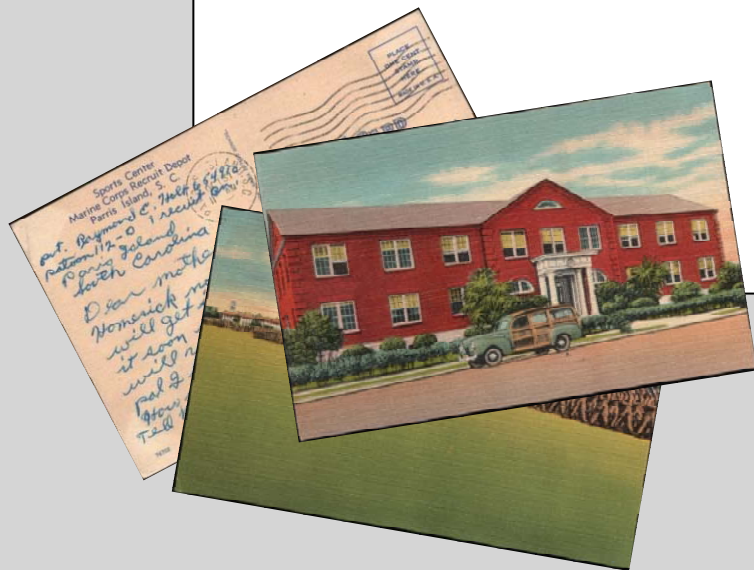




Parris Island Post Cards from World War II



Part IV : 1945

B. B. McBreen
Editor, 2008

Parris Island Post Cards from World War II

Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot during World War II

During World War II, Marine Corps recruits training aboard Parris Island sent thousands of post cards home to their families. Today, in 2008, almost seventy years later, each card is a historical snapshot of what Parris Island looked like during the war years.

Tichnor Brothers Post Cards of Parris Island

Tichnor Brothers, a leading American post card publisher, was founded in 1907 in Boston, Massachusetts. By 1921, Tichnor Brothers had emerged as the second largest post card manufacturer in America.

In 1930, a new printing process enabled brightly colored post cards to be printed on heavy paper that had the look and feel of textured linen. Tichnor Brothers started publishing “linen” post cards in 1941. During World War II, Tichnor published three series, totaling thirty-five cards, of Parris Island.

The Tichnor Collection, a unique visual record of America in the 1940s, is held by the Boston Public Library in Boston, Massachusetts.

Parris Island Post Cards from World War II

Part IV: Tichnor Brothers 1945

In 1945, the final year of World War II, Tichnor published a third series of fifteen (15) images of Parris Island, numbered **76697** through **76711**.

Hundreds of thousands of Marine recruits had passed through Parris Island during the war on their way to fight in the Pacific. Even after the war ended in August 1945, new Marines were trained and shipped overseas to occupy Japan, China, and the Pacific Islands.

The title of the card, three lines of sans-serif text, appears on the back. No text appears on the card front. The serial number of each card appears in the lower left-hand corner of the reverse side. The card size is 3.5 x 5.5 inches.



Preparing to Wash Clothes



Tichnor 76697: 1945

Preparing to Wash Clothes. The first white wooden two-story World War II barracks were built for 1st Recruit Training Battalion in 1940. These were used until 1968, when air-conditioned brick barracks were built. Distinctive above-ground steam pipes connected all the buildings across the Depot. Recruits in formation, wearing pith helmets and the green herringbone twill “dungaree” utility uniform, carry their laundry buckets while their drill instructors correct their positions and drill movements.

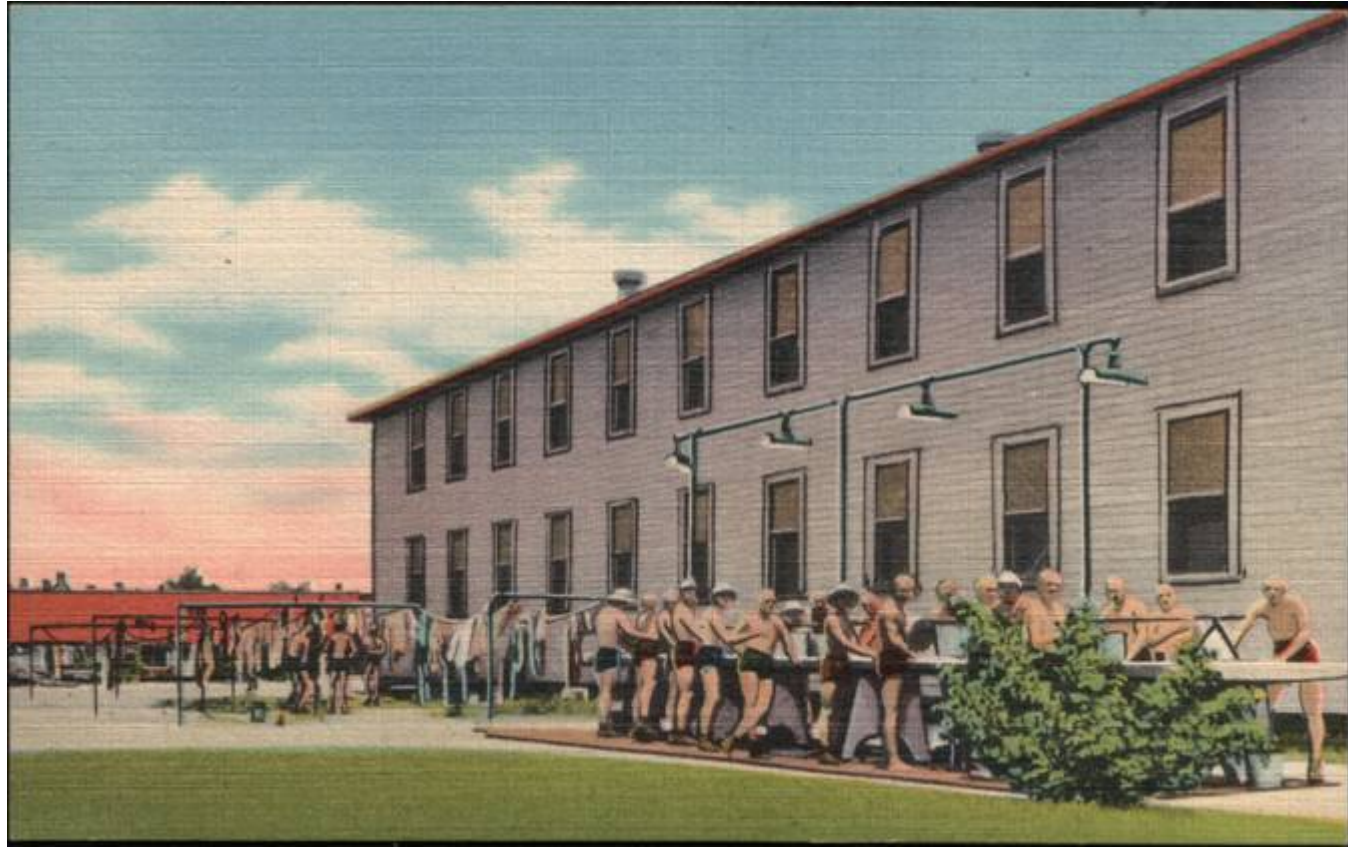
Main Gate



Tichnor 76698: 1945

Main Gate. The main gate provided access across the single causeway leading to Parris Island. The second causeway was not built until after 1987. The well-known and distinctive red brick entrance sign to Parris Island, that welcomed over one million recruits between 1943 and 2001, is not visible in this image.

Wash and Scrub Clothes Area



Tichnor 76699: 1945

Wash and Scrub Clothes Area. The first white wooden two-story World War II barracks were built in 1940 for the 1st Recruit Training Battalion. Lighted cement wash racks and clotheslines were constructed behind every barracks. Recruits are wearing black striped PT shorts, sneakers and pith helmets.

Medical Dispensary



Tichnor 76700: 1945

Medical Dispensary. This brick Medical Dispensary was built in 1942. Today, in 2008, it houses the offices of the Red Cross and Family Services Center.

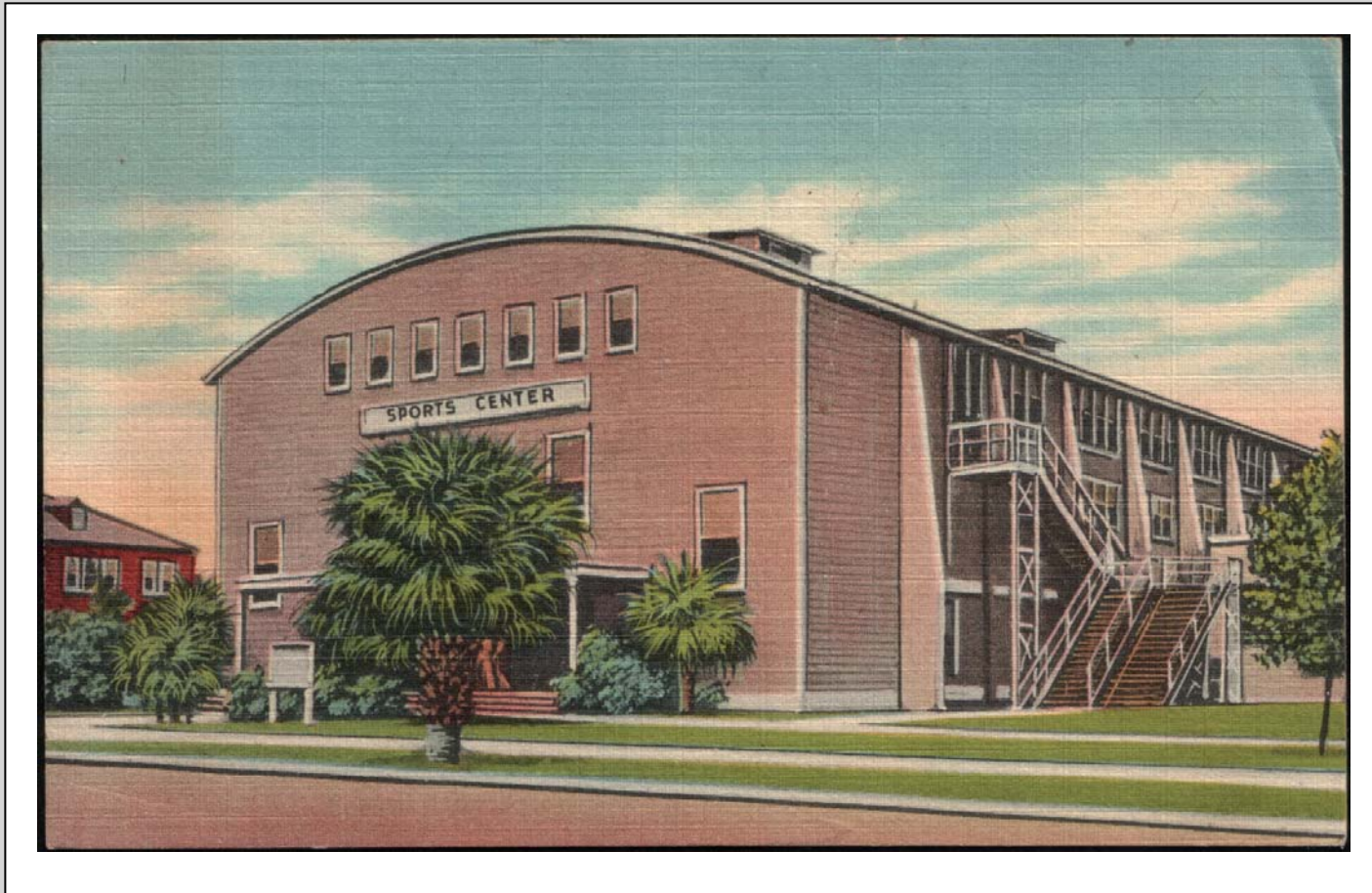
View of Administration Building



Tichnor 76701: 1945

View of Administration Building. The Depot Headquarters Building was built in 1941. The general's office was then moved from the Old Headquarters Building next to the Lyceum to this new Headquarters Building. The building and flag pole appear exactly the same today, in 2008, but the oak and palm trees have grown to full size, completely blocking this view.

Sports Center



Tichnor 76702: 1945

Sports Center. This Sports Center was constructed in 1942. Today in 2008, the first floor serves as the Military Uniform Shop. The second floor is an antique – the still un-renovated 1942 gym.

Administration Building



Tichnor 76703: 1945

Administration Building. This is another view of the 1941 Depot Headquarters Building described in postcard 76701.

Post Exchange



Tichnor 76704: 1945

Post Exchange. Built in 1941 as the Post Exchange, this building was re-dedicated in 1977 as the *Douglas Visitor's Center*, named after World War II Marine Senator Paul Douglas. Today, in 2008, it also houses the Library, the Book Store, the Base Photography Office, and the Public Affairs Office.

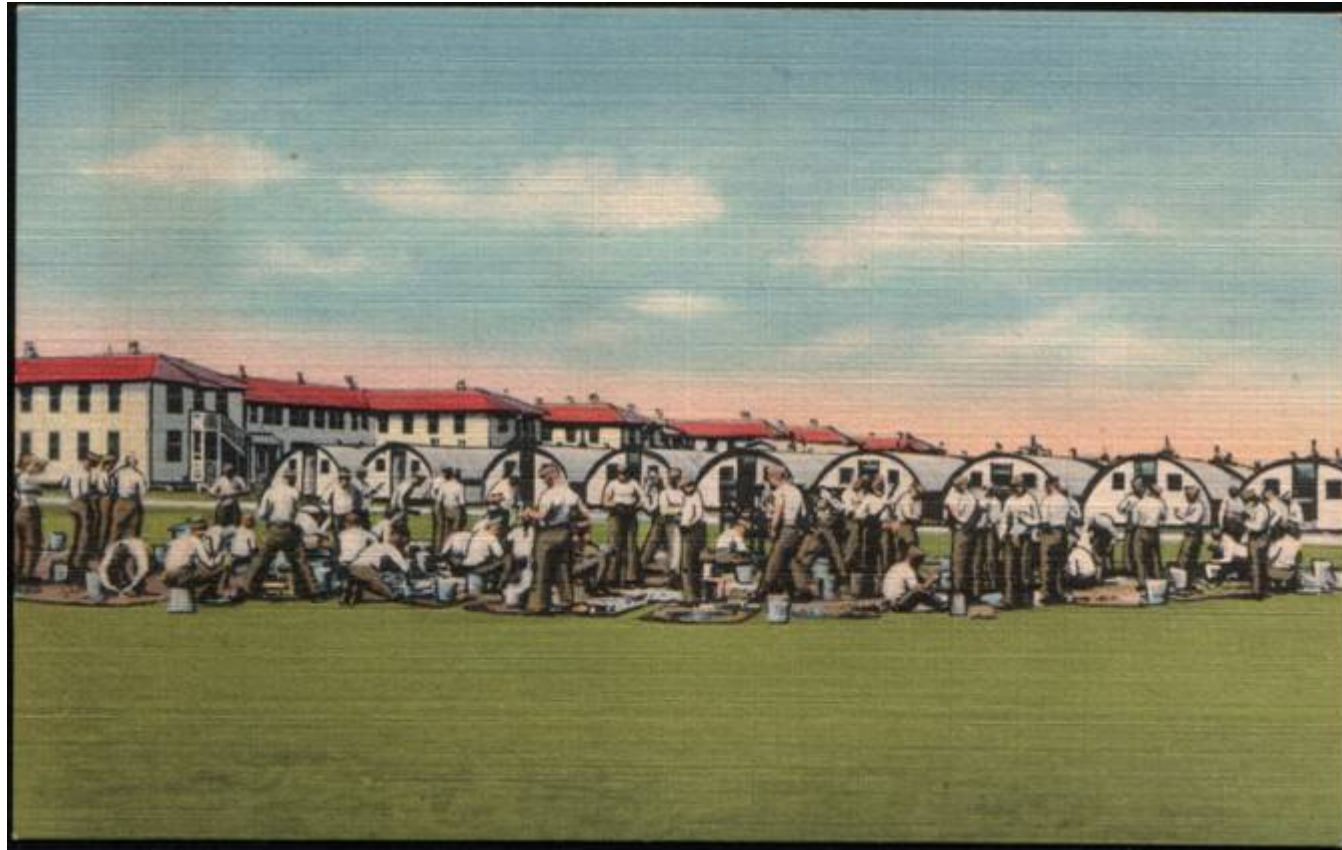
Recruit Outdoor Swimming Pool



Tichnor 76705: 1945

Recruit Outdoor Swimming Pool. This oversize outdoor swimming pool was used to train recruits in water survival and swimming skills. Today, in 2008, recruits train at an indoor pool facility and this now-renovated pool is the outdoor family pool. In the background are the Naval Hospital buildings at the east end of the base, torn down after World War II.

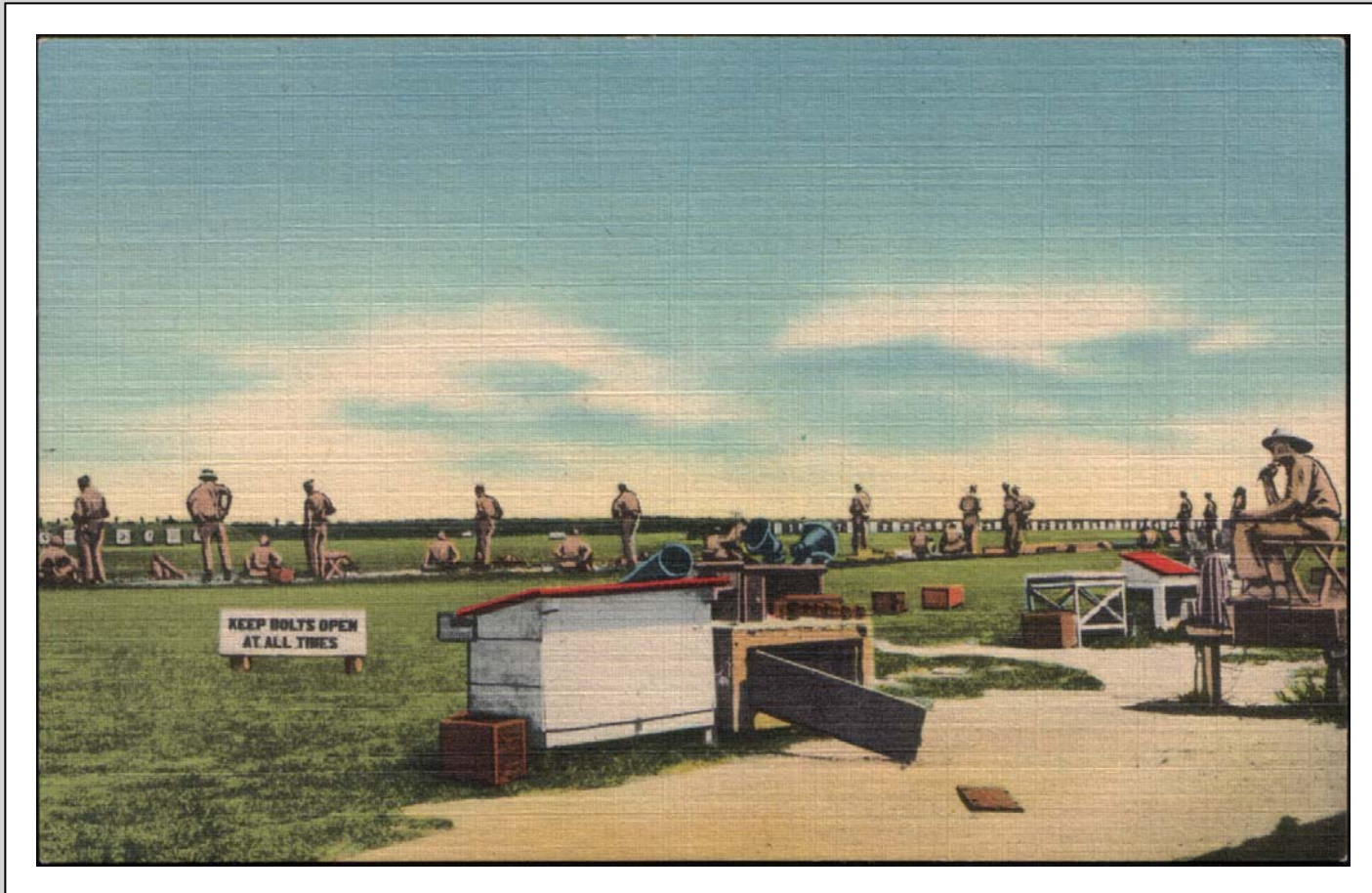
Laying Out Equipment For Inspection



Tichnor 76706: 1945

Laying Out Equipment For Inspection. The first white wooden two-story World War II barracks were built in 1940. Hundreds of Quonset huts, used as temporary barracks, were removed after the war. Recruits in t-shirts and utility trousers, some sitting on their laundry buckets, lay out their equipment for inspection. Marine field equipment was known as “782 gear” or “deuce gear” because the signature custody card was Form 782.

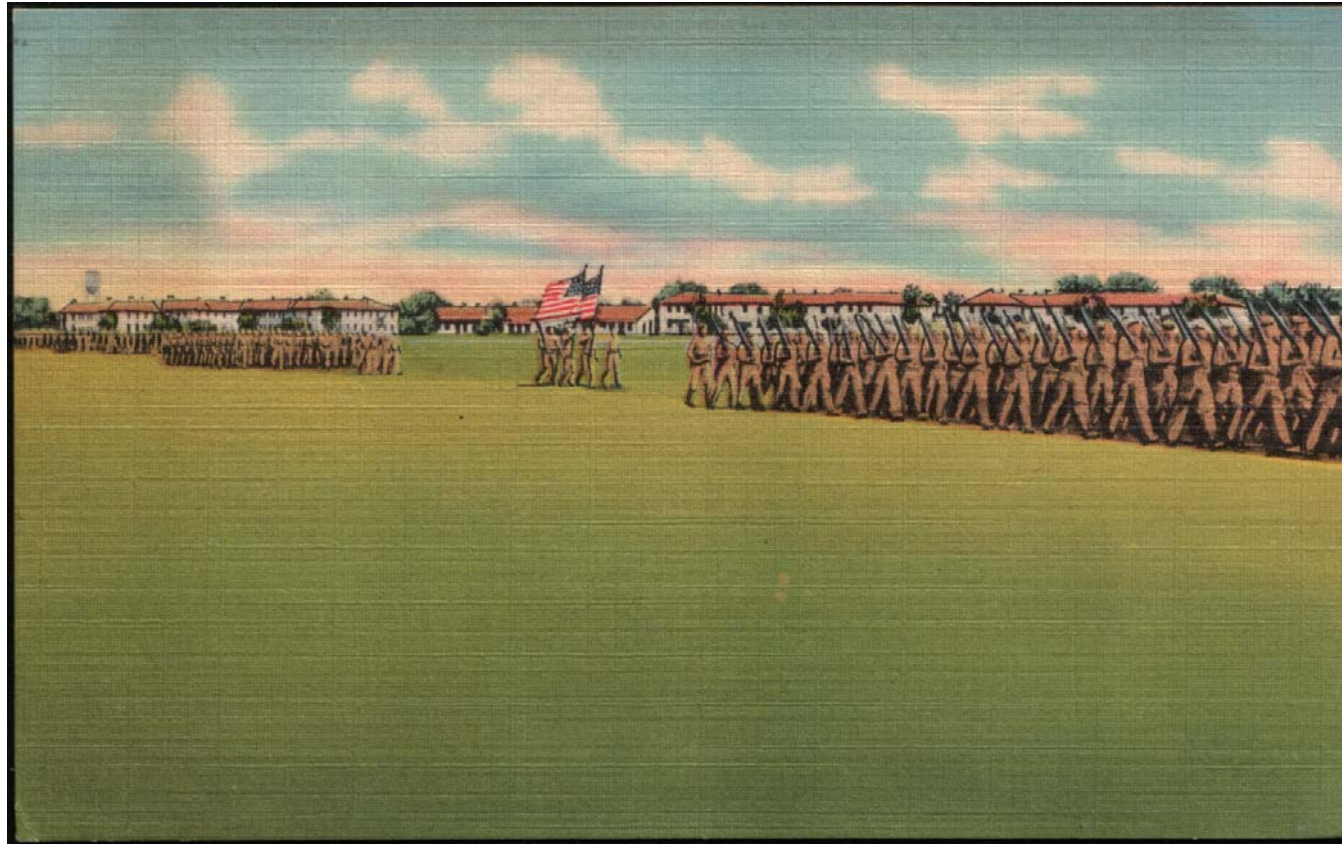
Firing Line



Tichnor 76707: 1945

Firing Line. The sign at left instructs recruits to “Keep Bolts Open at All Times” on their rifles when off the firing line. As coaches stand over their recruits, providing corrections and guidance, the range NCO at right issues all commands on the new loudspeaker system. Note the unused megaphone lying next to the speakers, and the open ammunition cans staged for distribution. Marines qualified with the M-1903 Springfield Rifle at Parris Island long after 1942, when M-1 Garand Rifles were being issued to Marines fighting in the Pacific.

Passing in Review



Tichnor 76708: 1945

Passing in Review. A recruit parade crosses the huge parade deck in front of the 1st Recruit Training Battalion barracks. The first white wooden two-story World War II barracks were built in 1940. At the far western end of the parade deck is a silver water tower. Although it appears in the image as green grass, the Parris Island parade deck had been paved over in 1942.

Parade and Review



Tichnor 76709: 1945

Parade and Review. Another view of the Parris Island parade deck and the white 1st Recruit Training Battalion barracks described in postcard 76708.

Recruit Applicants on Forming Day



Tichnor 76710: 1945

Recruit Applicants on Forming Day. Headquarter & Service Battalion Building, built in 1938, is at left. The Depot Headquarters, built in 1941, is in the background. New recruits, still in their civilian clothes and carrying travel bags, await further processing during their first days aboard Parris Island. “Forming Day” is when new recruits are “formed” into platoons. Their Drill Instructor stands at left. Although rifle range coaches wore green campaign covers throughout the war, Drill Instructors did not wear campaign covers until after 1957.

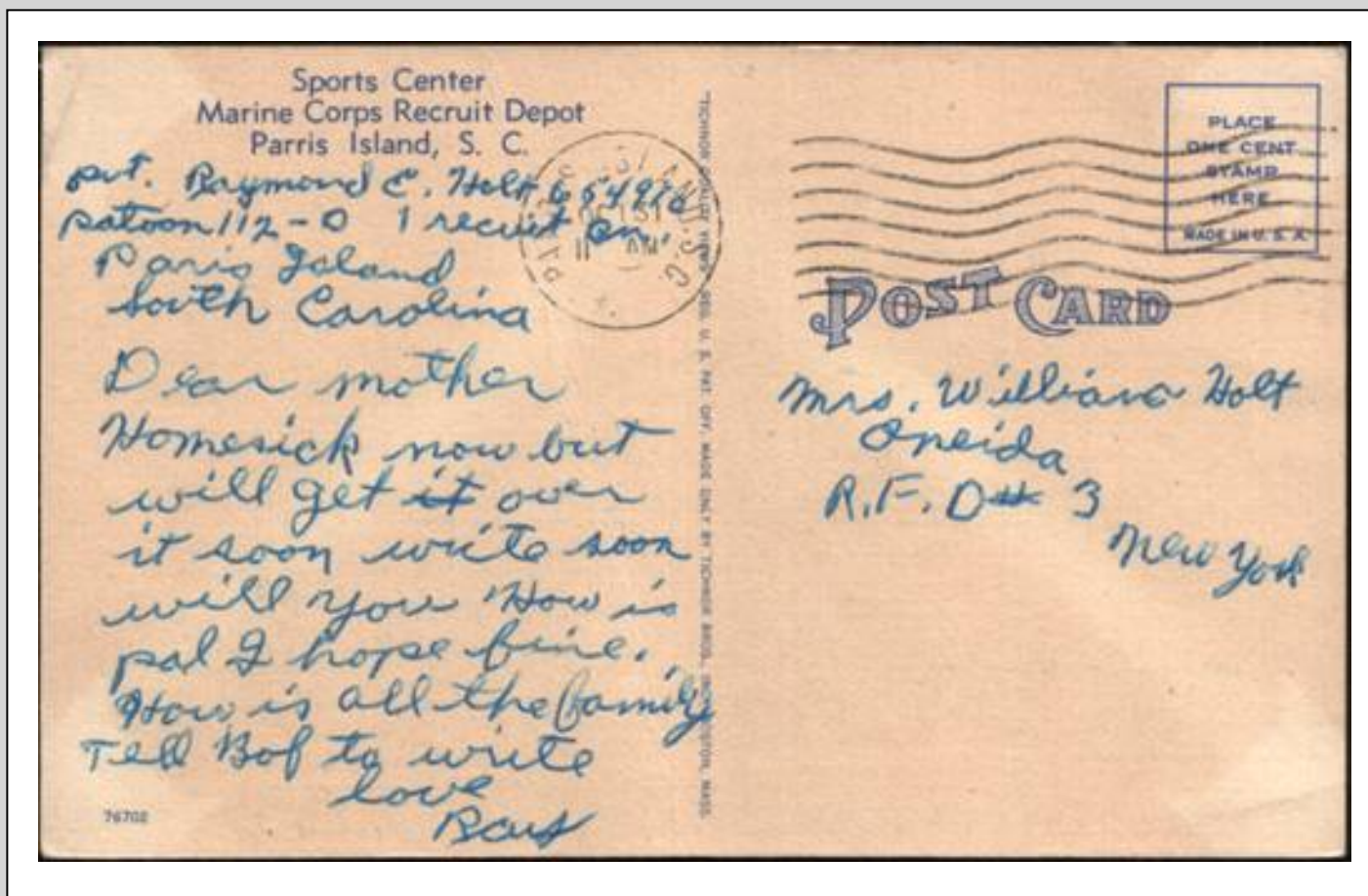
Headquarters and Service Battalion



Tichnor 76711: 1945

Headquarters and Service Battalion. The Headquarters & Service Battalion Building was built in 1938. “Iron Mike,” the 1924 bronze statue commemorating Marines who died in World War I, was dedicated by the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General John A. Lejeune. The statue was created by sculptor Robert Ingersoll Aiken. It was moved to this corner location around 1940. The Lieutenant Blood Fountain, center, named for a Marine killed in the Pacific, was dedicated by his unit in 1946. Compare this 1945 image with earlier pictures of the same site, postcards 71057 and 73927, from 1941 and 1942.

Reverse: Sports Center



Tichnor 76702: 1945

Marine Private Raymond E. Holt, service number 654970, Platoon 112, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, writes to his mother in Oneida, New York. The postmark is 31 October, but the year is not readable. The postage is free – service members received free postage during World War II. The Tichnor serial number in the lower left-hand corner is 76702 [**Sports Center**].

Acknowledgements

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[Part I : Tichnor 1941](#)

[Part II : Tichnor 1942](#)

[Part III : Curteich 1942](#)

[Part IV : Tichnor 1945](#)