

PASS IN REVIEW

**SPECIAL
BICENTENNIAL EDITION**

Serving "The Oldest Post of the Corps"

200 Years of Ceremonial Excellence

Marine Barracks celebrates 200th birthday

INSIDE: Barracks history, Harper's Ferry, CMC message



27 June 2001

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

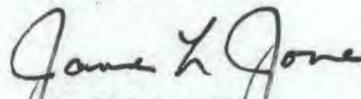
Twenty-five years after the Corps' creation, Marines were already considered the embodiment of soldierly virtue. In light of that reputation, it was not surprising that President Thomas Jefferson took a personal interest in ensuring that Marines were close to the heart of the Nation's new capital city. Accompanied by our second Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel William Ward Burrows, Jefferson surveyed Washington for a suitable location, eventually choosing Square 927, the present site of the Barracks. The location was considered ideal because it was "within easy marching distance of the Capitol" and close to the Navy Yard. The significant date of that selection was March 31, 1801.

During its first hundred years, the Barracks served a variety of important functions: Marine Corps Headquarters; a training facility for new officers and recruits; and, home to the "President's Own," the United States Marine Band — America's oldest professional musical organization. Indeed, it was here that John Philip Sousa, who led the band for twelve years, wrote many of his timeless marches. Equally influential was the combat performance of Barracks Marines during this era. They fought valiantly during the defense of Washington in the War of 1812. They also fought in the Indian Wars of 1826-1837, the War with Mexico, the Civil War, and at the end of the nineteenth century, the Spanish-American War.

Throughout the 1900s, Marines assigned to the Barracks continued to provide distinguished service both at home and in conflicts around the world. Today, they continue to maintain their warfighting skills while performing ceremonial and Presidential support duties, including service at Camp David and at the U.S. Naval Academy. The Barracks remains home to the United States Marine Band, the Drum and Bugle Corps and, for over eighty years, the Marine Corps Institute, the Corps' nonresident military education program. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976, the ordered buildings and immaculate grounds of the Barracks provide the scenic backdrop for parades and ceremonies that entertain and inspire thousands of guests annually.

President Jefferson's decision to have combat ready Marines close to the Capitol was a wise one. Two hundred years later, the Barracks remains an inspiration and a source of confidence to our Marines and our citizens. As we celebrate the bicentennial of the "Oldest Post of the Corps," we take great pride in the knowledge that the Barracks and America's Marines are a fundamental part of our Nation's patriotic lore and a tangible expression of tradition, fidelity, virtue, and excellence that are among the Corps' enduring gifts to the Nation.

Semper Fidelis,


JAMES L. JONES
General, U.S. Marine Corps

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On the Cover

An 1801- era replica National Ensign flies high above Marine Barracks Washington. (photo by Staff Sgt. Sean T. Hays)

The Last Word

See the back page for a message from the Commanding Officer, Col. Richard T. Tryon.

Pass in Review

1801

Bicentennial Edition

2001



Barracks history

“8th & I” looks back

“The Oldest Post of the Corps” turns 200. Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., celebrates a 200-year relationship with the citizens of Washington. Story by retired Col. John G. Miller.

Editor's note: Col. Miller was assigned as the assistant operations officer at Marine Barracks, Washington from 1961 to 1963. He currently is writing a comprehensive history of the Barracks.

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Features

“The Commandant’s Own”

Whether manning the gun, or beating the drum, the “Goodwill Ambassadors of the Marine Corps” always deliver.

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“The President’s Own”

The oldest professional musical organization in the country landed in the district even before “square 927” was purchased – and has been a Washington showcase ever since.

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“Oldest post of the Corps” celebrates 200 years

by John G. Miller

After 200 years of service in the nation’s capital, Marine Barracks Washington looks back on two centuries of history, duty and ceremonial excellence.

The actual birth date of the barracks was March 31, 1801, when Lt. Col. Commandant William Ward Burrows wrote, “I have been all this morning engaged riding with the President [Thomas Jefferson] looking for a proper place to fix the Marine Barracks on.” Jefferson had required the site to be “near the Navy Yard and within easy marching distance of the Capitol,” and the two finally settled on City Square 927, which measured 615 feet north and south by 250 feet east and west. The tract was purchased that June for \$6,247.18, and Burrows received an additional appropriation of \$20,000 to construct a barracks and his quarters.

A detachment of Marines from Baltimore, housed in tents and nearby buildings, began the construction, guided by civilian “mechanics.” Burrows directed that the barracks be built first, and Marines were able to move in by 1804. The Commandant’s House was completed by 1806, but Burrows was not able to occupy it; he resigned in ill health in 1804 and died the following year.

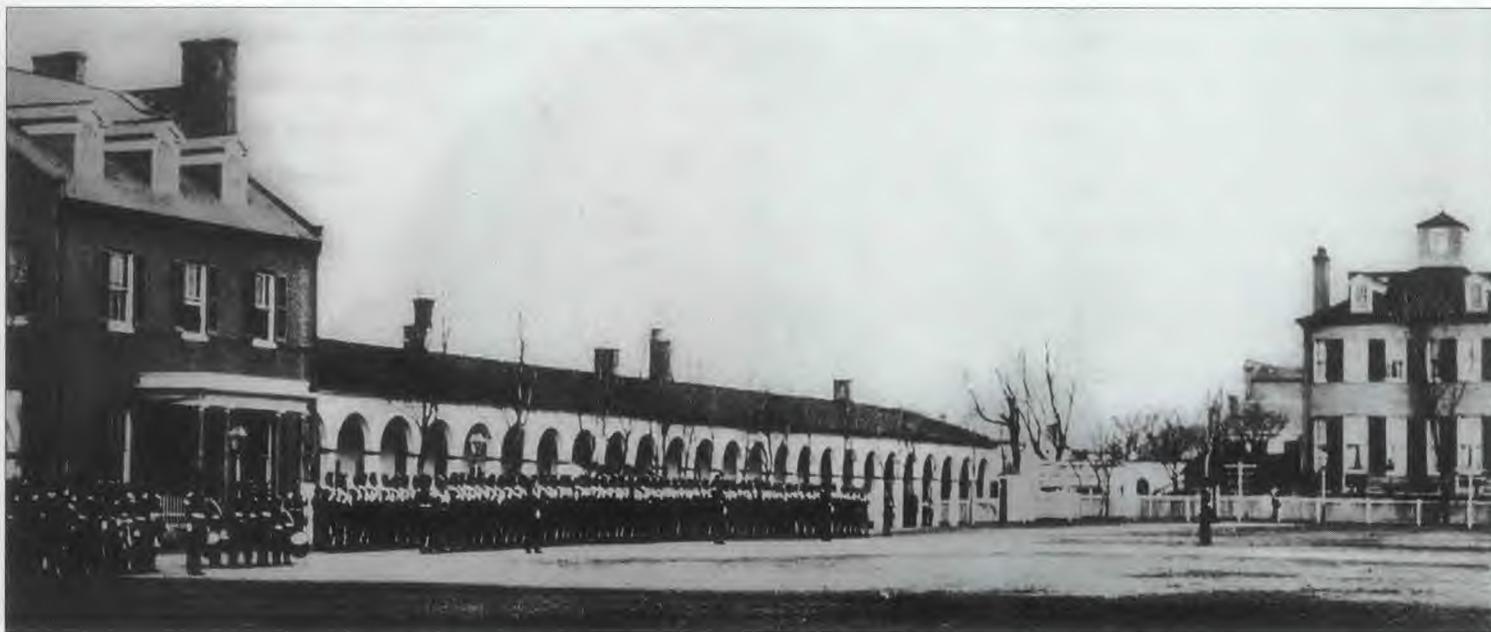
The Baltimore Marines were not the first ones in Washington, which had replaced Philadelphia as the nation’s capital in 1800. The 1798 Act of Congress that had established a Corps of Marines also authorized a drum major, a fife major, and 32 drums and fifes, and when the government moved to Washington, the fledgling Marine Band moved with it, initially pitching its tents on a hill overlooking the Potomac River in the city’s north-west quadrant, on July 31, 1800.

Within three weeks, the band had

made its first public performance, and on New Year’s Day 1801 it entertained at a White House reception hosted by President and Mrs. John Adams with an ensemble that by then included oboes, clarinets, French horns, bassoons and drums.

On March 4, 1801, the Marine Band performed at the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson as the third President of the United States and later was joined by marching Marines at Jefferson’s Fourth of July reception. As *The National Intelligencer* later reported: “Sometime after the company had assembled, Col. Burrows, at the head of the Marine Corps, saluted the President, while the band of music played with great precision and with animation the President’s March. [The Marines] went through the usual maneuvers in a masterly manner [and] fired 16 rounds in platoons.

A long, close relationship between the Marines, especially “The



Marines line up in front of old “Center House,” the old arcade, and the “Home of the Commandants” in 1859. The barracks maintained this look from its inception in 1801, until it was redesigned from 1900-1908. (official USMC photo)



Marine Barracks has maintained its current architectural style since the last major renovation completed in 1908, about the time this photo was believed to be taken. The view is from the corner of 8th & I, looking north. (official USMC photo)

President's Own" Marine Band, and the White House had begun.

For all their precision, those early Washington Marines bore little resemblance to today's 6-foot-and-taller stalwarts. The original 1798 recruiting standards called for Marines to be sober, native-born Americans between ages 18 and 40, at least 5 feet 6 inches in height and healthy, robust, and sound in limbs and body."

Before long, recruiting difficulties had forced Commandant Burrows to lower the minimum height requirement to 5 feet 4 inches, lower the age requirement for field musics and accept up to 25 percent foreign-born recruits, mostly Irishmen. Sobriety, fidelity and soundness of wind and limb also proved to be problems, as did the shoddy quality of early uniforms. Desertion rates climbed, as recruits discovered that the best way to go to sea

was as a sailor, who drew more pay. For those who preferred to do their soldiering on the beach, the Army also offered a better deal, especially in the artillery units.

Nevertheless, Commandant Burrows managed to hold the line and even tighten up in drill and discipline to the point of establishing a ceremonial presence in Washington. His successor, Franklin Wharton of Philadelphia, brought improvements in uniform procurement and even helped design a distinctive new uniform. He established Marine barracks at America's five oldest shipyards, thus easing the sea-duty versus shore-duty dilemma. He established schools for recruits and new officers at the Washington Barracks, thus making it truly the heart of the Corps.

Before the War of 1812, Commandant Wharton considered the primary role of his Marines as duty afloat,

not defense of bases ashore. But recognizing the requirements of war with the British, he formed a 100-man battalion to work with Captain Joshua Barney's landing force of 400 gunboat flotilla men.

In August 1814, Barney's sailors and Marines joined a mixed force of regulars and militiamen from the Washington area in trying to halt the advance of a 4,000-man British raiding force near Bladensburg, Md. In a day that will live in infamy as the time of the Bladensburg Races, the American regulars and militiamen broke and ran, leaving Barney's late-arriving troops to stop the British assault. This they did three times until they were forced to withdraw in good order, plagued by a shortage of ammunition, 25 percent casualties and the collapse of the units on their flanks.

By the time they returned to the



Officers from Marine Barracks Washington's "C" Company coordinate the provisional security for the U.S. Capitol during the riots of 1968 spurred on by the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. (official USMC photo)

barracks a few days later, they found a city, including the Navy Yard, which had been burned to the ground. But the barracks and the Home of the Commandants were unscathed. Had the British Major General Robert Ross spared the buildings because of his appreciation of the Marines gallant stand at Bladensburg, or because they offered him an elegant, fortified, temporary command post? The question lingers.

Commandant Wharton died in office in 1818. His successor, Brevet Major Anthony Gale, was ill-suited for the position and left the Corps in 1820 after being convicted by court-martial for lewd conduct and public drunkenness, conduct unbecoming, in spades. But the 37-year-old Archibald Henderson who relieved Gale went on to serve for 39 years, eclipsing the

tenure of the 10 most recent Commandants combined, going back to General David M. Shoup.

Under Henderson's command, barracks Marines fought in the Creek-Seminole Indian campaigns of 1836-38 in Florida and later took part in the Mexican War of 1847-48, where the blood stripes of Chapultepec and the Halls of Montezuma entered Marine Corps lore. Perhaps Henderson's finest moment came in June 1857, near the end of his reign. After the "Know-Nothing" political faction imported toughs from Baltimore to intimidate Washington voters, the Commandant and two companies from the barracks, mostly recruits, responded to the mayor's request for help at City Hall, where a mob had gathered with firearms and a cannon.

According to a contemporary



Two "A" Company Marines prepare their fighting hole during Operation Desert Storm. (photo by Sgt. Earnie Grafton, I Marine Expeditionary Force)

newspaper account, Henderson, in civilian clothes, stepped up and placed his chest on the cannon's muzzle, demanding that the mob disperse. Later accounts are less dramatic, but they agree that the aging Col. Henderson had led the barracks Marines from the front in putting the "Plug Uglies" to rout. Archibald Henderson, a Marine Corps legend, died in his sleep at the Home of the Commandants less than two years later.

In October 1859, within months of Henderson's death, Commandant John Harris dispatched 86 barracks Marines, led by First Lieutenant Israel Greene and under command of Army Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee, to capture the abolitionist John Brown after Brown's abortive raid at Harper's Ferry, W.Va. (see page 18 for complete Harper's Ferry story). Greene struck down Brown with his sword, and his men made short work of the raiders at a cost of one Marine killed. This display of soldierly virtue was not destined to carry over into the impending Civil War, which split the Corps apart in the same way it had divided the country.

In January 1861, Marines from the barracks went on alert to protect the Navy Yard from violent Confederate sympathizers and also reinforced Union Army detachments at Fort Washington on the Potomac and at Baltimore's Fort McHenry. The following July, the Secretary of the Navy volunteered a 357-man Marine battalion for service with the Union Army as it marched southward to attack Confederate forces near Manassas, Va.

These Washington Marines had six (of 12) experienced officers and nine experienced noncommissioned officers. All the rest were recruits who had been in uniform for only three weeks; they could barely salute, much less shoot their newly issued weapons.

In the early hours of this first Battle of Manassas, things seemed to go well for the Union forces, and it is unlikely that the Marine battalion either received or returned fire. But after the Confederates stiffened, then counterattacked, the Marine line broke and fled in disarray for Washington, well ahead of the disorderly Union withdrawal. The Marine commander had to conduct a straggler roundup before returning to the barracks. After that inauspicious foray, the barracks continued to train new Marines but no longer sent battalion-size forces directly into combat in that war.

In 1898 the barracks provided a detachment for service in the Spanish-American War and eight years later helped form the 3rd Provisional Battalion for pacification duty in Cuba, guarding the streets of Havana.

Cuba was again the focus of barracks activity during the Missile Crisis

of 1962, but the 13-day drama played itself out before the Barracks' provisional rifle company, part of the 2nd Bn., 22nd Marine Regiment, Marine Corps Reserve, could deploy any farther south than Quantico, Va. Had the crisis deepened, the next stop would have been Camp Lejeune, N.C., for duty with the 2nd Marine Division, which was then preparing to go afloat for an invasion of Cuba. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed before the Corps' highest-priced rifle company (most members had expensive White House security clearances) could be scattered to the winds.

Had the barracks Marines gone to the 2dMarDiv, the division and the base commanders might well have had first-rate honor guard platoons; Service Battalion might have gained a plethora of experts in select military occupational specialties, embodied in the instructors from the Marine Corps

Beauty Is in the Eye ...

As Washington, D.C., emerged from its Potomac and Anacostia River swampland, it became evident that the southwest corner of City Square 927, closest to the main gate of the reconstructed barracks early in the 20th century, would lie at the intersection of 8th and I streets, in the city's southeast quadrant. Hence, the identification of the Marine Barracks by its location at 8th and "I" became routine.

In addition, the peculiarities of Pierre L'Enfant's street-naming plan led to a common practice by journalists and others to substitute phonetic equivalents (e.g., "Eye" and "Vee") for lettered streets, possibly stemming from a primordial fear of confusing certain letters with Roman numerals.

Who knows? It was a Washington thing.

In any event, 8th and "I" became Eighth and "Eye" to generations of Marines, and Eighth and Eye became the shorthand term for military excellence throughout the years. But the official name according to the Marine Corps Table of Organization and Reporting Unit Code system is Marine Barracks, 8th and "I," Washington, D.C., and the Marines currently assigned here refer to the Barracks as Marine Barracks, Washington. The title Eighth and Eye appears to be going the way of herringbone utilities, leggings and M-1 rifles (except for those still carried at Eighth and Eye) in the understanding of younger barracks Marines.

- Col. John G. Miller, USMC (Ret.)

BARRACKS HISTORY

Institute; and every unit with its own flagpole might have had its own field music to sound "colors," because the provisional company's machine-gun platoon was manned by members of the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

As things turned out, however, the company got two weeks of solid field training at Quantico, including an introduction to the brand new M14 rifle, before returning to the barracks routine. On the other hand, two aviators assigned to the barracks, Majors Bill Fleming and Keith O'Keefe, attained "feet dry" status over Cuba, after being called back into Marine aviation to fly reconnaissance missions.

After the first few months of the Vietnam War, Marines moved into and out of the war zone as individuals. Before long, officers and career non-commissioned officers who wore new rows of medals from Vietnam service graced the Barracks' parade deck.

By the fall of 1969 the Commandant, Gen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr., was moved to order that all Marines on the parade deck would be Vietnam veterans.

Shooting badges alone would no



The Color Guard of the Marine Corps, led by Color Sergeant of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Blake L. Richardson. (photo by Lance Cpl. John P. Goss)

longer be acceptable. Personnel screeners from "Eighth and Eye" (another name for the Barracks, as explained on page 7) quickly shifted their focus from Marine Corps Recruit Depots Parris Island, S.C., and San Diego to Okinawa, the primary processing center for returning Vietnam

veterans. Within two years, as U.S. units completed their return to the States, the 100-percent Vietnam veteran requirement was halved and then later dropped altogether. How quickly the base of combat experience shrinks in a Corps that, except for career personnel, renews itself every three years.

War in the Persian Gulf put the Washington barracks back into the expeditionary pattern in the final decade of the 20th century. Capt. Bryan McCoy led a rifle company from the barracks into Saudi Arabia for duty with the 2nd Marine Division in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in December 1990.

McCoy's Marines returned in April 1991, with barely one month left to prepare for the upcoming parade season, during which they shone as if they had been through the full five-month work-up.

The Washington barracks housed the full Headquarters Marine Corps until 1901, when Headquarters changed venue and the entire compound, except for the Commandant's House, was demolished. Rebuilding the barracks in its present-day form took between 1902 and 1906. Center House, the bachelor officers' quarters originally located at the midpoint of the westernmost buildings, was moved adjacent to the main gate near the southwest corner of the compound, but retained its old name. Recruit training continued in Washington until 1911. Relieved of this training mission, the Barracks was able to concentrate more on drill and ceremonies, a hallmark of its Washington service for more than a century.

By 1934, ceremonial standards had



The Silent Drill Platoon, featuring Rifle Inspector Cpl. David K. Binkley, is one of the highlights of the Evening and Sunset Parades. (photo by Lance Cpl. Jason D. Ingersoll)

slipped, at least in the eyes of Maj. Gen. Commandant John H. Russell. He told Maj. Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., returning from four years in Haiti, that Shepherd would be the new Washington barracks commander, adding, "I want this place straightened out. Make a military garrison of this post. It's the oldest post in the Corps, and it should be the best."

Starting with a parade and guard mount every morning, Shepherd expanded to a once-a-week afternoon parade for military and civilian guests, which developed into a full season of regularly scheduled parades by the summer of 1934. After being relieved by Col. Emile P. Moses, Shepherd stayed on as executive officer and continued to fine-tune the ceremony, which soon became known as the Sunset Parade.

Moses and Shepherd worked well together in improving the parade sequence, but it is Shepherd who is credited with being the true father of the ceremony that in time would morph into the Friday Evening Parade. Returning to the barracks in 1952 as the 20th Commandant, Shepherd used the Sunset Parade as his real "muscle" in Washington, entertaining distinguished guests at elegant pre-parade garden parties.

It is said that success has a thousand fathers, and in the case of the Friday Evening Parade at least two distinguished officers can claim paternity. In 1955, several months before his retirement, Shepherd spent several days at Marine Barracks Yokosuka, Japan, then commanded by Col. Leonard F. Chapman Jr. The Yokosuka

Marines, accustomed to a regular ceremonial schedule, put on a bang-up show for their Commandant, and Shepherd later told his staff, including his successor, Randolph McCall Pate, that he had seen the finest parade of his career in the Far East.

The following year, Commandant Pate selected Chapman for command of the Washington Barracks and gave him leeway to refine the parade where needed, so long as he maintained high standards. Chapman considered a major refinement. Even though the Sunset Parade was becoming a Washington institution, its attendance would remain in the low hundreds as long as its starting time coincided with the District of Columbia rush hour. But the successful appearance of the barracks

continued on page 12



The Evening Parade has long been considered the best kept secret in Washington; however, a spot on live television and a visit from President John F. Kennedy in 1962 highlighted and changed Marine Barracks forever. (official USMC photo)

1801

BICENTENNIAL

1801



March 1801
General Command William B. Ewing and President James Jefferson select a site for Marine Barracks. Smith was riding distance of the Capitol Mall.



Appointed to the post in 1801
First Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Archibald Summers

1836-1842



Marines from Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., under the command of Commandant Col. Archibald Summers participated in the Greek-Somali War Campaign.

1859



James W. Adams, 1859
Adams and his unit were sent under the command of Lt. Amos J. Cook to be stationed at Appomattox, Virginia.



The camp at Appomattox, Virginia, 1859.

1880



John Philip Sousa becomes director of USMA.



John Philip Sousa, 1880
Sousa was the first director of the United States Marine Band.

1814



The Commandant's Quarters was one of the few buildings in Washington, D.C., not burned by the British.

Marines from the Barracks under the command of Captain Samuel Miller participated in the battle of Bladensburg.

1847-1848



Barracks Marine Major J. J. Travers, Captain John G. Remond and a company of Marines participated in the capture of the Quilman (USA) Division in the storming of Chantrea Castle on 12 September 1847.

1861



A battalion of Marines, under the command of Major John Remond, is sent from the Barracks to participate in the Marine Corps' first action of the Civil War on the 23rd of July at Henry House Hill in the Battle of Bull Run.

1898-1899



Deployment of Marines from the Barracks participated in the War with Spain.

CELEBRATION  **200**

1920



Marine Corps Institute established at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

1948



The Silent Drill Platoon first performed in 1948 and received such rave reviews reports that it soon became a regular part of the Evening Parade at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

1968



Marines from the Barracks were assigned to help suppress rioting and restore order in Washington, D.C., April 1968.

1991



The Marines of 'N' Company, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., and their family and friends bow their heads in prayer at a Navy Chaplain Capt. Bill Perry gives the invocation for 'N' Company's departure ceremony. The company from the 'Oldest Post of the Corps' joined elements of the 2nd Marine Division, and deployed to Somalia for Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

1934



First Friday Sunset Parade held in 1934 was interrupted at the outbreak of WWII. Resumed as the Friday Evening Parade on 7 July 1951 and has continued each year since.

1956



First Sunset Parade was held at Iwo Jima Memorial September 1956. United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, 'The Commandant's Own', Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.

1976



The home of the Commandant and the Barracks are designated a "National Historic Landmark" by the Secretary of the Interior.

2001



Home of the Commandant General James L. Jones and Mrs. Diane Jones. Thirty-second Commandant. 30 June 1999.

Editor's note: To view this graphic in full size, or other barracks history pieces, please visit the entire Bicentennial exhibit in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall.

History continued

Marines with the Royal Marines (United Kingdom) at the Bermuda Searchlight Tattoo in the fall of 1956 convinced both Chapman and Pate that moving the parade under the lights was the way to go.

The first Friday Evening Parade, on July 5, 1957, drew more than 3,000 spectators, and attendance figures at the end of the first season convinced both Pate and Chapman that they had made the right call. Temporary bleachers, erected each Friday and taken down the next day, replaced the folding chairs on the sidelines, which had accommodated a maximum of 600 spectators. But the parade still was not living up to its earlier promise; five years later, a completely filled set of bleachers was the exception, not the rule. Then two unrelated events, within a two-week time frame, combined to put the barracks on the map.

Thomas R. Winkler, the news and public affairs director of Washington's ABC network affiliate WMAL-TV,

wanted to tape the full parade for an evening broadcast, but the lights around the parade deck were too dim for his cameras. So the Marines responded with a full-dress Friday Evening Parade on a sunny Thursday afternoon. The television exposure certainly was a plus, but the stunning color shots by photo-op cameramen from the two leading Washington newspapers (and their Sunday supplements) really started the reservation phones ringing.

Two weeks later, President John F. Kennedy became the first Chief Executive to visit the barracks since Thomas Jefferson helped select the site.

Limited space in the reviewing area made press pool coverage mandatory, but a number of enterprising photographers flashed their White House credentials to gain entrance and flood the area, where they fought like fishwives for good camera angles.

Despite this unpleasantness, the coverage was favorable, to the point of being spectacular. Reservations

poured in so quickly that the barracks briefly considered adding another evening parade each week, to avoid turning away more spectators than it could accommodate. But public interest eventually receded to present levels, where today's semi-permanent grandstands usually are filled and reservations must be made two to three months in advance, although some space always is kept open for tourists and other walk-in guests unable to make timely reservations, if they are willing to line up early for it.

In 1963 President Kennedy requested that the barracks parade be moved to the south lawn of the White House, to entertain guests after a state dinner. This highly successful experiment was emulated by later Presidents, including Jimmy Carter, who brought the parade to Camp David during the historic Middle East Summit in 1978, where the Marines won the praise of all parties. Not a season goes by without the barracks Marines standing tall before kings, queens, emperors or heads of state.

The Friday Evening Parade retains essentially the same form it had back in 1957, patterned on the old "Landing Party Manual." But the devil is in the details, and so many details have changed over the years that the barracks presently is investigating the changes, determining when and why they occurred, and deciding which changes should be revoked. From the outset, the goal has been to make the Washington Marines the model for all Marines, not something different from the rest of the Corps. Obviously, differences have to exist in some respects, but they should be minimized, not maximized.

The most spectacular change over the past three decades has been the growth of the Battle Color Detachment, featuring "The Commandant's Own" United States Marine Drum and



Marine Color Guard and Ceremonial Detachment from Marine Barracks in the grand finale at the international Military Tattoo in Edinburgh, Scotland, August 23 through September 13, 1958. (official USMC photo)

Bugle Corps (started in 1934 by Maj. Shepherd), the Silent Drill Platoon (which performs eight minutes of drill and rifle movements without command and represents the Marine Corps at most Joint arrival and other honors ceremonies), and the United States Marine Corps Color Guard (which carries the Marine Corps Battle Color, festooned with 49 streamers and silver bands commemorating service in more than 400 engagements and campaigns since the founding of the Corps).

This ceremonial team has moved the Commandant's "muscle" beyond Washington, D.C., and taken it across the country and across the world. Today the Battle Color Detachment goes into off-parade season training at Yuma, Ariz., followed by a stunning schedule of appearances that over the years has included professional football and baseball games (with appearances at the Super Bowl and World Series), state fairs, the Kentucky Derby, Ed Sullivan's network television show and NBC's "Today" show. They often have taken the Battle Color ceremony overseas, most recently to Europe and Southwest Asia in November 2000. Planning is under way for a tour of South America this fall.

Each week during the four-month (May through August) parade season, the 8th & I Marines present the Friday Evening Parade at the barracks and a ceremony reminiscent of the old Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War (Iwo Jima) Memorial in Arlington, Va., just before dusk on Tuesdays.

Although special units like the Marine Band, the Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Silent Drill Platoon always create their share of excitement, most seasoned observers, including foreign military attaches, never cease to marvel at the precision in marching and the manual of arms exhibited by every Marine in the two companies on the parade deck. Such praise is hard-won.



A full honors funeral procession makes its way through Arlington National Cemetery. The Body Bearers come from "B" Company. (official USMC photo)

Every Marine, officer and enlisted, must successfully complete a Ceremonial Drill School before taking the field.

Beyond the parades, the barracks handles more than 1,500 ceremonies per year, ranging from full-honors arrivals at the White House to four-man Color Guard appearances. The Marine Band averages 700 performances a year, with about 200 of those at the White House.

The least heralded but perhaps most deeply felt ceremonial commitment is to deceased Marines and their dependents. Over the past five years, the barracks has conducted an average of 50 full-honors funerals, 250 standard-honors funerals, and 125 dependents' funerals each year, and those numbers are likely to increase as more World War II veterans reach the end of the line. To do things right, 8th & I maintains its own contingent of power lifters, the Body Bearers, who must pass an array of strength tests at the outset and maintain a vigorous weight-training regimen throughout their tours of duty.

Beyond these extensive ceremo-

nial requirements, Marine Barracks Washington is tasked to provide a provisional infantry battalion for operations as directed; to maintain a trained company for deployment as directed by the White House Military Office; to maintain a trained civil-disturbance company for deployment as directed by the Military District of Washington; to provide Marines for Presidential security and special security tasks as directed; to provide administrative and logistical support for the Marine Band, the Security Company at Camp David, and the Marines assigned to the U.S. Naval Academy; to maintain the Commandant's House and other general officers' quarters on post; and to provide military occupational specialty and professional nonresident instruction through the Marine Corps Institute, founded in 1920.

And, of course, the barracks will continue to carry out other such missions as the Commandant of the Marine Corps may direct.

Surely, in its 201st year, the Washington Marine Barracks' plate runneth over.

"Commandant's Own" performs: on battlefield, battle ceremonies

by Sgt. Jamie Bennett
Off the Line magazine

On March 31st, 1801, then newly elected President Thomas Jefferson rode on horseback with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lt. Col. William Ward Burrows, to locate a site for his Marines. They arrived at plot 927 and soon the building of the "Oldest Post of the Corps" took place.

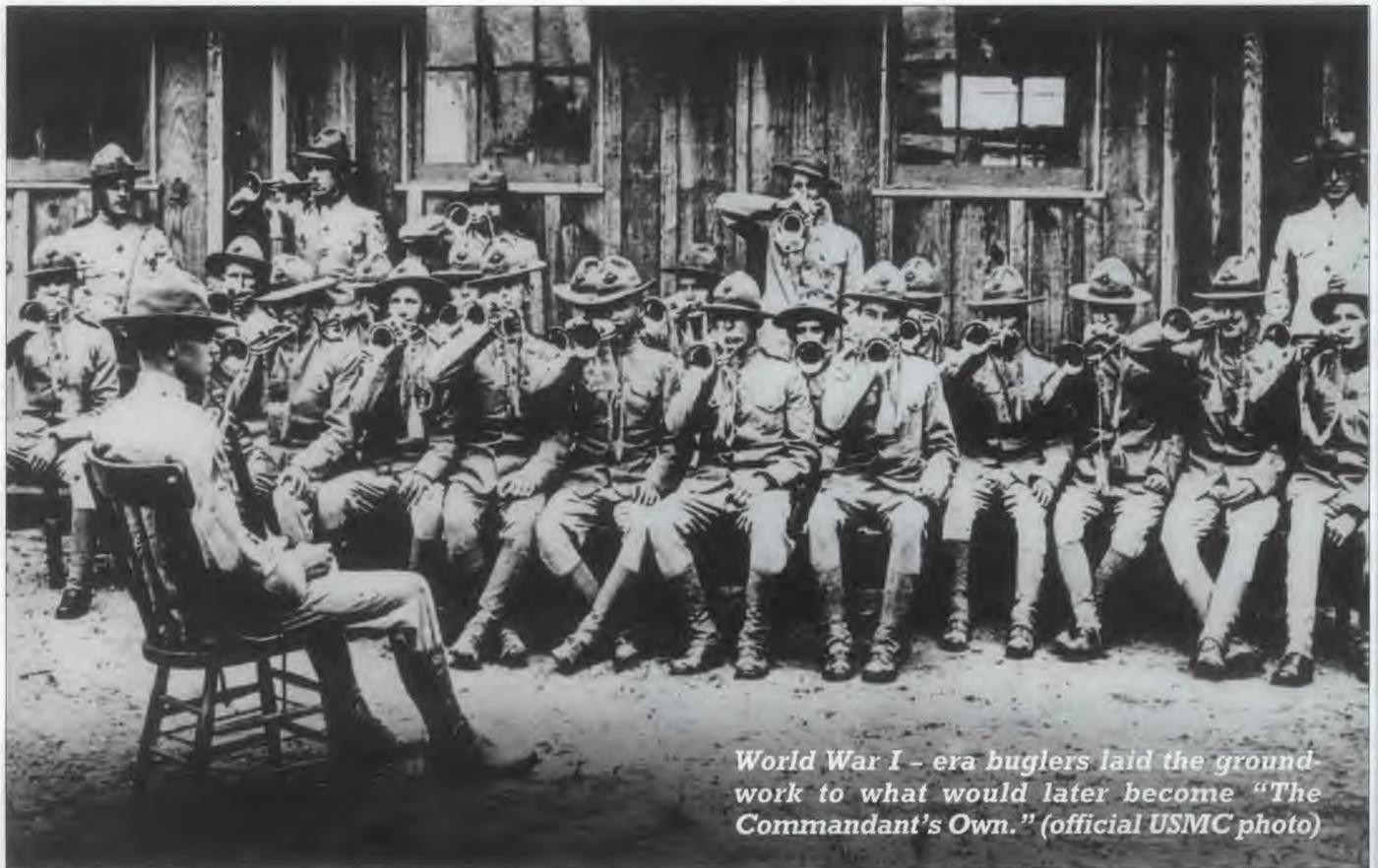
Since that time, Marine Barracks has been the home of many special groups. In 1798, the Marine Band was formed and later relocated here. In 1948, the Barracks became home of the newly created Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon. And in 1934, the Barracks formed the advanced school for field music. These Marine musicians would make up what is now known as "The Commandant's Own," United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

Made up of 22 Marines, the Drum and Bugle Corps was formed to augment the Marine Band. Sixteen bugles, in B flat, and six drums were used for ceremonies and parades. The B flat horns were replaced in 1952 when G-

D bugles with two valves were introduced. The B-flat horns were maintained for performances with the Marine Band until 1970.

During World War II, the Drum and Bugle Corps was tasked with accompanying President Franklin D. Roosevelt on his many trips to Warm Springs, Ga., acting as his personal guard as well as providing musical support. In recognition for this service, shortly before his death, President Roosevelt awarded the unit with the Presidential Unit Citation Cord, which they still wear today.

During this time in our country's military history, field musicians held a vital role in battle. Aside from conveying the commands of the officers by playing the appropriate bugle calls and cadences, they were also a part of the fighting Marines. A perfect example of these Marines is Sgt. Darrell S. Cole, USMC Reserve. After completing recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., Cole was sent to the Field Music School at Marine Barracks Washington in 1941. He was later transferred to the 1st Marine Regiment where his unit reached the shores of Guadalcanal for the first offensive of World



World War I - era buglers laid the groundwork to what would later become "The Commandant's Own." (official USMC photo)

War II. During his tours, Cole assumed the position of machine gunner on a number of occasions while serving as a bugler. On February 19, 1944, Cole led a machine gun section ashore in the assault on Iwo Jima. For his actions in this battle, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. On June 8, 1996, an Arleigh Burke-class, Aegis combat systems destroyer was christened in his name, the USS Cole (DDG-67). This act proved that Marine Corps musicians are more than just music makers; they are Marines in every sense of the word.

The title of "The Commandant's Own" was officially designated in 1956. The unit was also known as the official Drum and Bugle Corps of the Marine Corps. Later that year, the first official ceremonies took place at the Marine Corps War Memorial at Arlington Cemetery. The guard mount ceremonies later became the Tuesday evening performances known today as the "Sunset Parade."

In 1957, at the Cherry Blossom Festival parade, the unit debuted their newly adopted scarlet uniform coats, returning to the European tradition of wearing uniforms in reverse colors, as practiced by the Continental Marine musicians. Also in that year, the Friday Evening Parade was introduced at the barracks.

By this time, there were more than 80 drum and bugle corps stationed around the world, representing all of the U.S. armed services. Currently there is one drum and bugle corps left in our ranks – the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

Since the inception of the drum Corps, the Marines of "The Commandant's Own" have performed all over the world. Performing before hundreds of thousands of spectators and traveling in excess of 50,000 miles every year,

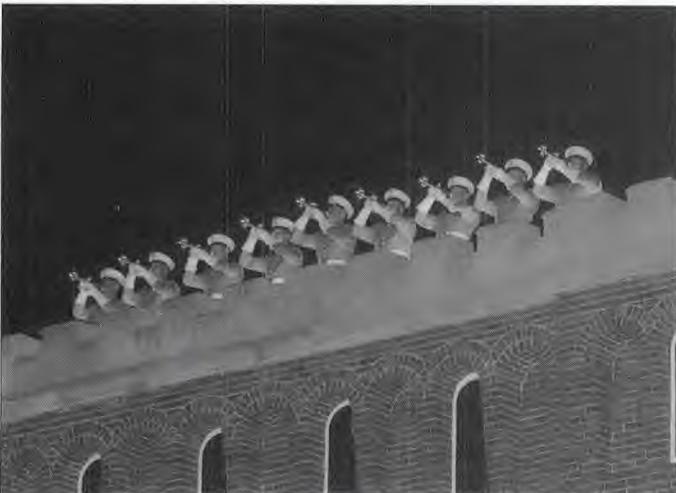


Lance Cpl. Leah A. Cobble

The current drumline performs during a recent Sunset Parade at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va.

they are considered one of the premier musical units in the country. The Drum and Bugle Corps has performed for a number of special ceremonies such as the Royal Easter Tattoo in Melbourne, Australia, and the International Music Festival in Tokyo, Japan. In 1999, they accompanied the Commandant of the Marine Corps to the 80th anniversary celebration of the battle of Belleau Wood in Paris, France, and most recently performed for the troops at Camp Doha in Kuwait and for the Sultan of Oman for National Day, in the capital city of Muscat.

Throughout the world, the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps is known as a highly intense, incredibly polished group of Marine musicians. This distinction is a hallmark to the hundreds of Marines that have built "The Commandant's Own" into the musical unit that is known as "the Goodwill Ambassadors of the Marine Corps."



Lance Cpl. Jason D. Ingersoll

The Drum & Bugle Corps plays a key role in the parades, as well as performing as part of the Battle Color Detachment.

"President's Own" continues Washington tradition

by Marine Band Public Affairs Office

Since its founding in 1798, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band has evolved into a musical organization described by The Washington Post as "... not only the best in the land but, very likely, the best in the world." Yet, this ensemble (America's oldest professional musical organization) began simply as a fledgling band of fifes and drums.

On July 11, 1798, President John Adams signed an act of Congress reestablishing the Marine Corps, which had been disbanded at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War. This act also established "The President's Own," summoning a "drum major, fife major, and 32 drums and fifes." Some of these "Musiks" served aboard war ships, others were sent out on recruiting duty, and some were retained in Philadelphia (then the nation's capital and largest city) to provide music for the nation's leaders.

When the U.S. capital moved to Washington in 1800, the Marine Band moved with it. Soon after, on August 21, 1800, the band presented its first concert in their new hometown near the future site of the Lincoln Memorial. On New Year's Day 1801, just two months after President and Mrs. Adams moved into the unfinished White House, the President invited the Marine Band to make its White House debut. This inaugurated the tradition of the band's performances at the Executive Mansion that continues to the present day.

The Marine Band performed for Thomas Jefferson's inaugural in March 1801 and has performed for every Presidential inaugural since that time. John Adams gave the band its charter, but Jefferson (1801-09) gave the band its identity. Recognizing the unique relationship between the band and the chief executive, he gave the Marine Band the title, "The President's Own." In 1801, President Jefferson and Marine Corps Commandant Lt. Col. William Ward Burrows established the band's permanent residence, Marine Barracks, Washington, DC, "The Oldest Post of the Corps."

In 1828, at the groundbreaking for the Chesapeake and

Ohio Canal, President John Quincy Adams (1825-29) became the first president for whom the Marine Band performed the now familiar music, "Hail to the Chief." Regular public concerts on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol began during the administrations of Martin Van Buren (1837-41) or John Tyler (1841-45), initiating a tradition that continues to the present day. The band also began weekly public concerts on the White House grounds, a custom that lasted for almost a century. An 1891 account of the popular summer and fall concerts reported, "Administrations come and go, but the band plays on forever."

President Abraham Lincoln (1861-65) greatly admired "The President's Own," and the band accompanied him on a special train to Pennsylvania when he delivered his immortal Gettysburg Address. It was reported by 2nd Lt. Henry Clay Cochrane, an officer assigned to Marine Barracks, that President Lincoln purposely switched cars, leaving behind the politicians and dignitaries, in order to travel with the band.

John Philip Sousa, America's "March King," originally joined the Marine Band at age 13 as an apprentice musician. From 1880-92, he served as the band's 17th director. During his tenure, Sousa began to write the marches that would make him famous, including "Semper Fidelis" (1888), which he dedicated to the officers and men of the United States Marine Corps. He said later in life that he felt this was his finest composition.

From the turn of the century, the Marine Band grew in size and reputation. Radio was still in its infancy in 1922 when the nation became more familiar with the band through its radio broadcasts. In 1931, the Marine Band began the popular radio series, "The Dream Hour," which aired weekly on NBC until 1960. By the series' end, it was the longest continuing series on network radio.

On a visit to Marine Barracks in 1962, President John F. Kennedy (1961-63) expressed his personal affection for the Marine Band when he said, "The Marine Band is the only force that cannot be transferred from the Washington area without my express permission and, let it be hereby



America's "March King"
John Philip Sousa



photos courtesy of the Marine Band Public Affairs office

The oldest known photo of the United States Marine Band (above) was taken on the parade deck at the barracks in 1864.

announced that we, the Marine Band and I, intend to hold the White House against all odds." A little more than a year later, as the nation mourned, Mrs. Kennedy asked the Marine Band to lead President Kennedy's funeral procession.

Over the years the band has been conducted by or performed with some of the nation's legendary musicians at the White House, including Leonard Bernstein, Sir Georg Solti, Mstislav Rostropovich, Itzhak Perlman, and Yo-Yo Ma.

In the mid-1980s and early 1990s, the Marine Band presented its first overseas concerts, performing in the Netherlands, Ireland, Norway, and England. In 1990, the Marine Band participated in an historic 18-day concert tour of the Soviet Union as part of the first U.S.-U.S.S.R. Armed Forces Band Exchange.

On July 11, 1998, "The President's Own" marked 200 years as an integral part of our nation's cultural heritage. The year-long Bicentennial celebration included a concert conducted by Leonard Slatkin, internationally acclaimed Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra, an exhibit of the band's rare historical artifacts, documents, and photographs at the White House Visitors Center spon-

sored by the White House Historical Association, and the band's induction into the American Classical Music Hall of Fame. The Marine Band was the only organization to be inducted along with a legendary group of distinguished composers, musicians, and educators.

Today's United States Marine Band is far different from the small ensemble ordered up by President John Adams. Yet he would recognize a spirit of performance that has not changed over two centuries. From a small band of fifes and drums, the band has grown to 143 of the nation's finest musicians who support the various needs of the modern Presidency. Handwritten messages delivered on horseback from the White House have been replaced with faxes and e-mail. Computers have sent dusty ledgers packing to the National Archives and Records Administration. Modern travel takes the band across the United States and over oceans and continents.

The band's mission endures in this simple statement: to provide music for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. As the only musical organization with that charge, "The President's Own" views its rich history as a foundation for an even greater century of music yet to be played.

Harper's Ferry raid solidified Corps' "9-1-1" tradition; Barracks Marines answered call

by Staff Sgt. Keith A. Milks
Headquarters Marine Corps

In October 1859, a brief yet violent clash initiated by rabid abolitionist John Brown provided the sparks for a war that would eventually claim the lives of more than 600,000 Americans. Marines were drawn into the fray, and their experiences on those chilly October days would establish the Corps' reputation as a force in readiness and as the nation's preeminent "9-1-1 force" even before the advent of the telephone.

Brown and 21 accomplices swept into what is now Harper's Ferry, W.Va., just before midnight on Oct. 16, 1859. Located at Harper's Ferry was a Federal armory and Brown intended to capture the armory and distribute its weapons to slaves who he expected would rise up to join his rebellion. The raiders quickly captured the armory guards and kidnapped several of Harper's Ferry's prominent citizens. Among them was Lewis Washington, great-grandnephew of former president George Washington.

In the meantime, the local citizenry had risen up when news of the attack spread. Faced by crowds of angry and armed militia, Brown and his men made their way into the armory, along the way fighting a running gun battle that dropped a number of their group. With ten of the hostages, including Washington, Brown barricaded himself in the armory's fire engine house with five raiders. The other raiders had either been killed or escaped.

The Virginia and Maryland militia who had responded to the attack surrounded the small stone building and waited for Federal troops to arrive. Army Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee, on leave in Arlington, Virginia, was assigned to take command of the situation, and was accompanied by Army Lt. J.E.B. Stuart, both of whom would rise to prominence in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

Marine 1st Lt. Israel Greene, in command of Marine Barracks Washington, received the order to assemble his Marines and set off for Harper's Ferry. At 3 p.m. on Oct. 17, 86 Marines dressed in their blue dress uniforms and Greene with his light ceremonial sword boarded the train that would take them to Harper's Ferry.

At 11 p.m., that same day, the Marines arrived at Harper's Ferry and were immediately posted around the engine house while Lee formulated a plan to bring about an end to the insurrection. Lee's information was sketchy; he knew only that a small group of raiders led by a man calling

himself Isaac Smith (Brown's assumed name) were barricaded in the engine house with an unknown number of hostages. Lee's plan was simple and forthright; he would offer the raiders the opportunity to surrender and should they refuse, the engine house would be stormed.

There would be no negotiations, no concessions, and no compromise.

Lee's aide, 1st Lt. Stuart, was detailed to deliver the surrender ultimatum, and the Army colonel asked Greene if his Marines would assault the engine house should it become necessary. Exaggeratingly whipping off his cap and bowing, Greene accepted Lee's offer. He handpicked 12 men to form a storming party, and 12 more for a reserve. Three men armed with sledgehammers were to the storming party and the remainder of the company stood in formation nearby.

At 6:30 a.m., Oct. 18, Stuart purposefully approached the center of the engine house's three wooden doors with a flag of truce in hand. He called for Mr. Smith and the door cracked open. From the darkness peered John Brown, musket in hand.

The ensuing exchange was brief and unfruitful. Stuart demanded the insurgent's surrender, and Brown flatly refused. Per Lee's orders, Stuart backed away from the door and removed his plumed chapeau, waving it and giving the signal to begin the assault. Brown realized something was afoot and hurriedly closed the door, slamming home its bolt.

With a cry the Marines lunged at the building. The three Marines with the sledgehammers attacked with abandon, their wild flailing merely chipping the stout wooden door. Gunshots from inside the engine house rang out and bullets punched through the doors, blindly seeking targets.

"Don't mind us, fire!" came a shout from inside the engine house, the voice belonging to hostage Lewis Washington. Each passing moment increased the danger to the hostages and Greene knew he had to act.

He had noticed a discarded ladder lying nearby and ordered his Marines to grab it and use it as a ram. This they did, and after two blows, the door splintered, creating enough of an opening for the Marines to enter the building. His light ceremonial sword in hand, Greene led the way into the darkened interior of the engine house.

A volley of gunfire met the Marines. Pvt. Luke Quinn, directly behind Russell, doubled over and pitched to the ground mortally wounded, a bullet in his stomach. Behind Quinn, Pvt. Mathew Ruppert took a bullet to the face and



Used with permission by retired Col. Charles Waterhouse

Barracks Marines and citizens gather outside the engine house at the Federal Armory at Harper's Ferry.

stumbled away clutching his bloody face. The remaining Marines poured through the opening.

Lewis Washington rushed toward Greene, pointing out Brown to the Marine. Desperately trying to reload his weapon, Brown looked up to see Greene charging. Greene thrust at the abolitionist and the tip of his sword caught Brown in the belt buckle, bending the Mamaluke's blade nearly double. Brown lunged at Greene but the young lieutenant brought the pommel of his sword down heavily on the back of Brown's neck, sending the older man to the ground in a heap.

Meanwhile, the interior of the engine house became a confusing mess. From beneath one of the engines, a raider sniped at the Marines who immediately pounced upon the man, bayoneting him where he lay. Another of the abolitionists, Jeremiah Anderson of Indiana, confronted one of the Marines. The blue-clad leatherneck thrust his bayonet into Anderson's stomach and pushed him against the wall. With a final shove, the Marine pushed his bayonet through the man's body and into the wall beyond. Anderson remained pinned against the wall, supported by the bayonet

until he died.

Of the 22 men in "John Brown's Army," ten were killed during the raid, including two of Brown's sons. Five were captured outright, including Brown. The remaining seven escaped, but two were later caught and executed. Of the five raiders who eluded capture, four would later serve in the Union Army.

In his after action report, Lt. Col. Lee praised the actions of the Marines. He stated, in part, that the Marines "[w]ere at all times ready and prompt in the execution of any duty."

John Brown was hanged in Charles Town, Va., on Dec. 2, 1859. Four of the other raiders were hanged on Dec. 16, and the remaining two were executed on March 16, 1860.

As it did the entire nation, the Civil War tore the Marine Corps apart. Nearly half of the Corps' officer cadre left the Marine Corps for service with the Confederacy. Among them was 1st Lt. Israel Greene, hero of Harper's Ferry, who accepted the rank of captain in the Confederate Marine Corps.



On 31 March 1801, President Thomas Jefferson, accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Commandant William Ward Burrows, set out on horseback to select a site for a Marine Garrison in the new capital city of Washington, D.C. Square 927 in Southeast Washington was chosen because it was within easy marching distance of the capitol building and proximate to the Navy Yard.

This year Marine Barracks Washington celebrates 200 years of faithful service to the Marine Corps and the United States of America. It is the "Oldest Post of the Corps" and the Home of the Commandants. Today, the Barracks continues to preserve the time-honored traditions of our Corps and remains the bastion of ceremonial excellence.

From the founding of the Barracks to our bicentennial celebration, the Marines of this Post have symbolized what the United States Marine Corps represents to our country and the world. Over the course of the past two centuries, Marine Barracks Washington has produced 17 Commandants. Many of the Corps' leaders and distinguished veterans, at one time or another, have called the Barracks home.

The Marines of 8th & I proudly carry on the tradition of excellence and service to our nation and Corps that was established by those who have gone before us. We eagerly look to the future with confidence in our abilities and pride in our shared heritage. This bicentennial celebration commemorates the pride, professionalism and "esprit de corps" of every Marine who has been privileged to serve at Marine Barracks Washington.

Semper Fidelis,

R.T. Tryon
Colonel USMC
Commanding Officer

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