

New Field House Is Set At Fort

Unit Named For Airmen's First Guide

FORT BRAGG — The new William C. Lee Field House completed recently was officially dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on Monday night May 14. Located on Long Street Road, the beautiful modern structure is the pride of Fort Bragg.

The order of the program for dedication ceremonies was as follows:

6:45 Music by the 82nd Airborne Division Band.

7:06 Invocation by Chaplain (Capt) Henry L. Durand, 82nd Airborne Division.

7:05 Welcome by Lt. General John W. Leonard, Commanding General of Fort Bragg and V Corps.

7:10 Address "General Lee, The Soldier," by Major General W. M. Miley, Commanding General of the Army Airborne Center.

7:20 Address "Father of the Airborne," by Brigadier General Ridgley Gaither, Operations Branch G-3, The Pentagon, Washington, D. C.

7:30 Recognition of Mrs. William C. Lee.

7:35 Closing Prayer by Chaplain (Lt. Colonel) Sidney R. Crumpton, Post Chaplain.

7:40 National Anthem by the 82nd Airborne Division Band.

7:45 Presentation of Athletic Trophies by Lt. General John W. Leonard, Commanding General of Fort Bragg and V Corps.

8:00 Open House — Inspection of the new field house and aquatic show directed by Corporal Warren Haley.

8:15 Pre-broadcast show by Ralph Flanagan and his Orchestra.

9:00 "Let's Go With Ralph Flanagan" Show broadcast Coast-to-coast over ABC.

9:30 End of Broadcast.

The huge structure houses a gymnasium large enough for any indoor athletic event which Fort Bragg authorities might arrange.

The naming of the structure for the General William C. Lee is a fitting tribute to the man who is considered the father of the modern day paratrooper, as his location is at the home of the famed 82nd Division, "America's Guard of Honor."

The huge modern Lee Field House is outstanding in every way. And though it is designed with service and practicability as the chief aim, the beauty of the building is striking.

Mrs. Lee, was a guest of honor at the dedication ceremonies, visited the building recently and acclaimed it as one of the most beautiful of its kind to be found anywhere.

The structure is of red brick trimmed with limestone and aluminum fixtures and blends various shades of glazed tile throughout with a ceiling of antique ivory.

It includes a gymnasium which measures 100 feet by 180 feet complete with three basketball courts, with a roll-away bench-seating capacity of approximately 3,000. The floor is illuminated by forty floodlights.

The roll-away type seating arrangements make it possible for maintenance crews to convert the floor from basketball to another activity in less than one hour's time.

A beautiful indoor pool with six racing lanes measures 102x61 feet, and the outdoor pool, 100x50 feet, complete with underwater lighting. With the plan of water circulation, fresh water and almost sanitary conditions are almost a guaranteed fact.

A public lobby forms the entrance of the gym with ticket windows and a public telephone booth. Issue rooms, storage space, and a management office have also been provided.

Also included are four tile dressing rooms, complete with steel lockers, showers, and toilet facilities. The ladies even have a powder room complete with electric hair dryers.

Factory-new athletic equipment has been installed including trampolines, parallel bars,



DOING DUTY — Lt. Magnolia A. Worsley, Army Nurse Corps, of 613 E. Grand Avenue, Rocky Mount, daughter of Mrs. Esther A. Warren, Route 2, Battleboro, was at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, completing basic military training in the Women Officers' Basic Course at Medical Field Service School. She has reported for duty to Valley Forge Army Hospital, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania.

gymnastics and wrestling mats, bicycles, and also many other pieces of gymnastic equipment.

The entire structure was paid for by Army Exchange profits. All in all, the Fort Bragg structure is one of the most beautiful and most complete gymnasiums in the entire United States.

Physical fitness of the men under his command was always a must for the famed General, and a building such as this, designed mainly for that purpose would have met with this heartiest approval. At North Carolina State College, he won letters in both football and baseball.

Bill Lee's interest was always with his men. Once he told a reporter, "write about the men and for goodness sake leave the name of Bill out of it." He always gave full credit for the success of his ideas of vertical envelopment tactics to the men he trained.

A seven foot high stone monument at Lee Field, at the Fort Benning, Georgia, jump area for student paratroopers, commemorates his formation there of the first platoon of airborne troops, which provided the nucleus for the present organization.

General Lee entered the service on August 15, 1917, when he was commissioned a second lieutenant, reserve, of Infantry. In 1920, he received a regular army commission.

During World War I, he saw service in France as a platoon leader and a company commander. After the war, he remained in Germany with the Army of Occupation.

In 1922, he graduated from the Company Officers Course at the Infantry School, at Fort Benning, Georgia, following which he served four years on the military faculty at the University of North Carolina.

Later he served three years in Panama. In 1930, he graduated from the Tank School and three years later from the Advanced Infantry Officers Course.

He was sent to England and France in 1932 as a Military Observer, returning home in 1934. He returned to Europe in 1935 and while in France attended and

graduated from the French Tank School at Versailles and then served one year with a tank regiment in the French Army.

For four years, he was an instructor in the Tank School and the Infantry School at the end of which period he was ordered to the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, graduating in 1938.

After receiving his diploma from this school, he was assigned as Executive Officer of the 2nd Infantry Division, and was later ordered to duty with the Office of the Chief of Infantry, Washington, D. C.

It was while on this duty in Washington that he began to take active interest in the tactics of air troop transportation, which were being so forcefully demonstrated abroad.

Largely through his interests and efforts, parachute troops for our Army became a reality in July, 1940, when a test platoon of picked men from the 29th Infantry at Fort Benning were given the task of forming the nucleus for such a force. First Lieutenant (now Lieutenant Colonel) William T. Ryder was chosen to head this test platoon.

On October 1st, 1940, the 501st Parachute Battalion was activated, commanded by Major W. M. Miley.

Editors Note: Miley is now a Major General and is in command of the Army Airborne Center at Fort Bragg. General Lee remained in Washington, directing the organization of the battalion.

The economy practiced at the time provided very little equipment but Lee, along with his associates, continued with the equipment they had and strived to train the troops to perfection. When World War II broke out in 1941, generals who had been studying his plan stressed the importance of air delivery of troops.

Through his efforts, the number of parachutists increased rapidly following the activation of the 501st, and upon formation of the "Airborne Command" at Fort Bragg in 1942, the choice of Colonel Lee was the logical one as commander. His nomination to the rank of Brigadier General was

BRAGGMEN VISIT IN ALASKA IN EXERCISE STEP

FORT BRAGG — Sergeant Andrew Singleton of Headquarters Company Third Battalion, 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment, and thirty-three other troopers of the regiment enjoyed a short visit with Canadian paratroopers while returning from exercise "Five Step" in Alaska.

On the return trip from Alaska, a lone C-119 Packet winged away from the main group of planes and landed at Calgary, Canada where thirty-four troopers of the 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment were entertained as guests of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. The U. S. Troopers stayed at the famed Currie Barracks and ate at the Sergeant's Mess.

In telling about his experience and breath taking scenery, Sgt. Singleton said that the scenery, which included the snow capped mountains, was very picturesque. While flying to Alaska he observed Monumental Rock near South Dakota's Rapid City.

Sergeant Singleton operated with the 1st Battalion Intelligence Section while on the operation and acted in the capacity of an observer representing the Third Battalion. He participated in the parachute jump climaxing the operation.

Sergeant Walker Honored With Birthday Party

FORT BRAGG — A birthday party was given Sergeant Edward C. Walker by his wife, Mrs. Betty Walker at their quarters, TC-421-B1, Spring Area, on Saturday night May 5. The affair was in celebration of the Sergeant's twenty-eighth birthday anniversary.

Midway the party the guests joined in singing Happy Birthday as Sergeant Walker, smiling broadly, opened and exhibited the many gifts given him.

The birthday table was centered with a large, tiered cake, topped with twenty-eight small candles. To the left was a huge bowl of punch while the remaining portion of the table consisted of refreshments and a neat display of the gifts received by the honoree.

Dancing and card-playing were

confirmed on April 29, 1942. On August 16, 1942, the airborne effort was expanded to two divisions, the 82nd and the 101st. General Lee was then promoted to Major General and to the command of the 101st. He trained and brought up to combat strength.

After the activation of the 101st (called the Battered Bastards of Bastogne after their Battle of the Bulge engagement), General Lee went overseas to direct their famous European operation. Ill health kept him from seeing his men come through with flying colors.

He returned home and was retired from active duty on October 31, 1944. A heart attack on the morning of June 25, 1948, at his home in Dunn, North Carolina, brought death to the famed General at the age of 53. He was buried with full military honors at Greenwood Cemetery in his native Dunn, with a detachment of the 82nd Airborne Division participating.

North Carolina paid tribute to her native son when the State Department of Archives and History erected a marker at Dunn to the memory of the late General at the corner of Broad and King Streets, two blocks from the Lee home.

His widow, Mrs. Dava Johnson Lee, still maintains the home on West Devine Street in Dunn. One brother, Edward Lee of Dunn, and a sister, Mrs. E. C. Jackson of Raleigh, North Carolina, also survive.



DISABLED VETERANS AT WORK ON POPPIES — As Memorial Day draws near disabled veteran poppy makers throughout the country are rushing up production. Now an annual affair, Buddy Poppy Day, which is held annually on Memorial Day, brings back to the ill veterans proceeds for medical care, hobbies and therapies that in some cases will help them to become gainfully employed again. Buddy Poppy Day is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. (ANP)

Thanks Mrs. Roosevelt

NEW YORK — A Negro GI in Korea wrote recently to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to tell her that he and his fellow servicemen were encouraged by "knowing" that you and all of the NAACP are fighting discrimination with everything possible.

DDT saved thousands of lives during World War II by protecting troops against insects that carry diseases such as malaria and typhus.

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