

The Giddings News

July 24, 1942



Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

July 14, 1942.

Here I am again. I hope everybody enjoyed my article that was in the last week's Giddings News, and I will attempt to write another to explain what you would do if were sent to the Field Artillery Replacement Training Center. Immediately after your arrival, you will be assigned to the Casual Battalion, kept there for a day or two until you have been classified according to your abilities and occupation in civilian life. You draw your additional clothing and then are transferred to a Regular "Basic" Battery. A "Battery" is the basic artillery organization corresponding to a "Troop" of Cavalry or a "Company" of Infantry.

This Training Center is divided into three Regiments, the 6th, 7th, and 8th. The 6th Regiment is composed of the 26th, 30th and the 31st Battalions, the latter made up of colored soldiers. The 7th Regiment is composed of the 27th, 28th and the 29th Battalions. The 8th Regiment is composed of the 32nd and the 33rd Battalions. These two Battalions are Specialists Battalions.

Each Battalion is headed by a Lieutenant-Colonel, and is divided into Batteries headed by Captains. The Officer in charge of each is called the Battery Commander, the Officer in charge of the Battalion is called the Battalion-Commander, and the Officer in charge of the Replacement Training Center is called the Commanding-General. Now each Battery in turn is divided into two Platoons,

each headed by a Lieutenant. Then each Platoon is divided into 4 sections and in turn each section is headed by a Sergeant and he in turn has Corporals to assist him. These men are called Non-commissioned Officers. They will be in charge of the barracks that you stay in and also are in charge of all the basic training and manual of arms and all the other drill and training. You will often hear the Non-commissioned referred to as "Cadre" which is a term used to designate the permanent administrative and instructor members of the Battery. In direct charge of all the men and working under the Battery Commander and all the Battery Officers, is the First Sergeant also referred to as the "Top-Sergeant" or the "Top-Kick." Through him will pass most of your routine orders and assignments. Now you find your Officers cognizant of the adjustments you are being called upon to make, and are ready at all times to cooperate with you in the solution of your problems. In turn, they expect your whole-hearted cooperation in carrying out the program of training. You must always remember that this training is a vital link in our great Defense System of our country.

When your training is completed, it is hoped that you will have shown the necessary efficiency under conditions like combat, know how to act intelligently in an emergency and will be so toughened physically that you will be able to withstand the rigors of modern warfare.

This center has been proud of the men that it has sent out in the past and we want to be equally proud of every man that will be sent out of here. Remember always that trained, disciplined manpower is the fundamental requirement of

the U. S. Army.

I want to thank the Editor very much for putting my article in the Giddings News, and I hope every one enjoys them. If not, let me know and I will slacken down.

And all you good Giddings folks drop me a line.

"Remember Pearl Harbor!"
"For National Security - buy Defense Bonds and Stamps

every pay-day."

Yours very truly,

Sgt. Julius E. Urech
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