

# ABBOT ENGINEER

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## Abbot M. P. Awarded Purple Heart



**PROUD SOLDIER**—The contagious smile belongs to Sgt. Deryl E. Butters, attached to the MP branch, SCU 1973, shown in Walter E. Reed hospital, Washington, D. C., after being awarded the Purple Heart for "bravery in the African campaign." The attractive Army Nurse pauses to offer her congratulations. He was hospitalized from Nov. 26, 1942 to Feb. 4, 1943—(U. S. Army Photo.)

## Sgt. Butters Wins Purple Heart Medal

MP Awarded Honor For Bravery in African Battle by Gen. McNair

A husky, dauntless Camp Abbot military policeman—23-year-old Sgt. Deryl E. Butters—is entitled to wear the "Order of Military Merit—the Badge of the Purple Heart"—second oldest decoration for valor in the world.

The enlisted soldier, former resident of Maynard, Iowa, was awarded the Purple Heart on Dec. 8, 1942, at Walter Reed hospital in Washington, D. C. while recuperating from severe burns and shrapnel wounds suffered "in African waters when his ship was torpedoed."

Oddly enough, the officer who pinned the decoration on his G. I. pajamas, Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair, chief of the Army Ground Forces, was recently awarded the medal for bravery in the North African campaign.

"That was the happiest moment of my life," the Abbot soldier says. "Gen. McNair asked me when I would be able to return to duty and I told him 'as soon as my burns were healed.'" Sgt. Butters "sweated it out" in the hospital until last Feb. 4, when he was transferred to Camp White, Ore., and arrived at Abbot about five weeks ago. He won his three-stripes on April 16 and is assigned to the Bend patrol of the camp's military police.

The 225-pound, eagle-eyed shot is reticent in talking about his experience in the African campaign.

"When the war's over there will be time to shoot the breeze," he added. "Right now, there's plenty of work to do."

It is sufficient to say that Sgt. Butters is entitled to wear the Purple Heart with decent pride, proud of the fortitude he displayed as he was hurled into a grimy ocean at midnight and, despite burns and wounds, swam 300 yards before being rescued.

Hitler's rats can't beat Yanks like Sgt. Butters and the thousands of American soldiers who are daubing the ex-third rate house-painter with brilliant Red, White and Blue victories.

## Message Unit Is Camp's Nerve Center

By CPL. HARLAN WEEKS

Someone once said that it is hard to please all of the people all of the time but that is just about what T/S William V. Hanson, post message center sergeant major, is trying to do in his vital position as chief of the "nerve center" of Camp Abbot.

Bill, as he is known to many of the enlisted men at Abbot, is an old timer at the job because he held a similar job at the ERTC headquarters at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for a year. He took over that message center in May, 1942 and built it up to the enviable reputation it now holds as a center for accuracy and speed in handling of official documents.

At Camp Abbot, Sgt. Hanson is installing the same principles and whipping his staff into the same efficient machine it was at Fort Leonard Wood.

Bill was inducted into the United States Army on July 22, 1941 from Los Angeles through Fort MacArthur and was sent to Fort Wood for his basic training in the Engineer Corps. Although he was inducted from L. A. his home is in Cheyenne, Wyo. He started his basic training on July 31, 1941 and upon completion of 13 weeks, Sgt. Hanson was transferred to HQ Co., where he served as company clerk for several months before being promoted to personnel sergeant. In May of last year he was called to take the

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### WHY THE WAAC'S ARE HERE

The WAAC's are coming not merely to release men for the fighting fronts; they are improving on their jobs. They appear to thrive on the diet of administrative detail and technical duties, the same "paper work" which stifled men hungry for action.

With proper training and experience they are checking superchargers and clearing fuel lines of our fighters and bombers. They become photo lab technicians, weather observers, medical technicians and cryptographers.

The list could go on at length but it is enough to state that the present expected use of women covers 142 different job titles, and these are exclusive of officers.

Many of the jobs are new . . . as new and unique as this U. S. Army. Women must be trained for them, just as were men before the women's corps was started.

On the other hand, many of the jobs parallel those which women have held down for many years in industry and in the professions. And the women who come into the Army from these are extremely valuable. Their training and ability on the broad average is superior to that of men holding down the same jobs, for they had to be good enough to break down the barrier that erroneously labeled so many occupations a "man's job."

Just as that barrier crumbles in civilian life under the direct fire of superior ability, so it is collapsing in our Armed Forces. Wherever the WAAC's have gone on duty they have done such a top-notch job that there are not enough available to meet the demand for their services. And in the final analysis, that reaction is the proof of their success.

## Biography of Abbot, Camp Founder, Begins in This Issue

Distinguished Army Engineer Visited Present ERTC Site in 1855 While Making R. R. Survey

This condensed biography of Brig. Gen. Henry Larcom Abbot, for whom America's newest Engineer Replacement Training Center is named, is published for the enlightenment of all Camp Abbot personnel. We are indebted to the publishers of the Dictionary of American Biography for this authentic review, marking the first of two articles to appear in the Abbot ENGINEER. It was on Sept. 2, 1855, while leading a detached party of Army Engineers on one project of the Pacific Railroad Survey, Gen. Abbot camped on the bank of the Deschutes river which flows through the heart of the camp.

HENRY LARCOM ABBOT (Aug. 13, 1831—Oct. 1, 1927), Army Engineer, was a descendant of George Abbot, who emigrated from England in 1640 and of Mordecai Larcom, who came from France twelve years later. Two of his great-grandfathers served in the Revolutionary War: Major Abiel Abbot and Lieut. Joseph Hale. Henry L. Abbot was born at Beverly, Mass., the son of Joseph Hale and Fanny Ellingwood (Larcom) Abbot, and brother of Francis Ellingwood Abbot (q.v.) He attended the Boston Latin School and then West Point Military Academy, where he was graduated in 1854. He was married in April 1858 to Mary Susan Everett of Cambridge, Mass. For two years after his graduation from West Point, Abbot was assistant on the survey for a Pacific railroad, in command of the party which surveyed the route through California and Oregon which was later adopted. In 1857, then a lieutenant, he was appointed to the task of assisting Capt. A. A. Humphreys (q.v.) of the Corps of Engineers in an investigation of the questions of flood protection and channel improvements along the lower Mississippi. Their joint report upon the Physics and Hydraulics of the Mississippi River (1861), which advocated the partial control of floods by means of levees, "was received by the engineers of the world as a most valuable

### Bend USO to Get \$20,000 Overhaul

There was much rejoicing in Bend's USO—haven of all Abbotmen—when news arrived that the Federal Works Administration had recommended an expenditure of \$20,000 for the renovation and furnishing of the servicemen's center. Final action on the suggestion will be taken in Washington, D. C.

"That's the best news I've ever heard," said smiling, hard-working "Colonel" Bob Titus, director.

One of the largest crowds in history of the three-week old USO attended last Saturday night's gala dance when refreshments were served to more than 1000 Abbotmen and nearly 100 WAAC's.

Committees of senior and junior hostesses are in the midst of formulating nightly programs for the entertainment of enlisted personnel stationed here.

contribution to the science of hydraulics, and remains a standard authority on the regimen of the Mississippi River" ("The Problem of the Mississippi," by Major-General W. M. Black, North American Review, December 1927.) In 1869 further reports were submitted by Humphreys and Abbot on the same question.

(To Be Continued)

"How are you feeling?"  
"Well, I feel much more like I do now that I did this morning."

## Veteran Pastor Arrives for Duty

Veteran of 22 years as a pastor in various Massachusetts cities, Chaplain (1st Lieut.) David I. Segerstrom became the third "sky pilot" assigned to direct religious endeavors at Camp Abbot.

Four weeks ago he was graduated from the Chaplains' School at Harvard University and Abbot is his first assignment. For the past three years he occupied a pastorate in the Union Congregational Church at Andover, Mass.

"I'm extremely delighted with the appearance of the camp," Chaplain Segerstrom said. "This is, indeed, God's country."

He is a graduate from Boston University, receiving a B. S. and M. A. His theological studies were pursued in North Park Seminary, Chicago, and graduate studies at the University of Chicago and Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass.

## Phone Calls Now Made From Abbot

Camp Abbotmen wondering how they might transmit telephone messages to their families, were offered these aids this week.

Here's the procedure for placing that long distance telephone call:

From 0800 to 1800 all personal calls must be placed over the pay station in the PX, Building 755.

From 1800 to 2000 officers may place calls over official phones providing they are collect, but enlisted men and officers placing prepaid calls must use the pay station in the PX.

## CAMP ABBOT CHURCH RITES

Sunday, May 30, 1943

**Catholic Services**  
Catholic Services will be held at 0900, Sunday, May 30. Confessions before Mass at 0830.

**Protestants**  
Protestant Services will be held on Sunday, May 30, at 1030 and at 1930.

**Jewish Services**  
Jewish Services will be held Friday, May 28, at 1845.

All services to be held in Chapel No. 754 on Third Ave. All are urged to attend.

### WAAC MESS HALL OPENS

WAAC mess hall opened Thursday on temporary "WAAC Row". WAAC's have been eating at Hq. Co. SCU 1973 for the past week.

Graduates of Cooks and Bakers School at Daytona Beach, Fla. arrived at Camp Abbot recently and have everything in readiness for a mess hall operated solely by and for WAAC personnel.

## Blisters Wept As Choppers Slashed

The sharp ring of steel . . . the crackle of pine chips as they flew from the bark of pine trees, sounded in the area west of ERTC rifle ranges last Sunday. These sounds heralded the initial meeting of the Paul Bunyan Woodchoppers Society of Camp Abbot.

Colonel and private alike, both rolled up their sleeves, and took up pioneer tools in the society's campaign to salvage big timber from behind the rifle ranges before firing fills the huge trunks with bullets. The cry "Timber" was sounded many times during the course of the afternoon, as trees from 14 inch to 42 inch in diameter crashed down. "There is much unfinished work yet to be done," said Lt. Col. C. G. Kustner, the society's "Bull Dozer," today after scrutinizing the weeping blisters on his hands.

Three WAACs stationed at Camp Abbot were invited to attend the initial meeting, but they bashfully declined the invitation to show up the basic membership.

## The Chaplain's COLUMN

By Chaplain Vernon C. Cooley

It is not an unknown fact that when people find themselves faced with grave danger, they turn to religion. The famous statement "There are no atheists in foxholes" is undeniable proof that when the possibility of death is near, hardened men plead for Divine Aid. Under such circumstances, the preservation of life becomes paramount and rash promises are made in the hope that life might be preserved.

Our government has seen fit to spend millions of dollars to make religious facilities available to the members of the armed forces. Thanks to our form of government, it is "made available" and not forced upon us. It is the aim of the Chaplains Corps to see that every member of the Army has the opportunity to take care of his religious needs. Camp Abbot is fortunate to have three Chapels with trained personnel to man them. The Chapels are yours to use. You are welcome at any time and they are never closed. The Chaplain is your friend. Use him as such.

Why wait until you get into a foxhole? Visit your Chapel and Chaplain now. You are always welcome!

### EGO ON PARADE

Did you hear about the sergeant on maneuvers who pep-talked his men thus: "Now remember that maneuvers develop individuality, initiative and leadership. Now get going and do exactly as I tell you."