When Marines Should Sing!

I went to Paris Island July 1965. In the first 10 days, I managed to sprain my right wrist and was sent to CCP for two weeks of rehab (what motivation). I joined Patroon 351 and became a “pickup” which earned me special attention (CCP more than prepared me for this). My new patroon graduated as best in series!

My new DI's were quite different than my first ones. We had a nightly routine. Just be before lights out, our DI on duty would walk down the center isle and at the end he would order "attention." Everyone, now in skivvies would jump to attention in front of our racks. Next order was: "Sing." We would sing the Marine Corp Hymn with the DI checking out individual volume. After that, we got into our racks.

Lights went out followed by the order: "Pray." We all prayed aloud the Our Father. The volume dropped in half after "but deliver us from evil."

This leads to a second story. One night after our patroon had competed two weeks at the rifle range, our ID was walking down the aisle just before lights out. Someone, at the other end of the barracks, shouted: "Sir, the private has a question, Sir." The ID says: "Ask." Recruit responds: “Sir, the private is Jewish and doesn't know the Our Father." The DI says: "Do you know any Jewish prayers?" Recruit responds: "Sir, Yes Sir." ID says: "Then say one of them." Recruit says: "Sir, Yes Sir." Our ID walks a several feet away and then turns around and says: "Private, I'll be listening!"