

(ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914)

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 1955

55 Local Guardsmen Sweat Out Training



DIRT PUSHER—Watching by Pvt. Paul Martinez operates the giant grading machine used by Company E for smoothing the way for bridge building are Pvts. Mel Mahon, William C. Gann Jr., Roy Mayfield, and Joe Urrutia.



TANK AT WORK—While the Torrance unit is building bridges, other elements of the 40th Armored Division are participating in other types of training. Here, Guardsmen maneuver the M-47 Patton tanks through the rough terrain which surrounds Camp Roberts.



TANK-FILLED PANORAMA—Checking with headquarters via the walkie-talkie, are FCC Philip Mullins, Communications chief of Company E, and Sgt. Napoleon A. Blodeau. In the background are many of the tanks used by other units of the 40th Armored Division in their summer field training exercises.

Local Company Builds Bridges

By TOM RISCHÉ

Plenty of work and lots of heat make Jack a tired boy. There have been plenty of tired boys and men at Camp Roberts the past two weeks, as Torrance's National Guardsmen, along with 5500 other members of the 40th Guard Division, are participating in summer field training exercises.

The 53 enlisted men and two officers of Company E of the 132nd Armored Engineer Battalion have been busy building bridges and taking part in other phases of training at the Camp, located near Paso Robles, Calif.

The weatherman didn't make their jobs any easier, either, as temperatures hovered near the 105-degree mark nearly every day. Not surprisingly, a large camp swimming pool is one of the most popular off-duty gathering places.

Bridges Built

The local company, commanded by Capt. D. J. "Dutch" Honlander, built two bridges during the first week as part of the training program. In case of war, such training would enable them to build bridges for troops and men to carry the war to the enemy.

To do this, they must use the giant bridge trucks, largest in the Army. Each truck carries half a bridge, and is so large that it requires a special permit to travel on state highways. The bridge-builders use nine trucks, cranes, and many other pieces of giant sized equipment to put their bridges in place. Where other units do the actual fighting, the local unit helps to pave the way—literally.

Rifles Fired

Men in the Torrance unit also are trained in the use of the M-1 and would be prepared for actual fighting if it were necessary.

Although the men were living in comparative comfort in barracks at Camp Roberts, they went on a two-day field problem early this week to Hunter-Leggett Field. Life there was a little less easy, as they lived in pup tents and worked in the hot, dusty fields getting their training.

Of the 53 men from the local company, 26 are attending summer camp for the first time and get their first close-up view of how the Army really operates. Only eight men in the company had prior service.

5:30 A. M. Reveille

The new enlistees are getting special training in all phases of military life—drill, firing a rifle, military customs, and other specialized phases. Of course, there is always KP and other details. Rising at 5:30 a.m. isn't exactly fun either, but the troops get used to it. They arrived at Camp Rob-

erts on Aug. 13 and will leave tomorrow night, arriving home Saturday morning. Some are traveling in company trucks, while others will go by bus.

The Torrance company saw action in Korea as part of the 40th Division. It was known at that time as Company A, 578th Armored Engineers.

Mayor Inspects

Last Thursday, the troops hosted Mayor Albert Isen and Civil Defense Head George C. Powell, as the Guard camp noted "Torrance Day." The city officials inspected the local company and other facilities and watched the men in training.

The mayor got captured by "enemy" forces while he was enroute to watch the local troops on a field problem.

The 132nd Armored Battalion has its headquarters in Manhattan Beach, and is commanded by Maj. William L. Geissert, of 439 Calle de Castellana, with Capt. Horton Smith, of Manhattan Beach, serving as adjutant. Torrance and other towns in this area all have companies in the battalion.

Men in Charge

Capt. Honlander is assisted by 2nd Lt. Richard L. Rusth and 1st Sgt. John L. Garcia.

Torrance men in the Guard include:

Master Sergeants: John L. Garcia, 1659 W. 214th St.; William R. Lyons, 22406 Leese Ave., and Gordon T. Russell, 4427 Green Meadows Ave. Sergeants: Napoleon A. Blodeau, 923 Cerise Ave.; Roger Eredia, 21230 S. Hobart Blvd.; Ervin C. Forstrom, 23063 Doris Way; and Lloyd Pick, 18415 Crenshaw Blvd.

Corporals: James M. Armstrong, 1830 Torrance Blvd., and Noel A. Riner, 133 Paseo de Granada.

Privates First Class: Robert W. McMalley, 1663 W. 204th St.

Backbone of Army

Privates: Robert C. Jimenez, 2372 W. 203rd St.; Larry E. Vos, 18528 Falda Ave.; William J. Crovella, 1613 M. 224th St.; Don S. Davis, 17210 Wilton Pl.; Kenneth and William C. Gann, 4628 Milne Dr.; Larry A. Hertzfeld, 3323 W. 168th St.; Latha R. Luvano, 24822 Eshelman Ave.;



MAIL CALL—One of the bright spots of the day in any Army unit is mail call, and Company E men eagerly look forward to the letter from home. Here, the men gather around Sgt. Napoleon A. Blodeau as he hands out the letters.

5500 Troops March in Parade

The 55 members of Torrance's Company E were among the 5500 Guardsmen who paraded before Gov. Goodwin J. Knight and other dignitaries at Camp Roberts Saturday morning.

Paul J. Martinez, 1547 W. 226th St.; Boy E. McNally, 1849 Plaza del Amo; Roy E. Mayfield, 22911 Walnut St.; Morris R. Parker, 21104 S. Normandie Ave.; Lloyd B. Pick Jr., 18415 Crenshaw Blvd.; John J. Reed, 1514 Engracia St.; James R. Roberts, 19330 Anza Ave.; Robert H. Robinson, 4282 W. 182nd St.; Frank A. and Joseph M. Urrutia, 1540 W. 224th St.

In Governor's Day ceremonies of the 40th Division showed their military prowess as hundreds of visitors—civilian and military officials and families of the men—looked on. Also in the parade were many of the tanks, trucks, artillery pieces, and light planes.

After the review, guests and families of the men dined in the Army mess halls, and toured the units to see the displays of equipment set out for the open house.

Beside the governor, who is commander-in-chief of the California National Guard, honor guests included Maj. Gen. Earle M. Jones, state adjutant general; Maj. Gen. E. K. Wright, commanding general of the 6th Infantry Division at Fort Ord; and numerous state assemblymen and senators, and other military figures.

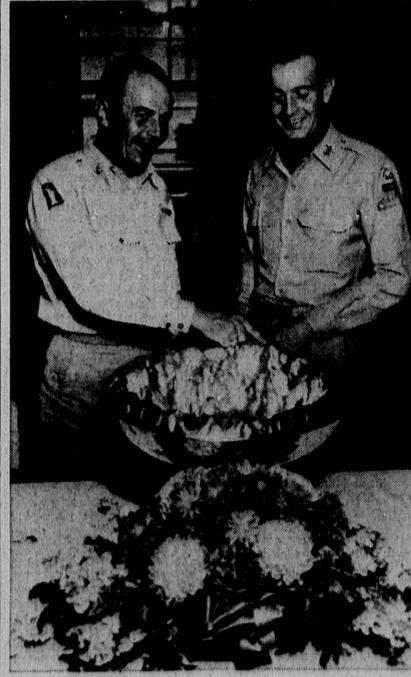
Maj. Gen. Homer O. Eaton,

40th Division commander, acted as official host to the visitors during the parade and at a luncheon following the ceremonies.

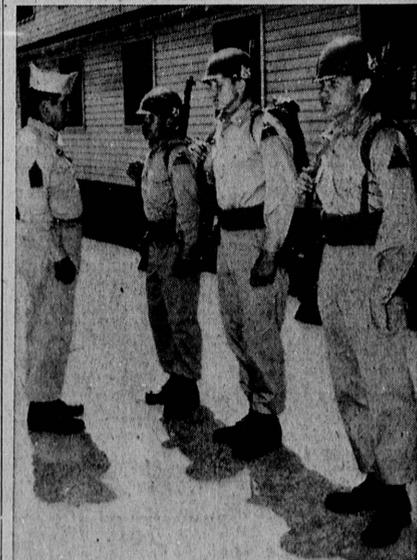
The Governor's Day festivities came at mid-point in the 40th's third summer field training encampment since its Guardsmen returned from Korean combat in 1952. Formerly an infantry division, it was redesignated as an armored unit in July, 1954, just prior to its last two-week camp stint.

The division's 111 company-sized units come from nearly every Southland community and armories are maintained in 50 cities.

The division is utilizing approximately 1250 vehicles, including about 280 tanks, in its training at Camp Roberts. General Eaton said the 5500 men present at camp represent approximately 94 per cent of the division's total strength.



THE PUNCH BOWL . . . Looking over a silver punch bowl, given to the 40th Division as a souvenir of its famed "Punch Bowl" campaign in Korea, are Maj. William L. Geissert and Capt. Horton Smith, commander and adjutant respectively of the 132nd Armored Engineer Battalion, which includes the Torrance unit. The bowl is fashioned exactly like the Korean terrain in which the 40th fought several engagements.



OFF FOR FIELD TRAINING . . . First Sgt. John L. Garcia checks over the packs and rifles of three of the new men in Company E, as the unit prepares to shove off for two days of field training at Hunter-Leggett Base. Being inspected are Pvts. Frank Urrutia, Kenneth Gann, and Richard Luvano.