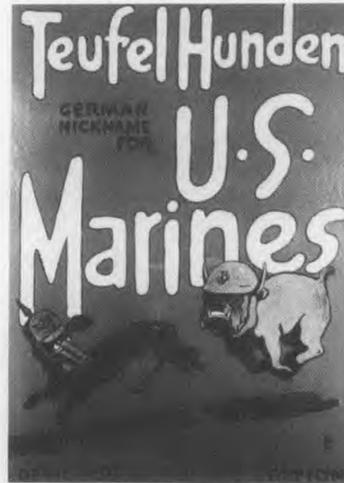
story by

Capt. M.D. Visconage

P a s s I n R e v i e w



U.S.M.C. photo



U.S.M.C. photo

(Far left) One of the Corps' earlier "devil dogs" in 1949.

(Left) This WWI recruiting poster encouraged men to become "teufel hunden", the Germans' nickname for U.S. Marines.

Old Devil Dogs

For most of this century, the Marine Corps has been associated with the English Bulldog. Bulldogs, with their threatening appearance and tenacious qualities, have come to represent the Marine Corps. But how did the bulldog come to be the recognized mascot of the Marine Corps?

Few official records of mascots exist, although for many years it was accepted practice for individual regiments or divisions to keep animals as unit mascots. Various breeds of dog were popular before the bulldog became the dog of choice.

Prior to World War I, there was at least one well known mascot in the Marine Corps. Born in 1905, "Mike" was a full-blooded Irish terrier who reportedly served at several Marine installations including Annapolis, Norfolk, Cuba and even landed at Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1914. When he died in 1916 he was buried at the Port Royal recruit depot -- now Parris Island, S.C. A large monument still stands at the recruit depot marking his grave.

It was a recruiting poster, though, that first associated the Marine Corps with a bulldog. During World War I, a poster painted by artist Charles B. Falls showed a bulldog wearing a Marine helmet chasing a frightened German dachshund. The caption read, "Teufel hunden", German nickname for U.S. Marines -- Devil Dog

recruiting station." During the battle of Belleau Wood, the Marines had been described by the Germans as "devil dogs" (teufel hunden) for the tenacious way they had fought in battle. The English bulldog seemed to best represent the image that the nickname "devil dog" conjured.

After the war, this idea of the bulldog being synonymous with "devil dog" was perpetuated by Major General Smedley D. Butler when he enlisted a bulldog to serve as the mascot at Quantico in 1922.

"Jiggs I" was present in attendance at various ceremonies, sporting events and even rode in the cockpit of an old two-seat bi-plane. Before his death in 1927 he was promoted to the rank of sergeant major by the Secretary of the Navy. He was the first in a long line of bulldog mascots bearing the name "Jiggs".

When Marine Barracks began the Evening Parade ceremony in the summer of 1957, the first bulldog mascot named "Chesty" made his debut as well. Named for Lieutenant General Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, the bulldog has been a popular attraction at the parades and other public events ever since.

Today's official mascot duties are enough to keep any dog busy. Before his medical retirement, Chesty VIII was the subject of several newspaper stories, a T.V. segment and a variety of other media attention. His duties also called on him to appear at community and civic events. Paw-print "autographed" photos of Chesty are the top item asked for by fans at the Evening Parade. In 1987 he was visited by "Benji" the movie dog. He even won a blue ribbon in a celebrity dog show which featured President Reagan's dog, "Rex", and the pets of other D.C. area personalities.

story by
Capt. M.D. Visconage



An enthusiastic crowd cheers for H & S Co.

Field Meet '88

After expanding the egg tossing course for extra distance, MCI Co. was the last team with an egg in one piece giving them enough points to slip past "B" Co. at this year's battalion field meet and picnic.

H & S Co. pulled in a close third, with the top three teams all within a few points of each other.

The Officers reclaimed

the softball trophy from the SNCOs after beating them in scorching triple-digit weather. The Officers were not undefeatable however, as the Enlisted team proved later in the day.

In addition to the field meet events like the tug-of-war, pull-ups, shelter-half race and M-16 field stripping relay there was also plenty of good food and cold drinks

prepared by "8th & I's" mess hall crew.

Chuckles the Clown returned this year to entertain his little friends and some of the older Marines too.

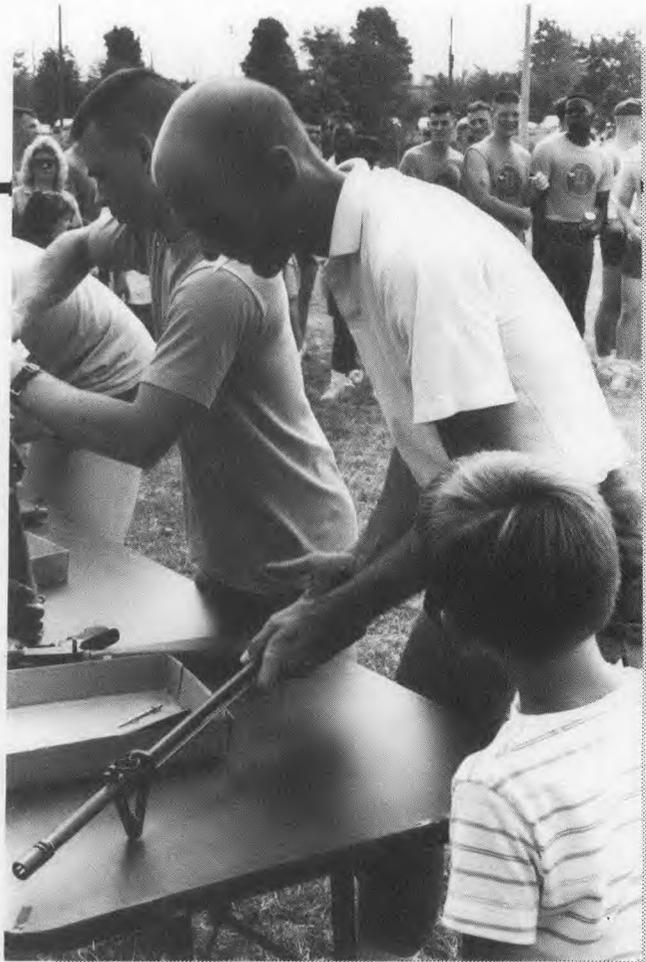
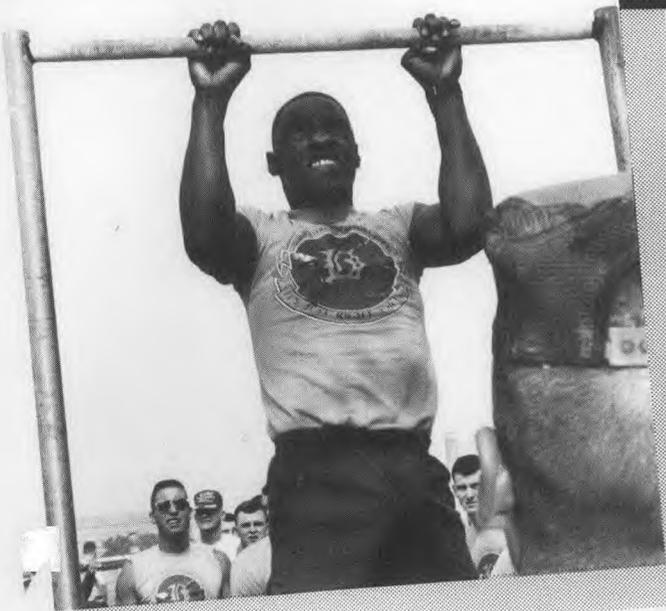
According to SSgt. J. D. Wilshire, the day was a success.

"This is the first year we combined the field meet and battalion picnic," he said. "This was probably one of the best ones we've had. Everything ran smooth and there was something for everyone to enjoy."

story and photos by

Cpl. J.D. Moore

Pass In Review



(Above) A "B" Co. Marine struggles for "just one more". (Right) Marines race to field strip and reassemble M-16 rifles. (Below) Chuckles the Clown shares a few laughs with the younger crowd.



Canadians return to Barracks

Once again, the crack of musket fire and the thunderous "BOOM!" of cannons will echo throughout the Barracks when the Fort Henry Guard returns here Aug. 15.

The biennial performance is a tradition shared by "The Thin Red Line" and the "Oldest Post of the Corps" since 1954. That year, retired Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr. was made the Honorary Commander of the Guard.

Since then, the Fort Henry Guard has visited the Barracks on even years and on odd years the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment returns to Fort Henry in Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

While visiting the Barracks, "The Guard" will display their unique style while performing with "8th & I's" Marines at the Sunset Parade Aug. 16, and the Friday Evening Parade Aug. 19.

Unlike the Marines of "8th & I", who demonstrate "modern" ceremonial drill, the Fort Henry Guard executes precision drill movements used by land infantry of the 1860s. The formations they execute were used by infantry units of the period to defend themselves against cavalry attacks, or to maneuver a large unit.

The "soldiers" of The Guard also differ from the Marines here in that they are not in the military. They are actually hand-

Fort Henry Guard Visit Schedule Of Events

Mon, Aug. 15	12 p.m.	FHG advance body arrives.
	10:30 p.m.	FHG and Marines gather in Officer/SNCO/Enlisted Clubs.
Tue, Aug. 16	6:30 p.m.	Sunset Parade at Marine Corps War Memorial.
	10 p.m.	Buffet for FHG and Marines in Officer/SNCO/Enlisted Clubs.
Wed, Aug. 17	5:30 p.m.	FHG and Marine officer's cookout at Center House.
	7 p.m.	Marines v. FHG in basketball.
	11 p.m.	FHG and Marines gather in Officer/SNCO/Enlisted Clubs.
Thu, Aug. 18	2 p.m.	Gun drill competition.
	4 p.m.	Marines v. FHG in softball.
	6 p.m.	Marines v. FHG in soccer.
Fri, Aug. 19	1 p.m.	Marines v. FHG in volleyball.
	2 p.m.	Gift and trophy presentation.
	8:30 p.m.	Evening Parade at Marine Barracks.
	10:30 p.m.	FHG and Marines gather in Officer/SNCO/Enlisted Clubs.

picked high school and college students who serve at the fort during the summer. They are definitely the fort's version of "the few and the proud". Each year the fort receives thousands of applications, but only about 140 applicants will fill the ranks of "The Thin Red Line".

Their musicians, The Drums of the Fort Henry Guard, play military drum and bugle calls that were used to signal troop movements on the battlefield. The highlight of the performance however, is the highly competitive Armstrong Gun Races between The Guard and the Barracks Marines.

Each side has a six-man team which is carefully inspected for the slightest crew or gun discrepancies. A rifle shot then signals the start of the actual gun drill.

Both crews must haul their gun and limber the length of the parade deck and prepare to fire it. The gun and limber must rest precisely on a premarked spot or the team loses points. Then they must fire three ear-splitting rounds, spin the gun, hitch it to its limber and race back to the finish.

Last year the Marine Barracks team forced the Fort Henry Guard team to a sudden death match, but lost due to a misfire. Maybe this year, with their experience and the support of a home crowd, "8th & I" will "blow them away".

story by

Cpl. J.D. Moore

New Service Limitations

Effective Oct. 1, 1988, new service limitations will be in effect for sergeants and gunnery sergeants.

ALMAR 167-88 sets down the new limitations for sergeants as 13 years active Marine Corps service and gunnery sergeants, 22 years active military service. Current limitations are 12 and 25 years respectively.

These changes will be incorporated into MCO P1040.31E, the Career Planning and Development Guide. The new service limitations are the result of the recently-adopted career force controls policy, designed to gradually increase the promotion opportunities for career-minded NCOs.

The change affects all sergeants and gunnery sergeants with an EAS during and beyond FY89. Those Marines already in



receipt of CMC authority to extend or reenlist fall under the service limitations that were in effect prior to ALMAR 167-88.

Commanding officers are responsible for ensuring that Marines planning to reenlist or

extend do not go past the new service limitations. Those Marines requiring an extension of enlistment, which would go beyond the limitations established, must attain CMC approval.

Gunnery sergeants affected by this change should be informed by their commanding officer as soon as possible, in order to allow planning for the submission of their request to transfer to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve and to avoid any hardships that might occur because of the policy change.

story by

Sgt. Charles Brown

HQMC

Women Marines finish MSG school

Three women Marines, the first to graduate from Marine Security Guard School, Quantico, Va., since the field was opened to women in April, have moved on to their respective assignments at MSG detachments at the U.S. Embassies in Ottawa, Canada; Paris, France; and Geneva, Switzerland.

Very few changes were made to accommodate the women at either the MSG school, or at the detachments overseas where they now share the same responsibilities as their male counterparts.

"The only initial change made to the curriculum was the addition of the women's physical fitness test," said Maj. Jeffrey Andrews, Security Branch, Headquarters Marine Corps. "Women attend the same classes and receive the same training as the male Marines."

"As a woman completes the training, the appropriate post assignment is made," Andrews said.

Considerations which affect the assignment of women include the quality of life, and, in some cases, the safety of a woman Marine during off-duty time, and whether adequate facilities (separate bedroom and toilet facilities) are available in the Marine House on that post.

U.S. law also precludes the assignment of women to combat roles. This restricts the assignment of women to posts in countries involved in war or to areas where the government cannot fulfill its responsibilities to protect the embassy.

Both men and women are needed to fill five MSG School classes scheduled for fiscal year 1989.

Marines interested in applying for the MSG program should contact their unit career planner for information.

story by

SSgt. Barbara Vaughan

HQMC

Chaplain's Corner



For most of the Marines here at the Barracks the only time they visit the Chaplain's office is when they check in or check out. Many Marines think that the only time you see the Chaplain is when you have a problem or want to get married.

The office does provide these services, but they also offer much, much more.

We can help find apartments, locate a local church of your denomination, make appointments with Navy Relief or discuss your personal faith. Just as the Maintenance shop boasts, "If we can't fix it, it ain't broke"

our motto is "If we don't have the answer, we'll find it". We have a huge list of phone numbers that will put you in touch with someone who can answer your questions.

A new program we're trying to introduce is a visitation program with the local Veteran's Administration Hospital. Sgt. Joseph Steele of the Marine Band Public Affairs Office has been in contact with the VA Hospital and visited with the patients. He says many of the elderly and invalid patients would love to have Marines come and visit with them and keep them company. If

you would like to lift the spirits of our veterans give the Chaplain's Office a call at 433-6201 and we will make arrangements for transportation.

by Petty Officer 2nd
Class Robert Luther
Chaplain's Assistant

Worth Repeating

"The Marines have been the first to land -- on embattled beaches throughout the world -- we share the unfaltering confidence of all Americans that they will land again and land hard."

- Vice Adm. Herbert F. Leary, USN Ret.

"The world is moving so fast these days that the man who says it can't be done is generally interrupted by someone doing it."

- Elbert Hubbard,
editor, publisher

"The ballot is stronger than the bullet."

- President Abraham
Lincoln

Do You Know...

Who signed Maj. Clark Gable's discharge papers when he left the Army in 1944?

Answer: Capt. Ronald Reagan



"And when I take them on an exercise, they know they're not on a picnic."

Ask Da Gunny

For over five years now I have proudly held the title "Gunny". It won't be long before I have to move up to either master sergeant or first sergeant. Once I put on those six stripes I know I'll become a "sergeant" again to all of my fellow Marines. Being so depressed over the thought of not being a gunny anymore got me thinking about alternatives.

It's time for a change. In the early '60s the Marine Corps adopted a new enlisted grade structure. With it came lance corporal and the famous crossed rifles of our enlisted Marines. This grade structure has been around for a quarter of a century, so I feel it's about due for a change. Now I'm not advocating change just for the sake of change, however, I feel I'm about to lose that world renowned title, mystique and prestige of being a "gunny". As far as I know, we are the only military service on the face of the earth that has "gunnys."

All of the other services have their "chiefs." Navy and Coast Guard chief petty officers are called chiefs, as are Air Force chief master sergeants and Army chief warrant officers. While serving a tour with personnel from other services I had to learn many different customs, especially how to address them.

One morning I was standing in a passageway (probably reciting the Marines' Hymn or going over my general orders) when I saw a Navy chief, an Air Force chief master sergeant, an Army chief warrant officer and an Air Force colonel walk past. As each one went by I said, "Good morning chief. Good



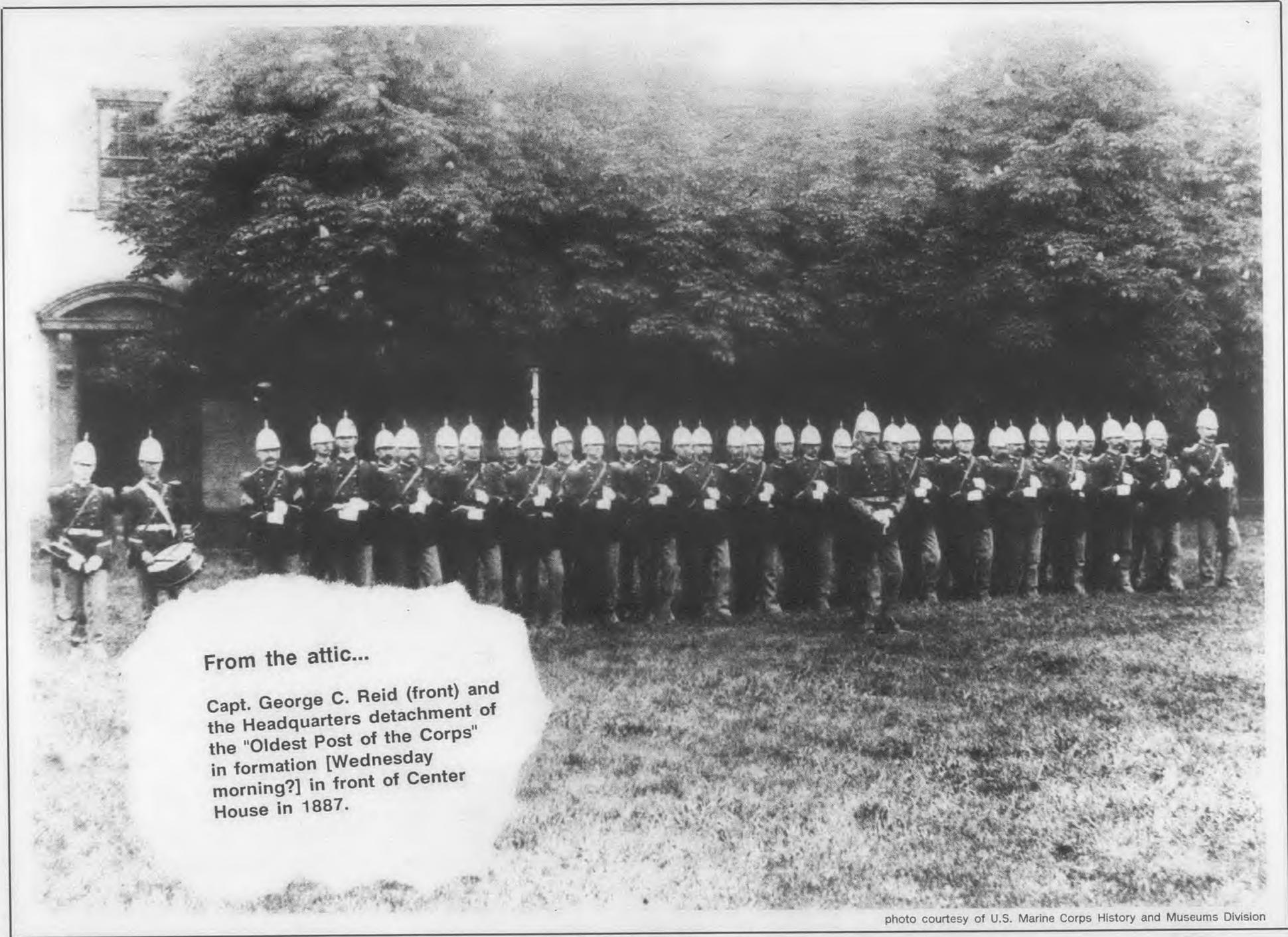
morning chief. Good morning chief. How ya' doin' Bob." Of course they all replied, "Good morning gunny."

The Navy recognizes their top enlisted grades as "chiefs." In keeping with our naval heritage I propose the following changes to the Marine Corps enlisted rank structure; private through staff sergeant would remain the same as would the insignia of sergeant major and master gunnery sergeant. The number of stripes for the gunnery sergeant, first sergeant and master sergeant would remain the same except the crossed rifles and diamond would be replaced with the bursting bomb. The type of billet held would be the distinction between first sergeant and master sergeant. These grades would be called gunnery sergeant and senior gunnery sergeant and would parallel the Navy's "chiefs."

In this way the sailors, soldiers and airmen would all have their "chiefs" and the Marine Corps would always have its "gunny."

Semper Fidelis,

Smedley D. Smut
Smedley D. Smut
GySgt USMC



From the attic...

**Capt. George C. Reid (front) and
the Headquarters detachment of
the "Oldest Post of the Corps"
in formation [Wednesday
morning?] in front of Center
House in 1887.**

photo courtesy of U.S. Marine Corps History and Museums Division