

# WAACs Here To Take Over Office Tasks

By T/4 GEORGE S. FLY

Not in the least weary, despite a long train ride from Arkansas, the first detachment of WAACs assigned for duty at Camp Abbot arrived in Bend Monday afternoon. They were joined the following day by 24 more and were quartered temporarily at the Gilchrist hotel which had been taken over by the Army for this specific purpose.

Four officers and 76 auxiliaries are scheduled to arrive Friday and Saturday. Their arrival will bring total strength of the detachment to 143 auxiliaries and four officers. Two officers and 46 auxiliaries were scheduled to arrive from Fort Des Moines Friday, and 23 auxiliaries from Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and two officers and 17 auxiliaries will complete the roster of the detachment when they arrive Saturday afternoon.

More than half of the group of 33 arriving Monday were Auxiliaries First Class, corresponding in grade to a private first class in the Army. This section of the detachment recently finished a special administrative course at the Arkansas Polytechnic College at Russellville. The remainder of the group came from Monticello, Ark., branch of the Fifth WAAC Training Center.

All were enthusiastic over their assignment to Camp Abbot. The majority of both contingents was from eastern states and the snow-capped peaks caught the girls' eyes immediately.

Trained especially for administrative work, they are expected to release general service men for combat duty.

The first to arrive were moved to a barrack at Camp Abbot Wednesday. They will remain here until special barracks in the hospital area are completed. In the meantime, they live the same life as enlisted men, occupying double deck bunks and firing their own stoves. Not one was abashed by this turn to living under field conditions. "We like it—and how," was the consensus.

The fact they would be stationed 18 miles from the nearest town was not in the least disconcerting.

"We were surprised to find a town as nice as Bend near the camp," several auxiliaries said. They also were pleased they had been assigned to an Engineer Replacement Training Center.

WAACs arrived at Camp Abbot one day after the first anniversary of the corps' organization. The corps now has more

## Here's a Preview of Abbot Training



Released by U. S. War Department Bureau of Public Relations  
**ENGINEERS LAND IN NEW GUINEA**—Here is a typical scene of American soldiers landing men and equipment for the Corps of Engineers on the tropical beaches of the Southwest Pacific.

than 60,000 members and five training centers fully staffed by WAAC officers. WAAC members serve in nearly 100 army posts in the United States as well as at stations in North Africa and England. Auxiliaries arriving at Camp Abbot were among the first ever to be sent to a newly-activated camp.

Arrangements for the arrival of the groups was in charge of First Officer Ruth Donaldson, assistant chief of the WAAC branch, Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah.

### Two PX's Open For Business In Camp

At present there are two PX's in operation on Group Ave., and within a week, eight canteens will be created in rec halls for the benefit of Camp Abbot soldiers, according to Lt. D. B. McClure, exchange officer.

Two additional PX's, measuring 20 by 100 feet, will be completed by Sept. 1. Units also will be established in the post hospital and for officers and WAACs.

Prices for staple merchandise available at present are 13 cents for tailor mades, candy bars, four cents, cokes, a nickel and 3.2 at a dime and 15 cents.

Eventually, when PX's are in full operation, they will stock a complete array of goods to benefit their trade slogan as "GI department stores."

A girl is a pleasant dinner companion when she makes you think she is taking dinner with you and not from you.

### MORE ABOUT Post Activated

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neer, announced that crews of workmen were concentrating on finishing buildings in the Group treas, surfacing roads, installing utilities and putting finishing touches on numerous training sites situated throughout the 30,000 acre garrison.

Maj. Merle E. Wilson, C.E., was the resident engineer in charge of work at the ERTC. Lt. Col. A. D. Harvey, C.E., directed the Bend Area office as area engineer.

Mr. Robert W. Sawyer, publisher of the Bend "Bulletin" is responsible for the naming of Camp Abbot. On Aug. 14, 1942, Col. Richard Park, district engineer from the Portland area visited Bend to select a site and met Mr. Sawyer.

"I have just the site you have in mind," the white-haired publisher, lawyer and historian said. He took Col. Park on a tour of the present camp, locally known as the Shonquest ranch property. The colonel seemed pleased.

"Then name it after Brig. Gen. Henry L. Abbot," he said. It was. Camp Abbot is laid out on a level stretch of terrain, about 4,300 feet above sea level on the east bank of the world-famed trout-filled Deschutes river.

In various sectors of the cantonment are tactical areas, floating bridges and river crossings

training sites, anti-tank demolition spots, night training territory, fixed bridge locations, demolition velts, fortification obstacles, bayonet courts, and a large review field, east of the Echelon center.

Camp Abbot is destined to become the largest of the three ERTC installations in the country. It will attain its peak of trainees in early September. Recruits will receive 12-weeks' of arduous and varied military and engineering training.

Thus the men who display the castle ensigne will graduate and another contingent arrive to learn how to construct and demolish bridges, prepare landing fields, eliminate obstacles, destroy mine fields, wire entanglements and construct camouflage settings—will be prepared to join fellow Yanks in building a bridge to Berlin and Tokyo to achieve "the inevitable triumph."

### Coiled Ropes Added To ERTC Field Uniforms

If Abbotmen think their full field pack is weighty at present, wait till they attach individual training ropes to their ammunition belts.

A recent training memorandum announced that coiled ropes will be a permanent item of the pack. The rope will be coiled around the canteen and the ends will be held secure with marine.

I was lit up once. I was so lit up the air-raid warden had to take me home under an umbrella.

## Col. Bond Heads 12th ERTC Group

Three battalions—the 55th, 56th and 57th—form the 12th Group of which Col. Aubrey H. Bond is commanding officer and Lt. Col. Alvin M. Mock is executive officer.

Assisting Col. Bond are the following members of his executive staff: Lt. Warren J. Neilman, adjutant; 2nd Lt. Haines C. Kolehmainen, assistant adjutant; Capt. Ernest W. McNeil, Jr., S-1; 2nd Lt. Edward H. Irwin, S-2; Maj. Merle L. Gurbreath, S-3; Capt. James E. Campbell, S-4; 1st Lt. Frank M. Keane, assistant S-4, and 1st Lt. Wayne B. Leitzell, Special Services officer.

## Bend USO Is Mecca For All Abbotmen

Mecca for all Camp Abbotmen when on pass in Bend is the USO on Wall street in the heart of the town.

Under the able leadership of "Colonel" Bob Titus, the Bend USO has kept pace with the activation of the Army's newest ERTC.

Nightly it is a haven for hundreds of Engineer and SCU service men who visit the attractive clubhouse for "coffee and," write letters, read current magazines, books and newspapers, cut a few rugs with any of the 75 attractive Junior Hostesses, visit with friends or just relax.

In the near future, the "Colonel" said, approximately \$7000 will be spent to completely remodel the present site and convert it into one of the most beautiful and best equipped USO centers in the northwest. There's something doing every night and the kind ladies of Bend and merchants are cooperating splendidly to make Abbotmen feel like at home. The Bend USO is operated by the National Catholic Community Service.

## Red Cross Office Established Here

Soldiers stationed at Camp Abbot will find a trained field director of the American Red Cross on duty here to assist in solving any problems that may confront them. Temporary quarters are in Building 854 on Third avenue, between E and F streets. Frank J. Dunning is in charge. When a new wing being built on Post Headquarters is completed, the Red Cross will have permanent quarters in that building.

Too bad. He was a window washer and he stepped back to admire his work.



**GATEWAY CITY TO THE CASCADE VACATIONLAND** is Bend, situated at the threshold of a great scenic empire that includes world-famous Crater Lake, some 200 crystal-clear mountain lakes, snow-capped mountains, 150 miles of the famed Deschutes river, a thousand miles of dashing trout streams, great glaciers, evergreen forests and lush mountain meadows. Okay, so we've been

shooting the breeze with Mr. Don H. Peoples, genial secretary of the Bend Chamber of Commerce. The townspeople are very friendly, love to invite soldiers to dinner. Entertainment facilities are plentiful. Prices are within reason. Round-trip bus tickets cost 50 cents. Oh yeah, the girls are pretty!