

# Captain Describes Construction in India

Captain Harry Friedman, who supervised the remodeling and renovation of the IV Corps area which is now used to house part of the Casual Company, revealed this week a few of the primitive methods of construction he observed while engaged in a project for the Army Engineers in India.

Native labor consists largely of women and children who form long lines of marching bearers carrying burdens on their heads. "We employed hundreds of these coolies," he said, "and nursing mothers strapped babies over their right hips and balancing the heavy load on their heads with the left hand was an everyday occurrence."

With practically no skilled artisans and an unemotional population, India possesses some of the world's most beautiful temples and structures, Capt. Friedman declared.

"India's buildings are covered with unbelievably well-finished terrazzo and marble floors of intricate design," he pointed out, "yet I doubt if a single polishing machine could be found in the country."

Materials are transported to the project, the Captain said, by lorries in some cases. But usually bullock-carts, water-buffalo or oxen are used. In some parts of India motive power is provided by camel or elephant.

"When you hire a coolie," Capt. Friedman disclosed, you hire his entire family and that includes the children; for no matter how young a child is, if he can carry a brick on his head, he goes to work."

But an Indian contractor does not hire labor directly, according to the Captain. He gets his coolies from a coolie contractor

who provides them in any quantity for approximately one rupee per day (about 30 cents). This includes the agent's commission, but he also collects from the laborer. In rural districts the rate of pay is usually three fourths of a seer of rice. A seer is about 2 3/4 pounds. In addition to the rice he gets anywhere from 4 to 12 annas a day in cash. An anna is about two cents. The coolie contractors generally become quite wealthy while the coolie is usually the victim of famine and malnutrition.

## Findings From the 51st

BY F. PATRICK RYAN

This week's column is dedicated to Sgt. Chiarolanza for his untiring efforts to place the first platoon in the limelight. On recent bridge building problems, the first platoon was the first to complete their bridge without the half moon effect so common in others. The Sergeant takes his work seriously. If one of his men broke a leg on the obstacle course he would tell them to start doing push-ups so they wouldn't miss the benefits derived from this source of physical training. What a man. Yipes!

Apparently thinking of a suitable penalty, a trainee in his fifth week was heard to mumble in his prayers: "Dear Lord. Please don't let Hitler die before he finishes his basic training!"

The fourth platoon has received a lot of publicity about consistently winning the obstacle course series. This created a mildly envious situation. The other platoons began to tell them they were just lucky. This must have made the boys angry. They went out all huffed up. When the second squad came back it was learned they not only came in first, but tied the camp record. The company now carries the obstacle course banner proudly on its guidon.

The M1 rifle weighs 8.69 pounds. After an hour of close order drill, the decimal point drops out.

The second squad of the second platoon won the last fist-cuffs session. The main bout was between Pvt. Stolen and Pvt. Pitts. They were at least evenly matched. Stolen stands about five and a half feet and Pitts towers to six feet, four. See what I mean?

When You've Read it—Please Pass The ENGINEER AROUND.



Twice a day the letter-laden character in the center becomes the No. 1 morale builder in his outfit. During the first week of training, before new soldiers learned the value of patience by standing in seemingly interminable lines, the mail orderly bore more GI footprints on his back than the sidewalk in front of a burlesque house. The bruises are gone now leaving a man thoroughly convinced that "they also serve who only stand and wait."

## Notes From B - 52

By Pvt. Alfred M. Lutinski

Only a week after he'd started his training, Pvt. Lamar announced he was quitting.

"Tain't the wages or the food," he explained. "It's just that I can't help having a guilty conscience all the time I'm training."

"What for?" asked the bewildered sergeant.

"Well, I'm always worrying about my cheating a big strong ox out of a job."

Pvt. Poterfield: "I had a beard like yours once, but when I realized how it made me look, I cut it off."

Pvt. DeVaney: "I had a face like yours once, and realizing I couldn't cut it off, I grew this beard to cover it."

### MORALE

When your camp looks clean,  
And the soldiers look neat,  
And the chow tastes good,  
Whatever you eat—  
That's Morale.

When the training is easy,  
Tho' the job is rough,  
And you get a lot done  
Without getting tough—  
That's Morale.

When the job is long,  
But the period seems short,  
And your orders go  
Without any retort—  
That's Morale.

You may call it wisdom,  
Or cunning lore,  
Or, if you like,  
Esprit de corps,

But unless you have it in your camp,  
The entire place will go out like a lamp.

## CHURCH RITES

Post Chapel, Bldg. 208; 11th Gp. Chapel, Bldg. 1255; 12th Gp. Chapel, Bldg. 754; Hospital services, Red Cross Recreation Hall.

### JEWISH SERVICES

Friday—7:45 p.m. Post Chapel (Bldg. 208).

### CATHOLIC SERVICES

Sunday—7:30 a. m. Red Cross Recreation Hall. Mass. Open to others besides hospital personnel. Confessions before mass. 9:00 a. m. and 6:30 p. m. Post Chapel. Mass.

Monday—7:00 p. m. 12th Group Chapel. Mass.

Tuesday—5:15 p. m. 12th Group Chapel. Mass.

Wednesday—5:15 p. m. Post Chapel. Mass.

Thursday—7:00 a. m. 12th Group Chapel. Mass.

Friday—7:00 a. m. 12th Group Chapel. Mass.

Saturday—7:00 to 9:00 p. m. Post Chapel. Confessions.

### PROTESTANT SERVICES

Sunday—10:00 a. m. Services in Red Cross Recreation Hall. 10:45 a. m. Post Chapel. Services 8 a. m. in 12th Group Chapel for 57th Battalion. 9:15 services at Guard House.

Wednesday—7 p. m. Post Chapel. Choir Rehearsal.

### DENOMINATIONAL GROUP SERVICES

Wednesday—7:00 p. m. 11th Group Chapel. L. D. S. Services.

Thursday—8 p. m. 12th Group Chapel. Christian Science Services.

It's your life, soldier—INSURE IT!

## The Chaplain's Corner

The Chaplain never knows who gets benefits from his services. A letter like the one below is like a strike to a fisherman. It is encouraging. The Chaplain is no so much interested in compliments as he is in knowing that some one is getting some good out of the Chaplain's Branch program.

Religion works as well in the army as in civilian life. The Chaplain's advice to every soldier is to keep his religion in as good condition as he keeps his field equipment. The letter follows:

Camp Abbot, Oregon,  
April 16, 1944

Dear Sir:

Unless by orders are changed I'll be leaving Camp Abbot this week. As you are the listening post for many a service man it is needless for me to tell you that I have had a very busy 17 weeks here at this camp. I wish, however, to tell you that many of those busy weeks were made easier by attending services at the Chapel and listening to your words of encouragement and prayer. Being in the early thirties I have found many an occasion to use the strengthening words of prayer to carry me over the "Obstacles." I hope that other trainees find the peace and enjoyment at the Post Chapel that I did.

May God bless you and your work.

Yours truly,  
A Casual

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

## Rule Revisions Expected to Cut Losses by Fire

In response to a directive from the Ninth Service Command calling for renewed effort to minimize destruction of water sheds by grass, brush, or forest fires, the post fire marshal's office is having the existing fire regulations revised to provide for closer liaison with federal and state forestry agencies.

Under the plan announced by Maj. Gen. David McCoach, Jr., Commanding General, all commanding officers of posts, camps and stations in the eight states of the command will instruct their forces in the prevention of damage from bivouac fires, cigarettes, demolitions, and ammunition.

In instances where security will not be jeopardized, civilian agencies responsible for fire suppression in areas to be used for military operations will be notified in advance of Army activities involving possible fire hazards.

## Male Call

by Milton Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates"



## Forecastle Armor