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CAMP ABBOT, OREGON

Saturday, December 18, 1943

LOOKING IT OVER



Maj. Gen. David McCoach Jr., commanding general of the Ninth Service Command, (left) and Col. Frank S. Besson, ERTC commander, are shown as they toured the post during the general's recent visit. General McCoach expressed his approval of the selection of Camp Abbot as a training camp for Engineer soldiers.

Shows to Be Waxed With Recording Set

Recording equipment to make transcriptions of radio shows, band programs, graduation exercises of small instrument classes and variety shows staged by the Special Service Division and battalion productions, has been installed in the Service Club.

The machine was furnished Camp Abbot by officials of radio station KWJJ, Portland, and will remain on the post until the arrival of a new machine that is being built and presented to the ERTC by officials of the Portland station.

It is also planned to use the transcription apparatus in connection with a machine scheduled to arrive here soon from a national beverage company, to make individual midget records whereby soldiers and Wacs may make recordings of their own greetings to send home. These will be made on special records furnished gratis by the beverage company and the Special Service office.

One feature of the machine will be transcription of music, (Continued on Page Four)

GI's Prefer to Wrap Own Gifts, Volunteers Find

Soldiers shun the feminine touch when it comes to wrapping Christmas packages and prefer to wrap their own even when there are volunteers to do the job, Mrs. Helen Smith, Service Club director, said this week.

A group of officers wives who volunteered to help soldiers in the pre-Christmas projects were told they'd might as well go home. Of the stacks of presents wrapped with club supplies, virtually all were prepared by the men themselves. Hostesses were able to take care of the rest without the aid of volunteers.

Junior Hostess Vacancy Filled

The post of Service Club junior hostess, vacant since Camp Abbot was activated, was filled this week with the arrival of Miss Veretta Sutton, an attractive young lady who formerly taught first grade pupils at the Emerson School in Muncie, Ind. She is a graduate of Franklin College, Franklin, Ind. As junior hostess, Miss Sutton will have a hand in planning recreation programs for club patrons and assist in operation of the Guest House.

McCOACH SENDS GREETINGS

We are approaching the third Christmas of our engagement in the most devastating war in history. That anniversary finds the people of the eight states of the Ninth Service Command hosts to many people from other places. Thousands of the West's fine sons and daughters have taken their places in the Armed Forces on distant battlefronts and at widely-scattered points in our own Country. Many more thousands of fine young men and women from other communities are numbered among these States' guests in uniform. I express to the officers, soldiers, and civilian employees of all elements of the Ninth Service Command and to the people of our Western States the wish that the Christmas season may be one of good cheer and hope and that the next Christmas may find our common enterprise well on the way to a real Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward All Men.

Night Tactics Added To ERTC Training

HOME COOKIN'

To give the USO in Bend an added Christmas touch, club directors installed an imitation fireplace, complete with red paper and lights to give the effect of flames. Hardly had the project been completed when a Camp Abbot soldier took a seat in his best fireside manner and promptly fell asleep. A shift in furnishings had been contemplated to blend more harmoniously with the new decor, but club workers found the soldier barring their progress. Operations were postponed until the soldier awakened. He looked too comfortable to be disturbed.

25,000 Officers To Be Discharged From Army

According to a recent Associated Press bulletin from Washington, an estimated 25,000 officers whose services the Army no longer needs soon will be returned to civilian life. Another 25,000 will be shifted from administrative positions to operations jobs.

The figures came out of a meeting held last week of the house military affairs committee with Brig. Gen. Miller G. White, assistant chief of staff in charge of personnel. The reduction in officer strength from approximately 650,000 to 625,000 was made possible, committee sources said, by a cutback in the planned enlisted strength of the Army from 8,200,000 men to 7,600,000 by the end of 1943 and a shifting of emphasis from training to operational activities.

With its training and procurement programs well over the (Continued on Page 4)

\$25 in Prizes To Be Given in Amateur Show

A prize of \$15 in good, cold cash will await the winner of the New Year's Eve amateur show at the Service Club, the Special Service Office announced this week. Second prize will be \$10, and several other awards will be made.

For those whose performances don't measure up to the show's high standards, there will be a man on hand with a hook.

A number of interesting acts already have registered for the show, Lt. V. G. Henderson, Special Service Officer said, but there's plenty of room on the bill for more. No holds are barred as far as the type of act is concerned, except for the hook, of course.

Soldiers interested in taking part on the program are requested to notify Pvt. Seymour Goldston, master of ceremonies, 'phone 14, or the Special Service Office, 'phone 60.

Trainees Watch 'Sneak' Fighting Demonstrations From Grandstand

Members of the 55th Battalion occupied "grandstand" seats Wednesday night to witness a new phase of night training intended to teach them to become self-reliant night fighters. Instructors pointed out that one of the most frequent complaints from officers overseas is that new replacements are extremely vulnerable because of their lack of knowledge of night fighting tactics. The program here is designed to give them at least a start in the right direction.

Renovation of USO Possible Early in 1944

Long-delayed renovation work on the USO club rooms in Bend should get under way the first of the year or soon after if present plans move on schedule, Carl A. Johnson, president of the USO Council, and Harry O'Grady, director, told members of the council at a meeting last week. Construction priorities were to have been decided on in Washington this week, and if action was favorable, the final barrier to the project will be removed.

Although the council had not been advised of action on the Washington scene yesterday, members expressed the belief the proposed project would be approved. The council is extremely anxious for the work to begin in case the 1944 maneuvers begin earlier than anticipated, for, although 75,487 service men and women visited the clubs in November, there is a lull at present and conditions are ideal for renovation of the Wall street unit.

Mr. O'Grady also announced that Robert Weiss, who formerly was in charge of the USO in Madras, has been transferred to Bend as assistant USO director. Caswell P. Johnson, who has been in charge of the Greenwood avenue club in Bend is leaving for a new assignment in Indio, Calif., he added.

Program Set for Station Hospital

Song programs and a puppet show will be in store for patients of the Station Hospital at a Christmas party to be held Thursday, December 23.

Officers and their wives will entertain patients with Christmas carols, and the USO choral group is scheduled to present a similar program and make a tour of the wards. The puppet show will be produced under the direction of Lieutenant Tilden of the Nurse Corps.

A cookie canteen will be set up for patients by members of the Women's Junior League of Bend Monday. Movies are scheduled Tuesday and a classical music hour Wednesday.

Part of the 56 hours of night training given soldiers in the ERTC here, the program was staged on the ERTC rifle range where bleachers large enough to accommodate a battalion were installed. Lt. R. T. Willets, assistant training officer of the Military Branch of the Training division, was in charge.

As one phase of the visible and audible demonstrations of night sights and sounds, a problem showed how vividly a lighted match appears at distances up to 800 yards. Lt. Willets pointed out that the light of a match has been observed at the almost unbelievable distance of 10 miles.

Ball and tracer ammunition was fired over the heads of the audience from positions varying in distance from the grandstand to teach trainees what to look for and to estimate the position of the firer by judging the length of time required to hear the gun's report. To teach them to recognize the types of weapons used, pistols, tommy guns, carbines, M-1s and .50 calibre machine guns and grenades were fired.

Also stressed were the "man made" noises which make troops vulnerable to fire. Soldiers were shown that rattling of a mess kit, striking a nail with a hammer, banging a pick and shovel and whistling and singing could be heard at far greater distances than they had previously imagined.

(Continued On Page 3)

Kiddies Xmas Party to Be Held Sunday

Arrangements are being made to entertain approximately 200 children, of military personnel and civilians employed at Camp Abbot, at a Christmas party in the Service Club Sunday afternoon.

The ceremony will start at 4 p. m. when the Camp Abbot band will give a 30-minute program. Following the band concert the Camp Abbot chorus will lead in singing Christmas carols.

Each of the kiddies on the party list will be given a sock, filled with candy, nuts and raisins.

The party is being arranged by the Chaplains Branch and more than 150 names have already been turned in, according to Chaplain Goldberg.