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Golf's Booms Among Men in Uniform

By HERB GRAFFIS

GOLF interest of men at army and navy training establishments in the United States is far greater than most civilian golfers realize. Clubs near camps generally have strained themselves to provide ample low-price or free golf for uniformed men and free loan or rental clubs. In some instances, limits are established on the number of servicemen who can be accommodated per day and the men desiring to play must secure playing cards from the USO or from the Special Service officers at their camps.

Extension of such privileges and reduced prices by the golf clubs have been a bright spot in the experience of many servicemen in establishments nearer the smaller cities and towns. The usual and justified complaint of the men in camps is that stores in these smaller places gyp the servicemen shamefully.

Golf has been the inspiration for a new training game at Camp Chaffee, Fort Smith, Ark. Details of this new game, grenade golf, are given by the *Service Sports Clip Sheet* as follows:

"There are nine "holes" on the course and the "traps" consist of such obstacles as a .30 calibre machinegun pillbox, an effigy of Hitler, a miniature railroad, a box maneuvered by ropes which represents a moving vehicle, and a dummy 155 mm. howitzer.

"Strong arms replace clubs and dummy grenades looking and weighing like the real thing are used as balls. The objective is to complete the circuit of the course in a minimum number of "strokes" and

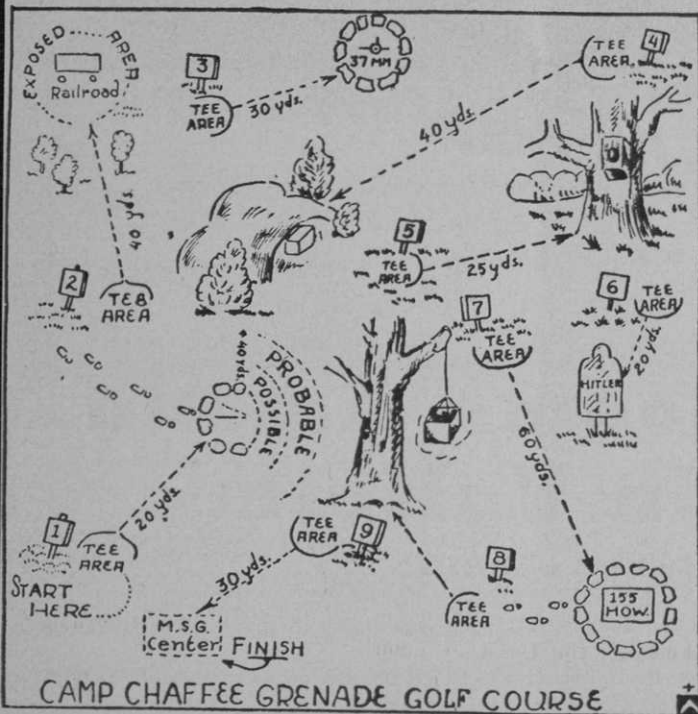
60- to 65-yard holes-in-one are becoming common.

"Direct hits count as one, possibles as two, and probables (10 ft. from target) as three. Misses count as four. Par for the course is 21. Grenade golf is played from standing, kneeling or prone positions."

At Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, 9-hole pitch-and-putt course is being built, following the great showing of golf interest in evidence on the post's driving range in former years. The course has holes ranging from 120 to 162 yards. Its construction expense has been paid by Mrs. B. J. Rosenthal, mother of Mrs. George C. Moseley of Highland Park, Ill., who as Elaine Rosenthal was one of the star girl golfers of years past. Edward B. Dearie, Jr., designed and constructed the course. He began work on it last autumn and play is expected to begin about July 4.

Golf courses at some posts have been abandoned because of demands for ground. The course formerly at Jefferson Barracks, Army Air Forces Technical Training Replacement center, is one of those courses. Other courses, especially in Florida, have been converted into drill fields, or taken over entirely by branches of the armed services.

Now, for close-up evidence of the soldiers', sailors' and marines' continued keen interest in golf as physical training and recreation (when they can get a little time off for recreation), here are some items from camp papers and public relations offices.



score yet turned in at the Abilene CC this season, a three-under par 68 against the high wind that makes golf so tricky early in the Texas spring. Mazza is in Headquarters Detachment of the Medical Detachment of the Replacement Training Center.

The paper of Camp Roberts, Calif., under the head "Golf for Soldiers is Champ's Object" says: "A spirited drive to revive golf among soldiers stationed at this vast training center is in full swing. Dynamite in the drive to blast soldiers from their barracks and onto the fairways was furnished by Sgt. Art Gonzales and M/Sgt. Bobby Walsh.

At Keesler Field, Miss., the post paper told of golf competition being started, in the following quote:

"A novel golf tournament, the first Keesler links competition of the year, will get under way April 18 on the Gulf Hills golf course in Ocean Springs, Miss.

"The competition will be staged on three consecutive Sundays. The opening round, for enlisted personnel of this post only, will determine the top four squadron golfers on the field.

"On the following Sunday, Keesler officers will play to determine their top foursome. These two preliminary rounds will be medal play for aggregate score. On the third Sunday the leading foursomes of officers and enlisted men will face each other in match play over the 18-hole course."

Golf is among the popular team sports at many camps. The Mather Field (Calif.) team has among its members the former baseball stars, Myril Hoag and Sam Tassi. Pvt. Toddy Schoonover and Pvt. Verne Callison are two of Mather Field's golfing aces. Callison is leading the team in scoring. Golf competitions in that area also engage army teams from McClellan, Kohler and Camp Beale.

Camp Callan—One hundred officers and enlisted men played at La Jolla in the second all-Camp Callan golf tourney. Clubs were furnished. Players bought own balls at post exchange.

Randolph Field—San Antonio offers

From the public Relations office at Camp Barkeley, Tex., comes this:

"Golf has an excellent start this spring among the medical soldiers at Camp Barkeley, with a surprising number of prominent golfers participating on the various courses in Abilene.

"A flashy four-man team has been organized in Co. E, 53rd Medical Training Battalion, under the direction of Lt. John Allen, who was prominent in amateur competition in Portland, Ore., and San Francisco. Others on the team from Co. E are Cpl. Chester Hobbs, formerly pro at the Brier Hill CC, Millersburg, Ohio, and hard-shooting amateurs Sgt. Norman Kuntz of Spokane, Wash., and Cpl. Wayne Douglas of Dallas, Tex.

"Robert Wendler, former Kansas City, Kansas and Iowa state open champion, now a candidate in the Medical Administrative Corps officer candidate school here, scored an ace on the 120-yard eighth hole at the Abilene CC on April 4th. This feat was the more amazing considering the physical and mental hazards Wendler had: a high wind and a lot of rank playing with him. Lt. Col. Wayne A. Starkey of the OCS was Candidate Wendler's opponent.

"Pvt. Johnny Mazza, who holds the course record of 62 at the Coyote Point course in San Francisco, has the lowest

Brackenridge Park golf at half price of 25 cents a day to enlisted men in area. Rental sets of clubs at 35 cents. Balls on sale at 15 cents to 45 cents.

Camp Crowder—Lt. Adolph Miller and Sgt. Robert Hvasta have established a golf practice range for the 804th Signal Training Regt. Sgt. Hvasta got the *Vindicator*, newspaper of his home town, Youngstown, O., and pros, amateurs and clubs of Youngstown active in a drive for supplying used clubs and balls for the range. The drive produced 150 clubs, about 1,500 balls and more than 2,000 tees.

Amarillo Army Air Field—Walter Sikes, pro and mgr. of Sunset Golf course gives free lessons to soldiers each afternoon from 3 to 4, except Saturdays and Sundays.

Barksdale Field—Officers wives golf league is organized.

Waco Army Air Field—Golf team formed. Best golfer at the field is said to be Maj. Jules J. Vandersarl, commanding officer of the 469th.

Fort Du Pont—Cpl. Earl (Stymie) Hoover forming a golf team under direction of Special Service Office. The Fort expects to have Craig Wood play an exhibition match for its men this spring.

Norfolk Naval Air Station—Free sets of clubs for officers and enlisted men are available at Recreation Bldg. Servicemen are given privileges of Ocean View and Memorial Park courses free; Princess Anne course at reduced fee. Officers can use Cavalier and Norfolk golf clubs for a 50 cent green fee six times any one month.

McCord Army Flying Field—Rip Chord, the field's paper gives details of five good courses available for servicemen's play in Tacoma, Wash., area, and gives details of Tacoma Open and Rainier Open to which servicemen are eligible as entrants. Five courses listed are Parkland, Brookdale, Meadow Park, Allenmore and Highland, all public or fee. Location, transportation, playing rates for uniformed men, club rental, ball prices, meal prices, are given. Parkland and Brookdale loan clubs free to men in uniform. Two other courses rent clubs for 25 cents, another for 35 cents.

Gowen Field—Bomb squadrons take over country club recently vacated by its civilian occupants. Course and clubhouse to be maintained.

Camp Bowie—The camp's paper says:

"Camp Bowie soldiers are trading their packs for golf clubs during their spare time and testing their skill in the fine art of pounding a golf ball down the fairways. The Camp Bowie golf club is becoming the most popular recreation post for soldiers here. The course, one of the finest in this part of the state, is open to officers and enlisted men.

Morrison Field—Morrison Field golfers evened the count with the Palm Beach Old Guard golf team, by defeating them in a six-man team match after being nosed out by the Old Guard team by one point in a team match the previous Sunday afternoon.

Sacramento Air Depot—Enlisted men and officers sign up to compete in blind bogey tourney at Sacramento municipal course.

Camp Roberts—M/Sgt. Robert Walsh defeats T/4th Kenneth Miner, 5 and 4 at Atascadero GC for Camp championship. Camp Roberts' paper in printing a picture of the match explains Miner's civilian attire by reminding "military personnel are permitted to don appropriate clothing to participate in any sport."

Marine Corps Base, San Diego—Big cut of Pvt. Jack Burke in marine uniform and stroking a putt is shown in the base paper, the *Chevron*. The marine is a son of the late Jack Burke, famed homebred pioneer. Pvt. Burke now is golf instructor at North Island of the Marine establishment.

Barksdale Field—Cpl. David Gustine is giving instruction to officers' wives who are beginners at golf each Monday morning. A 50 cent lesson fee is charge. Cpl. Gustine is in charge of the field's course.

Sacramento Air Depot—Air Depot *News* says "golf becomes major sport for civilians" and gives details of an extensive golf program being conducted by the civilian recreation department for Depot employees. Morning tournaments are held for the swing shifters and afternoon tournaments starting at 4:30 are scheduled for the day and "graveyard shifts" workers.

Pensacola Naval Air Training Center—Play has begun on the Admiral's Cup golf competition on the station golf course. Events is a round robin 4-men team event with nine teams entered in the officers' tourney. Lt. Comdr. George Clark is the station's athletic officer. As Patsy Clark he was known as University of Illinois' standout athlete and later was prominent in coaching and pro football.