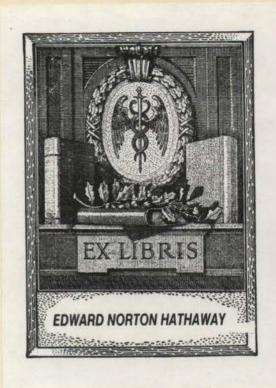
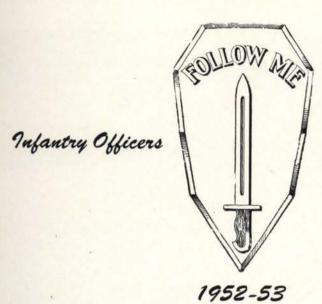
# INFANTRY OFFICERS ADVANCED CLASS

NUMBER ONE

FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 1952-1953



FORT BENNING, GEORGIA
Lieutenant Colonel Edward
Norton Hathaway, United
States Army, attended the
Infantry Officers Advanced
Class, Number One, 1952-1953
(SEE PAGE F "THE CHIEFS."



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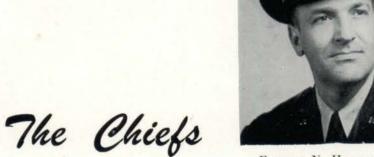
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#### Dedication

WESLEY C. (as in Clausewitz) SMITH, 012345, MAJOR, INF., U.S.A., ADVANCED CLASS NO. 1, 1952-1953, ROSTER NO. 500, known to his contemporaries simply as "Wesley", is the embodiment of all the virtues and most of the vices of his classmates.

Frustration and helplessness, egoism and selflessness, wizardry and gullibility, sharpness and dullness, defiance and meekness—Wesley is endowed with all these qualities. Small wonder then that he should be the prototype marked for study by the Leadership Committe. In this simple character, there are more shades of gray than in a Lever Brothers wash-day ad. Yet be not deceived; Wesley is not altogether a total loss to the Service. Whatever other shortcomings he may have, Wesley is perhaps the most conscientious student in his class. Never without his orange security pass, never late for class, never charged with a parking violation, never the recipient of a "green hornet" from the Director of Instruction, he is the very model of deportment. Each new dawn for Wesley is a challenge to make good, and though his final academic achievement may be only a Certificate of Attendance, he must be given a I for effort.

Much of what you will suffer through in the following pages is seen through Wesley's highly perceptive eyes. Whatever you expected to read and did not find, blame on his dark sun glasses—an item of personal accourrement which he is never without. Be not scornful or cruel in your judgment of this man. He is, after all, the composite of us all. And finally, if there be any among you who secretly suspect self-identity with Wesley, don't despair; it's not too late to buck up before C&GS School.

With humility and pride, this work is respectfully dedicated to our friend and champion—Wesley C. Smith.

THE EDITORS

## On Weather, 7errain, and Artificial Obstacles...





Now, in Georgia's sunny clime

Where I used to bide my time,
A'servin' of her majesty the Queen
(Now I don't mean Queen of Britain,
Nor the "Queen" who sits home knittin'—
I mean QUEEN OF BATTLES—roughest wench I've seen.)
We used instruments of war: rifles, rockets, guns galore;
But the thing that darkened most my shade of gray
Was when dawn began to crack,
I was jolted in my sack
By that clock that made me roll out of the hay . . . .



Well, we packed our car like rats—
Maps and clipboards and stiff hats
With my buddy's knee a'stickin' in my spine.

Then we started off the day

Every man a'drawin' pay

While investin' twenty minutes in "the line."

Not much talkin' on the ride,

We just sat there side by side

As we crawled along so slowly up the street.





Till we reached the local Pub

Called the Benning Officers Club

Where a slug of java put us on our feet.

By this time we were a'talkin'

As we finally started walkin'

Towards the School for Hopeful Heroes on the Green.





With the clock approaching eight
We began to congregate—
Swollen heads and eyes the like you'd never seen.

At two minutes past the hour

With expressions rather sour,

We sat down—an awful sight it was to scan.

Colonel Johnson gave a snort,

"Captain Williams, please report!"

The instructor gulped twice, and the class began . . . .





You can talk of gin and beer

When you're quartered safe up here

And you ain't a'sweatin' out that next lead pellet—

But when tissue starts to fly

It's for coffee that you'll cry

And you'll run a mile to find the place they sell it.

In the classroom or the field

No one's nerves were really steeled

Till the java wet his throat and warmed his belly—





At O-nine-four-five quite chipper
With his marmite can and dipper
Was our regimental pourer, Major Kelly.



It was "Where's the coffee, Henry?"

And, "How much you short today?"

As the bloodshot, sleepy eyes saw him arrive.

Then the tremblin' hands would grope

For the sugar, cream — and hope

That this cup 'til noon would help us stay alive.





Every day we were a'learnin'

Different ways to ease that yearnin'

For refreshment when the need was really dire.

Water, orangeade, and coke—

Anything to help a bloke

Get some liquid when his innards were on fire.



When our minds and backs were achin'
Then's the time we started breakin'
Then the bull would flow ten minutes without cease.

Plans to snipe the next P.I.
"That solution I won't buy!"
Bills were flappin' like a bloomin' flock of geese.

"Before takin' that next ridge,

How's about a game of bridge?"

Bids were made about which bridge books ain't been written!





But for those of gambling fame

Old Knock-Poker was the game—

Scoresheets took a man's whole bankroll at one sittin'!



While tacticians aired their views,

Others caught up on the news;

Magazines, although VERBOTEN, were not rare.

Then we had our eager chaps

Who, with poopsheets in their laps,

Studied more than ordinary man could bear.





There were those who, needin' sleep,
Into Morpheus' arms did creep—
Some, indeed, did not wake up to take the break.
It was surely an odd way
To be earnin' soldier's pay,
But for oddness old Advanced One took the cake!





When our stomachs started growlin'
You could hear the chow-hounds howlin'
As the Piglerville safari came in view.
Those on diets munched their crackers;
"Cheese again!" mouned the Brown-Sackers;
And the rest, including allies, paid for stew.







When the birdies started singin',
You could see us, red ears stingin',
While old Johnny ate us out for bein' late.
Then we'd cause him more frustration
When we'd load the transportation
You were lucky if you didn't crack your pate!





When the trucks returned at last
We all lined up, moving fast—
Just to clear those blasted boxes and get home.

Just like bees around their hives

We swarmed in to find our "V's"

And those fifteen different maps of RIVIERE

DROME.





All the cadre were adept
At announcements, which they kept
Adding, changing, and erasing from the board—

"Sign the sheet for Biglerville-"

"Put a dollar in the till\_"

"Classes Saturday—" we gnashed our teeth and roared!





Here's the King of irritation,

Of pure, undefiled frustration,

Of the coffee, mail—and don't forget to feed 'em!

Though we belted you and flayed you,

By the Living God that made you,

You're a better man than we are, Henry Needham!



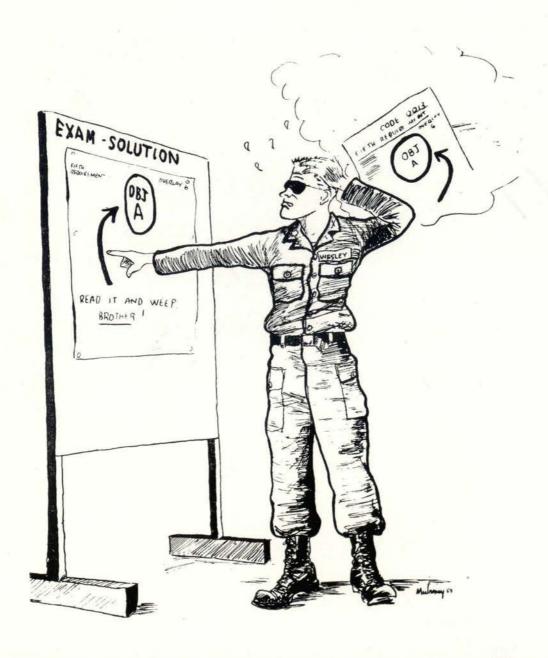
When the lovely day was endin',
And our ways we were a'wendin'
Back to Custer to our wives and relaxation,
Though the word was seldom said,
'Twas but one thought in each head:
"It's a Helluva long time till graduation!"







# On Charts, 7issues, and Approved Solutions...



By the end of the course Wesley had collected a formidable pile of charts, tissues, and approved solutions. Filed away in an old foot locker they collected dust for several years as Wesley fumbled his way through assignment after assignment. Wesley never relied on poopsheets to pull him through, and so it was quite by chance that one day he was looking for something when he opened this foot locker. A childhood vision of Pandora's Box flitted through his mind as the rusty lid swung open.



"400 Eyeballs"

The first thing to greet his eyes was a picture of the class assembled in the stands. A wry smile twisted his lips as he picked it up to study the faces. And a feeling of well-being pervaded him as he wondered how many others of this learned group had survived a meeting of the reclassification board, let alone the three he had to his credit. But Wesley was never one to let success go to his head—there was the IV he received on his monograph, and the many other IV's, so numerous that he had seriously considered changing his name to Wesley C. Smith IV. Only his innate modesty deterred him.

The monograph—he had sweated blood, he had looked into this barrage of eyes, knees and teeth chattering, and he had succeeded. His thoughts wandered now, back to Pratt and the monographs and the graded tests—

# Moans, Monographs, and Tremors



"M" Day

Without the monograph to haunt every waking hour, until the dreaded day finally came; without the visions of red V's, the anticipation, without—well, Wesley had to admit it kept him from being bored. He remembered the dashing figure he cut when he made his appearance on the stage that fateful day.

And sweating through those GT's in Pratt probably took ten years off his life. But Wesley perservered despite the loss of many a paper battle. To this day the enemy's war cry, "Are you ready in Pratt Hall" still sends shivers down his spine.



"Waterloo"



Tanks have shock action, so they convinced him, but next to the surprise "Spot"—there were many days he would have preferred facing a whole division of the clanking monsters.

Some smiling, some frowning, they emerged from Pratt, crowding around the approved solutions on the board in the hall—defeat was hard, but most took it like men. And there was always the arrogant "I maxed it cold," bitter brine in the welted wound.



"There was wailing and gnashing of teeth"

# Roentgens, Goats, and Rat Skinners



Riddled with roentgens, and surrounded by ions, Wesley's naps in Pratt during atomic and CBR classes were sheer nightmares. One of the permanent scars he would carry through life was an almost pathological aversion to goat's milk.

Jaws sagged, and eyes clouded with bewilderment. If they learned nothing else, Wesley and his classmates acquired a profound admiration for Einstein, and they thanked their lucky stars that they belonged to the noble profession of arms. Einstein would probably say, "I agree".



"Wonder if we'll have a GT in this"



They say that appetites lagged on the day Preventive Medicine portrayed its too vivid rodent revue. A cry of "c offee call" brought a chorus of groans. It was conceded generally that rats are rather nasty beasts.

# Rise of the Class V Leader

Thanks to their leadership cards, Wesley and his cohorts may go forth with the firm conviction that, despite IV's and V's on the exam, they can be successful leaders.



"Why is this a leadership problem?"



"WHAT WOULD MAJ. RASMUSSEN HANG DONE?" "In the past two weeks your company has had 16 AWOL's, 20 courts-martial, and two sergeants have challenged you to fight it out behind the barracks. Major Wesley Smith, why is this a leadership problem?"

# Fort Benning, SW



Wesley emerged from the night compass course a bitter man—nature had short-changed him when she passed out the rods, cones, and visual purple. He was heard to comment, "They'll never get me out in that swamp again at night without a flashlight."

Organized confusion was the theme of the day, and Wesley was not the only man who found himself in a maze of stakes and indistinct trails, faced with trusting his fate to the flip of a coin. He was heard to cry—



"May the halftone live forever in infamy!"



"Maps vs Men"

Declination, grid and magnetic azimuths, cuts, fills—Wesley discovered several gaps in his knowledge of map reading. In fact, his self-confidence was shaken so seriously that he lost his way home from the cocktail bar the evening after the exam.

# Bolos, Barrages, and Toggle Sticks

As the rifle firing went, earlier in the year, so went the carbine firing—but though the day was dull, there was a constant touch of color, on the horizon—the red of Maggie's drawers.



"Ex-Experts"



"Straight down the middle?"

And if anyone thought the tank indestructible, he surely changed his mind the day Wesley and his friends tried their hand at driving the iron monsters. Trees at \$40 each, and fenders were strewn over the landscape.

Wesley being field grade, he was told that he must fire the pistol—he got dispersion that would make a heavy mortarman turn green with envy. He passed it off by saying that where he came from they shot from the hip, but went home that night a chastened man—unqualified in his basic arm.



"Man hole"



"Mike in Charge"

The Patton complex was evident among many of the class; they took the controls gingerly enough at first, but all caution was gone by the time the first turn was rounded. It is doubtful if any enemy could have withstood an attack by the crews in control that day—that goes for the tanks too.

Jaw set, eyes transfixed, hand on the toggle stick in a death clutch, Wesley the tanker drove that day as few mortals have driven before. Veteran tankers paled with fright, classmates riding the tank leaped frantically to safety, choosing injury to almost sure death. Somehow, some way, he drove around the entire course, lurched to a halt in a cloud of dust, a smile of wild abandon curling his lips—and leaped to the ground with a wild rebel yell.



"Married-up"



"Who says a dogface can't adjust artillery fire?"

Wesley thought the arty instruction was just fine, and in his usual eager manner could hardly wait for the day when the class would adjust artillery. There was a rather general concensus of opinion at the end of the day that Wesley made a good observer—just as long as he was adjusting for the enemy.

But even Wesley managed to bracket his target, although he used all the ammunition allotted for the rest of his group. There was disappointment written over all faces as they boarded their truck an hour early to head for home.



"Checking the business end"

## Motors, Manifolds, and Snatch Blocks



"So that's a motor."

After long hours in E-1 a new Wesley emerged, for within himself he had discovered dormant seeds of greatness—he knew now that he would have been an excellent mechanic. But motoring's loss was the army's gain.

Now with block and tackle they could sally forth, no job too difficult, for they could figure mechanical advantage. Wesley and his friends found too that it's easy to keep vehicles tiptop—just watch the PM indicators. Of course a few other matters were covered in the course, but Wesley habitually separated the wheat from the chaff, and he knew that PM stuff was the meat of the course.



FLAT SPOT IS SOME SORT

### Maneuvers and Map Melees



"How now, you secret, black, and midnight hags! What is't you do?"

To Wesley, the cubicle of the Chief Umpire was a den of sinister plotting—from there came the depredations of the hated aggressor. Realizing that he would derive from the problem only what he put into it, Wesley worked hard at whatever job he had, frequently, earning the enmity of a classmate. This day he would never forget—he was Chief Umpire—there were those who whispered he had gone mad with power.

But many of the lighter hearts found time for pleasure even in the CPX. They did the job, and woe betide the enemy who would run afoul of such a staff as this. Armed with layer contoured maps and work sheets, not to mention the formidable journal, the bitter gall of defeat would never be theirs.



"The CO and his-ah-staff"



"Pooled ignorance"

The field reconnaissance—now that is where Wesley shone. He soon discovered that the best way to handle the situation was to solve it on the map and read a good magazine on the truck. That way he kept from becoming confused by looking at the terrain. An expert on the meeting engagement was he, for he was always surprised to meet the enemy.

There were times when it seemed to Wesley that he had lived half his life in Theatre 8. There were those who would agree that he looked like he had. Nevertheless, Wesley threw himself into the situations with complete abandon, and felt amply rewarded when his tablemates elected him commander, which they did so obligingly for every problem. Perhaps other tables had better solutions, but none had Wesley — consolation enough for his tablemates.



"Troop 6 in Session"

# Tactics, Toil, and the 8 Inning STRETCH



"Watch your step!!"

Time had dimmed the rigors of the all day problems, but one still remained in Wesley's mind as though it were yesterday—the river crossing. The sand bar—dropping through muddy water to the bottom—his classmates' hands lifting him over the side to safety—the commendation for his presence of mind (order of the cigar)—through it all he had clutched the 57 mm rifle in his arms. He felt a warm glow as he remembered that they had been glad to see him again, almost as glad as they were to get the rifle back.

But for Wesley the typical 8-hour problem was a time to make up lost sleep—(he studied long hours every night to keep his grades up in the IV bracket). He was envied by many of his classmates for his ability to sleep without being caught—but after all, he looked little different—the same relaxed expression, half-closed, watery eyes, and sagging mouth.



"Away with the 8-hour day!"



During the 8-hour class the problem stretchers were at their best. It fascinated Wesley to try to guess what new and ingenious device they would spring next to spread it thin. Flexibility was the key word of this elastic crew—they could run it out to impossible limits, and always halt, miracuously, at the breaking point.

# Signals, Saws, and Slide Rules

To the wearers of the castle, activities such as this must seem pure desecration, but to Wesley and the rest of the crew it was an outing such as most seldom had experienced. To operate a rig such as this had been Wesley's secret ambition of a lifetime. Let it suffice to say that the day's operations were mute testimony to the ruggedness of Engineer construction equipment.



"Man vs Machine"



"Woodsmen—Boatmen we stay loose!!"

Wesley and the rest of the class were convinced without a doubt of the superiority of the power saw when they witnessed the defeat of their leader in a wood cutting contest. Axe in hand, the class "Paul Bunyan" bowed his head to the machine in a veritable shower of chips.

Wesley, to put it mildly, was out of his element in the mystical field of tubes, antennae, and frequencies. If he learned nothing else in the course, he carried away the firm conviction that he would never be a Comm O—but rumors were strong that he was marked to remain at the institution as a communication instructor, a probability that worried him so that by the end of the course he had, by perseverance and hard work, memorized the phonetic alphabet.





"Wonder what brain names these gadgets"

But some students, possessed of a more scientific bent, became quite adept at such accomplishments as changing the batteries of a 536, (pardon me—PRC) or even mastering the intricacies of the operation of this set. But not Wesley—at the end of the course he still answered a radio call by saying "hello".

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was moving, not even Wesley—the Troop Movement exam, humorously known as "Milliken's Christmas Present", had left him an immobile hulk. Visions of march graphs danced in his head, and he wept silently when he remembered how many of the valiant had fa'len that day to the clash of slide rules and the enslaught of superior numbers, numbers, numbers,



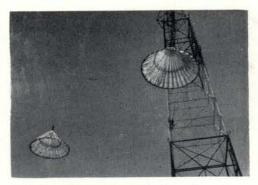
"Slip-Stick Steve"

### Ode to Airborne



Embodiment of everything a paratrooper should be, our staunch editor was also a man of rare vision. Wesley remembered with shame that he was one of those who dared to scorn and scoff at his dream of a one man helicopter. Yes, they had laughed at Marconi, at Edison, at Mitchell.

And as though it were yesterday, Wesley could, in his mind, still hear the thrilling cry of the trooper hitting the silk—Geranium! He lived again that day when he decided that he too would be a jumper, the day the class inspected the training towers. Yes, he reflected, just a hundred points more on the PT test, and today he too would be a copter-trooper.



"Extra hundred bucks-hmm"



"Yea, Airborne!!"

Then the C-119 was a marvel to behold, and a quiver of ecstacy ran through the class "Airheads" as it glistened in silvery grandeur before them on the strip. Throughout the year the cry "Airborne" had escaped their lips intermittently and almost involuntarily, and this day they were in their glory as they stood within the walls of their Mecca.

### "Take A Number Between 1 and 194"

For many, the first announcement of class standings was a rude awakening—Wesley was astounded and delighted to find himself among the first 10. The walls of his quarters reverberated with sounds of merriment and rejoicing far into the night. A victim of the machine age was he. Hollow victory it was indeed, for the machine had blown a tube and Wesley took his place among the unsung heroes of the class, those who kept the bottom from falling out.



"10 I's and 2 II's and I'm 185!"



"Poker hand clutch"

As time passed, and the pace became ever more grueling, a very apparent change in attitude took place. By the time the second standing list was published, Wesley had accepted philosophically his destiny—snarling on the fringe of the pack for the bones and fragments discarded by the strong.

But to Career Management, one peasant was no better than the next—looking about at the flushed faces, the restless eyes, listening to the nervous titters, Wesley realized suddenly that the moment had come. Now the colonel was reading the S's, and one by one they slumped in their seats, some smiling, some aghast—then—"Maj. Wesley C. Smith, FECOM". He swallowed hard, then thrust his chin out when it suddenly dawned on him that he was one of the chosen few—pride of the Infantry School were men such as he.



"Major Clark to Arkadelphia"



# On P7's Wizards, and Other Nameplates...



# "Pull the Chain", or, "A Day in the Booby Bin"

BY MAJOR WESLEY C. SMITH

(A play in One Act, Two Scenes. Any similarity to actual persons is purely intentional and may be used as a basis for libel action against the author, TIS, and the Department of Defense.)

### SCENE I.

PLACE: PRATT HALL

TIME: 0800—any day (Saturdays included)

### INSTRUCTOR:

Take your seats quickly, gentlemen. Now as you all know our subject is the Regimental Combat Team in Special Operations—to wit, defense of bogs, creek bottoms and school solutions. I trust you all have read the three Field Manuals and seventeen supplemental pages given in last night's reading assignment and layer-contoured the twelve maps prescribed in the first requirement. So without further instruction from here, I'm going to call on one of you to brief the class on the General Situation. Now let's see ... Major ... (Instructor malevolently fondles the roster; student major nameplates go into table-top defilade; captains and Lieutenant Rennie smile unconcernedly. He casts a smug glance at the class, certain that he's found a soft touch) ... Major Spettel.

### MAJOR SPETTEL:



(A bland expression on his innocent face) Aggressor, taking advantage of the confusion caused by the earthquake of 1906, made landings in California and by this date had advanced to a general line along the Chattahoochee. At this time, the entire U. S. Army, consisting of the 85th Inf. reinforced by the 101st Smoke Generator Bn., was ordered to seize the vital communication center of Chitlin' Switch, La.

INSTRUCTOR:

Thank you, Major. Question over there?

CAPT. COPE:

I have several simple questions, Sir. I would like to know if the 85th Inf. in this problem has all its TO/E equipment

CAPT. COPE:

as specified in TE 721-323BX and whether replacements have been requisitioned for this out-fit to fill vacancies created by casualties sustained in Problem 6521 and if Aggressor has done the same, because it seems to me that if we don't make these assumptions.



INSTRUCTOR:

Yes, to all your questions. I don't want to cut you short but would you mind seeing me at the end of the course if I haven't cleared that up? (Pause) Take the next thirty seconds or so to solve the next requirement. Work with your neighbor on your left but you are requested not to speak. If you're in an aisle seat, work it out by yourself—after all, you're all potential divisional commanders. Major Bolling will take the mike for a discussion of class solutions.

(While the latter is being wired for sound, class murmurings rise to crescendo in strict violation of standing instructions. Problem Inspectors eye Lieutenant Colonel Meade reprovingly and are about to put the finger on him when attention is diverted to a student who ambles down the aisle to whistled versions of "The Worms Crawl In".)

### MAJOR BOLLING:



(Pointer in hand, obviously concerned about the loss of precious seconds) Gentlemen, give me your attention please. Major Anderson, will you please rise, face the class and give us your solution?

ROSTER NO. 8:

Do you mean Thomas W. Anderson?

MAJOR BOLLING:

Come off that stuff, Fred. The Logistics Committee warned me about you guys. Start talking, chum.

MAJOR ANDERSON:

(stunned) Well, our solution was to attack in column, making the main effort on the right. illuminated.



They'd go supported and

MAJOR BOLLING:

An interesting solution—and it might work. However we feel we'd attack with three up, main effort on the left, unsupported, non-illuminated. Don't feel bad though, Fred. If you'd seen my film strips of the terrain, you'd have maxed it. Is there anyone in the class who doesn't agree with the school solution?

CAPT. KAMPE:

(Irately) YES SIR.

CLASS:

DOWN BOY, DOWN.

(BOLLING to himself: Why can't I keep my big mouth shut? As if I'd never heard about the guy! Oh well, ask a silly question—).

CAPT. KAMPE:



Now I don't want to seem facetious or anything, but in my humble opinion, both solutions stink. Here you people stand on that platform week after week, attacking with two up in all kinds of weather and terrain and the one time a commander in his right mind would go two up, you birds play it loose and go with three. Brother, I've seen everything now.

MAJOR BOLLING:

Let's not be bitter, Kampe, old boy. Your pal Barney Wiselogle will take it up with you in the hallway at the break. After all, he wrote this requirement and why should I be stuck with it? Gentlemen, the next section involves the tank battalion. Guess who's got the hot potato now?

(Scurrying APS feed maps of Europe and Asia to each aisle. Rapping his pointer on the floor boards, Mr. Armor himself, pleads for attention; finally places hands on hips and peers disgustedly at class)

LT. COL. DALIA:

If you people don't mind, I'd like to get on with this thing so I can finish my article for the Journal, HOW WE WON THE WAR IN THE ETO OR WHO NEEDS DOGFACES?

Major Beach, what would you do with the tanks attached to your Regiment?

MAJOR BEACH:

(Shouts of "Can't hear you", thunder down to the victim who turns to the rear of the hall, almost says something nasty but reconsiders. Instead, with re-

reconsiders. Instead, with remarkable poise and aplomb)... Tanks need infantry and infantry needs tanks! (Bursts of wild cheering and applause).

LT. COL. DALIA:

(To himself: I'm sure getting over to one of these birds. To think I should hear it from their very own lips).

Very good, Major-thank you. If you should ever have any trouble with Infantry Career Management, let us know —we always have a berth for a man with those sentiments: The next part of that requirement—Col. Strickland, please take that one.

LT. COL.

STRICKLAND:



Our solution was to sneak the trains in behind Team C—you know what I mean—let 'em move quietly along somewhere back in the rear.

LT. COL. DALIA:

(Picking himself off the floor and readjusting his horn rims) Yes, yes, Colonel, thank you, a quaint solution. Quaintest part of all is that you've hit the school solution although we've expressed it somewhat differently. You don't agree with that solution, Captain?

CAPT. DUPONT:

Oh, I agree with the solution. Not a thing wrong with it far as I can see. But I'm a little confused, Colonel, about one small point. Normally would you do it that way? In other words, isn't it a bit irregular? How can you justify such a screwy solution?

LT. COL. DALIA:

Just as long as you don't sacrifice shock action, firepower, and mobility, anything you do in the Armored Force is OK, Captain.

See what I mean? Stay flexible and you've got it made. But we've got to get on with the next requirement. Major Adams will take over for this one. Take a stretch break, but keep your right foot in place.

(Fifteen master sergeants and one small boy descend on the platform bearing varied types of radio sets, switch boards, and pigeon baskets. A heavy-set but noble browed officer wraps the PA wire through his shoulder loop, belt, twice around his middle and steps eagerly toward the front of the stage. Raising both arms)

MAJOR ADAMS:



Men, (cheers), have you ever asked yourself where we would be without Alexander Graham Bell and Marconi? You laugh-but suppose you were commanding this RCT, and suddenly you had a hot message to deliver to one of your battalions, and there was no radio operator present in your jeep—only you and your little old uncalibrated ANGRC7? What sets could you net with? What knobs would you turn? Would you know what page in the SO1-SS1 to turn to? Which of these sets on the stage is FM—which AM—which IBM—which is a radio? Could you unsolve that one? Its been our policy in the Commo Department to keep all this technical stuff out of the instruction, but as a commander you should be able to fieldstrip the PRC 10, ANGRC 9 and most any size Halicrafter, if you expect to keep the respect of your commo personnel. Men, I hope I've answered all your questions in this problem and that you're taking it all seriously. If we don't shape up, the Signal Corps might take over. (Wild cheers) Thank you.

CAPT. SHAW:

Major Adams, I, for one, am taking communications very

seriously but I'm not altogether sure I understood your solution. It seems to me that it would have been far wiser for the RCT Commander to communicate with the Advance Guard Commander through his ANGRC 7 or 9 and with the FA Bn CP via his ANGRC 7 or 9 netting with artillery VRC 10 or GRC 9. Or is that what you said?



MAJOR ADAMS:

You're No. 1 in your class, aren't you, Captain?

CAPT. SHAW:

What other spot is there?

MAJOR ADAMS:

Your solution is 100% correct. (To himself: The rest of these hoods should be so smart.)

(Major Adams and safari retire; new sections are passed out; Captain Jones takes over the mike.)

CAPT. JONES:

Gentlemen, I am here in this lion's den this morning to represent a much maligned man of your staff—the ever suffering, long patient, floor sweeping, coffee fetching, typical S-2—to plead his case, if you will. Here, friends, is an aristocrat whose cranium is crammed with priceless pearls of wisdom concerning villain Aggressor; pearls which his com-

CAPT. JONES:



mander is indisposed to accept. Here is a red blooded American boy whose mother proudly believes is serving his country faithfully and well. But you have just read, in this new situation, the contempt heaped on this down-trodden shell of a man when he had but suggested to the commander that the presence of five Aggressor divisions surrounding our RCT might somehow have a bearing on the S-3's recommendation to pull a turning movement. Consider for a few moments, if you will, whether the S-3 and the Commander in this situation might have made better use of the S-2's talents, had they not assigned him the task of assisting the G.R.O. Colonel Hathaway, Sir, as an old G-3, will you give us your counsel on what the ideal staff relationship between the S-3 and S-2 should be?

LT. COL. HATHAWAY: Well, Jones, to be quite frank with you, in our division the "2" didn't eat chow without checking with the "3" and the reason for it is that, in all my years of service, I have yet to meet an Intelligence Officer who knew enough to come in out of the rain.



MAJOR DUNCAN:

(Turning to the rear, hands on hips, flushed with anger) Sir, I resent the implication. It is that brand of thinking which puts our Intelligence Corps on the level of clerks, jerks, and I&E. I demand that your slurring remarks be stricken from the record, or so help me———

CAPT. JONES:

Gentlemen, please, I beseech you, please. I little realized how sensitive is the subject. Leave us go on in harmony to the next requirement. Are we as one?

CLASS:

WE ARE AS ONE!

INSTRUCTOR:

We will continue this problem after a 20 minute coffee break. As you were (this to an empty hall). It is now 0859—be back in your seats at 0901.

(The inevitable cluster of die-hards remain behind to clobber the PI on the platform, ready and eager to overwhelm him with alternate solutions, leading questions, and just plain sass.)



SCENE TWO

PLACE: SAME

TIME: 0901

LT. COL. MEADE:

Before going on, we have a small award to make. Major Kelly, please read the citation.

MAJOR KELLY:



Lieutenant, then Captain, Louis J. North, on recent date, with udder disregard for his own class standing, by his unusual differentiation between the terms SURPLUS and EXCESS, caused his brothers in arms to laugh aloud and salvaged what otherwise might have been a dull discussion, reflecting great credit on the class reputation. By virtue of his extraordinary behavior, he is hereby given the award of the Black Stogie, degree of commander. (Much whistling and stomping of feet—ganeral lack of class decorum).

INSTRUCTOR:

(Choking back justified academic indignation) If you have no objection, gentlemen, we will proceed to the next requirement. Since the Leadership Committee declined to send any further instructors before this class, I have been ordered to carry on for them. As you can read from the situation, RCT Commander, having secured Chitlin' Switch, La., has just returned to his CP to find members of the regimental staff huddled together in a circle on their knees, peering intently at an operations map. His pride in their efforts is rudely shattered as the die slither across the Louisiana line into Texas. He realizes that somewhere along the line he has failed to satisfy their needs. The burning question then is, does the CO have a leadership problem, and what remedial action should be applied? Major Hutter, your name was suggested to me. What is your answer to this puzzler?

CLASS:

(Many shrill voices: SHOOT 'em! SHOOT 'em!)

MAJOR HUTTER:

In the interests of all concerned yours included, I think it would be best for me to remain silent on that one. I pass!

INSTRUCTOR:

(Sensing a crisis) Very well, Major. Will you please pick it up, Colonel Johnson?



### LT. COL. JOHNSON:



(Hitching up his trousers) First thing I'd do is sit down and light a cigarette. Then I'd plow hi diddle, straight down the middle, swinging both feet at the nearest in the line of fire. Then I'd

INSTRUCTOR:

MAJOR FIELDS:

Thank you Colonel. I'd like another volunteer. Major Fields, what would the Corps recommend?

(Strains of the Marine Hymn are heard from every corner)

Why obviously, Sir, the CO would politely ask his officers to put up their childish games and carry on with the war. He might even go so far as to call in the division psychiatrist because, as you say, this bird really does have some naughty boys on his staff and it's a pretty knotty problem for a colonel to figure out all by himself.



### MAJOR BENSON:



Hold on there, Tom. Last week, in one of those problems stretchers with Major Quirk, I was for putting the bite on a bunch of GI's who loused up a fire mission because they were playing Blackjack, and you agreed. What makes these jokers any different? You going soft or somethin'?

MAJOR FIELDS:

Relax, George, I wanna graduate and go home.

MAJOR BENSON:

OH, I get 'cha Tom. But I was worried about 'cha there for a minute.

INSTRUCTOR:

Having clobbered his staff properly, and impounded the kitty for his A & R fund, our RCT commander is now ready to receive staff recommendations from liaison officers of supporting arms and services. In this little skit, I, of course, will be CO, 85th RCT, and various members of the faculty will be cast in supporting roles. Are you ready, gentlemen, with your recommendations?

COL. GRIEVES:

Well, Sir, before I begin, I just want you to know we Redlegs

are here to support you—give the doughs anything they want is my motto. We don't have any illusions about our part in this thing—service is our business—no empire builders we! (cheers) All we want from you is just a kind word now and then.

Feed our FO's, if you have any extra chow that is, and oh yes, if you decide to bug out, let us know, will ya? Had a little trouble that way with the last slope brow I worked with. Now for your fires in this situation. I mean we can give you anything;



long range, short range, fires this side of the LD, got lots of that stuff up my sleeve—you just name it, brother. And oh, incidentally, I've stashed away a couple of rounds left over from the last JCOC demonstration at Benning, just in case you want a little harassing fire during the night. But the main thing I wanna get over is that Redlegs don't ever hold out a reserve. We're all the way. One thing more, if any of my birds try snowin' your people with FDC gobble-degook, let me know, will ya? There's always some smart young pup fresh out of Sill who wants to compare IQ's with a dogface. (Applause).

LT. COL. HOMAN:



(Placing an alarm clock on the stage) Like the Artillery, your Engineer Company is here for just one reason-to sup-But please bear in mind that term support. You'll remember the Division order used that word and not attached. So I'd appreciate your telling your AT Mine Platoon leader what the score is. Last time we worked with him, he took all my bulldozers to build your Charlie Peter. We've got plenty of bridging material for this operation but the only hitch is, we'll be busy on other stuff and I'll need a rifle company or so to do the work. If your AT Mine Platoon isn't busy, I recommend you attach it to us-they can operate the water points-I'm short a couple of men there, too. Lastly, by way of service to you, we can always fight as infantrymen. But I'd recommend you use that only as a last resort—remember my boys are specialists. goes off and mike is quickly passed to the RCT CBR Officer).

MAJOR BERGER:

Cost conscious as I am, Colonel, I merely point out that for precisely \$36.19 my boys could clean Aggressor's clock but good with a few varmints scattered strategically about. You might also, if you're feeling particularly nasty, care to dis-

seminate some of my persistent type Schlamiel No. 5 tomorrow at dawn-the wind will be right. Then too, Spagnolo here has thoughtfully brought along a whole lunch box full of gamma rays. But unfortunately you'd have to check with the Pentagon on their employment, and that might take a little time, say several years. So to be perfectly honest with you, I'm at a bit of a loss to explain my presence here. If you don't mind though, I'd love to stick around. Maybe I can give the Chaplain a hand.



### INSTRUCTOR:

So much for the supporting forces—on to the next requirement. We pass to the thrilling climax of this drama. In a series of lightning thrusts, 85th RCT has triumphantly seized its thirty two intermediate objectives. Aggressor is reeling. EENT is on us—rather ECNT—and the RCT final objective looms up on the horizon. RCT reserve, (the Regt'l Tank Company with three attached Battalions) is coiled for the mortal blow. The I&R platoon which has been in the assault, reports that it will not be able to continue the eattack for another two days. Roster No. 89, please give us your decision as CO, 85th RCT.

#### LT. COL. HENSEL:



(A hush settles over the class as Mighty Mouse rises to his full height, a cold, gray look on his face—) Now as a veteran of two wars, (a spontaneous chorus of "Old Soldiers Never Die" from all hands) I've never heard of that much strength being held out for a reserve. But as for the requirement—it would depend on a lot of other factors which you haven't introduced in the situation. You can't just stand up here and blurt out a snap decision without knowing more about the bigger picture. This thing's getting a little ridiculous.

INSTRUCTOR:

I'll certainly consider that in rewriting this problem for next year. (To himself: I should live so long to face another Advanced Class) But is there anyone who would care to volunteer his answer to this critical situation? Yes, Major, thank you.

(Volunteer rises, and is again greeted with "Can't hear you" from the peasants. But with lower jaw protruding, a contemptuous glance at his tormentors, and in classic tones...)

Message to the assault units: I have complete confidence in your abilities—carry on. To the Reserve Commander: Jump for the final objective. To the higher commander: I have pulled the chain! (Pandemonium — Huzzahs from the aggressive elements of the class; gasps from the more cautious.)



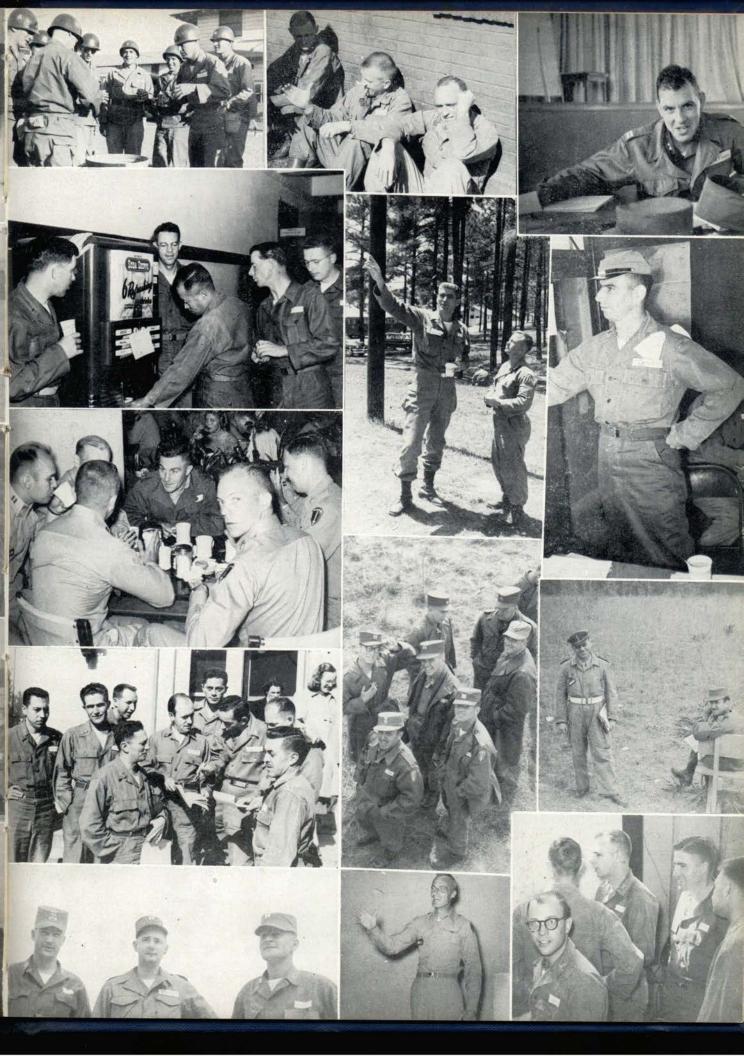
#### INSTRUCTOR:

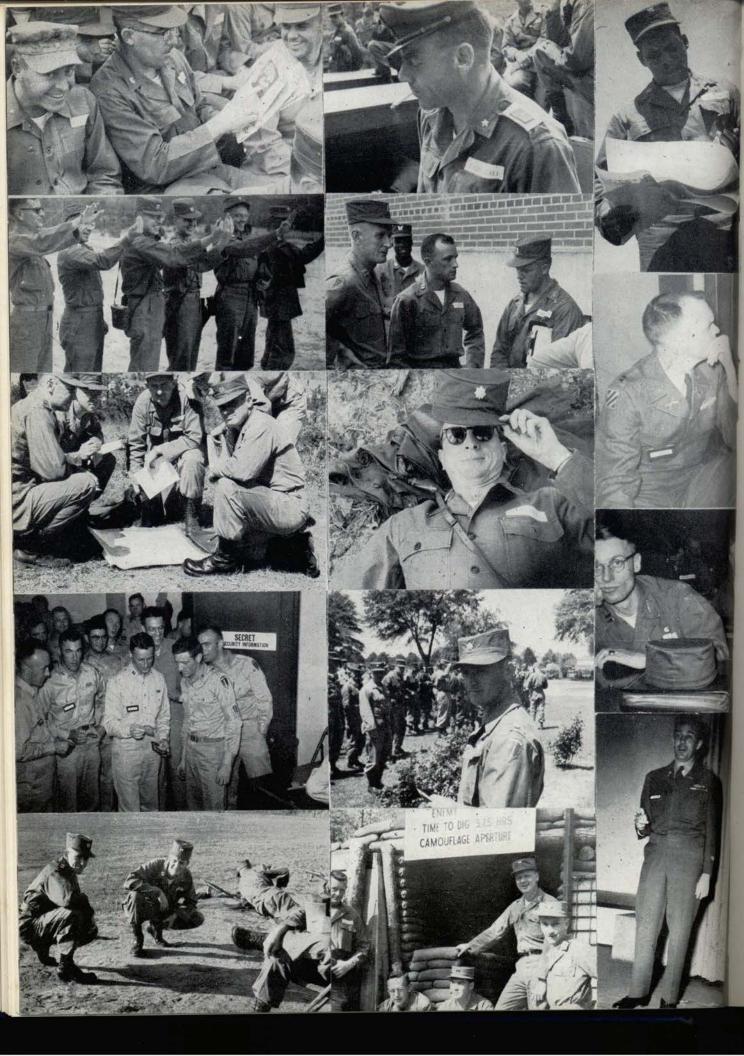


There's nothing I can add to that solution. Gentlemen, are there any questions on today's problem? If not, clear your desks, we have a final treat before we break up. (Moans and other impolite noises) Captain Carpenter has a few thousand words to address to you on the subject of the Class Yearbook!

(Shrieks of protest, a panicky scramble for the doors)







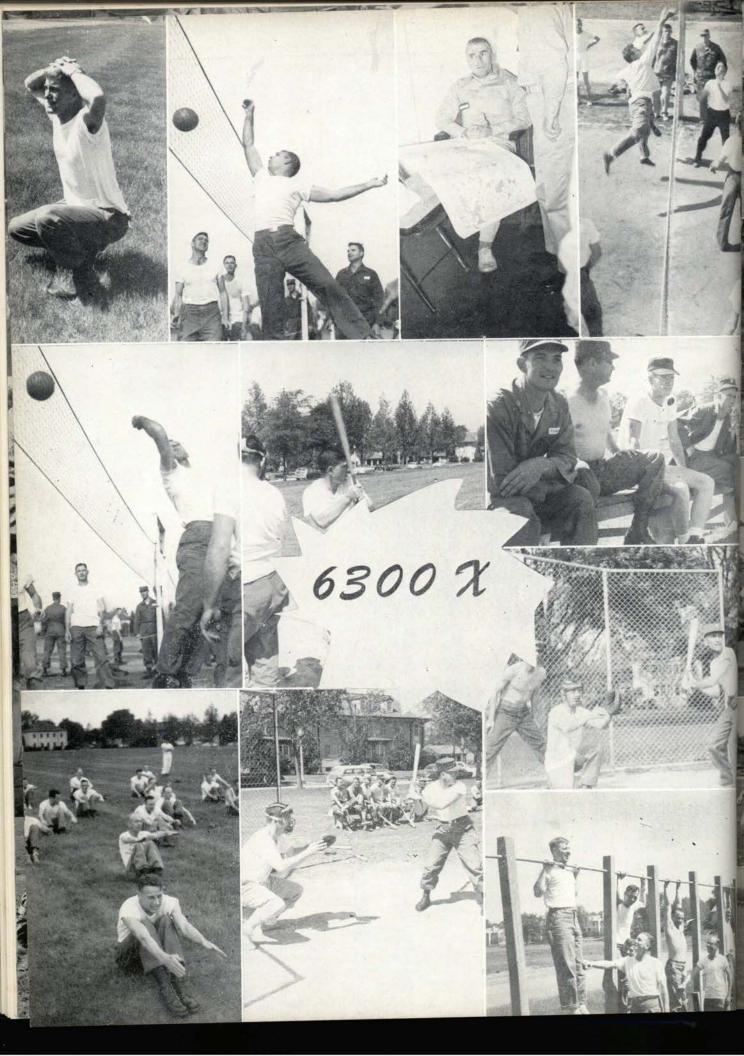
Splints, Sprains,

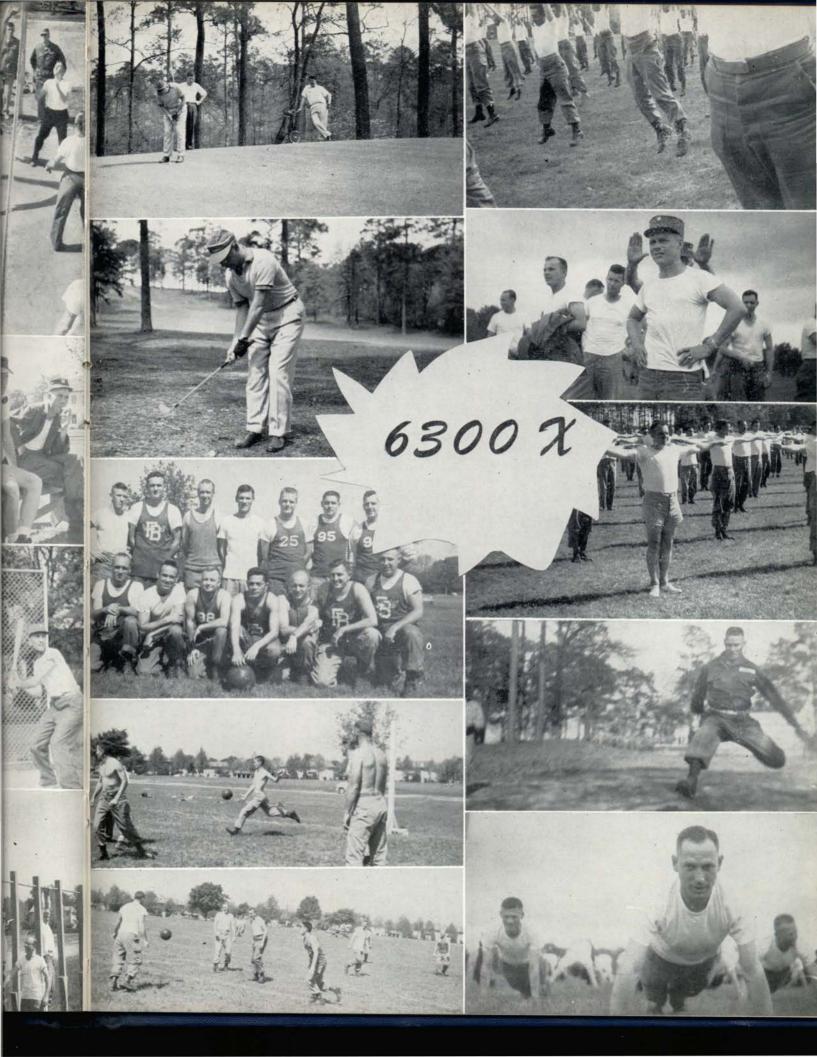


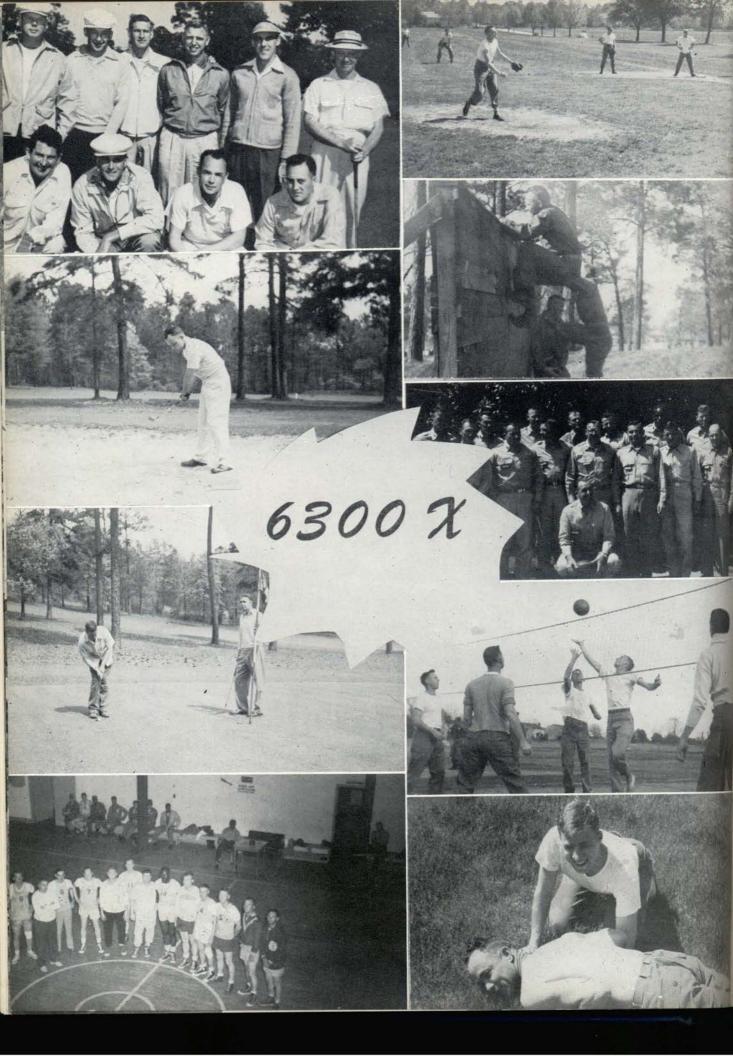
and the Army Dozen . . .



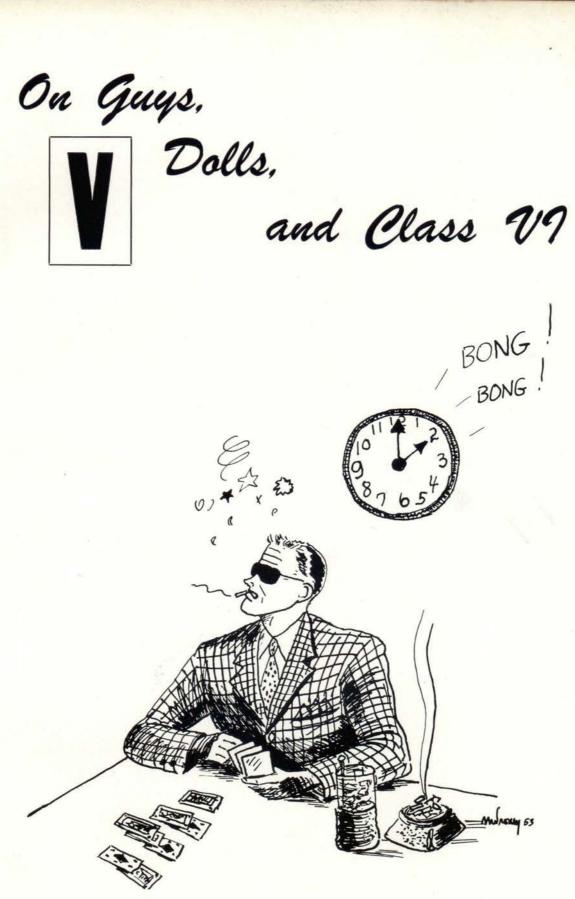
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN UNTHANK!











Let's make this the last rubber, Honey; I give my monograph in the morning you know.

The passing years find Colonel Wesley C. Smith progressing in his chosen profession. In late August of 1972 as Director of Instruction, TIS, Wesley is seated, with appropriate military decor, in his office, pondering his remarks of welcome and guidance to be given the Advanced Class of 1972-73. Following brief introductory remarks he planned to say,

Now when I attended this course back in the early fifties, we all dedicated ourselves at the very outset to an unceasing effort to derive the utmost profit from the opportunity that was ours. We, as you, were chosen by a highly selective examination of our records for attendance at the course, and we were most appreciative of the chance to spend a year contemplating the theory of our profession and listening to the authorities on every aspect of the Infantry who were to be our respected instructors. Permit me modestly to add that to a man we lived up to our initial resolve; nothing interfered with our studies; we spent every hour out of class studying and discussing the military art. If you will forgive a seeming boast, I might state that the results of this dedication, during that year and the many which have followed, are apparent in the fact that I have reached my present position.

Wesley allowed his mind's eye to scan those early days. Like most of his classmates he lived in an area (now marked only by patches of sidewalk and road which restrict the growth of weeds and scrub trees in spots) called Custer Terrace . . .



Every night he had studied uninterruptedly until midnight. He did remember some interruptions, come to think of it. The children were just youngsters then; Bob was—let's see—two; the little rascal used to run across the maps spread over the living room floor . . .



Those bachelors were the lucky ones. Living in comfort in Collins Hall, surrounded by fellow officers, they certainly had the opportunity to confer continuously on military matters. Too they had money, as bachelors always do . . .





Wesley used to take a scheduled period from his Saturday afternoon study period to perform certain necessary chores . . .



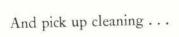






There were distractions. He had to go to the PX to purchase items of a military nature—like those field cap stiffeners . . .









Then too, Mrs. Smith would occasionally "request" that he do the Commissary shopping; that was a delightful task . . . Other than such "administrative and housekeeping" tasks, Wesley used to allow the time from 1700-1800 hours on Sunday afternoons for family recreation. "All work and no play . . . ." Come to think of it, Wesley sometimes "fudged" and took off two hours from serious study . . .



And then too, he remembered a few evenings when he and his wife had gone to informal parties, played bridge, entertained their friends for cocktails . . .



Mrs. Smith found that the ladies of the class had an active schedule of luncheons . . .



After these affairs they played bridge . . .





One afternoon Mrs. Smith came home "tight" — Wesley remembered it because his evening study period was delayed almost twenty minutes while she bounced about the kitchen singing something about sherry for only a dime a glass.

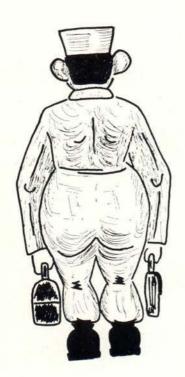
And those class parties . . . Things got downright "relaxed." That one at New Year's was great. Somehow though, the one in April was best; everyone seemed to forget the impending "Decision Problems" and talk only of the end of the course . . .



Come to think of it, Wesley didn't study as regularly as he had thought at first. Maybe he should conclude that talk by saying,

If I had studied as hard as I should have, I might have been first man in my class.

That standing of his must have been an error—200 out of 194—or maybe he had had too much fun here then.



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