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CAMP ABBOT, OREGON

Saturday, Sept. 11, 1943

# Training Cycle Extended!

## Medical Chief Tells of Work In S.W. Pacific

Published reports that the Army and Navy medical officers were at odds in the opening campaign of conquest in the South Pacific were branded as false by Col. Frank G. Crandall, Jr., commander of Station Hospital, at Camp Abbot, in a speech before the Oregon State Medical Society at Portland last Saturday.

On the contrary, the Camp Abbot officer told his audience, all medical plans of both forces were worked out by the senior officer of both branches of the service working together.

The mortality among casualties evacuated to the Army and unbelievable in that area and been due mainly to three factors, Col. Crandall said. He cited use of blood plasma and of sulphamide drugs, both locally and internally, and efficient organization of medical service, as the reasons for the low figure.

The hospital commander observed that there is a prevalence of tropical diseases among the U. S. armed forces, particularly in the Solomon Island group, and he said dysentery was prevalent in all South Pacific areas. Quinine, he pointed out, was practically unobtainable and Atabrine is used generally as a substitute. A large percentage of the men have not been actually ill with clinical malaria, but have been exposed to it in numerous instances and when they were returned to the mainland for treatment in general hospitals for war wounds, developed clinical malaria, Col. Crandall added.

He emphasized that since the malaria carrying type of mosquito is prevalent in Oregon that he felt from a public health standpoint every step possible should be taken to eliminate and

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## Wacs Get Medals At Formal Fete

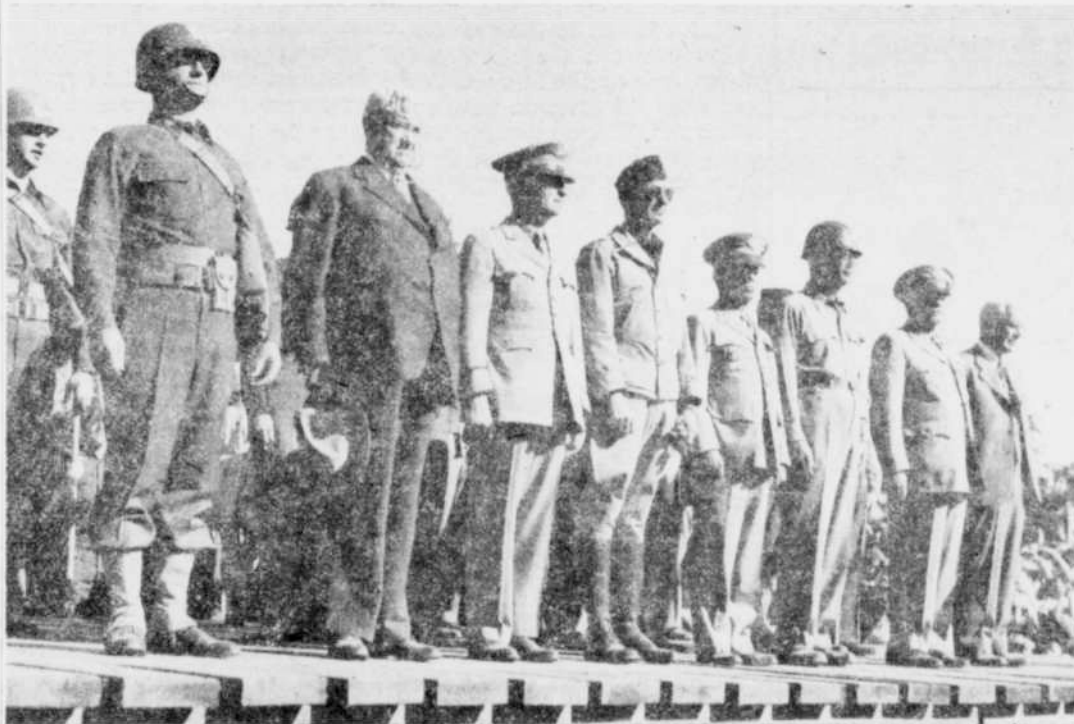
Members of the WAC company were participants in their first formal military parade at Retreat Friday when they passed in review in front of Col. Frank S. Besson, post commander, and his staff.

The occasion was presentation of the WAC Service Medals (ribbons until after the war) to feminine soldiers who chose to reenlist when the name of this Army unit was changed from WAAC.

The WAC ribbon is of rayon moire, of the same size as other service ribbons, and has a moss green center with old gold edges at each end.

It was the first demonstration of WAC drilling as an individual unit to music of the post band and the company made an excellent showing, according to reviewing officers.

## DEDICATION DIGNITARIES



Distinguished military figures, and prominent citizens of Oregon, view Camp Abbot troops marching in review at dedication ceremonies. Left to right are Col Aubrey H. Bond, 12th group commander; U. S. Senator Rufus Holman, Portland; Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Robins, assistant chief of engineers; Maj. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, Jr., commander IV Corps; Brig. Gen. Warren Hannum, Pacific Division; Col Frank S. Besson, Post Commander; Lt. Col. Ralph Tudor, District Engineer, Portland, and Robert W Sawyer, Publisher, Bend Bulletin. Photo by Vincent, Post Photographer.

## 3,000 Visitors Tour Post As New ERTC Dedicated

In a ceremony marked by its simplicity, Camp Abbot — the Army's newest Engineer Replacement Training Center—was formally dedicated last Thursday. More than 3,000 visitors streamed through the entrance gate of the camp, established to train combat engineer troops, to view first hand, training activities, demonstrations of combat, and hear high Army officials and civilians extoll the memory of the late Brig. Gen. Henry Larcom Abbot, in whose honor the camp was named.

Earlier in the day hundreds of the great conclave, which gathered for the official dedication ceremony, had attended dedication of Station Hospital to hear the new modern medical institution established amid the peaks of the Cascades lauded by visiting medical men of more than local renown. Here too, they witnessed raising of a new Red Cross flag, that symbol of mercy which floats from the staff at every station hospital.

A seemingly unending stream of motor cars wound across the vast meadow separating the buildings of the camp proper from the swiftly flowing Deschutes river which winds through the post, to see a demonstration of combat. Fledgling engineer soldiers crossed a stream in assault boats while machine guns spurted bullets over their heads. Visitors saw the men, but a few weeks out of peaceful civilian life, clamber up the river bank,, dash through clouds of smoke from exploding mines and then capture a simulated enemy beachhead as thunderous explosions shook the surrounding terrain. They passed

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## Milk Deliveries To Post Resumed

Camp Abbot began receiving fresh milk again Sunday after its supply had been cut off for about 10 days as a result of a milk shortage in the state and the reluctance of distant dairy concerns to supply this post when more favorable markets could be found nearer at hand. The problem of obtaining milk had been anticipated by the Supply and Service Division, however, and Post larders were stocked with a 30-day supply of the canned variety.

Supply and Service Division officials attempted to alleviate the shortage here as soon as supplies were cut off. Lt. Col. Merrill A. Pimentel went to Salt Lake City by plane to confer

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## No More to Be Released From Army Because of Age

Men who have reached the age of 38 will not hereafter be released from the Army because of age. The provisions for discharge of men who had reached the age of 38 on or before February 28, 1943, has expired, according to officers in charge of the personnel division.

## NEW WAC ARRIVES HERE

T/5 Pansy O. Belcher, who has been assigned to Montana on recruiting duty, has reported to the Wac company here for duty. She has been assigned to Station Hospital.

## Stars Hell! It Takes a Permit

When someone gives Pvt. Edith Thompson of the Wac Company an order the devil himself couldn't get her to disobey it.

Pvt. Thompson works in the Quartermaster purchase warehouse. A few days ago a general came in to buy a pair of coveralls. Pvt. Thompson said she couldn't sell them to officers without a permit.

The general protested. The Wac was adamant. Everyone else was faint. Here was a woman robbing strategy of its meaning, a general of his coveralls and the whole outfit of its peace of mind.

"Well, who the hell made that rule and where the hell do you get a permit?" the general asked. He knew when he was licked.

"Major Hayes," replied the Wac.

"Major, eh?" the general said and departed in search of a more understanding audience.

A short time later he got his coveralls—but he had a permit.

## Commander of Service Company Is Promoted

Its Capt. Fred B. Hohenhorst now!

The popular and energetic commander of Service Company, E. R. T. C., SCU No. 1973, was notified of his promotion from first lieutenant Wednesday, effective as of Sept. 3.

Capt. Hohenhorst has supervision over more men than any other commander on the post.

Other promotions to captain were: Lts. John V. Banks, Vernon E. Vrana, William F. Ward. Promoted to first lieutenant was Lt. Theodore E. Pennington.

## Three Weeks On New Unit Problems Set

The training cycle at Camp Abbot has been extended to 19 weeks, 17 of which will be spent exclusively in conditioning trainees for combat engineer units, it was disclosed yesterday.

The new schedule will have as an added feature three weeks of unit training and will involve working as units on simulated battle problems both on the post and areas adjacent to it. This phase of training will, in reality, be the same as that undertaken in specialized maneuvers.

The program, according to Lt. Col. Clarence L. Douglas training division director, will include six weeks of basic training, eight weeks of tactical and technical instruction, while the latter three devoted exclusively to unit problems, will range from military courtesy to execution of forced marches, experience with demolitions and actual problems of combat.

In reality, the three weeks unit training will be four, for night problems, involving buildings of fixed bridges, laying and destruction of mine fields and other, as yet unidentified, training activities consume approximately a weeks time. The night problems will be in addition to the regular daylight training schedule.

It was indicated the revised training schedule came about as result of experiences of American troops in the successful North African and Sicilian invasions where the corps of engineers won highest praise from military observers and members of the press corps accompanying the troops.

Another feature to be stressed in the new training cycle will be emphasis on night patrol problems. To stress the importance of maintaining strict discipline at night when in combat, a complete coverage of right and wrong methods of night tactics will be presented. One will involve the lightning of matches by men placed at stated intervals to enable trainees to judge distances and recognize the light of flares. Blank cartridges will be fired, so they may learn the range of the man firing by counting the seconds between the flash and the report. Other demonstrations will be that of careless movements — a man bumping into wire with his steel helmet; loose mess equipment rattling; a man whistling 500 or 600 yards away and a driver dropping a tailgate of a truck an eight of a mile distant from the lines. It is expected that trainees will be thoroughly schooled in demonstrations of error which might prove fatal in combat.

The definite schedule of the new training cycle has not as yet been completed, but it is

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