

Marine Corps Still Not 'Off the Hook' in Tragic 'Death March' at Parris Island Base

Washington — (U.P.) — Members of the House Armed Services Committee made it clear today the Marine Corps still isn't off the hook on the Parris Island, S. C., "death march."

Although they generally praised Gen. Randolph McCall Pate for frankly laying bare details of the tragedy, committee members said the matter was still "wide open"—particularly regarding immediate superior officers concerned.

Pate, Marine Corps commandant, told the committee Tuesday that Staff Sgt. Matthews C. McKeon was drinking before he illegally ordered his platoon on the march. The 31-year-old Worcester, Mass., junior drill instructor led his men into the tidal swamps where six recruits drowned in darkness and panic. **Recommends Court Martial**

Pate also removed Maj. Gen. J. C. Burger as commanding general of Parris Island and transferred several other officers. Burger will swap jobs with Maj. Gen. Homer L. Litzenberg, commander of Camp LeJeune, N. C. Litzenberg was scheduled to confer today with Pate.

Rep. Paul Cunningham (R-Ia), said he wasn't satisfied with Pate's explanation about the part played by McKeon's superior officers.

Cunningham said if McKeon rates a manslaughter charge, then maybe "they do, too, at least the one immediately over him."

"Punishing One Man"
"I don't like to see a non-com get all the blame," he said in an interview. "They're punishing one man, maybe others need punishing, too."

Cunningham said he wanted a fuller explanation of where the officers were on that fateful Sunday night, what responsibility

they bore for the sergeant's actions and why they shouldn't share more of the blame. He said if the Marine Corps doesn't volunteer the answers, he will demand them when Pate reports later on his shake-up of Marine training.

Chairman Carl Vinson of the Armed Services Committee said the whole matter will "continue to be wide open until Congress is thoroughly satisfied" that brutalities and degrading practices are eliminated from the Marine Corps.

Rep. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) said "Liquor should be removed

entirely from all military bases." He said Pate had assured him of a crackdown on Marine regulations covering drinking.

By UNITED PRESS
Some of the relatives of six dead Marines said today that Staff Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon should receive the sternest punishment the law allows for marching the recruits to their deaths.

But others said they felt sorry for the 31-year-old drill sergeant who led the fatal march into swamps near Parris Island, S.C., last month.

The relatives who are bitter

against McKeon used such words as "murder" and said he should "get everything the law allows."

The others said the punishment should be left to the Marine Corps or that they don't want to see McKeon suffer for his tragic mistake.

Should Change Charge
One of the bitterest relatives was Mrs. Frank Bond of Clyde, N. Y., sister of 18-year-old Charles F. Reilly, who died on the death march.

She said the charge of manslaughter against McKeon should be changed.

"I don't think this is manslaughter," she said. "It's just plain murder."

Mrs. Alston P. Coughlin of Alexandria, Va., mother of Jerry L. Thomas, 18, tended to agree. She said McKeon should get everything the law allows.

But Thomas' father said that if the Marine commandant, Gen. Randolph McCall Pate, "does what he says he will, we can't ask him to do any more."

More Moderate View
A Brooklyn, N. Y., father, Peter O'Shea, took an even more moderate view.

O'Shea, who lost his 18-year-old son Donald on the death march, said "I have nothing against the man."

"I don't want him punished," O'Shea said. "I know nothing about whether he was drinking. All I know is what my son wrote in his letters. He thought very highly of his officers and his sergeant."



LUNCH STOP—Democratic Presidential aspirant Adlai Stevenson savors hotdog during stop for refreshments while en route from Miami to Miami Beach, Fla., for a campaign speech.

Fox Farmers Away; Fox Trappers Foiled

Des Moines, Ia. — (U.P.) — Two men went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Fox while they were out of town. They asked the housekeeper if they could trap foxes along the creek that runs through the Fox property.

"You'll have to ask Mr. Fox and both Mr. and Mrs. Fox are out of town right now," she said. The hunters, thinking the woman was trying to be funny, stalked off in a huff.

Passenger Car Signal Arm Developed by Medford Man

An illuminated signal arm for passenger cars developed by Harold Mitchell, 534 Franquette st., Medford, has been approved by the secretary of state, Mitchell said today.

Mitchell said the signal was designed primarily for use in passenger cars which occasionally pull trailers. A law which became effective last August requires trucks and vehicles pulling trailers to have signal devices.

The arm devised by Mitchell

is attached to the window of the vehicle, and operates on electric current from the cigarette lighter in the vehicle. The arm may be removed when not needed, or transferred from one vehicle to another, Mitchell said.

The signal is attached with clamps and a coil spring, and is operated from inside the car. It automatically lights when moved into position for turns or stopping.

Mitchell said a manufacturing number has been assigned, and he has applied for a patent on the signal. He makes the unit at his shop, 608 South Riverside ave. Several residents have inquired about the unit, he said, and several are in use now.

Boy Stays Out Late To Miss Dance Lessons

Toledo, O. — (U.P.) — A 16-year-old boy brought before a juvenile court referee for staying out until 2 a.m. explained his mother wanted him to take adagio dancing lessons three or four times a week.

"I thought that I was going crazy," the boy explained.

He said that in desperation he took to staying out late at night until his mother had gone to bed so he could escape the dreaded practice sessions.

The court advised the mother to stop the dancing lessons.

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