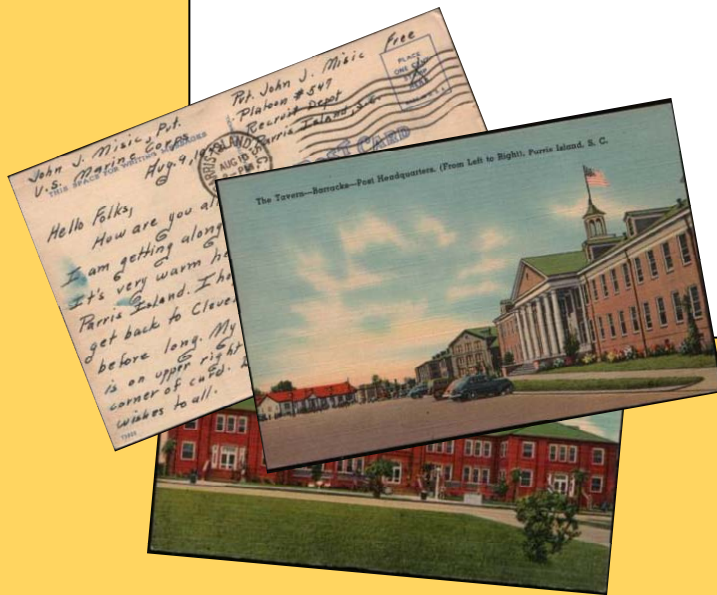




Parris Island Post Cards from World War II



Part II : 1942

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 II: Tichnor Brothers 1942

In 1942, Tichnor published a second series of ten (10) images of Parris Island, numbered **73923** through **73932**. The tremendous American war effort of 1942 brought thousands of new Marine recruits to train at Parris Island. New construction could not keep up with demand for facilities, and many recruits lived and trained in temporary tents or Quonset huts.

The title of the card, one line of serif text, appears on the 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.



U. S. Naval Hospital, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73923: 1942

U. S. Naval Hospital. The original wooden U. S. Naval Hospital buildings were constructed during World War I at the east end of the base. The hospital complex was greatly expanded during World War II. In 1946, a new Naval hospital was built off-base and these wooden buildings on Parris Island were razed. Today, in 2008, this is the site of the *Four Winds* club.

Officers' Club, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73924: 1942

Officers' Club. This is the original officer's club, built in 1918, and moved in 1939 from its location adjacent to the Lyceum to this location at the Yacht Basin, across from the Bachelor Officer's Quarters and the officer housing area. This same club, with minor renovations, is known today in 2008, as *Traditions*.

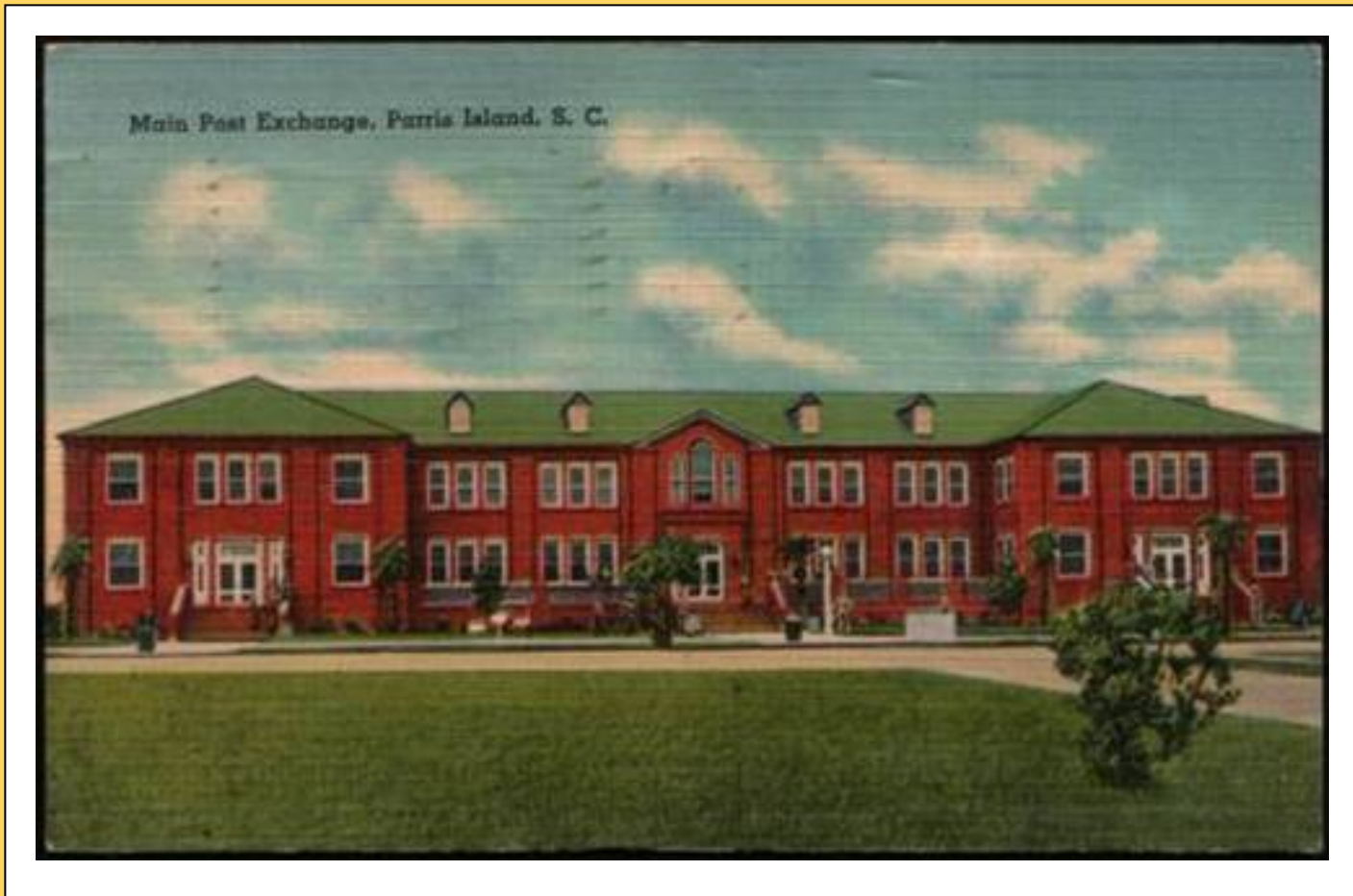
Fire Department No. 1. Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73925: 1942

Fire Department No. 1. This fire house was constructed in 1941. It stands across the street from the Headquarters Building. When the new fire station was constructed after 1987, this building was converted to the G-4: Depot Logistics office spaces.

Main Post Exchange, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73926: 1942

Main Post Exchange. Built in 1941 as the Post Exchange, this building was re-dedicated in 1977 as the *Douglas Visitor's Center*. Today, in 2008, the visitor center also houses the Library, the Book Store, the Base Photography Shop, and the Public Affairs Office.

Marine Barracks, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73927: 1942

Marine Barracks. The Headquarters & Service Battalion Building was built in 1938. “Iron Mike,” the 1924 bronze statue at left, commemorates Marines who died in WWI. Created by sculptor Robert Ingersoll Aiken, it was dedicated by the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General John A. Lejeune in 1925. It was moved from its original location near the museum to this corner location around 1940. The new oak and palm trees in the foreground, planted on the grass island in 1941, completely block this view of the building today, in 2008.

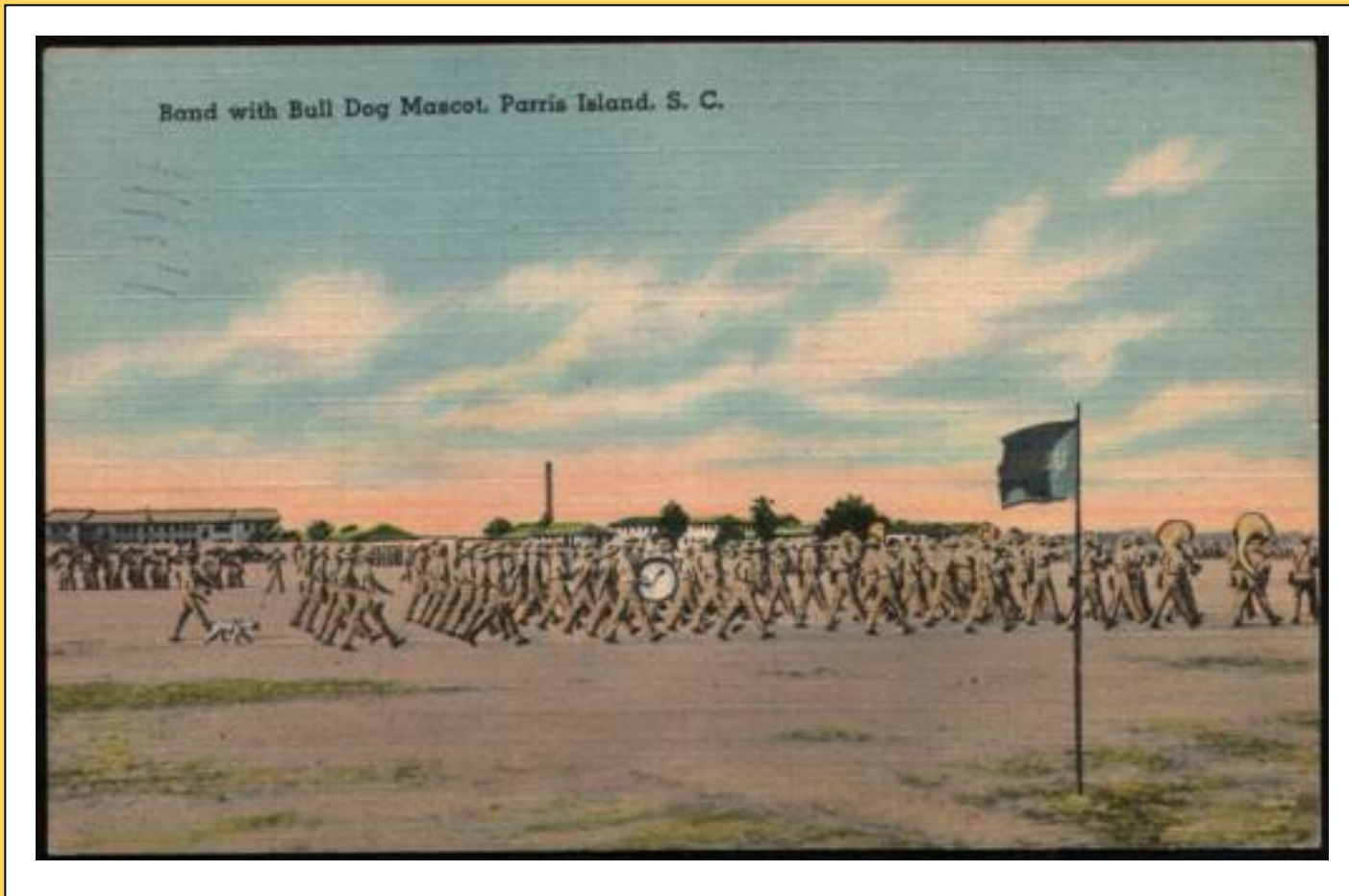
Rifle Range Instruction, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73928: 1942

Rifle Range Instruction. Recruits, wearing pith helmets, brown rough-side-out boondockers and new green herringbone twill “dungaree” utilities, listen to rifle instruction. The marksmanship instructor adjusts an oversized training model of the rear sight of the M-1903 Springfield Rifle, the rifle the recruits hold. Range Marines ignored uniform regulations and wore green campaign covers long after this headgear was phased out in 1938. One Marine at left, wears a shooting jacket. The “Able,” “Baker,” and “Dog” targets, “A,” “B” and “C” in the World War II phonetic alphabet, are shown at right. The “Able” and “Dog” targets are still used today, in 2008. Marines still qualified with the M-1903 Springfield Rifle at Parris Island long after 1942, long after M-1 Garand Rifles were issued to Marines fighting in the Pacific.

Band with Bull Dog Mascot, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73929: 1942

Band with Bull Dog Mascot. The band marches across the 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. The dirt parade deck was paved in 1942. Many of the Bull Dogs that served throughout the years as mascots aboard Parris Island have been buried in a cemetery across from the Commanding General's Quarters.

“Scrubbing Clothes”, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73930: 1942

“Scrubbing Clothes.” During World War II, recruits washed their own clothing by hand each week. The first white wooden two-story WWII barracks were built in 1940 for the 1st Recruit Training Battalion. They were used until new brick barracks were built in 1968. Lighted cement wash racks and clotheslines were constructed behind every barracks. Recruits are wearing black striped physical training (PT) shorts and sneakers.

The Tavern—Barracks—Post Headquarters, (From Left to Right), Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73931: 1942

The Tavern—Barracks—Post Headquarters. *The Tavern*, the enlisted club, was built in 1940. It was torn down in 1985 to make room for a monument and park. The Headquarters & Service Battalion Building was built in 1938. 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. It was called the "Post Headquarters Building" until the term "Depot" became the official name for Parris Island in December 1946.

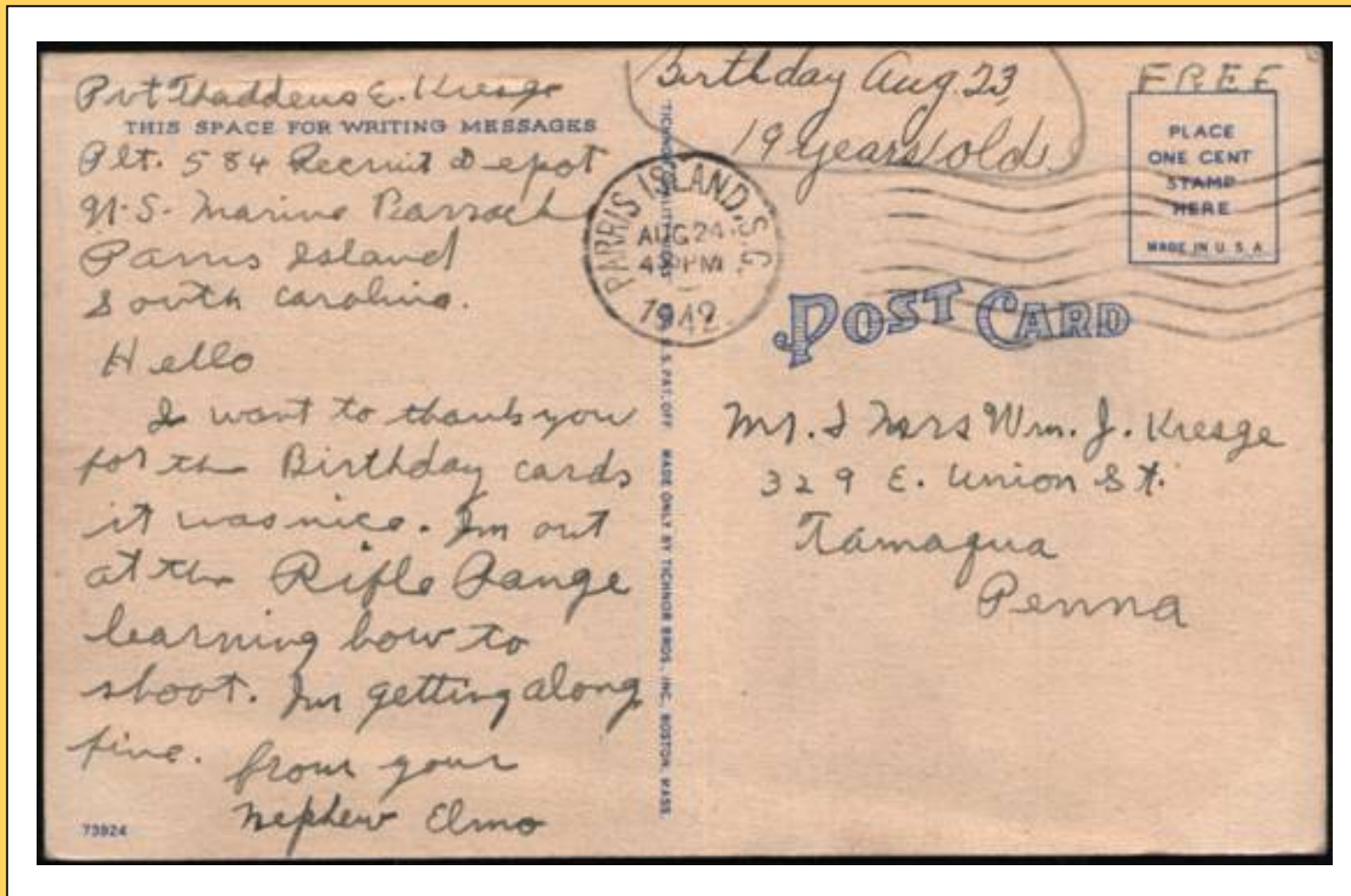
Yacht Basin at Officers' Club, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73932: 1942

Yacht Basin at Officers' Club. The Yacht Basin is located near the officer's housing area. Today, in 2008, the Yacht Basin is too shallow to use, having been silted up over the years. The building in the background is the Officer's Club, described in postcard 73924.

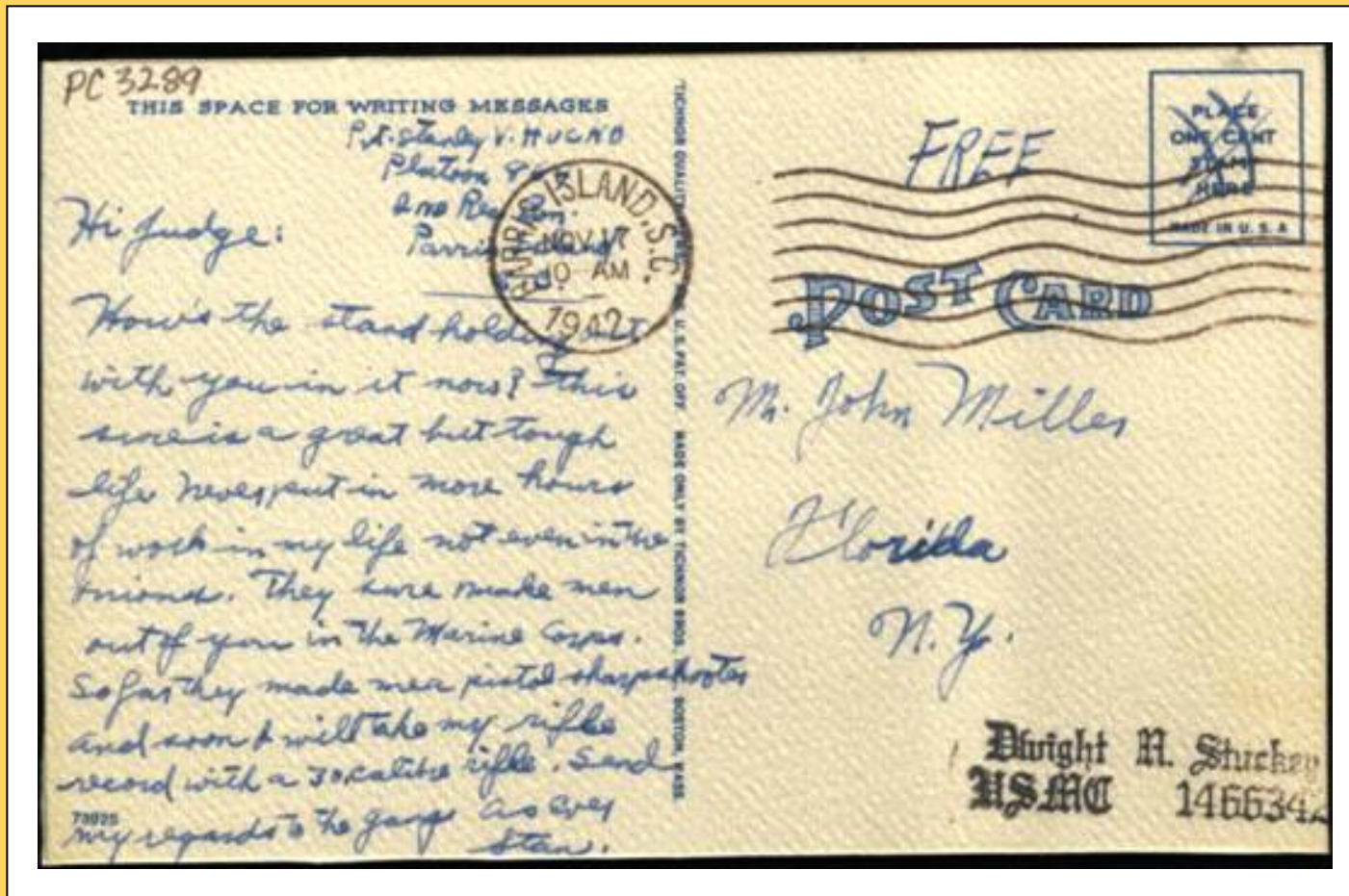
Reverse: Officers' Club, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73924: 1942

19-year-old Marine Private Thaddeus “Elmo” Kresge, Platoon 584, writes on his birthday to his aunt and uncle in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. The postmark is 24 August 1942. The postage is free – service members received free postage during World War II. The Tichnor serial number in the lower left-hand corner is 73924 [Officers' Club].

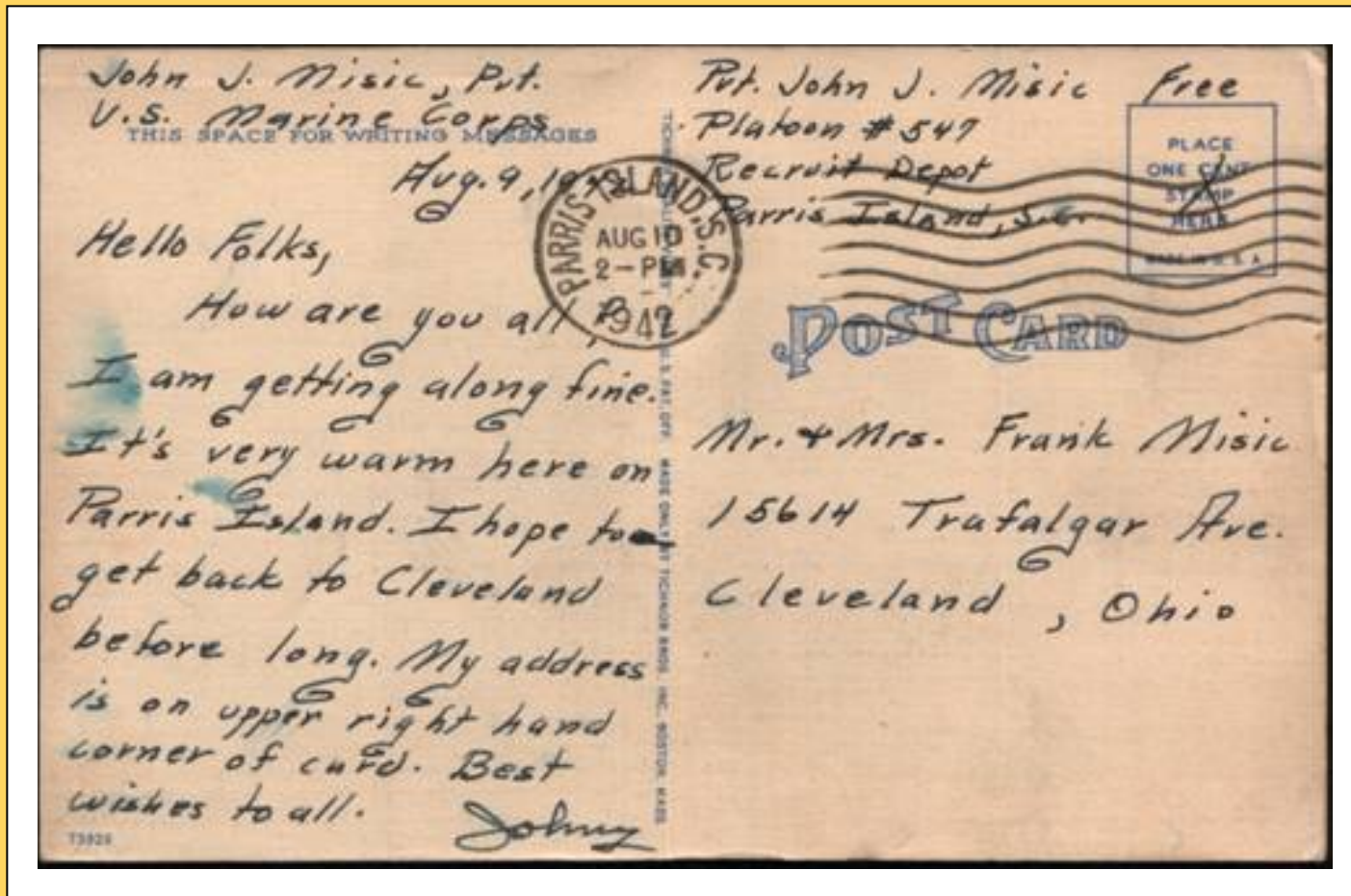
Reverse: Fire Department No. 1. Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73925: 1942

Marine Private Stanley V. Hucko, Platoon 864, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, writes to his friend John Miller in New York: “This sure is a great but tough life. Never put in more hours of work in my life... They sure make men out of you in the Marine Corps.” The postmark is 12 November 1942. The postage is free. The Tichnor serial number in the lower left-hand corner is 73925 [**Fire Department No. 1.**].

Reverse: Main Post Exchange, Parris Island, S. C.



Tichnor 73926: 1942

Marine Private John J. Misic, Platoon 549, writes to his parents in Cleveland, Ohio. The postmark is 10 August 1942, just three days after the landing at Guadalcanal, the first Marine offensive of World War II. The postage is free. The Tichnor serial number in the lower left-hand corner 73926 [**Main Post Exchange**].

Acknowledgements

The 1st Recruit Training Battalion (1st RTBn) post card collection was collected and donated by Sergeant **Mike Thompson**, 1st RTBn 1968

The 1st RTBn conference room historical display was designed and constructed by Staff Sergeant **Benjamin E. Baxley**, 1st RTBn 2007 and updated by Sergeant **C. T. Tatum**, 1st RTBn 2008

Computer images by Major **Rob James**, 1st RTBn 2008
Research by LtCol **B. B. McBreen**, 1st RTBn 2008

Special thanks to:

Dr **Stephen Wise**, Parris Island Museum, Parris Island, SC
Debra Gust, Lake County Discovery Museum, Waucona, IL
Jane Winton, Boston Public Library Print Department, Boston, MA

[Part I : Tichnor 1941](#)

[Part II : Tichnor 1942](#)

[Part III : Curteich 1942](#)

[Part IV : Tichnor 1945](#)