

# The Hood Panther

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Tank Destroyers

VOL. II

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NO. 2



Camp Hood Signal Corps Photo

**CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR**—And the post office is one place where they're not sorry that it doesn't come oftener. The Yule season means as much to the GIs working in the post office as it does to anyone, but it also means that their work is tripled, and getting every letter and package to its destination the day it arrives means plenty of work.

## Midnight Services On Christmas Eve

In keeping with one of the more solemn and beautiful parts of the celebration of Christmas, chapels throughout the camp will observe special services Christmas Eve, at midnight and on Christmas day and Sunday.

Elaborate preparations have been

## Gifts To Go To Hospitals

Santa Claus will have a special pack for the boys confined this week in the two Camp Hood hospitals.

Approximately 1,800 presents will be distributed at a Christmas Eve party at both Camp Hood and North Camp Hood for patients able to get about, and for those confined to their beds. They come from the Red Cross and from the Central Texas Camp and Hospital Council. Special holiday music will also be presented by carolers in the hospital wards.

It will be open house at the hospitals all day Saturday, and at the Camp Hood hospital refreshments will be served between 1500 and 1700 at the Red Cross auditorium. At North Camp Hood a tea for hospital doctors and nurses has been scheduled for 1500 Sunday at the Red Cross lounge.

Most hospital patients will eat roast turkey, dressing, mince pie, and other Christmas dishes on the special holiday menu for all Camp Hood soldiers.

made to make these services, in the different denominations, an impressive event for the personnel of Camp Hood. Choirs and organists will provide the music and hymns.

Episcopal Midnight services will be held in chapel 902 at 11:30 tomorrow night.

Chaplain Charles Stinnette, Jr., Protestant Episcopal Chaplain of the 23rd Group, will celebrate the Holy Communion Christmas Eve in a service beginning at 11:30 p. m. in the 50th St. chapel.

The 23rd Group Choir consisting of Service men, WACs, Army Nurses and Civilian Workers will lead the singing of the traditional carols as well as the congregational responses of the Communion Service.

The Holy Communion or Holy Eucharist service has been the central act of worship in Christendom since the earliest times. The Eucharist celebrations in the Christian church have usually been considered Festival occasions of individual obligation, and especially so are Christmas and Easter. Christmas is first a religious festival.

Catholic Mid-night mass will also be said at 24th St., Hood Rd. and 162nd St. Theaters and Sta. Hospital. On Christmas day there will be Catholic Mass in 162 and 24th St. Theaters.

## No Holidays Jan. 1, Dec. 24

Christmas Day, Dec. 25th, according to the camp bulletin, "will be considered a holiday." Dec. 24th and January 1st, 1944 will not be considered a holiday, and "normal operation will be carried on as prescribed."

## TDC Hq. EM's Are Awarded New Citation

Two non-commissioned officers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Tank Destroyer Center, were presented the Legion of Merit award by Maj. Gen. John H. Hester, commanding general, Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock.

Those honored were First Sgt. James M. Wood, formerly of Fort Smith, Ark., and Staff Sgt. Victor L. Spencer of Omaha, Neb.

The two men were cited by the War Department for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding duty" in an administrative capacity at the Tank Destroyer Basic Unit Training Center located at Camp Bowie and at North Camp Hood, where they served before being transferred to their present organization.

## The Christmas Plate Special: Noon Menu From Turkey To Punch

Here it is, fellows, your Christmas noon menu:

Roast turkey; sage dressing; giblet gravy; cranberry sauce; snowflake potatoes; creamed corn; buttered peas; candied yams; stuffed celery; sweet pickles; plum pudding with sauce; mince meat pie; ice cream; mixed nuts; candies; assorted fruits; parker house rolls with butter; fruit punch; coffee.

## Special Christmas Events Spread Yule Spirit Over Camp

Days and nights packed with special holiday events, dances at field house, special chapel services, parties and food at USO clubs in nearby towns, and varied Christmas celebrations and gifts at the service clubs all stand to guarantee that either in camp or outside, Hood men will be offered a complete Yuletide schedule, with more activity planned for the week before New Year's.

Christmas will be a military holiday, theaters will run matinees that day and the service clubs are arranging real attractions for all military personnel. Any way you look at it, this Christmas will provide the widest kind of entertainment for soldiers and WAC, their families—for all at Camp Hood.

### Get Early Start

Some units are getting an early start on the celebration, with small parties and shows in their own area Christmas Eve. Mess halls and dayrooms are showing brightly decorated trees, some with the usual presents beneath. It's a war Christmas but men in the field, in the hospital, in barracks or town will find plenty to remind them that this is American Christmas.

More than 1,000 gifts are going to be distributed at the hospitals where the Red Cross is helping see to it that the patients are given every chance to enjoy the holiday, even to the big Army dinner which will be prepared for most of the men there and throughout camp. Carolers will visit the wards.

### Chapels Make Plans

Christmas Eve at midnight will find religious services for all interested at the various chapels. These services will be one of the highlights of the camp's celebration, as complete services have been arranged with carols hymns and traditional rites. There will be additional worship in the chapels Saturday morning.

Officer's clubs have arranged dances and parties, with reservations being required for the New Year's dances.

All the major radio networks have charted big programs of Christmas music with many of the nation's stars as guests.

From the turkey and giblet gravy of the big dinner Christmas noon to the last drops of Christmas cheer—where you find it—; from the trees and presents to the wistful look on the face of the Christmas day CQ when Sunday comes around; from all the kinds of ways in which Christmas is being made a special event there is one sure sign: This year's Christmas for Camp Hood is packed with everything associated with the holiday. Further details on the celebrations are listed throughout this edition.

## WAC Dance, Show Toasts Christmas

Under the direction of Cpl. Adelle Holmes, the WAC Detachment, 1848 Unit at Camp Hood is now getting ready to hold a dance with eight-act stage show Christmas Eve.

Location for the event will be Recreation Building 111—in this case, "The Last Frontier Saloon." That title is part of the "Gay '90's" theme of the party.

Only variation from the checkered tablecloth, derby hat, handlebar mustache motif will be the arrival of "Santa Claus" at midnight to distribute gifts.

Mistress of ceremonies for the intermission show will be Sgt. Mina Kelly. The eight acts: Barbershop quartet; can-can dance; the queen of Killeen singing "Spring Song;" "Shooting of Dan McGrew;" dialogue, Gracie Fields; dance routine, "Strolling Through the Park One Day;" skit, "I Won't Pay the Mortgage, But—"; "Mae West."

## Holiday Phone Calls May Not Be Completed

It's going to be harder than usual to place long distance phone calls tomorrow, Saturday, Sunday, and Dec. 31, Jan. 1, and Jan. 2, according to E. E. Mockbee, camp manager of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. Many calls will not get through at all on those days he added, with a long delay for those that do.

Both holiday week-ends will be crowded with calls and the best chance to get one completed will be by making it during a slack period in the middle of the week.

### Becomes Father

T-4 James W. Merry, of the Operations Office, TDS, became a father last Sunday at midnight, when Mrs. Merry presented him with a five pound seven-ounce boy, at McCloskey Hospital.

## TO THE TANK DESTROYER COMMAND, STATION COMPLEMENT, AND ATTACHED UNITS:

With Christmas upon us we realize that 1943 is rapidly drawing to a close. All personnel at Camp Hood, both North and South Camps, can look back with pride upon the work that has been done this past year.

Much has been accomplished, and there is much more to do in the coming year. There is work to be completed, work to be perfected, and work yet to be begun. Let us all strive to increase our efforts and surpass even the excellent records of 1943.

I wish to extend to each of you at this time my sincerest wishes for a happy holiday season.

JOHN H. HESTER,  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STATION COMPLEMENT AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES:

May I extend to you all the Season's Greetings and express the hope that we may continue to serve our country by serving the combat forces here at Camp Hood.

My gratitude and appreciation to each of you on your splendid achievement during the past year.

C. M. THIRLKELD,  
Colonel, Field Artillery  
Camp Commander.





**THEY KNOW**—Pvt. Arthur Egan and Pvt. Allan C. McGuire stand before an M10 in Camp Hood, remembering how happy they'd have been to have had a few around when they faced Nazi tanks in Sicily. (See story below.)

## Paratroopers Used Bazookas On Nazis

By Lt. L. R. Barnhill

Two youthful paratroopers, who helped beat off a German armored attack with bazookas and small arms fire during the first critical days of the Sicilian invasion, examined the huge M10 tank destroyers during a visit recently to Camp Hood, and pondered on what a swell job they could have done on the Nazi tanks that smashed into their positions.

The two veterans are Pvt. Allan C. McGuire and Pvt. Arthur Egan who are convalescing at McCloskey Army General Hospital in Temple, from injuries received when their battered paratroop unit was attacked by seven Mark IV and two Mark VI tanks near Gela in southern Sicily.

"Boy, what I would have given to have had one of those babies hidden in the woods when those German tanks slammed into us," remarked Pvt. McGuire as he crawled into a 32-ton M10.

### Bazookas Hit Mark

"We got five of those seven Mark IV's with our bazookas," chimed in Pvt. Egan, "but it would have been a lot easier on our nerves if we could have been supported by a couple of these destroyers. It's no fun lying out there with a bazooka waiting for a tank to come so close that you know you can't miss it on your first shot. A couple of M10's would have relieved us of that naked feeling we had in front of those tanks."

"We had a lot of trouble in our landings," Egan recalled. There was less than half a battalion of us when we organized on the morning after our night jump.

"We moved out against minor German patrols until in mid-morning our scouts reported the approach of German infantry supported by tanks."

"That was the signal for us to dig in along the crest of a wooded hill overlooking a small valley, while the commanding officer of our second battalion went around the left flank with four rocket launcher teams and two rifle grenadiers to prepare a tank ambush."

"The bazooka teams were placed in cover provided by a small ditch that ran around the base of a hill on which we were deployed."

### Tanks Fall for Trick

"Meanwhile, the rest of us kept our eyes on the tanks advancing towards us. They rumbled into the valley, firing their machine guns in an effort to make us open up and disclose our positions. They fanned out and it looked for a minute as if they were going to pass by the bazooka teams without coming within their range."

"Then the battalion commander stepped from behind his tree and fired at the tanks. He wanted the tanks to bear down upon him so their flank would be exposed to his ambush at his left. The ruse worked. The tanks swerved to face this fire, the first they had been able to draw."

"I could see the battalion com-

mander easily from my sniper's post atop the hill. The tanks were within 50 yards of him and I was beginning to wonder what the heck had happened to the bazooka teams. The tankers had killed the officer and were within 30 yards of the foot of the hill before the bazookas opened fire. They knocked out the two nearest tanks in the first round. The other tanks turned to face this new attack, but three more of them were knocked out before they could get off any effective shots. The two remaining tanks turned and fled."

### Was Shot In Hand

"No sooner had they pulled out than two big Mark VI tanks rolled into the valley. One came at our left flank and the other at our right. They stopped frequently to fire 88's into our hill positions. The projectiles would explode against trees and spray our positions with hot metal fragments that caused many injuries and some loss of life. A corporal and I were ordered to take over a machine gun after its crew had been knocked out, but that tanker got us before we could do any damage. The corporal was killed instantly and I was shot through the left hand as I held the elevating mechanism. I crawled into that ditch at the base of the hill. From there I saw one of our majors fire a rocket at the Tiger tank that had knocked out our position, but the tank kept coming. The major ran around to his right to try a shot on the tank's flank, but again the rocket hit on the front and the tank kept rolling."

"By this time the tank was rolling awfully close to the spot where I was hiding in the ditch. Everybody was withdrawing over the hill by this time. I was inching my way down the ditch, but was so weak that I could move only a short distance at a time without stopping."

"I looked up over the edge of the ditch and saw the Tiger tank bearing down upon me. That's when I made myself mighty flat in the bottom of the ditch. You don't know how much you appreciate the ground until you see a tank

## Entertainment Conference Here Soon

Camp Hood will be host to between 800 and 1,000 enlisted men from installations throughout the Eighth Service Command, Jan. 10 to 13, at a theatrical conference designed to teach the men how to provide entertainment for their own units, especially overseas.

The conference, said Major Chesley M. Adams, Camp Hood Special Service officer, will be an "intensive three-day course for the men in how to develop within their own organizations programs of entertainment. It has been found that overseas entertainment facilities are so inadequate," he said, "that unless an organization knows how to provide for itself, it doesn't have any."

Lt. Col. Marvin Young, head of the entertainment section of Special Services, Washington, D. C., and Lt. Col. William H. Burns, chief of Special Services of the Eighth Service Command will be in charge of the program.

## EM Dances At Field House

Two Holiday Dances will be held at the Field House next week for enlisted men at Hood.

Tuesday night, December 28 the 162nd Street Service Club will hold their regular weekly dance at the Field House. Thursday Night, December 30th the 37th Street Service Club will also have their regular weekly dance at the Field House. There will be plenty of girls from cities and town surrounding Camp Hood.

## Pistol Packin' Mama Appearing In GI Clothing

"Pistol Packin' Mama is dressed up for the army's GIs in the December issue of the Army Hit Kit of popular songs issued by the special service division of the Army Service Forces.

This Texas song made its first appearance in the November issue of the kit, but its back this month with strictly GI verses and choruses.

An example is the second verse: "Peelin' spuds is a lousy job But pal take my advice Be glad you're peeling spuds with us The Japs are peeling rice."

coming towards you. Thank God that was a narrow ditch.

### Run Over By Tank

"That tanker come directly over me and turned back and forth, trying to drop his track far enough down in the ditch to crush me. That's one time I was glad the Germans had put a 28 1-2 inch tread on their tank. After he found he couldn't get to me, the tanker rolled off a short distance and fired a shell into a tree at my back. The explosion showered my legs and left shoulder with shell fragments. I lay there a few minutes trying to gather enough strength to crawl on down the ditch to a point where I could leave in the cover of the woods and crawl over the hill to our aid station."

"At the aid station I was told that elements of the 2nd Armored Division drove off those two German Tiger tanks. Our men followed the armored units onto the field to pick up our injured."

"It surely would have been nice if some of your M10's had been there with us. That hill offered good cover and the tank destroyers could have had some nice shooting at the Germans before they came within effective machine gun range of our positions."



**SIGHT PICTURE**—A perfect sight picture for any GI eye, pert Eleanor Parker has been chosen as the sweetheart of the men in the 661st TD Bn. who are ready to flash this bit of feminine charm as the best pin-up of all. Eleanor is a young starlet with Warner. Bros.

## Holiday Entertainment Planned By 667 Bn. Men

Christmas entertainment with a scintillating show is the program for the 667th Battalion. The entertainment has been arranged by S-Sgt. James Collins; M-Sgt. Allen M. Linton, well known ventriloquist; Cpl. Harold J. Moran; Cpl. George Kalaky, formerly an aerialist with Barnum and Bailey circus.

Sgt. John W. Busch, who used to do the master of ceremonies job at the New York Stork club, will keep the show moving. Cpl. Bill Pratt will offer the Oklahoman Hill Billy Stomp; Sgt. Curtis P. Redden, formerly with Guy Lombardo, will describe "Message Center Blues;" Pvt. Edward Leibrandt will impersonate famous people, as he once did in Broadway night clubs.

T-Sgt. Arnit Hiatt, who once barnstormed with Lionel Barrymore, along with M-Sgt. Harry D. Stops, Jr., S-Sgt. Herbert Love, 1st Sgt. Clyde Rasnake and S-Sgt. Patrick J. Forestal, will do the evening's dramatic chore.

A quartet—T-Sgt. Datus P. Gilbert, 1st Sgt. Ella A. Lewis, Cpl. Rocco DiArcipretie, and S-Sgt. Carl Baumgartner—will sing Christmas carols and popular songs.

First Sgt. James V. Curtin will do a Fats Waller stint at the piano; 1st Sgt. James W. Boss,

former star of a Major Bowes unit, will imitate musical instruments without mechanical aid.

After the show there will be refreshments and dancing.

## Civilians Get Prizes At Party

Announcement of awards in the employees suggestion contest highlighted the Camp Hood Civilian Dance at the Field House Saturday night. Winners included Cecil Cummins, Ordnance Sec., \$25; John A. Purdom, Ordnance Sec., \$15; and Miss Elizabeth Smith, personnel Sec., \$10.

The submission of suggestions is still desired by the War Department on how to improve, develop, save time and money. Suggestion boxes are placed in the various headquarters throughout camp and employees are urged to turn in their suggestions at once. Winners receive awards up to \$250.

## A Very Young Boss

Add: young top kicks: the one in the 836th Ord. Co., M-Sgt. Billy Lewis, who has held that grade since he was twenty years old. Sgt. Lewis has three years overseas duty to his credit just as an added claim to distinction.

## The Wolf

by Sansone



"... and last night I did something I've always wanted to do!"





Camp Hood Signal Corps Photo



**162nd St. Service Club**  
 Fri—Christmas Eve—Christmas Carols.  
 Sat—Christmas Day—Open House—String Ensemble—Jolly Good Fellow Quintet.  
 Sun—Matinee Music—Chaplain Hall in Song Recital Soldiers Chorus and Movies.  
 Mon—Christmas Package Games.  
 Tues—Holiday Dance—Field House.  
 Wed—Jamboree and Movies.  
 Thur—Band Concert.  
 Fri—Visiting Show.  
 Sat—Sing and Play in the New Year.  
 Sun—Reception for Enlisted men, WACs Dates and Civilians.

**37th Street Service Club**  
 Thur—Christmas Dance.  
 Fri—Christmas Eve Show. "Xmas Eve 1943."  
 Sat—Xmas Day—2:30 Xmas Tree and Santa Claus. 3:00 Christmas Carols. 3:30 Music Refreshments. 8:00 Girls—Dancers—Tumblers from Fort Worth.

Sun—2:30. Formal Open House—Recording, Dancing, Refreshments movie at night 8:00.  
 Mon—Bingo Party—Prize.  
 Tues—Jam Session and Recordings.  
 Wed—Song Night.  
 Thur—Holiday Formal Dance—Field House.

Fri—New Year's Eve Party—Show Girls.  
 Sat—New Year's Day—Open House—Refreshments.  
 Sun—Recording, Musical Program; New Year's Day Sing Song at 5:45 with Chaplain Talbot; 8:00 Movies.

**12nd Street Service Club**  
 Thur—Bingo with Prizes.  
 Fri—Christmas Eve Party—Quiz Program.

Sat—Christmas Day "Open House"—popular Recording Command Performance, Movie 8:00.  
 Sunday—Games and Juke Box Music.

Mon—Dance with All-Star Band.  
 Tues—Progressive Whist with Prizes.  
 Wed—Bingo Party.  
 Thur—Ping Pong Contest.  
 Fri—Movie.

Sat—Program of Quartettes.  
 Sunday—Open House.  
**161st St. Service Club**  
 Thur—Christmas Carol Sing Song.

8:00.  
 Fri—Christmas Eve Dance—Girls from Austin.  
 Sat—Christmas Recording All Star Recording.

Sun—Vesper Services, Chaplain Williams.  
 Mon—Bingo and Prizes.  
 Tues—Quiz Program with Prizes.  
 Wed—Movie.

Thur—Game night and Recordings.  
 Fri—New Year's Eve Dance.  
 Sat—New Year's Day.  
 Sun—Open House.

**Leon Drive Service Club**  
 Thurs—Christmas Formal Dance.

Fri—Christmas Carol Program—two musical artists from Waco.  
 Sat—Recorded Music and Refreshments; after 2:30 packages on Christmas tree to be distributed.  
 Sun—Informal Open House. Symphonic Hour and refreshments.  
 Thurs—New Year's Dance.  
 Fri—New Year's Eve Party.  
 Sunday—Open House.

**12th St. Service Club**  
 Thur—RTC Show, Santa Claus 9:00, RTC Party.

Fri—Movies—Christmas Carols with Field Organ.  
 Sat—Christmas Dinner—Christmas tree and gifts presented by Waco Junior High. Santa Claus 2:30 p. m.  
 Sun—Symphonic Hour and Community Sing.

Tues—Regular Dance in Costume.  
 Wed—Bingo.  
 Friday—New Year's Party 9:00 to 12:00.

**18th Street Service Club**  
 Thurs—Bingo with Prizes.  
 Fri—Christmas Carols and Informal fun.

Sat—Christmas Pageant presented by Waco USO Girls—Refreshments Party 8:00 USO Girls from Waco.  
 Sun—Christmas Pageant presented Vesper with Chaplain Wright.  
 Mon—Whist Tournament.  
 Tues—Quiz Program, Sing Song  
 Wed—Bingo.

Thur—Informal fun.  
 Fri—New Year's Eve Party.  
**162nd St. and 37th St.**  
 Thur—Lost Angel.

Fri—Tarzan's Desert Mystery.  
 Sat—The Ghost Ship.  
 Sun—Mon—Destination Tokyo.  
 Tues—The Return of the Vampire and So's your Uncle.

Wed—Thur—Jack London.  
 Fri—No time for Love.  
**Hood Rd and 24th St.**  
 Thur—Fri—The Gangs all Here.

Sat—The Return of the Vampire and So's your Uncle.  
 Sun—Mon—Lost Angel.  
 Tues—Tarzan's Desert Mystery.  
 Wed—The Ghost Ship.  
 Thur—Fri—Destination Tokyo.

**Brigade Ave.**  
 Thur—Minesweeper.  
 Fri—Holiday Inn.  
 Sat—Sun—The Gangs all Here.

Mon—The Return of the Vampire and So's your Uncle.  
 Tues—Wed—Lost Angel.  
 Thur—Tarzan's Desert Mystery.  
 Fri—The Ghost Ship.

**72nd St.**  
 Thur—The Gangs all Here.  
 Fri—Sat—Lost Angel.  
 Sun—Tarzan's Desert Mystery  
 Mon—The Ghost Ship.  
 Tues—Wed—Destination Tokyo.

Thur—The Return of the Vampire and So's Your Uncle.  
 Fri—Jack, London.

**A FEW DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS**—And everybody in camp who could find a cedar tree seems to have set it up and decorated it. Throughout camp the feeling of Yuletide prevailed and the gayly decorated trees made colorful splashes. The trees were decorated by GIs (including WACs) out of their own ingenuity and funds. In this group, starting at the left top: the tree put up by the Signal Corps photographers, in the photo, Pfc. Harry Belgen, Pfc. Bur Bittan, Pfc. Elmer Janson, Pvt. Carmine Appolonia—At the North Camp Leon Drive Service Club, Pvt. Steve Osinski, Pvt. Frank Meo and hostesses Ann Bursch, and Jacqueline Carrigan—At Hqs. OCS Regt., Pfc. T. J. Bosco—In the WAC PX at North Camp. Lt. Lucille Heffner, Cpl. Lorna Hodges, Sgt. Doris Anland, S-Sgt. Anne R. Lind, Cpl. Esther Randall and Pfc. Marjorie Lively—At the North Camp DEML day room, Pfc. John Goetz and Pvt. John Rossi—Serv. Co., OCS Regt., Sgt. Sid Katz surveys—Pvt. James E. Magensen and Chap. Walter D. Meherling—In the Camp Finance Office, S-Sgt. Mary Wickenden, Pfc. Warren Bull, T-4 Constance Harmon, Pfc. Joseph Givanto.

## Post Office Moves Mail In Yule Rush

By M-Sgt. Thomas E. Cook

Christmas just around the corner to most GI's means packages and cards from sweethearts, wives, and family. But to the Postal Office it means additional labor.

This year the Camp Hood Postal Office, directed by Lt. Henry P. Grounds, Postal Officer, was ready for the Christmas rush.

The Postal Directory and Post Office now have a personnel of 32 enlisted men, one WAC, and

four civilians working in the directory; 92 civilians who work shifts of 24 hours a day to expedite the mails by every means available to the soldiers. At the present time the volume of mail is tripled; but every piece of mail

is sent out to the organizations addressed on the same day it arrives.

Every piece of mail incorrectly addressed is given directory service immediately and readdressed properly. The directory serves 24 hours a day.

There is wrapping paper and twine in the lobby of the Post Office for anyone who wants to wrap Christmas parcels. Parcel post labels can be obtained for addressing parcels by asking for them at the Information window in the lobby.

Often a soldier can save himself from 10 to 80 cents by the use of a parcel post label. In addressing the parcel or letter, make sure that the correct return address is on each piece of mail. The return address will include your name, rank, serial number, and organization. In case of first class mail, the words "FREE" and "U. S. ARMY" will

be used also. All must be written in your own handwriting.

There are three sub-stations at Camp Hood; one at 25th and Battalion, another at 40th and Battalion, and still another at the Station Hospital for the convenience of the soldiers in these areas.

Three enlisted men and one WAC are kept busy all day forwarding mail to organizations and individuals transferred to other posts and stations. This function is an important work of the Postal Office. It is through this department that an Army Post Office gains the reputation "GOOD" or "BAD." To date Camp Hood office has had a good reputation.

If you are transferred from one organization to another, from one post to another, obtain a WD AGO 204 card from your Unit Mail Clerk and fill it out, then mail it to the Camp Post Office, so that they will have your correct address on file at all times. This is the only way they can guarantee that you will receive your mail immediately. Also, it is wise to notify all your correspondents and publishers from whom you receive papers and magazines.

**Editor's Note:** We've heard and done plenty of griping about the mail service; but we've been there to see it, and we testify that every piece of mail at the Camp Hood Post Office is delivered the day it arrives.

**Avenue D and 24th St., North Camp**  
 Thur—Happy Land.  
 Fri—Banjo on My Knee.  
 Sat—Women in Bondage.  
 Sun—Mon—Government Girl.  
 Tues—She's for Me and Whispering Footsteps.  
 Wed—Thur—The Gangs all Here.  
 Fri—Minesweeper.  
**13th and 18th St.**  
 Thur—The Return of the Vampire and So's your Uncle.  
 Sun—Minesweeper.  
 Mon—Holiday Inn.  
 Tues—Wed—Government Girl.  
 Thur—She's for Me and Whispering Footsteps.  
 Fri—The Gangs All Here.  
**4th and 10th St.**  
 Thur—Fri—Government Girl.  
 Sat—She's for Me and Whispering Footsteps.  
 Sun—Mon—Happy Land.  
 Tues—Minesweeper.  
 Wed—Holiday Inn.  
 Thur—Fri—Lost Angel.  
**USO Show**  
 Thur—Dec. 23—Hood Rd Theater—"Just for the Ride."  
 Fri—Dec. 24—Hood Rd Theater—"Just for the Ride."



# The Hood Panther

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Drawing by Sgt. A. Branton, Jr.

## Christmas And War

It's rather hard to imagine anyone having a Merry Christmas this year—Americans don't enjoy fighting, and when Barbarians force us to fight, we do it grimly, determined to win and get it over with as soon as possible.

The Nazis thought us soft because we believe in such "decadent" things as freedom and the spirit of Christmas—they are learning that we have strength and toughness just because we believe in those things.

### To All Men

What we mean is, that unable to see merriment for the holiday, we—the staff and all the men and officers who help produce the Panther—want to say to all the officers and men at Camp Hood, to all who have passed through Camp on their way to the job that has to be done:

#### SEASON'S GREETINGS.

We hope that this Christmas will be remembered as the last Christmas before peace.

Perhaps it is optimism to hope for the war to be over by next Christmas. But Americans are generally optimistic when they know where they're going and can see the way ahead.

We do see the way ahead—the light of things we believe in, the things the Nazis scorn show us the way. The Nazis can't understand how we can find strength and courage in the sentiment and faith of Christmas; how Christmas at the end of the year makes for us a happy beacon to aim at and be guided by.

### Can Germans Remember?

At that, we wonder how successful the Nazis have been in stamping out the idea of Christmas among their people. Even for Germans can "Heil!" take the place of "Merry Christmas?"

We wonder how much longer the Germans will continue blind—the Germans "invented" Christmas. And they've stood by and listened to Hitler's gang defile the memory of Christ, they've listened to the rantings of his paranoics and gangsters desecrating the name of Christ in language fouler than ever Mussolini dared use.

To the Germans' Christmas was once the happiest of all times—and now they stand by while Hitler's mob has the brazen gall to blaspheme the memory of Christ for their thuggery and persecution, watching hypnotized the effrontery of the Nazi thugs cynically murdering in His name even while fouling His churches.

### Holy Night

Will they remember that "Silent Night" is a German carol? Will they close the doors, draw the blinds, and huddling together in their wonderful superiority very softly hum "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"—but not too loudly; next door might be a Gestapo agent; carols are a weakness in which superior Germans must not indulge, and Mendelsohn is verboten.

We wonder if, despite the fact that we too have our sorrows and painful memories these days, the Germans aren't envying us the comfort of being able to sing out.

We think they may—one German prisoner asked if he might hear some records of Mendelsohn music—he hadn't heard music from one of Germany's greatest composers since Hitler descended upon Germany—he had to become a prisoner of the "decadent" Americans to hear good music—and as a prisoner, for the first time in 10 years he'll be able to celebrate Christmas. We wonder if he doesn't feel lucky compared to his brothers at home.

### For That We Aim

We wonder if they understand why we're glad we're Americans—strong enough to recognize our weaknesses and strong enough to be able to try to correct them.

We haven't always done it, but we've aimed, and still aim for a country where all men may live with decency and dignity, where Christ's promise of good will to men will be practiced.

## From Your Chaplain

To The Men and Women of Camp Hood, Texas:

I wish to extend to every one of you the Season's Greetings. It is my earnest hope and prayer that you might find a blessing in the meaning of Christmas. I realize so keenly how many of you feel and I hope that the memory of other Christmas seasons will help to compensate for this one.

I pray that each man and woman of this command might be comforted and strengthened for these days and that you might have courage for the days ahead.

I pray for your loved ones back home. That God might bless and protect them and comfort their hearts.

May God hurry the time when we shall spend our Christmas seasons in the ways of joy and happiness. May He crown our efforts with Victory and our Country with peace.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THOMAS H. TALBOT,  
Post Chaplain

## No. Africa Was Cold For TD's On Dec. 25, 1942

Here is a front line Christmas as described by Maj. Gilbert Ellman, now in Camp Hood:

Christmas of 1942 came soon after Maj. Ellman (then a captain) and his company of Tank Destroyers were cited and decorated in North Africa by order of General Giraud. The unit was entitled to wear the Croix de Guerre with Palm.

On Dec. 18th, Lt. Louis A. Clarke, the company executive, arranged to go by plane to Algiers for the sole purpose of obtaining mail. At Algiers he found that the company's mail had left the night before for the northern front, exact destination unknown. After chasing it three-quarters of the way across North Africa, he returned to the company on the day before Christmas, with no mail.

No one complained. Christmas Eve was spent like any other night. The company was far enough back of the lines to have fires, and the men sat around the embers and sang old songs and told older stories, until the cold drove them to their fox holes. Christmas day was quiet. The men seemed to be taken up with thoughts of other Christmases gone by. Most of the men attended church services held in an olive orchard in Feriana.

### A PRAYER FOR OUR BOYS OVER-THERE

Oh God love and protect them—our boys who are fighting in the dense jungles, those who are fighting on the seas, those who are flying in your skies, those who are guarding our coasts: May your guiding light guide them to safety and protection from the enemy. Oh God help us to pray for our boys so they may come back to their loved ones and live in ever-lasting peace.

Amen.  
—By Cpl. Rose Prosen,  
WAC, Det., 1848th Unit.

## Army Quiz

1. In Navy tradition, what does a broom at the masthead signify?
2. When an aviator returns from a "Milk Run," where has he been?
3. Is it true that there are no Japanese prisoners of war in the United States?
4. What is the meaning of the letters "sep" after the company and battalion of servicemen?
5. Which has been the most frequently bombed city in Germany?
6. Would a member of the WAC be eligible to fire the cannon at retreat? (Answers Page 7).



Drawing by Sgt. Stanley Farnham.

## The Gift

By Heywood Broun

Once there were three kings in the East and they were wise men. They read the heavens and they saw a certain strange star by which they knew that in a distant land the King of the world was to be born. The star beckoned to them and they made preparations for a long journey.

From their palaces they gathered rich gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. Great sacks of precious stuffs were loaded upon the backs of the camels which were to bear them on their journey. Everything was in readiness, but one of the wise men seemed perplexed and would not come at once to join his two companions, who were eager and impatient to be on their way in the direction indicated by the star.

They were old, these two kings, and the other wise man was young. When they asked him he could not tell why he waited. He knew that his treasures had been ransacked for rich gifts for the King of Kings. It seemed that there was nothing more which he could give, and yet he was not content.

He made no answer to the old men who shouted to him that the time had come. The camels were impatient and swayed and snarled. The shadows across the desert grew longer. And still the young king sat and thought deeply.

At length he smiled, and ordered his servants to open the great treasure sack upon the back of the first of his camels. Then he went into a high chamber to which he had not been since he was a child. He rummaged about and presently came out and approached the caravan. In his hand he carried something which glinted in the sun.

The kings thought that he bore some new gift more rare and precious than any which they had been able to find in all their treasure rooms. They bent down to see, and even the camel drivers peered from the backs of the great beasts to find out what it was which gleamed in the sun. They were curious about this last gift for which all the caravan had waited.

And the young king took a toy from his hand and placed it upon the sand. It was a dog of tin, painted white and speckled with black spots. Great patches of paint had worn away and left the metal clear, and that was why the toy shone in the sun as if it had been silver.

The youngest of the wise men turned a key in the side of the little black and white dog and then he stepped aside so that the kings and the camel drivers could see. The dog leaped high in the air and turned a somersault. He turned another and another and then fell over upon his side and lay there with a set and painted grin upon his face.

A child, the son of a camel driver, laughed and clapped his hands, but the kings were stern. They rebuked the youngest of the wise men and he paid no attention but called to his chief servant to make the first of all the camels kneel. Then he picked up the toy of tin and, opening the treasure sack, placed his last gift with his own hands in the mouth of the sack so that it rested softly upon the soft bag of incense.

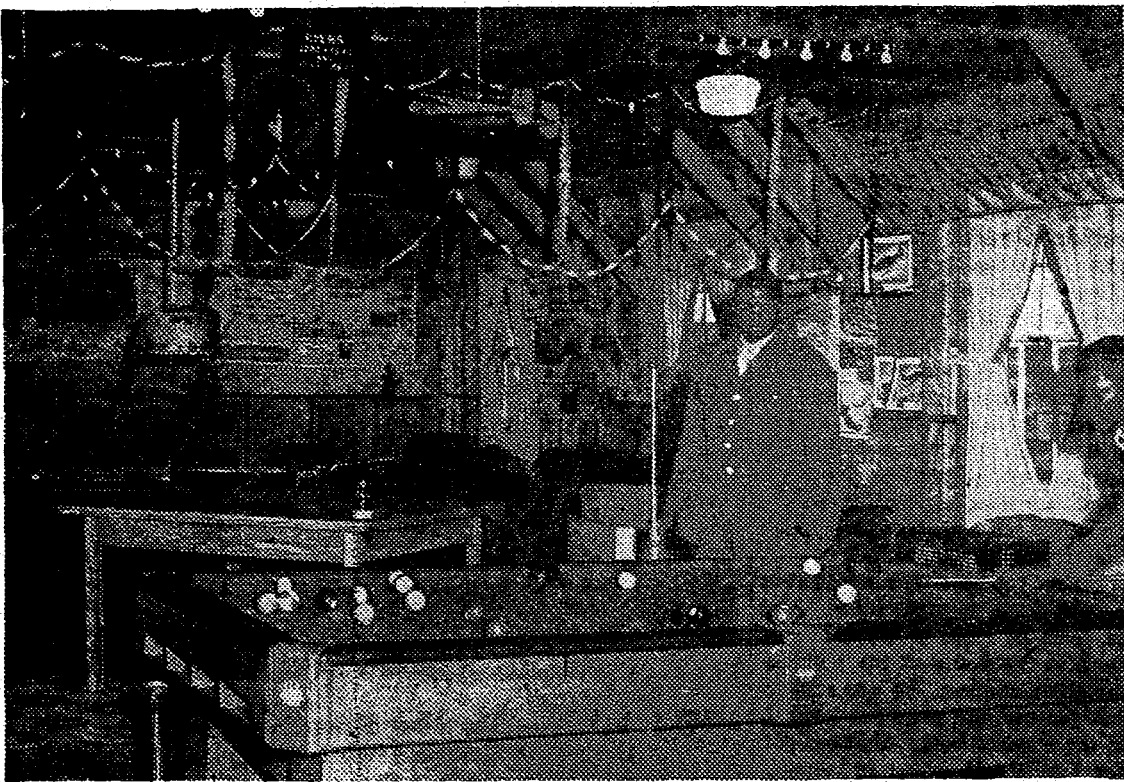
"What folly has siezed you?" cried the eldest of the wise men. "Is this a gift to bear to the King of Kings in the far country?"

And the young man answered and said: "For the King of Kings there are gifts of richness, gold and frankincense and myrrh. But this," he said, "Is for the child in Bethlehem!"

For the Christmas story this year we've chosen one written by the late Heywood Broun. Broun was a newspaperman, one of the best. As a reporter his assignments took him all over the world—he saw life in its most brutal phases and while it often made him wry, he never lost his feeling for the human quality.

This is not the best Christmas story ever written, nor the best story Broun ever wrote, but it somehow expresses the idea of the unglittering little things that add the pleasure of life—a reminder that in peace it is those little things which make life better to live, and that Christ in all His magnificence was in soul simple and unpretentious.





Camp Hood Signal Corps Photo

**WINNING DAYROOM**—Making the most of their own equipment and issue won a prize for this dayroom assigned to the men of Co. "C", 614th TD Bn. All companies took part in the inter-battalion contest, the men including posters of instructional value as well as using furniture to make the rooms appealing.

## Loyalty Pays Rewards For Radio Sgt. In TD School

Steadfastness and loyalty have paid Tech. Sgt. Hubert Siuda of the communications department, TD School, more dividends in life than most of us have often dreamed of earning. A document for meritorious service in the Army is in his records; seniority on his job back home daily piling up just as though he were still on the job—these are certain indications that Siuda has put out a lot that hasn't gone unnoticed.

Sgt. Siuda completed a pharmacy course in Chicago, only to leave it flat for his first love, radio. His father had been among the first men to build radios. Hubert picked up his initial radio knowledge from his dad. The test department in a nationally famous radio corporation plant in Chicago is a spot that one must usually work his way up to. Siuda began there because executives at the plant recognized his intense interest in radio from the start.

**Checked All Sets**  
Siuda's job was to make final checks on all sets that left the plant for shipment. He also made spot checks, which meant he selected a set at random from among a "lot" due to leave, for a complete check-up.

Today, he still has his clock number at the radio plant. Theoretically he is still on the payroll, because his time card has remained in the rack all this time, in order to allow his seniority to continue the entire time he is in the service. A fine gesture by the radio corporation to which it adds bonus checks that Siuda receives twice a year!

At Pine Camp, New York, where he was assigned to the Division Signal Repair Unit, he participated in field artillery maneuvers once that took place in deep snow, when he manned a public address system in a freezing twenty-seven below zero temperature. As the result of his work, Siuda received a written commendation from Col. J. E. Lewis, the Division Artillery Officer, which was ordered placed on his 201 file. Because he accomplished his mission under extreme conditions, the order from the commandant was read to the entire unit.

### Veteran At Hood

After four months of radio repair school at Fort Monmouth, Siuda came to Camp Hood and the TD School's first days in Temple, where his initial assignment was to help write the communications courses. He established the maintenance crew to keep the School radios in commission, when long ago this was deemed a necessity, and, today Sgt. Siuda works one of the best outfitted test equipment shops in the Army—that re-

pairs everything from X-ray machines to walkie-talkies.

Research on enemy equipment, is likewise his job, and so far, says Siuda, nothing has come out in radio to compare with the American product.

## Patients In NC Hospital Don Actor's Clothes

Patients of Station Hospital, North Camp Hood, became G. I. models in a style show written and directed by Pvt. Alfred Handler Friday night at the Red Cross building.

What the well-dressed woman will wear was enacted by G.I.'s with pulchritudinous curves and K. P. mops serving as wigs.

Sgt. Dick Raines, well known wrestler, of no slight proportions, showed how ravishing the fairer sex would look in an alluring cocktail gown. The participants were as charming and as graceful as could be expected, running the gamut of women's apparel from the pretty silk undies out to the lacy frilled evening gowns.

Gray Ladies of Gatesville provided the clothing modelled, and Miss Bernice Fictor of the Red Cross staff, furnished musical background for "The Sad Sack Dress Salon." Recreation workers, Miss Helen Barr, and Miss Elizabeth Bates, assisted patients with the arrangements.

## 662nd Bn. Men Upgraded In Grade

The following promotions were recently announced in Co. B, of the 662nd Bn. Pfc. Edgel Bower, and Pfc. Harry Kellam were promoted to the grade of corporal, and Staff Delmar Sherwood received the rank of 1st Sgt.

## GIs To Eat Only Where Certificate Is Shown

Members of military establishments and civilian employees thereof are not to patronize eating places that do not display the certificate of approval of Central Texas Health Department, a recent camp bulletin announced.

## Must Have Meant Texas

Talk about your wide open spaces. Sgt. Glenn Gerber of the Operations Office, TDS, says that the Army has just bought 15,000 acres of land in his home state, Kansas, to be used for training purposes. In converting these 15,000 acres for that purpose only one house had to be moved.

## Words Without Music

Statements by three U. S. Army and Navy commanders in European theaters of operations will feature a Blue Network program Christmas night, from 9:15 to 10:30 p. m. In addition there will be two-way broadcasts between soldiers in London and their families in the U. S.

Columbia offers a Christmas day show with Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Judy Garland, Lena Horne, Carmen Miranda, Robert Young, Henry Busse, The Revers, Adka Kismetoff, Fibber McGee and Molly, and Ken Carpenter.

The 8th Air Force will do a Christmas day show from a British airfield, on Columbia.

Good Music on the Blue Network Christmas day: at 12 o'clock, "Mignon" with Rise Stevens and James Melton, Sir Thomas Beecham conducting—at 7:30 p. m.: Boston Symphony Orchestra directed by Serge Koussevitsky. Sunday Dec. 26th, at 2:30 p. m.: Metropolitan Opera auditions.

Mutual—Don Lee presents a special program today and tomorrow at 5:15 p. m., featuring service bands and Army and Marine heroes.

**Justice at Last:** Frank Woodruff, director of "Pistol Packin' Mama," is now a rifle totin' GI—the Army got him.

Crosby, Hope, and Lamour are hitting the last Road—"To Utopia"—probably hereafter they'll stay home and sew sarongs for the next generation of travellers.

The Spotlight band tonight, on the Blue at 8:30 p. m., Buddy Franklin...tomorrow night Jan Savitt.

Count Basie continues at the Lincoln in New York.... Xavier Cugat opens at the Waldorf.... Benny Goodman at the Earl Theater in Philadelphia.... Harry James the Palladium, Hollywood.

Dick Todd has a permanent spot on the radio Basin Street show.... Freddy Martin's orchestra moved into the Jack Carson program.

Walter Duranty, foreign correspondent who won a Pulitzer award for his reports from Russia, will do a weekly broadcast over the Blue network, starting Jan. 2nd.

## Hood Master Masons Plan For Organization

Organization of the "Travelers," to be comprised of enlisted men and warrant officers of Camp Hood who are master Masons, will be made Dec. 28 at 8 p. m. at Building 777, west of UTC headquarters.

Staff Sgt. Leo D. Charlton, student regiment TDS, phone 668, and Maj. Ralph Slector, will be in charge.

## Discharge Pins Soon

Gold plated lapel buttons, denoting that the wearer has been honorably discharged from the U. S. Army since Sept. 9, 1939 will be available for distribution here soon to men entitled to wear them, according to a War Dept. announcement.

Men honorably transferred to inactive status and WAC's "whose separation from the service was under honorable conditions" may also receive the buttons.

GIs who qualify for the button, may obtain one by applying in person at any army installation, except POEs, or by writing to any army installation.

When applying in person the soldier must present certificates of honorable discharge or service; by mail the certificate should be sent registered.

## Ingersoll Book Available At TDS Library

The TDS Library, moved by the many fine reviews of a recently published book, has bought it, and announces that "The Battle Is the Pay-Off," by Captain Ralph Ingersoll is now available. Having enlisted, taken his basic training and gone to OCS, Captain Ingersoll writes as a soldier, and not as an observer, of his own reactions to this baptism of fire. In speaking of the American public, the author states, "I have found out two things about you since I got back from Africa. One is that the gaps in your knowledge of the army are big, obvious, and unnecessary, and, two, that you really want to know."

It is to fill in these gaps, and satisfy this desire to know, that he has written the story of El Guettar as he saw it. From the time that orders were issued to his company of combat engineers, he tells what they did, and how they did it, and how they felt under fire. There are few little personal anecdotes, but there is much forceful writing on the subject of the Army and the way it works.

Although this book is written primarily for the civilian, in order that he may understand some of the whys and wherefores of the Army, soldiers will also find it both interesting and important.

## Home Radio Station To Broadcast Voices Of Men Here; Records Are Used

Sgt. Francis Kron, and Sgt. Earl Oelslager, both of the Tank Destroyer School, two men from the small town of Piqua, Ohio, went to Waco this week to record their personal holiday greetings to their folks back home. A Dayton, Ohio radio station requested these, and other Camp Hood enlisted men to record their voices, in order to broadcast their greetings on Christmas Day.

## Recruits Three Wac's While On Furlough

Sgt. Bessie Dandlicker, WAC Det., 1848th Unit, came back from an emergency furlough to Omaha with more than her luggage. She recruited three WAC's and turned in names of three other "probables".

## New Promotions In 441st

The following promotions were recently announced in the 441st PWP Co. at North Camp. Sgt. Richard A. Staudt was promoted to staff sergeant; Frank Judis became a sergeant, and Pvt. Roy Taylor received the rank of technician, 5th grade.



Just to make certain what we're all thinking of this time of this month, again we threw the question with the 64-dollar answer: **WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE FOR CHRISTMAS?**

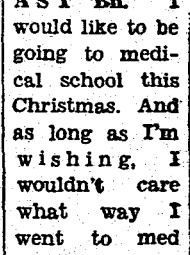
Pvt. Mario Izzo, Co. "A," 142 A S T Bn.



"What a question... where do you think? Where would any soldier like to be? ... Where would any person like to be... home. I guess that's

where the whole world wants to be; Christmas at home and there for good."

Pvt. George Chornesky, Co. D, A S T Bn.



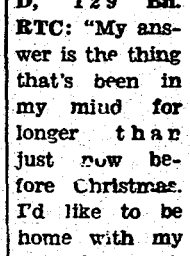
"I would like to be going to medical school this Christmas. And as long as I'm wishing, I wouldn't care what way I went to medical school, either a civilian school or as part of any Army medical detachment... But that's what I started out to do before the war. Maybe I'll get a chance though."

T-4 Nicholas Iarocci, Hq. & Hq. Det., 129 Bn.



R T C: "The place isn't too important... it could be any place. But the best Christmas present any body could ask for would be to hear the announcement, 'Peace is declared'... That's what I'd like most for Christmas and so would a lot of others... Victory and peace... that just about fills the bill."

Pvt. Richard Lymangrover, Co. D, 129 Bn.



R T C: "My answer is the thing that's been in my mind for longer than just now before Christmas. I'd like to be home with my wife in South Bend, Ind.—holding the two-months old baby I haven't even seen yet... what more could a father want at a time like this... I don't even know my own baby yet."

## Passes Bar During Furlough To Michigan

Pvt. Saul Domnitch, 836th Ord. Co., is now a full-fledged lawyer. Pvt. Domnitch graduated from Wayne University in Detroit after five years of study, and this September, while on furlough he passed his bar exams at Lansing, Mich. A new way to spend a furlough.

## Temple USO To Have Christmas Day Dance

The Temple USO has announced this week that plans are complete for a Christmas Dance, on the night of December 25th. Enlisted men from Camp Hood are invited to this affair. During the Christmas holidays the Temple USO is planning much Christmas activity for soldiers in this area.

## "Of Mice And Men"

It is rumored around the 441st PWP Company area, at North Camp, that three mice committed suicide when they found out their father was a Rat!



# Apple River, Ill.— A Story Of America

Apple River, Illinois. In pre-war days a thriving little community of five hundred, with a post office and ambitions. Today, well, it still has the post office.

Apple River is America. Its sons went to school, grew up, worked on the farms, and went to the big city. And Apple River soldiers are determined fighters because they know the enemy wants to destroy Apple River. The boys won't let 'em.

"Apple River has never grown up," says Staff Sgt. Leo D. Charlton, "and it has no pretensions. It is exactly what its name implies, a small agricultural town. It is unique, though, in that most of its citizens are retired farmers. Men of the land, who obtained from the soil a livelihood sufficient to give them rest and security in their declining years."

Leo Charlton knows all there is to know about Apple River. He is one of its sons now serving in the Army. He graduated from Beloit College, Wisconsin, where he majored in economics. He played two years of varsity basketball.

Sgt. Charlton has been in Camp Hood since September of 1942, and has held down the post of first sergeant of Company "A," Student Officers Battalion from the start. He was the first top-kick to be assigned to this battalion. In concentrating on administrative matters for the many classes of junior officers, he has attended to well over one thousand officers, their records and their well being, since

he began this assignment. These groups of officers came to TDS for the purpose, of taking tactical courses, company commander courses, and other similarly important military instruction.

At Beloit it was discovered that Charlton had an unusually fine



baritone singing voice. After obtaining his degree in economics he studied voice under Shirley Gandell, prominent Chicago voice coach. During this period he sang over Chicago's major radio stations, and became known as a singer of exceptional ability. Charlton worked hard on his voice for more than a year, and when Shirley Gandell at last gave him the signal to go out on his own, he felt like a race horse at the barrier, anxious to get away. He

accepted an offer that had been pending for him to become part of a sextette. The sextette opened with a major engagement at the College Inn of the Sherman Hotel, Chicago.

Popular demand held them over at the noted night spot for six successive weeks. And it was here that Charlton met and became close friends with the master of ceremonies of the show, George Givot, then known as "The Greek ambassador of good will," today, a popular character actor on the screen. Following the run at the College Inn, Charlton and his singing conferences went on the road. While on tour, his mother passed away, so abruptly he terminated his singing career.

He left the boys, determined that he was doing the right thing. And so, back he came to Apple River, back to his dad and the building materials business. He was made a full partner and soon lost himself in the maze of work. Charlton did the buying and selling of building materials, and the book work. He supervised the hauling of lumber, coal and cement. He worked hard right up to his call to report to Camp Grant to embark on his Army training. Sergeant Charlton was inducted June 23rd, 1942. He came to Camp Hood from Camp Robinson, Arkansas. He is married, 33, and now resides in Hood Village with his wife.

## School Finds Prodigy

Pvt. Robert L. Raitt, the clerk of Company "M," Student Regiment is only nineteen, and he has already seen three years at Stanford University, where he was a member of the debating team. Sounds like we have a child prodigy.



**BISHOP VISITS**—The Most Reverend Christopher E. Byrne, Catholic Bishop of Galveston administering the Sacrament of Confirmation to Pvt. Andrew Carrano, Hq. Co., 635th Bn., while the soldier's sponsor, Pvt. Nicholas Cenimo, 635th Bn. stands by at far right. Chaplain Simon E. Kenny, 21st Gp., assists the Bishop, along with Lt. Col. Henry Smith, back to camera, Camp Inspector and Maj. L. G. Gorman, 5th Tng. Regt., North Camp. Ceremony took place in chapel 176 recently when the Bishop visited camp. Twenty-four soldiers and six civilians were confirmed.

## TD Arms Not New For Co. B, 128th Bn. Men

Trainees in Co. B, 128th TD RTC Battalion, North Camp, have amazed their officers who have been teaching them tank destroyer methods and equipment, by their knowledge of the mechanisms of these highly specialized weapons of war.

During class periods an instructor may "hit a snag", suddenly find one of the "students" taking over the class and explaining some involved technical point. There always seems to be several members of each class who actually participated in the manufacture of tank destroyer equipment before entering the Army.

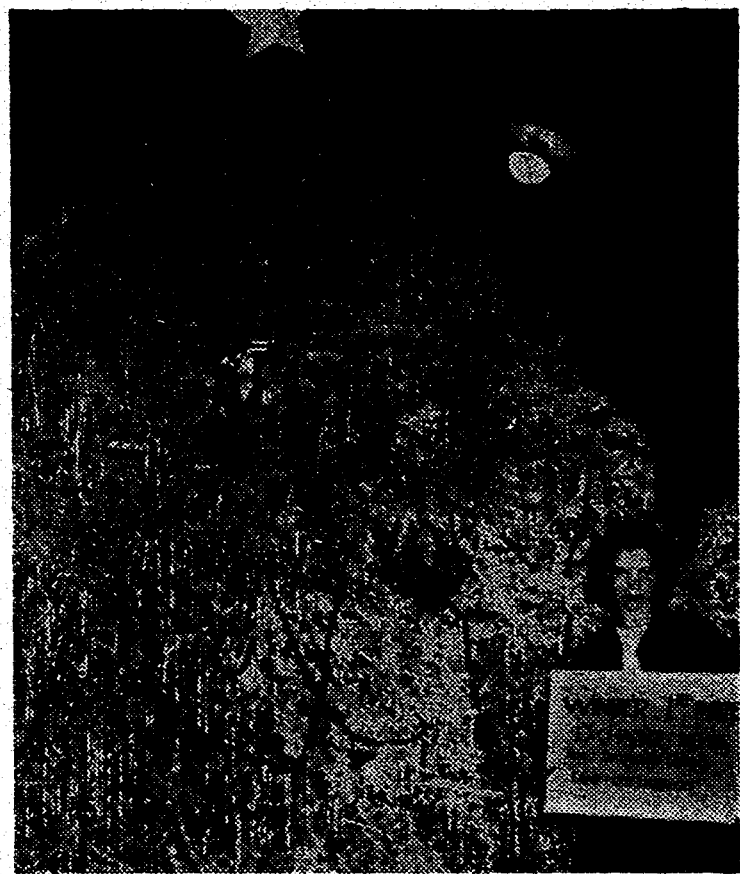
Pvt. Albert S. Murphy, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., worked on carbines and on breechlock parts for three inch gun; Pvt. Alan W. Schaper, Springfield, N. Y., helped to assemble half tracks; Pvt. James P. Scollan, whose home is in Long Island City, New York, used to make the nozzles for service gas-masks, and Pvt. Charles F. Siegle, Newake, Ohio, has seen thousands of anti-tank mines go down the production line.

Lecturers on the .30 and .50 caliber machine guns marveled at the ease with which Pvt. William G. Clark, Wilson, Conn., learned the nomenclature of the weapons, until it was revealed that he

helped to make both models of these machine guns. Pvt. Joseph D. Pono, of West Kennebunk, Maine, and Pvt. Ohmer L. Knapp, Dayton, Ohio, also worked on these machine guns before joining the Service. Pvt. Robert V. Carr, Lowell, Mass., and Pvt. Howard Jaderlund, Georgetown, Conn., know quite a lot about .50 caliber ammunition, which they once helped to make.

When "doubting Thomases" questioned the high cost of telescopic sights, Pvt. Lawrence Prestofillipo, Rochester, N. Y., was right on hand to back up the instructor by describing the intricacies involved in grinding lenses for the sights. Pvt. Gilbert D. Silverman, Roxbury, Mass., made the cases for these same sights.

Tank radios and inter-telephone systems hold no mysteries for Pvs. Arnold Siniscalchi, Bronx, N. Y., Louis C. Pidgeon, of Schenectady, N. Y., and Milton Cohen, of New York City, for they were constructing them just a few short months ago. Pvs. Gene De Rochis, Tuckahoe, N. Y., Vincent H. Holmes, Johnston, R. I., and John A. Gallagher, Lowell, Mass., all worked on machinery used in armament making, so they are especially interested in the new tank destroyers.



Reproduction Dept. TDS  
**THE WINNER**—Miss Mabel Norton, an employee of PX 15 holds the placard showing that their tree won the contest for the best decorated tree in the camp PX's.

## Headline Review

(A summary of the week's news prepared by Panther Editors)

The government of Bolivia was overthrown by a nationalist group whose previous attitude has been anti-United States, but who have declared themselves favorable to the United Nations. The fall of the pro-Ally government has caused some concern in Washington, but the general attitude is one of watchful waiting, with no comment. There has been no official reaction from our government.

The Russians are moving steadily forward again. Their Baltic army began an offensive toward the Nazi stronghold of Vitebsk, and is credited with capturing more than 100 towns and hamlets, which threatens the whole Nazi defense line below Leningrad.

The Germans admitted that the new Russian offensive was one of great strength, and Moscow announced that the Russians were pushing the Germans steadily back in the see-saw battle at Kiev bulge.

**Convict War Criminals**  
A Russian military court, conducting the first war crimes trial convicted three Nazis and a Russian traitor of murdering 60 Russian children between the ages of 6 and 12. They admitted mowing down the children with machine gun fire, and told of executing other non-combatants with gas.

With the Allied armies only about 80 miles from Rome, information in Naples was that the Germans had begun to evacuate large sections of the Italian capital, possibly in preparation for destroying the city when they withdraw completely, according to an Associated Press dispatch.

Allied progress in Italy continues slow and costly. Allied 5th and 8th armies, have captured several towns, including the key point of Orsogna near the Adriatic.

**Bosnia Fighting Heavy**  
As an indication of the rising tempo of fighting in Yugoslavia,

the Germans claimed to have killed more than 3,000 Partisans and to have captured 2,668 in recent fighting in Bosnia. The Nazis, for the first time, admitted having "grim battles" with Marshal Josip Broz' troops, while the Partisans declared that they were inflicting "heavy losses" on the Nazis.

Prime Minister Churchill was believed to be safely past his crisis, according to a bulletin issued from 10 Downing St.

Gen. Marshall is expected to remain as army chief of staff, and the job of leading the European invasion may be given to a Briton, according to an AP story quoting service journals.

American bombers have been raking enemy installations in northern France and northwestern Germany, including a raid on the industrial center of Frankfurt, which was said to be second only to the punishment of Berlin in severity.

**Ready For Invasion**  
Stories from London told of a steady stream of American troops pouring into England in a continuous Atlantic ferrying operation. The channel invasion, stories indicate, is now a matter of waiting for most favorable conditions.

Following the latest Allied bombing, Berlin was slowly being consumed by spreading fire as black, choking smoke covered the Nazi capital.

**Try To Oust Franco**  
Three attempts have been made to oust General Franco as dictator of Spain, according to Washington rumor; but all were thwarted by the Germans, who remain in Spain to uphold Franco.

Gen. Marshall paid his first visit to the Pacific theater commanded by Gen. MacArthur. He made no comment.

**Intensified Pacific Action**  
Allied air action in the Pacific continued to take a steady toll of Japanese shipping. At the same

time U. S. submarines were contributing to the Jap shipping losses—eight in one recent day.

American troops captured the Arawe air strip in southwestern New Britain. Bombing attacks on Jap held Marshall Islands are being intensified. Reports indicated that the Allies were gaining air supremacy in these areas.

An army company commander, noting the way one of his lieutenants insisted upon planting the Lone Star flag every time a new piece of ground was gained, wrote home to find out if it was the whole state of Texas or just the lieutenant that had seceded.

**Congress Takes Leave**  
The 78th Congress took absence with leave, a 20 day furlough, its first official leave in nine months.

Sen. Lucas (D-Ill.) will offer a compromise bill which would merely have Federal machinery arrange the soldier voting . . . Congress left behind, for consideration, a bill which would allot honorably discharged servicemen (and women) up to \$500 . . . Selective service officials declared that two million men must be drafted by next July.

Setting Dec. 30th as the deadline for strike action, the Railroad Brotherhoods have offered President Roosevelt another plan for compromise.

H. V. Kaltenborn, radio commentator, back from an extensive Pacific tour revised upward his estimate for the end of Japan—at the earliest, 1946.

Pres. Roosevelt said Stalin was like himself—"the realist type" . . . Temple cab drivers were threatened with loss of license if they didn't stop speeding . . . Doris Duke (Mixture heiress) Cromwell won a divorce from James H. R. Cromwell on the grounds of mental cruelty . . . a sinister new character is getting ready to challenge Dick Tracy's sleuthing prowess



## Camp Lauded For Gifts To War Chest

Central Texas chairmen of the United War Chest Campaign at a luncheon held at the 50th Street Officer Club yesterday expressed their appreciation for the contributions made by soldiers and civilians at Camp Hood. The contributions from Camp Hood helped many of the counties meet their assigned quota. Checks totaling \$8769.79 was presented by Maj. Gen. John H. Hester to the visiting county chairmen.

The entire camp was canvassed under the directorship of Camp Chaplain Thomas H. Talbot, chairman of the drive here, with the returns as follows: Hq. TDC, \$85; station complement, Camp Hood, \$1593.97; station complement, N. Camp Hood, \$633.73; TDRTC, \$1811; TDS, \$1223.73; ASTP, \$404.50; Training Brigade, \$980.07; Unit Training Center, \$2037.79.

Among other contributions to the War Chest was a \$50 check contributed by Brig. Gen. Hugh T. Mayberry. The check has been received for a magazine article prepared for the Military Review under his supervision.

Attending besides Gen. Hester were W. D. Towner, Houston, state chairman; A. P. Roland, Waco district chairman; Rev. J. E. Fuller, Lampasas county; S. T. Curry, Burnet; Rev. Michael MarYosip, Bell county; William K. McClain, Williamson; C. E. Alvis, Coryell; Allan Johnson, Llano; Col. C. M. Thirkeld, Camp Commander; Col. G. S. Meloy, chief of staff; Lt. Col. C. H. Booth, public relations officer; Chaplain Thomas H. Talbot, post chaplain and Lt. Stanley Woodruff, aide to General Hester.

## Formal Dinner Dance Tonight For Officers In Academic Regiment

Officers of the Academic Regiment are staging a formal Christmas dinner-dance today at the 26th Street Officers Club, at which Brig. Gen. H. T. Mayberry and Mrs. Mayberry will be the guests of honor. The committee in charge of arrangements is composed of Lts. John A. Allen, Horace Disston and Edward Miller.

## 5th Armored Group To Have Holiday Program

The 5th Armored Group will present a Christmas program tonight, Thursday, at Chapel 513, on Battalion Ave., beginning at 8 p. m.

The program will consist of a one-act play entitled "Judas." The play will be given in conjunction with a musical recital, with Cpl. Alger G. Williams at the console.

The "Four Wonders" quartet will render several musical numbers by Berk; and the Rev. Dr. R. Nathaniel Dett will deliver an appropriate message.

Everyone on the post is cordially invited to attend the program.

## Yank Voted Favorite

Yank was voted second favorite magazine—Life first—in a recent poll of GIs in Hawaii.



## USO Camp Show Tonight: "Just For The Ride" At Hood Road Theater

"Just for the Ride" USO Camp Show is now showing at the Hood Road Theater, tonight and tomorrow night, Dec. 23 and 24. This is a variety show packed with laughs and comedy. Show starts at 8 o'clock and Admission is FREE.

## Big Christmas Eve Show At 37th Street Club

The main attraction at the 37th St. Service club Christmas Eve night will be a Xmas Eve show. The show consists of two acts, "Christmas eve in the field" and "Stage door Canteen." The post carol singers and the TD band will appear at intermission, under the direction of Chaplain Talbot.

The cast will include men from units in camp and are as follows: Pvt. Francis Daget, 672nd; Pvt. Artie E. Pellum, 836th Ord. Pvt. Bill Wernick, 658th; Sgt. Sam Miller, 670th; Pvt. Pete Murcurio, 658th; Pfc. Howard Grenwald, 663rd; Pvt. Joe Passiatore, TDS; Pvt. Sam Talisano, 662nd; Pfc. Ed Penn, Tr. Brig; Pvt. Phil Davidson, Sta. Hospital; Pfc. Art Mee; Signal Office; Sgt. Sid Katz, OCS Rgt.; Pvt. Frank Kuritsky, Stu. Rgt.; Pvt. Bill Groso, 668th.

The show will begin at 8:30 Christmas Eve night.

## American Citizens Now

The following members of the 441st PWP Co. at North Camp recently received their American citizenship papers: Sgt. Alfred Zwerdling, Sgt. Bernard Strauss, Sgt. Werner Emmerich, Cpl. Albert Gompertz, Cpl. Fred Berdass, Pvt. Heinz Mathews and Pvt. Herbert Harder.

## Quiz Answers

1. The tradition, which finds a place in the American and British navies, was originated by Martin Tromp, a Dutch admiral, who sailed in the British channel with a broom at his mast head as a symbol of his ability to sweep the seas.
2. On a routine mission. A "milk run" is a frequently performed mission which has become, among aviators, routine like a milkman's delivery.
3. No. The War Department reported last June that 62 Japanese prisoners of war were being held at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. There may be more now.
4. The War Department uses "sep" for separate, indicating that the soldier is not a part of a regular Army unit but is in a separate or mobile company which can be assigned to any organization.
5. Cologne, which has been bombed in 122 raids.
6. No. By War Department regulation, members of the WAC are not permitted to fire arms.

## Hood Men Impressed When Pigeons Carry Messages For Demonstration In The Field

"Something the men will never forget" was the comment expressed by those in charge of a group of enlisted men who on Dec. 3 witnessed a demonstration of carrier pigeons in action. This display of aerial communication on the wing was given under the direction of Hq. Training Brig., with Pvs. Frank Fahrner, Hugo Bouse and Henry Greger, of Hq. Co., Tng. Brig., in charge of the birds.

Practical demonstrations were given under field conditions of the manner in which pigeons carry messages to their destination at great speed when radio communication has failed or is silenced to prevent detection by the enemy. Lt. John J. Shea, 2nd Bn., 166th inf., led his men up to Anderson Mt., where radio communication was also established with Lt. Ro-

bert D. Riggs, who stayed at the Pigeon Loft and kept a close check on the timing of the birds as they delivered messages to Pvs. Fahrner and Greger, from the station set up on Anderson Mt.

After the demonstration Pvt. Bouse contributed remarks upon the value of pigeons with tank destroyer units in theaters of action, upon ships at sea and dirigibles, and with other arms, such as field artillery, paratroops, and infantry. Despite its lightness in weight, the pigeon has great endurance, which with its unerring sense of direction and speed has been responsible for its use in communications in modern as well as ancient warfare.

Organizations of TDC who are interested in future demonstrations of "Pigeons in Action" should con-

## 614th Bn. Gets Commendation Of Gen. Hester

For a condition of "high level of excellence" of its motor park and vehicles on inspection. Maj. Gen. John H. Hester, commanding general TDC, commended the 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion for their excellence in motor maintenance.

The men of the battalion are exceedingly proud of the compliment, and point out that few battalions have such a letter in their archives.

tact Major Milton H. Baughn, Jr., Capt. Philip A. Hevenor, or Lt. Riggs, of Hq. Tng. Brigade, who will gladly arrange for an interesting as well as instructive display.

**SOMEHOW, LACE DOESN'T FEEL SO ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS EVE!**

**A NEAT PACKAGE FOR ALL YOU G.I. GENERALS — from MALE CALL, CAMP NEWSPAPER SERVICE and MILTON CANIFF**

Copyright 1945 by Milton Caniff, distributed by Camp Newspaper Service

## Male Call

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

## Wipe That Opinion Off Your Face

THE MEN HAVE BEEN GETTING CARELESS ABOUT SALUTING, MISS LACE! PLEASE PARDON ME IF I HAVE TO SPEAK TO ANY WHO FORGET...

DON'T MIND ME... I ENJOY A HIGHBALL MYSELF!

A-HUM!

HOW ABOUT IT, SOLDIER?

HOW ABOUT WHAT, SIR?

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU SUDDENLY SEE AN OFFICER WALKING WITH A YOUNG LADY?

I WISH I WUZ AN OFFICER, SIR!





With PFC Keith Quick

S-Sgt. Benton L. Perry, Range Det., DEMIL. dropped in the other day and requested this corner to pour out the dope concerning a touchback and a safety, two of football's most complicated plays. It seems that Sgt. Perry has been the victim of some loud ribbing by particular buddies, who don't seem to get the exact idea of what the two pigskin plays mean. This should put them right, Sgt. Perry.... A touchback is made when the ball in possession and control of a player guarding his goal is declared dead by the referee, any part of it being on, above or behind the goal line, provided the impetus which sent it to or across the goal line was given by an opponent.... After a touchback, the team making it shall put the ball in play by a scrimmage anywhere on its 20-yard line.... In regard to a safety—whenever the ball is declared dead in possession of a team on, above, or behind its own goal line, provided the impetus which sent it to or across the goal line came from the team defending that goal, it a safety and scores 2 points for the opponents.... After a safety the team making it shall put the ball in play by a free kick anywhere on its own 20-yard line or any point back of it, exactly the same as though a fair catch had been made at that point....

Lt. Birdie Tebbetts, bigtime baseball catcher, is back at the Waco Army Air Field after an absence of nearly six weeks. The popular maskman has been away on a WAC drive. Upon his arrival back, Birdie received a promotion. He is now special services officer of the Waco Army setup, which means that he will be in charge of all athletic activities. Already the Lieutenant has said that the Air Field will go in for baseball again next season. Last summer, the Fliers, managed by Tebbetts, won the Texas Semi-pro title and the big Houston Post semi-pro crown, but were not permitted to travel up to Wichita, Kansas, for a crack at National honors, which were carried off by a fast Camp Wheeler, Ga., nine.... The Texas Schoolboy football title will be decided Saturday in Dallas at Dal-Hi field, beginning at 3 p. m., with the San Angelo Bobcats and the Lufkin Panthers clawing away at each other. Both teams had close shaves last week in gaining the final bracket, San Angelo nipping Rusty Russell's Highland Park, Dallas, charges, 21 to 20, and the Lufkin gridders

### Field Artillery Team Will Book Games

The 264th FA Bn., Co. B, basketball team composed of Budie Boyd, Clark, L. M. Godbey, Hale, Hilton, Hagy, Kark, Myers, Simmons, McCauley and Briscoe is now hitting its stride. The team is interested in games with other camp aggregations. Any teams desiring a game with the Co. B cagers should contact Sgt. J. N. Moser Co. B, 264th FA Bn.

### TDS Gymnasium Open To Men For Workouts

Corporal Joseph Malvesi is in charge of the TDS Gymnasium evenings when many men drop in of an evening for a work-out on their own time. These are not scheduled sessions at this 20th Street gym. The men drop in at will and do just as they please, skip rope, punch the bag, wrestle, box, and play basketball. Instructors are available, and the spirit that prevails is bringing out more men every evening.

### From Camp Daily Bulletin

For Sale: One wedding ring set.

nosing out Goose Creek's Ganders, 3 to 1, via 20-yard line penetrations. In Saturday's Christmas Day battle, it'll be Lufkin 20, San Angelo 14—sez us! And the Chicago Bears will win the world's pro title at Chicago next Sunday, when they lock horns with George Marshall's highly-touted Washington Redskins.... Sez us again—Bears, 34, Redskins, 20!

## NC Basketball Tourney Set

Lt. Henry Mahley, top basketball mentor at North Camp, announced this week that the North Camp Hood elimination basketball tournament would get underway Jan. 3, same date as that of the big round-robin event to be staged at the field house in south camp.

The North camp event will determine the best team of that sector, the winner of which will meet the south camp champions for the 1944 Camp Hood cage title.

## Will Carry Top Pro Grid Game

Radio Station KGKO (5 on the Dial), a Dallas-Ft. Worth Mutual hookup, will carry a complete broadcast of the world's professional championship football game between the Chicago Bears and Washington Redskins next Sunday afternoon, Dec. 26, beginning at 2 p. m. CWT.

The game, which will be played in Chicago, is expected to draw a tremendous crowd, and the KGKO broadcast will give Camp Hood military personnel a fine chance to follow their favorite team—thanks to Ralph W. Nimmons, program director of the KGKO radio station.

### Co., B, 656th Bn. Wins Three Games

The Co. B, 656th Bn., basketball team chalked up three victories in the Training Brigade basketball loop last week.

In the three games, the Co. B quintet turned back the Co. A, 603rd Bn., cagers, 30 to 24; Recon. Co., 603rd Bn., 35 and 34, and won their third contest via the forfeit route, when the scheduled opponent failed to show up.

The three wins put the Co. B five in the semi-finals of the Brigade tournament.

### Company B Tops In 662nd Bn. Athletics

Despite heavy training schedules, the 662nd Bn. has been carrying on an extensive recreational and athletic program.

Co. B has proven itself to be the class of the battalion. They have established themselves as the team to beat in the battalion's current basketball chase. Last week, the Co. B cagers trounced the Co. A quintet, 24 to 14, with Pvt. Morra scoring more than half of the team's two dozen points.

### Three In 662nd Bn. Get Conduct Medals

Pfc. Stephen Perkarovich, T-5 George Stonehouse and Pvt. Edmund Yachimiak, of Co. B, 662nd Bn., were recently awarded Good Conduct Medals. Capt. Lynch, company commander, made the presentations.

### OCS Regt. Man Dad

T-5 Tony Frank, Hq. and Service Co., OCS Regt., joined one of the biggest clubs in the world when he became the father of son Dec. 9. Mrs. Frank's new boy, Tony Lavelle, was born in Nacogdoches, Texas.

## Golden Glove Tournament To Be Here

The Camp Hood Central Texas District Golden Gloves boxing tournament will get underway the week beginning January 24. The event will be the first of its kind ever staged in this Army installation, last year's tournament having been held in Temple.

Bouts in the forthcoming district tourney will be staged at the Field House throughout the entire week of January 24, with an eight-man team, a champion for every weight division, to be determined in the week's fight course. The winning eight-man fight team will later travel to Fort Worth to participate in the Texas State Golden Gloves tournament, which is sponsored by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and opens next February 16, for a five-day run.

The winning team of the Camp Hood District event will be presented some kind of token, presumably a trophy or sweaters, in tribute to their being district champions.

#### Amateur Rules

Amateur rules will prevail throughout the course of the district event here, and at the State tourney in Fort Worth. In all bouts, there will be no draws; a definite decision must result in each fight.

The Camp Hood district tournament will be open to all civilian boxers, provided they reside within the central Texas area that represents this district.

#### Strict Standards

No fighter, military or civilian, will be eligible to compete in the forthcoming tourney if he has a status involving any of the following rules:

- (1) That a professional boxing or wrestling license has ever been issued to contestant in any State in his name.
- (2) That he has ever been a professional, or a licensed referee, second or promoter.
- (3) That he enters the event under false name.
- (4) That he has competed in more than one district tourney this year.
- (5) That he is under 16 years of age.
- (6) That he is not a citizen as the result of having been convicted of a felony.
- (7) That he has accepted money in excess of legitimate expenses for participating in "any sport." Although the "any sport" clause applies to civilian fighters only. For the Duration, professionals in sports other than boxing and wrestling does not bar the service man from golden gloves competition.

The deadline for weighing in ceremonies for all fighters entered will be Friday, Jan. 21, and this date will also be the deadline for all entries in the big boxing event. No entries will be accepted later than Jan. 21.

### North Camp Panthers Beat McCloskey Team

Lt. Henry Mahley's fast-stepping North Camp Hood basketballers, the "Panthers," put on the steam last Saturday night in the Waco USO basketball circuit, when they trounced the McCloskey Hospital quintet, 64 to 33, in a free-scoring game.

Sgt. Tom Warwick led the Panther's hoop-hitting with a total of 33 points.

### Hq. & Service Co. Has Names On Group Photo

In the hands of the young proprietress of the tailor shop of the OCS Post Exchange, is a large picture of the officers and enlisted men of the Headquarters and Service Company of that regiment. The back of this picture looks like a hotel register, as the names and addresses of the men placed there this week cover the entire portrait.

## Round Robin Cage Tourney Is Planned

The forthcoming basketball tournament, which is scheduled to open at the field house January 3, 1944, will be a big round robin event, with six to nine teams in a group and as many groups as necessary to take care of all teams.

All entries must be in by Friday, December 24. Entries should be turned in to Lt. J. R. Varnell, Post Athletic Officer, at the Post Special Services Office.

The tournament will be run off on a battalion basis—one team to every 600 or 800 men. All group

headquarters may enter a team. The tourney will be for enlisted men's teams only. Officers will not be permitted to play. This event will not apply to colored units as they are now participating in a tournament.

1942 - 43 National Collegiate Athletic Association rules will govern play in the forthcoming tourney. However, these few exceptions have been made. There will be eight minute quarters; two minutes between quarters. A five minute intermission at half-time; and substitutions will be unlimited.

The Post Athletic council will act on all protested games. Games may be postponed if for military reason they cannot be played, provided Lt. Varnell is notified before 4 p. m. the day of the game, otherwise a forfeit will be declared if notice of postponed game is not made before this time.

Referees for the games will be furnished, and each team will furnish one man to help time and score their game. All teams are urged to have some kind of uniforms. Underwear shorts should not be used to play in, and basketball or gynosium type shoes are required.

A complete schedule will be made out as soon as all entries are received. Any further information regarding the number of Teams you can enter may be had by calling Lt. Varnell, phone 729

The winner of the forthcoming tournament will be recognized as champions of South Camp, who will at a later date engage in a series of games with the North Camp champions to determine the 1944 basketball title of Camp Hood.

### Officer's Clubs Plan Dances, Open Houses For Yule Celebrations

The following activities have been scheduled for the Officers Clubs in camp:

Christmas eve, December 24th there will be a Dance at the 26th Street Officers Club, 8:30 p. m.

Christmas Night, December 25th there will be a Dance at the 50th Street Club, 8:30 p. m.

New Year's eve, December 31, the 50th and 26th Officers club will have a dance beginning at 8:30 p. m.

Open house will be held at both 26th and 50th Street clubs for all members and their guests between 7 p. m. and 10 p. m. January 1.

Reservations are necessary for the New Year's Dances.

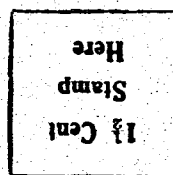
### Malaria Control Study For EM's In TD School

Starting the first of the year, the assigned enlisted personnel of the TD School will be busy taking new and advanced courses in practical first aid and malaria control. These courses will be rigorously undertaken and should result in plenty of dividends for the boys who find themselves stationed someday where they may have to utilize this knowledge to save a life.

### Wants Competition

The 441st PWP Co., North Camp, challenges any team in north or south camp to games of soccer, football, ping-pong and handball.

## Mail Your 'Panther' Home!



Camp Hood, Texas

From: