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Vol. 1 No. 39

CAMP ABBOT, OREGON

Camp Abbot, Ore., Feb. 12, 1944

Victor Mature Bond Appeal Pleases G. I.'s

A near-capacity audience of soldiers, Wacs and profusely perspiring feminine guests risked splinters from the Post theater's wooden seats Thursday night as they squirmed through a gag-laden routine delivered by Victor Mature on his first appearance at this or any other army camp. Exoneration and sincere applause came for the famous ex-movie star, however, when he delivered a straight-forward, un-Hollywood-like appeal to soldiers to safeguard their future by investing every cent they possibly could in war bonds.

Camp Abbot talent contributed greatly to the success of the program, features of which were music by the ERTC dance band, directed by Cpl. Agho Tiemann, and a hula dance by Pvt. Charles Kahuarra. An anonymous character accoutered not unlike the Yank's famous Sad Sack periodically interrupted the proceedings by marching across the stage with an attractive young lady, Neah Hanan, in pursuit. Pvt. Dick Howard, former member of the Don Cossack choir sang two vocal selections and Pvt. Charles Drake was master of ceremonies. The show was planned and executed by Lt. Charles Frucht, morale officer.

Preceding the theater performance, Mature visited the Wac Company and signed autographs.

A similar show held at the Tower theater in Bend also featured Camp Abbot including musical selections by the Camp Abbot dance band, bagpipe selections by Pvt. Raymond Briggs and vocal selections by Grace Wilson and Sgt. Claire L. Curn. Sgt. Buddy Hyde was master of ceremonies.

Minimum Bond Allotment Hiked

War Bond Class B allotments may not be made for less than \$6.25 a month beginning April 1, the Adjutant General has ordered.

Allotments for less than that amount now in effect will be cancelled automatically as soon as payments for full bonds are completed.

Besson Praises ERTC's Behaviour

Good discipline of the ERTC has occasioned a commendation from the Commander, Col. Frank S. Besson, with special mention made of the 58th and 59th Battalions. "The absence of disciplinary problems reflects the type of leadership on the part of the officers and NCO's," the colonel stated.

CANNED HEAT, ERTC STYLE



Here's an idea of the inferno soldiers undergoing specialist training on Camp Abbot's new assault and demolition course create with their flame throwers as they sneak up on "enemy" pill boxes. Once the flame throwers have burned out their victims, a demolition squad goes to work to make certain the foes give up all thoughts of again occupying positions.

Trainees Taught to Hit At 'Enemy' Pillboxes

Knocking out pill boxes is rapidly becoming second nature to trainees of the Engineer Replacement Training Center who are selected for specialist training on Camp Abbot's new assault and demolitions course.

To make the course as realistic as possible, the Training Division has planned a course which incorporates many problems of actual warfare, including barbed wire entanglements and machine gun fire.

First step in the program is a "softening up" process involving the use of a tank, which appears on the scene and looses salvos at machine gun nests and pill boxes.

Set charges, so well timed that even the trainees are fooled, are fired from a control tower, concealed in a rocky hillside above the course, to give the appearance of shells fired from the tanks' guns.

Once the tank has done its job, a demolitions squad goes into action. Bangalore torpedoes are brought into play to clear the barbed wire entanglements and open a hole for advancing troops equipped with flame throwers.

The flame-thrower crew then moves in full speed, running the distance and taking full advantage of cover and shell holes, to burn what remains of the "enemy" from its positions.

Demolitions men again come to the fore to administer the coup de grace to the now blackened pill boxes, setting charges which complete destruction of the fortifications.

NO SHUTTLE BUS

The intra-camp shuttle bus service inaugurated last week was discontinued by the Pilot Butte Transit Lines Sunday because of the impracticability of operating buses over short routes.

Bond Sales Reach \$55,125 Mark

War bond sales continue to climb to a total now at \$55,125, the Post Finance Office announced. In order to facilitate further bond purchases in the Fourth War Loan Drive, which ends on the post February 29, the Finance Office is now remaining open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7 to 10 p. m. and Sundays from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Wacs No Longer Can Sport Civvies

WACs now must abide by the same uniform regulations as the rest of the Army, a new ruling states. No civilian clothes can be worn except when at home with no more than two persons, and when wearing sports clothes while engaged in games.

Previously it had been up to the discretion of the WAC commanding officer on each post to allow wearing of civilian clothes off duty away from the post.

TAILOR SHOP OPENS

Soldiers who have an idea they resemble nothing so much as a poorly-trimmed hedge in their O. D.'s can put their minds at ease by visiting a tailor shop opened this week in Building 325 by Mrs. Bessie L. Henderson. The shop is equipped to do mending, make alterations and what have you and will be open from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily except Sunday.

AER Loans for Furloughs Taboo

"Army Emergency Relief funds no longer are available for furloughs," according to Lt. Vernon G. Henderson, Special Service officer. Money will still be available in cases of "extreme emergency," however, it was pointed out.

"Extreme emergency" has been defined by higher headquarters as being sickness or death in a soldier's family. In such cases, proof acceptable to the commanding officer must be provided, and it must also be shown that the needed money cannot be obtained from the Red Cross or through private channels.

The move follows a similar policy laid down by the American Red Cross several weeks ago, in which the organization decided to limit its loans to emergency cases after a January 14.

54th Song Class Completes Course

Conforming with the War Department aim of having every military unit going overseas self-sufficient in soldier entertainment, the 58th Bn. Song Leaders Class will mark completion of instruction with a graduation exercise at 8 p. m. Monday at the Service Club.

Entertainment has been arranged by Sgt. Don Custer, instructor of the course, and will consist of group singing, selections by a male quartet and a classic violinist, and a number of novelty numbers.

Classes in the future will include instruction in small instruments such as the ocarina and tonette, Lt. Helen Martin, music officer, stated. The last three battalions have not worked with this pocket-sized equipment because instruments were not available.

Generals List Aims in Fourth Bond Drive

Aims of the Fourth War Loan Drive and Camp Abbot's achievements under the program are set forth in letters by Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, commanding general of the Army Service Forces, Maj. Gen. David McCoach Jr., commanding general of the Ninth Service Command, and Col. Aubrey H. Bond, ERTC commander in the absence of Col. Frank S. Besson, who is attending a conference of post commanders of the Ninth Service Command at Fort Douglas, Utah. The letters follow:
Major General David McCoach, Commanding General, Ninth Service Command, Fort Douglas, Utah.

Dear General McCoach:

The Secretary of War, through W. D. Circular No. 345, dated 31 December, 1943, has called attention to the Fourth War Loan Drive and has directed that each commanding officer establish and maintain a War Bond organization which is adequate for effective action. It is desired that personal contact be made during this drive as will insure attainment of the following objectives:

- Increase in the enrollment of civilian employees under the Class A Pay Reservation Plan to a minimum of 10 per cent of gross pay roll by at least 90 per cent of personnel.
- Initiation of or increase in Class B allotments among all military personnel.
- The purchase, for cash, of at least an additional bond by all civilian and commissioned personnel.

I am personally interested in seeing that the personnel (civilian and military) of each service command attain the objectives set by the Secretary of War.

I am confident that with your personal support and cooperation the drive within the activities under your jurisdiction will be a complete success.

Sincerely yours,
BREHON SOMERVELL,
Lieutenant General,
Commanding

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Purchase Officer On Radio Show

The Purchasing and Contracts Section of Camp Abbot was in operation even before the post itself, Lt. Jacob Samachson, purchasing and contract officer, said on KBND's "Camp Abbot on Parade" radio show Wednesday night. Lieutenant Samachson described the vital role played by the section in securing supplies through agencies other than the army's regular supply channels.

Interviewer for the program, a regular weekly feature of the Bend station, was Lt. Charles Frucht, morale officer. The script was prepared by Pfc. Alfred W. Cherry of the Public Relations Office.