

# WPB's Approval Only Barrier to USO Renovation

Priorities for renovation of the USO in Bend have been obtained, and the project now awaits only War Production Board Approval, Carl A. Johnson, president of the USO Council, announced this week. Notification of approval is expected early next week.

Once WPB sanction is obtained contracts will be let and work will begin immediately, Mr. Johnson said. An effort will be made to complete the project before the influx of soldiers for winter maneuvers.

## Notes From A-58

By Pvt. Ernest G. Cushler

Amid gay holiday decorations, Company A, 58th Battalion, celebrated a festive Christmas with a turkey dinner, trimmed by all the delicacies that mother used to make. Choral and group singing arranged by the company commander, Capt. Walter H. Yarbrough, helped celebrate the day in a way familiar to every one present. Favorable comments in general, as expressed by the recently-arrived trainees, was to the effect that officers showed a very democratic spirit by having their wives and guests participate in the Christmas dinner in the company's mess hall.

The program opened with a very warm welcoming address by Captain Yarbrough, who extended best wishes for the holiday. His comment that, although many present were away from home for the first time on this holiday, they could still appreciate their good fortune in contrast to many thousands who would have to eat their Christmas dinners in fox holes out of tins (if fortunate enough to even have tins) was a point on which every man present agreed.

Following Captain Yarbrough's impressive talk, a series of Christmas carols were sung by a selected choir recruited from the company. The choir also led the group in singing popular numbers, old and new. A monologue, "The Forgotten Man," depicting the life of an army Engineer, was delivered in dramatic fashion by Pvt. William M. Dummer. He was followed by Pvt. Charles Drake, formerly a featured motion picture artist, who entertained the group with humorous impersonations and various pungent bon mots. Lt. Arthur J. Schoenlien, in the spirit of the day, gave a brief address on the reputation of the company.

The show was stopped, with the impromptu entertainment of

## PLEASURE PACKAGE



Col. Frank S. Besson, ERTC commander, is shown welding a bayonet to open what probably was one of the largest Christmas presents in the United States. The package concealed the doorway to the new addition to the Officers' Mess and marked the formal opening of the new structure Christmas Eve. Holding the bayonet sheath is Warrant Officer Marvin L. Tragerman.

Ralph J. Kembel, company cook, whose entertaining ability is exceeded only by his excellent culinary art... (No, I'm not trying to keep off KP). He is one leather stretcher who is absolutely impervious to soft soap. The good neighbor policy was furthered by some extemporaneous Latin-American singing by a Spanish-American contingent of the company.

Choral members, under the direction of Pvt. Ernest G. Cushler, who also was in charge of the entire entertainment program, include Pvt. Roger Bridge, Pvt. William G. Dummer, Pvt. Manuel Aisenberg, Pvt. R. Villalobos, Pvt. Irving K. Gunderson and Pvt. Carmen R. Carnevale.

Cooperative spirit to make this Christmas dinner a howling success was shown by Mess Sgt. Joseph A. Kesler, 1st Sgt. James Sawyer, Sgt. Earl Wood, Cpl. Philip Kidder, Cpl. J. Montoya, Sgt. John J. Cottle, all of whom assisted in every way possible in obtaining what necessary items were available to make this dinner a memorable one.

Starting next week, this column will report the weekly progress of Co. A in GI phraseology. In respect to this most holy of days, the writer has refrained from "hamburgerin" the King's English in expressing the doings of our outfit.

Our Motto: Faith to believe—Courage to do.

Pass The ENGINEER To Another Abbotman—He'll Appreciate It.

## MORE ABOUT Abbot in '43

(Continued from Page One)

Cpl. Agho Tiemann has the band with an entirely different set of side-men.) Members of the Waac Detachment and the 51st Bn. held a ponton party on the Deschutes. A public address system was installed in the All-Purpose building.

JULY 23—Lt. Albert Willis shelled out \$35 for beer when his platoon of Co. A, 52nd Bn., surprised him on the rifle range. Tunes were selected for a Victory Tunes broadcast to be dedicated to Camp Abbot by Fred Waring's orchestra July 29. Only two men voted (now it can be told) in the much-publicized balloting.

JULY 30—The Post laundry began operations, making it unnecessary to send bundles to Camp Adair and cutting processing time from nine days to five. The NCO club was organized.

AUG. 6—Plans were drafted to relieve a helluva housing shortage in Bend. The Station Hospital Recreation Hall was opened. Lt. V. G. Henderson replaced Lt. P. H. O'Brien as Special Service Officer. Headquarters companies were reorganized on Sunday and confused soldiers found themselves either in Service Company, Supply Company, Motor Company or the MP's.

AUG. 13—Officers and a small dog "tested" the Post's new infiltration course. Over 300 soldiers were released to work in the mines.

Aug. 20—Two brothers, one a sergeant and the other a trainee

were reunited when the trainee's helmet liner was returned to the sergeant by error. They had been living across the street from one another. Post dedication plans were set.

AUG. 27—Sgt. Morrie Guss, who said he worked on 26 papers in three years, turned over the reigns of the ENGINEER to Sgt. George Fly and Pvt. Richard Shearin, who stuck around their papers a little longer. The 51st Battalion became the first Camp Abbot unit to "graduate." WAACs became the WACs in a simple ceremony.

SEPT. 2—Some 3,000 visitors witnessed the Post's dedication and opening of the Service Club. A top sergeant saw a movie featuring a young actress he'd hugged on a trip to Hollywood, but he couldn't remember her name. Officers and non-coms prepared to take driving lessons to relieve a shortage of Motor Company drivers. Fifty-one soldiers received final citizenship papers.

SEPT. 11—The overseas music program was started. Hotel towels were returned to rightful owners and the laundry apoloigized. Some 100 trainees from Texas A. and M. College got ready to see themselves in a film "We've Never Been Licked." Training was extended to 19 weeks. A WAC deprived strategy of its meaning, a general of his coveralls and Quartermaster purchase warehouse personnel of peace of mind by refusing to sell a general a pair of coveralls without a permit.

SEPT. 18—Bend became plethoric with khaki because of maneuver troops and the laundry's business doubled. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission promised one and all their

monthly quota of two quarts.

SEPT. 25—A bride "stewed" in a Portland church for over two hours while a trainee hitch hiked from Camp Abbot sending communiques en route. The 54th Battalion raised \$775 in a bond rally.

OCT. 2—Sgt. Roy L. Rider of the Sports Department left to join the Station Hospital crew. An officer gave his tie to a soldier who was detained by MP's en route home on emergency furlough.

OCT. 9—The Canine Corps arrived at Camp Abbot, 12 strong. The Post invested \$51,301 in a bond drive. Orientation programs took on the lavish quality of a Hollywood production.

OCT. 16—Speakers of the public address system were blown from the All-Purpose building by a high wind. The bus station was completed. First music class was "graduated."

OCT. 23 — Colonel Besson penned "O'er the Ocean," a marching song for trainees. Col. Frank G. Crandall, chief of the station hospital, who had established the first base hospital in the Solomons, was transferred to Modesto, Calif.

OCT. 30—A Chinese trainee who saw his mother riddled with Jap bullets in a Canton, China, street, became a rifle expert, despite the fact he could hardly understand instructions.

NOV. 13—Soldiers of the third platoon, Co. B, 52nd Bn., had breakfast in bed for making top scores on the rifle range.

NOV. 20—Camp Abbot pushed the Deschutes County War Fund drive over the top with contributions totaling \$5,129.

DEC. 4—The camp became the leader in insurance coverage for the Ninth Service Command. "Khaki Kapers" was introduced. Camp Abbot cagers took Bend high, 70 to 14.

DEC. 11—Idea boxes were placed throughout the Center to get suggestions from enlisted men. The Post had its first legitimate stage show when Bend students presented "The Young in Heart."

DEC. 18—Soldiers at a barn dance in Bend voted for a sailor in a "most unique costume" contest. More night tactics were added to ERTC training.

DEC. 24—Camp Abbot was featured over a new radio series on a northwest chain. A "bush raising" ceremony marked the completion of the roof for the new addition to the Officers' Mess.

## Big Crowd Seen For NCO Dance

Preparations are being made to handle the largest crowd in the history of the NCO Club when the unit stages its New Year's dance tonight, T/Sgt. Max Millsap, head of the arrangements committee, said. Open to all members and their guests, the program will feature the music of the ERTC dance band, directed by Cpl. Agho Tiemann.

## Male Call by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates" In Attacking, Never Take Terrain For Granted



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