

# THE SECOND BATTALION, FIFTH MARINES

Lieutenant Colonel Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr., USMC, Commanding

WITH the salt air still in our lungs and our hides well tanned, we have once more taken up our position in Barracks B. Corporal Bates, our Battalion Police Sergeant, who remained in Quantico during the maneuvers, had our quarters spic and span with newly painted decks, walls and overheads, which indeed made us glad to be back where things were to be a little more home-like. However, we cast no unhappy reflections upon our experiences on board the good ship *W'yoming*. We know we have made many lasting friendships among those with whom we worked hard and also, we might add that we did cause them more than their share of work besides being in their way a good part of the time, due to overcrowded conditions. Those of us who are to make a second maneuver next year are looking forward to feeling a deck beneath our feet once again. The time always rolls around when, after having taken in many new sights and had a pleasant cruise all 'round, we have to return to our home port and resume our regular duties.

Since our return, company offices are scenes of great activity as the crowd gathers outside the door in preparation to asking about that oncoming furlough.

The sad part of our return is the effecting of many transfers from the battalion. It's hard enough to watch a couple of your old friends take off for distant ports and new stations, but when they start leaving by the dozen, it's pretty hard to take. On the other hand, we expect to make many new friends when replacements begin coming in very soon.

As correspondent for the Second Battalion, I suddenly find myself at a loss as to furnishing much news. However, our company correspondents have made promises of some good, snappy articles. There is little more to say at present than to suggest that you read on into the doings of the boys who have really put this battalion at the top.

## HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Here we are again in the dear old U.S.A. and glad to be back too. Even though we (I am speaking for the company as a whole) had two months of hard work while on Maneuvers, we feel as though the time and energy were well spent, for we derived benefits in some way or other.

The liberty we had helped to offset the hardships, and they were very frequent, too, considering everything.

Since our return we had a few days shaking down, and putting our Barracks back into homelike conditions, and then furloughs started which was taken by fifty per cent of the company.

And speaking of shake down the changes occurring in the Battalion left us short. Nine men who were transferred to posts as indicated.

Pfc. Link, Otto C., to MD, RS, NYd, Philadelphia, Pa.; Pfc. Hahn, Victor LcR., to MD, NAD, Fort Mifflin, Pa.; Pfc. Raden, Carl R., to MB, NAS, Pensacola, Fla.; Pfc. Witkewicz, Benny S., to MB, NAD, Dover, N. J.; Pvt. Embry, Frank M., to

USS *Reina Mercedes*, NA, Annapolis, Md.; Pvt. Joiner, "J" "B," to MB, NMD, Yorktown, Va.; and Pvt. Souders, James O., to MB, SB, New London, Conn. The many shipmates of the above named men hated to see them go but, it is for the good of the Corps, and we wish them good luck at their new stations.

We all start firing the range next month for qualification, and we are all determined to get in the money, and hoping that our determination doesn't fall like a bunch of New Year's resolutions. (No alibi, Youse Guys, it's just up to you.)

Well I guess this is enough for now so will be seeing you next month.

## COMPANY E

By Joe

We are back in our own barracks again and I must say this is certainly a much more desirable place to live than was the ship we lived on for the last nine weeks. The maneuvers are a thing of the past now, and I doubt if there are many who are sorry. But on the other hand, it was an experience which may be looked back on with a remembrance of only the good times partaken of, and the more distasteful episodes will fade into oblivion as the months pass on.

Spring is here and with it comes furloughs, transfers, working parties, and a general renovation of the company as a whole. A mass transfer has taken place, taking most of the men who have been the FMF soldiers for the last two or three years to the smaller posts on the east coast. Among those being transferred are: Cpl. Catron, Pfc. Garrett, Gunderson, L. A. Welch, S. E. Welch and Wright. Privs. Beard, Branie, Blunt, Dow, Marcantel, Greene, Sylvest, Tonn, Warnock, and Winning. Cpl. Bodnar and Pfc. Hudock, our

company clerk, are anxiously awaiting the formation of the Wakefield rifle range detachment. It seems the New England "atmosphere" agrees with them. May all of the boys have the best of luck at their new posts.

Just a few of the things I heard while nosing around the sea bags of the boys being transferred: "Frenchy" Marcantel saying that he joined the Marine Corps to get out of the "sticks" and they send him from Quantico to St. Julien's Creek. . . . Gunderson and the Welch brothers finally agreeing to ask for a transfer and now wondering what it is like in a Navy Yard . . . Greene nervous over the prospect of telling the "one and only" in Washington that he is Newport bound . . . Wright in a dejected mood after asking for Pensacola and getting Dover . . . While in the next room, Beard and Sylvest, the Mississippi rebels, proudly proclaiming "We 'uns is agoin' to Pensacola" . . . And last but not least, Garrett telling the boys that his transfer must be a typographical error because he put in for Wakefield—not Washington (But we'll see him in Washington). That's all.

## COMPANY F

Spring is here and so are the Police Details, but we guess the latter is because upon completion of the Winter Maneuvers furloughs were given to about 50% of the effective strength of this organization, and the Post sure was in need of a going over after Old Man Winter's little private maneuver.

After practically three weeks of work the Triangle Road and vicinity is again looking its old self, furlough time is rapidly drawing to a close and we are about to launch out upon the Rifle Marksman-ship Schedule, preliminary to actually shooting for record with the various small arms.

Right at the present time we are losing some of the "old timers" such as Kas-troba, Black, Schaaf, Hirst and the man of the hour Scarborough, which news no doubt is only interesting to those who have gone before but still scan the pages of THE LEATHERNECK in order to keep in touch



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21