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One Drill Is All It Took to Win

By JOHN T. HALES
Armed Forces Day Press Chairman

A single 90-minute drill session the night before the parade was all it took the 140 combat Marines of "Echo" Company to ready themselves to become the "best military regular forces entry" in the biggest yet 5th Annual Armed Forces Day Parade in Torrance May 16.

At a civic luncheon following the parade, the Secretary of Defense trophy was presented by Edmund T. Pratt Jr., assistant secretary of the Army, to Maj. William F. Alsop Jr., representing "E" Company.

Curiosity led me to Camp Pendleton the following weekend to learn something about "Echo" Company and why it did so well in the parade.

THE COMPANY is led by Capt. H. J. Morgan, and is one of five combat units which make up the 2nd Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Marine Division. It is stationed at the Las Pulgas Area training site within Camp Pendleton Marine Base at Oceanside.

The entire battalion, brought up to combat strength only two weeks before the parade, is commanded by Lt. Col. Charles E. McPartin, a 32-year-old Marine veteran. It is in "lock-on" training, an intensive training period with all leaves cancelled and heavy work during a 24-hour day. The unit is being readied for combat on land or sea.

The five companies are made up of a third of the boots graduated in previous months from Parris Island Marine Base,

South Carolina. The next third is composed of Marines transferred from posts throughout the U. S. The last group is old cadre Marines from Pendleton.

FOLLOWING the "lock-on" training, the battalion will become the "readiest-for-anything" Marine outfit based in the States. Its schedule calls for shipment from San Diego in July for a 13-month tour of duty in the Far East. Okinawa is the first training stop, and additional training is planned in Japan. The unit will receive cold weather training in Korea.

In between land stops, there will be special landing force duty aboard the ships of the Seventh Fleet.

Weekend observations indicate the parade winners may

make some of tomorrow's front page headlines.

It should be pointed out that "Echo" Company wasn't just lucky. Another Camp Pendleton entry, the 1st Marine Division Band, won the best military music entry. The weekend before, "I" Company, reinforced by "K" Company of the 1st Regiment from Pendleton won the sweepstakes trophy in the San Pedro parade.

"Echo" Company, said Maj. Alsop, was the fearless, gung-ho unit that survived the Santa Fe train crossing during the parade. At Pendleton, he added, the Marines are ready for anything.

The only way to reach 200 is to keep breathing.—Mrs. Panchita Whipple, San Rafael, on 101st birthday.

Industrial Arts, Science Complex Contract Awarded

Final award of a contract for the \$1,200,000 industrial arts and science building at Torrance High School, was approved by the Board of Education Monday evening.

Award of the contract had been held up until sufficient bond funds were available to begin construction of the new facility.

Steed Brothers Builders will do the work on the new structure.

The trustees also voted to award contracts to Swanson Electric, Inc., and Air Comfort Co., Inc., for electrical and ventilating work on the district's data processing room. Total value of the two contracts is slightly more than \$9,000.

Modifications for the industrial arts building at West High School were approved and let

out for bid by the trustees. The facility has been used for physical education facilities at West High, but the new gymnasium will be ready in September.

Work, estimated to cost \$43,000, will involve the removal of partitions and showers. Bids on the project will be presented to the board June 15.

Vel's Salesman Completes Course
Winslow Pope, a salesman at Vel's Ford Sales, has completed a two-week course in retail selling at the Ford Motor Co.'s marketing institute in Los Angeles.

The course is one of several offered at the Institute to dealers, their personnel, and Ford Motor Co. employes.

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