

Wacs Praised For Decision To Enter Army

The WAC's are in the Army now. At Retreat last Friday, and in the presence of Col. Frank S. Besson, post commander, Mrs. Besson and other officers of headquarters staff, the feminine soldiers surrendered the last opportunity for that feminine prerogative of changing their minds and becoming civilians again. For from now on they will be soldiers.

Standing smartly at attention, they were addressed briefly by the commanding officer before being sworn into the armed forces as enlisted members of the Womens' Army Corps by Capt. Dudley S. Triplett. Col. Besson congratulated the detachment members on their decision to enter the Army. He cited his own daughter, Lt. Jean Besson, who has enlisted after a year's service with the organization as a WAAC.

Now that the WAC's are GI, a problem has arisen which heretofore hadn't presented itself—what to do about throwing them in the guardhouse, known throughout the Army as Hotel 33. No accommodations are available for women—at least not yet, according to the provost marshal. However, as members of the WAAC, their behavior was such that use of the guardhouse now for possible recalcitrants is not anticipated.

Mail (not male) is free to the WAC's for the duration. No longer must the gals scamper about in search of a three-cent stamp. The serial number, which is preceded by the letter A, will remain unchanged, as will the distinctive insignia, Pallas Athene, worn on the lapels and cap. They will now be known as enlisted women. Since men are known as "dogfaces" maybe the women will be known as "cat-faces."

Although the WACs are a regular component of the army now, they are a part of the Army of the United States—the same organization that welcomed many men—via the draft.

Red Cross to Use Planes for Work

American Red Cross field directors at Camp Abbot who are handling affairs for maneuver troops in addition to these of the camp personnel, may be veteran plane passengers by the time the war games end in November.

When Lt. Gen. Leslie McNair, chief of the Army Ground Forces, visited the maneuver area last week he ordered that no neutral cars be permitted to pass from behind either of the two opposing armies during progress of tactical problems. Accordingly, Frank Dunning, Red Cross field director in charge, made arrangements with an air force liaison squadron, whose camp is near the post, for aerial travel when necessary. Dunning also announced opening of a Red Cross office in Burns, in addition to one on the post in the IV Corps headquarters area.

INSPECTOR GENERAL HERE

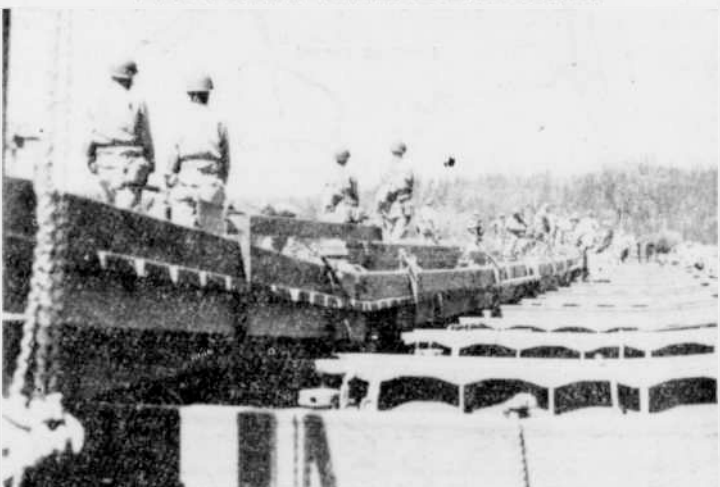
Lt. Col. C. M. Butler, Inspector General for the Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah, was a recent visitor to the post. The mission of the Inspector General is to inquire into and report upon all matters that affect the efficiency and economy of the Army. The office of Inspector General dates from December 13, 1777—over a century and a half ago.

BESSON TESTS NEW COURSE



—Photo By Vincent, Post Photographer
When the new infiltration course at Camp Abbot was introduced as a phase of training recently, Col. Frank S. Besson (above), Post Commander, was one of the first to run the hazardous maze. Accompanied by other field and staff officers, Col. Besson, his faithful pipe in his mouth, wriggled through barbed wire entanglements while machine guns sprayed bullets overhead and land mines shot geysers of earth skyward.

VICTORY BRIDGEWORK



—Photo by Vincent, Post Photographer
Engineer trainees at Camp Abbot are shown constructing a ponton bridge at the Engineer Replacement Training Center's wooton school. These bridges are similar to those which army engineer soldiers were cited for building in a few hours to hasten the Sicilian advance, after German units had destroyed all bridges in the path of the conquerors.

Abbot Officer's Relatives Live Under Japanese Rule

His homeland, including his mother and all known relatives in hands of the Japanese, Capt. Jose Marquez, in charge of the Post Quartermaster Repair Shop, had little reason to be happy when the anniversary of his 24 years of service in the Army rolled around last Saturday. But he was happy in the fact that he was serving in the Army which will eventually wrest the Philippine from the men of Nippon.

Capt. Marquez is the only Filipino officer at Camp Abbot, and has achieved his present post by reason of his special aptitude shown in the ranks during his more than two decades of service. Nine years of his service was as a member of the Philippine Scouts, first in the infantry, and later in the quartermaster corps, the branch of service in which he was commissioned.

His first assignment after entering the Regular Army, following his service with the Philippine Scouts, was an assignment at Alcatraz, now a Federal prison for desperadoes, but at that time a military disciplinary barracks. He attended the Army Quartermaster School, Philadelphia, Pa., in 1930, and was promoted to a staff sergeant. He was elevated to Master Sergeant in 1940 and made Warrant Officer, February 11, 1941, the permanent rank he holds in the Regular Army establishment. He was commissioned first lieutenant in May, 1942, and promoted to captain in December of the same year. Previous to his as-

signment here he was on duty at the Prisoner of War Camp, Florence, Ariz.

Capt. Marquez was born at San Carlos, on the Island of Negros, in the Philippines.

Single Bunks A War Horror For Poetic GI

At a recent convention of American furniture manufacturers, it was announced that returning soldiers will prefer sleeping in single beds.—News item.

Though we honor your sincerity And doubt not your intention, We're sure you all were filled with dope At your lately held convention.

Was it coke or marijuana That caused you guys to say That a soldier likes to solo When each night he hits the hay?

We're used to crowding in a plane And cramming in a jeep But a bed's a different matter— And we won't go there to sleep.

Gentlemen take this good advice And tell your corporations That we will want plenty of room For offensive operations.

—Sgt. W. Max Scherer, New Guinea.

The instructor issued his final warning to handle anti-tank grenades with extreme care. A candidate arose and asked facetiously, "What, sir, is the 'school solution' if you drop a grenade?" The instructor, wagging a finger, replied unhesitatingly: "You'll become a letter etched in black, or shall we say—to be more explicit—you'll become a statistic."

Maj. Keene to Retire After Four Decades of Service

After a tour of military duty covering a span of more than four decades, the Army will retire Major Ernest H. Keene, head of the Rents and Claims Board at Camp Abbot, on September 30. Although his service has not been continuous, Major Keene first entered the armed forces July 4, 1901. Even previous to that date he had been a member of a school cadet corps for three years.

Seems like whenever the country found itself with a war emergency on its hands Major Keene was sent for. After 15 years as a national guard member he was "retired" Nov. 16, 1916. Came the World war 1, however, and he was called back, this time into Federal service, and during that conflict served until 1920. He was a member of the U. S. Army Reserve Corps from 1924 and came the present conflict with Tojo and Hitler he was once more back in an important post, first as Director of Administration, Pittsburgh, Cal., Replacement Depot.

When the large scale North-west maneuvers were conceived in the minds of the General Staff, Major Keene was designated by the Commanding General of the Ninth Service Command to assemble the territory, an acreage

larger than recently conquered Sicily, for the war games troops. He established an office at Camp Abbot June 21 and with Lts. John R. Lindsey and Harold S. Cole, drove countless miles over mountain and desert to arrange for trespassing on private property by troops. In addition his office has handled such claims as necessarily arise in connection with such vast troop movements.

But Army Regulations—the bane of officers as well as enlisted men, sometimes—caught up with him and he will leave the service under the ruling that officers beyond the age of 60 must go into retirement.

Shedding the uniform of his country which he has served so faithfully, and for so long, is not going unnoticed. Already he has received a warm personal letter from Lt. Gen. Breron B. Somervell, commanding general of the Army Service Forces, and Maj. Gen. Kenyon A. Joyce, commanding general of the Ninth Service Command, said of such officers: "It has been through your generous efforts and devotion to duty that this command has accomplished its part in the stupendous task which the war has imposed on all elements of the armed forces."

Top Kick Recalls Film Cutie's Hug

When 1st Sgt. Fred A. Bode of Company B, 53rd Battalion, saw "The Falcon in Danger" at the Post theatre recently, it brought back pleasant memories. While stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Bode went to the movie colony on furlough, visited the "Falcon" set and had his picture taken in the embrace of the leading lady. Bode has the picture to prove his story, but there must be something wrong with the guy—he doesn't even remember her name.

WAC TO OSC

Corporal Lois H. Smith, Wac Co., formerly of the Special Service Office, left Tuesday for Officers' Candidate School at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, where she will begin her training on September 11. Corporal Smith is the second Wac from this post to receive appointment to the women's officer school.

Col. Crandall to Address State Medics at Portland

"Observations of a Medical Officer in the South Pacific Area," will be the subject of an address to be given by Col. Frank G. Crandall, Jr., commanding officer of Camp Abbot Station Hospital, on the program of the Oregon State Medical Society, Portland, this weekend.

Col. Crandall was one of the first medical officers to step foot on Guadalcanal, being member of a group of medical officers sent to the Solomons to establish base hospitals when the island was being wrested from the Japanese by soldiers and marines.

MEDICS SPONSOR DANCE

A dance for members of the Medical Detachment of the Station Hospital was held in the Red Cross Recreation Hall Monday night. Members of the Wac Company were guests. Music was provided by a Medical unit orchestra here for maneuvers.



"I think you'll find Pvt. Smith's morale considerably better, Colonel."