

## 661st Obstacle Course Includes Many Barriers

12/Aug/43

A newly-constructed obstacle course is helping to put the men of the 661st TD Battalion in fighting shape.

Designed to include almost every type of barrier normally to be encountered in combat, the course embraces barbed wire entanglements, hurdles, water hazards, rope climbing.

Starting the obstacle run, the soldier crosses a snarl of barbed wire, staked low to the ground, in flying leaps, then descends a sharp decline to jump a five foot ditch. Crossing this, he ascends a sharp grade, crawling under a series of barbed wire entanglements on his way to the top. Then the course leads over half a dozen log hurdles, to a water filled ravine which is spanned by a narrow log.

Arriving at a gully the soldier grasps a long rope, and "monkey swings" himself to the opposite side. From there he crawls under a log barrier, scales a six foot wall, climbs a long rope hand over hand, and finishes the test by crawling along a horizontally stretched rope between two tree-trunk supports followed by a sprint up a rocky slope to the end of the line.

## UTC Team Wins Sept. 43

Hq. Company, 661st Bn., UTC, baseball team defeated the Academic Regt. nine-5 to 1 in a game played last week.

The game's feature stars were: Pvt. E. T. Garber, who pounded out a triple and single in three trips up, and Pvt. Bud Rotolo, whose pitching was superb all the way.

## Now A Lieutenant

John C. Dullea, former Sergeant Major of the 661st TD Bn., graduated as a Second Lieutenant from the Transportation Corps, OCS at Camp Harahan, La., on December 29.

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THE HOOD PANTHER

## 661st Bn. Puts On "All Out" Show For 20th TD Gp.

With anything going, the show put on by the 661st Bn. for the 20th Gp. was well titled as "Anything Goes." Songs ranged from old to current popular tunes, sung by a chorus composed of Cpl. Joseph C. Skinner, Cpl. Lawrence Aldenhoenel, Pfc. Bernard Sitron, Pvt. William F. Ginkpse, and Pvt. William O. Olson.

Hillbilly flavor was imparted by the singing of Pvt. Charles W. Ester, Cpl. Walter W. Armour and Cpl. William T. Anderson and their guitars.

Additional guitar music was offered by Pvt. Carlin E. Martin and Pvt. Angelus Efantis. Impersonations of various famous trumpeters were sounded by Pvt. Dominic A. Altavilla, using only his hand to get the effects.

The drama was handled by Cpl. Skinner, Cpl. Aldenhoenel, S-Sgt. Frank A. Krebs and Pvt. Roland A. Thompson in a variety of skits.

Pvt. John E. Rickett was accompanist at the piano. S-Sgt. Charles E. Shearer was master of ceremonies.

## Hq. Co., 661st Bn. Has Yule Party

Members of Headquarters Company, 661st Tank Destroyer Battalion, ushered in the holiday season last Friday evening, December 17, 1943, with a Christmas party at the USO in Lampasas where dancing, refreshments and gay decorations combined to create a festive occasion.

Some of the more fortunate members of the outfit were privileged to enjoy the company of their wives and sweethearts. For the unattached, there were plenty of girls provided by the USO which rounded up a galaxy of Lampasas young ladies.

The refreshments, served buffet style, were made possible by Company Funds, and the excellent dance rhythms were furnished by the 106th Cavalry Band.

## 661st Men Now Study At Three Colleges

The following enlisted men of the 661st Battalion UTC recently left for school: Pvt. Henry Newstein, Pvt. Henry N. Wichmanowsky, and Pvt. Ronald Thomas for Enlisted Radio Electricians and Technicians Course; T-5 Harold M. Berry, T-5 Earl I. Jones, Pvt. Thomas J. P. Napfel, and Pvt. Bruce E. Snyder have gone to Enlisted Automotive Course.

In the past two months approximately 40 enlisted men have left the 661st for ASTP. These men are now in the following colleges: Haverford College, Philadelphia, Penna.; Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.; Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.

Most of the men are studying Engineering.

## Furlough From Heat

Summer being what it is—and in Texas it's more than that—some of the men in the 661st TD Bn. have taken furloughs, supply Sgt. James Leach, Co. "B," going to his home in Scranton, and T-5 Arthur Hoffman, armorer for Co. B, visiting in Chicago. Mess Sgt. Granvel Bright, a recent addition to Co. B, took an emergency furlough to Dallas.

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## 661st TD Ties Gp.-One Lead

The 661st TD Bn. basketball team won its third straight game last week and went into a tie with the Stud Regt. quintet for the initial slot in Group 1 of the current roundrobin basketball tournament.

Besides local contests, the 661st cagers journeyed to Waco last Wednesday and although they were defeated by a strong Waco quintet, they picked up some valuable experience that should be a real asset to them in their march toward camp honors in the round-robin chase.

The team also played the Lampasas high school five and the Blackland Army Flying School quintet last week.

## 18th Group Becomes UTC As 60 Mile March Ends Its ITC Training

On Thursday, Aug. 19, the 18th TD Group UTC, led by Lt. Col. Lafayette D. Mathews, completed the 60-mile foot march which marks the transition of training from ITC to UTC. All officers and enlisted men of the Group Headquarters, Major Fred Plathe's 660th Bn., and Major Donald Miller's 661st Bn., participated with the exception of the kitchen details who moved by truck.

The three day program included marching, forced marching, MTP tests, and inspection of a formal field bivouac by Brig. Gen. Harry Thompson, CO., ITC.

On Monday the Group marched 17 miles from Tablerock Camp No. 2 to Walker's Cemetery. Tuesday called for a 12 mile move to Pidcoke Crossing in the morning and an 11 mile forced march that night to a bivouac northwest of Anderson Mt. Wednesday they pushed southeast of Anderson Mt. and Thursday completed the move to Camp Hood.

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