

Welcome
New
Trainees



"Back
The
Attack"

Vol. 1 No. 18

CAMP ABBOT, OREGON

Saturday, Sept. 18, 1943

Music Classes Play Premiere Before Officers

Members of the pocket musical instruments and song leading classes conducted at Camp Abbot for the past two weeks by Capt. King G. Stacy, Music Officer, Ninth Service Command, played a command performance at the post theater Thursday morning. Following the program each member of the classes was presented with a certificate of proficiency signed by Col. Frank S. Besson, post commander; Lt. V. G. Henderson, Special Services officer, and Capt. Stacy.

The program was rendered before a small, but select audience. It was composed almost exclusively of officers from the training groups, and included both colonels and second lieutenants. They were present at the command of Col. Besson, who was in attendance with the post executive officer, Col. L. H. Hall.

The highlight of the program was presentation of tonettes to Col. Besson and Hall by Lt. Henderson, on behalf of the two classes. The post commander remarked that it would now be necessary for one of the class members to instruct him in the art of playing the instrument.

Fifteen members of the class were certified by Capt. Stacy as capable of carrying on the instructions he had started. Seven were rated as song leaders, four of which had outstanding ability, Capt. Stacy reported to the post commander.

Capt. Stacy expressed pleasure at the co-operation afforded him by all officers of the post, particularly Col. Besson. Among the several recommendations he submitted for furtherance of the music program here was that singing and small instrument playing be encouraged on the march; that a choral group be

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Rewarded for Service



Col. Frank S. Besson, post commander, congratulates Pvt. Rita Zeringue, after he had personally presented her with a Wac medal (ribbons until after the war) for volunteering to enter the armed forces after serving as a Waac. Pvt. Zeringue's home town is Houma, La. To the left of Col. Besson is Col. L. H. Hall, executive officer, while shown between the two colonels is Lt. Patricia Elwell, Wac company commander. The other officer, whose features are not discernable, is Maj. Russell D. Turrill.

—Photo By Vincent, Post Photographer

Bridge Record Established by 54th Bn. Unit

A new record in heavy ponton bridge construction was established here by Company A of the 55th Battalion recently when the unit bridged the Deschutes river in three hours and six minutes, 12 minutes ahead of the previous record established by Co. C of the 54th Bn.

In making the new record, Company A used an Engineer crew of 57 men from the first and second platoons, one officer and five non-commissioned officers, against 61 men for the 54th. Strength of a heavy ponton crew usually is about 100 men, it was pointed out.

Maj. William T. Avery, battalion commander, attributed the unit's new record to prior training on the part of officers and cadre, good task organization, enthusiasm on the part of all concerned, cooperation of the training section and application of trainees.

In charge of construction was Lt. John Stenmark. He was assisted by Sgts. L. R. Stonfer and Riley Clark.

Post Commander Urges Abbot Personnel to "Back the Attack"

Every enlisted man, officer and civilian at Camp Abbot should make every effort to "Back the Attack" by investing at least ten per cent of their salaries in War Bonds, Col. Frank S. Besson, post commander, said today.

Previously he had issued a statement in the Daily Information Bulletin in which he called attention to the heroic fight being waged at Salerno by units of the American Fifth Army.

A statement issued by the director of the personnel division urged that in addition to investing ten per cent of each individual's salary, they should also purchase additional bonds for cash during the period of the Third War Loan Drive which ends October 2.

Purchase of War Bonds for cash in any denomination ranging from \$25 units sold at \$18.75, to \$1000 units sold at \$750 may be made at the Army Bank in

Building 202 between the hours of 10 a. m. and 3 p. m., Monday through Friday, and from 10 to 12 a. m. on Saturdays.

Purchases by civilians, through the pay reservation plan, may be made by calling Mrs. Smith, War Bond section, civilian personnel branch. Officers may apply to the civilian branch and enlisted men will apply at their personnel section, Building 224, in person, where their applications will be accepted.

Booze Board to "Guarantee" Monthly Quota of 2 Quarts

Plans for a new liquor rationing system which will "guarantee" soldiers and civilians holding permits of one quart (or fifth) of whisky and one quart (or fifth) of gin, rum or brandy a month were announced by the Oregon liquor control commission last Saturday. The new system will become effective October 1.

Quotas will not be cumulative, but a permit-holder may obtain his "guaranteed" ration even if he waits until the last day of the month.

To accomplish this goal, the commission has devised a new ration card and a method of "validating" liquor permits through use of war ration book No. 3 or, in the case of soldiers, through identification tags.

Validation of permits and issuance of new quantity cards was started at all O. L. C. C. stores Wednesday. After October 1, no liquor may be purchased unless the purchaser has had his card validated. Soldiers must show their dogtags and civilians

their ration book No. 3 before permits are okayed. In addition, enlisted men must show their identification tags each time they make a purchase.

Purchasers' permits for men in the armed services will be stamped "military" and their ration cards will be printed in red ink and also marked "military."

The commission said its present policy of making whisky available beginning at noon and again at 5 p. m. will be discontinued and all varieties of liquor will be on sale uninterruptedly from noon to 8 p. m. No mention was made regarding the sale of liquor to soldiers before five o'clock, however.

The commission said that during the current quarter it had placed 22,500 cases of whisky on sale each month and estimated the guarantee program would require slightly more than 30,000 per month. The system will be in effect for the remaining three months of the year—if anticipated shipments arrive.

BEEN AROUND

The itinerary of Col. Aubrey H. Bond, 11th Engineer Training Group commander, during the past few years, is good material for a traveling salesman's nightmare.

Leaving Oregon in 1939, the colonel went to Colorado, to Texas, back to Colorado, to Alabama, to Georgia, to Louisiana, to Kentucky, to Wisconsin, back to Kentucky, to Michigan, to Florida, to Virginia, to Oklahoma, to Missouri and then back to Oregon.

Colonel Bond's wife and family followed "about two states behind." His elder daughter was graduated after attending five colleges and 11 high schools.

INSPECTOR GENERAL HERE

Maj. General Virgil L. Peterson, the Inspector General of the United States Army, now in Oregon in connection with IV Corps maneuvers, visited Camp Abbot Friday.

He renewed an acquaintance of long standing with Col. Frank S. Besson, post commander.

Abbot Officer Tells of Duty With Engineer Unit in India

Recently returned from duty with an Engineer unit stationed in the Asiatic theater of Operations, Lt. Thomas A. Evans, has been assigned to duty with the 11th Training Group, ERTC.

Stationed in a province of India, near the Burma-India frontier, the unit to which Lt. Evans was attached, for a time was engaged in loading planes which fly supplies and materials over the high ranges of the Himalaya mountains, to China. Later the unit was assigned to a project that for reasons of military secrecy must remain undisclosed.

The section of India where Lt. Evans was stationed is one of the most productive in the Far East. Great tea fields cover the area and few instances of poverty, so common in the southern provinces in the vicinity of Bombay and Calcutta, are noticeable, he said.

His unit, composed entirely of colored troops, was subjected to strafing by Japanese planes on several occasions, and one of his

non-commissioned officers was decorated for bravery in connection with downing a Japanese Zero plane.

Lt. Evans is a native of Texas, his home town being Waco. He is a veteran of the first world war, having been a member of the 90th Division, a unit which took part in the first great American offensive at St. Mihiel, and later was in the Army of Occupation. He was active in organization of the Texas home guard after the regular national guard entered service before Pearl Harbor. He was commissioned an officer in 1942, and 16 days later was en route to a port of embarkation. He returned to the United States on sick leave and came to Camp Abbot from Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco.

VAULT NEARS COMPLETION

The vault being constructed for the finance department is almost completed and ready for use, Lt. Gerald Crisman, Finance Officer, revealed today.