

News Release FROM THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

MICHIGAN AVENUE AT ADAMS STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60603, U. S. A.

From: Helen Lethert, Head
Margo C. Moss, Assistant
Publicity Department
CE 6-7080, Ext. 242, 243

January 27, 1970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PARRIS ISLAND, an exhibition of over fifty photographs depicting the boot camp training of a United States Marine will be on view at The Art Institute of Chicago from January 31 through March 8. The pictures are the work of Chicago Sun-Times photographer, William Mares.

Mr. Mares, who now lives in Chicago, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and raised in Texas. He received his B. A. from Harvard College in 1962. After six months active service in the Marine Corps and a period of study in Germany, he returned to the United States and entered the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, Massachusetts, where he received his M. A. degree in 1964. In 1965 while enrolled as a law student at the University of Chicago, he began taking pictures as an escape from classes. Photography later became his paramount interest and he turned to it as a full time occupation three years ago.

In speaking of his current exhibition Mares says, "Ever since my stint at Parris Island, I have been fascinated by the institution of boot camp. In May 1968, six years after my own training there, I got permission to document the ten week odyssey of a 75-man recruit platoon. These pictures are the result."

Mares further comments about his boot camp reactions, "The Marine Corps has an unquestionable mystique. Young men join the Marines for many reasons, some to escape their families, schools or the draft, others for Instant Toughness, or a chance to enact their

nation's ideals of heroism and valor. But all recruits become one and the same bald, frightened, green-clad "scum", moments after a drill instructor breaks the uneasy silence of arrival. He is scorned, hounded and humiliated, but for an avowedly positive end."

Hugh Edwards, the Institute's Curator of Photography, remarked about the photo documentary, "This first exhibition by William Mares is a lively and unique ensemble, free of present day propagandas of one side or another. It is every respect more than a documentary, made real and permanent by this photographer's unpretentious and brilliant use of the camera."

The pictures in the exhibition, accompanied by Mares's narrative of his boot camp training, will be published by Doubleday & Company Inc. in January of 1971.