



With the Colors

6/2/44

The third class in the School for Medical Administrative Corps Officers at the Army Service Forces Training Center at Camp Barkeley, Texas, designed to train officers as battalion surgeons' assistants in a six weeks' course of instruction, is now midway through its training period here. Among the officers enrolled is Lieutenant Paul Gordon Robards, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ohmer Robards of Newton.

In training, the officers will be instructed particularly in regard to tactical problems of medical evacuation in combat and with duties in front-line battalion aid stations. The overall aim of the school is to completely familiarize the officers with all phases of work in the regimental medical detachment—which is the medical unit attached to a combat regiment. Graduates of the school will be eligible for assignment to all branches of the Army.

The final week of instruction will be devoted to field training exercises during which the classroom work will be practically applied. The course includes instruction from seven departments: Chemical warfare, tactics, field medicine and surgery, sanitation, administration, logistics and training.

Brigadier General Roy C. Heflebower, commanding general of the ASFTC and school commandant, told graduates of a previous class that they were "pioneers" in a movement that will place a great many more officers of the Medical Administrative Corps in active duty in combat areas.

"We realize that we cannot make doctors of you in a matter of months—that takes years," General Heflebower stated, "but at officer candidate school you demonstrated your ability, and with this added training we feel sure you are well fitted for technical duties, tactical problems involving medical evacuation, administration in the field, reconnaissance and movement of the aid station."

The class, considerably smaller than the second class, which completed training last month, enrolled officers from all parts of the country, most of whom were second lieutenants, Medical Administrative Corps. Training is under the direction of Lieutenant Colonel August H. Groeschel, assistant commandant, and Captain Robert Springer, executive officer. Present plans indicate this will be the last class of the school, it was said.

Raymond Vernon Collins, whose mother and father reside at 808 South Van Buren street, Newton, is now an integral member of the Amphibious Forces of the United States Navy.

At the completion of his preliminary LST training at the Amphibious Training Base, Camp Bradford, N. O. B., Norfolk, Virginia, Raymond V. Collins, has been assigned to the crew of an LST for active duty.

The LST is especially constructed for the transporting of troops and heavy equipment. It has a bow that can be opened when it comes into the beach which enables men and equipment to land ready for action. This type of amphibious craft is as large as a destroyer, and it is the largest of the amphibious ships capable of making landings directly on the beach.

Like the Naval Air Force and the Submarine Service, the physical requirements of the Amphibious Force are greater than for most of the other branches of the naval service. To qualify for assignment to any of the amphibious craft, a candidate must successfully complete a thorough and varied curriculum.

The Amphibious Force is one of the branches of the Navy that is now playing an important role in carrying the attack to the enemy. In every landing that has been made to date, the Amphibious Force has carried the men and material into the beaches, such is the quality of the training given to both officers and enlisted men, and the sturdiness of the craft which they operate.

Sergeant Russell Harrison, who is in England with an Ordnance Maintenance company, writes the following poem in a letter to J. M. Harrison of near Hunt City:

Alive and well,
All I can tell;
War is taboo,
The invasion, too.
Where am I at?
Can't mention that.
What do I do?
A big secret, too.
Why do I write
This censor's delight?
Not to be snappy;
I'm ETO happy.

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Private First Class and Mrs. Fred

Torbitt spent a fifteen day furlough, visiting at Paris and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Torbitt of Hidalgo. He is stationed at Camp Pendleton with the United States Marine Corps at Oceanside, California, where he was a student instructor of artillery and chemical warfare.

June 2, 1944

Mr. and Mrs. Elza M. Turner of near Rose Hill have received a letter from their son, Seaman Second Class W. Frank Turner, stating that he has been assigned to a ship out of New Orleans, Louisiana. He said he was well, feels fine and enjoys reading the Press.

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Staff Sergeant and Mrs. Thomas Fithian and son William Lee have been spending a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil D. Fithian of Newton. They were enroute from an Army Air field at Marietta, Georgia, to Nebraska.

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Corporal Theodore Kocher is spending a week's furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kocher of near Newton. He is an aerial engineer at Lockbourne Air base, Columbus, Ohio.

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Lieutenant Neil Fisher spent the week end at Newton, visiting his father, Joseph T. Fisher, and Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Franke of Newton. He is stationed in Arkansas.

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Robert Bromm of Springfield, fireman second class, visited his aunt, Mrs. Earl R. Reese and family of Newton, Tuesday. He has been in the Southwest Pacific.