

THOSE  
BONDS ADD  
UP



WE'RE  
TWO LARGER  
NOW

Vol. 1 No. 21

CAMP ABBOT, OREGON

Saturday, Oct. 9, 1943

## New Training Units Formed In ERTC Here

Activation of two new Engineer Training Battalions, the 58th and 59th, was announced by Col. Frank S. Besson, ERTC commander, this week. Each consists of a battalion headquarters, headquarters detachment and Companies A, B and C, under the command of the 12th Engineer Training Group.

To balance the number of units allotted each training group, command of the 55th Battalion, less Company C, was transferred from the 12th Group to the 11th.

Appointment of officers for the new battalions and other personnel changes resulting from the activation will be announced.

## Major Fuller to Attend School At Ft. Belvoir

Maj. Lawrence Fuller, commanding officer of the 52nd Engineer Training Battalion, left this week to attend the Engineer Field Officer School at Fort Belvoir, Va. His successor is Capt. Robert T. McClure.

During his assignment with the 52nd, Major Fuller was active in the promotion of sports and recreation programs for the battalion. A weight lifting champion at the United States Military Academy at West Point, he organized a weight lifting class in the battalion and acted as instructor. His battalion was the first in the ERTC to hold its own track and golf contest, and the first to stage an orientation program intended to familiarize trainees with facilities at Camp Abbot.

In addition, Major Fuller kept one of the most complete sets of war maps on the Post and carried on 21 chess contests by correspondence.

## WAC Theatre Officer Taught Music at College in Egypt

By Cpl. Mary Graham

In Cairo, the city of the East and West, the new and old, wealth and poverty . . . watching the sun fall across the minaret of a mosque, hearing the faint cry of the muezzin go out into the stillness calling the Mohammedans to their prayer . . . climbing the Big Pyramid, peering by moonlight in the shadow of the Sphinx, riding a camel, sailing on the overflow of the Nile, exploring the tomb of King Tutankhamen . . .

These were the experiences of Lt. Helen M. Martin, theatre officer for the Special Service Office, during the two years she spent in Cairo, Egypt, as instructor of music in the American College for Girls.

The school, self-supporting from the high tuition fees, was



This is the sort of welcoming committee an intruder can expect when Camp Abbot's War Dogs begin to walk patrol with civilian guards a few weeks hence. And their teeth ain't ersatz, brother.

## Canine Corps Training Here For Patrolling

Twelve War Dogs have arrived at Camp Abbot, ensconced themselves in quarters near the sewage disposal plant and settled down to a two-weeks' course of basic training which will prepare them for patrol duty with civilian guards on the Post.

Just out of the San Carlos War Dog Training and Induction Center, all the animals except one are for the most part untrained, although they already have learned to obey a few simple commands and to become vicious martinetts at the order "watch." In charge of their training is Sgt. Raoul Mound of the Military Police Company who several months ago completed an eight-week War Department course in canine sentry training at Fort Robinson, Neb., and formerly was in charge of War Dogs at Camp Adair. He is assisted by Pvts. Eugene Van de Graaff and Bert Simpson.

Donated to the army by private owners, the majority of animals are ordinarily docile, but at the right command from the right person can display an

(Continued on Page 2)

attended by daughters of government officials and the wealthier classes, with 18 different religions represented and 21 different races.

"Regardless of how long a person has lived in Egypt he does not become an 'Egyptian' but rather retains his heritage and refers to himself as a Syrian, or whatever the case may be," Lt. Martin recalled, speaking of some of the customs of the people.

The first Christmas holiday Lieutenant Martin spent on a river boat going up the Nile to the first Cataract at Assuan. During the Easter season of her second year in Cairo, she visited the Holy Land where she saw the birthplace of Christ and other famed landmarks familiar

(Continued on Page 2)

## 54th Cagers Leave Abbot Undeclared

Cagers of Company D, 54th Battalion, added four wins to their list this week and entered a forced retirement after having defeated everything in sight. The fighting 54th's withdrawal from competition was occasioned by the fact the battalion has completed its training and is preparing to depart for other stations.

In a double header program Monday night, Company D trounced a team from Co. C of the 53rd, 57 to 7. Finney again was high scorer, amassing a total of 23 points, against 16 for Ogelsby, runnerup. In the second half of the twin bill, Co. D trounced a pickup team, 41 to 20, Finney again taking scoring honors with 17 points.

Tuesday night, the 54th squad scored its second victory over a team from Co. D, 55th. Score was 27 to 23. The two squads had clashed the preceding week, the 54th emerging the victor by a 60 to 16 margin.

Co. D of the 55th tried its hand against Thursday night only to lose by a score of 41 to 22.

Other units which have bowed to the retired champions include Co. C, 56th Bn.; Co. A, 53rd; Co. A., 57th, and Co. C, 54th. Manager of the team is Sgt. M. S. Bratko.

## Bridge Building Crown Taken by Co. A, 56th Bn.

The record for heavy ponton bridge construction was wrested from Company A of the 55th Battalion recently when Co. A of the 56th Bn. bridged the Deschutes river in two hours and 45 minutes, 21 minutes ahead of the previous record, Capt. Walter H. Zwick, 26th Battalion commander, announced this week.

A bridge building unit composed of the third and fourth platoons of Company A established the record September 23, after the entire company had spent the previous day in the heavy ponton area studying heavy ponton equipment, organizing work parties and making "dry runs." Trainees celebrated their performance by tossing non-commissioned officers of the two platoons in the river.

Lt. Maurice L. Armentrout was supervisor of the championship crew and Sgt. Jimmy B. Kincaid and Adnac Saul directors of construction. The bridge was built with a minimum of lost motion and without injury to any trainees, officials said.

Cadre men were commended for their "complete and careful instruction" and trainees for paying close attention during instruction periods.

### TWO TO OCS

1st Sgt. John L. Goodling, Company A, 27th Bn., and Sgt. Glenwood Dacey, Special Training Co., left this week to attend Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir, Va.

## NO STRINGS!

There's one soldier at Camp Abbot who believes in the army slogan "obey orders first and think later."

Recently, while on a bridge problem in the middle of the Deschutes, the officer in charge of the trainee detail issued an order to "throw out the anchor." One buck private, eager to obey orders, threw out the anchor without looking to see whether a rope was attached. There wasn't.

Forty-five minutes of diving by various members of the work crew brought the anchor up and the private's blood pressure down!

## Visas Precious On Road to OSC

A soldier will have to be able to do just about everything short of skinning himself to be accepted in various Officer Candidate Schools, now that the army has almost all the commissioned personnel it needs, the War Department indicated this week.

Since inauguration of the schools more than 266,000 officer candidates have been graduated, and rather than flood the market with second lieutenants, the army has decided to curtail enrollments. A few schools such as the Army Administration Officer Candidate Schools have been closed, but the majority will continue to operate, more or less on shoestring basis.

To avoid frightening off would-be applicants, the War Department is stressing the fact that no enlisted man is being denied the opportunity of applying for OCS training. It's just that only a relatively few can be chosen, and that few will have to overcome some tough competition.

Final selection will be based on the quality of military leadership the applicant has demonstrated, predicated on adequate education (either formal or of the experience variety) and the applicant's ability to reach quick, sound and logical decisions. Personality and character will be in for a lot of scrutiny, and the army will search for unquestioned honesty, devotion to duty and moral as well as physical courage.

## Hollywoodish Extravaganza Welcomes 54nd Trainees

The Hollywood touch descended on Camp Abbot Sunday when Company B of the 52nd Battalion put on a "colossal" stage program at the Post theatre to welcome new trainees of the 52nd's second increment.

Closest approach to a stage spectacle ever to grace the theatre boards, the program drew commendation from Col. Frank S. Besson, ERTC commander, and predictions from almost every quarter that other lavish Sunday morning programs devoted to the same cause will follow.

The stage presentation followed a series of welcome addresses and orientation talks. Lights were doused and some 57 members of the chorus groped their way up the two sides of the stage, whistling the 52nd Bat-

## Post Invests \$51,301 in Bond Drive

A total of \$51,301 cash was invested in War Bonds by Camp Abbot personnel from September 1 to October 2, period embracing the Third War Loan Drive, the Personnel Division announced this week. Of this figure, \$39,975 was invested by military personnel and \$11,326 by civilian employees of the Post.

Class B allotments totaled 3,114 as of September 30 with a total of 47.35 per cent of the Posts total military personnel subscribing. Deductions for allotments totaled \$26,307.50.

Military units purchasing the greater amount of bonds for cash included: 11th Engineer Training Group, \$11,750; Inspection Division, \$6,106; Medical Division \$5,067; Personnel Division, \$4,799; Medical Detachment \$2,766; Administrative Division \$1,818; Supply and Service Division, \$1,481; 12th Group, \$1,130 and Service Company, \$1,043.

## U. S. Casualties Set at 105,205

Casualties of the United States armed forces total 105,205, not including those of the current fighting in Italy and the South Pacific, the Office of War Information disclosed this week.

OWI breakdown lists 20,104 dead, 28,226 wounded, 32,905 missing and 23,970 prisoners.

Army casualties total 75,714. Of these, 9,889 are listed as killed, 23,306 wounded, 29,971 missing and 19,818 prisoners. Navy casualties total 29,491. Of these, 10,205 are dead, 5,200 wounded and 4,152 prisoners.

### ATTENDANCE URGED

Army wives are being urged by Mrs. Frank S. Besson, chairman of the surgical dressings group for the Station Hospital, to attend the bandage making sessions which are held in the courthouse workroom every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 12:30.

talion song, "The Fighting Engineers." Meanwhile the Camp Abbot band was fumbling about for its instruments in the rear of the stage.

When the lights went on, trainees were surprised to see a chorus of 57 men neatly assembled on the stage around a huge banner reading "The Fighting 52nd," and bandmen were surprised to find themselves in their right places. The chorus sang the battalion theme song and at a given cue dropped to a collective knee in an Al Jolson gesture to give the band the spotlight while it finished the song in swing.

One act depicted the stalking of Japanese soldiers. A Camp Abbot soldier, dressed in camouflage clothing made his way fur-

(Continued on Page 4)