card, bearing a record of his civilian and military experience, as well as a great deal of other information, arrived at the Division with him. At Fort Jackson, all cards went to Captain John J. Sigwald and a crew of assistants who had been training for a month for this sorting and classifying task. The cards were machine sorted and cross-sorted in the Division Headquarters. The cards of truck drivers came out in one pile and those of typists in another. The cards of the men with high test scores came to the top of the piles. Then, with the Tables of Organization at hand, the classification experts assigned the men. Within two days of his arrival Private Joe shouldered his barracks bag and moved to the 77th Signal Company. At the time he did not know how it happened and perhaps did not care.

This classification and assignment of recruits was a long way from being perfect. Many men ended up in the wrong niches, or found there was no place for their particular talent in an Infantry Division. Such errors were unavoidable but were held to a minimum and usually corrected later. After all, there was a war on and everything had to be done double time.

Two days after the Division was officially re-born, Brigadier General Mark W. Clark, Chief of Staff of the Army Ground Forces, came to inspect the activities of the new Division and to witness the presentation of the colors which the old 77th Division had carried in World War I. As General Clark, his staff, and new men looked on, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Knight, the only officer present who had served with the 77th in World War I, presented the Colors to General Eichelberger. General Clark's party then toured the camp to observe how the young soldiers were being cared for.

On 7 April, the training program officially started. By that time each unit had been organized and the men assigned to specific jobs. The new men had familiarized themselves with the camp and with the routine of living in barracks. They had received some instruction in the more fundamental subjects by means of conferences, training films, and demonstrations. They had been busy from the start, but now the real work commenced. Their daily schedule began before dawn with a reveille formation, followed by a hurried toilet, breakfast, and policing of their quarters and area. They then had almost ten crowded hours of training, after which, until taps, their time was their own, unless there were fatigue details or night classes. Sunday was a day of light duty, but hardly a day of rest. Life became a steady, weary grind of classes, drills, and duties under driving taskmasters.

The willing attitude of the officers and men of the Division was remarkable. All hated war, and almost all thoroughly disliked the restric-

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tions and subordination of the individual inherent in Army life. Many of the officers and most of the men had been ordered to active service contrary to their personal inclinations, and were being subjected to an almost impossible training schedule. They were expected to absorb knowledge at a rate which no civilian educational institution would have considered possible or desirable. A few were not yet convinced that the United States should have any part in the war, and many had relatives in Axis countries. Despite all this, they pitched in and worked. They wore themselves out and kept on working. They not only obeyed orders, but inquired as to the reasons and asked for more. Experienced officers commented that they had never known men to learn as rapidly as these recruits.

There was griping, of course, and a little of it was justified. There were a few unpleasant occurrences, sometimes not without cause. An outsider eavesdropping at the latrines, or in the dayrooms or officers' clubs might have gained the entirely erroneous impression that the task was hopeless and that everyone was being overworked to no purpose. The important fact was that having blown off steam, the gripers went out and as they had been taught efficiently made the "goddam march" or dug the "lousy holes."

The men could not help seeing that the officers were working on a longer, tougher schedule than the one they were following. This was particularly true in the companies and batteries. Most of the platoon leaders, at the start, knew very little more than the men, and less than some of the cadre sergeants; but the officers had responsibilities. By Division order, every company officer was required to spend eight to ten hours with his unit on the training field. Most of that time he was teaching what he had probably learned only the night before. Also, by Division order, each officer attended a two-hour school three or four nights a week. In addition, there was the ever-present administrative and paper work; all of it must be done or checked by an officer, because the standards in the Division were perfection in administration as well as in training. Officers must supervise and check the feeding, quartering, supply, and recreation of their men. Then too, there were courts and boards and inspection committees. Finally, sometime between 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. the officers must learn, or at least review, the subjects to be taught the following day. It was no wonder that absent wives received few letters, and those living in Columbia rarely saw their husbands. It is understandable that at least one capable sergeant refused to go to Officer Candidate School because he "would not put up with the hell my lieutenants are getting here."

The officers took it as did the men, griping a little but carrying on.

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Both learned to work under pressure, to expect little and to get the job done well and quickly. They all tightened their belts over shrinking waist lines and worked. General Eichelberger told them on 11 May: "This will be no joy ride or picnic. Time is precious and we cannot afford to waste it. We shall have thorough training and hard work, the methods used by all successful armies; for there is no substitute for hard work. If you think you are working too hard, remember what our enemies are doing." All knew that the Division was going to war soon and that their own survival would depend, to a large extent, on their performance in training. Spurred on by such considerations and working under great pressure, these men helped to prove that America, given adequate time, could convert its men as well as its machines to war.

As the rigorous training program progressed, the obvious misfits were weeded out or reassigned. Some of the older men were shifted to assignments which required less physical endurance. A few men who had been selected by careless draft boards, or passed by casual medical examiners turned out to be inept or to possess chronic disabilities: they had to be discharged whatever their good intentions. In addition, each unit had the task of correcting unsanitary or unpleasant habits of a few of its members. There were, for example, men who through shyness or because of natural aversion to water as a cleansing agent, were reluctant to make use of the available community showers. Such cases were usually corrected by the men themselves, led by some barracks-wise non-commissioned officer who administered to the reluctant one a thorough scrubbing with yellow soap and a GI brush.

Inspections were frequent. Every man in the Division, because he was part of a large-scale training experiment, was on show every hour of the day. By sad experience they learned to report properly to high ranking visitors, to answer questions, to continue with their work as if inspections were a daily occurrence, which they soon became.

On 16 May, when many of the men had received less than five weeks' training, Lieutenant General Ben Lear, commanding the Second Army, made a thorough and searching inspection of the Division. He and his staff were not looking for men who knew or even appeared to know the answers. They questioned the dullest appearing men they could select to find if these were learning. Legend has it that one alert company commander avoided recrimination by instructing only those men who did *not* know the answer to hold up their hands. The inspectors searched for those who did not have the full allowance of underdrawers or tent pins, and when such shortages were found the officer responsible was made uncomfortable. But General Lear found little to criticize and was pleased with the progress made.

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Despite the strenuous training and the stiff and bruised muscles from bayonet drill and obstacle courses, the men found time and energy for outside activities. Helped by local organizations in Columbia and neighboring towns, each unit furnished its day room where men could read, write letters, play cards, or just loaf. The Post Exchanges were popular and crowded. Each unit organized athletic teams which competed for organization championships. The Division Band provided talent for orchestras which became popular locally and on radio programs. Professor Coleslaw (Private Paul Kuhlthau) and his toy piano were in demand.

The chaplains soon became friends and backers of their men and the neat frame chapels scattered over the camp became centers of religious activity, under a program directed by Lieutenant Colonel William F. O'Brien, Division Chaplain.

Men on pass went to Columbia and neighboring towns where they found that Southern hospitality had been only slightly lessened by the strain of having sixty thousand soldiers as neighbors. However, officers and men alike found Main Street on Saturday afternoon a nightmare for those who conscientiously attempted to observe saluting rules.

Late in May, after hours of practicing sighting and aiming, positions, trigger squeeze, and rapid fire, the regiments began taking their men to the Leesburg Rifle Range where they fired live ammunition and felt the recoil of Army weapons. The 305th Infantry first marched the fourteen odd miles to the range camp, and while there set some high scores for those who came later to match. The spring weather was pleasant, the range camp was comfortable though primitive, and the work was interesting and noisy. During June the remainder of the organizations of the Division took their turn at the range. It was used to capacity and the competition was keen. So keen, in fact, that methods used by some units in firing and scoring would scarcely have been approved at official matches; but the men did learn to handle and to fire their weapons with accuracy.

General Eichelberger was transferred to the Command of the I Army Corps and on 5 June Brigadier General Woodruff moved up from Assistant Division Commander to Commanding General of the 77th Division. General Woodruff and his jeep had become familiar to the officers and men and they had full confidence in him. He was promoted to Major General later in the month and Brigadier General Harris M. Melasky was assigned as Assistant Division Commander.

Numerous parades and reviews were included in the training schedules of organizations. On 8 June the Division participated in its first large ceremony. The entire I Corps was assembled on the dry, dusty,

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Anchrum Ferry Field just outside of Fort Jackson, to be reviewed by an unnamed visitor. For hours the 8th and the 30th Divisions, and the troops and vehicles of the eight-week-old 77th moved and formed on the field. The day was very hot and canteens were soon empty. It required real stamina to stay there and take it. The newspaper reports did not mention that, because of careful planning, routing and discipline, the 77th Division did not have men fall out overcome by the heat, but this made a vivid impression on those who took part.

When the distinguished visitors, riding in jeeps, passed around the motionless ranks, the men began to identify them. The officer in white was Lord Mountbatten; his picture had been on a recent "Time" cover. There was General Marshall, and the other Britisher was General Sir John Dill. These and many other Allied officials were on the reviewing stand during the one and one-half hours it took the troops and equipment to move past—three divisions in mass formations. Though not yet through basic training the men of the 77th marched like old-timers, their lines straight and their step firm and correct.

Lord Mountbatten later wrote to General Woodruff: "Although I tried to express in some small measure, the other day, my admiration and astonishment at the way in which the 77th Division turned out in the review of the First Army Corps, I feel I must write and tell you once more that of all the many interesting and encouraging things I have come across during my visit to the United States, none has made me feel more certain of our victory than the efficiency which your Division displayed at the end of only eight weeks training. If the United States can go on turning out divisions like that, victory will be ours much sooner than I had thought possible."

A comment made by General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, hinted at the worry, now dispelled, which had been present in high places concerning the possibility of training a citizen Army capable of modern war: "The training shown by these new soldiers has lifted a weight off my shoulders equalled only by the winning of the recent battle in the Pacific."

Sixteen days later on 24 June, Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain, stepped from a train at Fort Jackson to see for himself the troops his subordinates had complimented. With him were Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, veteran of the 77th in World War I, General George C. Marshall, General Sir John Dill, Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, General Sir Alan Brooke, and others. The Guard of Honor was the 3rd Battalion of the 306th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Adair. Every man was proud to be present and anxious to appear determined and steady. As the great leader of the

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British Empire passed down the line that is the impression he received. He remarked: "The faces of the men gave me the greatest and everlasting memory of the day. I have never been more impressed than I was with the bearing of the men whom I saw. The undemonstrative, therefore grim determination of the newly drafted bodies bodes ill for our enemies."

Mr. Churchill witnessed a composite review of one Regimental Combat Team from each of the three divisions of the I Corps; the 307th Combat Team represented the 77th Division. During his stay at Fort Jackson, he made a rapid inspection of every phase of training.

The reviews continued. On 14 July the 306th Infantry paraded for Lieutenant General E. K. Smart and Lieutenant General T. R. Blamey of the Australian Army. On the 23rd the 307th Regimental Combat Team represented the 77th Division in a composite I Corps review for Lieutenant General Ben Lear who caused Major Aubrey Smith's 3rd Battalion of that Regiment to be moved to the reviewing line to receive the review with him, because, as he said later, "I thought they were the best-looking battalion I had ever seen in ranks."

In the rush of training and reviews the Fourth of July slipped by without much celebration. Parades, however, were only incidental to the continuous routine of training. Each day found new subjects which busy S-3s* had extracted from Mobilization Training Programs and Field Manuals, and included in training schedules. The marches along the narrow, sandy trails which criss-crossed Fort Jackson's scrub oak and pine-covered slopes became longer and hotter. Men, who at the start, had handled poison oak and picked up live rattlesnakes from ignorance rather than from bravado, learned about life away from the city sidewalks. Specialists devoted less time to basic drills and more to learning their specialties, such as communications, motor maintenance, typing, care of the wounded, and many others. The men of the 302d Engineer Battalion learned to build bridges and to use explosives to make loud, destructive noises. In August they threw a ponton bridge across the Wateree River in the record time of two hours and fifteen minutes.

Army vehicles began to be used somewhat more. During the early months, gasoline was rationed at one gallon per vehicle per day, which meant that if the essential supply vehicles were kept operating, tactical vehicles must be deadlined most of the time. During those months the infantry travelled on foot. There were many men and some junior officers who spent two months in the Division without riding in any army vehicle. However, as field training increased, the gasoline restric-

* Staff Officers on Battalion and Regimental Staffs charged with operations and training.

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tions were relaxed and jeeps and other trucks came out of motor pools. They were driven by men who had practiced and earned drivers' permits over the roughest terrain at Fort Jackson. The crews of the half-tracks and jeeps of the hard-driving 77th Reconnaissance Troop explored all side roads for miles around.

Promotions were constant and plentiful. There were many non-commissioned grades open from the start, and others developed as soldiers were transferred to schools or out on cadres. Alert, willing men were given positions of responsibility almost over night. For example, Private John F. Moran became a sergeant after thirty-six days in the Division. Private Horace J. Hoolihan jumped five grades to Technical Sergeant after four months' service, and Private David P. Zink became Master Sergeant Zink in less than six months.

Officers likewise profited by changed insignia and increased pay checks. There were vacancies at the start and more constantly developed, but always there was a candidate waiting to take over the job in the belief that he could do it well. Several of the senior officers were transferred to other assignments. Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Cort replaced Colonel Clovis E. Byers as Chief of Staff. Colonel Lincoln F. Daniels and Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Adair succeeded Colonel Lewis K. Underhill and Colonel James M. Peale as commanders of the 305th and 306th Regiments, respectively.

A steady stream of officers and a few key non-commissioned officers were sent away to schools for short periods, and then returned, to pass on their specialized knowledge to others. Such schools included The Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia; the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; the Engineer School at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Two large-scale emigrations from the Division took place during its early months. The first was the departure of a cadre for the new 94th Division. About two hundred officers and twelve hundred men were selected and trained to form the nucleus of this new Division. The requirements were high and commanding officers had the difficult task of filling their quotas without, at the same time, seriously crippling their own organizations. This cadre left in July carrying with it the best wishes of the Division. It included among its numbers many a March selectee now facing the task of training others. Later in the summer, smaller cadres of officers were furnished to assist in the organization of the 99th and 100th Divisions.

The second exodus was to the Officer Candidate Schools. These quotas were large and the same intelligent, reliable sort of men who

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