



—Staff Photos

TRIBUTE—Cadets at VMI place wreaths on the monument, Virginia Mourning Her Dead, in memory of the cadets who fought and died at New Market during the Civil War (left) during yesterday's Marshall Day exercises. Above, General George C. Marshall receives from Governor Battle the Virginia Distinguished Service Medal, the State's highest award.

Marshall's Barber Since 1939 Is Proud Spectator at VMI 'Day'

Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

LEXINGTON, VA., May 15—A man who has given both General Marshall and General MacArthur many a good trimming, was a proud spectator today at VMI's celebration of Marshall Day.

Joseph Abbate, who operates

barber shops at both the Pentagon and at Fort Myer, slipped down from Arlington to watch the men he admires most receive new honors.

He posed with the general for newsreel cameras and then, in answer to reporters' questions, shed some light on the tonsorial qualities of the two great military leaders.

Also Trimmed MacArthur

Abbate personally has cut Marshall's hair since the VMI alumnus became chief of staff in 1939. Earlier, he snipped the MacArthur locks when he was chief of staff.

Marshall, he reports, likes his hair "short in the sideburns and not too long on top."

And MacArthur was "a bit fussy about the sideburns, but very nice and one of the neatest soldiers in the Army."

Abbate figures he's cut Mar-

shall's hair every time it's been cut in the past 11 years, except once when Marshall was overseas too long.

Marshall, says Abbate, never takes any tonic on his hair and he adds, admiringly: "His hair combs better dry than most people's wet."

Abbate wouldn't take sides di-

rectly in the great debate that has Marshall on one side and MacArthur on the other.

But he made his feelings pretty plain:

"President Truman was mistaken," Abbate said. "He said General Marshall is the greatest soldier of our time. I say he's the greatest of all time."