

# Band, Trained For Combat, Is Morale Builder

One of the most interesting units at an Army camp is the post band, for in that aggregation of musicians the discipline of the soldier and the self-expression of the artist are successfully combined. This is particularly amazing when one considers that while the primary purposes of the band are to furnish martial music for various drills and provide entertainment under the camp morale program, the unit also trains for combat and at the front sometimes is called upon to perform interchangeably as musicians and soldiers.

The 362nd Army Service Forces band of Camp Abbot, composed almost entirely of former professional musicians, is engaged in these varied activities.

Before he took up his Army assignment, Warrant Officer Charles S. Spalding, director of the band, moved in a world of music. He earned a Master's degree in music at Harvard University, and later was attached to the music division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C. To this impressive musical background he has added training at the Army Music School, of which he is a graduate. He has achieved the highest Army rating open to band directors.

As director, Mr. Spalding is also company commander of the band personnel, and in the barracks, maintained with the traditional cleanliness and neatness of Army quarters, one sees the requirements of the soldier and the musician combined so well that the presence on shelves of drums and trombone mutes beside canteens and other field equipment does not seem incongruous.

### Soldiers and Musicians

About half of the 362nd band



362nd Army Service Forces band, under direction of Warrant Officer Charles S. Spalding, playing for departing troops at Camp Abbot.

barracks at Center Street and Group avenue is set aside as a rehearsal hall. Music stands, a small upright piano, shelves of music scores, a blackboard for recording impromptu arrangements, and other necessary impedimenta of the organization, occupy this section. Beyond, and set apart by tarpaulin cloth suspended from the ceiling, are sleeping quarters of two-deck bunks, with the familiar barracks bag sharing the cubic foot space allotment of each man with instrument cases.

Happening into this atmosphere in the middle of the morning, a visitor is likely to find either the entire band, or a segment of it, rehearsing, while other musicians sit on foot lockers or their bunks enraptured or visibly critical, but all contributing to the performance with their sincere interest.

This scene is particularly interesting because the visitor realizes that these same men have been up since five-thirty, have stood reveille, made up their

bunks, policed the area, and undergone a period of physical training, a schedule designed to keep them in military trim.

### Have Duties in Combat

Diligent pursuance of the military standard of fitness seems rational enough, when one understands that upon reaching the combat zone band members will serve as combat soldiers if a situation requiring it develops. They may be called upon to act as headquarters guards, members of work details, litter bearers, and as fighters. In the event the latter exigency develops, they are likely to leave the battlefield when the emergency has passed, take their instruments to the field hospital, and play cheering music for wounded men from the same action in which the musicians themselves had taken part.

At the home camp, the band maintains a busy schedule. It plays for parades, inspections, retreat ceremonies, concerts, orientation programs, and departing combat units, meets

incoming groups and dignitaries, and fills a host of other assignments.

Two excellent dance bands which are units of the 362nd ASF

# Murals of 'Sad Sack' at 53rd

Murals in oil, depicting incidents of a "Sad Sack" from the time he gets off the bus in Klamath Falls to the time he is shipped out from Camp Abbot, soon will be completed in the mess hall of Co. B, 53rd.

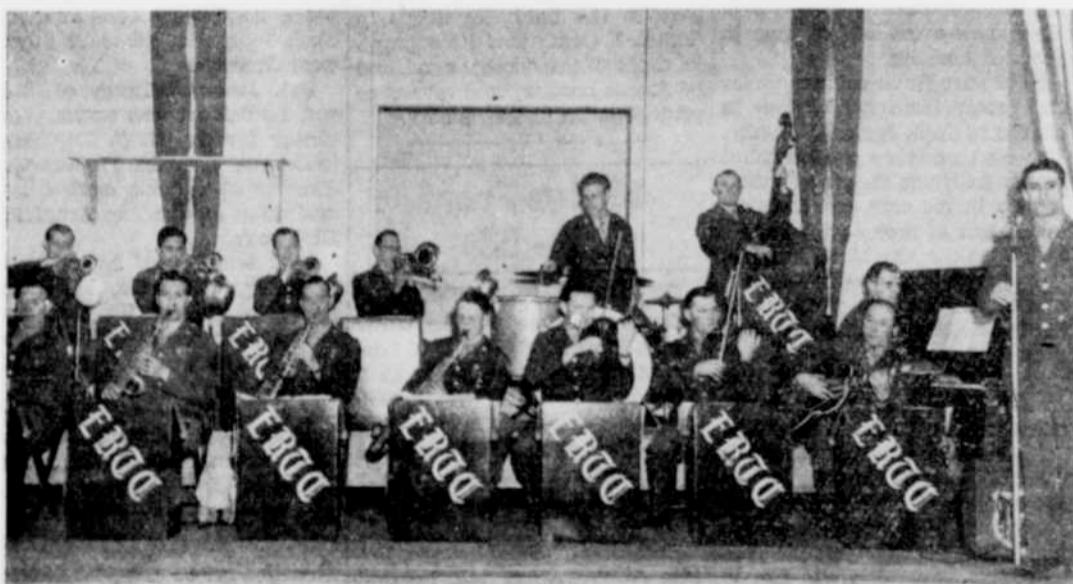
One panel depicts the well-known comic character crawling out of the ring after Fisticuffs, and another portrays the little fellow in great distress on the obstacle course. Other subjects will include: "Record Firing," "Gas Chamber," "KP," "Ten-mile Hike," "Tank Run," "Booby Traps," and many more, making a total of 26 panels in all.

Muralists at work are: Pvt. Thomas R. Merideth Jr., former architect and engineer, of Shreveport, La.; Pvt. Keith F. Ripley, former Marine engineer and draftsman, of Billings, Montana; and Pvt. Gilbert W. Warren, marine draftsman, of Seattle, Washington.

band, are under the direction of Jack Hayes, trumpeter and well-known music arranger, and Agho Tiemann.



This is Victory Center in Portland, scene of World War II rallies, where the 362nd Army Service Forces band has appeared twice. On May 15 the band appeared here in a one-hour program in connection with celebration of the Women's Army Corps anniversary, as hundreds of Portland citizens blocked Broadway traffic to hear the Camp Abbot boys do their stuff.



Above, Staff Sergeant Agho Tiemann's dance orchestra, and below, Staff Sergeant Jack Hayes' Camp Abbot dance orchestra. Both are units within the 362nd Army Service Forces band. Composed almost entirely of former professional musicians, they make camp dances lively affairs.

## Notes From A-55

Privates Rodney E. Openshaw and Thomas A. Johnston will take part in the coming A-55 entertainment at the Service Club. Openshaw is a pianist who plays enthusiastically but with an utter disregard for conventional music. Johnston sings and strums cowboy songs. Previous experience prior to entrance in the armed forces qualifies them for the job.

Squad one of the 2nd platoon is definitely on the ball. Winners of the last half dozen fights in the fisticuff arena via the quick knockout route, the squad also captured first place in company competition for the obstacle run for the last two weeks in a row. The boys have developed some excellent teamwork, and say that's responsible for their success.

Squads two and three of the 2nd platoon are giving squad one a run for its money. This week they finished second and third in the obstacle run, and duplicated the job of squad one in the ring. As a matter of fact, squad two was awarded the championship for the week on the basis of fewer men lost during the heat.

The exploits of the 2nd platoon lead one to believe that Lieutenant Tardiff has a secret formula

that he is making good use of to promote teamwork.

Private Thomas P. Snyder is the songwriter for Company A. His versions of "When the War Is Over" and "All We Do Is Sign the Payroll" have already been sung publicly, and his "Lights Out For Tokyo," sung to the tune of "Glory Hallalulah," has been adopted as the marching song for the 3rd platoon.

Some men in the 2nd platoon have found many uses for the "helmet liner". This army experience should serve them in good stead in later years.

Turkey is out of the question now. Company A prefers goose. This chance in diet may be largely attributed to the activities of Camp Abbot's only Private General, Pvt. General J. Harris. The goose mating call, perfected to the same degree of technique as displayed by a finished hogcaller, is Private Harris' chief stock in trade. He operates particularly well at the theatre, before training films, assisted by his Company A buddies.

Sgt. Lawrence L. Doyle ranks high among the accomplished bowlers at Camp Abbot. His average might serve to bolster a few others in match competition, perhaps with the winners of the Camp Abbot Bowling League. There might be a few other non-coms or enlisted men who could give the officers a good match-