Col. W. T. Bals Assumed Duties As Asst. Camp C.O.  

Col. W. T. Bals arrived at Camp Hood last week to take over the duties of Assistant Camp Commander. Col. Bals, who commenced his military service in 1919, is a specialist in ordnance and served as an instructor in that field at graduating classes at the Tank Destroyer School in 1945. He holds the rank of Lt. Col. and has served in various parts of the United States with the Regular Army. Col. Bals' home is in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"Spring Fever" Set To Open At Hood Rd, May 3  

'The Nancy Knowles show, "Spring Fever" has set its premiere for May 3 at the Hood Road Theatre, Tuesday night, at 8 o'clock.  

Mrs. Dorothy Joan Jones, who has served two years as a dance instructor at the Hood Road, has been engaged to produce this premiere.  

There are compacted titles to the cast of Mrs. Dorothy Joan Smith, winner of the title of "Flower in the City," and "Watta, Lexington, Ky. Mrs. Jones' award was given to the most correct interpretation of "Desert Song."  

Mrs. Smith is the wife of Pvt. Fred Kay Smith, 17th FR, 94th Inf.  

Col. Hains, Former G-3, Is Awarded The Silver Star  

Col. Peter C. Hains, former G-3 of the Tank Destroyer Center, and now on another, unannounced assignment, has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in Tunisia giving him an overall of five awards. The citation was announced this week.

Col. Hains was cited for unassisted action in support of a German IRTC attack. Following the action, he was awarded a citation for his gallantry in action in Tunisia giving him an overall of five awards. The citation was announced this week.

Dance At Georgetown  

The Georgetown, Cono's IRTC is staging a gala dance to honor the Tank Destroyer soldiers, Saturday night. Camp Hood personnel and guests are invited to attend the event. Music will be provided by the Georgetown band, and refreshments will be served. The dance will begin at 8:30 p.m.
Camp Ordnance Story Is One Of Fast Growth

The story of Ordnance-Maintenance at Camp Hood is an example of what can be accomplished where there is Need, ability, and Motivation. Its growth is amazing. Two years ago this month the Ordnance consisted of a small office over a dry store in Temple, with a small shop nearby.

Under the old army setup, Ordnance was a combination of supply of parts and equipment and repair and maintenance of automotive equipment. On Dec. 1st, 1946, Ordnance was divided into two separate organizations. The part that remained was the 'Maintenance Branch,' a division of the Army Service Forces. The purpose of this organization and the grouping of these functions under one office was repair and maintenance of all types of equipment on the post. It created a standardizing or simplification of army procedure. The repair of shoes, clothing, helmets, blankets, etc., was taken away from the Quartermaster and included in the Maintenance Branch. The repair of equipment and electrical equipment were made by the Signal Corps and included in Maintenance Branch.

Eckholm Work

The Maintenance Branch performs work on all types of military vehicles used by the Wood and Signal Corps and in Maintenance Branch.

Patch Collectors Write Letters Of Pure Poignance

Patch collecting and literature hunting isn't much in common here, but a few of the letters received by patch trowlers come close to being the latter. For instance, here's one received by a Task Destroyer. The letter starts:

"Dear Patch Collector:

"Orderly room Q4 gives one a fine chance to catch up on patch correspondence doesn't it? Thanks for the one you sent me, I did not have it before. Detailed in one which I have is a new addition to your collection.

"Crestly room Q4, and I have for company the CIVVY baby girl! Have I thought I had in every kind of a job the army could offer, from a stay in a wood in a sleeping area to running a dishwashing machine on IP Fort Dev, Montreal, but this is the first time I've had to chase around after a baby girl, with a stack in my lap:

"What we WAC's must put up with, golly, we like the little devil, though he is as honest as can be. He can eat licks and coal and has to be fed three meals a day. You should see him standing stiff-leg, going after that bottle for all the world, and with a smile on his face.

"It is stupid, though, he jumped up on a table here, fell off and cried until I picked him up and cuddled him... then dozened when he didn't turn right around and hop up on the table again!

"The climax came when he landed on my head. I caped him right, but he's a good sleeper and doesn't know."

"Thanks again for the patch... Happy hunting!"

Juke Box Jive

Most benches in camp are for Camp Hood soldiers, prudently watching that each week over 10,000 recordings are played in the forty jade boxes located in exchanges and clubs in the north and south Camp Hood. According to Al Betina, who services the machines, outside of Frank "The wire boss." Bixas, the boys are about equally divided in choosing between hillbilly tunes and hot swing. Classical music is conspicuous by its absence. "We try to get the records the boys like and we are happy to purchase any request records that are available. Requests come in and are taken by the managers of the exchanges or clubs," Betina explained.

Pfc Raymond Ferretti shows Joyce Casey the shoulder patch collection acquired by Miss Catherine Settle, librarian at 3701 St. Libery. Her collection is a feature of the downtown reading room. It has settled arguments, located "Centre Joe," and created a great deal of interest. Patches were sent to Miss Settle by Camp Hood boys who have gone to other camps; were procured by her for those boys who "knew a guy" who had a patch she didn't have; were bought outright when necessary; or were searched for with aPräs. From the colorful additions the collection makes to the library, it has a source of information as to the background and meaning of the units. For instance the colors of the Thirty-third Division are said to have been chosen because they were the only patches available when it became necessary to mark equipment before leaving for France in 1918, the "Eighty-ninth Sixth" Division is reported to have marched more than any other division in the AEF in World War I, the constellation of Orion, on the patch of the 77th Division, is in compliment to the Division's World War I commander, Maj. Gen. J. F. O'Ryan. Mining from the collection are the 5th Army and a few Air Corps and Cavalry patches. Anybody got a spare 5th Patch?

TDS Man Now In England

Staff Sgt. Robert W. Wasmund of the TDS Book Shop last week heard from Sergeant Lewis Hil, who now is stationed in London, England, England, until a short time ago, was assigned to the Book Shop. He says quite a bit about the interesting sights to be seen in London, and according to his letter, has been able to see most of the city.
Air Liaison Det., Enlisted Flyers, Set Good Record

Among the many activities to be established at Camp Hood during its early days was an Air Liaison Detachment from Army Air Forces. Foreseeing the tremendous advantage to be gained through the use of air liaison and observation in the tactical employment of Tank Destroyer units, Camp Hood's first Commanding General, Major General A. D. Bruce successfully promoted the construction of adequate landing strips on the reservation. On March 15th, 1943, the first Flight of Army Air Force pilots and planes arrived at Camp Hood to serve the Tank Destroyers first hand. This service to Army Forces troops was one of the first of its kind and in the months to follow proved of inestimable value to the integrated training program carried on at Hood.

From the first, the Air Corps detachment has been equipped with the AAF's famous ship, the Stinson L-5, a high wing monoplane especially designed for liaison missions, retaining the faculty of higher ships to take off and land in a tight spot and be the traffic of many heavier aircraft. The Stinson is an almost exclusive property of the detachment. Full use is being made of this plane for training purposes, and the first contingent of Airmen has served with great success. While the Stinson is comparatively high flying, it is ideally suited for the use of air liaison and observation activities.

One of the interesting results is a comparison of Tank Destroyers and Airmen in the months to follow proved to be of inestimable value to the integrated training program carried on at Hood.

Detachments, Fliers, & Support

From the first call for airmen to the camp's main entrance, the base for the first the Air Corps detachment at the Camp Hood Airport at all times was usually detailed by the week. The airport has adequate quarters for the men and mess and is provided within the administrative area.

**KMO Fliers**

Liaison pilots hold the rating of staff sergeant, and are the only enlisted pilots in the AAF. To qualify for a direct rating as liaison pilot each man must have had at least 100 hours flying time, those with 60 hours qualifying for the AAF Liaison School at Lamesa, Texas, and given ratings upon graduation. At the ground time the school is closed and no direct ratings are available. In addition to these assignments all liaison pilots have passed the usual rigid mental and physical examinations. A liaison pilot must be pilot, navigator, mechanic, crew chief, radio operator, observer plus performing numerous less duties. Flight 1 of the 157th Liaison Squadron, operating at Camp Hood boasts 3000 hours of training missions here in the past year without accidents, truly a remarkable record and one day recognized by the AAF. The Flight operated as a tactical unit for approximately six months but is now allotted as a training unit. There is a sufficient number of L-5's in the Flight to adequately serve any training mission. The detachment is commanded by Lt. Lt. Ben H. Green, Jr., who last August assumed command succeeding Lt. Richard H. Goldstone, the detachment having been selected for duty overseas.

**Good Facilities**

Facilities at the Camp Hood Airport are adequate to handle the traffic of many heavier twin-engined aircraft, the shorter runways being more than equal to the requirements. There is a 2000 hour flying school, the AAF Liaison School, with a seminary equipped for specialist training. The facilities at Hood have tended to encourage other training missions for the ground forces in the field.

IRTC Rookies Learn Meaning Of Orientation

Full test!

Aiming Heads up, eyes front, forward march!

There are the commands heard last week as the first increment of IRTC trainees at Camp Hood came on the scene and faced the task of becoming full fledged soldiers.

Many with backgrounds in a wide field of professions, from the mundane to the military, were filling ranks marching to the beat of the bands playing in the background. Men with backgrounds in a wide field of professions, from the mundane to the military, were filling ranks marching to the beat of the bands playing in the background.

Women in uniform, coming from all walks of life were being worked together as a team. They were learning how to march together and act in unison in all phases of military endeavor.

After the first call for assembly they came out with rifles and sabers in hand as a new sensation for them, but an interesting one by all evidence.

Orientation is the military term for getting acquainted with fundamental parts of their new life—was the first lesson on the curriculum. First they were taught how to identify the gun and sabre on hand over them, both by name and in order of rank or grade. They were also given instruction in personal and area drill, field sanitation, military courtesy and discipline.

They were shocked marching movements, information on the mechanics and use of their rifles, and found that physical training was a daily routine.

Coming away from civilian status they may have seemed a little strange and tedious for many, but on the whole they were digging in looking expectantly to future phases of training.

It won't be long before they will be attired in more formal and even more interesting uniforms, and will have acquired more proficiency in and possibly more enjoyment of the things that will make them into the efficient, well-disciplined soldiers that the Army needs them to be.
The Hood Panther

Published every week for the military personnel of Camp Hood, Texas, under supervision of the Special Services Office. News published in The Hood Panther is available for general reference only and does not constitute an authorized communication without permission of Camp Newspaper Service, War Department, 205 E. 42d St. New York City.

Subscription Free. Phone 2343

Editor
Sgt. Robert Clemens

Associate Editor
 Pvt. Wilbur Peirce

American

It's an exhilarating feel to be an American. This generation, through the blood of the fallen and the sweat of the living, is proving that our country can overcome behind our lines by showing the world by where our fantastic powers can get together and cause a world-destabilization, to step up in the line by the office and pay to get into this show. And then, to just say to us that we see it through—just once!

Being an American today means fighting. Fighting for the privilege of being a citizen, fighting for the right of the American people to be free, fighting for the Dick Tracy by an open hearth; to read "Huckleberry Finn" in the camp. How can we turn away from this battle when we know the country has been built upon an heritage of mottos, we might say—slogans they pause at some for one or more might yet be a slogan in the year 2000.

We're going to look after old Betsy who's been ailing a bit for some time; the land has been built upon an heritage of mottos, we might say—slogans they pause at some for one or more might yet be a slogan in the year 2000.

Fred

We Built Upon Slogans

American, too, is the fervor now created in us all to destroy the forces of evil, uplift their spirit and restore balance to the world. We may return to Runyan, and 42nd and Broadway, and Main Street. How can we turn away from this battle when we know the country has been built upon an heritage of mottos, we might say—slogans they pause at some for one or more might yet be a slogan in the year 2000.

The newest word to our generation shows these inspiring messages. They look up with reverence, these lads who have but recently donned khaki and full time duty; and at their glance upon these slogans they pause at some, for one or more might yet be a slogan in the year 2000.

Why, he was whisked into uniform just about the time he was told to fight, to what they would do—why, he did do down to us. And we're pretty good at keeping what belongs to us.

Branch

The WACs Measuring Up To Many Important Jobs Here

Women of the nation who are soldiers in the Women's Army Corps are finding an unprecedented satisfaction in serving their country. In the Women's Army Corps today, we may find the weak, the timid, the honest and the hardy.

The WACs are not just a pretty face, they're a force to be reckoned with in any battle. Theirs is a job of great responsibility, for they may be asked to do things in the field that are the work of men. Their duties are in other words, with the usual war, the half-way measures are no longer sufficient.

Women volunteering for the WACs are the cause of many a man to look twice before he匆des for his country.

Nurses Prove Their Right To Title Of "Angels of Mercy"

To any veterans of the front lines who have suffered injury or to any who has administered first aid to a buddy in the hour of his需要，for the first time in history, a new job is boding a new life, for it is these skilled hands, practised from long hours of training in humanity's greatest profession, that bandage the wounds, administer the needed medicines, blood plasma, etc., and offer a word of cheer and encouragement. Almost legendary are the words "Nurses Forlornly," "Angels of Mercy" as applied to those nurses serving the boys on the fighting fronts.

The nurses at Camp Hood are constantly reminded of their duty to the American soldier for he is their sole patient and the Camp itself partly a purely medical environment. Many a nurse together with her patient has navigated the routine of changing a dressing or transfusing plasma or as a battlefield of Task Destroyer went thundering by for a problem "nowhere on the reservation." It is the nurse who is the American soldier's only guide and comfort. He is her sole patient and she is his only comforter.

None are more proud of the nurses of the Women's Army Corps, who have served on the front lines in the various defense camps in the United States. They are the nurses who are serving their country in uniform. Since the day We were stabbed in the back by the war, we have seen the face of the American soldier, and returns the: then to the war, and so they probably won't be peace in anybone's time. We have to keep on with them.

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New Books Hit Camp Libraries

Your favorite public librarian may have to trudge many miles away, but it's a safe bet that the interest in books will not get any of the current fads, than the home-school reader. "Deep in the heart of the West..." --though you may be, a copy of your local library. We have been included in the Sibley Set-up, as a sign of the times a new movie tilt, "Artists Needed.

Wedges In Half-Track Cases Reveals Weakness

They're putting windows in the metal cases protecting the sides of the arrogant Shermanskis, turning them into the pictures department in the Tank Destroyer School. That there's nothing new about cutting away sections of engines and gear cases in students' tanks. But it is new openings cut into the case, in oil tanks exactly as they may be used under actual road conditions.

EM Inventors

T. J. Lewis, A. Green and Cpl. Robert E. Peters have recently completed work on a half-track, which is a more toss-liking job of putting windows in the case of the current model tank destroyer.

Some windows used on the half-track are made of plastic material particularly suited to that of an inch thick. These are to be used for the tank destroyer transmission. There will be one in the extruded aluminum, produced by the Continental Motors Corp., a company whose products are manufactured by Ford.

Two of these plastic windows have been "blown" into the half-track, a rare feat, the company having kept a container for the constant velocity joint on the front wheel of the tank.

Italian Fighting Plastic Tough As Gi Explain It

By Lt. L. R. Barshill

The Germans were the first to build flares that looked like daylight along the banks of the Rhine river in Italy. They were used both of an infantry rifle company, as well as on moving trains.

There were 12 of us when we started," recalled Private Holt at McClay Army General Hospital, where he is recovering from a bullet wound in his leg. I was transferred to the half-track, which is a common position in the half-track lot.

It's not bad, but they never caught it. When the case was to be the No. 4 man in the paratroop, I carried a mattress with three clips of ammunition and three grenades in my pocket. The canteen was left behind, but as unluckily is when you are on a night patrol. They have been in the US.

The question is not whether the Germans saw the open field to reach the river. In a cut on a road, about five yards from the river, we had to put up a rubber balloon for a sign. When the first one was inflated, a second one was sent for. No sounds from the balloon. "We've got to get away from here," I said. When the second balloon was inflated, I found that the first one had been put away in the case, then we were forced to inflate two rubber balloons. The balloonists were quite happy when the rubber balloon was dropped into the water.

Italian troops are trained to use the transmissions, the relationship of the engine to the transmission, the relationship of the engine to the transmission, the relationship of the engine to the transmission.

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Author Of "Under Cover" Warns Against Loose Talk

Pvt. Bernard R. Gray, IRTC

Not long ago I talked to a man who for the past five years has been working with more Asia underground agents than any other man in America. Interesting enough, he didn't want me to write about the work that he does, but he let me in on a most difficult task he had to learn as investigator—keeping his mouth shut.

His system of not trusting at least ten years had put into it when he found that the Nazis who talked with themselves in the fact that they could talk without divulging any vital news, had proven his greatest source of information. The American's born author of "Under Cover" followed the premise that once told something to someone it became public property, and he further imagined that every man who spoke to a newspaperman ready to stuff any scrap that could be said to the world.

At first I wasn't sure that, O'Brien would take my language, however, that thought was quickly erased as he said, "How about hopping down into some wine with maple syrup before we get started on the story?"

We did, and the wines were good, but some of his opinions on communism and romance-filled action of the axis were better.

Ralph K. Hadley, rubbing back to some members of the Internal Security Division on how to stop certain traits that might reveal the identity of an Axis espionage agent and his past five years of experience wrote a soldier's girl:

Dear Miss:  

My boy friend loves you but he writes too much.

The ROOD PANTHER

Thursday, April 28, 1944

New WAC Prospect

A telegram received at 144th IRTC Bn. Headquarters Turnhalle from Atlanta, revealed that Lt. Edward E. Dawson, Adj. S-3, is the father of a baby girl. The wire read: "WAC recruit assigned and joined as of Saturday. Moved line."

Baby Girl For Asst. Adj.

Dawn of April 18th preceded Lt. Leslie V. Niewoehner, Jr., with a baby daughter, "Specialist Chuck." Operations, 1st, S-3. Mrs. Niewoehner and child are still doing well according to Adj. Ants. Adj. Leslie V. Niewoehner.

THE END
**Former TDS WO**

**Writers Friends What To Pack**

Warrant Officer Frank Bacon, formerly of TDS, who is now serving somewhere in Italy writes to friends in Camp Hood this week. A portion of his interesting letter is devoted to handing out advice to buddies who might be taking an ocean voyage soon for health-serious health for Idoah or Hirslo. Mr. Bacon says:

"As far as equipment goes, buy a 'Mac' for all means—and definitely an air mattress and sleeping bag. Stowing on the lower of Old Mother Bath is not the most pleasant situation in the world. I can assure you, some men need not be concerned with this situation."

"As for uniforms, take your M-1 helmet; 1 pair of armor shoes of about four pairs of cotton, 2 pair of GI shoes, 1 low cut, rain coat, field jacket—incidentally, I bought a cord here last Saturday for $4.08. The only trouble is I got it a bit too tight in the waist. Take 2 pairs of John LeA, and about half a dozen summer shorters—3 or 4 sweats and hand undershirts. For gosh sakes don’t overlook your shoe and never make the mistake of taking away money that you need. And don’t. Make sure you get a new belt, rubber, medicine bag and all the rest of the local items. At your home station don’t get the Blues.

"Make all your records, address, travel, tourist, pay stubs, etc, are all O.K. for otherwise you might have a hard time getting straightened out after you leave.

"The most important attention—regulations of what you are now going to 15—may be: there are no power tools, except bolt of a lot of difference—bombs, guns, etc, etc. It’s just a lot of routine until it hits you—so, you must keep calm and cool, and remember the last you got. Get to know how to get some cool ice cream before. It’s all we got on car that you guessed it. I’m at the 2nd Cross club. None of luck."

**Forgive Party For Acad Regt.**

The Academic Regiment, TDS, held a farewell party and day for all the regimental officers and their wives at the 16th Street Grill House. Purpose of this gala affair was to present the forthcoming dean of the Academic Regiment.

The most significant feature of the arrangements for this event was the fact that the former boss came into being under Mayor Joe. J. McKeever, comprised L.J. Allen, chairman, L.H. Linn, Clerk, and OCN Watson. A great deal of untold ideas was unanimously voiced for the officers who have been this regiment since its activation.

**Tennessee Newsmen**

James W. West, Jr., of company "O" 13th BN, RTC North Camp Hood, wrote the class newspaper. He is now at one of the many camps where he is a topsmam in civilian life. Pvt. West was a general manager of the news paper.

**Easter Services held in Camp Hood.** Above are the Protestant services at the main post chapel. Major Thomas H. Talbot, post chaplain, is conducting the services.

**GI Movies For Camp Battalions**

Excellent weekly GI movies for off-duty amusement and instruction are available for use by Post Orientation officers. The camp movie screen manager, Pete Smith, drop in, Don-ald Bruce and Pvt. Studd Collins, travels and songs shorts are typical film subjects. An interesting and amusing 45 minute program can easily be arranged either in transmission, backstage, dayrooms, mess halls or any place with suitable power outlets. Outdoor movies are feasible.

The GI movie prints are obtained from the Post Morale Service equipment and division for selected from the Visual Arts Section.

**Hotsteet For Mouse**

The 17th BN of the TD RTC at North Camp Hood has recently received radio reception difficulties which have produced the ball in the battalion day room.

The radio was turned over to 8th Engr. for repairs and upon investigation it was found that the radio had climbed into a house and promptly been burned to a crisp. There is a question as to who is last the "sneaking invader" by the house and seeing but the set is now once more functioning.

May 25th was a happy day in Tennessee, the lamp banners and the Kangaroo News.

Mrs. West returned to Klapp to illustrate the "Blue Paws" while Pvt. West is away in services of his country.

**Party For 141st BN**

Co. B. 141st BN, RTC North Camp Hood on April 15th gave a party for the enlisted men of the company and invited the regimental, battalion, and company commanders. Chicken, salad, cheese and crackers, chicken and potato salad, and such drinks provided a full "field lunch" for the guest of the camp. The company entertained with skits and songs.

**Platon Songfest**

The fourth platoon of Co. "C" 140 BN, RTC held a "songfest" in the Recreation Hall on April 15th. The officers, NCOs, and men in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the singing sessions around the platoon. Many have made so many favorable comments on how much the songs to only days of the former cartoonist happily helped to do. Not only is this around the placard around the song but the question of the many cartoonists who have been given here or in the previous weeks. With this background the "Blue Paws" has become more popularly known as millions as "Smiling Jack." The Lieutenant is the creator of another widely distributed cartoon character who appeared in thousands of post offices all over the country.

**Forecastle Armor**

...
Yank Discusses Platforms And Mercy For Japs

The question of how to treat Jap prisoners comes in its usual comment in Yank Mail Call this week. The letters, replying to our suggestion that Jap prisoners be treated kindly, are unanimous in believing that the best thing to do with a Jap is to give him a quick bullet, if you have time. The letters range from a couple of "no mercy for murderers, to a couple of rounds of hospitalization that the writer of the original letter was looking for service men.

Several letters from men who've faced Japs in combat point out that you can't shine a Jap mercy — a Jap will murder and then try to beat a hasty retreat, he has no illusion about surrendering to any trying to help the wounded, and as one of them stated, "A Jap has more deviltry and trickery in his head than you will ever be able to dream of."