

Plaques Show Proficiency of Training Units

Co. A of the 54th Bn., was today awarded a plaque for tactical proficiency and Co. C received a plaque for administrative and another for technical progress. With these awards the program of making commendations at periodic intervals during the training program got into swing within the 11th Gp.

Last week the 12th Group battalions were given plaques to acknowledge proficiency in the three phases. As with the mess awards, each battalion has three plaques, which will be given out at the end of the sixth, tenth, fourteenth, and final week of training.

Companies within the battalions will be judged on administrative, technical, and tactical proficiency. Explaining the basis for deciding winners, Major Arthur Davidson, Post Inspector, said administrative proficiency is based on mess preparation, food conservation, medical and sanitary conditions.

Technical training progress will be judged by the training officers on the basis of performances in construction assignments, bridge building, and the like. Tactical plaques will be given to the company which most satisfactorily meets field problems and training exercises.

Plaques will be displayed in the mess halls by the winning companies, and there is no limit to the number of awards a single company may win. One company may win awards for all three phases, Major Davidson said.

MORE ABOUT USO Show

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best acts of the miniature revue. Margie Brewer does a lively routine of toe, novelty, comedy, and special dances. Janie Hodges sings ballads and hit tunes; and Walter Fulkerson rounds out the evening with novel accordion arrangements.

MORE ABOUT Red Cross Drive

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totaling \$77,413 and 367 outright grants totaling \$15,129 from June 1, 1934, through Jan. 31, 1944, he said.

Goal for the national campaign is 200 million dollars. No quota has been set for Camp Abbott.

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KNOTTY PROBLEM



The days of ship and sail are recalled in this photograph of an Engineer trainee undergoing one phase of training in rigging at Camp Abbot. The trainee's current problem is that of correctly applying his knowledge of the "square knot."

Veteran of Dunkirk in Abbot Training Unit

If you think you've had your ups and downs in the army and have been the victim of capricious pranks as the mills of a mammoth organization ground out its necessary but sometimes mysterious assignments, compare your military career with that of Pvt. Robert Rankin, a Camp Abbot soldier.

A day before the Dieppe raid, T Sgt. Robert Rankin of the Essex Scottish Regiment, the original commando outfit, received orders to return to Canada. He had been overseas for a year and a half fighting the Germans in France and Belgium, and didn't like to leave. He was only 15, but he felt himself a veteran—he'd been at Dunkirk and in South Africa, and England.

So back he went, and was handed an honorable discharge from the Canadian army. He returned to the United States, misrepresented his age and enlisted in the Army. In eleven months he was a staff sergeant, training special service troops. A short time later he was discharged with "minority" given as the reason.

Rankin tried the merchant marine next, and was commissioned a lieutenant junior grade by the Maritime commission. As a staff officer, he sailed the seas to the Solomons and made the perilous northern route to Archangel. He shipped around the world until his eighteenth birthday, and then decided to go back to the army, now that he was old enough.

That's where he is now—taking basic training in C-57.

Patients to Hold Newspaper Party

Patients at the Station Hospital will turn fashion experts (probably in their grave), design and wear their own newsprint costumes and "cop" prizes in the bargain at a "newspaper party" to be held at the Red Cross Recreation Hall Monday night. Also on the program will be the current events contests, relays which somehow involve newspapers and a "funny paper charade" which should be well worth seeing just to find out what in hell it is.

Just in case anyone has any funny ideas, supervisors will keep a sharp lookout for a man with a match.

Thursday night, patients will fire questions at four members of the Kiwanis Club of Bend in a combination community sing and open forum program.

Miuwaukee (CNS)—A comfort-loving local resident has trained his pet cat to scratch his back.

Former Guard Wins Check for Victory Idea

Another check was awarded this week for a submission to the "Ideas for Victory" program, this time to a former civilian guard, Leonard P. Bailey. He suggested enclosing the magazine and igloo areas and establishing a telephonic communication system in order to safeguard ammunition and explosives.

While this is the first cash award made since Lewis E. Rainey, clerk in the sales office of the Supply and Service Division, received \$200 from Col. Frank S. Besson for a food ration issue plan, a number of suggestions are currently being considered, Major Frederick J. Landenberger, chairman of the Committee on Awards, stated.

"Ideas for Victory" was initiated by the War Department last June and calls for the payment of cash awards for suggestions by civilian employees which result in economy or improvement of manufacturing processes or in the administration of the War Department. Awards are authorized up to \$250 with the approval of the commanding officer, and ideas may be submitted by depositing them in suggestion boxes, from which they are collected and anonymously considered.

Notes From C-59

Camp Abbot, Oregon.

Dear folks:

I wrote you last time about this wonderful country out here in Oregon where our camp is situated. This time I am going to tell you about life in camp as you know our soldiers are about the best taken care of of any army in the world. They turn the lights out at 10 o'clock each night. This is done to shut off the crap games so the guys will get enough sleep. We have a very nice, strong corporal who worked hard day and night just so he could get to be a sergeant so he could get the \$12 raise so he could afford to lose more money and he is perfectly satisfied now because he sez since he is a sergeant now he still has the same amount of money left each payday and he don't have to worry about income tax because soldiers are exempt from income tax for the duration. Then an officer comes around to make a bed check. This consists mainly of looking at each bed to see if any heads are missing. If they are then the guilty party is AWOL and that means a woman on the loose. Mostly when one of them is absent it is sometimes traceable to a weak soul trying to smuggle a pint back into camp and as the rules say they cannot

bring a bottle of spirits into camp they bring it back inside them. A bushel of corn shelled still fills a bushel, but reduce it to liquid and it fills a guard house. And speaking of the guard house, there is one in there for impersonating an officer which is a serious offense. When he gets out he will probably find himself in Djibuti. Then when we get up in the morning the second thing we do is exercise, the first being of course breakfast. As you know Oregon is famous for its mountain air, which reminds me a pair just got married last Sunday in the chapel here in camp. In Christianity, a man can have only one wife, and this is called monogamy. If he chooses to marry twice, this is called bigamy.

We have a dance every Wednesday night too which all the soldiers and also lady soldiers, that is to say, Wacs, turn out and cover the dance floor and those that have them bring their wives and sweethearts, not both naturally, unless they are newlyweds. A soldier is a friend to all and a brother to every other soldier. Me and the sergeant get along good together. The other day the sergeant and me and Corporal Shepherd were out walking in the woods when we came upon two pole cats which some people call skunks. They both had their guns with them. Two shots rung out. One skunk fell dead and the other went through his tail. The sergeant carried the live one back to camp as he said he knew the sanitary way of carrying a skunk. The whole way back Corporal Shepherd kept tickling the sergeant and the sergeant said he would leave go and the skunk would bite Cpl. Shepherd if he kept right on tickling him and Corporal Shepherd did and the sergeant did and the skunk did. The pole cat is only one of many animals belonging to the cat family. Others are the father cat, the mother cat and two kittens. When we got back to camp we decided we wanted to keep the skunk but the lieutenant said to get rid of him and we knew it was no use arguing with a lieutenant so we took him out in back and shot him and while Corporal Shepherd held him down with a forked stick the sergeant skinned him. You surely must be surprised to see me typing. I have had 12 lessons and am learning to type slowly. This letter took exactly 40 minutes. In my next lesson we are learning how to spell on it. These things sure are wonderful if you can only control the goshdarnthings damit hmn. I will end my letter with a poem this time.

Here's to the happy, bounding flea,

You cannot tell a he from a she.

Both look alike as you can plainly see,

But he can tell, and so can she.

—Your loving son?

It's your life, soldier—INSURE IT!

Male Call by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates" R. H. I. P. (Rank Hinders Impromptu Propositions)

