

Sergeant Says Marine Death March Made 'To Teach Them Discipline'

FIGURES IN MARINE TRAGEDY

McKeon Had No Authority To Order Hike, Corps Commandant Declares

PARRIS ISLAND, S. C. (AP)—A Marine sergeant who led 75 recruits into a tidal stream where five drowned and another disappeared said today that he ordered the night march "to teach them discipline."

Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon, 31, of Worcester, Mass., would not talk to reporters before a closed inquiry into the Sunday night disaster began at the headquarters building of this Marine recruit depot.

But he issued a statement through his counsel, 1st Lt. Jeremiah Collins of Newark, N. Y. Gen. Randolph Pate, Marine Corps commandant, said at a news conference that McKeon did not have authority for disciplinary matters nor for scheduling such a march.

Gen. Pate said such a march was "most unusual" and it was the first time he had heard of such a thing happening.

Major Joseph C. Burger, commanding general of the base, also said the march was unscheduled.

NO HELP NEEDED

Gen. Pate said he felt that the Marine Corps could handle the matter without a congressional inquiry. He also said he would complete its inquiry this week.

The recruits were taken into a swampy marshland bordering the training base. As the official inquiry began some of the survivors related tales of swirling cold water, lily blackness and panic. Meanwhile, the search for the missing man continued.

McKeon's statement said: "The words, 'I'm sorry,' expressed to the parents can't tell them how I feel, because I can't find words to express my grief. My purpose in taking the platoon to the river was to teach them discipline."

"I led them to the water and went in first. I went out a little distance and then traveled parallel to the bank. It is no excuse that I had not been in the area before and did not realize the how the water entered was a tidal stream, or that it was unusually deep for the area."

The platoon followed me into the stream. I noticed some were too far out. I ordered the platoon out of the water. Then I saw some were in distress. I started toward them.

"I brought one man back to shore. Then I started back for others. One man who I thought was all right grabbed me for assistance. We both went down."

STRUGGLED FOR TIME

"I struggled for some minutes to get him out of the water, but he fought wildly. He went limp and I could not get him out."

"I swam towards a group of about four or five men but the tide was too strong and they disappeared. I was the last one out of the water."

"Some of the men undoubtedly died trying to save others."

Pate said before returning to Washington by plane that the purpose of the court of inquiry would be to ascertain whether the sergeant's act was disciplinary against the platoon.

He said McKeon was a junior instructor who had a good reputation with his seniors as a drill instructor. Pate also referred to McKeon's "very fine past record" in the Navy and Marine Corps. McKeon was assigned to Parris Island in February, about the time that his platoon came here to begin training. McKeon's wife and their two small children live at nearby Fort Royal, S. C.

Burger was asked why nothing about the tragedy was announced until Monday afternoon. He replied that the men were listed as missing until noon, when the first body was found.

"NOTHING" TO HIDE

"We have absolutely nothing to hide," Pate said.

"The system of recruit training used in the U. S. Marine Corps as taught at Parris Island has withstood the test of years of combat experience," Pate continued.

"The conduct of Marines in the wars of our nation's history has clearly demonstrated that they are rightly known as superbly trained fighting men."

"Over 192,000 recruits have completed training here at Parris Island since the first of January, 1951. The accident which occurred here Sunday night was deplorable, but I ask that my history be remembered and that no premature opinions be formed on modifications to our system of training until all evaluation has been made by the court of inquiry."

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Leaders Confer On Situation In Middle East

American Arms Use Under Discussion

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State Dulles and congressional leaders today discussed the grave Middle East situation, including possible use of American forces there. But House GOP leader Martin (Mass.) said no request for authority to send U.S. troops is contemplated "at this time."

The meeting of Dulles and 14 key members of Congress in the State Department had the atmosphere of an emergency session. News reports told of hot and bloody fighting between Israeli and Egyptian groups in Palestine.

President Eisenhower, in Augusta, Ga., was keeping in close touch with the situation. The temporary White House in Augusta said he had talked by telephone with Dulles this morning.

90-MINUTE SESSION

Dulles met 90 minutes with the Senate and House members he had asked to confer with him.

Senate Republican Leader McNamara (Calif.) said when the session broke up that Dulles reviewed the Middle East situation but "no legislative action was requested."

Martin, asked by reporters about a possible request for congressional approval of the use of American forces, replied:

"There was some talk of what might come."

Martin added, "There is no reason to expect the President to make a request for the use of troops at this time."

"The danger developed to the point where it became necessary, Martin said that "if a request there would be a request" by the President for congressional action "but no such danger exists now."

Eisenhower late yesterday said the United States "will observe its commitments within constitutional means to oppose any aggression in the Middle East."

NO EMERGENCY

Although Martin said there is "no particular, pressing emergency that we know about," he added: "When nations are shaking their fists at each other, you can tell when a pressing emergency can arise."

House Speaker Rayburn (D-Tex.) and Senate Democratic Leader Johnson of Texas declined to say much more than that they had been briefed by Dulles on the Middle East.

Rayburn, the first man out of the conference room, told reporters:

"I have a one-sentence statement to make. The secretary brought us down here to brief us on the Middle East situation."

LOVERS ONLY BRUISED IN LOVERS' LEAP

OSHIMA, Japan (AP)—Two young lovers embraced and leaped into the mouth of Mt. Minara, famous suicide volcano of prewar days.

Instead of dying in each other's arms, they wound up today in a hospital, severely burned and bruised but alive.

The pair—Fumiko Onodera, 27, and Chikio Numakura, 21, both of Tokyo—devoted on suicide when they learned Miss Numakura was suffering from bone tuberculosis.

They jumped into the mouth of the volcano but landed about 30 feet below on the edge of the molten lava. The suicide desire faded then, and the boy put the girl on his back and tried to find a way out of the gas-filled, 100-degree-plus crater. Three hours later he managed to scramble to the top and rescuers brought out the girl.

Our Weather

Increasing cloudiness and a little warmer today followed by rain tonight. Tomorrow, clearing and cool. Thursday, fair and cool.

Low this morning 38
Low tomorrow morning 37
High yesterday 54
High tomorrow 61
High today 65
Sunrise 5:58 a.m.; sunset 6:31 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 9-B



GEN. PATE, Marine Commandant; GEN. CARSON ROBERTS, Inspector General; GEN. BURGER, He Led March; SGT. MCKEON, He Led March

Annexation Could Cost

By DICK YOUNG

Charlotte News Staff Writer

Additional cost for the preliminary home-owner after annexation of his territory by the City of Charlotte will range from \$150 to \$140 annually.

This is one of the pertinent facts disclosed in a voluminous report on an annexation study just completed by the staff of the City-County Planning Commission.

The study is scheduled to be formally considered by members of the planning board at a meeting tomorrow morning after which it will be transmitted after which it will be transmitted to the City Council.

It further points out that the study does not reach out to include large areas of open lands that may be urbanized in the years ahead although some open lands fall within the study area as a result of following the policy of establishing reasonably regular lines for the outer limits of the study area.

Approximately 23 square miles are included in the study area where it is estimated 30,000 people reside.

The study attempts to ascertain the cost to the city of providing municipal services to these areas and tables with detailed figures are included in the report.

Possible annual income from each of the 21 sections of study also is estimated as ranging from \$15,500 for a small area bounded by Statesville Ave. and Newland Rd. to \$286,700, the highest of the study, for territory between Park Rd. and Pineville Rd.

Broad estimates of the cost for annexation to the property owner now beyond the city limits were also worked out.

COST OUTLINED

Another table goes into detailed information regarding the additional cost to the municipal government for extending various public services.

William E. McIntyre, planning director, who directed the extension study, pointed out that the information contained in the report is for the guidance of the City Council.

Final decision regarding any one or all of the 21 sections studied for annexation will have to come from the councilmen who may then desire after the costs vary.

The estimated additional cost to the homeowner for incorporation into the city ranges from

See REPORT on page 2-A

Agencies Seek Closer Work On Delinquents

A foundation for closer coordination of agencies in handling Charlotte's juvenile delinquency problem was laid today.

Out of an unprecedented conference called by Mayor Van Every came the appointment of a committee to study the situation and come up with recommendations for greater cooperation between various agencies.

This committee, named by Mayor Van Every is:

Wallace Kuralt, superintendent of the Welfare Dept.; Judge Willard I. Gattling, of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court; Frank N. Littlejohn, chief of the City Police Dept.; and Joe D. Whitley, chief of County Police.

The committee was commissioned to make a detailed study of the current delinquency problem and to submit recommendations for better coordination between the groups concerned with youthful law violators.

Mayor Van Every, chairman of a recent report from the City Police Dept. of repeaters among juvenile delinquents, called the conference in his office for a discussion of the situation.

Following the meeting Mayor Van Every and Mr. Kuralt announced figures regarding the 93 repeaters listed by the local police last year.

5,000 CASES

It was brought out that in the five-year period covered by the police list, 5,000 cases had been handled by the Juvenile Court.

As a result, it was shown that less than 2 per cent of these 5,000 youngsters were re-detained in the number of 93.

Mr. Kuralt said that 41 of these 93 are under 12 years of age and legally cannot be committed to a corrective institution.

MENTAL FACTORS

He further pointed out that of the 93 had superior mental capacity, 47 were normal, 32 were dull and nine were feeble minded.

Other figures regarding the attitude and capabilities of parents showed five parents generally concerned about their offspring, eight were indifferent and 80 showed inadequate interest.

GRACE DEPT.

Chap. 4 — Wherein

Rainier Readies Yacht

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP)—Prince Rainier III and Grace Kelly will sail on their honeymoon cruise in Italian waters. They will visit the romantic island of Capri, Naples and Rome and perhaps on to the Greek islands.

A highlight of the trip will be the stop in Rome April 24. A palace source said they would be housed in a villa on the Via Veneto, one of the show streets of the eternal city. The Italian government and diplomatic corps will turn out for a gala reception.

The Vatican will receive them with ceremonies reserved for heads of state, even though theirs is one of the smallest.

Cites Killing Rate

FBI Chief Raps Ill-Advised Parole

WASHINGTON (AP)—FBI director J. Edgar Hoover spoke out today against "ill-advised parole and probation" for hardened criminals.

In a speech prepared for a national conference on parole, Hoover said 11 of the 18 FBI agents killed in line of duty were slain by ex-convicts who had been granted parole, probation, or some other form of clemency.

Hoover condemned what he described as attempts to "codify" unrepentant criminals, asserting: "Parole upon parole and probation upon probation for those who have not reformed are unreasonable and unjustified."

"I appreciate the fact that for every flagrant mistake in parole and probation, there are scores of cases reflecting dynamic reformation and rehabilitation. What I am saying is not that parole and probation are wrong — but that ill-advised parole and probation reflect adversely upon these methods of protecting society. It is the old case of a rotten apple tainting the clemency field."

400 ATTENDING

Some 600 state and federal specialists in penal and probation work are attending the conference called by Atty. Gen. Brownell. It is a three-day exchange of ideas looking to uniform practices in the clemency field.

Chief Justice Earl Warren told the gathering yesterday there should be "a public awareness of the fact that the parole of a prisoner is not an act of coddling." He called it simply an ex-

Evenging Prayer

O God, our Father, may the afflictions of life which are our common lot, so transform our spirits that men may see the Sun of Righteousness break through the clouds that surround us. In Christ's name, Amen.

Nuclear 'Assault' On 76 Cities Scheduled In Nation-Wide Drills

WASHINGTON (AP)—A nationwide "Operation Alert 1956," a war drill to rehearse what might happen in a nuclear assault on 76 American cities, will be held July 20-26.

President Eisenhower, the armed forces, and the Canadian government will participate. The Office of Defense Mobilization announced today.

It will be a combined civil defense and government-evacuation exercise similar to but larger than last year's evacuation of skeletonized federal agencies to secret locations sites.

WIDE COVERAGE

Among the 76 areas affected will be 63 population centers in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone, as well as nine air bases and four installations of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Fifty-two areas will be assumed to have been hit by single bombs, 24 by from two to five bombs in a single attack, the San Francisco-Oakland area will be assumed to be hit with a sixth weapon in a second attack two hours later.

The Canal Zone, Puerto Rico and Hawaii will not be warned. The continental United States areas will have an advance warning ranging from one hour 40 minutes to three hours 30 minutes.

The maneuvers will assume that bombs will be dropped ranging in destructive power equivalent to

Storms Diminish

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dark storms diminished in the southern plains today, the gusty weather moving eastward and bringing rain and snow into the lower and middle Mississippi Valley.

Wilson said raising leadership and experience levels in the armed forces would result in augmenting further our power for peace over the long haul.

Eisenhower gave Wilson's views hearty endorsement and added: "We cannot move too soon in our efforts to increase the number and quality of volunteers for long-term military service in both the lower and officer ranks."

Wilson noted that in response to

Gov. Luther H. Hodges was scheduled to speak this afternoon. The crowd heard that the primary use of money from the new drive would be for \$1 million worth of buildings Laurinburg raised \$1.5 million in its drive to obtain the school, and the transferred assets of the consolidated schools has been figured at roughly \$1.5 million.

To be consolidated are Flora Macdonald College of Red Springs, Presbyterian Junior College of Maxton and Peace College of Raleigh.

President's Aim

'Attractive' Armed Service Wanted

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—President Eisenhower called today for speedy congressional approval of a six-point program to bolster our power for peace "through attracting more U. S. youth to military careers."

"Only when we have created a military career service, which can compete with the attractive opportunities available in civilian life, will we be able to stop the wasteful losses from our best forces and attract individuals to those services," Eisenhower said in identical letters to Vice President Nixon and House Speaker Rayburn.

"From his vacation headquarters here, the President also sent along to Congress a letter to him from Secretary of Defense Wilson which said:

Drive Opens For College

LAURINBURG—A 34-day bid to raise \$1.5 million began here today with serious speeches in a "rental" atmosphere.

The estimated crowd of 1,500 on the tent-covered grounds of the First Presbyterian Church listened to words of praise for Laurinburg and pep talks for the new consolidated Presbyterian college to be located here.

Speakers included Dr. Francis C. Rosecrance of New York University, William H. Neal, chairman of the consolidated board of trustees, Rep. L. H. Fountain and Dr. Edwin Walker of Queens College, Charlotte.

AN UNCERTAIN ERA

A series of editorial discussions on the uncertain future of North Carolina's public schools begins today in the editorial columns on page 8-A. Titled "The Schools: Years of Uncertainty," the articles will examine the report of the North Carolina Advisory Committee on Education, and questions the report will pose for the special summer session of the legislature.