Advocates Clubs Sponsoring , Ranges for Servicemen Use

GOLF clubs, the USGA, government officials, and others are taking increased active interest in the plan to provide golf driving ranges and practice putting greens for some of the large military camps, and considerable progress is now being made in getting some of these golf practice areas into immediate operation.

A letter received from Cliff Roberts, manager, Augusta (Ga.) National GC, and chairman of the Masters' tournament committee, tells what his club's officials have done, and are doing, to provide Camp Gordon in Augusta with a floodlighted golf driving range, including appropriate targets for iron play, and a full-sized practice putting green. Money expended for these facilities is to be the gift of the 1942 Masters golf tournament, to be held April 9-12. Cliff, who also gives his ideas on how other clubs might go about providing similar ranges for encampments, says:

"I can tell you only briefly that the officers in Camp Gordon in Augusta were most appreciative of our offering and are doing everything they can to cooperate. The arrangement was worked out by R. T. Jones, Jr., president of the club, and myself, in cooperation with a Mr. Harris, an architect who is presently employed by Camp Gordon. They happen to have an ideal piece of ground which will give us a large putting area. Next to this will be a gradually sloping area leading down to the driving range, and this sloping area should provide a gallery space for 1,000 to 2,000 people.

To Schedule Exhibitions

"We hope, incidentally, to provide the camp from time to time with exhibitions in driving and iron play by some of the best known pros. The putting green should accommodate up to 75 people and the driving tee about 50. We have hope of providing some material for the center section of the tee that will simulate turf from which iron shots can be played. The fairway area will extend out 250 yards from the tee; in the central part of this area will be 4 target greens made out of sand, ranging from 100 yards to 175 yards.

"To start, we expect to supply Camp Gordon with about 75 wood and iron clubs,



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and about 50 putters, together with 1,000 golf balls. One of the most expensive items will be the flood lighting equipment, which may cost, fully installed, about \$1,000. This might be classified, however, as something not altogether necessary in view of the new daylight regulation and consequent long summer days.

"In talking with George Blossom and Joe Dey of the USGA, I suggested that the best way to proceed with this practice range idea would be to get the most active and financially strongest golf club located near the largest training camps, to sponsor each undertaking. This will provide the membership of each club with an opportunity of doing a war job which they are qualified to do better than anyone else, and they can see exactly what their dollars accomplish.

"Assuming the sponsor has to do everything, including grading, seeding, and so forth, the outside cost could not be more than \$5,000. This cost can, of course, be cut down to the extent that the camp itself can do part of the work. Then, too, you can cut down on the flood lighting equipment, if necessary. There is, of course, the possibility that each sponsoring club can get some financial cooperation from other nearby clubs or from its local association of golf clubs.

"The reason I strongly advocate working through one particular sponsoring club in each instance is that you gain direct supervision of the work by one particular club president and one particular greenchairman or club superintendent. This is important both from the standpoint of construction and from the standpoint of maintenance. I think the greenkeeper should follow up in each instance, and teach someone at the camp how to look after greens, how to change cups, etc.

"The big thing, of course, is the time element, but it should not take very long to locate the largest of the training camps (Continued on Page 45)

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Golfdom

March 3-4-	-Iowa State College, Ames, Ia.
4-6-	-University of Minne- sota, Minneapolis.
9-11-	-University of Wiscon- sin, Madison.
12-13-	-Michigan State Col- lege, East Lansing.
13-15-	-Recreational Confer ence and exhibition,
	Massachusetts State College.

Ranges for Servicemen

(Continued from Page 40)

and then to locate a good nearby sponsoring club. In the South all that is necessary is to get Bermuda grass started. This can be done by planting stolons. The putting green can be made available by early spring, but the driving tee can be made available almost immediately. All that is needed is dry ground and some sand. In the North it will be necessary, if putting greens are to be available this summer, to get the clubs to provide readymade turf from their nurseries. If turf is not available, it can be purchased from people who might have a lawn for sale.

"To my mind the one controlling thought to keep in mind about this whole thing is the fact that a great deal of money is being raised to entertain soldiers and sailors in the cities and in the towns, but for every soldier boy seen on the streets of our cities, there are probably ten out at some camp who cannot get a pass to leave the camp or who haven't the money to go outside."



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