

THE LEATHERNECK

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throughout the country.

MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDANT URGES COOPERATION WITH MARINE CORPS INSTITUTE

The Major General Commandant has addressed the following letter to all officers of the Marine Corps. The Educational Bulletin enclosed with this letter contains the report of the activity of the Institute during the month of August. It reveals the fact that there have been 362 graduates since the establishment of the Institute and that there are at present 4,566 students enrolled. Since the establishment of the Marine Corps Institute 69,099 lesson papers have been received. The letter of the Commandant is as follows:

From: The Major General Commandant.
To: All Officers.

Subject: U. S. Marine Corps Institute.

Reference: (a) Marine Corps Manual, Article 15 (1921).

Enclosures: (a) Educational Bulletin for August, 1922.

1. The success already achieved by the U. S. Marine Corps Institute has well established the fact that it is now an important element in the well being of the Marine Corps of today. The roll of graduates is surprisingly large for a correspondence institution, and is daily increasing. The graduates to date include not only officers and enlisted men of the Marine Corps, but their dependents as well. Members of the Navy on duty with the Marine Corps are also included among the graduates. That the value of the Institute is deeply appreciated is evidenced by the hundreds of letters of appreciation from students, former students, and their kinfolk now in the files at Washington.

2. The present status of the Institute has been reached not by the lavish expenditure of public funds, but by adhering strictly to an economical and conservative program of expansion and development. But the success already achieved is only a part of what can be accomplished towards making the Institute an influence for bringing out in each man in the Marine Corps the best he has in him, not only for the man's own good, but for the good of the Corps as well. The subject of morale, upon which the very foundation of the Corps rests, has been concisely covered in the reference and needs no further comment except that the Institute is a most excellent means for the full accomplishment of the task outlined therein.

3. To assure the continuance of the past and present success of this undertaking it is essential that every

officer continue to cooperate with the efforts of the Institute in the future as in the past. To cooperate by encouraging men to enroll, and after they are enrolled to encourage them to become and remain active students. By doing this the officer will not only aid the man but will be rendering a valued service to the Marine Corps as well.

4. Your full and hearty cooperation is enjoined.
JOHN A. LEJEUNE.

THE MAIN IDEA

Very often when you are doing something that you consider important some criticizing friend will stop you with the remark: "What's the main idea any way?" Now, while this question often means no more than that the person asking it lacks information, it is a mighty good question for all of us to ask ourselves now and then.

You enlisted in the Marine Corps. What was the main idea? Stop and think about it. It used to be said that a man enlisted because it was a hard cold winter, and it was a long time between meals. A glance over the men who make up the Marine Corps today will convince you that that is no longer true, if it ever was, of many. You didn't sign up for that reason, did you? Very good. We will pass your reason on the assumption that it is your business and nobody else's. However, the chances are that you picked the Marine Corps because of the things you had heard about the outfit. That is true, isn't it? But, did we hear you say the other day that the Corps wasn't what it used to be? Whose fault is that? What business have you to make such a remark? You, you yourself, are the Marine of today. To say that the Marine Corps is not what it used to be is to say that you, yourself, are inferior to the Marines who did the things which gave the Corps the reputation you heard about before you enlisted.

If you fail to clean your rifle, if you do not police up around your bunk or in your section of the ship, if you are careless about the appearance of your uniform, if you act on liberty in such a manner as to discredit the uniform—what's the main idea? Are you trying to make true the statement that the Corps is not what it used to be? Or by chance, are you forgetting that the Corps is no greater than the men who make it up? You are the Marine Corps, we say again, and the main idea of the Marine Corps is to make men, men who are worthy of the traditions the old-timers have handed down to us, men who have strong, willing muscles and bright, active minds, men who do their duty and do it well because they realize that upon them depends the reputation of the Corps. Are you letting yourself fall below these ideals in any respect? You are not? Fine! You are? What's the main idea?

PARRIS ISLAND'S FOOTBALL TEAM

Parris Island Marines have already started to boot the pigskin around the parade ground at their station to such good effect that they are looking for games with posts in the vicinity of that station. Games have been booked with the Infantry School, Camp Benning, Ga.; the Citadel, Charleston, S. C., and the National Guard and Y. M. C. A. at Savannah, Ga. Recruiters have been told to keep on the lookout for teams who would like to tackle the Parris Island eleven, and doubtless the Marines at the training station will meet with some lively competition before the season closes.