Students Drilling - Sidney Byrd - OSEU #6

Then we had to learn close order drills. March to school, march to our meals, everything. We had close order drills. Hut, two, three, four. Hut, two, three, four. First squad to the left, thank God. Second squad to the left, thank God. Looking good, like you should. Hut, two, three, four. Marching, all little guys. Wearing army uniforms, marching. Just like soldiers. We had dress parades, inspections. I remember one time, we had a dress parade. All the dignitaries were on the porch. From town and dignitaries and all the companies.

The first company to move out was the band. They gave them the older band. March out. And a guy named George Gorsbier played the slide trombone. Had it all shined up. The band moved out and they occupied a position opposite of the reviewing stand. The band moved out. And then all the companies moved out for a dress parade in front of these dignitaries. So when the band moved out, George Gorsbier was in front playing the slide trombone. He was playing the... And I made a left turn, everybody turned. He's going by himself with the...

There was nothing anybody could do. All the companies waiting, he's going by himself. He finally sees the band and he runs. They never let him forget it. The girls had to march. They wore uniforms. We had dress parades. Company eyes right. Company eyes left. March. And then there was a banner for the best marching band. Marching company. One of the girls' companies got the banner. So all the waking hours, all the boys' companies had to spend time practicing close order drills so we could get that pennant back. Well, the...