

by Major Commandant W. W. Burrows in a letter of March 25, 1800, wherein he was told to "Discharge these men immediately, give them no more cloaths, and save the public as much as you can".⁷² On May 1, 1800, Edwards was ordered to the frigate Chesapeake;⁷³ but apparently as an officer was more accustomed to giving orders than taking them. There may have been extenuating circumstances; at any rate, the indications are that he remained in Baltimore.

The duel which ended Edwards' life was, according to the correspondence now preserved in the archives of the Marine Corps, the result of a trivial quarrel between Edwards and Lieutenant Lewis, also of the Marines, stationed in Baltimore. Edwards, it seems, was discoursing on the fine appearance of the marines in his command; Lewis mentioned seeing one of Edwards' company on sentry duty, without shoes or stockings, with ragged trousers, flapping hat and rusty musket. Edwards denied it, to quote Lewis, in a "harsh and peremptory manner", and challenged Lewis. They met, and Edwards was shot in the thigh.

Major Commandant Burrows wrote a kind, solicitous letter to Edwards, commending his bravery in the engagement, but could not resist the reproof, "I must

⁷² U. S. Marine corps. Correspondence.

⁷³ Ibid.