

DEC 22 1943

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GEN. McCOACH



Vol. 1 No. 30

CAMP ABBOT, OREGON

Saturday, December 11, 1943

# Trainees Asked To Submit Suggestions

## Gen. McCoach Visits Abbot

### Post, Training Ideas Will Be Given Study

Camp Abbot trainees this week were urged to submit ideas and suggestions about the post and training methods by Col. Frank S. Besson, ERTC commander.

"I hope to get some valuable ideas about the camp, its operation and training," Col Besson said in an official notice in the Daily Information Bulletin.

To encourage trainees, there is an Idea Box in each company orderly room. This box will be opened only by the company commander and will be so opened each Monday morning, the ERTC commander directed. The company commanders will then forward the ideas to the commanding officer through group headquarters.

Col. Besson pointed out, in announcing solicitation of trainee ideas, that officer and non-commissioned officer cadre are free at any time to submit ideas and suggestions about the camp and the training program, but that trainees might feel they do not have such a free opportunity. It is to rectify this impression that the ERTC commander has asked new soldiers to offer suggestions. The plan is similar in many respects to the ideas sought by the commanding officer from civilian and employes that will improve operation of the camp.

#### PAINT LIBRARY SHELVES

Library shelves were being painted this week to add to the attractiveness of the reading room in the Service Club.

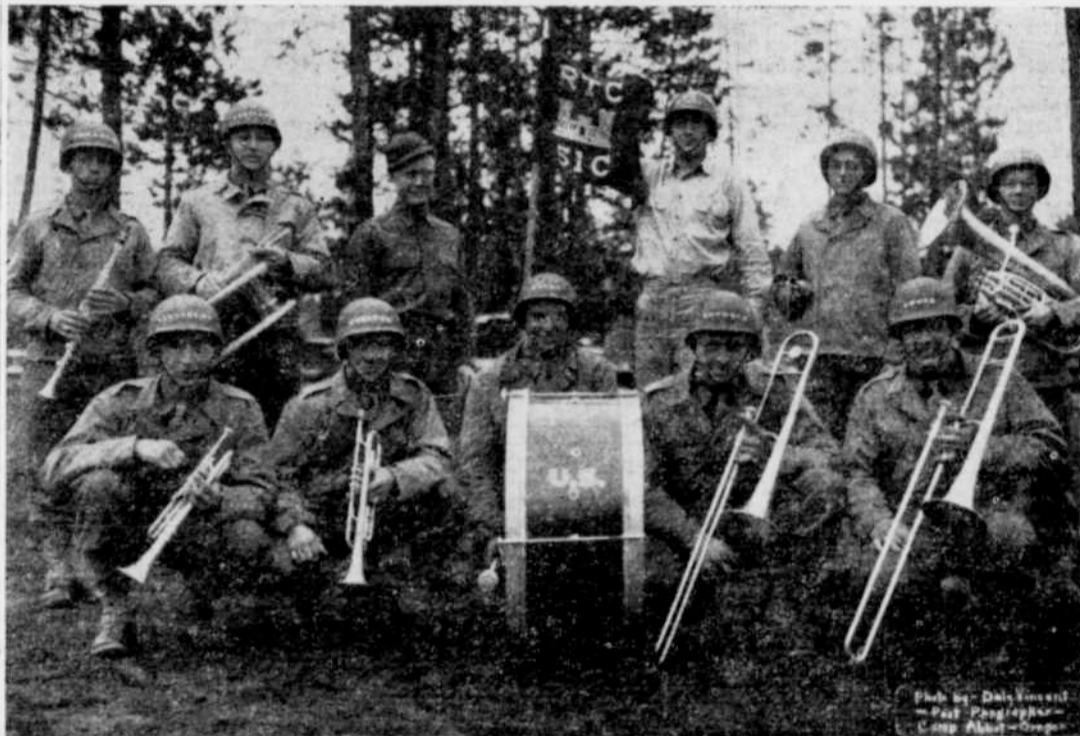
### 84 Civilian Employes Given Service Awards

Eighty-four civilian employes of Camp Abbot were presented with blue and silver ribbon bars, in the center of which was the red, white and blue emblem of the Army Service Forces, at the Post Theater Wednesday morning, and were lauded for their loyalty by the ERTC commander. The ribbons were emblematic of the award for civilian service.

"I consider this a privilege," said Col. Frank S. Besson, in brief remarks made just prior to his handing each civilian the award recently authorized by the War Department for employes who have completed six months of satisfactory service at Camp Abbot. Col. Besson was obviously pleased to present the ribbons as indicated by the broad smile and genial handshake bestowed upon each employe as they filed across the theater stage.

In a speech of acceptance, in behalf of the employes, John J.

### MUSICAL ENGINEERS



The boys of Company C, 51st Engr. Trng. Bn., are really musically minded. They have their own band to give the company enthusiasm on the march. You will hear them almost anytime somewhere on the post. It may be in the All-Purpose Rec Hall cheering a basketball team on to victory, or in the Post Theater at an Orientation program. They are, back row left to right: Pvts. William E. Furgeson; Harold Endicott, First Sgt. Henry G. Biggs; Cpl. Wayne S. Mayhard and Pvts. Rogers L. Griffin and Harris J. Gummer. Bottom row: Robert Salesbury, Ralph P. Fulston; Ross Goodbar and Raymond C. Loose.

### What Soldiers Want for Xmas

What do you want your friends and relatives to send you for Christmas?

Most wanted are cigarets, says a survey conducted by Advertising Age. Of 500 men interviewed, 89 per cent requested cigarets; 87 per cent, socks; 85 per cent, wrist watches; 84 per cent, shirts and stationery; 83 per cent, pen and pencil sets.

Women in service first asked for stationery, then for stockings, pen and pencil sets, gloves and hangars, clothes brushes and furlough bags.

O'Donnell, chief of civilian personnel, called attention to the fact that those who serve in mufti felt they were doing their part as much as those in uniform. He pointed out that while some might suffer inconveniences because of the long distance from camp to town, it was well to remember that men in uniform were called to go thousands of miles from home and put up with many hardships.

Col. Russell D. Turrill, director of personnel, in the role of master of ceremonies, said the awards were made by the War

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### Post to Have Gala Yuletide

An amateur show, complete with cash prizes and open to all Camp Abbot military personnel who can sing, dance, imitate bird calls or come forth with any sort of performance remotely associated with stage presentations, will be held at the Service Club New Year's Eve as one of the highlights of the entertainment program arranged for Camp

All types of acts are needed for the show, Lt. V. G. Henderson, Special Service Officer, said. Abbot during Christmas week, the Special Service Office announced this week. Double acts, skits with larger casts and virtually anything soldiers can work up will be welcomed. All those wishing to take part in the program are requested to call the Special Service Office, 'phone Extension 8. Pvt. Seymour Goldston of Service Company will be master of ceremonies.

Christmas festivities will get under way Thursday with a Christmas decorating program at the Service Club. Open House is scheduled throughout the day and all soldiers are invited to take a hand in decorating the club and an 18-foot tree.

A Christmas Tree party for children of all personnel on the post is scheduled at the club Sunday.

A formal Christmas dance is set for Wednesday night. In addition to being the most gala affair scheduled during the week, the dance will offer members of the WAC Company an opportunity to blossom forth in civilian clothes.

Christmas Eve will be devoted to choral singing. Midnight mass will be read at the Post Chapel.

Training will be suspended Christmas and War Department employes, except for those whose work makes them indispensable, will observe a holiday. (Continued on Page 5)

### Awards Good Conduct Bars To 24 Soldiers

Maj. Gen. David McCoach, Jr., commanding general, Ninth Service Command, made his first visit to the Army's newest Engineer Replacement Training Center Thursday and Friday. Although his visit was of short duration, the commanding general saw virtually every section of Camp Abbot, met for the first time the staff officers who make operation of the training center possible, and upon departure, indicated he was extremely well pleased with the progress of the post.

The general, an officer of extremely affable personality, arrived in mid-afternoon Thursday. He came from his headquarters, at Fort Douglas, by plane to Redmond Air Base, where he was greeted by Col. Frank S. Besson, ERTC commander.

Arriving at Post Headquarters he met the staff officers on duty and then made a tour of inspection of the immediate area in company with Col. Besson. Later in the afternoon he reviewed three battalions of Engineer trainees and personally presented Good Conduct Medals to the following enlisted men:

T/Sgts. Frederick K. Krugman, R. L. Franklin, Glen R. Hawkes; S/Sgt. James Russo and Sgt. Peter R. Walker, all of Service Company. T/Sgt. James A. Butler, S/Sgts. Harry I. Randall, William C. Bohl, Jerome F. Herrman, and Sgt. James C. Cobb, of Supply (Continued on Page 2)

### ERTC Executive Officer Long Military Student

Lt. Col. A. M. Mock, Executive Officer of Camp Abbot, despite his years as a successful engineer in civilian life, always has been interested in military affairs. Back in the days when he was a student at Ohio State University, he was prominent in ROTC circles, serving in his senior year as cadet colonel of the ROTC unit.

Upon his graduation from the university he was commissioned in the Officers' Reserve Corps and did reserve duty regularly thereafter. In 1933, he served a tour of duty as company commander of a CCC unit.

Col. Mock's rise in the Army has been rapid since he was called to active duty in January, 1941. At that time he reported at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, for an instructor's course with the grade of captain. Upon completion of the course he served as company commander at the Fort Belvoir ERTC from March to June, 1941,

when he was made a group executive officer. He served in this capacity until June, 1942, having received his majority the preceding February. In June he assumed command of a battalion and was made a lieutenant colonel a few months later. In December he was assigned as assistant S-3, ERTC, where he served until February, 1943.

With the formation of the Camp Abbot cadre in February, 1943, Col. Mock was made executive officer of the 12th group, serving as such until last month, when he was named executive (Continued on Page 5)