

Concentrated Training, Dehydrated Potatoes Ahead For Salem Youths in Army's New Reserve Program

(Editor's Note: Capt. Thomas G. Wright Jr., as commander of Headquarters Battery of Salem's 929th Field Artillery Battalion, was the first of Army Reservists to visit Ft. Ord, Calif., to observe training under the Army's new "six-month program." Wright, who is a Statesman staff member, was detailed by the Army to make the inspection trip. Here is his report on it.)

By THOMAS G. WRIGHT JR., Staff Writer, The Statesman

A generous helping of concentrated training and a taste of dehydrated potatoes are ahead for 73 young Salem area Army reservists who will make up the first sizable contingent of mid-valley men to begin training under the new Reserve Forces Act.

First of the group, representing three Salem reserve units has already departed for Ft. Ord, Calif., which is RFA training center for the Pacific Coast states. At what they can expect in the way of treatment, training and travel was learned last week in a four-day visit to the Monterey Bay area post.

All of the men are in the 17 and 18 1/2 year old class enlisting in the Army Reserve to take six months of active duty training and schooling in the program to build the nation's reserve forces. After completing their tour of duty at Ft. Ord they will return home to complete their military obligation as a member of the reserve unit in which they were enlisted.

Pvt. Harry Davis and Clarence Lang, both of Stayton, Kenneth Van Cleave, Salem, and Willard S. Ferris, Newport, all members of the 258th Engineers, Charles Jayne, Richard Cobb and David Bolton, all of Salem and members of Company K, 412th Infantry Regiment, and Allan Meissner, William Cotner and George F. Jacobson, all of Salem and members of the 929th Field Artillery Battalion, are all scheduled to begin the training this summer.

Delayed training session is ahead for Pvt. William Bateson, also a member of the 929th, who broke

his leg in a fall while fishing last Sunday.

On Schedule
Everything goes on schedule at Ft. Ord where all the trainees get a busy eight weeks of basic training in the fundamentals of being a soldier. Like other Army men their day will begin with dawnlight reveille at 5:30 a.m. Between then and 7 a.m., when their training

day begins, comes the rush of bed-making, breakfast and boot polishing typical of everyone's military experience.

The training itself is designed to give the young men solid, muscle-toughening indoctrination in to ways of the Army and those already taking "basic" at the camp were learning how to shoot, drive, march, hike, do guard duty, take

care of a rifle, pitch a tent, dig a foxhole, etc.

High Qualifications
Training is conducted by a disciplined cadre of officers and non-commissioned officers whose educational qualifications read like the average high school. A majority of the training group holds college degrees, several are West Point graduates, and the commander of

the RFA regiment holds a doctor of philosophy degree from Syracuse University.

Because the program has become a "show window" for the Army, the training group has been handpicked for its duty of giving the trainees a solid military foundation intended, to give new strength to their reserve units at home.

Variety of Activities
While the training schedule doesn't leave too much time for recreation, trainees could look forward to a variety of activities on the post during weekday evenings and on weekend passes.

Ft. Ord facilities offered deep-sea fishing expeditions, a wide variety of athletics and catering to many hobby activities. Nearby and historic Monterey, Carmel-by-the-sea, and the beach resort town of Santa Cruz were attracting weekend soldier visitors last week as well as the larger bay area cities of San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose.

After the eight weeks of basic training the six-month reservists will get two weeks leave at home before reporting to a specialty school of their choice.

This part of the training will take members of the Salem contingent to Army bases all over the U.S. where they will become mechanics, radio technicians, administration specialists, heavy equipment operators, radar operators, cooks, artillery specialists, survey crewmen, etc.

Practice Skills
At the end of this period they'll all be assigned back to Ft. Ord to put their new-found skills into practice.

Trainers, scattered to the four corners of the nation, will be reunited in their old "basic" companies for a final period of on-the-job training. The men from Company K will train with a rifle company like their own here in Salem, those from the 258th Engineers will be farmed out to engineer units, and the men from the 929th Field Artillery will try their technical skills with artillery battalions at the post.

When graduation day comes this winter, the ten will head home again to lend their skills to their home units where they will attend weekly drill for what's left of their eight-year enlistments and to put new emphasis on a large trained reserve instead of a large standing army.



FT. ORD, Calif.—Physical conditioning and a close friendship with the M-1 rifle are a big part of the training for Army Reservists under the new six-month program. Regimented rifles and helmets make an appropriate foreground for the 17-18 1/2 soldiers taking exercises here. A portion of the fort where Salem, Ore., reservists soon will train is shown in the background. Ten of the Salem men will be among several hundred from all over the Pacific Coast area who will report here this summer for six months of training. (Statesman Photo.)

BRITISH SOLDIER SHOT

NICOSIA, Cyprus (U)—A British soldier was shot dead in Larnaca Thursday. He was the 40th serviceman to die in the violence of the union-with-Greece movement.

Some 'Pen Pals' Not Appreciated

SUNDERLAND, Eng. (U)—Without partitions, they complained, letters have to be addressed and stamped in public and British post offices are a happy hunting ground for gossips.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Libya and the Sudan compose the Arab League.

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London Vice Stirs Action By Commons

LONDON (U)—Mounting unrest over organized vice and gang warfare in London stirred the House of Commons Thursday. Members demanded quick action to clean up the capital's underworld.

Richard Raper Stokes, wealthy industrialist and leading Laborite, charged that sex-for-sale girls who walk the London streets are part of a vast international vice network bossed by the Maltese brothers, Eugene and Carmello Messina. He demanded to know what the government was doing about it.

Laborite Arthur Greenwood denounced the capital's race gangs as a flock of "squalid, cowardly, small-time hoodlums," and demanded police action against them.

Home Secretary Maj. Gwilym Lloyd-George declared the police were giving "close and urgent attention" to crimes of violence. He dismissed as "nonsense" a Laborite charge the public might soon lose confidence in Scotland Yard.

Even as Lloyd George spoke, Yard detectives arrested Jack Jack Comer—self-styled gang leader known to London's underworld as Jack Spot. He was charged with razor-slashing a bookmaker named Thomas Falco, henchman of a rival outfit.

Grants Pass to Have New City Manager Aug. 1

GRANTS PASS (U)—Effective August 1, this Southern Oregon city will have a new city manager—Hugh McKinley, 37, who has held a similar post at Sutherlin since Sept. 23, 1953.

The City Council Wednesday night confirmed McKinley's selection to succeed John F. Porter, who resigned earlier this month to become city manager in Corvallis.

The council also approved appointment of Robert Sarstensen, 30, as city engineer. He had been assistant city engineer. He succeeds Robert Laursen, who will become city manager of Truth or Consequences, N. M.

200 Bridge Experts Due in Salem Tournament Today

The year's biggest contract bridge event in Salem will start today in tournament play by some 200 expert duplicate bridge players from the entire Pacific Coast area.

This is a major bridge tourney under direction of American Contract Bridge League which awards honors for winners here and points for the top players in this nationally recognized competition.

The tournament will begin at 1:30 p.m. today and will continue Saturday and Sunday at the Salem Elks Building.

Three Championships
First of the three championships to be decided is scheduled for 8 o'clock tonight, but the good will pairs, open to all groups, will be run off at 1:30 this afternoon to

Utilities End Feuding Over 2 Dam Sites

WENATCHEE (U)—A "declaration of peace" was issued here Thursday by the two public utility districts which have been feuding over two Columbia River dam sites.

Commissioners of neighboring Douglas and Chelan County PUD's declared they will adhere to a "harmonious and active working relationship toward development of our water resources to the joint interests of both districts."

Several weeks ago the Douglas district filed a protest with the Federal Power Commission over the Chelan PUD's proposed Rocky Reach project, to be built a short distance upstream from Wenatchee. The Douglas commissioners contended the pool behind Rocky Reach would interfere with Douglas County's proposed Wells Dam.

The joint statement said the two public power agencies agree both dams are needed for the best development of the river and the area. They said they will "accept and abide by the decision of the FPC."

The FPC decision is expected soon.
About four million Americans play the guitar.

start the three-day event. Proceeds from this session go to the American Heart fund.
Even more participants are expected to show up Saturday when the two-session open pairs championship is scheduled, while the final title event, teams-of-four, has been set for Sunday afternoon and evening.
Single sessions for both seniors and juniors will be held each afternoon and evening. Buffet supper will be served all players following the Saturday evening tournaments.

Ranking Players
While many life masters and other highly ranked players from Portland, Seattle, Tacoma and other northwest points are to compete in the sectional championships, chief interest will center on Don Oake of San Francisco, a member of the 1954 international team that brought back the world title in a week-long clash with European champions. Many others from California also have sent in entries for various events.

In charge of the local event, which has been growing in interest yearly since being established in 1949, are the Salem committee of the American Contract Bridge League, consisting of Chairman William E. Kinsey, Mrs. George Rein, Mrs. Elaine Oshurn, Mrs. C. B. Benton and Norman Hogenesen. Directors are Mr. and Mrs. Ellis H. Jones, while a special scoring group has been named to help compile the results.

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