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**TANK UNIVERSITY . . .** Getting a lesson in operation of a big tank are members of Headquarters and Service Company of the 578th Engineer Battalion now training at Camp Cooke. Left to right are Sgt. Norman Baker, of 1518 Amapola; Sgt.

Jessie J. Puckett, of Harbor City; Pvt. Elton Russell, of 1735 Date avenue; Sgt. Neal Silence, of 2372 Maricopa street; and Cpl. Rudy Flores, of 2010 West 203rd street.



**ANGELS OF MERCY . . .** Sgt. 1/c1 Milton Younken is the volunteer patient of Corporal Ralph Estalano who is practicing his bandaging lessons. The men are Medics of the 578th Engineer Combat Battalion.



**SHOVEL GANG . . .** A one-man shovel gang is Master Sergeant Don Townsend, of 2220 Gramercy avenue. He is shown here preparing to lift the bucket of one of the battalions huge rigs.



**GREASE 'ER UP . . .** Pvt. Paul B. Almeida and Recruit Dan Villa put the final touches to a grease job in the maintenance shops of the 578th Engineer Combat Battalion at Camp Cooke. These boys, like others, are learning that soldering is indeed a complex occupation.

**Torrance Boys Learn Soldier's Life Is Complex**

There's more to being a soldier than just shooting and saluting, scores of Torrance youths with the 578th Engineer Combat Battalion are starting to realize. Behind every man who fires a shot at an enemy soldier are weeks, months of hard work and night-and-day drudgery.

Before a soldier fires that first shot in battle he must learn how his complicated weapon functions . . . what every one of several dozen parts of his rifle are doing through every phase of firing that bullet; how to keep that weapon clean and in working order; how to repair it speedily should it fail to function in battle.

**VEHICLES READY**  
 He must learn to keep his vehicles in tip-top running condition so they will be ready to go when he needs them. He must learn a number of devices for keeping himself clean and healthy under adverse conditions, in the best physical condition so he will be able to carry his share of the load in the front lines. In the case of an engineer, he must learn to operate a wide variety of huge construction machines.

As a combat engineer, he and his fellow soldiers will have a wide range of responsibilities to the 10,000-man division. In a day they must provide up to 100,000 gallons of pure water each day for drinking, bathing, cooking, and vehicles; they must be prepared to send demolition teams into the front lines to blast pillboxes and other enemy strong points; they will build mile after mile of roads to keep their infantry combat teams moving forward, against the enemy; temporary bridges must be thrown up, often under enemy fire; mines must be cleared from roads and fields . . . and much of their work is done under the protective fire of fellow engineers as the enemy attempts to halt their important work.

**THEY SHOOT, TOO**  
 Hours of firing rifles, machine guns, bazookas and other weapons on many kinds of target ranges; marching several miles each day to harden muscles and prepare for the rigors of combat; night marches and tactical problems to learn the difficult art of doing the job as well in darkness as in daylight; technical training for specialists in everything from cooking to repairing battle-damaged tanks . . . so Torrance soldiers and their new barracks mates from all over the country prepare to accomplish their mission as combat engineers for Southern California's 40th Infantry Division.

The former National Guard division was called to active duty September 1 and has since been taking arduous training at Camp Cooke, Calif. Its ranks have been filled to war strength in recent weeks by the arrival of thousands of draftees from every state.