



Here's another of the Army installations that have been making new golfers by the millions. It's the practice green at Ashburn General hospital, McKinney, Tex., of the PGA-financed project. A complete course is being constructed at Ashburn.

CAMP RUCKER BUILDS OWN COURSE

AT Camp Rucker, Ala., enlisted men and officers and their wives, Army nurses and civilian employees of the post are finding that a golf course is one of the most attractive recreation establishments an Army post can have.

There's a lot of work around an Army post and it'll continue until well after V-J Day, but when the work's done the soldier and civilian get the change of pace that peeps them up for the next round of work. To keep his outfit on its toes rather than to provide additional recreational facilities just to make the post look better, Camp Rucker's commanding officer, Col. Martin C. Shallenberger, conceived the golf course idea in August, 1944. The original layout was 9 holes. Par was 34. The course has Bermuda greens that usually are about 3600 sq. ft. in area. Tees are grass. The course is interestingly trapped. There's a good-looking little clubhouse near the first tee and a beautiful swimming pool nearby.

The initial installation drew so much play that the course has been extended to 18 holes and 5500 yds. The second 9 will be in play in August. Par for the extended and revised course will be 36-35-71. The course record made by playing the original 9 two consecutive rounds is 29-29-58, held by T/Sgt. Harry Pezzullo, California pro who showed considerable promise when he was on the tournament circuit before the war. There hasn't been much golf for Harry since

the war began, until the Camp Rucker course gave him a chance to play in the evenings and week-ends. But he did manage to tie for 11th money in the latest Pensacola Open. After he gets his military work done Harry is pro, manager and course supervisor at the Camp course.

The play at the course is remarkably heavy. On Sundays from 100 to more than 200 golfers are on the course. The record play for the 9-hole course was 243 one Sunday. Weekdays the play generally exceeds 60 players a day.

Sgt. Pezzullo teaches the men and women at the post and believes that he has some pretty good potential talent coming along. He also has fitted a compact and lively competitive golf program into the post's athletic schedule. The matches draw rather large crowds. Col. Shallenberger has been showing the men around the post that he is the boss golfer of the outfit. He won a sweepstakes event in February. In March he won a match play event from a field of 40, defeating Capt. C. J. Mallarno, 3 and 2 in the final match. There have been a number of Red Cross and other exhibition matches Sgt. Pezzullo has put on at the course after the initial exhibition in December, 1944, which presented Warrant Officer Frank Stranahan, well known amateur; Andy Byrd, Maxwell Field pro and brother of Sam; Johnnie Morris of the Beauvois CC, Montgomery, Ala.

Pezzullo says that the sporty course

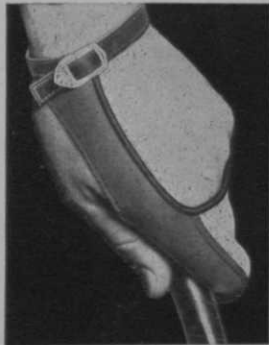
and the instruction have been boons to the GIs who have been bored in whatever spare time they have had around the post. Men and women who've thought they'd like to take up golf but never have had the opportunity are developing into keenly interested golfers and are much farther along in playing ability than a comparable group of civilians would be, according to Sgt. Pezzullo's observation.

He says that one of the unique features of the course is contrary to an almost holy rule of golf architecture. It is the 125 yard first hole. Possibly one of the reasons he is so fond of this hole is because he's made two aces on it. But for publication, he lauds Rucker's first as an ideal demonstration hole for attracting the interests and stirring the ambitions of possible golf recruits. GIs like to stand around and watch the golfers fire at the first's flag. Pezzullo says that he has seen no signs of play being delayed by the first being a one-shooter. But if play were delayed by the one shot initial hole, he adds, around the first tee is a better place to wait than at the tee of any other short hole on Rucker or any other course.

The course has plenty of clubs and balls for rental. That has been a great thing in bringing new players into the game, Pezzullo declares. That statement of his is confirmed by the wartime experience of fee course owners who have made a strong play for business of war plant workers in their off hours.

A particularly interesting and helpful thing about the Rucker course construction and operation, according to the observation of the transplanted California pro, is the way that military methods got the course designed, built and operating with a minimum waste of time and money. Col. Arthur Brown, Col. Lee Dubar (ret.) Lt. Col. Arthur T. Smith, Maj. E. Elzea, the post engineer; and Maj. S. W. Eddy, the post pro officer, applied a combination of their army and golfing experience in making a record job of putting a new golf club into successful operation, says Pezzullo. It is his opinion, based on recollection of earlier days of private club ventures, that the Army job at Camp Rucker in many respects was a trail-blazer of methods that will be used in small course construction after the war.

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