

PARKRIDGE NEIGHBORS TRAIN IN CALIFORNIA

MAR 2 1943

Letter Tells of Work and Leisure —Pair Studying for Promotions.

In September of 1942, two Bethlehem men, neighbors in the Parkridge housing area, enlisted in the then newly formed Enlisted Reserve Corps, an army pool for the training and assignment of specialists in the maintenance of mechanized equipment.

They were George Hein, 1939 Brookside Avenue, and Edward G. Brader, 1996 Brookside Drive. Both were assigned immediately to the 305th Ordnance Regiment and given ratings. Hein is a technician fifth grade and is taking his technical training as assistant instructor in industrial electrical engineering, having been an electrician with the Bethlehem Steel Company before he enlisted.

Brader, now a private first class, enlisted as a clerk and at present is taking training as a technical administrator—making out morning reports, sick reports, duty rosters, payroll schedules and other paper work required in the administration of a company, battalion or regiment. On completion of this course he will become either a sergeant or first sergeant of one of the foregoing units.

Hein will also be a sergeant with a technical rating in his particular field.

"We have been through our basic training," Brader writes, "and are now 'on technical' which, we are told, will last another six to eight weeks (the letter is dated February 6), then who knows where—? We had a full eight day and night bivouac in the desert, sleeping on the ground in pup tents; no baths, no shaving; eating from our own mess kits, skirmishing with rifles in the hills, one platoon against the other; map reading problems, gas drills, etc.

"The site of the bivouac is known as the Kellogg Horse Ranch, owned by the 'cereal king,' William F. Kellogg. Rudolph Valentino's horse (an Arabian) was bred and raised on the ranch, the only Arabian horse ranch in the United States.

"We all heard the coyotes at night and had plenty of 'bed partners' in the shape of lizards, scorpions, tarantula spiders and rattle snakes . . . Saw plenty of black squirrels out here, too—something uncommon to Pennsylvania."

Brader says he has been to Hollywood often and has visited the famous Hollywood Canteen and has seen lots of film stars there.

Lewis Lindley, movie talent scout, was host to Brader and a number of other men on Christmas Day, and at his home Brader met some "stars," including Richard Dix, Judy Garland, Cesar Romero and Jimmy Burke.

The camp is right on the grounds of Santa Anita and the grandstand is used for lectures, movies, etc., while the track is used by army vehicles for tests.

Hein, George

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