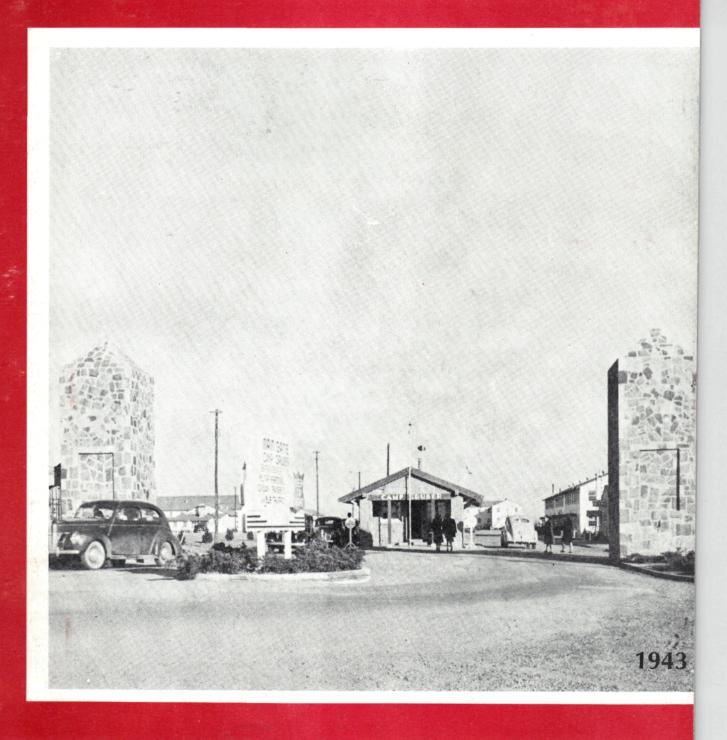
Camp Gruber



Located High in the Picturesque Cookson Hills of Eastern Oklahoma

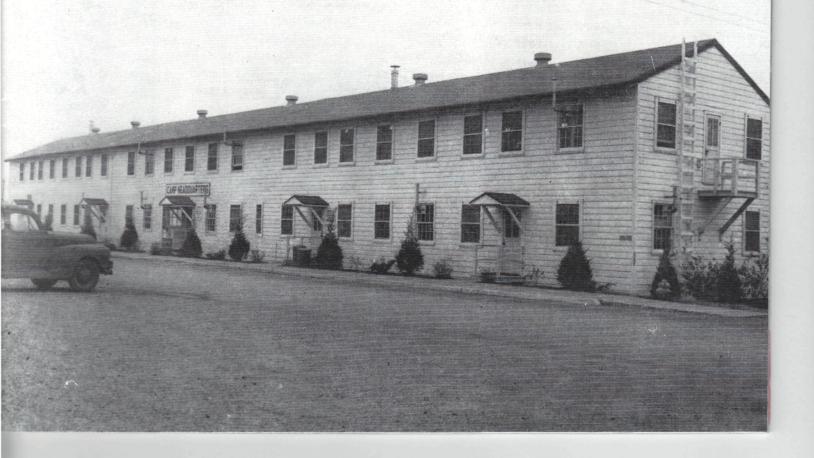




42nd (Rainbow) Division Headquarters



Camp Headquarters



Entranças Gate Number Three Gate Number One to Camp Gruber Muskogee Bound . Bus Johninal A E I

Camp Gruber

Camp Gruber, one of the many military training centers under the Eighth Service Command, ASF, is located high in the storied Cookson Hills of Eastern Oklahoma—an area once sacred in the lore of the Indian and, more recently, infamous in the eyes of the law.

Sprawled over 60,000 acres of rugged uplands, the vast reservation encompasses an area of hills and valleys, cliffs, thick woodlands, unruly streams, sparse top-soil, rocks and clay, which often had proved impractical from the standpoint of farming.

But, from the standpoint of military training, the area is ideal. Its history as an army cantonment perhaps reflects the tempo of America at War.

Before its construction, what is now Camp Gruber had long been an idea in the mind of the army. The area had been surveyed and, because of its big man-made lake and natural training facilities, had been approved by the War Department as a camp site.

For want of a better name, it was then known as the "proposed Cookson Hills cantonment."

But, on December 7, 1941, America went to War.

In February of 1942 government contractors with tools and equipment moved into an open field bordering the Missouri Pacific railway 18 miles east of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and 12 miles south of historic Fort Gibson, an Indian outpost garrisoned by U. S. soldiers of an earlier day.

In May of 1942, the U. S. Army moved onto the field with tools and equipment. At

its disposal was a new modern army camp, complete with endless rows of neat frame barracks, five theatres, three service clubs, three guest houses, three libraries, 19 post exchanges, a chapel and recreation hall for every unit the size of a regiment, and a day-room for every company.

For its name, the new camp went to the composer of the "hit-tune" of two World Wars. He is the late Brig. Gen. Edmund L. Gruber, famed as the founder of the field artillery firing center at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, but perhaps better known as the composer of the battle-hymn of the cannoneers and gunners: "The Caisson Song."

Since its activation as a military training center. Camp Gruber has sent thousands of fighting men to the fighting fronts. It has served as the birthplace of two infantry divisions, both of them direct descendants of units whose valor in battle was established in World War I.

It has trained artillerymen, schooled on a range whose excellence frequently brings units from other camps visiting for firing exercises.

There have been engineers, quartermaster men, ordnance men, and others.

Before this time, the Camp Gruber Hills had known a history rich in the stories of Indians and gunmen, tragedy and tall tales—a history peculiar to the old Indian Territory.

Historically, Camp Gruber is located in that part of Oklahoma which once was part of the Cherokee nation of the old Indian Territory—a nation which ceased to exist with the admission of Oklahoma to its statehood in 1907.

The story starts back in 1832 when the Cherokees were moved forcibly from their native home in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, North and South Carolina, by government contractors, many of whom were so unscrupulous that the road traveled by this unhappy people now is called the "Trail of Tears."

As a symbol of bitter resentment of their treatment by the white man, the Cherokees, from the first year of their arrival in Oklahoma until the present time, have met annually and reenacted a weird but fantastic ceremony around the light of an "eternal," or sacred, fire.

This fire, brought from their ancestral homeland, supposedly still burns somewhere in the

hills—undimmed from the time it burned brightly at a fateful meeting 100 years ago on a bluff overlooking what is now Lake Greenleaf, Camp Gruber.

TO THE WAY OF THE PARTY OF THE

Cherokee legend has it that buried on a bluff overlooking a creek named "Tearful Waters" is a "Y" shaped stone on which at a meeting of the Cherokee chiefs in 1840 was inscribed interesting data, some of it concerning the lost colonists of Roanoke and other involving pre-colonial and post-revolutionary events never known to the white man.

At midnight, during the mystic ritual, the "Sacred Fire" was placed on a flat rock near the edge of the bluff. As the ceremony progressed, the "Y" shaped stone was cut from rock, and in the days that followed, the recordings were inscribed.

According to the legend, on the last day of the meeting, a venerable Cherokee died and was buried at the camp site with the stone clasped in his arms. An oak bush was planted on the grave.

Lending credence to a legend handed down from generation to generation is a "Y" shaped cavity located approximately 50 feet from the southeast corner of Greenleaf lodge—now a Camp Gruber Officers' Club.

A majestic oak-tree standing 150 feet east of the lodge is said to be the small bush planted on the Cherokee elder's grave.

As further proof; it is related that several old men of the tribe definitely verified the legend some 40 yars ago, explaining that the creek named "Tearful Waters" now is known as "Greenleaf Creek" and that the meeting was held where the lodge now stands.

With the press of American civilization westward, the Cherokees soon found the white man again in their midst, and the Cookson Hills began to acquire a new reputation as a hideout and assembly point for assorted desperados.

The bandits and gunmen who hid in the hills are legion. Some are notorious. They range from the bemoustached Cherokee Bill of Indian Territory days down to Pretty Boy Floyd—the latter of whom achieved the dubious distinction of "Public Enemy No. 1."

So critical did the situation become as the wave of bank-robberies and murders increased

in the early 1930's that the Oklahoma National Guard (45th Division) was called into service to comb the wild and silent hills for criminals known to be in hiding there.

From that time on, the reputation of the Cookson Hills as an effective hideout for criminals decreased.

The first General Order at Camp Gruber was issued May 21. 1942, assigning Lt. Col. (now Colonel) Harry C. Luck as Camp Commander, a position he has held continuously since that date.

On July 15, 1942, the 88th Infantry Division was activated on the Camp's vast one and one-half mile long parade ground, as a lineal descendant of the fighting 88th which had distinguished itself on the fields of France in World War I.

On July 14, 1943—one year later lacking one day—the famed 42nd (Rainbow) Infantry Division was created at Camp Gruber in the spirit and tradition of the old "Rainbow" which had fought and defeated the Germans in five major battles of World War I.

Because of the old "Rainbow's" fame, national interest in the creation of a new 42nd ran high. The activation date was set for July 14, the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Champagne, in which the old "Rainbow" helped to smash back the last German drive on Paris.

Maj. Gen. John E. Sloan commanded the 88th Division, while Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collins commands the 42nd Division.

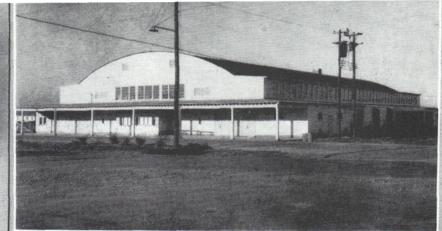
In May of 1943, when the greatest floods in midwestern history struck Oklahoma, soldiers of Camp Gruber proved to the nation that the U. S. Army can be of invaluable aid in time of national emergency as well as in War.

With untiring efforts, Camp and 88th Division authorities worked day and night, rescuing families from drowned bottom lands and providing food, shelter, and medical aid for flood victims. At one time, more than 1500 flood victims were quartered in the camp, awaiting the waters to subside.

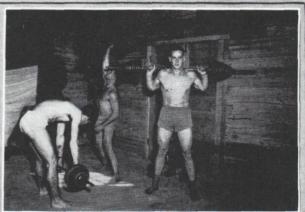
So Camp Gruber carries on the legend and romance of the territory which it proudly occupies and adds its bit to the traditions of the Cookson Hills, the state of Oklahoma, and of the great Southwest.



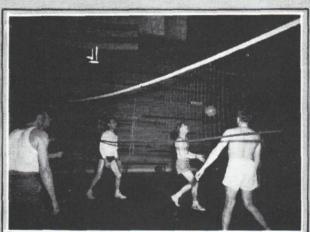
Basketball



Camp Gruber's Hall of Sports



- Weight Room



Volleyball

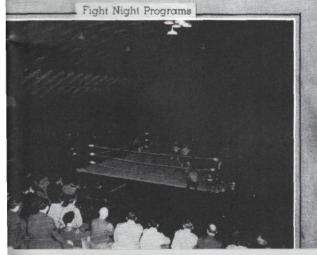


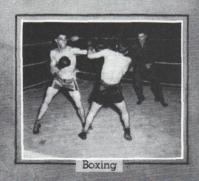


Wrestling



Conditioning -

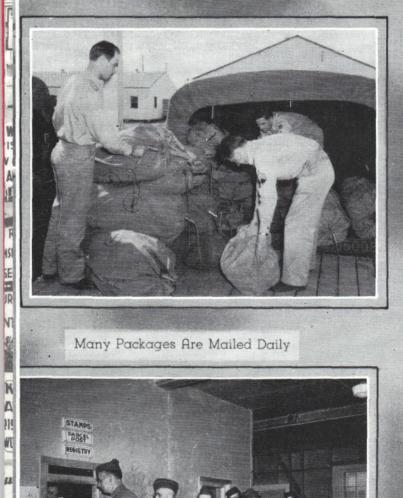




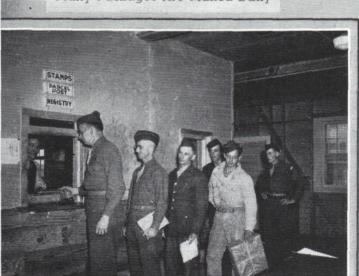








Many Packages Are Mailed Daily



A SELECT

"Dear Folks: The Army's Fine"

IS MAIL



Post

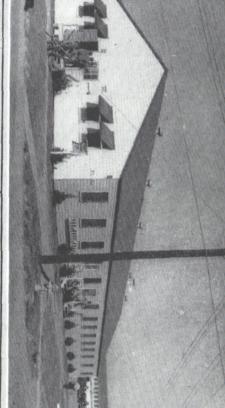










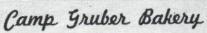


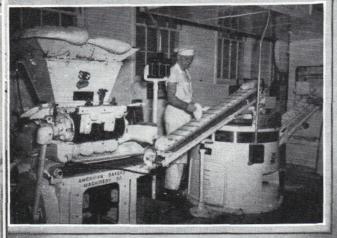






Headin' for the Mess Halls





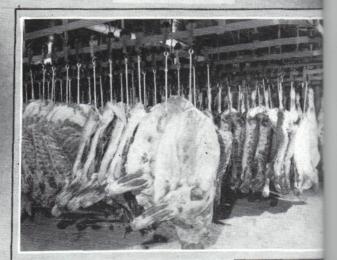
Modern Equipment



Loadin' out



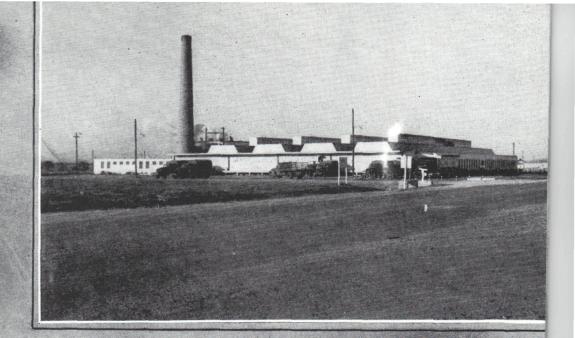
In the Storage Rooms



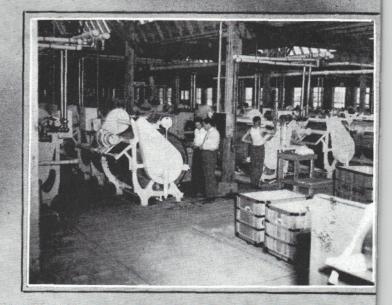
Cold Storage Plant



Camp





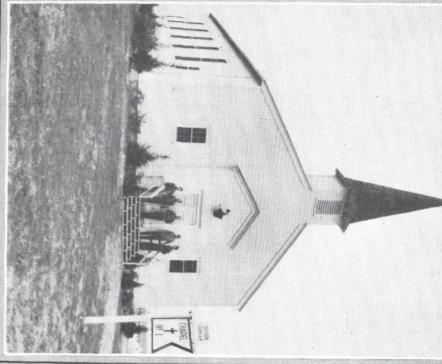


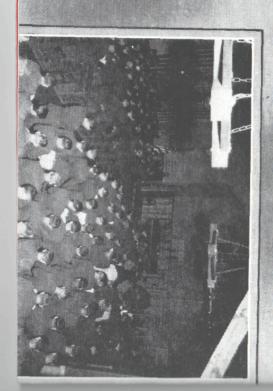


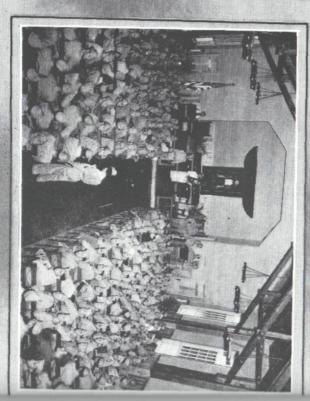










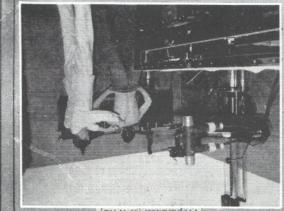




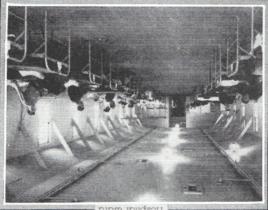
Twelve Chapels and twenty-seven Chaplains serve the soldiers of all faiths stationed at Camp Gruber

CHapels



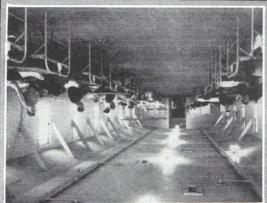


Hospital Ward



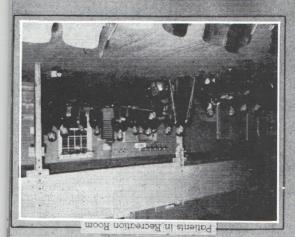
Station





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Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Department



— Dental Treatment

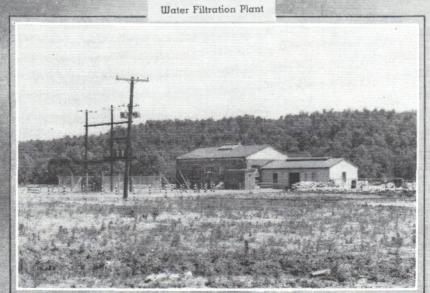


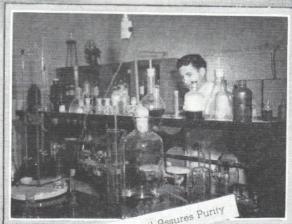


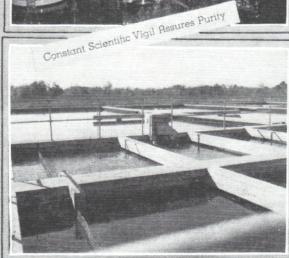
Officers Club Number One

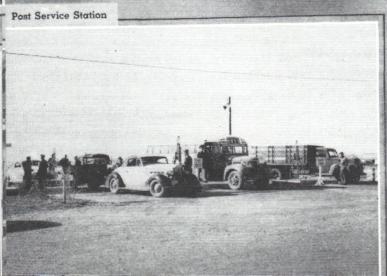


Greenleaf Lodge

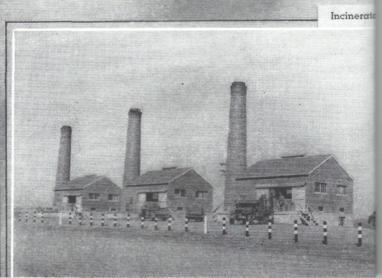


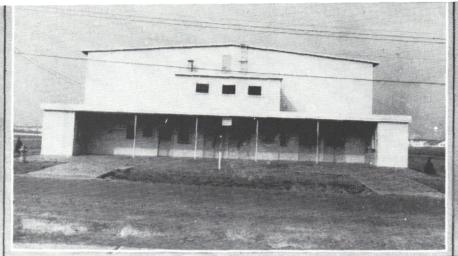






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Theatres





- Lined up for Sunday's Matinee

"Number, Please"



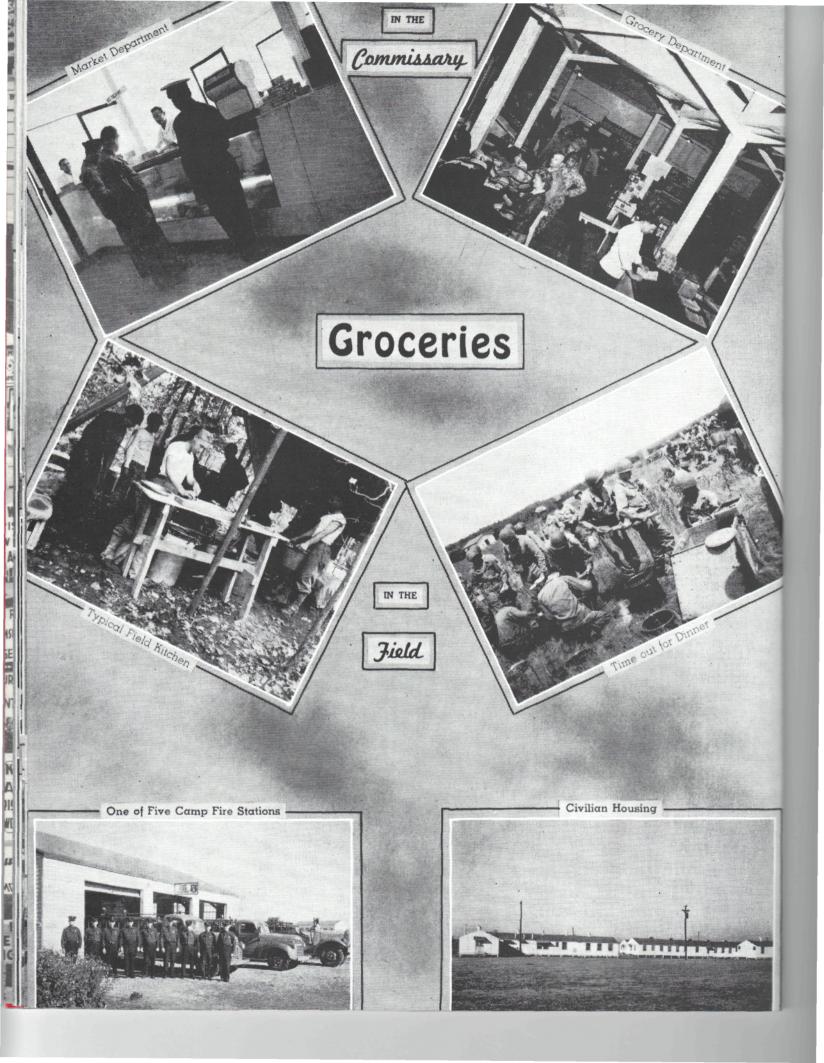
Telephone Operators' Dormitory



Twenty-Four Hour Service



Long Distance Calls Are Popular -

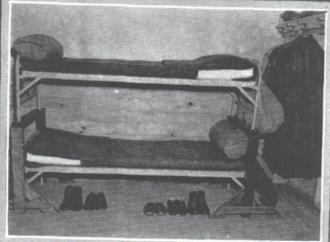








Inspections









Getting Ready





Cafeteria -







. Reading Room -

Writing Nook





Recreational Facilities of Three Service Clubs Are Provided for the Enlisted Men

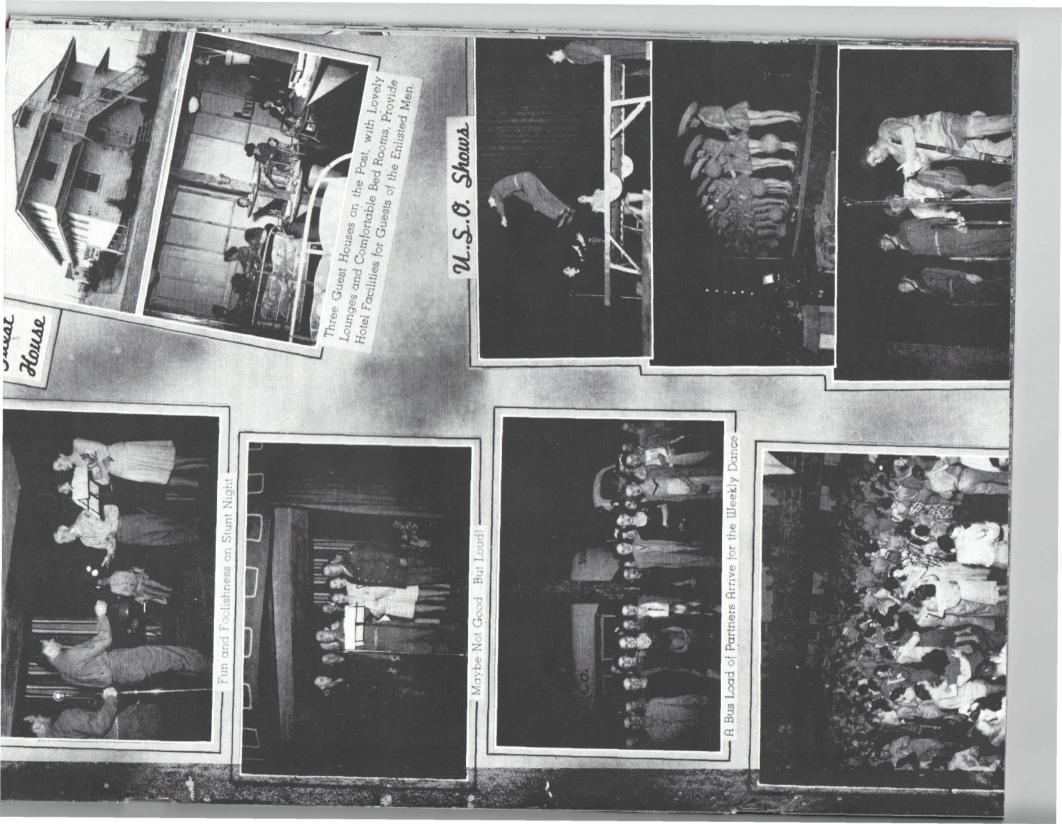
Service Clubs

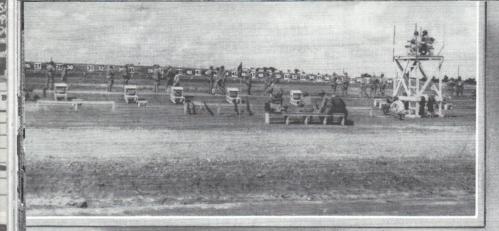




Original Murals Adorn the Walls





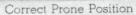


Home on the Range

Camp Gruber's Range Facilities Are Excellent



Manning Targets in the Pit





Correct Kneeling Position

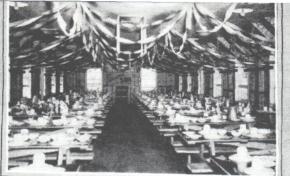


Tips from an Expert









All Dressed up for a Party





Just Like Mother Used to Make



Cafeteria Style





Every Scrap in the Right Can

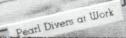




Best Fed Army in the World











Camp Gruber's War Dogs















Rookies

Welcome to Eastern Oklahoma



Entrucking for Camp Gruber

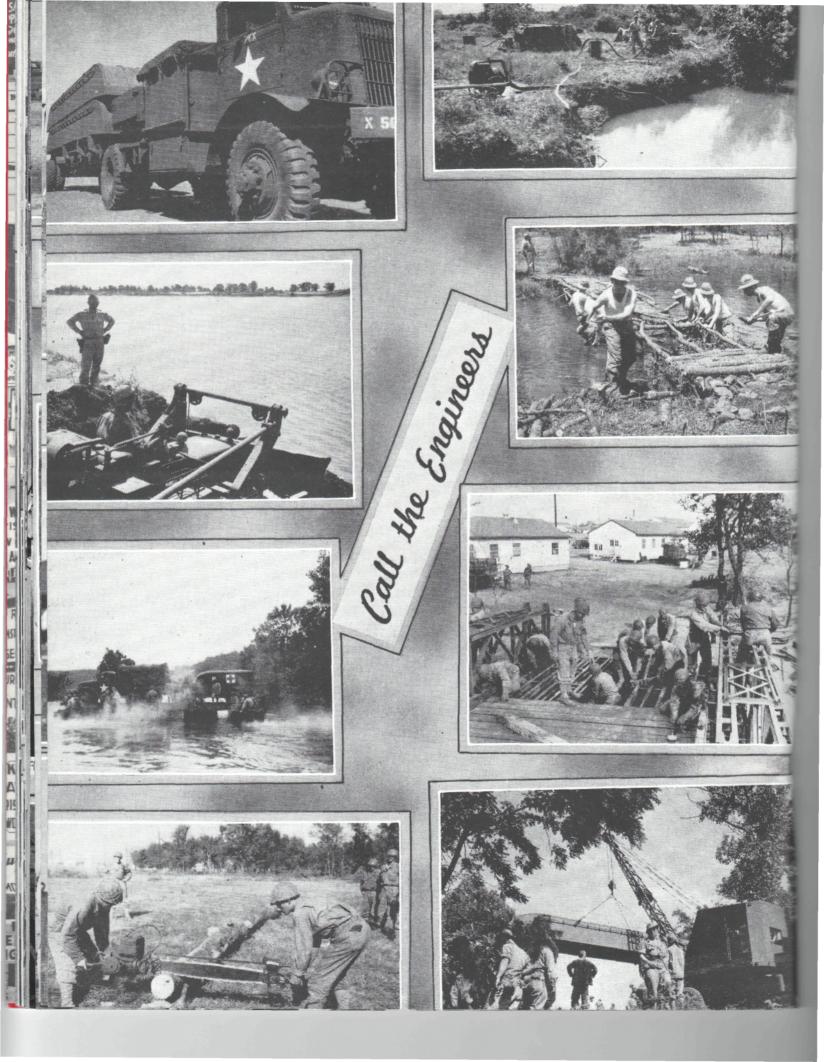








Trains stop here for Gruber

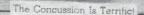




A Mortar Team Practicing



Similating Battle Conditions





Rifle Repair Shop.



Mr Long Tom

ORDNANCE

THAT WITH WHICH WE FIGHT



A Study in Shadows and Silhouettes





On the Machine Gun Range



Hand Grenade Drill

A 75mm. Watches over This Mechanic -







Keeping in Contact



Code Sci



Woodland Switchboard

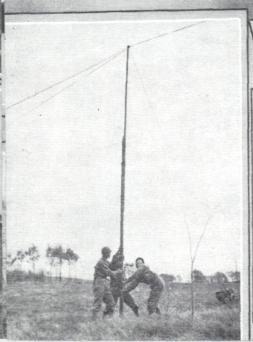
A WAR IN THE REAL PRINCE



"Everything O.K. at This End"



Field Radio Unit

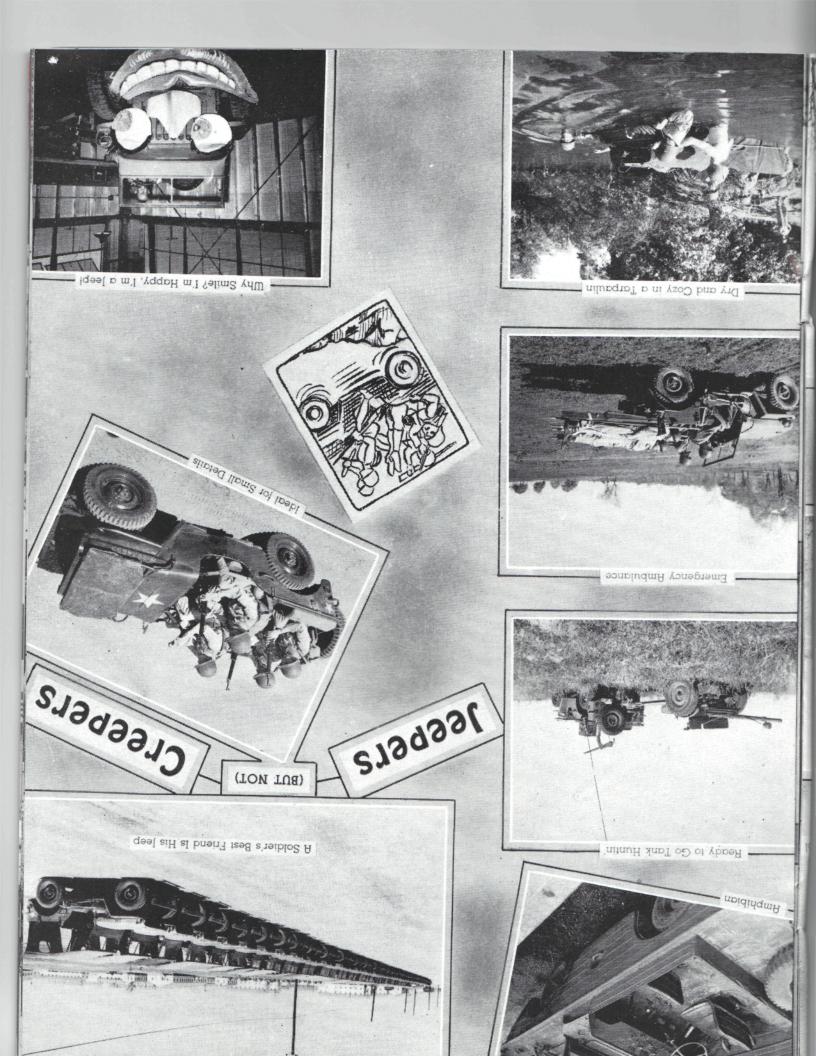


Communications



Busy Linemen





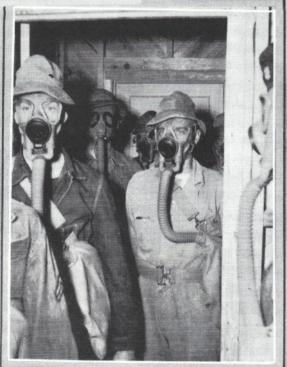




Gas Mask Repair Department



Inside the Gas Chamber



Chemical Warfare

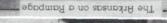


Gas Mask Drill





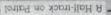






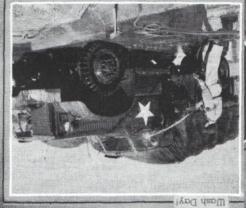


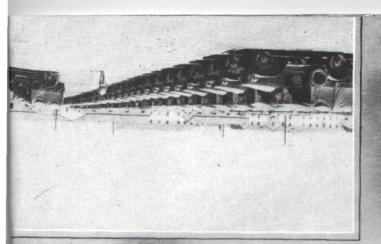


















- Passing in Review -

Molatov Cocktail Hits the Mark



- Enemy Village for Practice Attacks -



A Tent-Pitching Class



Scouting Patrol

Commando Tactics Browning Automatic Rifle Practice



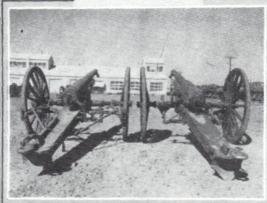


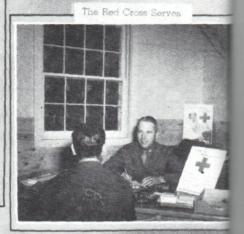


Two Camp-owned Busses Operate Inside Camp









Swing Band at Engineers' Party









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Camp Signal Corps and Camp Pictorial Service
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