

Husband of Former Edith M. Skarren Retires After 36 Years with Marines

Norfolk—Over 36 years of active service in the Marine Corps came to a close last Friday when Master Sergeant Charles O. Pitts, motor transport chief for Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic returned to civilian life.

Sergeant Pitts, is the husband of the former Miss Edith M. Skarren, 414 Ann St., Beaufort. They live at 234 Forerst Ave., Norfolk. Pitts who has spent almost all of his entire 36 years in, or around motor transport first enlisted in the Marine Corps in May of 1918 and was assigned to the 101st Artillery Group in France.

The following June he left the Corps, but returned again in July 1920 and was immediately ordered to Quantico, Va., and assigned to his first tour of duty in motor transport. After a brief stay at Quantico, Sergeant Pitts was transferred to the Naval Base in Norfolk, there he served again in motor transport until July 1923 when he once again returned to civilian life.

It was not until July 1925 that Sergeant Pitts re-entered the Marine Corps again, this time to stay for 33 consecutive years.

His first tour of duty after re-enlisting was that of motor transport chief, Department of Supply at the Naval Base in Norfolk. Unlike the normal tours of duty now in effect throughout the Marine Corps, Sergeant Pitts served in that capacity from July 1925 until August of 1940 when he was transferred to the 4th Defense Battalion, located at Parris Island, S. C.

When the unit moved to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in February 1941, Sergeant Pitts also went along, serving as heavy equipment chief with the 1st Engineers until August of the same year.

Upon returning to the states in October 1941 Pitts was ordered to Camp Lejeune, N. C., and was assigned as equipment chief with the engineers.

After being appointed a Marine gunner in October 1942 and serving with the First Marine Division (aviation engineers) as heavy equipment officer on Guadalcanal, Pitts was transferred to Camp Dunlap, Niland, Calif., there he also served as Motor Transport Officer.

Having served as assistant motor transport officer with the post motor transport section at Camp Pendleton from May 1944 to July 1945, he was then assigned to the 1st Marine Division at Iwo Jima.



"Seems like only yesterday." That is the thought running through the mind of M/Sgt. Charles O. Pitts as he thinks back through the years when he first enlisted in the Marine Corps. Sergeant Pitts, Motor Transport Chief for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Aircraft, Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic bid farewell to the Marine Corps Friday, Oct. 31, when he retired with over 36 years active service.

1945 Sergeant Pitts again packed his seabag and departed with the Second Marine Division for duty in the Far East. There he was assigned as the motor transport officer for Headquarters Battalion of the division until September 1946.

It was in November 1946 that Sergeant Pitts reverted from warrant officer to master sergeant and was transferred to Headquarters, AirFMLant. His duties, what else—motor transport chief.

In January 1949 Pitts returned to Guantanamo Bay and was assigned as chief of the motor transport section for Marine Barracks until July 1952.

He returned to Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, later that same year and served as motor transport chief (basic school) from 1952 to 1954 before being assigned as the Post Motor Transport Chief until January of 1958.

Sergeant Pitts reported to Norfolk in February of this year as the Motor Transport Chief for H&HS, AirFMLant.

Among the ribbons worn by Sergeant Pitts is the Good Conduct Medal with nine stars in lieu of consecutive awards, the Presidential Unit Citation with two stars, World War I and World War II Victory Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific with two stars, the National Defense Medal and the Navy Occupation Service Medal.

The Marine veteran is also a member of Masonic Lodge No. 335, Ocean View, Va., Scottish Rite, Alexandria, Va., Acca Temple, Richmond, Va., Shrine Club, Fredericksburg, Va., and the Calvin A. Lloyd Chapter, OES, Quantico, Va.

Incidentally, as if 36 years in the Marine Corps is not more than a career and a half, Sergeant Pitts also has two sons in the Corps. They are 1st Lt. Charles O. Pitts Jr., now serving with the Third Marine Division in the Far East and Sgt. Edward F. Pitts stationed in Hawaii.

Both sons plan to make a career of the Marine Corps, according to the 36-year veteran.

Retirement ceremonies took place in the office of Lt. Gen. E. A. Pollock, commanding general, FMFLant who will retire Master Sergeant Pitts with his former rank of Chief Warrant Officer.

The Blind Have Ways To Solve Any Problem

Des Moines (AP) — Robert R. Moore, rehabilitation counselor for the Iowa Commission for the Blind, who has been blind all his life, was asked how he manages to squirt toothpaste onto his toothbrush with any accuracy.

The answer: He doesn't. Moore says he squirts the toothpaste onto his tongue, then puts it on the brush. He says the tip of the tongue is sensitive enough to tell you how much toothpaste you're getting.



Nov. 3—Willis W. O'Neal, a brother to I. F. O'Neal, Walter C. O'Neal Sr., Mrs. Elnora Ballance, and Mrs. Tressie Howard, all of Ocracoke, died at his home in Merchantville, Pa., Nov. 1. He was 75 and had been ill for some time.

He leaves a wife, two daughters, and three sons, all living in the North. Mr. O'Neal left Ocracoke when he was about 16 years of age and worked in the Philadelphia area as captain of a dredge during his latter years.

Mrs. Geneva O'Neal of Ocracoke and Beaufort is still in Morehead City Hospital, following injuries received in an automobile wreck.

Mrs. Ira Foster is also in the hospital there.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Love of Norwood, Pa., have returned to their home after a week of sports fishing here, during which they were both successful in landing some large sized channel bass. They stayed with Capt. and Mrs. Walter C. O'Neal Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. O'Neal and I. F. O'Neal left Sunday to attend funeral services on Monday for their brother, Willis O'Neal, of Merchantville, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Garrish and Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Esham, who were in Richmond, Va., when word reached them, also drove to Merchantville.

Walter Austin of Newcastle, Del., spent last week visiting his sisters, Mrs. Wilma Williams and Mrs. Ruby Garrish.

Capt. Van Henry O'Neal is back home from Sea Level Hospital, having suffered a dislocated shoulder in a recent accident aboard his boat here.

Edward C. O'Neal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlson O'Neal, is home on leave from USCG duty in Norfolk, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Fleg of Portsmouth, Va., spent the weekend at their home here.

Stacy Bragg of Wilmington, N. C., visited his mother, Mrs. Laura Bragg, last week Friday and Saturday. His brother, Maltby Bragg, returned with him Sunday as far as Beaufort.

Mrs. Alice Belle Williams, leader of the MYF reports that the young people raised \$38.27 for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund this past week.

Members of the Circles of the Woman's Society of Christian Service are sponsoring Thursday noon hot-dog luncheons in the church recreation hall each week. They will also sponsor the annual Christmas Gift bazaar on Nov. 15, beginning at 2:30 p.m. and extending through the afternoon and early evening.

November meeting for Circle 1 is this week, Tuesday, with Mrs. Bessie Howard, Mrs. Leevelia Howard, Mrs. Doris Garrish, and Mrs. Neva O'Neal as hostesses.

Charles Parker of Meriden, Conn., left for home Saturday after some successful fishing here. Mrs. Parker is staying on another week to supervise some work at their summer home here.

Ocracoke Civic Club will meet Monday night, 7:30 p.m. at the school library.

Auroras, the glowing "northern lights," are most frequently seen in northern Canada and Siberia. However, there have been a few times when they have been seen as far southward as the outskirts of Mexico City.



Nov. 4—Mr. Jackie Page of UNC and Miss Barbara Burnett of Madison, N. C., spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Willis.

Miss Varena Willis of Norfolk, Va., spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Willis. Mr. Clifton Yeomans, Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Leffers, Miss Bobbie Leffers, Rachel Gillikin, Sharon Walton, Peter Lynch, Scott Lynch, and Vaughn Yeomans attended the youth meeting at Maysville Sunday night.

The planet Pluto was discovered from Lowell Observatory near Flagstaff, Ariz.

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Nov. 5—Mrs. B. M. Rogers, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. J. W. Adams, has returned to her home in Graham.

Mrs. Jennie Miller of Bridgeton returned home on Saturday, after visiting her sister, Mrs. Emily Nelson.

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Robinson and children of Vanceboro and Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Stallings Jr. of Havelock spent Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Stallings Sr.

Mrs. D. M. Salter who has been on a visit to Kinston returned home.

The Rev. J. E. Smith of Core Creek filled his regular appointment here on Sunday night. He was accompanied by Mrs. Smith. He also met with the official board of the church Monday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert McNeil of Beaufort spent Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Sadie Carraway.

Mrs. Duffie Carraway is on a visit to see her mother, Mrs. Emer of Minneapolis, Minn., who is very sick.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wallace attended church services in Beaufort Sunday.

Mrs. Dora Wallace is on the sick list. We trust she will soon be better.

Mrs. J. M. Stallings and Mrs. G. M. Carraway motored to New Bern and Vanceboro last Thursday.

The Rev. J. E. Smith visited Mrs. J. W. Adams Monday evening.

Miss Shirley Pittman, student nurse at Rex Hospital in Raleigh, spent the weekend at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Nelson of Bridgeton visited his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carraway, last week.

Club Meets
The Home Demonstration Club met with Mrs. Annie Wallace Monday with seven members present. After devotions and a short business session, the meeting was turned over to our Arts and Crafts leader, Mrs. Selma Carraway, who gave the demonstration on Swedish darning. This is a very interesting needle work, pretty and not at all difficult.
During the social hour Mrs. Wallace served cake, peaches, and cola.

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