

Flash 3.

Marines for Mediterranean

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March 23, 1956

Music: Marine Hymn PN477
Lawson
Abbott
Non
Issue #64

MARINES OFF FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

A reinforced Marine battalion -- eighteen hundred strong, together with their equipment, are off on a routine training exercise in the uneasy Middle East.

At Morehead City, North Carolina, the Second Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment embarks. Soon they'll join the U.S. Sixth Fleet in Mediterranean waters.

According to a service spokesman, the men, from the Second Marine Division at nearby Camp Lejeune, are expected to take part in joint maneuvers with NATO forces.

The Marines may be in the Middle East three to four months.