

JAN 6 - 1944

IT'S 30
NOW FOR
1943



BONDS!
BUY MORE
IN '44

Vol. 1 No. 33

CAMP ABBOT, OREGON

Camp Abbot, Ore., Jan. 1, 1944

Abbot Talent Featured on KWJJ Show

Camp Abbot talent hit the ether waves last night in the weekly "Victory Parade" radio program, broadcast from the Service club through facilities of Station KWJJ in Portland. Sponsored by the Barde Steel Company, the program will originate at Camp Abbot every other week, with alternate broadcasts originating from Vancouver Barracks, Wash.

Devoted to WAC recruitment, last night's 45-minute program featured a brief talk by Col. Frank S. Besson, ERTC commander; selections by a WAC octette, singing by Company B of the 52nd Battalion, and music by the Camp Abbot dance orchestra.

The overseas music program, camp project through which soldiers are given training in song leading and pocket instrument playing to enable them to entertain in combat zones, was outlined by Lt. Albert P. Willis, supervisor of classes. Company A of the 52nd demonstrated effectiveness of the program by singing the "Camp Abbot Fight Song" and the "52nd Battalion Fight Song."

Other vocal selections on the program included two solo numbers by Lt. Robert Herring, Service Club program director, and selections by the Arkansas Trio, members of which are Pvt. Jack Gullege, Pfc. Joe Bull and Pvt. James Stevens. A novelty number was presented by Pvt. Buddy Hyde, former Hollywood emcee and pianist.

T/Sgt. Ardelle Carter of Portland gave a brief talk as representative of the WAC recruiting office for this district.

In addition to both military and classical selections, the instrumental portion of the program included the playing of "Barrack 919," an original composition by Sgt. Dante Di-Thomas.

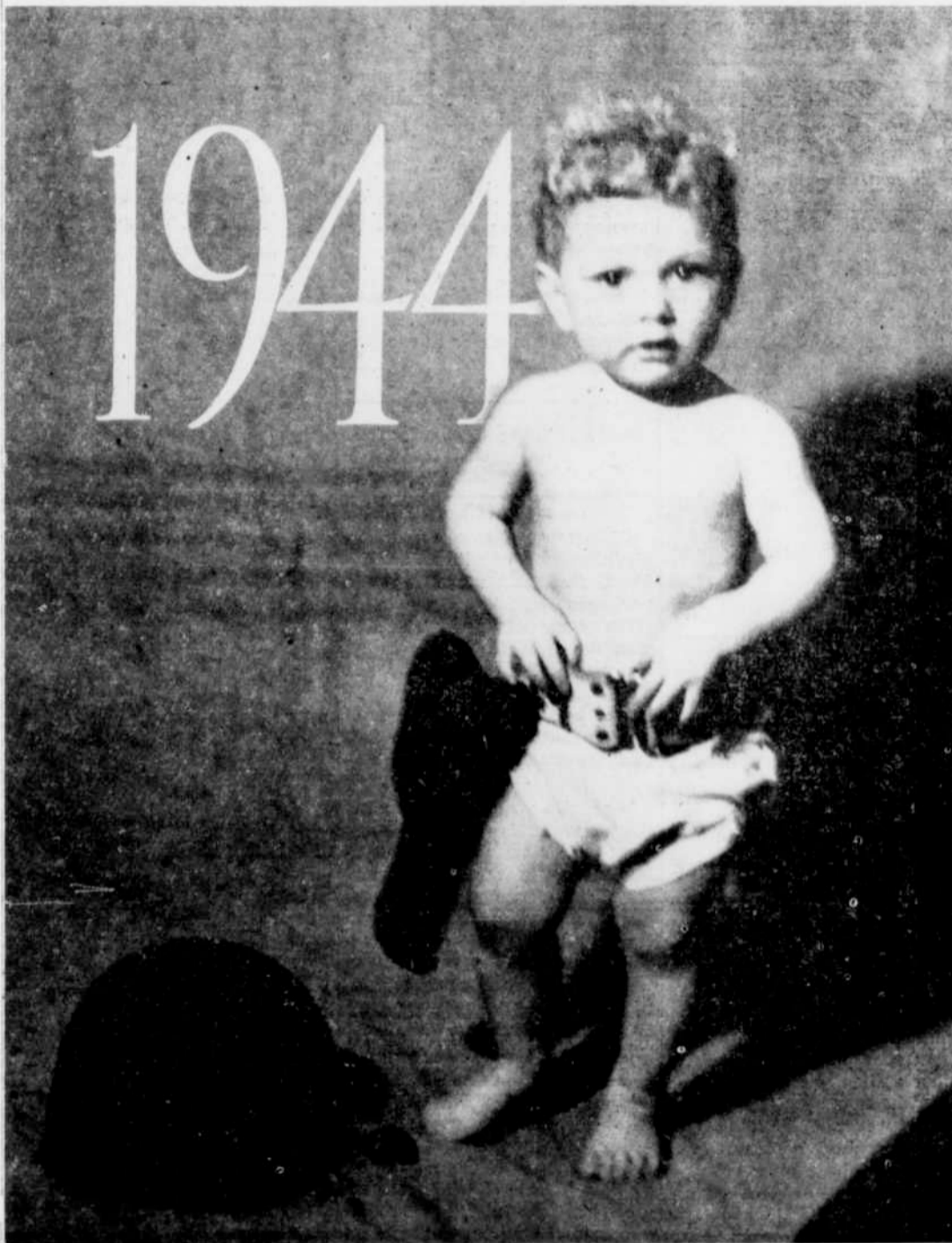
Housing Board For Post Named

Appointment of a housing board to investigate and disseminate information on housing facilities and accommodations for military and civilian personnel assigned to Camp Abbot was announced by Post Headquarters this week. Named to the board were Lt. Col. Russell D. Turrill, president; Maj. William T. Avery, Maj. Lilburn P. Staman, Capt. William S. Roberts Jr., Lt. Robert P. Maloney and John J. O'Donnell, recorder.

COURT PARLEY HELD

All members of General and Special courts and Summary Court officers of Camp Abbot attended a court-martial conference at which certain problems facing these tribunals were discussed by Lt. James W. Wallace, judge advocate.

IT'S A FIGHTING '44



This scrappy youngster pinch hitting for the more tractable representative of the New Year is ready to kick the Old Year out on its ear and get on with the war. Our New Year stand-in states flatly that it's going to be a "fighting '44" and makes no bones about it. He's Richard Hansen Jr., son of First Sergeant Hansen of Company B, 59th Battalion.

In Case You've Forgotten, Here's What Happened at Abbot in 1943

Since New Year's heralds the coming of inventory, carries the United States one year closer to victory and represents the seven-and-a-half months mark for the army's newest Engineer Replacement Training Center, the ENGINEER herewith presents a review of Camp Abbot's activities for 1943 as filtered from its ponderous, dust-covered files:

MAY 21—The first issue of the ABBOT ENGINEER sprang from the maws of a giant press, a four-page journal devoted largely to conjecture about proposed entertainment projects and early history of Central Oregon. Contents consisted mostly of printed intentions in the way of sports, and there was an article on the arrival of the Waac Detachment.

MAY 28—Fishing became a major pastime with the rescinding of a ban on fishing on the reservation. Battalion theme songs were ready for the first contingent of trainees when it arrived. The Federal Works Ad-

ministration made everybody happy by recommending an expenditure of \$20,000 for renovating the USO in Bend, a project which still is in the fire. Soldiers got their first glimpses of Oregon beauties at a dance in the All-Purpose building.

JUNE 4—First films were shown at the Post Theater, but there was no love interest; they were training films. A bandsman caught a trout on a vitamin pill. Colonel Besson fired the first shot on the new ERTC range and scored a bull's eye.

JUNE 11—Col. R. S. Dacey, post commander, until Colonel Besson took over, left for Florence, Ariz. Soldiers without insurance got ready to dig down with the announcement a heavy drive was in store.

JUNE 18—A sergeant developed a nasty case of nerves when he started to give tests to a Waac motorcyclist, only to find she'd gained national prominence for earlier riding feats. Post headquarters units were reorganized into eight staff di-

visions.

JUNE 25—Man with an appetite for razor blades, glass and fire turned up for a show by the 52nd Battalion show. The Post Chapel opened. Two MP's shot a "cougar" only to find it had turned into a porcupine.

JULY 2—A war on ground squirrels was declared with poisoned oats as the principal weapon. Service Club workers arrived to find no Service Club. The Post Theater opened with a big razzle-dazzle premiere. The entire Post was "gigged" and deprived of passes for 24 hours for not saluting properly.

JULY 9—Two parachute flares failed to go off—they were made before the war, and you guessed it—in Japan. The 51st Battalion started the ball rolling in rifle marksmanship by qualifying 100 per cent.

JULY 16—A Waac fell out for fire drill with her typewriter. Pfc. Sid Youman organized the Post's second dance band. (He's now a civilian living in Bend and (Continued On Page 3)

Problems Give Trainees Idea Of Actual War

By S/Sgt. George S. Fly
WITH AN ERTC TRAINING BATTALION IN THE FIELD—A battalion of ERTC trainees, but a few weeks removed from civilian life are today living under simulated battle conditions in the heart of the Cascade mountains.

They are living in foxholes, dug in snow and are engaged in engineering operations to assist a division that is momentarily expecting attack from a simulated enemy which has landed on the coast and is proceeding in rapid order to occupy the pivot points in the state's communication system.

The battalion left Camp Abbot early Monday for three weeks training in the field. Their first bivouac was four miles south of Camp Abbot, on the little Deschutes river. Here the battalion spent a day and a half on non-tactical bridge training.

Tuesday evening the battalion commander was notified that an enemy, estimated at a reinforced corps, had established beach-heads on the west coast and were marching on Salem and Portland. The Ninth Service Command assigned the battalion now in the field to the 91st Division and ordered them alerted for further orders.

They were not long in coming. It was soon after midnight that orders were received from the Commanding General, 91st Division to move to a bivouac in the vicinity of Luna Butte.

The battalion broke bivouac in the icy blackness of early morning and departed at 3:30 a. m. on a forced march for their new camp site, which was prepared by the troops after their arrival. At mid-morning Wednesday the battalion moved into the Luna Butte area, pitched camp and awaited orders.

The enemy executed a harassing attack about midnight by dropping parachute troops near the camp. These men infiltrated the outguards and were able to inflict considerable damage before being captured.

Yesterday the battalion was ordered to proceed to the vicinity of Horse Butte and Bessie Butte where they began preparation of a defensive position in- (Continued on Page 4)

Once More the Company Clerk Pays and Pays

The company clerk has another headache—but the enlisted man who is authorized to mess separate from his organization may cheer. Ration payment is now included on the payroll.

No longer will the rationed enlisted man wait for Finance to pay him off by check.

But the poor company clerk must type:

"Enlisted man for commutation rations from Dec. 1, '43 to Dec. 31, '43, inclusive, at the rate of 67 cents per day . . ."