

Goodbye, Abbot . . . Hello, Ft. Lewis

JUN 21 1944

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What's 30?
That's All,
Brother

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CAMP ABBOT, OREGON

June 17, 1944

New Post Has Swimmin' Hole N' Everything

For those Camp Abbot GIs who have been living in a state of anticipation ever since they heard the first rumor of the move to Fort Lewis, the ENGINEER conducted a survey this week and can now report on the entertainment to be found at the Washington camp.

In the first place, Fort Lewis is near several fair-size cities, and just an hour from a large one, Seattle. Tacoma and Olympia are each accessible for 35 cents a round trip. First Sgt. Alvin P. Pridham of the Camp Abbot MP detachment, one of our informants, tells us that at all of these places the inhabitants do a great deal for service men.

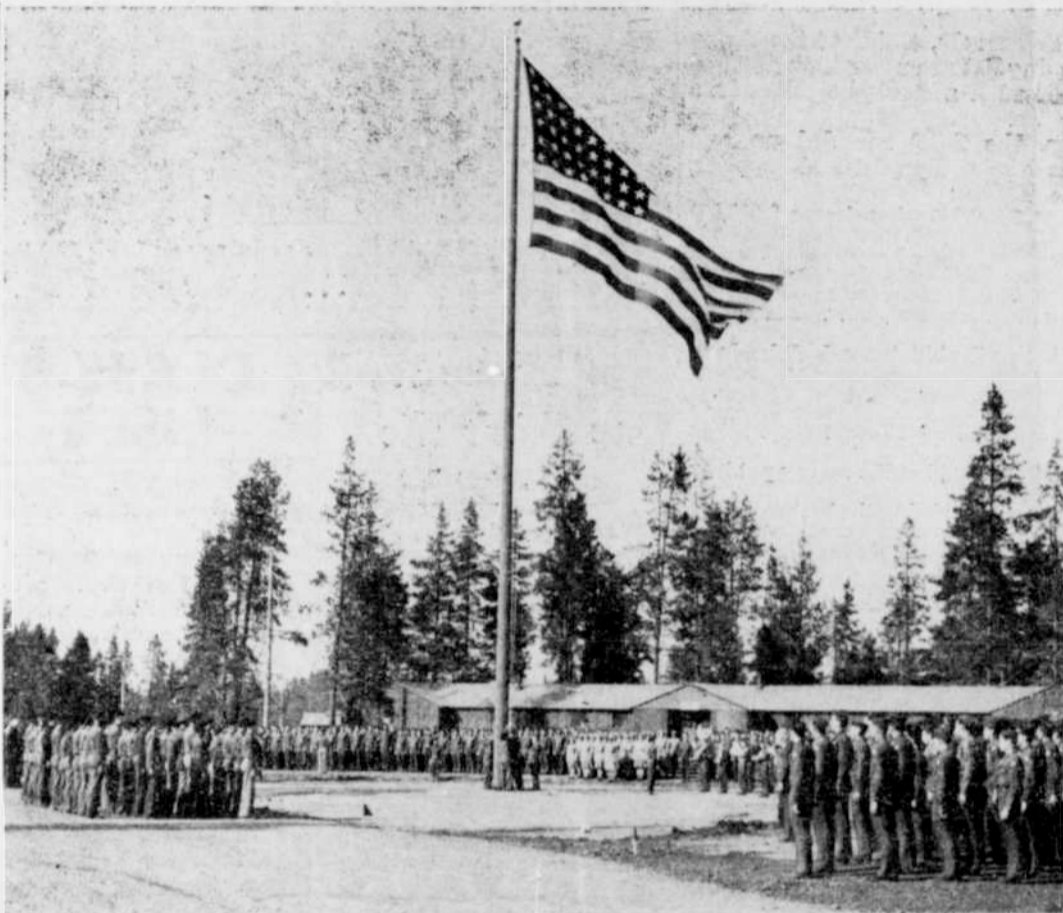
American Lake, said to be a ten-minute walk or a ten-cent ride from the post, has a fine beach, diving boards, and a nearby beer parlor.

On the North post, where engineers will train, there is in addition to the Service Club and Officers Club, a "field house," an immense building suitable for sports events and entertainments requiring extensive floor space, such as dances.

The most glowing accounts, however, are of the main post, approximately four miles distant, where in addition to fine clubhouses there is a bowling alley, roller skating rink, gymnasium, guest houses, and other attractions.

An interesting institution at the post, described to us by Frank J. Dunning, field director of the local American Red Cross office, is the "hobby house." Here, Mr. Dunning said, a man can pursue almost any hobby, having access to band saws, photographic equipment, various musical instruments, and many other facilities. He said that even the professional services of a violin instructor are available.

Wichita, Kans. (CNS)—When one inmate of the city jail reported the loss of his false teeth, a jail-wide dragnet was spread. The choppers were recovered from the mouth of a trusty.



—Photo by Signal Corps Photo Lab.
She's a grand old flag, and she'll be waving when the Army Service Forces Training Center of Camp Abbot is no more, to remind all who behold her that they are in the United States of America, the land of the free. This photograph was taken at the first retreat ceremony in Headquarters Circle. In the year that has elapsed since then, many of the boys seen standing at attention probably have gone on to Anzio, New Guinea, and Caen.

Facilities at Ft. Lewis to Be Expanded 53rd and 57th Prepare Areas

The practical problem of expanding facilities of Fort Lewis North to accommodate many more engineers than Camp Abbot has been training at one time, is providing field training for the 53rd and 57th battalions, first units to arrive at the new post, Maj. Dan H. Griswold of the Training Division has announced.

The work includes construction of additional buildings and roads, preparation of training grounds, such as a floating bridge area and demolition and demolition structures areas, and reproducing combat lanes, obstacle courses, and other necessities for engineer training.

Meanwhile, Major Griswold said, training on this post is proceeding as usual.

Two-Thirds Army Overseas By End Of Year Likely

More than 3,657,000 soldiers of the United States army now are deployed outside the continental United States in theatres of operations throughout the world, according to Washington announcements. This force represents 47 per cent of the total strength of the army, and by the end of 1944, the number of troops overseas will be increased to more than 5,000,000 men, approximately two-thirds of total strength.

Already the overseas force exceeds by 1,571,000 men the peak (Continued on page 4)

Gen. Gilbreath Takes Command

Maj. Gen. Frederick Gilbreath yesterday assumed his new duties as commander of the Army Service Forces Training Center at Fort Lewis, a United Press dispatch reported. It stated that the initial units under his command would be the entire complements of Camp Abbot and Camp Adair, Oregon, and the medical detachments from Camp Grant, Illinois, and other posts, and that ultimately Signal Corps and other training units would be added.

The engineers will continue to be under the direct command of Col. F. S. Besson, who will be commanding officer of the Engineer Training Section of the Army Service Forces Training Center of Fort Lewis.

Col. Hall's Son Prisoner, Report

Official word from the International Red Cross was received this week by Colonel Lester E. Hall, executive officer at Fort Lewis, Washington, that his son, Lt. L. W. Hall, is being held in Germany as a prisoner of war.

Young Hall was a co-pilot of a Flying Fortress based in England. He was reported missing last month.

Colonel Hall was formerly executive officer at Camp Abbot.

'Walkie Talkie' Training Begins

Training in use of the "walkie talkie" made its bow at the ASFTC at Camp Abbot this week when a group of Engineer soldiers from the 54th battalion began studying operation of portable radio equipment used extensively in combat operations overseas.

Instruction, in charge of Capt. Kermit Lindell, Post Signal Officer, included maintenance of radio contact between men equipped with two 16-pound portable radio sets and a larger field or vehicular radio unit set up in the 54th battalion drill field. Trainees using the portable units operated their sets from various points within the encampment, and reported good reception.

The portable set (SCR 511) is described as a low power radio receiver and transmitter which operates on either dry or stored (Continued on Page 2)



BONDS

The following thought was submitted by Maj. Arthur Davidson, co-chairman of the Camp Abbot War bond council:

There is a bond between us and our brave fighters over there that cannot be broken — no amount of money can buy it. But there is a bond between them and us that can be purchased. The wise old owl is the salesman. Get yours today.



This bulbous-nosed, big-bellied "Flying Catfish" is the United States Navy's newest and biggest cargo carrying plane. Built of stainless steel, it has a 100-foot wingspread, two 1,000 horse power air-cooled motors, and cruises at 165 miles an hour. It can carry 10,000 pounds of freight 600 miles and has a maximum range, with smaller load and auxiliary gas tank, of 2,500 miles.



Post Signal Photo Lab.
The Corps of Engineers quickly adopts—and improves—any idea of merit. The above method of crossing a stream has been used by Pacific island natives for centuries. Lines are thrown over tree limbs, and the free ends regained with the aid of a long pole. This training device, erected under the supervision of Lt. Warren L. Meyer of Camp Abbot, assists men in becoming sure-footed and confident in precarious situations.