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AND LEARNING
AND FIGHTING

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CAMP ABBOT, OREGON

Camp Abbot, Ore., Jan. 15, 1944

SOMETHING TO GRIN ABOUT



Post Signal Photo Lab.

Col. Frank S. Besson, ERTC commander, grins approval as he accepts a check for \$1,668.89, representing the total amount spent by Camp Abbot soldiers on Christmas Seals in a recent drive, from Maj. Paul Diediker, head of the Administrative Branch. Mrs. Chris Kostol, secretary-treasurer for the Christmas Seal Sales Committee for Deschutes County, who in turn accepted the check from Col. Besson, said purchases by Post personnel probably were in excess of any per individual in the history of seal sales in Oregon.

New Combat Lanes Prelude to Battle

If a Jap should suddenly appear on one of the training lanes, it is doubtful whether the average Abbot trainee would be surprised. He'd probably just take careful aim, fire, and move on—perhaps muttering something about deserving overseas pay.

Realism is the keynote of training at Camp Abbot. Japanese flags, German signposts, machine gun nests, even shallow graves with gruesome warning epitaphs are everywhere. The leaders are all tactical; they crawl forward right with their men.

The initial phase, a four-hour period during the sixth week of training, shows recruits that the job of an advance squad is to make possible the uninterrupted advance of the rear units.

Nine lanes half a mile long present six problems each for the squad. Encounters are, if anything, more varied and taxing than a squad would meet in a half mile battle zone.

First, a machine gun fires on the squad. The enemy is wiped out and the group reorganizes and proceeds. A sniper's rifle suddenly attracts the attention of the men. After chasing him from the trees, trainees bayonet his effigy, an ingeniously manipulated dummy.

Next comes a flanking movement and an attack against a six-man enemy patrol.

The first three problems are infantry maneuvers, designed to teach cover and concealment, obedience and the correct methods of conveying signals to other men of the squad. The next two are engineering problems.

Word is passed that a bridge
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New Radio Unit 'Pipes' Shows Direct to Wards

Patients of station hospital may now enjoy the latest radio hit programs, hear the news of the day and also any program originating in the recreation hall of the American Red Cross.

This is made possible by the installation of a large receiving set, and through wire connections to each ward. A special microphone, which may be plugged in to the wire circuit, has been arranged for the Red Cross recreation officials.

Other plans call for "broadcast" of special programs recorded by the Radio Branch of the Special Service Division. Records are distributed on a regular circuit and include some of the latest stage and radio novelties. Heretofore these recordings have been used exclusively overseas, but they are now available to general and station hospitals.

The hospital also plans to purchase a collection of classical records which will be broadcast over the set by use of a special turntable, as will those of the Special Service Division.

The set has been installed in a room formerly occupied by the hospital post office. It is valued at approximately \$2,000.

TIRE INSPECTOR NAMED

Lt. Hubert Bennett, shop officer for the Combined Maintenance Shops, has been designated as OPA tire inspector for the Coast Rationing Board of Portland. Personnel requiring tire inspections should apply to Bldg. 322 between 1 and 4:30 p. m. Fridays.

51st Finishes Field Problem

Finance Unit Sells \$637 in Bonds

War bonds valued at \$637.50 were purchased from the Finance Office by Camp Abbot personnel during the first two-week period after the unit began selling bonds Dec. 17, Lt. G. F. Crisman, agent finance officer, announced. The total represented the purchase of 15 bonds by nine officers, five enlisted men and one civilian through Dec. 31.

Figures for the two-week period are not representative mainly because purchases were made during a lull immediately preceding the opening of a campaign Jan. 1 and because sales by the Finance Office received relatively little publicity during the period, Lieutenant Crisman pointed out. Sales are expected to show a marked increase during the period before the drive closes Feb. 29, especially during a four-week period from Jan. 18 to Feb. 15, when intensive solicitation is planned.

Seek Candidates For JA School

The Judge Advocate General is continuing to accept and select qualified applicants for the Judge Advocate General Officer Candidate School at Ann Arbor, Mich., Post Headquarters announced. The applicant must have reached his twenty-eighth birthday, be a graduate of a law school, have at least four years practice of law (desirable, but not essential) and be able to meet physical requirements for attendance of officer candidate school. Enlisted men interested in applying should contact their commanding officers.

Colonel Views Training Here

Lt. Col. W. W. Brotherton of the Office of the Chief of Engineers in Washington arrived at Camp Abbot Wednesday to begin a routine inspection of training activities at the Post. He will leave today following completion of a tour of training sites.

Loading of Buses Limited by Law

To conform with an Oregon law limiting the number of passengers riding on buses, the Pilot Butte Transit Line henceforth will allow no passengers to stand nearer the front of a vehicle than a line even with the forward seats, according to Lt. Richard M. Brisbin, transportation officer. Drivers have been instructed to stop the buses when the restriction is violated and to proceed only after the space has been cleared.

Knoxville, Tenn. (CNS) — A woman asked a local newspaper to find her a husband. She said she could cook. The next day she had 10 proposals of marriage—and two offers of a job.

Gas Attack by Planes Impedes River Crossing

The 51st battalion, under the command of Capt. W. C. Rogers, completed its final problem—a three week field maneuver—Wednesday with a fifteen mile company march over icy roads and steep hills back to camp. The last parade was held yesterday and now all that remains is final reprocessing and equipment return. Then most of the trainees will be granted furloughs.

The finish of the rigorous engineer replacement training did not come easily. This week's problem lacked only shell fire to make it indistinguishable from actual battle.

Monday, the men moved into bivouac, prepared camp, and brought in equipment. This included a full ponton bridge, which was carried by truck through narrow roads and over treacherous ice-covered ravines.

The next day the order came from HQ to cross the nearby river by daylight. An assault wave was launched after barbed wired entanglements across the stream were destroyed by explosives. However, an unexpected gas attack by three planes—club models provided by Bend civilians—dispersed the assault crossing, and the battalion gathered its materials and retreated.

A night crossing was then ordered. At dark, Company B, under the command of 1st Lt. W. S. Rounds, erected a foot bridge, made a successful crossing, and then set up extensive outposts to cover the erection by Company A of a light ponton bridge.

A Company, led by Capt. Ralph Lee, worked all night to construct the bridge, which had to be securely supported at the far end in frozen swamp.

The following morning, after hastily munching some D rations, described by one noncom as "looking like a chew of tobacco and tasting just as bad," all equipment was moved across, including a 12½ ton Quickway derrick and 16 large ponton trailers, as well as baggage, tools, and field kitchens.

Then A Company dismantled the foot bridge and moved out in a company march to the post. The fifteen mile hike was estimated by one member of the company to be at least thirty miles—"counting backsliding." The men arrived here at noon Wednesday.

B Company was left with the
(Continued on Page 2)

Women's Division Honors USO Associate Director

Ann McLaughlin, USO associate director since May, who plans to take a leave of absence from her duties, was highly praised Tuesday evening by a group representing every section of the USO women's division, which she set up soon after her arrival here.