



Montford Point

Since the Civil War, African Americans have served the United States in all major wars and conflicts. The United States Marine Corps was the last branch of the service to admit blacks. Executive Order 8802, issued by President Franklin Roosevelt on June 25, 1941, ensured full participation in the nation's defense, opening the door for African Americans to enter the United States Marine Corps. Acquired by the government with the rest of Camp Lejeune, Montford Point became the site of the first training camp for black Marines. Instruction began in the summer of 1942 for a small number of eager recruits such as Arnold R. Bostic, who later recalled that after the first tough day of training, his platoon "decided we were going to complete boot camp and become Marines no matter how hard they made it for us, or what anyone said."

The training site for more than 22,000 black Marines, Montford Point was deactivated on September 9, 1949. President Truman's Executive Order 9981, issued earlier that year, effectively ended racial segregation in the armed forces. In 1974, in honor of Sgt. Major Gilbert H. "Hashmark" Johnson, Montford Point became Camp Johnson.

The Montford Point Marine Association was organized in 1965 to remember the groundbreaking sacrifices made by those first black Marines. The group continues to this day, working to preserve a proud legacy.



*Montford Point Marines relaxing with the jukebox
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs*



Tent Camp at Montford Point